



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

National Statement, delivered by Mr. Hussain Muhammad, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on the Promotion of an Equitable and Democratic International Order at the 45th session of Human Rights Council

(21 September 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan subscribes to the Rapporteur's viewpoint that being primarily responsible, States should be supported by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in safeguarding and advancing basic human rights of their citizens.

We further stress that IFIs should support nationally prioritized development areas, and not condition their assistance with State's compliance with those human rights standards, which ignore local sensitivities and peculiarities.

We agree with the widely held assessment that conditionalities, imposed by IFIs during loan disbursement, have resulted in severe violations of social, economic and cultural rights of people in borrowing States.

We, therefore, strongly echo the Rapporteur's warning that IFIs should stop imposing such conditionalities, and instead, help States in addressing the enormous health and socio-economic impacts of the deadly COVID pandemic.

In this regard, Pakistan invites attention towards the special needs of developing and least-developing countries, which are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

High debt burdens, further exacerbated by COVID impact, have shrunk fiscal space of developing countries. This has eroded their capacities to build resilient healthcare system in fighting the pandemic, and achieving SDGs.

Given the devastating socio-economic impact of the pandemic on developing countries, our Prime Minister's global initiative on debt relief responds to the special needs of billion. The issue of debt relief and reform of global financial institutions needs closer examination in terms of their impact on an equitable and democratic international order.

We welcome Rapporteur's views on the co-relation with reduced fiscal space and enhanced liquidity needs vis-à-vis debt relief proposals as one the key means to promote an equitable and democratic international order.

I thank you.