



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Agenda Item-1- Urgent Debate on the “current racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality and the violence against peaceful protest”

Statement by Pakistan
(June 17, 2020)

Madam President,

Let me begin by offering our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of Mr. George Floyd.

There can be no justification for racism, in any form manifestation or basis. Even as Mr. Floyd’s death has amplified wide-ranging outrage, his death is neither an isolated incident nor confined to one country. In many countries, people of African descent continue to face systematic racism and racial discrimination.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) represent a global framework at the disposal of the Human Rights Council to address the scourge of racism. They offer a clear roadmap for human rights-based reorientation of public and law enforcement professionals and correctional services.

Pakistan reiterates its full support to and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action(DDPA) and the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

We appreciate the initiative taken by the African Group to convene this debate. We support its efforts to criminalize all contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through the platform of Adhoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards.

Pakistan also reaffirms its full support for this Council to keep a sustained focus on this important contemporary subject.

Finally, the unfortunate tragedy of Mr. Floyd is both a reminder a wake-up call to demonstrate political will to hold those responsible to account and take measurable action against systemic racism at policy and institutional level. Let actions speak louder than words.

I thank you.