



National Statement by Mr. Salman Khalid Chaudhry, Second Secretary during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

23 June 2021

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur (SR) for her report, focused on the cultural dimension of the right to education. This report makes interesting comparison with one of the earlier thematic reports by the SR on cultural rights which had underscored elements of cultural diversity in the realization of the right to education.

The correlation appears more rational than treating the right to education as a subset of cultural rights which the present report seems to suggest.

We do agree with the SR that cultural aspects of education including incorporation of domestic cultural peculiarities based on race, colour, ethnicity, religion and language are important for inclusive and quality education.

We would appreciate SR's comments on:

- I. The logic and consequences of imposing alien cultural values on local education – as prescribed by certain civil society organizations and member states for example in areas of sex, identities and orientations.
- II. Role of education in full development of human personality – as laid down in Universal Declaration of Human Rights or right to education as an empowerment right – as referred in the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

I thank you.