

40TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations

Second Right of Reply

7 March 2019

Mr. President,

Pakistan is making this right of reply in response to India's right of reply.

2. India's obfuscation of facts and propagation of disinformation never fails to amuse us. A recent report by a reputable organization has found that **India has more fake news and internet hoaxes than anywhere else in the world**, which has had murderous consequences in India. More than 40 people were killed in India last year amid a plague of smart phone-fuelled mob murders by ordinary citizens. The unholy nexus between Indian Security agencies, Hindutwa government and the Indian controlled media spreading fake news and disinformation, to achieve petty electoral and other objectives has resulted in misleading their citizens, polarization of their society on communal grounds, marginalization of minorities, spread of hinduextremism and narrow nationalism. India is the '**Disinformation News Agency**' of the world.

3. The epidemic of fake news in India has not spared the delegation here, as they continue to mislead the Council. Indian government's every claim after Pulwama incident, starting from blaming Pakistan for the attack by an indigenous Kashmiri youth in Pulwama to its illegal aggression based on well-thought out disinformation campaign is a fabricated Indian fairy-tale, which has been exposed by International media groups and independent experts.

4. With reference to Indian delegation's disinformation, let me refer to UNSC Resolution 98, which lays down a specific number of troops both India and Pakistan can maintain on respective sides of the LoC "at the end of period of demilitarization". This proves that absolute demilitarization was never a pre-condition for holding a plebiscite.

5. The real root causes of unrest in Kashmir and 13 other Indian States include atrocities against minorities and marginalized segments in India, heavy handedness of its security agencies and impunity enjoyed by them for their gross human rights abuses including rape, extra-judicial killings, and torture etc.

6. Indian Representative's remarks regarding minorities in Pakistan are devoid of any truth. In Pakistan of today, a sitting Minister is forced to resign for

distasteful remarks against Hindu community. In India, a parliamentarian is made Minister for supporting the rape of a minor girl AsifaBano in a Hindu temple in Jammu. Killing Muslims for carrying beef and killing Christians for preaching are merits for aspiring political offices in India.

7. We can only hope that sanity prevails in India and they see reports from OHCHR, Amnesty International, Physician without borders, UK's All Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG). Recently the EU's Human Rights Parliamentary Committee hearing also corroborated the OHCHR Kashmir Report.

I thank you.