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. Zamir Akram,
Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development

Distinguished Chair,

Members of the Expert Mechanism,

Dear participants,

I am pleased to address you in my capacity as Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development and to take part in this coordination meeting with United Nations mechanisms dealing with the right to development.

As you are aware, the Human Rights Council submitted the draft international covenant on the right to development to the General Assembly in 2023 for its consideration, negotiation and subsequent adoption.

Subsequently, the General Assembly took note of this decision.

The Working Group, which previously focused on the consideration and negotiation of this draft covenant, therefore refocused at its last session, which took place in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2024, on its original mandate, which is, to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development.

During this session, the Working Group held an interactive dialogue with the then Chair of this Expert Mechanism, Isabelle Durant and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, Surya Deva.

Both also participated in a panel discussion on the interrelationship between the right to development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and I would like to express my appreciation for their participation.

Two members of the Expert Mechanism, current and former, Mihir Kanade and Koen de Feyter, were also essential in supporting me in the elaboration of the draft international covenant on the right to development. I should also acknowledge the contribution of the Special Rapporteur Surya Deva to this process.

In continuation of this fruitful cooperation, the Working Group recommended, at its last session, to the Council that the Working Group should invite the Special Rapporteur and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism to continue to contribute to the work of the Working Group.

In line with my own proposal, the Working Group also recommended to the Council that the Working Group should convene an interactive dialogue among Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant experts aimed at addressing divergent views expressed in the Working Group. In addition, it recommended that the Working Group continue its engagement with the subsidiary bodies and treaty bodies of the Human Rights Council with a view to mainstreaming the right to development in their work. It also recommended that the Working Group engage in increased dialogue with relevant international and regional financial and development institutions and organizations and other stakeholders, as well as with North-South, South-South and triangular partnerships, to discuss accomplishments, good practices, obstacles, challenges and lessons learned regarding development cooperation as a contribution to the operationalization of the right to development.

The Working Group has yet to determine its programme of work of its upcoming twenty-sixth session, which is scheduled to take place from 12 to 16 May 2025, in Geneva. From above recommendations it is obvious that there is ample opportunity for synergetic and constructive cooperation between the various United Nations mechanisms on the right to development, without overlaps and in full respect of each distinctive mandate.

I therefore look forward to our continued cooperation and coordination of our work, with the overall objective of contributing to the full realization of the right to development.

I thank you.