



Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, during General Debate under agenda item 10 at the 49th session of Human Rights Council

30 March 2022

Mr. President,

The OIC fully supports the Council's technical assistance mandate as a preferred vehicle to promote universal respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We remain convinced that technical assistance delivers the most when utilized to assist States in advancing their national human rights and development priorities. Forcing States to accept technical assistance mandates has proven to be counter-productive since such politically motivated mandates are often divorced from ground realities, and local sensitivities.

We, therefore, reiterate our call for full adherence to the principles and parameters, enshrined in the UNGA resolution 60/251, regarding technical assistance. As sovereign actors, securing consent of the concerned States remains unquestionable. Technical cooperation should neither be leveraged to advance political agenda nor as a pretext to interfere in domestic affairs of States.

Regrettably, we note with concern the increasing deviation from these well-established principles. Such an approach is detrimental to promoting the spirit of dialogue and cooperation at the Council. This must be discouraged.

Mr. President,

The devastating impacts of the COVID pandemic have demonstrated that all human rights are universal, inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing, and should be treated equally.

We are of the view that the chronic under-investment in social, economic and cultural rights has contributed to the global unpreparedness in effectively tackling the pandemic shocks. The neglect of this set of fundamental rights is also driving structural inequalities, within and among States.

The OIC hopes that in building back better and stronger from the pandemic, we take into full consideration these hard-learned lessons, and deploy the Council's technical assistance mandate in confronting these structural inequalities.

In this regard, we draw the Council's attention towards the needs of developing countries, which have been unevenly affected by the triple crises of health, economy and climate.

We call on the Council to utilize its technical assistance mandate to support these countries in their domestic efforts to safeguard and advance basic rights of their citizens, including the right to equitable and timely access to affordable COVID vaccines, revival of livelihoods, social protection, food security, and fostering of sustainable development.



Such an all-encompassing approach will best serve the global human rights agenda. I thank you.