



Statement, delivered on behalf of Like-Minded Group of Countries Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under agenda item 10 at the 48th session of Human Rights Council

07 October 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of a Like-Minded Group of countries. Full list of co-sponsors will be made available on the Extranet.

We strongly believe that the Council's technical assistance mandate is an indispensable tool to promote realization and enjoyment of all basic human rights globally. In order to reap its dividends, technical assistance should remain a State and demand-driven process, as enshrined in the UNGA resolution 60/251. In this regard, supporting States in implementing the recommendations agreed by them during the UPR process provides an important avenue.

Unfortunately, these well-established and agreed principles, governing the design and delivery of HRC-led technical assistance, are being sidestepped. In many cases, technical assistance has been packaged in such a way that it creates hierarchy among human rights, and serves as a pretext for interference into domestic affairs of sovereign States. In other cases, countries have been coerced to accept technical assistance, without taking into due consideration the local context, challenges and perspective.

These extremely worrying trends undermine the spirit of constructive engagement, cooperation and dialogue at the Council, and must be reversed.

Madam President,

Socio-economic development and advancement of human rights are intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing. The COVID crisis has further driven this point, as the deadly virus has amplified the negative human rights impacts of structural inequalities within and among States.

While the pandemic has struck us all, it is the developing countries, which continue to be disproportionately affected by its socio-economic and public health impacts. This has, in turn, underscored the urgent need to galvanize global efforts to meaningfully address long-standing global barriers to equitable development, vaccine inequity, debt burdens, and illicit financial flows-issues which are central to a better and resilient recovery from the COVID pandemic.

We, therefore, call for effective and appropriate use of the Council's technical assistance mandate in support of developing countries' efforts to promote and protect, inter alia, basic rights to life, health, livelihood, and development.



More importantly, in view of the growing vaccine inequity, the Council should continue to advocate for timely, universal, affordable and equitable access by everyone, everywhere to COVID vaccines and other public health products. I thank you.

List of co-sponsors:

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4. China
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