REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

AMBASSADOR GODFREY KWOBA

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

AN INTERACTIVE CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT COVENANT ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT."

23rd APRIL, 2026

10:00am – 1:00pm

CR6, UNHQ, NEW YORK

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

I thank the conveners of this this important interactive discussion within the framework of the Thirteenth Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD).

I would like to express our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, Mr. Mihir Kanade, Chair and Rapporteur of the Expert Drafting Group, Prof. Dr. Diane Desiereto, Professor of Law and Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame, and the secretariat of the Expert Mechanism for organizing this timely discourse with all stakeholders on the draft international covenant on the right to development during this 13th session.

My delegation underscores 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.

The Right to Development is not merely a theoretical aspiration or privilege; it is a fundamental human right, indivisible from and interdependent with all other human rights. This Covenant represents a vital shift from charity-based models of international cooperation to a rights-based framework that demands equity, justice, and the removal of systemic obstacles to progress.

The draft Covenant correctly identifies that states have the primary responsibility for the creation of conditions favorable to the realization of the right to development. However, this cannot be achieved in a vacuum. We emphasize the critical relevance of international cooperation to ensure a fair and inclusive international trading system, address the long-standing challenges of debt sustainability that cripple the fiscal space of developing nations, and

facilitate the transfer of technology and technical assistance without restrictive conditions.

This interactive discussion on the Covenant serves as a basis to further guide future discussions on the early negotiation and adoption of the covenant.

The persistent gaps on all indicators between developed and developing nations is an affront to the principles of the UN Charter. This Covenant must serve as a legal catalyst to reform the global financial architecture, making it more responsive to the needs of those furthest behind. Development should not be a privilege of a few, but a reality for all, regardless of their geographical or economic starting point.

Uganda reaffirms its full support for the negotiation and adoption of the Covenant. We call upon all Member States to engage in these negotiations with a spirit of solidarity and political will. Let us move beyond rhetoric and pragmatism establish a legally binding commitment that guarantees the dignity and prosperity of all our peoples.

I wish you all constructive interactive deliberations.

I thank you.