

Pakistan Statement at the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate Item-9 – Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms and intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

**Remarks by Ambassador Tehmina Janjua
(24 September 2019)**

Mr. President,

Pakistan reiterates its deep concern on the upsurge of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

In many parts of the world, we are witnessing discriminatory practices and increasingly xenophobic and racist behavior. This is linked to the disturbing spread of political parties which are driven by ideologies of exclusion and hate. These parties demonize minority communities within their countries. Migrants are especially targeted. Ideologies of exclusion and outright hate are being mainstreamed.

This disturbing phenomenon is becoming entrenched in our neighborhood in South Asia as well. In India, a political party is in power that openly subscribes to an ideology that privileges one community over others, whether Christians, Muslims or Dalits. It rose to power by inciting hatred against minority communities, by undertaking the destruction of a historic mosque and even by instigating a program that resulted in the killings of thousands of Muslims. The leadership of the party was denied entry into many states till this party assumed political power. Then principles were conveniently sacrificed at the altar of expediency.

But compromising with purveyors of racism does not end well. Empowered and emboldened, the ruling party in India has recently declared stateless over 1.5 million people in Assam. They are accused of being migrants. They have been called termites by a senior Indian leader, and are now being confined in camps.

In Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, more than 8 million people are undergoing the 51st day of curfew and lockdown. Their legal rights to their own land have been violently usurped. Kashmir remains caged, waiting for human rights defenders, in particular the Human Rights Commissioner and the Human Rights Council to stop India and its occupying forces from brutalization and dehumanization of Kashmiris. Will India be stopped or would this remain another tragic part of history where neo-fascism was allowed to run berserk. The fact is that at a fundamental level, violence in IOJK is ensuing from the hate filled “Hindutva” ideology that is driven by the ruling party, the BJP- an ideology that finds open expression in the party manifest and party literature.

Mr. President,

These are deeply worrying trends. These must be resisted.

There are, however, areas of hope in the otherwise spreading darkness, which we can all take inspiration from. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Jacinda Ardern, provided a remarkable example of how a principled and brave leadership can defeat those who spread intolerance and hatred. We, the members of the Human Rights Council must demonstrate the same standards and principles, and converge. Only then we can play our part in rolling back the forces of bigotry, exclusion and racism.

Thankyou.