



**Explanation of Vote, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor, on the resolution L7
titled “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”**

52nd Session

4 April 2023

Mr. President

We thank the core group for tabling this resolution and their positive engagement to accommodate most of the comments and concerns.

Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are progressing at an alarming pace and impact of climate change on these phenomena is undeniable. Therefore, any discussion on promotion of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment will remain incomplete without making an adequate and essential reference to climate change.

We remain consistent in our well-considered position that establishment and recognition of a new human right can only be achieved through negotiations at an intergovernmental process leading to a convention/accord or other relevant instrument.

Furthermore, on the content of the treaty, we reiterate that terms like “clean”, “healthy”, and “sustainable” have not been properly defined in this context and lack universal interpretation.

We strongly believe that socio-economic impacts of environmental degradation and their unequal impact on developing countries should be acknowledged. We also believe that adding references to declaration on the right to development and common but differentiated responsibilities would have made this resolution holistic and balanced. A document seeking development of clean, healthy environment without such reference would have been ostensibly lopsided and therefore unacceptable.

However, given that our constitution and legislative framework provides for the protection and promotion of the right to environment as fundamental to the exercise of basic rights to life and health. Therefore, acknowledging the significance of the subject matter of this resolution, we will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

I Thank You!