



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

44TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Draft resolution A/HRC/44/L.17 Rev.1 ‘Contribution of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations’

Explanation of Vote before the Vote by Pakistan

(17 July 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan participated in the informal consultations on L.17_Rev.1 with a constructive approach and shared our views. We appreciate the manner in which the consultations were held. We wish to underscore three important issues of substance on the draft text:

Firstly, the issue of value addition. We note that the text seeks to project respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as a vehicle to promote the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

Human Rights is already recognized as one of the three “pillars” of the work of the United Nations. The normative basis of the Charter as well as that of human rights are already robust.

While there may be a conceptual reinforcement between the two, respect for rights and freedoms and the principles and purposes of the UN Charter need to be promoted within their respective ecosystems. Reframing them through this draft is akin to stating the obvious. Requesting a report to determine the contribution of one area to another, in our view, does not add much value.

Secondly, the draft acknowledges the mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recognizes that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. However, the draft has not adequately reflected the importance of the Right to Development, an inalienable human right, despite a number of requests made during the informal consultations.

Thirdly, the operative part of the draft requesting preparation of a report by the High Commissioner, is also tenuous. The crux of High Commissioner's existing annual report and triennial updates at the Council already cover the essence of the theme this draft seeks to promote.

During consultations, many states rightly questioned the rationale of such a report and gave useful suggestions. One eminently sensible proposal was to make the requested report part of High Commissioner's annual report, rather than asking for yet another standalone report. Sadly, such constructive proposals did not find any traction or reflection in the text.

For these reasons, we believe that draft resolution contained in document L.17_Rev.1 lacks clarity of approach and does not add much value to the work of this Council. Pakistan will therefore be constrained to abstain on this draft resolution.

I thank you.