



**Explanation of Vote before the Vote by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during  
the consideration of resolution on” Elimination of all forms of  
discrimination against women and girls”  
A/HRC/50/L22**

**7 July 2022**

**Mr. President,**

The promotion and protection of rights of women and girls and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence remains our collective endeavor.

International human rights law including UDHR, CEDAW, CRC and other relevant covenants clearly spell out universal norms and values to combat discrimination against women and girls and affirmative measures to ensure enjoyment and realization of fundamental rights and freedoms.

We agree that inclusive and equal participation of women and girls in societies is critical to combating discrimination and promoting gender equality.

We thank the Core-group for holding open and transparent consultations.

During these consultations, Pakistan and a number of other delegations underscored the need for aligning the focus of resolution with international covenants and language that has been inter-governmentally negotiated, agreed and reflected in relevant documents.

As the focus of the text remains on women and girls’ participation in public life and decision making, we urged the core-group to fully respect articles 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the CRC as these articles underpin the importance of child’s age, maturity, evolving capacities as well as duties of parents and legal guardians with respect to child’s right to form his or her views, freedom of expression, thought, assembly and association.

We strongly advocate the realization of women and girls’ fundamental rights including rights to food, housing, education, work, freedom of expression, opinion and assembly among others. The realization of right to health including access to sexual and reproductive health care is also essential and must be respected. Unfortunately, challenges related to reproductive healthcare are visible through multiple indicators related to extreme poverty, socio-economic inequalities and resource constraints. They demand a holistic approach.

We acknowledge the incremental improvement in the text. However, a number of our proposals have not been accommodated and the text still retains numerous controversial concepts that carry no universal acceptance. The draft text does not fully comply with the CRC provisions and other core human rights documents which are aimed at upholding women rights and ensuring girls child’s protection and well -being.

Advancing women rights should not entail reinventing international law. Instead, it warrants greater compliance with existing universal human rights norms and values in enhancing women and girls' participation in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. We are of the view that resolutions on such important issues require united voice, reflecting collective will of all states and not just few. Deviations undermine international law.

In view of the importance of the resolution, our delegation would join consensus. However, we would disassociate from preambular para 12 and operative paragraphs 4e, 4f and 7 and therefore, request appropriate reflection of our position in the report.

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