



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Draft Resolution A/HRC/43/L.1 - "Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief"

Introduction by Pakistan on behalf of OIC

Madam President

On behalf of OIC and co-sponsors, Pakistan has the honour to introduce the draft resolution L.1 titled "Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief".

Since its first adoption in March 2011, the resolution 16/18, as it came to be known, and its subsequent iterations have enjoyed consensus at the Human Rights Council.

This clearly manifests the importance, which the Council attaches to collectively and effectively address the rising discrimination, negative stereotyping, stigmatization and violence against individuals, on the basis of religion and belief.

It also reflects the spirit of constructive engagement and mutual collaboration within the Council. In this regard, OIC particularly thanks the EU delegation.

The good cooperation between OIC and EU on both the resolutions 16/18 and Freedom of Religion or Belief has helped us in coordinating global efforts to address the two issues, highlighted by these initiatives, in a balanced manner.

Madam President,

The significance of the resolution under consideration cannot be overstated. HRC resolution 16/18 articulates the 'inter-governmental' policy framework to combat this menace, in form of an eight-point Action Plan.

The Action Plan outlines a series of practical steps, which need to be effectively implemented by States in a well-integrated and comprehensive manner to prevent and counter the ever increasing instances of intolerance, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization, discrimination and incitement to violence.

These steps include, inter alia, publicly denouncing any advocacy of religious hatred; adopting steps to criminalize hate speech; creating collaborative networks in pursuit of tangible outcomes through servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media; and fostering inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and harmony at all levels.



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In spirit of mutual learning and sharing of best practices, the resolution also requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to compile a report on steps taken by States for implementation of the Action Plan and present it at the 46th HRC session.

Madam President,

The initiative is unique in the sense that an inter-governmental implementation process, known as Istanbul Process, continues to pursue implementation of 16/18 Action Plan. We are pleased to note that the Plan has been holding its meetings regularly. We also thank the Netherlands for organizing the last IP meeting in The Hague in November 2019. In this connection, we are glad to once again announce that Pakistan will host the next Istanbul Process meeting in Islamabad.

Madam President,

We strongly believe that irrespective of our religion, belief and faith, it is in our enlightened interest to respect each other's religions, avoid denigration of religious symbols and personalities, eliminate religious discrimination, and combat hate speech.

The exploitation of COVID-related fears to stoke racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, disinformation, hate crimes and intolerance around the world is a sober reminder to act decisively and with unity on this front.

The OIC, therefore, earnestly hopes that the consensual adoption of the draft resolution will bring us closer to realization of these shared objectives.

I thank you.