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41st Session of the Human Rights Council
Statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of Like-Minded Group
General Debate - Agenda Item 10 (Technical Cooperation and Capacity
Building)
(9 July 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make the statement on behalf of Like-Minded Group of Countries. The complete list of the cosponsors would be shared on the extranet.

2. The States have primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights and therefore, focusing on building capacity of relevant institutions can go a long way in the realization of human rights agenda. An international system that works on the principles of UN Charter and adheres to State driven engagement can help in the national ownership of global programs such as the 2030 Development agenda and reap maximum benefits for all.

3. Technical assistance and capacity building can be an effective tool for constructive engagement if tailored to states' peculiar socio-economic, cultural specificities and national priorities and can have a transformative impact.

4. We believe that the mandate of the Council can be better served by providing technical assistance to the States and focusing on the capacity building of relevant institutions. By focussing on the technical cooperation and capacity building, we can overcome any diversion towards polarization, confrontation and politicization of the Council. The discourse of naming and shaming needs to be abolished.

5. In line with the principles set forth in the UNGA resolution 60/251 and IB Package, technical cooperation and capacity building must not be viewed as a tool for interference in the internal affairs and must be done in the spirit of strengthening State's capacity on its request and consent to overcome human rights related challenges.

6. We must strive to make a transparent, credible and non-politicized program for technical cooperation. Considering that every State whether developed or developing faces its own peculiar challenges in the realization of basic human rights, therefore, there cannot be a 'One Size Fits All Policy'. It

has been observed that a few member States seeking technical cooperation to build their capacities could not be entertained by the OHCHR due to lack of financial resources. This is a worrying sign and necessary steps must be taken by the OHCHR to garner resources required to cater for such requests. Moreover, the process for consideration of requests for technical cooperation must be further streamlined and shared with the HRC. Necessary financial and technical support must be provided to the developing countries to help them in their efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thankyou Mr. President.

List of LMG Countries

1. Sri Lanka
2. Myanmar
3. Zimbabwe
4. Egypt
5. UAE
6. Russia
7. Algeria
8. Saudi Arabia
9. Nigeria
- 10.China
- 11.Syria
- 12.Philippines
- 13.Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea
- 14.Iran
- 15.Venezuela