



Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on the Situation of human rights in Afghanistan
54th HRC Session
12 September 2023

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner and take note of his findings and recommendations.

Timely publication of reports is essential for delegations especially large cross-regional groups to provide informed feedback.

Mr. President,

While we express our grave concerns over the dire humanitarian, human rights and socioeconomic conditions in Afghanistan, it is important to analyze the current situation in its historical context and offer realistic pathways.

As highlighted by several UN agencies, the prolonged humanitarian crises accompanied by lack of access to funds have left millions of Afghans at high risks of malnutrition, precarious health conditions, increased female mortality, reduced access to basic education, among others.

UNICEF, in its report this year, warned of a "children's crisis" in Afghanistan and alarmed that nearly 16 million children were going to bed hungry; and around 2.3 million children were expected to face acute malnutrition.

We also remain deeply concerned over devastating impacts of various natural calamities on the people of Afghanistan, especially the marginalized and the vulnerable.

The OIC reiterates its disappointment over the suspension of female education and women working in the civil society organizations and calls on the de-facto Afghan authorities to revisit and reverse these steps.

The worrying security, economic and humanitarian situation in the country has a significant bearing, not just on the immediate neighbouring countries, but on the wider region as well.

For this reason, this Council must remain sensitive to the human rights impacts arising from these interlocking issues.

I thank you!