



Draft Resolution A/HRC/49/L.28 as orally revised on “Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”

49th Session of the Human Rights Council

General Comment delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. President,

Pakistan is pleased to be part of a cross-regional core group, which has presented the draft resolution L.28, as orally revised.

The primary purpose of the draft resolution is to spotlight the vital relationship between promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and addressing the glaring inequalities in context of recovery from the COVID pandemic.

The pandemic has both exposed and exacerbated the existing inequalities and multiple socio-economic disparities, among and within States. The developing and least-developed countries have been at the forefront of bracing their human rights consequences.

Over 100 million people are estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty. Over 250 million jobs have been lost. While 1.5 billion doses are being produced every month, 90 percent of people in Africa are still waiting for their first dose of COVID vaccine.

Through imposing human rights-incompatible austerity policies and loan conditions, the unjust, the unfair and the undemocratic global financial system has shrunk fiscal space for developing and least-developed countries.

These are just few examples of the structural inequalities, which continue to hinder an equitable and symmetrical recovery from the pandemic.

If left unaddressed, the post-COVID world would witness further erosion of development and human rights gains.

The international community can therefore ill-afford the continuation of this vicious cycle of inequalities among countries, societies and people, resulting in negative human rights consequences. A human-centered economic recovery and people-oriented policies remain key ingredients for a resilient and sustainable recovery from the pandemic.



Mr. President,

In view of the mandate given to OHCHR by UNGA resolution 48/141, the High Commissioner has a central role to play in this regard.

L.28 therefore aims to empower the High Commissioner to articulate the Office's vision in reinforcing its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within context of addressing inequalities in recovery from the pandemic, with enhanced focus on peculiar predicaments and needs of developing and least-developed States.

This is a realistic outcome, resonating with facts on the ground and responding to the human rights needs and challenges in the post-COVID world. We therefore urge all Council members to support L.28 as demonstration of their avowed commitment to global human rights agenda. Thank you, Mr. President.