STATEMENT BY THE AFRICAN GROUP FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE DURING THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT (EMRTD) ON MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2025 IN ROOM XVI, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

Thank you, Mr. President.

The African Group welcomes the convening of the **Twelfth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD)** and assures you of its constructive engagement throughout the session.

The African Group reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development across Africa and beyond.

We underscore the importance of recognizing the right to development as an integral component of human rights, as established in relevant international instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development.

We further acknowledge that the primary responsibility for sustainable development rests with States, which must provide an enabling environment through policies that ensure equal opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential.

In this context, the Group emphasizes the imperative for urgent reforms to the international financial system, including debt relief, a just and inclusive tax regime, as well as decisive action to stem and repatriate illicit financial flows to their countries of origin. We urge developed countries to honour their pledges to enhance access to climate finance. These transformative measures are vital for

developing economies to generate the essential resources required for substantial investment in human capital and infrastructural development, in order to achieve genuine and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The African Group acknowledges the important role of regional cooperation and good practices in the realization of the right to development. We believe that shared regional strategies are fundamental in achieving sustainable development goals and enhancing the economic and social wellbeing of our populations.

To this end, we stress the importance of integrating the right to development into national policies and regional frameworks. This integration would ensure that development initiatives would be inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with universal human rights standards.

Furthermore, the African Group underscores the urgent and critical importance of finalizing the legally binding instrument on the right to development. Its adoption would provide a robust legal framework to guide national and international development policies, strengthen international cooperation, enhance accountability, and ensure the full realization of this fundamental human right. By concluding this instrument, the international community would take a decisive step towards promoting equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development for all peoples.

Mr. President,

During this period of profound global uncertainty, the African Group emphasises the enduring utility of the principles of impartiality, transparency, non-

interference, respect for the sovereignty of States. We note that it is only through strengthened international collaboration, genuine dialogue, cooperation and unwavering solidarity that we can truly promote and protect the human rights, including the right to development.

Finally, we call for strengthened support for African-led initiatives aimed at building resilient and inclusive societies where the human rights and fundamental freedoms of everyone are guaranteed.

I thank you.