



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during General Debate under agenda item 10 at the 51st session of Human Rights Council

06 October 2022

Mr. President,

The OIC recognizes significance of the Council's technical assistance mandate. We believe that this mandate provides a vital toolkit to foster genuine dialogue and constructive engagement among States, OHCHR and HRC's allied mechanisms.

To ensure its effective and optimal use, technical assistance should be provided in consultation with and with consent of the concerned State, as stipulated in the UNGA resolution 60/251. Regrettably, this cardinal principle is being undermined.

In many cases, States have demonstrated willingness to address global concerns over human rights, including through requests for technical assistance. Instead of responding positively, intrusive counter-measures have been applied on them. Such an approach undermines the basic principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and must be eschewed.

Mr. 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 donors-driven agenda has further aggravated the problem.

The OIC, therefore, calls for equitable resource allocation, focusing on all basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, as well as building necessary firewalls against the distortion caused by voluntary and earmarked contributions.

Mr. President,

To build back better and stronger, a fundamental shift in thinking, approach, and orientation is required. It is clear from the human rights consequences of the COVID pandemic that pursuit of selective approaches is detrimental, and that investments in sustainable development is a catalyst for human rights promotion. We hope these hard-learned lessons would lead to re-orienting the focus of Council's technical cooperation mandate towards addressing structural inequalities.

In this connection, the OIC draws attention towards the needs and predicament of developing countries, which continue to disproportionately endure socio-economic shocks of the pandemic.

We call on the Council to utilize its technical assistance mandate to support these countries in their domestic efforts to safeguard and advance basic rights of their citizens, including the right to equitable and timely access to affordable COVID vaccines, revival of livelihoods, provision of health services, food security, and fostering of sustainable development. I thank you, Mr. President.

