



**Explanation of Vote before the vote, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy
Permanent Representative on draft resolution entitled “Situation of Human Rights in
Afghanistan”
11th October
54th HRC Session**

Mr. President,

The situation in Afghanistan continues to be a cause of concern.

The colossal loss of lives in the recent earthquake is heartbreaking.

As reaffirmed at various forums, we remain disturbed by reports of human rights violations and international humanitarian law in the country.

Pakistan has repeatedly urged all parties to abide by their obligations under international law.

However, it must be underscored that protracted conflict and instability have unfortunately served as the underlying drivers of Afghanistan's dire human rights and humanitarian conditions.

Pakistan has had the consistent and considered view that the international community must remain engaged with Afghanistan on the political, human rights, development, and humanitarian aspects of the situation.

Exploring avenues for Afghanistan's reconstruction, the revival of its economy, and adequate and sustained humanitarian support remains critical.

We have welcomed our Afghan brothers and sisters with open arms for decades, but Pakistan remains deeply concerned about the security threat from Afghan territory. Afghan interim authorities must ensure that Afghan territory is not used for terrorist activities against its neighbors, in line with the Doha Agreement.

We underline the need to upscale international efforts to create conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees with honor and dignity.

The grinding economic situation and humanitarian crises have resulted in over 600,000 Afghans leaving their country for Pakistan in the last two years alone.

During this period, we have consistently highlighted, including at this Council, to treat the humanitarian situation as a priority- which is what Afghans really need.

Our delegation remained constructively engaged with the core group on the draft text before us today and conveyed our proposals and suggestions.



While we acknowledge that the core group addressed some of our concerns, some crucial elements remain unaddressed.

First, the draft text takes a very narrow view of the situation. Rather than opting for a solution-oriented approach, it deals with the matter lopsidedly. It fails to address civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, considering all rights' mutually reinforcing and interconnected nature.

Second, the draft text falls short of maintaining a balance and avoids discussing the underlying causes of dire humanitarian and socio-economic situations and how to address them. We reiterate that the well-being of the people of Afghanistan and sustainable peace and development should lie at the core of international support.

Third, the draft resolution does not assess the human rights situation in Afghanistan against a protracted conflict. This approach fails to consider the inconvenient reality of past human rights abuses committed by various actors.

Fourth, it does not consider the lack of governance capacity and financial insolvency and its impact.

Fifth: deletion of certain important aspects of the resolution from its last iteration, especially related to sociocultural peculiarities, is a matter of concern.

Mr. President,

The Afghans have, for nearly half a century, braved political turmoil, violence, underdevelopment, natural disasters, and the 'sometimes engagement but often disengagement approach' of the international community, and in all their tribulations, Mr. President, instrumentalizing their sufferings for politics is the unkindest cut of all.

For these reasons, we will disassociate from consensus on this draft resolution.

Thank you!