

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC
The Right to Development
June 26, 2006

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC Member States of the Council.

High Commissioner Louise Arbour, in her statement of 19 June, pointed out that poverty and underdevelopment exacerbate abuse, neglect and discrimination, denying millions the enjoyment of all their rights. Realization of the Right to Development should help eliminate poverty.

Two decades after the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, this phase of transition from the Commission to the Council, provides us with an historic opportunity to take concrete steps towards the full realization of the Right to Development. This right, as elaborated in the Declaration, was reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action.

Since 1998, the Working Group on RTD's mechanisms of the Independent Expert and the High Level Task Force have helped elaborate and clarify the salient features of RTD. The Human Rights Council should develop a strong structure on these foundations so that this inalienable and fundamental human right can be realized for all without discrimination.

Transition should, however, not mean transformation beyond recognition. The terms of reference must not be altered or tempered with. It is important to carry forward all the elements of the discussion and key concepts raised in the Working Group during this transition.

We believe that presence of Ambassador Ibrahim Salama would ensure the element of continuity and facilitate a smooth transition.

We consider the Right to Development to be a bridge between economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand and civil and political rights on the other. We believe that the Working Group should focus on rights within the RTD in order to lend objectivity to the work of the Council in this area and to address the imbalances in the international financial, monetary and trading systems as well as in technology and in global economic decision making. These rights are in consonance with the Declaration's pronouncement to states "to cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development".

Mr. Chairman,

We supported the establishment of the High Level Task Force. We believe it could facilitate movement from years of conceptualization to concrete action that can make a tangible impact. We particularly look forward to the exploratory and analytical work of the task force, in accordance with the roadmap, on operationalizing the concept of policy space towards full realization of the Right to Development. The primary responsibility of states for creating conditions favourable to the realization of the Right to Development is rendered meaningless in the absence of policy space to tailor development strategies in accordance with country specific needs and circumstances.

Mr. Chairman,

The element of international cooperation in accordance with the duty of states to cooperate forms the key to operationalization and full realization of the Right to Development. The enjoyment of this fundamental right by all the people of the world cannot and must not be allowed to be constricted by limited ability of states, particularly developing countries, to finance, build and sustain the necessary infrastructure conducive to its operationalization. Development is a shared objective and a Rights based approach to development can catalyze the achievement of internationally agreed developmental objectives including the MDGs. The establishment of the Council must be seen as an opportunity to rectify the historical wrongs committed in the process of lopsided development by taking action oriented and result oriented steps with regard to the Right to Development.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.