



National Statement, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during General Debate
Item 4
54th HRC Session
26th September 2023

Mr. President,

We align with the OIC statement.

We underline the important role of the Human Rights Council in fostering international cooperation and furthering avenues for dialogue and engagement for promotion and protection of all human rights.

While the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness are often echoed, however, despite the passage of 30 years since the adoption of VDPA true adherence to these principles is yet to be realized.

Today, human rights are at the center of every major situation facing the world. The post pandemic recovery, rising inequalities, underdevelopment, climate change, food and energy shortages, and other associated risks are often overlooked in the frenzy to address situations of political nature.

We would like to underline that social and economic factors and political situations are deeply interlinked and adopting a narrow approach only risks further exacerbation of the challenges.

Mr. President,

As enshrined in the VDPA, the denial of the right of self-determination is a blatant violation of human rights and underlined the importance of the effective realization of this right.

The human rights abuses in the UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation where human lives, rights and dignity is trampled regularly at the hands of illegal occupiers merits attention of this Council.

Mr. President,

Occupied Jammu & Kashmir is one such situation, where international law and UN Security Council resolutions have been brazenly violated.

Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir presents a classic situation where indivisibility and interlinkage of human rights is demonstrated through wholesale violations of human rights from the right to self-determination to right to health and adequate housing.



UN Special Procedures and Mandate Holders have time and again brought to fore the rampant grave human rights violations and impacts of the draconian laws being applied.

Accordingly, we request the Office of the High Commissioner not to lose sight of its responsibility towards the occupied Kashmiris and continue its documentation of the grave human rights situation in the occupied territory.

Thank you!