



Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at Interactive Dialogue with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the oral update on Afghanistan at 50th Human Rights Council Session

15 June 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral update.

The situation in Afghanistan presents a mixed picture. The significant decrease in violence and civilian casualties are encouraging.

However, the intersecting deterioration in the humanitarian and economic situation has profoundly impacted the right of the people of Afghanistan to live a life of dignity, in conditions of peace and development. This remains a matter of deep concern for Pakistan as an immediate neighbor.

To advance our shared goal of ensuring respect for basic human rights of its people, Afghanistan must be enabled at this pivotal moment.

This requires prudent sequencing of response measures, both on part of the de facto authorities and the international community.

A key priority should be to prevent an economic and state meltdown and to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of Afghan people.

For this to materialize, sustained international engagement is indispensable. The continued provision of humanitarian assistance should be reinforced by long-term international support for human, economic and social development of Afghan people.

Pakistan has provided food and humanitarian assistance, exceeding 35 million US dollars. We have hosted an extraordinary session of the OIC Foreign Ministers, which established a Humanitarian Trust Fund and Food Security Programme for the Afghan people.

Pakistan remains a strong advocate for an inclusive, peaceful and stable Afghanistan, where all its citizens, including women, girls, and minorities, enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms.

We must learn from mistakes of the past, and avoid coercive approaches. At the center of our endeavors must remain the well-being of the people of Afghanistan, who have the right to live with dignity and in peace after decades of conflict and instability. Thank you.