



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Agenda Item-3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur Special Rapporteur on Right to Adequate Housing

5 March 2020

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for presentation of her report and take note of the guidelines prepared by her.

Pakistan is committed to taking steps, within a reasonable time and making maximum use of available resources, for ensuring this right to all its citizens. As part of a people centric vision, the government has initiated a project with a target to provide five million houses for low income communities, equipped with all basic facilities and regularisation of katchiabadis/slums. Data of katchiabadis/slums from across Pakistan is being gathered and the people will be resettled with all the facilities along with ownership rights.

The State Bank of Pakistan is also taking steps to support the low-cost housing projects. It is working with the World Bank to ensure low-cost housing finance and establishment of an observatory for real estate market. The government has also established several projects which directly aim to providing housing facility to the poor, the marginalized, and to the disadvantaged people. In this regard, Pakistan Bait ul Maal (PBM) has established Great homes for homeless and destitute persons, that provide free of cost boarding, lodging, food, clothing, medical care, recreation etc. to the residents in a dignified manner.

Madam President,

The right to adequate housing for people has also been recognised by the Supreme Court of Pakistan.¹ The Court directed the Government to formulate proposals on providing shelter to the shelter-less people living in slums of the federal capital² and categorically linked this to the enforcement of Articles 9, 14 and 25 read with Article 38-D of the Constitution.³ The Courts have also been ensuring that there is no discrimination in this regard.

We join the Special Rapporteur in reaffirming that international cooperation as a firm legal obligation wherever it is necessary, for the realization of the right to housing.

I thank you.

¹In the case of Aasim Sajjad Akhtar and Others versus the Federation of Pakistan, Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Others, the Court heard a constitutional petition against demolition of kachiabadi located in the Federal Capital. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court stated that the court intervened when the government failed to fulfil its constitutional obligations and ensure provision of fundamental rights of the people enshrined in the Constitution.

²<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/14379-sc-intervenues-when-govt-fails-to-fulfill-its-obligations-cj>

³The Express Tribune, Available at: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/948361/fundamental-right-court-seeks-proposals-on-housing-for-homeless/>