



**National statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan  
Permanent Representative to the UN, at the UN Human Rights Council Special  
Session on Afghanistan**

**(24 August 2021)**

**Madam President,**

This Council is meeting at a time of flux, anxiety and a range of concerns over the situation in Afghanistan. Safety, security, dignity and needs of the people of Afghanistan should remain paramount.

We are disturbed by reports of violation of human rights and international humanitarian law in the country. We strongly urge all parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international law, and refrain from any action, which infringes upon basic rights and freedoms of people in Afghanistan, especially women, children and minorities.

As the largest hosting country of Afghan refugees for four decades, we are also following with concern the civilian displacement in Afghanistan. We urge the global community to demonstrate its commitment to the principle of responsibility and burden sharing, not just in provision of humanitarian assistance but also in acceptance of Afghans seeking refuge and protection.

**Madam President,**

The four decades of conflict and instability has regrettably served as the underlying driver of the dire human rights and humanitarian conditions in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has consistently advocated for an inclusive political settlement as the only path to durable peace, security and stability in Afghanistan.

Apart from this advocacy, Pakistan has made substantial contribution to advance this shared objective. Working closely with partners, Pakistan's contribution helped achieve important milestones in the Doha peace process including the U.S.-Taliban Peace Agreement and the subsequent commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations.

The international community must be vigilant about the role of spoilers within and outside Afghanistan, which have long prevented a political settlement, stoked violence in the country, and used Afghan territory to foment terrorism through UN-designated entities TTP and JuA inside Pakistan and other countries in the region.

As an immediate neighbor of Afghanistan and with vital stakes in a stable, united and inclusive Afghanistan, we support on-going intra-Afghan dialogue to shape an inclusive political settlement in the country.



**Madam President,**

Today, Afghanistan is at a critical inflection point in its history. It is the Afghan leaders themselves, who have to act with wisdom and foresight, and prioritize the supreme interests of their people above everything else. The international community, including this Council, should rally in support of such efforts. We, therefore, hope that the Special Session and its outcome would contribute towards this end. I thank you.