



**National Statement delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during Interactive Dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan (Oral Update)**
54th HRC Session
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Mr. President,

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

Afghanistan currently faces multiple and mutually reinforcing challenges. The humanitarian situation remains grim, with 28 million people – over 2/3rd of the population, in need of urgent humanitarian assistance for basic survival.

We express solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, and stress the importance of sustained and urgent humanitarian support to the people of Afghanistan.

At a time when the Afghan people need the international community the most, we see the world drifting away. Afghanistan must not be forgotten.

Meanwhile, the Afghan economy continues to operate under sanctions. Billions of dollars of assets remain frozen. These obstacles are impeding the realization of economic rights of the people.

However, we are equally mindful of the duties that the Interim Afghan Government has towards its people in promoting and protecting their rights and freedoms

The decision to suspend education for women and girls and to prevent them from working for national and international NGOs, is regrettable. Pakistan has clearly spoken out on this policy.

Such disturbing steps deprive Afghan women and girls of their rightful prospects to develop and advance their skills to secure livelihoods and contribute to social and economic development of the country.

These decisions not only totally contradict the teachings of Islam (Holy Quran and the Prophet) but also restrain the helping hand of many friends and well-wishers of Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

We also wish to highlight that more needs to be done to eradicate the foothold of terrorist organizations inside Afghanistan. The menace of terrorism continues to impair the lives of Afghan people on a daily basis and threatens the neighboring states and the region, as well.

Pakistan has stood with the people of Afghanistan all through forty years of their suffering. We will continue to speak out for enjoyment and realization of their rights and freedoms of everyone without any distinction or selectivity.

I thank you!