



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary, during General Debate under Agenda Item 5 at the 48th session of Human Rights Council

(30 September 2021)

Madam President,

Pakistan recognizes the valuable contributions made by the Council's allied bodies and mechanisms in advancing the global human rights agenda.

We applaud them for their timely and continued advocacy towards vaccine equity as the single most important tool to end the COVID pandemic.

We have always endeavored to engage constructively with the Council's mechanisms, bodies and forums.

This is evident by our invites for country visits to four Special Procedures. We also continue to make every possible effort to submit timely responses to joint communications of mandate-holders, and regularly report to the treaty bodies.

Madam President,

We underscore that full adherence to the highest standards of objectivity, transparency, impartiality and professionalism is essential to preserve the independent status and integrity of the Special Procedures system.

We take positive note of the efforts, being made by the Coordination Committee and the internal Advisory Procedure, to address some of the legitimate concerns, expressed by States with respect to working methods of the Special Procedures.

We believe there is still room to further optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. We re-emphasize that the Special Procedures should abide by the UN official terminologies and positions in their communications and press releases. They should also exert every possible effort to fact-check allegations, and verify the authenticity of sources before transmitting complaints to States for their feedback.

Mindful of their independent status, mandate-holders should avoid making hasty public pronouncements on allegations that appear on mainstream and social media. Public statements, without ascertaining facts and feedback from the country concerned, unnecessarily vitiate space for constructive engagement.



Madam President,

Pakistan welcomes Special Procedures' close monitoring, reporting, and continued public expression of concerns over the grave human rights conditions in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. We echo the early warning, issued by UN experts in February this year, including the ongoing demographic engineering of the UN-recognized disputed territory and its devastating human rights consequences.

Driven by the imperative of prevention, we encourage all mandate-holders to remain actively seized of the human rights conditions in the occupied territory, and continue to call on the country concerned to halt its atrocities and reverse its illegal actions, in compliance with its obligations under international law. I thank you.