



Statement, delivered on behalf of Like-Minded Group of Countries by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, during General Debate under Agenda Item 10 at the 49th session of Human Rights Council

31 March 2022

Mr. President,

Pakistan has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Like-Minded Group of countries. Complete list of co-sponsors will be posted on the Extranet.

We reaffirm our full support to the Council's technical assistance mandate, which should be extended to States upon their request and with their consent, as enshrined in UNGA resolution 60/251.

We re-emphasize that all human rights are equal, indivisible, inter-related and inter-dependent. Unfortunately, technical assistance is often packaged in such a way that it creates hierarchy among human rights, thereby serving as a pretext for interference into domestic affairs of sovereign States. In certain cases, countries have been forced to accept technical assistance.

These disturbing trends are cause of serious concern for us, as they hamper cooperation and genuine dialogue at the Council, and must be reversed.

Mr. President,

Socio-economic development and human rights are organically inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. The COVID pandemic is a sober reminder that under investment in protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights bears a huge cost in terms of human lives and livelihoods. Poverty alleviation and reduction of structural inequalities within and among countries ultimately strengthen human rights protection.

In this regard, we invite special attention towards the peculiar situation of developing countries. These countries continue to bear the brunt of the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

We therefore call for effective use of the Council's technical assistance mandate to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights, including right to development, in support of these countries' recovery efforts from the pandemic. The mandate should be carried out in a spirit of dialogue and giving deference to national priorities as determined by the concerned country.

We also call on all States to extend necessary political and financial support to OHCHR for strengthening its capacities in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural



rights, including through provision of technical assistance to developing and least developed countries upon their request.

Moreover, the Council and its allied mechanisms should continue their advocacy for timely, universal, and equitable access to affordable COVID vaccines and other health products, as a basic human right to life and health.

Mr. President,

Technical assistance should also be used to support States upon their request in implementing the recommendations agreed by them during the UPR process, as well as in fulfilling their international human rights obligations. I thank you.

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