

40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Remarks by Pakistan - Agenda Item-3:
Protection and Promotion of all Human Rights, civil political, economic,
social and cultural rights, including the right to development”**

8 March 2019

Mr. President,

All human rights are equal and indivisible, to be treated with similar attention and emphasis.

2. ‘Human Dignity’ can only be ensured by addressing the basic human needs and right to development is the way to achieve that. The right to development provides a bridge between development and human rights, two important pillars of the United Nations.

3. The Right to self-determination, enshrined in the UN Charter and other International Covenants, is at the root of the realization of all human rights.

4. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are denied their Right to Self Determination which was promised to them by numerous Security Council Resolutions. In clear violation of the international law and the UN Charter, India illegally occupied Kashmir through use of force and a fraudulent instrument of accession, which as a document does not exist. And it continues to do so.

5. India endeavours to subsume the Kashmiri struggle for the realization of their Right to self-determination as terrorism. India cannot hide behind the global concerns on terrorism to justify its own atrocities and human rights abuses. The Commission of Inquiry, called for by the OHCHR’s Kashmir report, gives India a platform to prove its case. Pakistan has welcomed the Commission. India should also accept the Commission for the truth to prevail.

6. India has intensified its atrocities using Pulwama incident as a smokescreen.

7. Kashmiri civilians and students in India are being harassed by local goons of the ruling party, with the connivance of the police.

8. In IOK itself, another ten thousand troops have been dispatched as reinforcement to kill more Kashmiris on the pretext of terrorism.

9. Hurriyat leadership, the true representatives of Kashmiris in the IOK, are under arrest. Pakistan calls upon India to immediately release them.

10. The OHCHR Kashmir report has called upon India to fully respect the right to self determination of Kashmiri people under international law. If India denies this right of Kashmiris and if its ongoing human rights violations and abuses continue to fall on deaf ears, international peace and security would remain under threat. India's illegal aggression against Pakistan and Pakistan's exercise of self-defence last week, point to the spiralling threats to peace and security from an unsettled Kashmir dispute. This Council must therefore ensure that India implements OHCHR's recommendations on Kashmir to protect lives and promote peace.

I thank you