



15th Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards
National statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during ICERD's
60th anniversary commemorations

(Geneva, 10 April 2025)

Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

We warmly welcome the distinguished speakers and thank them for their valuable presentations.

As a diverse and vibrant country with multiple ethnic groups, languages and religions and a mosaic of cultural heritage, Pakistan has always attached the greatest importance to the principles of equality of all citizens and non-discrimination on the basis of race or religion, among other grounds.

Being amongst the ICERD's earliest signatories, Pakistan's commitment to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination is sacrosanct.

Last year, we engaged in constructive dialogue with the ICERD Committee to review our periodic reports and take stock of ongoing efforts in the fight against racism and racial discrimination.

We echo speakers that this anniversary is an opportunity to look towards the future even as we commemorate the achievements of the past six decades.

Strengthening the ICERD through an additional protocol would strengthen international human rights law to advance the collective fight against racism, related intolerance and its increasingly frequent contemporary manifestations.

It would also signal our renewed commitment to the primacy of international law and the abiding value of multilateralism centred on the United Nations.

The Ad Hoc Committee has made important progress across the past 14 sessions toward fulfilling its important mandate.

My delegation is confident that the commemoration of the 60th anniversary would add vital new impetus to our work.

We join calls for a renewed focus on the fight against racism, racial discrimination and related intolerances, and assure you of our continued support.

Thank you.