



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during the Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on the Current State of Play of the Mainstreaming of the Human Rights of Women and Girls in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations at 48th Session of Human Rights Council

16 September 2021

Madam President,

We take note of the High Commissioner's report pursuant to HRC resolution 45/28.

Pakistan reiterates that the Council should desist from taking lead on thematic areas, which fall under the exclusive purview of the UN Security Council in order to avoid duplication of efforts and cherry-picking. This is also the imperative of efficiency and rationalization of initiatives at the Council.

This notwithstanding, Pakistan considers the UN Security Council's resolution 1325 as an important contribution towards promoting and protecting rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict.

Today, the UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation are the most prominent theatres of armed conflict, where systematic and wide-ranging violations of women and girls' rights are being committed with complete impunity by the occupying powers.

Often armed with oppressive laws and through deploying an iron curtain and media blackout, occupation forces continue to abduct women and girls, subject them to torture, degrading treatment and sexual violence. The plight of women and girls in occupied Jammu & Kashmir presents one such disturbing instance, where prolonged conflict has resulted in heightened exposure of Kashmiri women and girls to violence, trauma and human rights violations.

We, therefore, request OHCHR and Special Procedures to continue to monitor and report to the Council on the rights violations of women and girls in UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation, within the scope of their mandates.

I thank you.