

42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate under agenda item 10: “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building”

Statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of Like Minded Group
(26 September 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of Like-Minded Group of Countries*.

Technical assistance and capacity building is among the core mandated functions of the Human Rights Council. When tailored to support States' national priorities and employed in an objective and transparent manner, this useful tool can have a transformative impact. Given its potential for facilitating genuine dialogue and constructive engagement, it can arrest the worrisome tendency of polarization, confrontation and politicization at the Council.

Mr. President,

Human rights related challenges are diverse in nature and beset us all in different forms and manifestations. Thus, the Council's response should be diverse as well and should not be inspired by a “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Regrettably, we are witnessing a troubling trend, whereby countries are coerced by a group of States in the name of technical cooperation. In line with the principles set forth in the UNGA resolution 60/251 and IB Package, technical cooperation and capacity building must neither be used as a tool for advancing political agenda nor a pretext for interference in domestic affairs.

Instead, technical assistance must strengthen State's capacity on its request and with its consent. States have the primary responsibility for promotion and protection of all human rights and therefore, national ownership will reap maximum and sustainable benefits in the long-run.

Mr. President,

All human rights are indivisible, inter-related and inter-dependent, and therefore, technical cooperation and capacity-building should focus on all rights, including economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, in an inclusive and effective manner. Necessary financial and

technical support must be provided to developing countries to help them in their efforts for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UPR is a peer-driven review mechanism which has made positive contributions towards realization of global human rights agenda. In this regard, helping States in implementation of accepted recommendations of their choice can be a good avenue for international cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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