United Nations

**Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development**

Thirteenth Session

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**Agenda Item: Item 4** – Implementation of the mandate and programme of work: (a) Consideration of thematic studies (i) Artificial intelligence, cultural rights and the right to development;

Statement by

**Munum Naeem**

Chairman Humanity First USA

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, and colleagues,

I am honoured to contribute to this discussion on artificial intelligence, cultural rights, and the right to development, from the perspective of Humanity First USA.

I sincerely appreciate the comprehensive study and recommendations draft study by the EXPERT Mechanism on the Right to Development

Artificial intelligence offers significant potential to advance development, including improving access to healthcare, expanding educational opportunities, and strengthening humanitarian response efforts. These innovations can help extend critical services to communities that have historically been underserved.

However, these benefits are not guaranteed.

From our experience working with diverse communities, it is clear that technological progress can also deepen existing inequalities if not carefully guided. Limited infrastructure, lack of representation in data, and unequal access to digital tools can exclude vulnerable populations from the benefits of AI.

It is therefore essential that development remains people-centered. Technology should adapt to the needs, cultures, and realities of communities, rather than expecting communities to adjust to systems that may not reflect them.

We must also address the digital divide. In many areas, basic access to connectivity and education remains a challenge. Without strengthening these foundations, the advantages of AI will not be equitably shared.

in Summary: “The biggest risk of AI for the Developing countries is exclusion. If communities lack access to infrastructure or are not represented in data, they may not benefit from AI—and could even be disadvantaged by systems that do not reflect their realities.”

We can we make AI more inclusive by investing in digital infrastructure, ensuring diverse data representation, and involving local communities in the design and application of technology. Inclusion needs to be intentional.”

To ensure that AI supports the right to development, we must emphasize inclusivity, ethical responsibility, and accessibility. This includes designing systems that are fair and transparent, and investing in the capacity of all communities to participate in and benefit from technological progress.

Ultimately, AI should serve as a tool to empower people, strengthen human dignity, and promote equitable development for all.

Thank you.

Munum Naeem

Chairman, Humanity First, USA