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42nd Session of Human Rights Council
General Debate - Agenda Item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanism”

Statement by Pakistan
(19 September 2019)

Mr. President,

Pakistan remains constructively engaged with the Special Procedures, human rights treaty bodies and other relevant UN mechanisms. We believe that they are making important contributions towards realizing our collective goal of a world free from violations of human rights.

In spirit of genuine dialogue, Pakistan has been diligently sharing its perspective in response to various communications sent by the mandate-holders. We have also been regularly submitting reports to different treaty bodies.

This clearly demonstrates our enduring commitment to safeguard and advance human rights, including through fruitful interaction with concerned UN bodies and mechanisms.

Mr. President,

Special procedure mandate-holders are a significant element of the UN human rights machinery. We value their work in the field of advocacy, creating public awareness and providing expert opinion.

The recent initiative to document impact of the procedures’ work is welcoming. It will help us to explore ways and means to further channelize their potential utility in the human rights domain in an evidence-based, scientific manner.

Mr. President,

Mandate-holders are “ears and eyes” of the UN system on human rights issue, particularly in areas under illegal occupation where administration tends to violate rights and block information.

In Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), UN mandate-holders played such a role on 22 August 2019 in which they asked one of the Council’s members to urgently end the collective punishment imposed on the innocent Kashmiri people.

In the last 47 days of lockdown and blockade, India continues use of force, torture, arbitrary detention, abduction and violent suppression of the rights of Kashmiri people, including freedom of speech and assembly.

Pakistan strongly urges the UN mandate-holders to continue to press on India, brazenly committing these violations, to immediately lift the curfew, ease restrictions and allow them and the OHCHR access to IOJ&K for monitoring and documenting the deplorable human rights situation on the ground.

I thank you, Mr. President