



Explanation of Vote before the Vote by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative during the consideration of Resolution on “Rights of the Child: Realizing the Rights of the Child and Family Reunification

A/HRC/49/L29 as Orally revised
1 April 2022

Mr. President,

Pakistan strongly supports the objective of the resolution as contained in document L29 as orally revised.

We appreciate the Core-Group for its stewardship of this important initiative and putting the focus on Rights of the Child and family reunification.

During the consultations, we emphasized the need to:

- One, aligning the text with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- Two, adopting an overarching approach, in addressing challenges being faced by the child in vulnerable situations including widening inequalities, rampant poverty, malnutrition, as well as access to shelter, education, health-care and social protection;
- Three, acknowledging important role of family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society to ensure child’s growth, personality development and protecting him against all forms of discrimination and violence.
- Four, giving due consideration to duties of the parents and legal guardians in promoting and protecting best interests of the child.

We thank the Core-Group for holding candid discussions and accommodating our key concerns. However, the resolution still shies away from acknowledging the significant role of parents and legal guardians as codified in CRC.

As a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and two optional protocols, Pakistan is committed to ensure well-being of the child as well as to provide safe and secure environment for his or her physical and mental growth.

We are also upholding our responsibility as host of around 4 million Afghans refugees. Recently, Pakistan undertook a country-wide campaign, known as the Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE), to verify and update the data of some 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees and to issue them with smart identity cards thus helping them in preserving their identity, name and family relations. Among them were 200,000 children under the age of five.

We underscore the importance of international community's consistent engagement in upholding their obligations towards millions of refugee children across the globe under the principle of burden and responsibility sharing.

We need to evolve and implement strategies and policies on development, human rights, migration, security and counterterrorism in dealing with family reunification that are compliant with international law and are grounded in compassion and humanity.

L29 as orally revised captures key elements related to promotion and protection of the rights of the child. Therefore, we support the resolution.

I thank you.