



National Statement, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during the Panel Discussion on ESC rights in the context of addressing inequalities

57th HRC Session

11 September 2024

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the panel and thanks them for their presentations on the linkages between promoting economic, social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities within and amongst states.

As a member of the core group of HRC resolutions 54/22 and 49/19, Pakistan has been a consistent proponent of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) playing an active role in the protection and promotion of ESC rights.

We appreciate the priority attached by the High Commissioner to operationalising and mainstreaming ESC rights and the right to development alongside civil and political rights, in keeping with the international community's cherished principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence.

Mr. President,

Addressing inequalities – both structural and situational – remains a prime mover for making progress on realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

In recent years, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and crushing debt burdens has been felt disproportionately by developing countries and – within them – by the poorest members of our societies.

States' responsibilities as duty bearers have continued to mount even as resources are stretched to their thinnest limits.

Meanwhile, emerging technologies such as generative AI are continuing to transform the economic landscape even as they are concentrated in a handful of powerful enterprises.

The net result is that more and more people across the world – including in developed countries – are at increasing risk of being left behind.

We would welcome the panellists' insights on how best to leverage the OHCHR's regional presence to ensure ESC rights while contending with these challenges.

I thank you.