by Pakistan

OIC's comments on the Panel Discussion on “The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice”
(18th Session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September 2011)

Thank you Madam President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of Member States of the OIC. We support the statement made by Egypt in its capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The OIC Member States would like to thank all panelists for their presentations today. Their valuable contributions underline the need to operationalize the Right to Development as a priority in order to create an enabling environment with greater participation of developing-countries-in-international-economic and financial decision making as well as to embrace pro-development policies at the national level.

We take positive note of the activities being organized by the OHCHR to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

Madam President,

The 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development provides us an opportunity for the realization of this right, which reiterates the centrality of attaining equality of opportunity for all. However, we note with concern that 25 years after the Declaration on the Right to Development, we are still defining the contours of the possible implementation of the Right to Development. This right, as elaborated in the Declaration, was reaffirmed by the international community in the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action. However, our progress towards effective implementation of the Right to Development has been rather slow.

Since 1998, the Working Group on the Right to Development, the Independent Expert and the High Level Task Force have helped elaborate and clarify the
salient features of the Right to Development. It is our considered view that now
time has come for the international community to take concrete steps in policy
and practice for the implementation of the right to development.

Madam President

Taking into account recent political developments in various countries, we
consider the Right to Development to be a vital link between economic, social
and cultural rights on the one hand and civil and political rights on the other.

Since these societies are passing through a transitory phase, they must be given
the policy space in their national and international domains, while shaping their
economic, social and political policies. It would help them to tailor their
development strategies in accordance with country specific needs and
circumstances.

We believe that international cooperation is the key to operationalization and full
realization of the Right to Development. The enjoyment of this fundamental right
by all cannot and must not be allowed to be constricted by the 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
Millennium Development Goals.

In conclusion, Madam President, this anniversary 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 in policy and practice with
regard to the Right to Development. The international community cannot
overlook its responsibility to cooperate with States in providing an enabling
environment for people to realize their fundamental right to development.

I thank you.