The 10th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda
Coordination meeting with other United Nations mechanisms on the right to development
Palais des Nations, Room XXI, Geneva

Statement by Mr. Surya Deva,
Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
and fellow panellists,

It is my great pleasure to send this recorded video for the 10th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right To Development.

It's unfortunate that I cannot be there in person, but hopefully this video will highlight the importance of collaboration and cooperation with my mandate, as the Special Rapporteur on the Right To Development and the Expert Mechanism.

We have tried to conduct in person as well as virtual meetings. Sometimes the in person meetings have been difficult because of the liquidity crisis and I think this particular instance is a good example of it, that I could not be there in person. Yet we have tried to make use of the most opportunities that are possible. For instance, when I was there in Geneva in September for my report presentation in the Human Right's Council, I had a meeting with the Chair of the Expert Mechanism and we talked about a variety of collaboration opportunities.

We have also done virtual meetings before, for instance, in the last week of April this year, I had a virtual conversation with all members of the Expert Mechanism when they were about to have the session in New York.

Through these meetings, we tried to build synergies, and we also tried to ensure that there is no duplication between our work.

I would like to provide two concrete examples of thematic issues on which we have tried to collaborate, build synergies, and avoid any duplication: the first one is in relation to climate change. As delegates may recall, my report that I will present to the third committee later this month is on climate justice, loss and damage. At the same time, the Expert Mechanism is also drafting thematic studies around climate change, whether this is about climate finance or issues about climate justice as well, and through this collaboration, we have ensured that the focus of these reports or thematic studies are different.

At the same time, we also have agreed that perhaps once the Expert Mechanism is able to conclude their thematic studies, we will perhaps issue a joint brief, and through this joint brief, we can bring all the lessons from different reports and thematic studies together and provide cohesive recommendations for all the stakeholders.

I very much hope that the expert mechanism as well as the other stakeholders will find my climate justice report useful, because I propose a climate justice framework comprising four pillars and twelve overarching principles.

The second example that I would like to give of collaboration is the financing for development. As delegates would recall that the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development is going to take place in the last week of June onwards next year in Spain, this conference as well as this theme on financing for development is again crucial both for my mandate as well as of the work of the Expert Mechanism.

Again, in consultation with the expert mechanism chair, we agreed on a number of key takeaways that we can do together: First of all, we agreed to develop a joint policy brief that could inform the discussion about financing for development. Because this remains a key challenge, it is also highlighted in the Pact for the future discussion so hopefully that policy brief will be very useful going forward.

We also agreed that we will issue a joint press release next year at a suitable point of time where we can highlight the key recommendations that should be taken on board in relation to the financing for development conference.

We also agreed that perhaps it will be a good idea for the Expert Mechanism as well as my mandate, to convene a virtual event under the banner of development dialogues. I launched this series development dialogues earlier this year, and we have run a number of virtual events.

Some more events will take place in person in Geneva as well in late November. More information about these events will be provided to all stakeholders through the website, through social media.
These are concrete steps that we are taking together to build collaboration and complementarity between the Expert Mechanism and my mandate as the Special Rapporteur on the Right To Development.

I very much hope and wish that the Expert Mechanism has a productive session in Geneva, and I look forward to engaging with them, hopefully in person in the near future.

Thank you very much.