



**National Statement, delivered by Danyal Hasnain, during Interactive Dialogue  
with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading  
Treatment or Punishment**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
**14 March 2023**

**Mr. Vice President,**

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Council.

We appreciate the thematic focus of the report on investigating acts of torture for the purpose of criminal prosecution domestically.

We agree with the SR that states are obliged to investigate all acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, to prosecute or extradite suspects, punish those responsible, and to provide remedies to the victims.

As a party to the Convention against Torture, Pakistan is committed to align its national legislation with international human rights obligations. The recently enacted Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape Act has widely defined ‘torture’ by including severe pain or physical suffering, inflicted intentionally to obtain information, or confession. The investigation of the offences under the Act shall be completed within thirty days from the date of submission of the complaint.

**Mr. Vice President,**

One of the major challenges is to ensure accountability of incidents of torture outside the sovereign jurisdiction of states such as situations in the UN recognized disputed territories. We are witnessing that occupation forces have been using torture as a tool to silence voices demanding realization of their right to self-determination.

These acts include dehumanizing people, psychological trauma, physical injury and custodial killings. As these occupied territories do not fall within the state jurisdiction of an occupying state, international human rights mechanism and your role becomes more critical to monitor and document allegations of torture, to speak out against such incidents and to call for accountability of the perpetrators.

I thank you.