



Explanation of vote before the vote by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, on resolution A/HRC/61/L.10, as orally revised

“Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”

(Geneva, 30 March 2026)

Mr. President,

Pakistan thanks Denmark for introducing draft resolution L.10, as orally revised renewing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This Special Rapporteur’s mandate provides indispensable scrutiny of the most egregious violations of inherent human dignity.

We note that a reference to “situations of occupation” was incorporated into the final text after amendments was tabled on behalf of the OIC Group, and which were therefore withdrawn. We thank the penholders for their constructive engagement.

Let us be clear. Situations of foreign occupation are central to human rights conversations. The reference to “situations of occupation” is not about narrowing the focus of the mandate. It is also not about prescribing how the mandate holder discharges their responsibilities. Instead, it aims to better reflect the the scope of contexts in which torture and ill-treatment occur. The absence of an explicit reference risks creating a troubling gap, both in protection and in perception. Its inclusion underscores the principles of universality and non-derogability, which this Council has repeatedly affirmed.

Mr. President,

My delegation fully supports respecting the agency of victims of torture and upholding their rights to obtain redress and to fair and adequate compensation, including as full rehabilitation as possible. In this regard, we do not see the resolution’s references to “survivors” as creating a new category of rightsholders or new obligations for states.

As a consistent supporter of the mandate and the international human rights legal and normative framework against torture, Pakistan looks forward to joining consensus on resolution L.10, as orally revised.

Thank you.

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