



National Statement delivered by Mr. AfaqAhmed, Counsellor, during
General Debate under Agenda Item 5
52nd Session
24 March 2023

Mr. President,

This Council's allied mechanisms carry an important responsibility in advancing universal respect for human rights.

We affirm our strong support to all human rights bodies and mechanisms.

Our invitations to mandate-holders for official country visit, timely submission of responses to joint communications, and regular reporting to the treaty bodies demonstrate our commitment and support to the UN human rights mechanisms.

We believe that human rights allied mechanisms truly add value when they maintain highest standards of objectivity, transparency, impartiality and professionalism.

Trust and confidence between States and Special Procedures mandate holders is vital. In order to build trust, mandate holders must always adhere to the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and independence – as stipulated in the Code of Conduct in HRC resolution 5/2.

It is critical that Special Procedures do not reflect one sided legal interpretations of human rights law. They must remain cognizant of the fact that member states' commitment to their international human rights obligations is not linked to evolving academic discourse on human rights or interpretations preferred only by one group of states.

Mr. President,

We recognize the need of the mandate holders to disseminate and communicate with a wider audience. However, we stress that these public communications should be done judiciously, prudently and based on verified information. The propensity to use these public platforms selectively must be avoided.



We also believe that in accordance with resolution 5/1, faithful compliance with the principle of equitable geographic representation should be ensured while selecting and appointing the mandate holders. This would be both beneficial and essential in coalescing different cultural, legal, geographical and social perspectives.

Mr. President,

The discussions at the 2022 Social, Minority and Democracy Forums were significant in underscoring the cascading effects of Covid pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights across the globe.

We especially viewed the Minority Forum as highly important in highlighting the issues faced by minorities globally.

We welcome Special Procedures' regular monitoring and public expression of concerns about the grave human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

We urge the Special Procedures to continue to monitor the ongoing egregious human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, and also prioritize impacts of global economic, health and climate crises on enjoyment of human rights in their work.

I thank you.