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Item 3: interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

We thank the Independent Expert for a forthright and ground breaking report on international order, particularly focussing on necessity of multilateral approach to tackling Covid and Covid vaccination.

We share his dismay that western countries, with the admirable exception of United States, are opposed to temporary waiver of patent protection for Covid Vaccination. These countries often lecture the world on human rights, poverty reduction, reducing inequalities etc, but at the time of humanity's need, their sermons ring hollow as they fail to walk the talk.

We support the call to end unilateral coercive action. Currently the people of Afghanistan will be in need of assistance to tackle Covid and impending humanitarian crises. The political factions that now govern have come through a twenty year war with scars and emotions of their own that may obscure their commitments to international human rights norms for some time.

We have faith that the OHCHR will be sensitive and diplomatic in its statements on and engagements with Taliban to ensure humanitarian assistance and Covid vaccination are not hindered.

We also hope that the long suffering ordinary people will not become victims of unilateral coercion such as economic sanctions or vaccination embargos.

We take this opportunity to commend various Governments who brought out people under threat in Afghanistan and particularly the Indian Government for ensuring safe passage out and sanctuary for Sikh and Hindu minority community. This was multilateral international order at work.