



## 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 negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights at 45<sup>th</sup> Session of Human Rights Council**

**(22 September 2020)**

Madam President,

Pakistan congratulates Ms. Douhan for her appointment as the new Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures and thanks her for outlining her priorities before the Council.

We assure her of our full support and constructive engagement with her mandate.

Pakistan subscribes to the growing global consensus that UCMs contravene the UN Charter and the international human rights and humanitarian laws.

Deployed as a foreign policy tool, these unilateral actions undermine the basic tenets of multilateral cooperation and squeeze space for dialogue and negotiation in international affairs.

The COVID pandemic has brought into sharper focus that sanctions, which were ostensibly imposed for advancing human rights in targeted countries, are in fact depriving people of their basic rights to life, food, health and livelihoods.

Sanctioned countries are struggling to ensure timely provision of life-saving medicines, medical equipments, food and other essential items during the global health emergency.

As sanctions have long burdened local economies and shrunk fiscal space, targeted countries face daunting challenges in building back lives and livelihoods against the contagion.

Madam President,

The COVID pandemic has clearly demonstrated that our health, lives and livelihoods are inter-connected. We cannot all be safe against this disruptive and pernicious virus unless all of us are safe.

Therefore, Pakistan joins the global appeal, issued by the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner and your mandate for immediate lifting of sectoral sanctions.

Thank you.