

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC on the Universal Periodic Review

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the Human Rights Council.

The most diagnosed malaise in the work of the international human rights machinery has been politicization, selectivity and double standards. The practice of tabling country specific resolutions at the Commission on Human Rights became the most insidious manifestation of confrontation and politicization of the human rights debate. The OIC has consistently rejected this approach of targeting developing countries selectively and arbitrarily. It has been emphasizing cooperation, dialogue and capacity building to promote and protect human rights through a system ensuring fair and just treatment for all.

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council is a new beginning. It provides us a historic opportunity to extricate human rights from the bitter past legacy of confrontation and politicization and move to a higher plane of dialogue, cooperation, education, and awareness raising. The universal periodic review mechanism is an important tool to achieve this ideal.

The OIC countries attach great importance to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council for assisting countries in enabling them to fulfill their human rights obligations through capacity building. In the process of reform of the human rights machinery, particularly in the negotiations for adoption of resolution A/60/251, the Islamic countries firmly supported the development of a universal periodic review mechanism as a means of ensuring principles of universality, equality and non-selectivity in the human rights discourse.

Mr. President,

This is an important and crucial phase in the institution building of the Human Rights Council. The most important element, in devising the structures, programmes and mechanisms of the Council, is the faithful implementation of the resolution A/60/251. Self-serving reinterpretation will be divisive and make the task difficult.

Our views and recommendations in this regard are the following:

- An intergovernmental open-ended working group should be constituted to develop the modalities of the universal periodic review mechanism through inclusive and transparent consultations and in accordance with the guidelines provided in the resolution A/60/251.
- The modalities and necessary time allocation for the universal periodic review mechanism may be completed within one year through consensual process.
- The review should be a cooperative mechanism based on an interactive dialogue with the country concerned and taking into consideration the capacity building needs.

- The mechanism shall compliment and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies.
- The universal periodic review mechanism should ensure universality of coverage. The Council decided that members of the Council shall be reviewed under this mechanism during their term of membership. We believe that the review should commence after a consensual outcome on the modalities and other details relating to this mechanism.

Mr. President,

In the conclusion, we wish to reiterate that universal period review of the Human Rights Council can be one way to produce selectivity and politicization of the human rights machinery. In developing the modalities of this mechanism, we should ensure that the universal periodic review emerges as strength of the Human Rights Council.

I thank you Mr. President.