



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, during Enhanced Interactive  
Dialogue on Afghanistan  
53<sup>rd</sup> HRC Session  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Mr. President,

We align with OIC statement and share SR's concerns over decisions by the interim Afghan authorities in curtailing women participation in public life and employment opportunities and impeding access to education.

We urge the authorities to revisit these decisions and provide equal access to education and employment opportunities for all, in line with Afghanistan's international human rights obligations.

Mr. President,

Even as the human rights situation in Afghanistan remains a major concern, the humanitarian crisis that the people of the country find themselves trapped in requires equal global attention. Currently, 97% of Afghans are in extreme poverty and over 20 million face acute hunger.

Sadly, we note the lack of due importance given to humanitarian assistance and its limited role in sustaining Afghanistan's fragile economy in SRs report. We would have appreciated if the report had fully examined the negative impact of the financial restrictions on social, economic, and cultural rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Addressing the humanitarian aspect would align our efforts with the established principle of indivisibility of rights.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has always remained a firm proponent and advocate for an inclusive, peaceful and stable Afghanistan, where all its citizens, including women, girls, and minorities, enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms.

I thank you!