CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE 13TH SESSION OF THE EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

New York, 21st April, 2026

Mr. Chair,

1. It is an honor for the Republic of Uganda to take the floor on behalf of the 121 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), especially on a subject to which we have historically attached particular importance, bearing in mind the fact that the Declaration on the Right to Development was initially promoted by our Movement.

2. At the outset, the NAM would like to express our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, Ms. Klentiana Mahmutaj, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, and Mr. Surya Deva Special Rapporteur on the right to development. We also express our appreciation to the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development for providing thematic expertise on the right to development and express our support in the fulfillment of the mandate.

3. Over three decades have passed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which is, as agreed in 1986, an 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, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. It was recognized at that time that the human person is the central subject of development

and all human beings have a responsibility for development, individually and collectively should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development. Yet, for ensuring its full enjoyment and realization, profound reforms of the international economic structure, and the international financial architecture, including the creation of economic and social conditions that are favorable to developing countries, are still needed. States have the duty to take steps to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development.

Mr. Chair,

4. The NAM also believes that the right to development should be central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this vein, urges all UN Member States to pay particular attention to the right to development in the context of the elaboration of their national policies in line with the 2030 Agenda.

5. In addition, the Non-Aligned Movement renews its commitment to promote and protect all universally recognized human rights, in particular the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms as it was highlighted in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2016 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development. The Movement welcomes the convene a one-day high-level segment of the General Assembly at its eighty-first session, to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and invites UN Member States, including NAM member states, to attend the High-Level Segment at the highest level of representation to ensure a meaningful and impactful celebration.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Movement urges the UN human rights machinery to ensure the operationalization of the Right to Development on an urgent basis. NAM urges the General Assembly, in accordance with the HRC Resolution 54/18, to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority through the consideration, negotiation, and subsequent adoption of an International Covenant on the Right to Development by the UN General Assembly as a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development.

7. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement seize this opportunity to renew their proposal and work towards the convening of a United Nations-sponsored High-Level International Conference on the Right to Development.

8. The Movement calls upon UN Member States to make clearly and loudly known the need to reinvigorate the implementation of the right to development as an inalienable human right. It further calls upon the United Nations, its development-related agencies and its regional and country offices, as well as international financial institutions to mainstream the right to development into their policies and operational activities and multilateral trading frameworks.

9. In addition, the Movement expresses its strong condemnation of the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against Member States of the Movement, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. In this respect, reiterate determination to denounce, and demand the complete, immediate and unconditional repeal of, such measures, which affect human rights and prevent the full economic and social development of the peoples subjected to them.

10. To conclude, the Movement reiterates its unequivocal commitment to the Right to Development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and we reassure the Expert Mechanism of NAM's continued un-wavering support in the execution of your mandate.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.