



Statement on behalf of the OIC Group, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during General Debate Item 10
54th HRC Session
10 October 2023

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC reaffirms its support to the Council's technical assistance mandate as the preferred means to promote universal respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We underscore that this mandate offers a vital toolkit to promote genuine dialogue and constructive engagement among States, OHCHR and HRC's allied mechanisms.

To ensure its effective and optimal utilization, we reiterate that the Council's technical assistance mandate should only be extended to States upon their request and with their consent, as enshrined in UNGA resolution 60/251.

As it is most efficacious and beneficial in cases where it is offered in consultation with the States to advance their national human rights and development priorities.

Mr. Vice President,

Climate change and COVID pandemic have eroded decades of development gains. The greatest impact of this multifaceted crisis has been on the developing and least developing states.

To build back better and stronger, a fundamental shift in the approach, and orientation is required. It is clear from the human rights consequences of the COVID pandemic that all human rights should be promoted on equal footing.

We hope that these hard-learned lessons would lead to re-orienting the focus of the Council's technical cooperation mandate towards addressing structural inequalities.

Mr. Vice President,

In view of their inter-dependent, inter-related and mutually reinforcing relationship, technical assistance should target all human rights on the same footing and with the same emphasis.

Unfortunately, inequitable resource allocation has constrained OHCHR's ability to focus on all human rights equally.

The OIC, therefore, calls for equitable resource allocation, as well as building necessary firewalls against the distortion caused by voluntary and earmarked contributions.

Use of technical assistance in supporting countries to implement UPR recommendations is also important.

A more worrying aspect remains the use of technical assistance employed as a tool for interference into domestic affairs of sovereign States.



There is a need to ensure that these mandates take into account the ground realities, local sensitivities, cultural norms and socioeconomic contexts of the recipient States for better results.

Mr. Vice President,

We, therefore, impress upon the need for efficient and impartial usage of the Council's technical assistance mandate, which should especially be focused on promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, including the realization of the right to development, particularly in the context of recovery from multifaceted crises.

Lastly, we also welcome the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman for the meaningful discussions in Riyadh to reach a road map in support of the peace process in Yemen.

I thank you!