



National statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under agenda item 10 at the 46th session of Human Rights Council

22 March 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan is committed to effective implementation of the Council's technical assistance and capacity-building mandate, as is evident from our political and financial support for this function of the Council.

We have been making regular contribution to the OHCHR with most of the funds disbursed as un-earmarked. We also contribute to the Trust Fund on participation of SIDS and LDCs in the Council's work as well as to other voluntary funds, focused on victims of torture and UPR.

Pakistan believes that technical cooperation remains a practical tool to promote and protect human rights, through extending tailored assistance to countries in support of their national efforts and priorities.

If utilized in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UNGA resolution 60/251 and IB package, technical assistance provides the fulcrum for international cooperation and genuine dialogue among States.

However, the gradual politicization of this mandate is a worrying trend, and should be curbed.

Madam President,

Pakistan stresses that the Council should benefit from shared experience and enhanced understanding of the global human rights challenges and their root causes, as revealed by the disruptive COVID pandemic.

The Council should prioritize advancing socio-economic development as bedrock to full and effective enjoyment of basic rights and freedoms.

In the face of overlapping health, economic and climate crises, the human rights discourse should focus on supporting national efforts to safeguard and advance the basic rights to life, health, food, livelihood, and development. Given that developing countries are at the frontline of enduring human rights consequences of these crises, the Council should pay special attention to their needs in spirit of 'leaving no one behind'.

In this respect, the Council and the wider UN human rights machinery should continue its advocacy for ensuring universal, timely, equitable and affordable access to COVID technologies including vaccine as a global public good. Rising vaccine nationalism should be strongly discouraged.



As we embark on building back better, the Council should optimize its technical assistance in furtherance of the mutually-reinforcing human rights and sustainable development agenda.

I thank you, Madam President.