



**Explanation of Vote, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during HRC
Resolution on ‘Child, Early and Forced Marriage: Ending and Preventing Forced
Marriage’
53rd HRC Session
13th July 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the core group for presenting this draft resolution which concerns a very critical issue. Child, early, and forced marriage is a clear violation of human rights, disproportionately affecting women and girls.

The promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination, violence, and harmful practices, continue to be a priority for Pakistan.

Pakistan remains dedicated to ensuring that women's fundamental rights are enjoyed without any discrimination and that these socio-economic challenges are addressed in a meaningful way.

Pakistan has implemented numerous legislative, policy, and institutional measures aimed at promoting the welfare and development of children, particularly girls. These efforts include, among others, the prohibition and criminalization of underage and forced marriage.

We are also making efforts to improve the implementation and enforcement.

Mr. President,

We express our gratitude to the core group for holding in-depth and open consultations on L.3/Rev.1. The draft contains many significant elements which align with the priorities of member states and this Council.

Throughout the negotiating process, we constructively remained engaged and made several recommendations to streamline the text. These recommendations focused on respecting the different historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, as enshrined in VDPA.

However, L.3/Rev. 1 still contains some concepts, which in our view required further consultation. Our aim is to ensure that the text that we adopt takes into account all such socio-cultural peculiarities and remains a relevant document for everyone.

We appreciate that some of our concerns have been accommodated and for that we commend the constructive spirit of the core group.



We do, however, regret that some concerns still remain which could not be adjusted in the text.

Therefore, given the significance of this draft resolution, we will join consensus. However, in view of certain references that are not aligned with our legal framework, we disassociate with preambular paras 7, 17, 18 and operative paras 1, 3 (c), 3 (d), 6, and 7.

I thank you!