

41st SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Explanation of Vote by Pakistan

L.5 Rev.1 -“Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in the world of work”

Government of Pakistan is committed to upholding & safeguarding the rights of women and girls including elimination of all forms of violence against them. Pakistan attaches great importance to the implementation of existing international, regional and national standards and has promulgated various laws and policies for prevention of harassment at workplace as well as domestic violence, which are being implemented.

Pakistan greatly values Council's work and discussion on means and ways to eliminate violence against women and girls. We are grateful to the delegation of Canada for keeping this discussion on the agenda of the Council and for their availability and engagement with all stakeholders.

However, there are some references in the resolution which remain a concern for our delegation. For example, the use of term "Comprehensive Sexuality Education" and intimate partner violence, which are not agreed by many delegations, including ours.

Pakistan believes that the term “reproductive rights” is the sovereign prerogative of national legislative processes in accordance with paragraph 8.25 of the ICPD. Therefore, such references cannot be properly understood without the qualifiers of ICPD and Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

We also wish to clarify that women and girls’ equality, in particular in the context of “equal” access to health-care services, autonomy, including bodily and economic autonomy, among other things, is not in line with States’ obligations under international human rights law, including Convention on Rights of the Child and the respect for parental rights.

Pakistan therefore disassociates itself from these references in the resolution, which are outside the agreed language, in particular in **PP17, PP28, OP6 and OP10 (e)**.

This explanation of vote may please be made a part of the official record.