



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

23 June 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan thanks the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Council and wish her a productive tenure.

We appreciate SR's focus on colonialism, racism, structural discrimination and sustained health equality. We recommend weaving-in the issue of "obstacles faced by people under illegal foreign occupation in accessing health services" within the context of colonialism and right to health.

We agree with the SR that COVID pandemic has reaffirmed the interdependence of all human rights and share her concerns related to isolationist health policies and vaccine nationalism that are inconsistent with international human rights standards. As indicated in the report, substantive equality in health is crucial to address structural and indirect discrimination in the provision of health services. Health equity demands efforts to eliminate extreme poverty and ensure enjoyment of fundamental rights including access to water, sanitation, food, employment and safe environment.

We echo SR's call for solidarity in providing universal and affordable access to healthcare services and COVID vaccine. In this spirit, we emphasize the need for enhanced international cooperation for resource mobilization, sharing of expertise and lifting of undue restrictions on transfer of health technologies in fulfilling obligations related to right to health.

I thank you.