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Pakistan Bids for UN Human Rights Council Seat with Focus on Consensus and Tolerance

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Pakistan has officially launched its candidacy for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2026 to 2028 term, pledging to champion a vision anchored in universality, tolerance and consensus-driven diplomacy. The announcement came during a high-profile diplomatic event in New York this week, as the country assumed the

rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of July. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar made the declaration, positioning Pakistan as a nation committed to constructive international engagement on human rights.

Speaking at a reception hosted by Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN, Dar outlined the country's intention to contribute meaningfully to the global human rights agenda. He emphasized Pakistan's aspiration to advance dialogue over division and reaffirmed its historical support for multilateral frameworks that prioritize cooperation and mutual respect  "Pakistan will continue to promote the values of tolerance, respect for cultural diversity and consensus building in global human rights mechanisms," Dar said during the event, underlining Islamabad's approach to inclusive diplomacy.

This move reflects a broader strategic push by Pakistan to strengthen its voice in international institutions and present itself as a responsible global actor. With growing divisions in the global human rights discourse, Pakistan is advocating for a balanced approach that moves away from politicisation and towards collaborative solutions. The bid also builds on Pakistan's past terms on the UNHRC, during which it sought to represent developing nations and Islamic countries on issues of religious tolerance, anti-discrimination and humanitarian justice.

If successful, Pakistan's presence on the council could help amplify calls for greater equity and fairness in global governance structures. The country's bid is not without challenges, especially in a competitive international environment where influence is often contested. However, the clear articulation of its goals emphasizing universality and constructive engagement offers a roadmap that aligns with the Council's

founding principles. As Pakistan prepares for its campaign, the international community will be watching whether it can effectively convert its rhetoric into leadership that advances both dialogue and accountability on the world stage. Ultimately, this candidacy is more than a seat; it is a statement of intent to lead with principle in an increasingly polarized world.

