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**40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Remarks by Pakistan**

**Agenda Item-4 - Human Rights situations that require Council's attention**

(12 March 2019)

Mr. President,

Pakistan shares the concern of the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rise of racism, xenophobia and intolerance in the world. Such hate driven rhetoric is a precursor to conflicts and grave human rights violations, and requires Council's immediate attention.

2. In our own region, a similar frenzy is driving the drift of our eastern neighbour - India towards a political order marked by populism, rank communalism and religious intolerance. This political order is nurtured by the Ruling Party, whose history is rife with acts of violence against Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits and Adhevasis. It thrives on a disinformation campaign of the media that does not even spare a nominal intellectual dissent. As elections in India approach, such hate driven narrative against my country is being used as a rallying post for popular votes. A senior leader of BJP Party publicly brandished the number of seats to be won by waging war against Pakistan. Our delegation is constrained to draw the attention of this Council to this reprehensible behaviour not just because of the threat it poses to international peace and security but also to human rights abuse it causes. Last month in the midst of this madness, Mr. Shakirullah Pakistani person in Indian jail was stoned to death. Till date, no case has been registered against the murderers.

Mr. President,

3. The repression and human rights abuse in Jammu and Kashmir is another manifestation of unleashing of violence by an increasingly communal and extremist state. A clear pattern of Indian playbook in IoK is the following: use force, including lethal force, against all human rights defenders to kill by will, and blind by choice men, women and children, label this excessive force as counterterrorism, then blame this violence on Pakistan and threaten it with war mongering and jingoism. India needs introspection and course correction in its Kashmir policy. It must implement recommendations of OHCHR's Kashmir Report, particularly on respecting the Kashmiris' right to self-determination under International Law and relevant Security Council resolutions.

4. Finally, Mr. President, this Council must act against demagogues and political parties whose populism is driving the descent of our world into

intolerance, hate and violence; as these constitute the early signs of protracted abuse, conflicts and wars.

I thank you Mr. President.