



Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Informal Conversation with the Coordination Committee on UN Special Procedures

02 June 2021

Madam President,

Thank you for taking the initiative to organize this informal conversation.

We consider the SPMHs as an important constituent of the human right machinery. We value their contribution in advancing respect for and promoting human rights principles.

Periodic dialogue with the Coordination Committee is, therefore, essential. We welcome this opportunity for exchange of views and provide feedback on how to improve the Special Procedures system.

Let me make five points in addition to the views expressed by my delegation previously at the Council:

First, there are long-standing concerns over the increasing trend among Special Procedures to co-sign communications and press releases, even when the alleged violations are beyond the scope of their primary mandated work.

Notwithstanding their indivisible, inter-related and inter-dependent nature, the Council has authorized separate and specific mandates in niche areas of human rights. In our view, this specificity is designed to improve efficiency, promote in-depth focus, enhance objectivity and lend credibility to the work of mandate-holders.

Digression from these goals does not add value. Instead, it evokes legitimate concerns over the relevance and applicability of mandates. We urge the mandate holders to desist from this practice and exert every effort to fact-check allegations, verify the authenticity of sources and adhere to their core mandate before transmitting complaints to States for their feedback and issuing press releases.

Second, we reiterate serious concern that in certain cases, mandate-holders have chosen to ignore well-established and agreed UN terminologies. In doing so, they have, perhaps unwittingly, undermined the UN's stated position on situations which are on its agenda. This is a serious omission as it tends to prejudice political position of one party at the cost of the other. It also brings into question the independent status of mandate-holders.

We therefore call on the Special Procedures to abide by the UN-agreed terminologies and positions. We also urge the Coordination Committee to ensure legal vetting of all communications and press releases before their issuance.



Third, Pakistan echoes concerns over failure by certain Rapporteurs to submit mandated reports in a timely fashion. Such instances, even if an exception to the rule, are incompatible with the high standards of professionalism, expected of SPMHs.

Given HRC's recent experience in the case of SR on privacy, we request the Coordination Committee to share information about corrective measures and safeguards being taken outside the framework of Advisory Procedure to prevent such incidents.

Fourth, Online sharing of contents of joint communications by Special Procedures, without adequate reflection of concerned State's response, disregards the very notion of impartiality and objectivity. We urge the mandate holders to fully comply with the letter and spirit of the Code of Conduct and the Manual of Operations when using social media platforms.

Finally, given the diminished nature of State responsibility and entrenched impunity, SPMHs should closely monitor and report on human rights conditions in UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation.

We urge the Special Procedures to continue monitoring and reporting on these situations, within their respective mandates and on their human rights merit.

I thank you.