

42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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

Statement on behalf of the OIC
(26 September 2019)

Mr. President,

OIC is of the view that every Member State, regardless of its position on the development scale, has its own human rights challenges. While assisting any State in its efforts to overcome these challenges, it is important to take into full account the national context, circumstances and local sensitivities. A “one-size-fits-all” approach is bound to fail.

More importantly, technical cooperation and capacity building must be provided at the request of and with the consent of States. Given their primary responsibility to protect and promote human rights, States should take the lead in assessing their needs and identifying areas which need more attention. The provided assistance should complement national human rights efforts of a country and build on them. In no case, it should not be used as a pretext for interference in domestic affairs and political point-scoring.

Mr. President,

Technical cooperation and capacity-building are unique tools at the disposal of the Council for fulfilling its human rights agenda in a concrete and meaningful way. However, unfortunately, political considerations have superseded the principles of transparency, objectivity and effectiveness in this area. In recent years, countries are being pushed to accept technical assistance. This non-constructive approach should be checked because it raises serious questions about the Council’s credibility.

Mr. President,

Technical cooperation and capacity-building should equitably target all human rights, including the right to development, because all rights are indivisible, inter-related and inter-dependent. Enhanced focus on right to development would also complement accelerated efforts of the international community to achieve the 2030 Agenda of “Leaving no one behind”.

In conclusion, OIC would like to emphasize that impact assessment exercise should be part and parcel of any cooperation package so that the Council can carry out its mandated task in this area in a scientific, evidence-based and objective manner.

I thank you, Mr. President.