



National Statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during ID with SR on protecting and promoting human rights while countering terrorism

HRC 55th Session

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Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the Special Rapporteur and appreciates the presentation of his vision and priorities.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's intention to take forward the work of his predecessor in important areas including new technologies.

Pakistan remains concerned about the human rights impact of mass-use of biometric data, Artificial Intelligence and surveillance tools in counter-terrorism contexts, and looks forward to normative developments in this area.

At home, under our Pakistan's anti-terrorism legislation, alleged offenders have administrative recourse to protect their right to a fair trial and freedom of association, while offenders under the age of 18 must be tried by the juvenile justice system, instead of by anti-terrorist courts.

Mr. President,

As already mentioned, the bogey of "terrorism" is frequently invoked to stifle the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

We hope the Special Rapporteur would shed light on this central contradiction in the exercise of his mandate, including the definitional issues alluded to earlier.

Pakistan wishes the Special Rapporteur every success in the discharge of his mandate.

Thank you.