



**Statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, on behalf of a Like-Minded Group
during General Debate under Item 5**

61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 17 March 2026)

Mr. Vice-President,

My delegation is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of a Like-Minded Group of countries¹.

The mechanisms of this Council can play a valuable complementary role in assisting States to fulfil their international human rights obligations. The effectiveness of their work is enhanced when respect for the diversity of legal systems, equitable geographical representation and sensitivity for different cultural contexts are ensured.

Constructive engagement between States and mandate holders rests on mutual respect, genuine dialogue, adherence to the Code of Conduct and upholding procedural correctness; alongside the cherished principles of objectivity, impartiality, and non-selectivity. At the same time, we also underline the need to guard against personal, unfounded attacks on mandate holders that risk undermining this Council's credibility.

Mr. Vice President,

We support calls for greater coherence in the work of human rights mechanisms, particularly in view of resource constraints and challenges facing the UN system.

We must ensure that the indivisibility and inter-relatedness of all human rights are maintained, so that mechanisms pertaining to anti-discrimination, ESC (*economic, social and cultural*) rights or the right to development are not disproportionately impacted by resource constraints.

Avoiding unnecessary duplication between and among mandate holders and the Office of the High Commissioner remains vital.

Resource allocations must reflect areas of greatest need while guarding against risks of politicisation, polarisation and division.

Thank you.

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¹ Comprising: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka – and Pakistan