



National Statement delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during
General Debate on Item 8
52nd Session
29th March 2023

Mr. President,

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA), is a milestone in strengthening the international human rights framework.

Critically, the VDPA emphasized universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights, as well as promotion and protection of all human rights on an equal footing.

The spirit of VDPA reminds us that international cooperation and dialogue remain the most effective vehicles in promoting human rights.

Mr. President,

30th anniversary of the VDPA is an occasion to celebrate, but it is also a moment for reflection.

After three decades, human rights picture is still far from satisfactory.

Today, many of the rights built in to the architecture of VDPA are still awaiting full realization. Some are being actively denied by duty bearers and some still await recognition by architects of VDPA.

The cascading crises resulting from the pandemic, ongoing conflicts, food and fuel shortages and the climate induced catastrophes have reinforced the need to treat economic, social and cultural rights at equal footing with civil and political rights.

In addition, the right to self-determination, echoed by the VDPA is trampled under the feet of impunity in illegally occupied territories.

There is an urgent and pressing need for the international community to take cognizance of the massive human rights violations in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and in particular denial of their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in various UNSC resolutions and the VDPA.



Moreover, adherence to the VDPA has become all the more important in the context of unchecked growth in contemporary forms of racism and incitement to hate towards Muslims.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of the alarming spread of Islamophobia worldwide. The recent manifestation of these Islamophobic trends in the repeated incidents of burning of Holy Quran is a clear incitement to violence.

Absence of any legal deterrent contradicts the principles enshrined in VDPA and silence breeds impunity as evidenced by recurrence of such despicable recent acts.

Mr. President,

Pakistan affirms its commitment to the VDPA spirit and the principles and obligations enshrined in this historic document.

I thank you!