

42nd Session of Human Rights Council
National Statement by Pakistan

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on the
promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and
Special Rapporteur on negative impact of unilateral coercive
measures on the enjoyment of human rights**

(12 September 2019)

Mr. President,

We thank the Independent Expert and the Special Rapporteur for briefing the Council about their reports.

Pakistan firmly believes that in a democratic, just and equitable international order, there is no place for unilateral coercive measures.

We fully subscribe to the overwhelming global consensus that such measures, including economic sanctions and blockade, constitute a clear violation of the UN Charter and international human rights and humanitarian law.

They are a prohibited form of intervention and a modern mode of use of force.

Their enhanced use as a tool to advance narrow political interests in the realm of international affairs is, therefore, lamentable.

Though ostensibly targeted against regimes, their ultimate, daily victims are people, especially women, children and elderly.

The Special Rapporteur is very right in concluding that unilateral economic sanctions are a form of “collective punishment” because they directly impede access of people to food, medicines and other essential supplies.

In the wider context, unilateral coercive measures also undermine the spirit of multilateral cooperation and shrink space for peaceful resolution of differences and disputes through dialogue. They exacerbate axes of conflicts and increase chances of violent confrontation.

Moving forward, Pakistan would like to reiterate its well-known position that there is a serious need to develop an independent mechanism under the auspices of the UN which should, among others, provide effective remedies and compensation to the victims of such coercive measures.

Mr. President,

The democratic deficit in the global governance system is on the rise. Originally established for safeguarding and promoting peace and security, development and human rights, these global platforms are regrettably under assault or being used as a vehicle to advance parochial aims.

In order to effectively tackle persistent and new emerging global challenges, we need to facilitate a more robust participation of civil society organizations at these inter-governmental forums.

Pakistan believes that civil society organizations bring a useful perspective to the table. Their participation will also promote the principles of transparency, inclusivity and responsiveness.

Thank you, Mr. President.