



Explanation of Vote before the Vote by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during adoption of resolution A/HRC/47/L18/Rev.1, as orally revised, titled “Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: Preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities”

13 July 2021

Madam President,

We thank Canada for presenting this important text that seeks to present and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities and appreciate holding open and transparent consultations.

The promotion and protection of rights of women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence against them remains a shared cause.

International human rights law including UDHR, CEDAW, CRPD and other relevant covenants clearly spell out universal norms and values to combat violence against women and girls and in taking steps to ensure their access to fundamental rights and freedoms.

Inclusive and equal participation of women and girls with disabilities in societies is critical to combat violence, promote gender equality and to empower women. We strongly advocate the realization of women’s fundamental rights including the right to health and access to sexual and reproductive health without any discrimination. Challenges related to reproductive healthcare are visible through multiple indicators related to extreme poverty, socio-economic inequalities and resource constraints.

During the informal consultations, Pakistan and a number of other delegations underscored the need for keeping the focus of resolution in line with international covenants and language agreed at the inter-governmentally negotiated documents.

We made a number of proposals to align parts of the draft text with internationally agreed concepts and themes. These suggestions, however, have not found reflection in the final draft.

Advancing women and girls rights does not entail reinventing the international law. It requires effective compliance by states with universal human rights norms and values to enhance women participation and empowerment in political, economic, social and cultural spheres. We are of the considered view that resolutions on such important issues require a united voice, reflecting the collective will of all states.

Insistence on priorities of some, devoid of agreement on the basis of international law, will undermine our shared cause. Given the main theme and the importance that we attach to the agreed elements in the draft text, Pakistan would join consensus. However, we are not in a position to support preambular paras 22 and 27 and operative paras 7i, 8c and 8i. We request that our views and positions are recorded in the report. I thank you.