



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty

29 June 2021

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur (SR) for his report.

The SR has timely highlighted the theme of social protection, as the world grapples with socio-economic impacts of COVID pandemic.

The concept of social security has been well-codified in international human rights law - UDHR states that everyone has the right to social security and emphasized the need for national efforts and international co-operation to realize economic, social and cultural rights.

We agree with the SR that too little has been invested in social protection in the past. The pandemic caught countries off guard as emergency responses of countries remained largely insufficient. However, on a systemic level, addressing the underlying causes behind the weak protection regimes such as socio-economic inequalities, insufficient international financing, burgeoning debt as well as structural challenges related to global financial and economic architecture is both essential and urgent.

The SR has rightly underscored the need for domestic resource mobilization in low-income countries including through debt relief, special allocation of drawing rights, fighting illicit financial flows and enhanced international tax cooperation.

We echo SR's call for establishing a global fund to increase the level of support to low-income countries. We would appreciate SR's views on ways to generate political commitment to establish and operationalize this fund as well as to retain predictability with regard to contributions by donors.

I thank you.