



Explanation of Vote before the Vote, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/47/L.27 titled “Impact of arms transfers on human rights”

13 July 2021

Madam President,

We thank the core group for its constructive approach and able leadership of the draft resolution under consideration.

Since its inception in 2013, this initiative has helped the Council advance its understanding about the human rights dimensions of arms transfers. We welcome the thematic focus of this year’s iteration, and thank the core group for accommodating our proposal, which spotlights the profound human rights impact of arms transfer on rights of women and girls, living in conflict situations.

Madam President,

The UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation represent global hotspots of armed conflict. Regrettably, many self-professed champions of human rights continue to supply occupation regimes with arms and ammunitions that are directly linked to wide-ranging atrocities against people, struggling for their inalienable right to self-determination. These transfers take place in clear breach of legal and human rights obligations of these States.

The human cost of such irresponsible State-to-State arms trade is widely documented in the case of Occupied Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir. Arms supplies to occupation regimes have materially enabled them to alter demography of the UN-recognized disputed territories. These transfers have been instrumental in carrying out a full-scale assault on human life, dignity, and rights of the occupied populations.

The growing number of civilian casualties as well as persons with permanent disabilities; draconian curbs on democratic freedoms; and targeting of civilian infrastructure as a form of collective punishment in these situations serve as a sobering reminder that this Council, in its role as global custodian of human rights norms and principles, can no longer remain a silent by-stander.

It was, therefore, unfortunate to see that during negotiations, many leading arms exporting countries tried to water down the language on fallacious grounds.

Madam President,

We believe that this initiative provides a good entry point to activate discussions about HRC-led accountability of egregious human rights violations, which are enabled and abetted by arms trade and transfer, including in situations of foreign occupation. Pakistan, therefore,



supports the draft resolution, contained in L.27, and encourages other HRC members to do likewise. I thank you.