



**National Statement, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, for Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on the Situation of human rights in Afghanistan**  
**54<sup>th</sup> HRC Session**  
**12 September 2023**

Mr. President,

We align with the OIC statement and share the High Commissioner's concerns over the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in Afghanistan.

We express solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, and stress that the humanitarian, human rights and the socio-economic situation in the country merits urgent attention of the international community.

This is a time to stand by the people of Afghanistan. The international community must not abandon them or allow the attention to dwindle on their increasingly distressing situation.

As reported by UN agencies, the country's economy contracted by about 30 % between 2020 and 2022; with millions in need of humanitarian assistance and more than 9 in 10 living in poverty.

In the midst of this crisis, the Afghan economy continues to operate under sanctions and billions of dollars of assets remain frozen.

Due to the compounding effects of these challenges, the realization of economic, social and cultural rights of the people has been severely impeded.

Pakistan has consistently emphasized that the Interim Afghan Government has duties towards the Afghan people for protecting and promoting their rights and freedoms.

We have clearly expressed our rejection of the regrettable decisions to suspend women and girls' education and bans on their employment.

For over four decades, Pakistan continues to host millions of Afghan refugees and facilitate their access to health, education and respectable livelihoods.

Pakistan, along with other immediate neighbours of Afghanistan urge this Council to support the people of Afghanistan by advancing respect for all their rights and freedom as a demonstration of its genuine commitment.

I thank you!