



Statement on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations during the 23rd Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development
16 May 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the OIC member states, we congratulate you on your re-election and appreciate your efforts in skillfully steering this Working Group.

We thank you for presenting the revised text of the draft Convention and also recognize the important contribution of the drafting Committee.

The revised text has brought valuable addition to the original text. It reflects stakeholders' views and suggestions made during the 21st and 22nd sessions. It also captures some new elements that help further contextualize the convention especially in regard to fostering international cooperation and operationalization of the right to development.

Mr. Chairperson,

The occasion to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development is an important opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitments to promote better standards of life for everyone. This Working Group has provided a concrete roadmap to translate the ideals of the Declaration into a legal framework aimed at promoting the enjoyment of right to development.

The OIC reaffirms its commitment to the realization and enjoyment of the right to development by everyone, everywhere. In keeping with the spirit of the Vienna Declaration, we reaffirm that all human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. We reiterate our call for greater integration of the right to development into the international human rights framework.

Mr. Chairperson,

The world is grappling with unprecedented socio-economic challenges exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic as well as geopolitical developments. Efforts to rebuild economies and strengthen resilience of societies demand greater international collaboration and scaled up investments to improve socio-economic indicators, sustainable infrastructure and human development.

Unfortunately, growing inequalities, poverty, malnutrition, food insecurity, climate change are sad realities of our time. Dwindling levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA), rising debt burden and increased liquidity crunch run the risk of hindering progress towards sustainable development goals.



The OIC believes that status quo is not an option. We need to walk the talk. There is an urgent need to address structural flaws in the global economic, financial and taxation architecture that are impeding progress towards economic recovery and enhanced living standards.

The OIC underlines the need for demonstration of political will, fulfillment of commitments especially those related to financing for development and revisiting the present international economic, financial and taxation regime.

COVID pandemic has further reaffirmed that it is now more critical and urgent than ever to help mobilize greater liquidity, ensure debt sustainability and align the global financial, economic and taxation architecture with the realization and operationalization of the right to development.

While states have the primary responsibility to promote human rights, the UN system and international financial institutions have a collective responsibility to align the international economic and development policies in ways that help in the realization of the right to development. In this regard, the OIC urges the High Commissioner to prioritize the right to development as part of her mandate and allocate sufficient resources.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OIC encourages all stakeholders to engage constructively on the text of the draft convention. We trust that genuine political commitment and dialogue would help bridge the gaps and strengthen capacities of states in operationalizing this important right.

The OIC assures its full support and cooperation to the Chair-Rapporteur in fulfilling the mandate of the Working Group.

I thank you.