



Explanation of Vote, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during HRC Resolution on 'Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in criminal justice detention'

53rd HRC Session

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Mr. President,

We thank Canada for presenting this important text that seeks to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in criminal justice detention.

We echo the views shared in the text that ensuring dignity, safety and security of women and girls in criminal justice detention should be a shared priority.

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 to take steps to ensure their access to fundamental rights and freedoms.

We also strongly advocate the realization of women's fundamental rights including the right to highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services without any discrimination.

Women and girls in criminal justice detention face multitude of problems including concerns of privacy and sexual exploitation. This is why we support separate facilities for women and girls. We echo that measures other than long-term imprisonment of women and girls must be supported.

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 especially related to sexual and reproductive health and bodily autonomy.

We appreciate the efforts of Canada to take on board many of our recommendations and for streamlining the text, especially for adding preambular para 10 on migrant women, refugees and women in detention.



And given this year's critical theme and the importance that we attach to the agreed elements in the draft text, **Pakistan will join consensus.**

But, in view of certain references that are not aligned with our legal framework, we disassociate with preambular paragraphs 21 and 23 and Operative Paragraphs OP 5 (a), and OP 6 (g).

I thank you!