



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN** Geneva

### **National statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty at the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

**(7 July 2020)**

Madam President,

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

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that poverty will be with us until its elimination is reconceived as a matter of social justice. We appreciate the concept of the Global Fund for Social Protection.

Nationally, we have adopted a systematic and coordinated approach to poverty alleviation. Prior to and amidst COVID-19 pandemic, a signature “Ehsaas” (Compassion) Programme is in place to alleviate malnutrition and poverty with a special focus on women empowerment. Through this programme, more than 10 million families have been given emergency cash transfer for four months. Emergency cash has also been disbursed to informal workers laid off during the COVID lockdown and SMEs have been provided financial support to keep the workers on payroll.

Pakistan’s SDGs monitor report 2019 highlights above target performance in Goal-1 – elimination of poverty. Our challenge is to maintain this positive trajectory amidst and beyond the pandemic.

Much of post-industrial economic growth has been based on unsustainable resource extraction and exploitation. States and Corporate Enterprises have accumulated wealth through emissions without paying for the costs to the environment and human health, which are being borne disproportionately by people in poverty and by countries struggling on the development ladder.

Realization of the human right to an adequate standard of living must be the goal in fight to eliminate extreme poverty.

We have two questions for the Special Rapporteur:

1. What is his assessment regarding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on extreme poverty and his recommendations on the possible avenues of international cooperation to mitigate this impact?



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2. What is his assessment of the Global Fund for Social Protection, how he intends to take forward the idea of global fund to see its fruition?

I thank you.