



National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during the UN Human Rights Council's Special Session on Ethiopia

17 December 2021

Madam Vice-President,

We are closely following the various dimensions of the complex situation in Ethiopia.

We hope all parties involved will exercise restraint, uphold rule of law, respect human rights and resolve their differences through national dialogue and reconciliation process.

The views expressed by Cameroon, on behalf of the African Group, merit our serious reflection.

Dialogue and constructive engagement should remain preferred vehicles to address human rights concerns, emanating from any sovereign State. The consent of the concerned country is essential to bring any meaningful improvement in complex country-specific situations, having political, security and humanitarian dimensions.

The Council's track record in such cases is unenviable. Rushing establishment of HRC mandates have achieved little. In fact, they have derailed national and regional efforts and brought unintended consequences.

In some cases, many HRC members, advocating prevention, continue to ignore systematic violations by powerful States, based on political and commercial interests. Such an approach continues to breed impunity. Selectivity and application of political lens to human rights situation undermines universal values and principles.

We have taken note of the Joint Investigative Report's findings. We also note that Ethiopia has accepted the Report's recommendations, and taken several measures to implement them.

At the same time, African Union-led mediation efforts are underway.

We believe that the Council should give time for these regional and national processes and efforts to take their course. On balance, the country concerned has demonstrated willingness to cooperate and work with UN, regional and national human rights mechanisms.

Furthermore, the Council is already seized of the situation in Northern Ethiopia. HRC resolution 47/13 has mandated the High Commissioner to monitor and orally report on the situation and I quote 'progress made in the context of joint investigation' Unquote at the upcoming March 2022 session.

The value-addition of convening the Special Session and its proposed outcome, therefore, remains a question mark for many States, including Pakistan.



Madam Vice-President,

Pakistan respects the sovereign decisions and supports aspirations of the Ethiopian people to build a united, peaceful, prosperous and stable country. This session and its outcome should contribute, and complement this goal. I thank you.