



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, during the Annual High-Level Mainstreaming Panel, at the 49th session of Human Rights Council

28 February 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the speakers and panelists for their insightful remarks.

The theme of this panel resonates with many of the contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Universal and meaningful participation of Least Developed and Small Islands Developing countries at the UN is both essential and urgent.

These countries are at the forefront of bracing the impacts of the triple crises of health, climate and economy. Therefore, perspectives and voices of these countries need to be mainstreamed into global response to these global problems.

In the wider context, ensuring inclusive participation of all States, especially smaller ones, will help us in making the UN system fit for its purpose.

Mr. President,

We recognize the valuable contributions of the UN Trust Fund to support participation of SIDs and LDCs in the Council's work. Facts attest to this.

We especially appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat in ensuring continued participation of these countries during the COVID pandemic through timely virtual arrangements.

We are also pleased to note that to date, the Trust Fund has supported participation of over 100 female officials and diplomats, enabling mainstreaming of women perspectives into the Council's work. Many of the OIC countries have both benefitted from and contributed to the Trust Fund. At its 10th anniversary, we reaffirm our strong support to this landmark initiative.

Mr. President,

The need to address structural inequalities is being widely advocated as part of a strong and resilient recovery from the COVID pandemic. The SIDs and LDCs have borne the brunt of the COVID's social and economic impacts. Therefore, ensuring universal and meaningful participation of SIDs and LDCs in multilateral forums is vital to evolve response strategies to address inequalities and vulnerabilities. We would therefore welcome panelists' views on ways and means to credibly democratize the global governance system that promotes and protects the interests of everyone, instead of the privileged few. I thank you.