



National statement delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary, during the Panel Discussion on Technical Cooperation at the 47th session of Human Rights Council

Theme: Technical cooperation to advance the right to education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all

12 July 2021

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner and the panelists for their insightful remarks.

Pakistan attaches great importance to the HRC's technical assistance and cooperation mandate.

We are pleased to note that this mandate has been utilized to support States' domestic efforts to protect and promote basic right to education. We recognize OHCHR's activities in this area, as reported in the document 47/56.

Madam President,

The realization and enjoyment of basic right to education is a force-multiplier. A well-educated and informed citizenry is essential for strengthening democracy, rule of law and human rights in any society.

Regrettably, several challenges persist in this domain, which have been further accentuated by the COVID pandemic. As rightly pointed out, the pandemic has triggered an 'education crisis'.

According to UNICEF, the pandemic could push 142 million more children into poverty in developing countries, which directly impacts their access to education, among other basic necessities.

The COVID-induced schools closure has disrupted learning opportunities for children. It has been difficult for developing countries to make arrangements for remote learning. This sad state of affairs has renewed urgency to bridge the global digital divide in support of our collective efforts to achieve sustainable development goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education.

The financial crunch caused by the pandemic will most likely entail a significant reduction in the public education budgets in developing countries. We invite panelists' views on how global cooperation on areas such as vaccine equity and debt relief can enable developing countries to spare precious resources in a bid to secure basic right of education for our posterity. I thank you.