



Draft Resolution A/HRC/49/L.9 on “Recognizing the contribution of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in conflict and post-conflict situations, to the enjoyment and realization of human rights”

49th Session of the Human Rights Council

**Explanation of Vote before the Vote delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi,
Deputy Permanent Representative**

Mr. President,

We thank Norway for presenting this important biennial initiative and welcome its thematic focus on conflict and post-conflict situations.

Pakistan values the contributions made by human rights defenders in advancing and safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms in conflict and post-conflict situations. They have been a strong voice for the voiceless, and ears and eyes of the global community on the ground.

We also recognize the importance of civil society’s cooperation and engagement with the UN human rights machinery. This has helped in documenting human rights violations and abuses, being committed in such situations and spotlighting the enabling structures of impunity. Therefore, we have strongly advocated that cases of intimidation against those who cooperate with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms must be dealt with seriously.

Mr. President,

The UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation represent global hotspots of armed conflict and worst form of human rights crimes. Therefore, this resolution resonates with the plight of human rights defenders working in such situations.

Armed by oppressive laws and acting with brazen impunity, the occupation regimes are daily intimidating, illegally arresting and summarily killing human rights defenders by labeling them as terrorists in retaliation for their independent human rights work.

Regrettably, many self-professed champions of human rights and civic space continue to supply occupation regimes with arms and ammunitions, which have materially enabled persecution of civil society actors. Driven by political and economic interests, they have also shielded these occupation regimes from global scrutiny and accountability.

Mr. President,

These disturbing trends have been widely chronicled by the UN human rights machinery, independent human rights organizations and global media in case of occupied Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir. We therefore call on proponents of this initiative to end their double



standards, walk the talk and take credible actions to promote accountability of occupation regimes for their human rights crimes, including against civil society actors.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution proposes language in OP1 and OP8 which we believe is legally inaccurate. We also express reservations on OP23 which goes beyond the OHCHR's agreed mandate, as enshrined in UNGA resolution 48/141. Nonetheless, given its thematic focus on conflict and post-conflict situations, Pakistan will support the resolution. I thank you.