



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43RD SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Agenda Item-3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Statement by Pakistan

4 March 2020

Mr. Vice President,

We agree with the Rapporteur that collective efforts to combat and prevent extremism will bear sustainable results, when guided by respect for human rights.

We also agree with the Special Rapporteur on the negative fallout arising from lack of precise legal definitions of these phenomena. The Special Rapporteur has rightly cautioned against the simplistic deployment of several policies, especially in complex settings. This advice should be heeded.

Both the global and local drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism need to be addressed simultaneously, especially long-festering conflicts, and state repression under foreign occupation.

Pakistan has successfully overpowered the demons of violent extremism and terrorism.

Under our robust National Action Plan, we continue to take a series measures, which are aligned with international human rights standards.

Pakistan endorses Rapporteur's observation that 'the fastest accelerating terrorism threat globally stems from far right-wing violent extremism'.

We are alarmed at the rising tide of a toxic form of extremism in our neighbourhood. The world saw the most vivid manifestation of violent extremism on the screens in the past week, when minorities were subjected to senseless murder and mob violence, aided and abetted by State officials of the self-professed largest democracy of the world. Such State-sanctioned violence is reminiscent of these 2002 massacres of thousands of people in the same country and constitutes fundamental breaches of international human rights law.

Similarly, in complete defiance of the UN Security Council resolutions, the fascist regime in our region is moving ahead with demographic engineering of an occupied territory, which has illegally occupied for over seven decades. This regime continues to portray legitimate grievances of the Kashmiris people as terrorism and violates their human rights with impunity in the name of countering it. We must call out and reject such duplicity and self-serving approaches.

I thank you.