National Statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during Biennial Panel Discussion on the right to development

63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 11 September 2026)

Mr. President,

Pakistan aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We thank the distinguished panellists for their insightful contributions to this important discussion.

Forty years ago, the Declaration on the Right to Development was a landmark affirmation that development is neither charity nor discretion, but an inalienable human right belonging to all peoples. Yet the normative clarity of the Declaration remains in contrast to the lived realities across much of the developing world.

Persistent inequalities, unsustainable debt burdens, climate vulnerability, widening technological divides and the continued marginalisation of developing countries in global decision-making continue to impede the realisation of the right to development.

On the 40th anniversary of the Declaration, Pakistan underscores the urgency and importance of adopting the International Covenant on the Right to Development. A legally binding instrument would strengthen collective commitment, and establish a framework for implementation, cooperation and accountability.

Mr. President,

New and emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) have the power to transform societies and economies and shape the landscape for the enjoyment of all human rights including the right to development, particularly in the post-2030 development framework that today's panel has addressed.

At the same time, the risk of digital divides across countries widening even further and needs to be addressed.

We would welcome the panellists' views on how access to new technologies could be made more effective in the post-2030 development framework, particularly to ensure that the digital divides of today are neither replicated nor further entrenched.

I thank you.

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