

**40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered ID with Special Rapporteur on  
Counter-terrorism**

1 March 2019

Mr. President,

Terrorism is the evil that has affected the lives of billions of people across the world. It has destroyed the socio-economic fabric of societies and caused a lot of suffering to innocent people. Those who wish to defeat terrorism only through use of force end up breeding more terrorists.

2. In Pakistan, we were able to defeat the scourge of state sponsored terrorism emanating from across the border through robust law enforcement action under a comprehensive National Plan of Action. It was devised after national consensus of all political parties and addresses the root causes of terrorism and extremism such as prohibition of hate speech, strict vigilance over proscribed organizations, border monitoring and preventing abuse of cyberspace by terrorists and extremists.

3. Whilst our successful counter terrorism campaign is now considered as a model to follow, it is worth mentioning that these efforts and laws are in full compliance with international human rights law. All necessary constitutional and legal guarantees such as right to appeal in higher courts are provided and due process of law is strictly followed.

4. We would like the Special Rapporteur and the OHCHR to also focus on the rights of people under Occupation considering that time and again it has been witnessed that in order to legitimize their barbaric suppression, the colonizers and usurpers, often label the freedom struggle of the oppressed people as terrorism. The tools employed by the occupiers include draconian impunity

laws and terrorizing methods of crowd control. The world witnessed first ever mass blinding of children and women due to the use of pellet guns against innocent protestors, who are labelled as terrorists by the Occupying Power.

5. We request the Special Rapporteur to share his views about misuse of counter terrorism laws resulting in the persecution of people in UN-designated occupied territories.