



National Statement by Mr. Umair Khalil, Third Secretary during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights

8 March 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Council and wish her a productive tenure.

The Special Rapporteur has aptly explained the significance of cultural rights in the context of international human rights law.

Even as there is a wide recognition of intrinsic links between cultural rights and other human rights including SDGs, there are certain instances where cultural rights of individuals and communities in developing countries are being exploited for economic benefits and profits. Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs), carry a game changing economic & commercial potential for developing countries.

We would appreciate SR's views on the range of options including an international legal instrument to deal with this issue from the human rights perspective especially protecting traditional knowledge and avoiding its misappropriation and unauthorized use.

We also take due note of the Special Rapporteur's identified priority areas for future reports especially related to sustainable development and cultural rights as well as preservation of cultural identity in the context of migration.

In this regard, we recommend factoring in the challenges faced by migrants with respect to preserving their specific national, ethnic and cultural practices in the face of host countries' regulations prohibiting these practices as part of cultural integration exercise.

I thank you.