



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
General Debate Agenda item 10: “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building”

Statement on behalf of the OIC
(19 June 2020)

Madam President,

Technical cooperation and capacity-building is an important mandated function of the Human Rights Council. Yet it remains under-utilized as a vehicle to safeguard and advance basic human rights.

Technical cooperation directed in support of States’ own prioritized efforts in the human rights domain is always productive.

However, such assistance, when employed as a political instrument for interference in domestic affairs of States, is counter-productive and undermines constructive engagement, cooperation and genuine dialogue at the Council.

Madam President,

The COVID pandemic is a clarion call that the Council needs to step up effective use of its technical cooperation mandate in a transparent, non-selective, and apolitical manner.

The impact of COVID pandemic is a reminder of the need to pursue all human rights equitably.

The Council should, therefore, explore ways and means to support States in mitigating the health and socio-economic impacts of the deadly virus.

In building back better and to create resilience against future pandemics, there should be greater and sustained investment in promotion and protection of social and economic rights, especially the right to development.

While the COVID pandemic does not discriminate, its consequences do, especially for developing countries. Special attention should, therefore, be paid to development needs and priorities of these countries in the spirit of ‘leaving no one behind’.

Such an approach, the OIC believes, can best serve the global human rights agenda.

I thank you, Madam President.