



**National Statement by Mr. Sumair Gul, Second Secretary during
Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Promotion of a
Democratic and Equitable International Order at the 48th session of
Human Rights Council**

20 September 2021

Madam President,

We thank the Independent Expert for presenting the report.

As the world is grappling with multiple preexisting and COVID induced socio-economic challenges, the report is timely and rightly underscores the need for renewed international solidarity and commitment to strengthening multilateralism.

COVID Pandemic has accentuated the existing socio-economic and health inequalities thus impeding states' capacities to eradicate extreme poverty and provide livelihoods to their people. This has made our collective task of achieving SDGs more challenging and perhaps beyond reach.

We agree with Independent Expert's assessment that for equitable economic recovery and to avert a major global crisis, it is imperative to increase fiscal space especially in view of the debt vulnerabilities of developing countries. The situation demands immediate steps such as development financing, fulfilling ODA commitments, meaningful debt relief initiatives as well as sharing of expertise and technology to developing countries.

We also share Independent Expert's concerns over vaccine nationalism and lack of progress over TRIPS waiver.

We request the Independent Expert to share his perspective on how the human rights machinery help in countering structural challenges of inequity evident in global health system, especially vaccines?

I thank you.