



National statement, delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under agenda item 10 at the 48th session of Human Rights Council

07 October 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan remains convinced that the Council's technical assistance mandate represents a meaningful vehicle to help States in safeguarding and advancing basic human rights and development needs of their citizens.

We have, therefore, been making regular and voluntary contribution to the OHCHR. We also contribute to the Trust Fund for SIDS and LDCs as well as to other voluntary funds, focused on victims of torture and UPR.

Pakistan reaffirms its continued political and financial support for full and effective implementation of this mandate.

Madam President,

We believe if deployed in accordance with the principles enshrined in UNGA resolution 60/251, technical assistance can be a transformational catalyst for enhanced international cooperation and genuine dialogue at the Council.

Provision of technical assistance, after consultation with and consent of the concerned State, guarantees that such assistance caters to local context and challenges and supplements national efforts to strengthen coverage of human rights protection.

However, we are disappointed to note that this mandate is increasingly being sidestepped. This must change.

Madam President,

The COVID pandemic is a wake-up call and a reminder for the Council to prioritize advancing socio-economic development as a stepping stone towards realization and enjoyment of fundamental rights, globally.

In order to decisively overcome the crises of the pandemic, economic contraction, and climate change emergency, our collective efforts should focus on promoting and protecting basic rights to life, health, food, livelihood, and development, among others.

The Council and the global community should pay particular attention to the dire situation of developing countries, which are unevenly affected by the human rights consequences of these inter-twined crises.



In this respect, we strongly encourage the Council to optimally utilize its technical assistance mandate in furtherance of the mutually-reinforcing global agenda of human rights and sustainable development.

We also call on the Council and the wider UN human rights machinery to continue its advocacy for universal, timely and equitable access to affordable COVID vaccine as a global public good. Ensuring vaccine equity globally is the first crucial step we need to take in order to recover better and stronger from the devastating and unprecedented impacts of the pandemic. I thank you, Madam President.