



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Second Secretary, during
General Debate under Item 4
55th HRC Session
20 March 2024**

Mr. Vice President,

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the universality, inter-dependence, inter-relatedness and indivisibility of all human rights.

Selectivity in approaches undercuts and contradicts these cherished principles. A hierarchy of human rights ultimately suits neither any state nor any individual.

A balanced and impartial approach to all human rights, including the right to development, therefore remains essential. And we commend the efforts of the High Commissioner to bring economic, social and cultural rights at par.

On the other hand, the mushrooming of country-specific mandates without the consent of the country concerned is unhelpful.

As a longstanding supporter of the Council, Pakistan remains concerned that the tendency to target countries on the basis of geopolitical motives will undermine this Council and its important mandate.

Mr. Vice President,

UN member states are often accused of lacking political will to take concerted action. Growing resource constraints further compound this age-old concern, with projects underfunded, pledges unfulfilled, and mandates neglected.

Political expedience and cherry-picking cannot be an excuse to withhold justice from peoples under longstanding foreign occupation.

Pakistan calls on the Council to eschew division and live up to the principles and objectives enshrined in the UNGA Res. 60/251 and the IB (*institution-building*) package.

Rather than instrumentalizing human rights or seeking to undermine the Council's agenda, we should address the dire and fast-deteriorating situation in the OPT.

I thank you.