Pakistan's general comments delivered by Mr. Jawad Ali, Deputy Permanent Representative, during consideration of draft resolution L.21: "Promoting accessibility for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all"

63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 5 October 2026)

Mr. President,

Pakistan is honoured to deliver these general comments as a member of the Core Group for draft resolution L.21 and thanks the delegation of China for introducing the text.

The draft resolution before us is grounded in existing international human rights instruments and offers a comprehensive perspective on the positive significance of accessibility in ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights by all. Accessibility benefits persons with disabilities, older persons, and others with accessibility needs. The concept of "accessibility for all" reflects both current needs and the future direction of our efforts.

The text recognises the role of assistive technology in enabling participation across health, education, employment and social protection. This connects directly to the work this Council's membership has undertaken elsewhere in the UN system. Pakistan was privileged to lead the General Assembly's recent resolution on access to assistive technology, and we see the present text as complementary: one establishing the framework, the other ensuring that accessible environments and services are available for those who rely on these devices.

The draft also recognises the potential of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to improve accessibility, while noting with concern that AI and other digital divides between and within countries continue to widen. It emphasises innovation, inclusiveness, openness, sustainability, fairness, non-discrimination, safety and security in the development, deployment and use of these technologies.

The resolution provides practical policy guidance to States: promoting universal design, ensuring access to justice and effective remedies, strengthening social protection and poverty reduction programmes, and integrating accessibility into humanitarian preparedness and response. It provides for technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries and requests the Advisory Committee to prepare a thematic report.

Mr. President,

We welcome the constructive engagement of States and stakeholders across multiple rounds of consultation on the draft text. The Core Group has worked transparently to arrive at a balance. The draft establishes no new mechanisms and entails no additional programme budget implications, and we look forward to the Council adopting it by consensus.

Thank you.

-end-