



Explanation of vote before the vote by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, on resolution A/HRC/61/L.4, as orally revised

“Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children”

(Geneva, 30 March 2026)

Mr. President,

Pakistan thanks the delegation of Cyprus for presenting draft resolution L.4 on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.

We recognize the importance of this mandate in addressing grave violations affecting children and reaffirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

We appreciate the efforts undertaken during the informal consultations. However, we remain concerned regarding the removal of previously agreed intergovernmental language from the resolution, in particular references to “child prostitution” and “child pornography,” including in preambular paragraph 3. These terms are binding international legal terminology reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol.

Replacing established legal terms with relatively vague formulations risks reducing legal clarity and precision. It may also inadvertently weaken the legal and normative framework that has been carefully developed through consensus over time.

In the current global context, we are witnessing deeply troubling patterns of organized trafficking networks and systemic sexual exploitation of children, including those of a very young age, often facilitated through transnational channels and opaque structures of power and influence. These realities underscore the urgent need for clarity, precision, and strength in our legal and normative frameworks, so that such crimes are neither obscured nor diluted in their characterization, and accountability is effectively ensured.

Pakistan, along with other member states, has demonstrated flexibility, including by accepting changes to the title of the resolution in previous iterations. However, the complete removal of these agreed terms from the body of the text raises concerns that merit careful consideration. In this regard, we support efforts aimed at restoring the previously agreed language, as reflected in the 2023 resolution.

Mr. President,

We remain fully committed to combating all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children and to strengthening the effectiveness of this mandate. We will join consensus with the hope and expectation that future iterations will better reflect the need to preserve agreed language while addressing emerging concerns in a balanced manner.

Thank you.

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- 1 -