



Statement on behalf of the OIC by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

15 September 2022

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States thank members of the Expert Mechanism for their report.

The report aptly highlights the urgency of combating racism and racial discrimination as a means to advance operationalization of the right to development.

The OIC reaffirms the importance of protection and promotion all human rights in a fair and equal manner without discrimination.

We agree with the Expert Mechanism that equality lies at the core of international human rights framework and elimination of racism remains essential to ensure enjoyment of all human rights including the right to development.

We share concerns that racism and racial discrimination are pervasive today and that COVID-pandemic has exacerbated deeply-rooted inequalities. Social and economic exclusion of individuals and communities based on their national origin, ethnicity or religion is an alarming trend that requires both affirmative and restrictive measures.

The OIC echoes Expert Mechanism's call to work collectively and overcome obstacles that are impeding progress in operationalizing the right to development and achieving SDGs both through national efforts as well as enhanced international cooperation. Two key enabling tools in this respect are to promote access to means of financing for development and to advocate reforms in the global economic order that ensures equal and effective participation of developing countries in the decision-making processes.

We would appreciate Expert Mechanism's views on identification of key steps to address the drivers and root-causes of structural discrimination, often rooted in past colonial practices, illegal occupation, and apartheid regimes, which hinder the full and effective enjoyment and exercise of right to development in social, economic and cultural dimensions.

I thank you.