



National statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, during General Debate under Agenda Item 10 at the 49th session of Human Rights Council

30 March 2022

Mr. President,

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

We therefore support full and effective implementation of the Council's capacity-building mandate.

On its part, Pakistan has been making voluntary contribution to the OHCHR with most of the funds disbursed as un-earmarked. We have also contributed to the Trust Fund for participation of SIDS and LDCs and other voluntary funds, focused on victims of torture and UPR.

We caution against politicization of this mandate, and call for full adherence to the principles and parameters enshrined in UNGA resolution 60/251 in this regard.

Mr. President,

The Council should benefit from our enhanced understanding of the global human rights challenges in the post-COVID world, and accordingly optimize use of its technical cooperation mandate.

The Council's technical cooperation mandate should be deployed to advance and safeguard all basic human rights, especially rights to life, health, food, decent work and development. The Council should particularly prioritize operationalizing right to development as bedrock for ensuring a strong, resilient and sustainable recovery from the pandemic. Let us be clear that equitable access to COVID vaccine is a basic human right. Therefore, the Council should speak with one voice against rising vaccine nationalism and inequity.

Furthermore, the pandemic has laid bare the impact of macroeconomic policies and architecture on advancement of the global human rights agenda. Debt cycles have impeded developing countries' capacity to build social protection infrastructure, and safeguard basic human rights and development needs of its citizens. It is therefore urgent and essential to explore ways and means how the Council's technical cooperation mandate can be used to address these structural issues, exacerbating inequalities within and among countries. Thank you, Mr. President.