



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC 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,

OIC strongly believes that every Member State, regardless of its position on the development scale, has its own set of human rights challenges. While assisting any State in its efforts to overcome these challenges, it is important to take into full consideration national context, perspectives and local sensitivities.

Technical assistance and capacity-building must be extended at the request of and with the consent of concerned States. Given their primary responsibility to protect and promote human rights, States should be given the lead in assessing their needs and identifying priority areas for assistance.

In no case, the Council’s capacity building mandate should be used as a pretext for interference in domestic affairs.

Madam President,

The ongoing COVID pandemic has unraveled years of developmental gains, slowed down global economy and exposed gaps in our health systems.

As a result, the realization, exercise, and enjoyment of basic rights to life, livelihood, food, and health, among other socio-economic rights, have posed several challenges.

While the virus does not discriminate, its socio-economic and health impacts have disproportionately affected developing countries.

The OIC countries, therefore, believe that in the spirit of ‘leaving no one behind’, the Council should revitalize its capacity-building mandate and strengthen States’ capacities, especially those of developing countries, to promote and protect human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, work, development and other socio-economic rights.

This will go a long way in supporting States to build back resilient and sustainable national structures against future pandemics and other comparable challenges. Such an approach will also advance the global human rights agenda.

I thank you, Madam President.