



National Statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary,
during ID with SR on minority issues
HRC 55th Session
21 March 2024

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the Special Rapporteur and congratulates him on his appointment.

Pakistan remains firmly committed to upholding minorities' rights. Legislation introduced just last year (the National Commission for Minorities Bill, 2023) paves the way for the establishment of an independent, statutory National Commission for Minorities. Beyond the legislative and institutional framework, all segments of Pakistan's society have consistently advocated, enhanced protection and provided remedies against violations of minorities' rights.

Mr. President,

The structural and systemic drivers of minority issues in human rights contexts are diverse and complex. Speaking out remains a potent yet underused tool to keep these issues in the mainstream of public discourse and pursue even step-by-step, incremental progress towards their resolution.

Instead, the first decades of our century have seen an alarming rise in discrimination and hatred directed at minority communities; aggravated by a worrying trend to scapegoat minorities for narrow political gains. We see it in our region – where one country has turned its exclusivist majoritarianism into a recipe for communal hatred and violence against minorities. We are deeply concerned to see the same phenomenon spreading rapidly elsewhere as well.

We agree that issues concerning the rights of persons belonging to minorities remain complex and delicate, and would welcome the Special Rapporteur's support for fostering greater international cooperation on this important issue.

Thank you.