



## **National statement delivered during the Panel Discussion on Climate Change at the 50<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

*Theme: Adverse impact of climate change on human rights of people in vulnerable situations*

**28 June 2021**

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner and the panelists for their insightful remarks.

There is increasing evidence that climate change is taking a heavy toll on the vulnerable and the marginalized. This uneven impact is largely caused by the widening structural inequalities within and among countries.

Persistent gaps in access to assets, opportunities, and political participation have disproportionately exposed the poor countries, and the poorest within these countries, to the human rights impacts of climate change.

In the past 20 years, around 4.2 billion people, majority of whom hail from LDCs and SIDs, have been affected by climate-related natural disasters, including a significant loss of lives and livelihoods.

This human, social and economic harm is not by accident. Scientific data indicates that it is a direct consequence of set of policies on part of the global North.

Business as usual is therefore not an option if the international community is genuinely committed to building a life of dignity for all on a clean and greener planet.

The triple crises of health, economy and climate have further renewed urgency for undertaking transformative actions to bridge inequality gaps, foster sustainable development, and build resilience to climate change and future pandemics.

These global actions should cater to peculiar needs of developing countries, which are bearing the brunt of climate change. We, therefore, call for mobilization of climate financing and technology transfer in support of developing countries' efforts on the basis of the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'.

From a human rights perspective, the right to development provides a firm anchor point on which the Council should build its work in this cross-sectoral area. We, therefore, urge the Council to use its technical assistance mandate in support of developing countries' efforts to safeguard and advance the right to development of its citizens. Thank you.