



National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
50th HRC Session

24 June 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur (SR) for his report and reaffirm support for the mandate.

We appreciate SR's focus on the phenomenon of non-take-up in the context of social protection.

The SR has rightly contextualized the social security as one of the human rights and not a favour within the ambit of international human rights law. Indeed, this concept has been well-codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). UDHR states that everyone has the right to social security and calls for national efforts and international co-operation to realize economic, social and cultural rights.

We acknowledge that non-take-up affects the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of the society. However, it also reflects the gravity of deep-rooted socio-economic challenges with growing inequalities between and among states. On a systemic level, addressing the underlying causes behind the weak protection regimes such as socio-economic inequalities, insufficient international financing, burgeoning debt as well as structural challenges related to global financial and economic architecture is both essential and urgent.

We agree with the SR that lack of awareness and information, costly procedures, paucity of resources, low digital literacy, stigmatization and shame and administrative barriers including bribery may prevent eligible individuals from effectively enjoying their right to social security.