



Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the 35th special session of HRC on the situation of human rights in Iran- 24 November 2022

Mr. President,

The Council is meeting today for the 35th time in a special session setting to consider a situation of human rights where questions of foundational principles, criteria, the notion of accountability and value addition remain open.

This Council is mandated to advance universal respect for and realization of human rights. The normative underpinnings of how to promote and realize these rights are stipulated in the UNGA resolution that established this body.

Impartiality, objectivity, engagement, cooperation, and consent of the country concerned are the foundations on which this Council must act.

This normative framework places a burden of responsibility on the Council members to act wisely and proportionately, and in line with principles of the UN Charter.

The track record, outcomes and the aftermath of previous special sessions represent a sobering picture. Except in one situation of foreign occupation, this Council has almost exclusively considered the human rights situations of developing countries. Even in these situations, the singular focus has been the civil and political rights.

It is clear that the situation of human rights improved only where the time-tested instruments of dialogue, cooperation and consent of the country were pursued. In cases where political considerations trumped these instruments, the situations have in fact further deteriorated.

As to the subject of this session, we are saddened by the loss of lives in Iran as well as the damage to public properties and disruption of daily life. We are also saddened by loss of lives as a result of the condemnable terrorist attack in Shiraz.



We also note Iran's willingness to engage, its outreach to members of the Council and others. We also wish to note the investigations carried out by Iran and its resolve to adhere to the rule of law and to fulfill its human rights obligations in accordance with international law and its constitutional and judicial mechanisms.

We invite the Council members to reflect on the lessons from previous sessions and craft commensurate responses that help improve human rights situations instead of aggravating them.

Thank you!