



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

**Statement, delivered on behalf of Like-Minded Group of Countries by
Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during
General Debate under agenda item 10: “Technical Cooperation and Capacity
Building” at the 45th session of Human Rights Council
(05 October 2020)**

Madam President,

Pakistan is making this statement on behalf of a Like-Minded Group of Countries. The statement and list of co-sponsors will be posted on the Extranet.

Madam President,

The Council’s technical cooperation and capacity building mandate, as established by the UNGA resolution 60/251, remains an important tool to carry forward the global human rights agenda in a constructive and result-oriented manner.

Regrettably, the principles of dialogue with and consent of concerned States, which should define parameters and modalities in operationalizing this mandate, are being side-lined for political reasons.

Despite clear pronouncement in the UNGA resolution 60/251 that all basic human rights are equal, indivisible, inter-related, inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing, technical assistance is often packaged in such a way that it creates hierarchy among human rights.

Technical cooperation mandate is also being instrumentalized for interfering into domestic affairs of sovereign States.

These extremely worrying trend-lines violate the basic principles of objectivity, constructive engagement, non-selectivity and non-politicization, and also run the risk of undermining the Council’s credibility.

Madam President,

Social and economic development is critical to promotion and protection of human rights.

The COVID global health emergency has clearly demonstrated the need for dedicated and sustained support to States in safeguarding and advancing their people’s basic socio-economic rights, including the rights to life, health, livelihood and social protection.

In this regard, we invite attention towards the special situation of developing countries, which are facing considerable challenges in effectively addressing health, and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the virus has perpetuated and exacerbated existing inequalities, with dire consequences for the marginalized segments of the society.

The Council should, therefore, rally global cooperation and support for strengthening national capacities of these countries to mitigate the multi-sectoral impacts of the current



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

pandemic, to build resilient socio-economic infrastructure against future ones and to achieve the SDGs.

More importantly, the Council should continue to call for a global normative framework that ensures timely and equitable access to affordable COVID-related therapeutics, medicines and vaccines to everyone and everywhere.

Madam President,

Technical cooperation and capacity building should also be channelized to support States in implementing the recommendations agreed by them during the UPR process, as well as in fulfilling their obligations under international human rights instruments to which they are a State party.

I thank you.



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

List of co-sponsors:

1. China
2. Cuba
3. DPRK
4. Egypt
5. Laos PDR
6. Malaysia
7. Myanmar
8. Syria
9. Russian Federation
10. Venezuela