



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**Statement by Permanent Representative of Pakistan
Ambassador Khalil ur Rahman Hashmi**

**33rd International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Movement (33rd IC of RCRC)
10 December, 2019**

**Honourable Chairperson/Commissioner,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of Non Alignment Movement (NAM).

We commend the Standing Commission, ICRC and IFRC for their tireless efforts in making the Conference a success.

As a signatory of Geneva Conventions and a responsible member of international comity, Pakistan has always been faithful adherent to the Geneva Conventions. Pakistan is also a signatory to Protocol I and II and respects provisions therein.

The Geneva Conventions represent our collective resolve to manage the effects of wars and care for the sick and wounded. While this is both essential and important, our deliberations here and at the United Nations must be geared towards prevention and resolution of conflicts, also accompanied by promotion and protection of human rights and humanitarian principles in the entire cycles of an armed conflict.

Following primary considerations guide our national policy:

- Full respect, promotion, dissemination and implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), its rules and principles;
- Uphold victims' rights with full accountability;

- Respect for State sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in its internal affairs;
- Rejection of unilateral use of force in violation of UN Charter and international law.

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation would like to highlight four points in our statement.

ONE, new technologies and techniques being used in international and non-international conflicts have placed stress on the humanitarian law. We must redouble efforts to evolve responses and work towards early consensus to address the challenges posed by modern times.

TWO, there is a need to ensure accountability in the doctrine of States' responsibility particularly of powerful States. This is essential to enhance accountability across the board.

THREE, as everything around us is in a flux, IHL is also evolving. While it is essential to frame new rules, the effective implementation of existing ones is equally desirable. It is imperative to end selectivity, exceptionalism and discriminatory treatment in implementing IHL and protecting people.

FOUR, in the context of South Asia, full respect of and compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention is a must with a special focus on protection of all civilians living under foreign occupation. The general principles and scope of application of Geneva Conventions and IHL apply to situations in which people are fighting against foreign occupation for their right of self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter and all key human right Conventions. We urge the international community to step up efforts for protection of people under foreign occupation and to address humanitarian challenges faced by them.

In the context, I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir where millions of people are in physical and digital lockdown for the last 4 months. The unilateral and illegal actions taken on 5 August, 2019 also constitute a clear violation of Fourth Geneva Convention as the measures, are clearly aimed at altering the demographic composition and identity of Kashmiri people. Prolonged lockdowns in harsh Himalayan winters is precipitating a grave humanitarian crisis, as pointed by reports of numerous civil society organization and international media. International humanitarian actors must respond to this situation in earnest.

As State Parties, we need to rise above hypocrisy and double standards and exert the power of our common humanity to refrain the occupying power of its violative behavior, and to ensure that lives and livelihoods of Kashmiri civilians are protected.

Mr. Chair,

I conclude by reiterating our strong call for the protection of people in armed conflict and assure Pakistan's support to the noble endeavours of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

I thank you.