



Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi at the virtual presentation of the UN Human Rights Appeal 2022

19 January 2022

Madam High Commissioner,

Thank you for presenting the UN Human Rights Appeal for this year.

We value the important work that OHCHR undertakes to advance the cause of human rights worldwide. We have and will continue to support your Office, including through financial contribution.

I would like to make three points.

First, we echo concerns around increased reliance on extra-budgetary contributions, and the extent of their impact on the Office's independent status, and work. Two third of such contributions have, on average, been ear-marked in previous years. Such dependency inevitably raises legitimate conflict of interest questions including how and which mandates get prioritized at the cost of others. It is essential to rectify this distortion by enacting appropriate firewalls and equitable allocation of financial and human resources to all areas of human rights.

Second, the COVID pandemic has laid bare the structural inequalities within and among countries, as is evident from the asymmetrical economic recovery and vaccine supply. The pandemic has also made clear that neglecting focus on realization of social, economic and cultural rights can result in a huge loss of human lives and livelihoods.

We, therefore, welcome Office's enhanced focus on confronting structural inequalities as core element of its roadmap for 2022.

Greater awareness-raising and advocacy for vaccine equity, debt relief, repatriation of stolen assets and early reforms of the global financial architecture are critical to a human centered recovery. We encourage sustained advocacy in these important areas as part of OHCHR's work.

Thirdly, the OHCHR's prevention mandate represents an important tool to deter impunity and atrocities in UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation.

As many SPMHs have publicly stated, the human rights situation in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir is in a "free fall". We call on OHCHR to provide an updated report on the grave and growing violations of human rights in this occupied region, based on its own monitoring and documentation by independent sources.