



**National Statement delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during Interactive Dialogue
on High Commissioner for Human Rights' Annual Report
53rd HRC Session
20th June 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for presentation of his Annual Report and reaffirm our support to his mandate.

We also affirm our commitment to uphold all human rights and deepen our engagement with and the human rights ecosystem including the UN Special Procedures and Mandate Holders and the UPR mechanism.

We welcome continued monitoring of human rights situation in the internationally recognized disputed territory of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by OHCHR.

This unabated repression now spans three quarters of a century. The recent attempts to change the demographic composition of the Occupied Territory is a stark violation of the UN Charter Principles, UNSC resolutions, and the 4th Geneva Convention.

The occupied Kashmir is a classic case study of indivisibility, interlinkages, and interdependence of all human rights, where singular denial of right to self-determination has led to denial of all other rights.

From violation of rights by Security Forces, draconian laws providing impunity to constitutionally usurping their rights, Kashmiris brace a pyramid of oppression.

Mr. President,

We urge the High Commissioner to issue an updated report about the situation in Jammu & Kashmir in exercise of his mandate. We also call upon the Council members to demand reversal of illegal measures including demographic engineering and call for UNSC sanctioned right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir.

I thank you!