

Pakistan's Explanation of Vote before the Vote

Resolution A/HRC/42/L33/Rev1 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights'

27 September 2019

Mr. President,

We appreciate the efforts of the core group for working in a constructive and inclusive manner on this important initiative.

2. Engagement of different stakeholders especially, civil society, human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations with the UN human rights mechanisms is important for the realization of human rights agenda. Reprisal attacks against those who cooperate with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms must be dealt seriously and effectively.

3. Our delegation participated constructively in the discussions with a spirit to further balance and improve the text. Whilst supporting the thematic focus of the resolution, we consider that a few important elements are missing from the text which could have further balanced it. It includes inter alia, respect for national legal framework, responsibilities of UN headquarters hosting countries as well as other stakeholders, following transparent and open methodology, and respecting rules of procedure etc. These are the elements which are not contradicted by anyone on their merits. We hope that the core group takes these genuine concerns of different countries on board in future. On such an important matter, concerns of all countries must be addressed adequately.

4. We will highlight here life threatening reprisals against human rights defenders in the UN recognized occupied territories continue

unabated. Credible reports and information has come to light that occupying powers stop human rights defenders from engaging with the UN mechanisms as well as from participating in Human Rights Council sessions. Apart from physically stopping access of the civil society representatives to the UN, the occupying powers also block their voice through internet and telecommunication blockades in the occupied territories. Last but not the least is the surveillance by occupation forces of the internet and social media platforms to find and attack any human rights defender who tries to reach out to the UN, its representatives and mechanisms. Therefore, reprisal attacks against the human rights defenders in the UN recognized occupied territories may also be considered in future version of this resolution, with a view to reflecting the predicaments and challenges faced by these defenders.

5. Considering our support for the engagement of stakeholders with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms, Pakistan will support the resolution.

I thank you.