



30th HRC SESSION
STATEMENT BY PAKISTAN
AGENDA ITEM 3

Mr. President,

The democratic founders of the UN gave hope to the post-war world by instilling the “principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,” as the first article of the UN Charter as well as two of the most important treaties of the civilized world, the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. By virtue of the right of self-determination, people freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Negation of the right to self-determination ignites conflict and threatens peace and security. Unfortunately, South Asia and the Middle East are the direct witnesses of such consequences.

In South Asia, the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been at the heart of conflict and tension. This dispute, recognized by many UN Security Council resolutions, is about exercise of the right to self-determination by the Kashmiri people. Several generations of Kashmiris have lived their lives under occupation, accompanied by violence and abuse of their fundamental rights. They have waited patiently for over six decades for the chance to exercise their right of self-determination and for the international community to fulfil the promises that were made to them for the exercise of their right to self-determination.

Non-implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir has resulted in unbearable sufferings for the Kashmiri people which have been testified by international human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Around 100, 000 Kashmiris have lost their lives. Kashmiri women, in particular, have undergone immense suffering and humiliation, not even children have been spared.

There are thousands of involuntary disappearances and arbitrary detentions. 6000 un-named mass graves in Northern Kashmir were revealed by a Kashmiri lawyer, Pervez Imroz which was also highlighted by the international media.

In 2008, the EU Parliament also passed a resolution on the issue of mass graves in occupied Kashmir.

In the recent past, a consistent pattern of harassment of Kashmiri students is also taking place which is deplorable.

Majority of Kashmiris have also rejected the farcical elections held under coercion as they do not substitute a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices.

Pakistan's principled position on the settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute is consistent with the UN Charter, international law and the resolutions of the Security Council, which provide for the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the will of the Kashmiri people to be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices.

Mr. President,

Pakistan extends unflinching political, moral and diplomatic support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people and shall continue to do so. We cannot draw a veil over the issue of Kashmir until it is addressed in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We call upon the international community to also live up to its commitments.

I thank you.