



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during the
Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and
Equitable International Order
54th HRC Session
18 September 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the Independent Expert for the report.

The report is an important reminder that the economic, environmental and health crises of today will have long lasting impacts and will be none so more consequential than for the youth.

We certainly need to hear the youth perspective, their experience, and their aspirations.

It is therefore important that global accords of today and tomorrow should be equity-based, should have provisions for capacity building, access to technology and knowledge-sharing, and sustainable financing. This will ensure that our youth is well-prepared and well-equipped for future crises and is adequately trained to find solutions for the problems of tomorrow.

This is even more critical for developing and least-developed countries where youth comprise majority of the population, and already facing underemployment.

It is concerning that the growing inequalities are impeding our young population's ability to fully participate in the socio-economic life and fully realize their potential.

We therefore need more youth participation, particularly from developing countries, in international financial institutions, international and intergovernmental organization, and democratic processes. We need an international order where youth can have a say in their future.

We request the Independent Expert to reflect on what capacity building measures need to be put in place as part of future international legally binding instruments that can strengthen youth participation in future decision making.

I thank you!