



**Explanation of Vote before the Vote by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during adoption of draft decision L. 6 on “The human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region, China”**

**51st session of Human Rights Council**

**06 October 2022**

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan attaches the utmost importance to advancing and safeguarding human rights for all. We have consistently advocated that the work of the Human Rights Council must be guided by the principles of the UN Charter, including respect for political independence, sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

In carrying out its mandate, the Council should adhere to the time-tested principles and tools of universality, objectivity, dialogue and constructive engagement.

Pursuit of an *a la carte* approach driven by political consideration carries the risk of further accentuating politicization and polarization. It also undermines the credibility of this important UN body.

**Mr. President,**

We appreciate the fact that China pursued the path of dialogue and constructive engagement with the UN human rights machinery.

This is substantiated by visit of the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to China, and establishment of an annual dialogue mechanism.

The proposed decision undermined the spirit of constructive engagement and set the stage for estrangement.

**Mr. President,**

States bear the primary responsibility to promote and protect basic rights of their citizens, in accordance with applicable international obligations and national circumstances. States are also best situated to identify and address their human rights challenges. We therefore strongly believe that the Council should focus on supporting States in implementing their human rights priorities and policies.

In this connection, Pakistan fully supports China’s efforts for advancing socio-economic development, harmony, peace and stability in Xinjiang. China has succeeded in lifting over 700 million people out of poverty in the last 35 years, thus improving their living standards and creating an enabling environment for the enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan remains of the firm view that the perspective and consent of concerned States should be given utmost importance when dealing with affairs which fall exclusively within their sovereign jurisdiction.



L.6 contravenes the well-established principles and parameters, that I highlighted. It also does not enjoy support of the country concerned. For these reasons, Pakistan will vote against L.6. Thank you.

Allotted speaking time: 3 min /  
**Word Count: 328**