



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during
Interactive dialogue on OHCHR report on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,
and COVID-19 recovery
HRC 54th Session
15th September 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his report and presentation of his vision for advancing ESC rights.

As member of the core group on resolution 19/49, we welcome the report shining light on the constraints faced by developing countries in efforts to recover from COVID-19 effects.

The report echoes what other independent institutions have been highlighting i.e., developing countries are facing staggering debt repayments and facing difficulties in accessing global capital markets.

The pandemic as well as the accompanying fuel, finance, and food crises have exposed the structural problems impeding the full realization of economic, social, and cultural rights.

Some of these structural problems include the absence of any socio-economic rights assessment mechanism within the global institutions and their policies. Many developing countries do not have seats at the decision-making tables of international financial institutions.

These gaps have exacerbated growing inequalities and vulnerabilities, within and among countries; led to reduced fiscal space, liquidity crunch because of the unprecedented debt burdens and the equivocation of global economic and financial institutions to adequately support the affected countries.

There is an urgent need to remedy these structural problems to enable the global south to prioritize social spending, provide social safety nets to the most vulnerable, enhance their liquidity and fiscal space and revisit approaches to development and climate finance without undue conditionalities.

We look forward to the view of the High Commissioner how the Council can support the OHCHR in engaging international economic and financial institutions to adopt an economic and social rights centered approaches towards global challenges of economic and social character.

I thank you!