

Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Group of Arab States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/14/L.34. Further, Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution and Palestine made a statement as a concerned party.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/15/L.34 as orally revised. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 27 votes in favour, 1 against, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour: Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay;*

*Against: United States of America;*

*Abstaining: Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia.*

## **6. Annual-Day Discussion on Women's Human Rights**

The sixth day of the Council was dedicated to discussing ways of integrating a gender perspective into the work of the Council. The main objective of the panel was to reflect back on the past 3 years and identify lessons-learned, obstacles, shortcomings and challenges to the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Council. Furthermore, in the context of the review of the Human Rights Council, this panel offered an opportunity to present specific recommendations for consideration in the review process.

- The background document to the Discussion was Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights “**Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system**”, A/HRC/12/46

Given the high importance attached by the Maldives to the empowerment of women and as it is a priority area of the Government the Delegation participated in the Discussion.

H E Ambassador Iruthisham Adam stated that “often, we mistakenly assume that any issue scrutinised and any decision reached by the Council, is gender sensitive. This Council’s approach to mainstreaming gender perspective into its work should not be so lethargic. Quite contrary, we must actively ensure that all issues are dealt with in a manner wherein differences in gender can be diagnosed, and effectively addressed.

We should not view the task incorporating gender perspective as replacing or rephrasing targeted, women-specific resolutions, policies or programmes. The task requires us to translate such resolutions, policies and programmes into practice. The responsibility to ensure implementation needs to rest at the highest level. To this effect, the Council needs to monitor accountability for outcomes. To settle for anything below this standard would be irresponsible and reckless.”

She went on to assert that “it is prime time to address the gaps within the existing jurisprudential framework of women’s rights. No stone must be left unturned in our effort to consolidate women’s human rights. Thus, the Maldives supports the establishment of a new mandate. Let this be an opportunity that will positively strengthen the international mechanism.

More than half of the world’s population is women and the correct representation of their issues at the international level still remains a highly male business. In order to stop abuses and discrimination against women both de jure and de facto, it is primarily crucial to cultivate a culture of mutual understanding and respect for women at all levels of the international community.”

She concluded with the following powerful message, “I cannot elaborate on all the reasons why it’s pertinent to incorporate a gender perspective into the work of the Council, given the time constraints. But one simple one would be that, women as a group fall victim to many of the human rights abuses that occur all around the world. Time after time, we fail to look at women as humans; deserving not “women’s rights” but “human rights”. For this Council to uphold its foundations as the apex human rights body, it ought to handle human rights issues through a gender-sensitive lens. Such an approach would not only be the right thing to do but a reassurance to all victims of gender discrimination and abuse. ”