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40TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate - Agenda Item 10 - Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building

Statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of Like Minded Group

(20 March 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make the statement on behalf of Like-Minded Group of Countries. The complete list of the cosponsors would be shared on the extranet.

2. Technical assistance and capacity building is one of the core functions of the Human Rights Council. It can be an effective tool for constructive engagement if tailored to states' peculiar socio-economic, cultural specificities and national priorities and can have a transformative impact. By focussing on the technical cooperation and capacity building, we can overcome any diversion towards polarization, confrontation and politicization of the Council. The discourse of naming and shaming needs to be abolished.

3. We believe that all HRC mechanisms must be strengthened and supported in line with the Institution Building Package. We are witnessing a troubling trend in the Council whereby States are pressurized and coerced by a group of States into accepting support from HRC mechanisms. In line with the principles set forth in the UNGA resolution 60/251 and IB Package, technical cooperation and capacity building must not be viewed as a tool for interference in the internal affairs and must be done in the spirit of strengthening State's capacity on its request and consent to overcome human rights related challenges.

4. The States have primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights and therefore, focusing on building capacity of relevant institutions can go along way in the realization of human rights agenda. An

international system that works on the principles of UN Charter and adheres to State driven engagement can help in the national ownership of global programs such as the 2030 Development agenda and reap maximum benefits for all.

5. Every State whether developed or developing faces its own peculiar and particular challenges in the realization of basic human rights and therefore, there cannot be a 'One Size Fits All Policy'. In this regard, the priorities of OHCHR and the Special Procedure Mandate Holders must be streamlined to give equal emphasis to the economic, social and cultural rights including the right to development. Necessary financial and technical support must be provided to the developing countries to help them in their efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. UPR is a peer review mechanism which has already started to bear fruits. Technical cooperation and capacity building of member States, helping in the implementation of accepted recommendations of their choice, can be a good avenue for international cooperation.

I thank you Mr. President.

Co-sponsors of the Statement

1. Pakistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Syria
4. Russia
5. UAE
6. Belarus

7. Nigeria
8. Turkmenistan
9. Iran
10. Zimbabwe
11. Egypt
12. Bahrain
13. Saudi Arabia
14. DPRK
15. Algeria
16. Russia
17. Philippines
18. China
19. Laos
20. Cuba
21. Lebanon
22. Venezuela
23. Malaysia
24. Thailand
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