



Explanation of Vote before the Vote, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor, during adoption of the draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.21/Rev.1 on “Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights”

08 October 2021

Madam President,

We thank the core group for presenting the updated draft and its constructive engagement.

We recognize the importance of engaging different stakeholders, especially civil society actors and victims of human rights violations, with the UN human rights machinery. Therefore, we have strongly advocated that cases of intimidation and reprisal attacks against those who cooperate with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms must be dealt with seriously.

Madam President,

Our delegation participated constructively in the negotiations with a view to balancing and improving the proposed text. While overall supportive of its thematic focus, we are of the view that the draft resolution lacks in clearly elaborating the inter-linked relationship between rights and responsibilities. The work of civil society and its engagement with the UN institutions and representatives must be guided by the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and the ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. By demonstrating responsibility, openness and transparency, civil society can strengthen its role, credibility and participation at the global platforms. These elements are not contested by anyone on their merits. We hope the core group would take these elements on board in the future.

Madam President,

Pakistan also wants to spotlight the plight of human rights defenders in UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation, which are daily braving intimidation, harassment and life threatening reprisals at hands of occupation regimes.

The UN Secretary-General, in his annual report, has drawn the Council’s attention towards these disconcerting trends, including in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The report continues to chronicle the brutal and inhumane tactics used by the occupation regime to terrorize, silence and deter Kashmiri human rights defenders from engaging with the UN mechanisms as well as from participating in this very Council sessions. Therefore, we strongly encourage the core group to reflect the predicament and challenges faced by this category of defenders in the future iterations of this resolution.



In view of the importance which Pakistan attaches to the engagement of human rights actors and stakeholders with the UN machinery, Pakistan supports consensus on the resolution. I thank you.