Draft General Remarks – Kenya Delegation
12th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMTRD)

Chairperson,

Kenya welcomes the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMTRD) and lauds their efforts to promote this inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

Kenya reaffirms the human right to development also implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, which includes, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources.

Chairperson,

We welcome the thematic topics during this 12th session, including on Climate Finance, Vulnerability and Responsibility—a theme that resonates deeply with our nation's lived realities and aspirations for sustainable development. Climate change continues to exacerbate vulnerability across the Global South, disproportionately impacting developing countries like Kenya, where recurring droughts, flooding, and natural resource degradation threaten food security, livelihoods, and the very right to development.

In light of recent global trade tensions and escalating differential tariffs, we welcome the thematic focus on the impacts on the realization of the right to development. These tensions are increasingly challenging the very fundamental principles on which the multilateral trading system is founded, creating uncertainty and a lack of coherence worldwide. The principle of special and differential treatment and the Aid for Trade initiative have suffered significantly, resulting in adverse economic impacts that disproportionately affect developing and least-developed countries, and hindering our ability to realize the right to development.

Mr. Chair,

The integration of AI into creative industries is rapidly reshaping the ways in which art is created, disseminated, and consumed. We recognise the dual use nature of such emerging technologies and welcome the discussion with an aim to explore the risks and opportunities posed by AI in the cultural and creative

sectors, and to identify specific impacts on artists and creators—and, in turn, on cultural rights and the right to development.

We further recognise the invaluable role of the civil society organizations in realizing the right to development at the grassroots level and reaffirm that sustained dialogue with CSOs as key partners and stakeholders, is essential to advancing the promotion and operationalization of the right to development.

In conclusion

Kenya welcomes the UNGA resolution on the right to development adopted at its seventy-ninth session, which decided to convene a one-day high-level segment, on the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its eighty-first session, in order to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

Indeed, we see this as a moment of reflection and recommitment and as an opportunity to take stock of the progress so far.

More critically, and in light of persistent and deepening inequalities within and among countries, mounting global crises, and major setbacks in development cooperation, we view this commemoration as a platform to build the necessary political will in to ensure that the right to development is fully and effectively realised as a fundamental human right.

Mr. Chair,

We look forward to fruitful discussions and sharing of experiences, good practices, and strategies around these pressing global needs.