



## Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

### Statement

#### 43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL Statement by Pakistan

#### General Debate Agenda Item 2

27 February 2020

Madam President,

My delegation thanks the High Commissioner for her oral update.

We strongly believe that safeguarding and advancing human rights, in an inclusive and non-selective manner, provides a sustainable foundation for a free, just and peaceful world.

The High Commissioner has rightly alerted the Council on the dire human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K).

Indian claims of normalcy are dubious, 8 million Kashmiris continue to face unprecedented abuses and lockdown by a belligerent regime, acting with impunity exercised by close to 01 million military and para military forces.

These abuses have taken many forms: arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, torture, reprisals and excessive force, especially pellets, as systematic tools of oppression against the audacious Kashmiri people.

In IOK, the local economy is on the verge of collapse. Unemployment figures are at a record high. Kashmir Chamber of Commerce estimates a cumulative loss of 2.4 billion US\$ in the first five months of lockdown by India.

Regrettably, India is moving ahead with its planned land grab and demographic engineering of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Mining leases are being awarded to India entities, ostracizing Kashmir companies. Mining in environmentally fragile zone not only violates rights of indigenous Kashmiri people but also endanger their lives and livelihoods.

This Council cannot remain a silent bystander to the human rights abuses in IOK, which are widely reported by the international media, civil society organizations and the UN and its human rights machinery, including OHCHR.

Therefore, we urge the Council to press India to remove all restrictions, restore fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people and rescind its unlawful and unilateral actions of 05 August, in compliance with its international obligations.



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We urge the Council to seek implementation of the High Commissioner's recommendations, contained in two reports on Jammu and Kashmir, in particular the suggested establishment of Commission of Inquiry.

We note and respect Sri Lanka's decision. We encourage States to support Sri Lanka as it works towards achieving sustainable peace and reconciliation.

Madam President,

Pakistan has been warning this Council on India's drift towards fascism and rank communalism. Indian leadership is replicating massacre of Muslims in Gujrat in 2002 by a similar pogrom unfolding in New Delhi. As Muslims in Delhi are being forced to leave home, the early signs of this ethnic cleansing are clear. This Council must join the call by the High Commissioner to the Indian leadership to prevent violence and ensure safety of Muslims in Delhi and elsewhere in India.

I thank you.