Pakistan's general comments delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during consideration of draft resolution L.1: "The right to development"

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Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the draft resolution contained in document L.1 titled "The right to development" and thanks the delegation of Uganda, in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, for introducing it for this Council's consideration.

Mr. President,

Forty years ago, the Declaration on the Right to Development placed human beings at the centre of development, affirming that the right to development was an inalienable human right of individuals and peoples. Its message was profound: progress must not merely create wealth. It must advance social development and uphold human dignity.

Regrettably, that promise confronts a stark reality across the developing world. Debt servicing is consuming scarce resources that should be directed to human development. Natural disasters are erasing hard-earned gains. Technological inequalities threaten to carry old divides into a new digital age. Accelerating reform of the international financial architecture; meeting the pledges made to Official Development Assistance (ODA); operationalising the climate loss and damage fund; and bridging digital divides therefore all remain key.

A right cannot be realised where the means to realise it are denied. We therefore appreciate the work of this Council's mechanisms on the right to development in fostering greater appreciation and understanding. In the same spirit, my delegation supports the early adoption of the International Covenant on the Right to Development.

Mr. President,

The measure of development is not only how far one individual or group advances, but whether humanity advances together.

We extend our support to draft resolution L.1 and join other delegations in calling on the Council to adopt it by consensus. If it were put to a vote, Pakistan would vote in favour and urges all others to do the same.

I thank you.

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