



**Introduction to draft resolution titled “ Strengthening promotion and protection of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan”, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, at the HRC Special Session on Afghanistan**

**(24 August 2021)**

**Madam President,**

On behalf of the OIC Member States that have requested convening of the Special Session and co-sponsors, Pakistan has the honour to present the draft resolution titled "Strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan", contained in document L.1 , as orally revised.

The draft resolution aims to capture the overall context of the situation in Afghanistan including the backdrop of the protracted conflict and decades of instability, exacerbating the serious human rights concerns. At its core, the draft demonstrates the Council’s unwavering resolve to ensure respect for fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Afghanistan, especially women, children and minorities.

The draft expresses grave concerns over the reports of violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian laws in Afghanistan, calls for an immediate ceasefire, and strongly urges all parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international law.

Mindful of the fact that sustainable peace is imperative to secure and advance fundamental rights of Afghan citizens, the resolution reaffirms full support to the on-going efforts to achieve an inclusive, durable and negotiated political settlement and national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The text also spotlights the worrying humanitarian situation in the country, marked by massive civilian displacement. It urges the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to those in need in Afghanistan as well as to Afghan refugees.

The resolution sends a message of solidarity to the people of Afghanistan by urging the global community to remain actively engaged with the country in political, humanitarian, human rights and development domains.

In terms of deliverables, the draft resolution requests the High Commissioner to orally update the Council at its 48<sup>th</sup> session, and present a written report, followed by an interactive dialogue, at the 49<sup>th</sup> HRC session. Since accountability is among central elements of national reconciliation, the text requests that the mandated report should focus on, inter alia, accountability for all perpetrators of human right violations and abuses in Afghanistan.



**Madam President,**

The ultimate objective of this text is to prevent loss of innocent civilian lives, protect the Afghan people and ensure respect for their fundamental rights and dignity at this critical juncture. These goals are *raison d'être* of this august Council, and central to its mandate. We, therefore, hope that the Council members will join consensus on this resolution. I thank you.