



General Comment, delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN during adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.8 [as orally revised] on “The negative impact of legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights”

08 October 2021

Madam President,

We thank China for presenting this timely initiative as we enter the 4th International Decade for Eradication of Colonialism. For any country that had to contend with the indignities imposed by colonialism, this initiative resonates clearly.

Colonialism, in any form or manifestation, contravenes the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is an anathema to the spirit of our times.

The UN Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples clearly states, and I quote that “subjection of people to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental rights” unquote.

Yet, millions of people continue to face daily hardships and indignities that linger on from the effects of colonial domination and foreign occupation. This surely calls for concrete action by the global community, including by this very Council which is the global custodian of human rights norms and principles. Anything less would be a derogation of our collective duty, responsibility and obligations.

Madam President,

Even as we support legitimate struggle of colonized people for freedom, justice and dignity, it is equally important to take stock of the adverse and multi-dimensional impacts of colonial legacies on right-holders in affected countries.

The rampant global inequalities and injustices, economic disparities and exploitation, and systematic racism carry echoes from the colonial past. The COVID pandemic has further exposed and exacerbated these grim realities.

Pakistan, therefore, welcomes the proposed holding of a panel discussion which we hope would help shape Council’s action-oriented responses to these contemporary human rights concerns.

For these reasons, we fully support draft resolution L.8 [as orally revised] and encourage others to do likewise. I thank you.