

**42<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered ID with Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**

18 September 2019

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur and the Experts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for their valuable reports and briefings.

Pakistan considers all basic human rights to be inalienable, indivisible and interdependent and that they must be treated at an equal footing.

The constitution of Pakistan guarantees fundamental rights for all without discrimination of any sort. All persons in Pakistan enjoy their right to freedom of thought, conscience, culture and religion, without any discrimination on any basis including gender, race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. There is no bar on any caste, creed, linguistic and ethnic group for political participation at national, provincial or local level.

Pakistan's vibrant civil society, independent judiciary and open media act as watch dogs for the proper implementation of relevant laws. Pakistan's National History and Literary Heritage Division have been working on promoting the culture and life style of the indigenous people from Kalash Valley by preparing documentaries and celebrating their festivals.

The rights of indigenous people living in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir are threatened by illegal measures taken by India on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Allowing Indians to buy land in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is aimed at demographic changes and robbing the indigenous people of IOJ&K of their identity, culture and way of living. UN Security Council Resolutions<sup>1</sup> forbade India to force any material change in Occupied Kashmir. The Indian measure is

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<sup>1</sup> UNSC resolution resolutions 47 (1948), 51 (1948), 80 (1950) and 91 (1951) which embodied the principle that "the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations". RESOLUTIONS 91(951), 122 (1957) and 123 (1957) reaffirmed that any (unilateral) attempt by "the parties concerned" to "determine the future shape and affiliation of the entire State (of Jammu and Kashmir or any part thereof would not constitute a disposition of the State in accordance with the above principle"(of a plebiscite).

therefore an assault on the rights of Indigenous people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

We therefore urge the Special Rapporteur as well as the members of Expert mechanism to give equal attention to the rights of indigenous people in occupied territories particularly in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who have been deliberately discriminated against by the occupying authorities.

We would like the Special Rapporteur and Independent Experts to elaborate what in their view are the ways to ensure that indigenous people enjoy the same rights as all the other citizens.

I thank you.

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