



National statement delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative, during the Urgent Debate on human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan at 50th Human Rights Council Session

1 July 2022

Mr. President,

We share concerns over the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan especially with respect to their right to education.

We underscore the imperative of respecting fundamental rights especially women and girls education as a key enabler of inclusive and sustainable development in Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

We express our heartfelt condolences over the loss of precious lives, shelter and livelihoods due to the recent earthquake. In abiding solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, Pakistan will continue to work with all partners to extend every possible support.

Today the people of Afghanistan face the fall out of both natural disasters and decades of man-made, endangering enjoyment and realization of their basic rights and needs.

Nothing better captures this situation than words of a survivor of the recent earthquake who told a media reporter and I quote, “if another earthquake does not kills us, poverty might”.

This Council must be mindful of this predicament and thus consider the situation in a broader, apolitical and with a more compassionate lens. This would require contextualizing and prioritizing the humanitarian, social and economic aspects of our concerns vis-à-vis advancement of human rights.

It would also entail revisiting past approaches as well as adopting prudent sequencing of response measures, informed by the full context of the situation, the need for balance and the value of engagement.

The key priority should be to avert an economic and state meltdown by scaling up humanitarian, development and financial assistance in order to meet the immediate humanitarian, human rights as well as needs of the people of Afghanistan.

Constructive engagement remains the preferred vehicle to address human rights concerns. We take note of the de facto authorities’ engagement with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan and encourage continuation of this dialogue process.



Mr. President,

Finally, in the context of the situation in Afghanistan, I would like to recall what the former UN Secretary General emphasized in his 2005 report “In Larger Freedom; Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All” and I quote, “ We will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed”.

We trust the Council will heed this prescient call.

Thank you.