Thank you Madam President.

My delegation welcomes the convening of the Panel on the Realization of the Right to Development. We commend Madam High Commissioner's commitment to observe the 25th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Right to Development. I would also like to convey our thanks to the distinguished panelists for their presentations.

Madam President, our engagement with respect to the human rights issues is based on the premise that all human rights are equal, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. In Bangladesh, the focus of our efforts is to build a society where all can fully enjoy all human rights—civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights as well as the right to development. In our view protection of fundamental human rights can best be served by dealing with the root causes and through developmental approach.

The UN Declaration on Right to Development is a document that generated hope 25 years ago, in the majority of the population of the world that lives in the developing countries. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in 1993 reached a political consensus to further recognize and assert the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of the fundamental rights of a human person.

Right to development is about mainstreaming and implementing development-oriented policies at all levels, in order to improve the capacity of States to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights.
As globalization has created an interdependent world, policies made in one corner of the world have domino effects on the other side of the world. One state’s internal actions and policies have external impact on populations outside its territory. This is where the collective and shared responsibility element in practice and the need for a balance between national and international responsibilities becomes imperative.

Very recent global crisis and food crisis have re-emphasized the relevance of the right to development and the need for its realization. It is evident that many efforts of developing countries to achieve development have been restrained by impediments at the international level that were beyond their control. These barriers are rooted in faulty international economic, financial and political systems, including non-transparent and undemocratic global decision-making systems governing international trade, migration, intellectual property, flow of capital and labour and technology transfer. The global economic governance has to generate effective international cooperation for sustainable growth and development through ensuring access to resources by developing countries. It is also vital to make sure of their participation in global decision-making process.

Without the realization of right to development, the full enjoyment of all human rights cannot be ensured. It is disappointing to note that though some works have been done, enjoyment of right to development remains ever elusive even after 25 years of the adoption of the Declaration. I call upon the International community to show greater political will and resolve to make right to development a reality. As we commemorate the 25 years of the UN Declaration on RTD, let us promise to transform the Declaration on the right to development into an international legal framework.