



National Statement, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the General Debate Under Item 3
54th HRC Session
20 September 2023

Mr. President,

We align with the OIC statement.

We join others in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and reaffirm that the UDHR continues to serve as an anchor of human rights.

We remain committed to promoting universal values of equality, non-discrimination, peace, and justice, as well as all freedoms and rights enshrined in the Declaration.

The cascading effects of climate change, food insecurity, and geopolitical conflicts have exacerbated existing inequalities within and among nations and impeded progress towards achieving SDGs.

These challenges have also brought forth the need to realize the social and economic rights of millions of people, especially in developing countries.

It is high time to step up efforts to accord equal importance to all rights of individuals, especially the social, economic, and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Operationalizing the right to development should ideally be a shared global objective, as it would help create much-needed synergies for overcoming several interconnected social and economic challenges that we confront today.

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council is mandated to promote and protect all human rights for the cause of freedom, justice, and peace.

One of the core principles which guarantees peoples' enjoyment of all other human rights is the right to self-determination.

Article 1(2) and Article 55 of the UN Charter frame this right in the context of promoting peace & security and socio-economic progress.

The UN Security Council, through its resolutions, had committed to the people of Jammu & Kashmir this inalienable right through various resolutions.

For over seven decades, the Kashmiris have been denied this right in utter defiance of international law, especially Article 25 of the UN Charter



The situation of human rights in the disputed territory of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir has been gravely exacerbated under the unilateral and illegal actions of the occupation regime since August 2019.

Mr. President,

The UN Special Procedures, civil society, and independent media have repeatedly Highlighted human rights concerns, including the negative impact of draconian laws being applied in the occupied territory.

As part of its work on protecting all human rights, we call upon the Council to place an equal focus on ensuring the respect of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiris, especially their inalienable right to self-determination.

We urge the OHCHR to continue monitoring the situation in occupied Kashmir and present an updated Kashmir Report.

Thank you!