



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate under agenda item 10: “Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building”

Statement by Pakistan

(19 June 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan values technical cooperation and capacity-building as important funds to advance the cause of human rights.

They are also useful vehicles to deepen engagement, and dialogue with States. The design and implementation of this mandate should fully adhere to the principles of transparency, inclusivity and non-politicization. These instruments are best utilized when provided in support of States' national priorities and tailored to their specific needs.

On its part, Pakistan has been making modest contribution to UN Voluntary Funds geared towards capacity building of SIDs and LDCs and for thematic areas, such as victims of torture; and UPR.

Madam President,

Given the unprecedented health, social and economic impacts of the COVID crisis, technical and capacity building assistance programmes should accordingly be repurposed in ways that treat all human rights equally.

Pakistan believes that saving lives and preserving livelihoods, amidst this disruptive pandemic, should be prioritized for Council's technical cooperation mandate.

In this regard, we underscore the importance of building states capacities to realize the right to health by ensuring equitable and affordable access to health technologies, including medicines and vaccines, to all countries, particularly, developing and least developing countries.

Advocacy for creating monetary and fiscal space, through debt relief, would assist developing countries to improve healthcare and build resilient socio-economic infrastructures, thereby advancing the mutually-reinforcing human rights and sustainable development agenda.

The Council will always find in Pakistan a willing partner in discharging its mandated responsibilities in this area.

I thank you, Madam President.