



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

National statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during General Debate under agenda item 10: “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building” at the 45th session of Human Rights Council

(02 October 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan attaches great importance to the technical cooperation and capacity-building mandate of the Human Rights Council.

This is evidenced by the regular contribution, which we have been making to OHCHR as well as to its different voluntary funds, aimed at capacity building of Small Island Developing and Less Developing countries and for thematic areas, such as victims of torture and UPR.

We firmly believe that the technical cooperation mandate offers the Council a useful vehicle to foster constructive engagement and genuine dialogue among States by listening to their unique perspective and challenges in the human rights domain, as well as by extending tailored assistance in support of their national priorities.

It is, however, disturbing to note the gradual politicization of this function of the Council. We re-emphasize the need to strongly discourage this worrying trend because it raises serious questions about this august body's credibility.

Madam President,

The devastating COVID pandemic is a profound wake-up call that all human rights should be respected, protected and promoted equally.

Pakistan believes that realization, enjoyment and exercise of basic rights to life, health, food, work and development should be prioritized for the Council's technical cooperation mandate amidst this health crisis.

While the deadly infection has attacked us all without any distinction, its unfolding impacts are more likely to strike developing and least developing countries.

Therefore, Pakistan stresses that in the spirit of unity, solidarity and international cooperation, the Council should pay special attention towards needs of these countries.

For realization of the basic rights to life and health for everyone everywhere, the Council and the wider UN human rights machinery should continue its advocacy for ensuring equitable and affordable access to COVID-related health technologies and products, including medicines and vaccines, particularly by people in developing and least developing countries.



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Similarly, the Council should also funnel more funds to assist States to put back on track their socio-development efforts and build sustainable and resilient capacities and infrastructures.

We are convinced that this timely and wise investment by the Council will further advance the mutually-reinforcing human rights and sustainable development agenda.

I thank you, Madam President.