National Statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the right to development

63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 14 September 2026)

Mr. Vice President,

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

My delegation thanks the Expert Mechanism for presenting its annual report and takes note of its latest studies applying a right to development perspective to climate justice, and AI and cultural rights.

Mr. Vice President,

Climate justice remains a priority for Pakistan. As a country that contributes negligibly to global emissions yet is highly vulnerable to climate change's negative impacts, we reiterate that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities must remain central to all climate action and financing frameworks.

Pakistan underscores the urgent need for operationalising the loss and damage fund while accelerating reform towards a more equitable global financial architecture. Both are essential for meaningful progress towards climate justice.

Mr. Vice President,

AI should drive inclusive development and not new forms of inequality or exclusion, which are major obstacles to the enjoyment of all human rights, including cultural rights and the right to development.

AI systems are not neutral, they reflect the priorities of their developers and algorithmic, data and automation biases. The risk of AI systems that amplify pernicious phenomenon such as Islamophobia and marginalise communities must not be underestimated.

Enabling all peoples to benefit from AI therefore requires continued efforts to address systemic barriers. These include access to compute, data, infrastructure, skills, markets and capacity. It also requires international cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building at the international levels.

Thank you.

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