



General statement on behalf of the OIC Group by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor

27th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development

(Geneva, 18 May 2026)

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the OIC Group.

We congratulate you on your reappointment for the 27th Session of this Working Group and assure you of our continued support and constructive engagement.

The OIC Group reaffirms that all human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. We reiterate the universal and inalienable nature of the right to development and call for its full mainstreaming so that everyone, everywhere can realise and enjoy it in full.

The OIC Group is deeply concerned that the ongoing liquidity crisis and severe funding constraints across the UN system are disproportionately impacting the operationalisation of the right to development. Budget cuts, reductions in Official Development Assistance, and rising energy and food prices are all converging simultaneously. These financial pressures risk reversing efforts to place economic, social and cultural rights on an equal footing with civil and political rights – a balance this Working Group has long sought to achieve. A crisis of funding must not become a crisis of commitment.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development. As we commemorate this historic milestone, our shared objective remains to translate the promise of the Declaration into better lives and the full enjoyment of human rights for all – consistent with the mandate of this Working Group.

In this context, we call for the early finalisation of the draft legally binding instrument on the right to development by the UN General Assembly. The importance and urgency of such an instrument is evident from the unprecedented socioeconomic and development challenges facing the world today.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

The OIC Group appreciates your efforts to convene wide-ranging consultation and constructive dialogue to bridge perceived gaps in understanding around various aspects of the right to development. We hope and expect that all stakeholders will avail themselves of this opportunity to enhance understanding of this integral right and to engage constructively towards its early operationalisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair-Rapporteur.

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