



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

Draft Resolution “Eliminating inequality within and among States for the realization of human rights” (A/HRC/45/L.37) at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council

Introduction made by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan

(06 October 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan is pleased to be part of the Core Group that has presented draft resolution “Eliminating inequality within and among States for the realization of human rights” (A/HRC/45/L.37).

The primary focus of the draft resolution before the Council is to draw attention to the growing inequalities in multiple forms which have been further exacerbated due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on the critical role of the Human Rights Council with respect to human dignity and universal respect for all human rights, the draft resolution is framed around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda consistent with a State’s obligations under international human rights law. In this regard, the draft seeks a reaffirmation of this Council on eradication of poverty, promotion of prosperity, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and the reduction of inequality within and among countries as fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all.

Madam President,

Considering that COVID-19 pandemic is perpetuating and exacerbating existing inequalities with disproportionate effects on health and development gains, in particular in low-and middle-income developing countries call for continued and concerted efforts, and the provision of development assistance, including through debt relief merit serious consideration.

In this context, the draft resolution is timely for its call upon states to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on our collective objective to achieve equality across social spectrum. The draft resolution is also pertinent in underscoring the importance of timely, universal, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe, quality, effective and affordable healthcare and services and medical supplies and equipment, including diagnostics, therapeutics, medicine and vaccines, and to leave no one behind.

The holding of half a day Panel Discussion sought by this draft resolution at 48th HRC on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic will enable us to share best practices and chart a trajectory to “build back better” after the pandemic in time for the 51st session. These are realistic goals in a realistic timeframe.

We encourage the Council members to join this initiative and support this resolution.

Thank you.