



**Explanation of Vote before the vote delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative during adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/50/L.62 titled “Situation of human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan”**

**08 July 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We share global concerns about the situation of women and girls’ rights in Afghanistan.

We believe that the Council should send a unified message of solidarity and support to all Afghans including women and girls as they brave a multitude of humanitarian, social, economic and human rights challenges.

For this to happen, the Council members should resist the temptation of pursuing politically convenient and selective approaches.

Instead, the Council’s response should be informed by the full context of the situation in Afghanistan, the need for balance in its approach and the value of constructive engagement with the relevant parties.

**Mr. President,**

With these priorities in mind, we engaged constructively on L.62, and tried to align it with ground realities in three important ways:

**One-** The draft resolution should assess the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan against the backdrop of devastating socio-economic impacts of the protracted conflict in the country. For the ‘forward looking’ approach to yield results the past must inform our present.

**Two-** The draft text needs to clearly emphasize the need for specific and pragmatic solutions on how to avert an economic and state meltdown in the country. The issues of financial insolvency and state capacity are directly related to the situation of human rights. It is also within the scope of any meaningful conversation on Afghanistan.

Let me once again recall that peace, development and human rights are mutually reinforcing. None of these objectives are achievable in isolation.

**Three-** The draft resolution ignores the value of sustained international engagement and technical assistance in addressing human rights challenges for women and girls in Afghanistan. Impactful outcomes inevitably require engagement and assistance.

**Mr. President,**

In order to address these gaps in the text, we made several proposals. We thank the penholders for their constructive engagement and for taking on board some of these proposals.

However, as a whole, the draft text shies away from addressing the key three areas that I just highlighted.

This notwithstanding, as demonstration of Pakistan's firm commitment to women and girls' rights in Afghanistan, we will join consensus. Thank you.