



**Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the  
Report Launch of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Istanbul Process**

10 July 2023

**Dear friends,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

Thank you very much for your presence amidst this particularly busy time.

A very warm welcome to this report launch on the 8<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Process meeting that Pakistan was privileged to host last year.

I want to particularly recognize Ambassador Paul Bekkers of the Netherlands and Ambassador Guven Begic of Turkiye, as the previous and future hosts of the Istanbul Process meetings, respectively.

The consensus adoption of HRC resolution 16/18 and its implementation platform i.e., the Istanbul Process signified our common resolve to combat religious intolerance through a set of affirmative and dissuasive measures.

We are pleased with the enduring nature of political agreement over this framework and look forward to preserving and building on it.

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was significant in that it marked the important milestone i.e., the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of resolution 16/18.

We themed the meeting as a stock-taking exercise of the previous decade with a forward-looking orientation for the next ten years. We were delighted with the participation at the Ministerial level from important constituencies at the opening session.

The two panel discussions saw substantial contributions both by presenters and participants reflecting on progress made as also on where more needed to be done, considering the unfortunate rise in incidents of religious intolerance across the world.

In terms of mapping the next decade, panelists and participants drew attention to lessons learned and offered several ideas to strengthen implementation especially in view of the virality of hate speech.

I invite you to read the full report which is available on the Universal Rights Group website.

I wish to extend my gratitude to Ambassador Nassima Baghli, the Permanent OIC Observer to the UN in Geneva and my friend, Marc Limon of URG, for moderating the two panel discussions.



May I also thank Marc Limon and his colleagues at the Universal Rights Group for serving as an informal Secretariat of the IP process. We deeply appreciate URG for being a valuable partner, for maintaining the record of all Istanbul Process meetings and for keeping the institutional memory alive.

**Dear friends,**

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting underlined some key elements and these fundamentally rest on three pillars:

**First**, the continued salience of resolution 16/18 and the importance to preserve the political consensus;

**Second**, the clear need for faithful implementation of both affirmative as well as dissuasive measures;

**Third**, broader partnerships to accelerate cooperation, dialogue and understanding.

Finally, our fight against religious intolerance is a journey in which 16/18 remains a critical milestone. The resolution represents the best of what this Council can achieve and its true implementation would represent the best of multilateral cooperation.

With this I thank you all once again and look forward to our continued dialogue at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Istanbul Process, in Isnanbul!

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