National Statement delivered by Mr. Abbas Sarwar Qureshi, Counsellor, during General Debate under Item 9
60th HRC Session
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Mr. President,

My delegation aligns with the statements of the OIC, NAM, and other groups of which we are part.

Pakistan is deeply troubled by the growing tide of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance including when it is fueled by ethno-religious supremacism, in our and other regions of the world. These divisive ideologies are eroding global harmony, jeopardizing peace, stability and dignity of the people.

International human rights law and norms, including the DDPA (Durban Declaration & Programme of Action), provide workable solutions. However, implementation remains unsatisfactory.

Mr. President,

Pakistan warmly welcomes the acknowledgement and increasing awareness about Islamophobia, manifested in UN's recognition of 15th March as the 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia'. However, we cannot close our eyes to the painful surge of racially-charged hate crimes that continue to scar the lives of Muslims across the world. Left unchecked, the forces of hatred will always seek out new targets.

We firmly believe that the full realization of human rights is intrinsically linked to state policies that are non-discriminatory, inclusive, and rooted in equality. When governance is instead shaped by a colonial mindset - driven by supremacist and expansionist ambitions, it can only sow the seeds of hatred, which in turn breed cycles of violence.

I thank you Mr. President!