



General Comments, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/47/L.5 titled “The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights”

12 July 2021

Madam President,

We thank the core group for its continued leadership on a topic, which bears great significance for developing countries, including Pakistan.

The pen-holders have rightly contemporized the text by spotlighting the adverse human rights impacts of corruption in the COVID context. As reaffirmed by the draft resolution, Pakistan supports application of a preventive approach in addressing corruption in all its forms and manifestations, particularly in curbing the illicit financial flows.

The growing volume and scale of illicit financial flows continue to deprive developing countries of critical resources, required for fulfilling the human needs and rights of their citizens.

The evidence of the impact of such outflows is too alarming to ignore. According to FACTI Panel’s report, an estimated 7 trillion US dollars, often derived from acts of corruption, is being funneled through secrecy jurisdictions and haven countries. This shocking figure exceeds the estimated shortfall of 4.3 trillion US dollars, required to recover from the COVID pandemic and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Regrettably, many of these haven countries are situated in the global North, where opaque institutional and legal mechanisms are an obstacle in the repatriation of illicit assets to countries of their origin. This colossal hemorrhaging of developing countries’ economies is nothing short of criminal. It remains a major impediment in the domestic efforts of many developing countries to advance and safeguard human rights.

We, therefore, reiterate our strong call on the haven countries to take corrective measures prevent the inflow of illicit assets, and expeditiously repatriate them to their countries of origin. Such actions would demonstrate these countries’ avowed commitment to advancement of global human rights agenda.

Madam President,

We believe that the mandated inter-sessional panel would provide a good opportunity to debate these contemporary questions in context of our recovery efforts from the COVID pandemic within the human rights framework. We encourage the sponsors of the initiative to benefit from the valuable work done by other UN bodies, including the ECOSOC and the FACTI Panel, during the conceptual designing of these discussions.

We have co-sponsored the draft resolution. We would join consensus and encourage other HRC Members to do likewise. I thank you.