



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, during General Debate - Agenda Item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanism” at the 49th session of Human Rights Council

22 March 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Council’s allied mechanisms for their valuable contributions in advancing the global human rights agenda.

Pakistan has always engaged constructively with the Council’s mechanisms. Our invitations to four mandate-holders for official country visit, submission of responses to joint communications, and regular reporting to the treaty bodies testify this fact.

We reiterate that full adherence to the highest standards of objectivity, transparency, impartiality and professionalism is imperative for preserving the independent status of the Special Procedures system. To avoid breach of these standards, we urge deployment of appropriate safeguards to ensure due compliance with the Code of Conduct.

Mr. President,

The discussions at the 2021 Social, Minority and Democracy Forums were extensive in highlighting the multi-dimensional impacts of the COVID pandemic on wide range of basic human rights and rights-holders.

We particularly consider the exchange of views at the Minority Forum important.

The tidal surge in hate-based ideologies, populist rhetoric and Islamophobia, often amplified through digital platforms, has paved the way for stigmatization, and dehumanization of minorities, thereby normalizing violence against them.

Pakistan is gravely concerned about the dangerous state sponsorship of Nazi-inspired Hindutva ideology in one country of our region. The supporters of this ideology have openly called for genocide of Muslim minorities in the country. More worryingly, public leaders and State officials have either condoned such calls or are found to be complicit in orchestrating anti-Muslim pogroms and violence.

The global community should put an end to this disturbing pattern of impunity for such state-sponsored hatred, hostility and violence against Muslim minorities.

Mr. President,

We welcome Special Procedures’ regular monitoring and public expression of concerns about the grave human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. We echo the clear warning, issued by the UN experts, that the situation in the occupied territory is in a ‘free fall’ and that international community need to ‘step up’ to prevent further loss of human lives and violations.

We also encourage Special Procedures to remain actively seized of the human rights crisis in occupied Kashmir, continue to press the country concerned to halt its atrocities, and allow access for independent assessment of the ground situation. Thank you.