Bangladesh Statement

13th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

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Thank you, Madam, Chair.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We commend the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group, the Chair of the Expert Mechanism, and the Special Rapporteur for their continued efforts in advancing the Right to Development. We reaffirm our strong support for the Expert Mechanism's mandate.

The Right to Development, as articulated in the 1986 UN Declaration, places the human person at the center of development. It affirms the universal and inalienable right of all individuals and peoples to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political progress. This principle remains as relevant today as ever, particularly as we strive to advance the 2030 Agenda amidst the polycrisis facing the world today.

Unfortunately, the progress in realizing this right remains uneven. Structural inequalities persist, and global disparities are widening. Many developing countries continue to face systemic constraints arising from international financial architecture and trade regimes that do not adequately reflect their needs. Addressing these imbalances requires a more equitable, inclusive, and development-oriented global economic system.

Madam, Chair

National efforts alone are not sufficient. The realization of the Right to Development depends fundamentally on strengthened international cooperation. This includes ensuring fair access to finance, facilitating technology transfer on concessional terms, and enabling equitable market access for developing countries.

Bangladesh's own development experience demonstrates what is possible through people-centered policies, sustained investments in social sectors, and a commitment to inclusion. We have made notable progress in poverty reduction, education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. However, like many others, we face mounting challenges—rising borrowing costs, constrained fiscal space, and growing debt pressures amid global economic uncertainty.

In this context, reform of the global financial architecture is essential. Enhancing access to affordable and concessional financing, addressing debt

sustainability, and promoting innovative financial mechanisms are critical to sustaining development gains.

Madam, Chair

Climate change poses a profound threat to the Right to Development. Countries like Bangladesh, despite minimal historical emissions, are among the most affected. We call for the fulfillment of climate commitments, including scaled-up adaptation finance, effective technology transfer, the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and compliance of countries' obligations under international law. These are matters of equity and responsibility.

At the same time, Bangladesh continues to host over 1.3 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar. This remains a major humanitarian and development challenge. We call for sustained international support, equitable burden-sharing, and a durable solution through the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of the Rohingya to Myanmar.

Madam, Chair

Bridging the digital divide is also critical. Without equitable access to digital technologies and infrastructure, new forms of inequality will emerge, further marginalizing developing countries. Targeted capacity-building and inclusive digital cooperation must therefore be prioritized.

We also reiterate that unilateral coercive measures undermine development efforts and should be avoided.

Finally, the Right to Development must be integrated across all global frameworks, including finance, trade, and development cooperation. The development of clear indicators will be essential to track progress and ensure accountability. In this regard, we support ongoing efforts toward a legally binding international instrument on the Right to Development.

In conclusion, Bangladesh remains firmly committed to advancing the Right to Development for all. We stand ready to work with partners to promote a more just, inclusive, and sustainable global order—where development is recognized not as a privilege, but as a right.

I thank you.
