



**National statement delivered by Mr. Salman Khalid Chaudhary, Second Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on International Solidarity at the 47th session of Human Rights Council**

**24 June 2021**

**Madam President,**

Pakistan thanks the Rapporteur for his presentation.

The Rapporteur's call to step up global cooperation against the COVID pandemic is timely.

Today, as we strive to turn the corner against the pandemic, my delegation underscores three inflection points of international solidarity:

**First**, growing vaccine nationalism and equity gap is a threat to us all. No one will be truly safe unless everyone is safe. We must, therefore, act collectively to ensure equitable distribution of and access to affordable COVID vaccine through, inter alia, waiver of patent rights, ramping up of production in global South, and enhanced funding for the COVAX facility.

**Second**, though the pandemic has struck every country, its socio-economic impacts have unevenly affected the poorest countries, and the poor within countries. It is, therefore, essential to provide low-income countries with fiscal space and liquidity stimulus to protect lives and rebuild livelihoods.

We are gratified to note that global consensus is emerging on many of the action points, contained in the global initiative on debt relief, launched by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

**Finally**, the COVID provides us with an opportunity to invest in the mutually reinforcing areas of sustainable development and global human rights agenda. We, therefore, call for greater financing for development. We also emphasize upon the need to stem and repatriate illicit financial assets, in support of developing countries' recovery efforts.

I thank you.