



Pakistan's right of reply exercised by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during General Debate under Item 9

61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 25 March 2026)

Madam Vice President,

Pakistan has consistently supported this Council's consultation with civil society and other stakeholders. My delegation is constrained to exercise its right of reply, however, in response to the politically motivated and baseless accusations levelled by someone claiming to represent a nongovernmental organization – l'Association pour l'Éducation et la Santé de la Femme et de l'Enfant (AESFE).

The glaring absence of a connection between the organisation's stated aims and the statement, which was delivered in a personal capacity, would be in contravention of established practices and requirements governing the United Nations' consultative arrangements with civil society.

We are concerned that this so-called civil society speaker misled the Council by misquoting opinions of special procedures; allegations to which my delegation has already responded with the contempt that they deserve.

There can be no tolerance for attempting to subvert this Council's noble anti-discrimination agenda to further narrow, misplaced personal political ambitions.

Levelling grave yet wholly unsubstantiated accusations and pointing fingers at national institutions is blatant politicisation and defamation. It runs counter to purposes and principles of the United Nations and the letter and spirit of arrangements for consultation with NGOs.

As required by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, government contributions or other support to NGOs should be declared and aligned with the aims of the United Nations.

The misuse of NGO privileges must be prevented as it undercuts the credibility and contributions of sincere and legitimate civil society actors, who can add value to their communities and to the work of this Council.

Our work at this Council demands always minimum standards of conduct. Without these, its vital mandate and sensitive work remain at risk.

Thank you.

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