



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Right to Development at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council

(16 September 2020)

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Pakistan places human rights of all its citizens at the centre of its national development agenda. Through integrated and inclusive policies and strategies, we are pursuing structural and governance reforms and expanding social protection and social safety nets for the marginalized and the vulnerable.

This has enabled Pakistan, in the short term, to mitigate the socio-economic fallout and our people's right to development (R2D) arising from the COVID pandemic.

We echo the SR's conclusions that by increasing assistance to developing countries and instituting progressive tax systems, States can uphold their obligations to maximize available resources for development.

Given the exacerbation of existing economic challenges especially for developing countries, the SR has identified useful intersections between Financing for Development (FFD) and R2D especially the challenges of resource mobilization for FFD as an impediment to accomplish R2D.

With revenue shortfall due to decline in economic activities, the emphasis of development finance institution on tax collection as a key to resource mobilization has therefore become somewhat redundant. This gaping hole in FFD and R2D can be filled by providing Debt Relief to developing countries in the wake of COVID pandemic.

How does the SR view the proposals for greater mobilization of international finance and liquidity as means to enhance fiscal space such as debt relief to catalyze FFD and realize the R2D?

I thank you.