



Explanation of Vote, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor, on Draft Resolution Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law A/HRC/52/L39 as Orally revised
52nd HRC Session
4th April 2023

Mr. President,

We recognize the mutually reinforcing linkages between human rights, democracy and rule of law. We remain committed to fostering democratic values and upholding rule of law as bedrock to advancing fundamental rights and freedoms of our people.

We thank the core group for presenting the draft resolution, which looks at the urgent issue of climate change from the democracy lens, and facilitating discussions on L.39.

Climate change is an existential issue for Pakistan. Even as our carbon emissions are less than 0.20% of global emission, we remain among the most climate calamity affected countries.

Mr. President,

During consultations on the text, we stressed that any discussion on the human rights impacts of climate change must integrate a holistic approach, within the parameters of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement and commitments agreed by States at Conference of Parties.

We note with disappointment the deliberate efforts by some States to oppose inclusion of the universally agreed principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” as well as “climate justice”. At its conceptual core, CBDR and climate justice are democratic principles, demanding fair and equitable treatment of climate vulnerable countries.

The 1st revision of the draft was quite imbalanced and incorporated views of only few States, which significantly positioned the draft away from internationally agreed framework on “climate change”. We would have preferred a more inclusive and transparent negotiation process.

Nonetheless, we acknowledge redressal of our core concerns by the core-group, as evident from inclusion of Preambular paragraphs 4 and 5 and key changes in the title for the next democracy forum. We look forward to actively contributing in the fifth session of the Democracy Forum, and will join consensus on the resolution.

I thank you.