



Statement, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, at the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture at 49th session of Human Rights Council

11 March 2022

Mr. President,

We congratulate the SR on conclusion of a very productive tenure as an important mandate-holder.

We thank him for his valuable work to combat the scourge of torture and inhumane treatment. The various thematic reports produced by the SR have helped contemporize international discourse in this area.

We take note of the SR's sobering impressions on the level of State cooperation in his last report. We agree that there is a definite need for more concrete action by States in preventing and countering torture, in all its forms and manifestations.

As a State Party to CAT, Pakistan attaches great importance to the SR's mandate. We have always endeavored to engage constructively, and responded to communications. We have also reflected on his thematic reports, with a view to feeding their legal and normative insights into our relevant national processes.

Lack of resources is among the main challenges in implementing the recommendations contained in the thematic reports. Therefore, we stress enhanced focus on providing technical assistance and advisory service to States.

Pakistan is also gravely concerned over the systematic use of torture by occupation regimes to suppress people's legitimate struggle for self-determination, such as in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. We therefore call for continued monitoring and reporting of such UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation, as part of this mandate's salient priorities. Thank you.