



Explanation of Vote before the Vote, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during adoption of the draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.27 [as orally revised] on “Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change”

08 October 2021

Madam President,

We thank the core group for its able stewardship of discussions on the draft text before the Council.

Climate change is indeed among the most defining and consequential challenges of our time. The pivoting of the COVID global health emergency with climate emergency has exposed the fundamental shortcomings in our approach, policies and priorities to protect human lives and save the planet. There is definitely an urgent need to revisit them.

We, therefore, welcome the timely initiative. The Council should stand up for rights-holders, who are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Madam President,

The informals on the initiative brought to the surface two main points of discussions, germane to the proposed establishment of a new HRC mandate on climate change.

First: the normative framing of the mandate. It is of paramount importance that the proposed mandate should take a 360 degree view of the phenomenon of climate change, especially with regards to its scientifically established causes, impacts and counter-measures needed. The application of the human rights lens to this cross-sectoral area should not be detached from its developmental and environmental aspects.

More importantly, the mandate must respect and mainstream perspectives, needs and predicaments of developing countries, especially SIDS, which are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. Human rights in these countries are literally under attack from climate change-induced natural disasters, drought, floods and famine. The pandemic has only further exacerbated these challenges. On the other hand, the ‘climate divide’ between the global North and South continues to widen with growing human cost.

It is, therefore, essential that the proposed mandate becomes a vehicle to galvanize international cooperation in this area on the basis of agreed principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities .

Second: organizational structure of the mandate. In order to synergize Council’s work on this cross-cutting domain with other UN-led processes/mechanisms on climate change, there is a need to assemble the right set of expertise related to climate science, development and international human rights law, among others. We listened carefully to the arguments made in favour of having a Special Rapporteur. Nevertheless, we still believe that such expertise can be



optimally brought together through establishing a working group or an expert mechanism. We, therefore, request the Council to revisit this organizational aspect of the proposed mandate in the near future.

Madam President,

It is with these considerations that Pakistan constructively participated in the discussions. We made proposals in order to strengthen the proposed text and align the TORs of the proposed mandate with contemporary trends, needs and assessments in the arena of climate change.

We appreciate core group's sincere efforts and willingness to accommodate diverse perspectives and suggestions.

In view of the high importance which Pakistan attaches to global efforts to counter climate change, we fully support the initiative and would vote 'Yes'. **I thank you.**