



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during General  
Debate Item 8  
54<sup>th</sup> HRC Session  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Mr. Vice President,

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (VDPA).

VDPA encapsulates humanity's aspirations to advance human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms.

However, despite our common adhere to the Vienna Spirit, the actual situation presents a bleak picture.

Today, 1.1 billion people are living in extreme poverty across and more than 379 million people in over 80 countries face high levels of food insecurity. Meanwhile, millions of people are bearing the brunt of climate change in which they had little to no role.

It is deeply concerning that growing inequalities are impeding the access of those dwelling in the developing world to fully participate in the socio-economic life and realize their potential.

We call for greater international cooperation and the need to work together to find solutions to ameliorate the negative impacts of the multidimensional challenges faced by humanity today.

It requires addressing the systemic issues in the global economic governance system as heightened debt burdens, financing gaps and growing inequalities are undermining efforts of states to make concrete progress towards achieving SDGs.

Climate change and COVID pandemic have eroded decades of development gains. In this regard, we echo the High Commissioner's call for reform of the international financial architecture.

Mr. Vice President,

This year has particularly been alarming, as the inexorable tide of Islamophobic trends have swept across the globe. Numerous countries have witnessed public desecrations of the Holy Quran.

We reiterate that deliberately planned public desecration of the Holy Quran is incitement to religious hatred and we call for prohibition of such acts in line with the international law.



Mr. Vice President,

While reaffirming its call for realization of all fundamental rights, VDPA was explicit that denial of the right to self-determination is a violation of human rights.

Over the decades, Vienna Spirit and the obligations therein have been brutally crushed by the occupation forces in situations of foreign occupation.

Despite unequivocal stipulations of the VDPA to extend legal protection and support to the occupied people engaged in legitimate struggle for self-determination, this promise has not been fulfilled in many UN recognized disputed territories, including the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the last seven decades, Kashmiri people have been forced to endure foreign occupation and are victims of blatant human rights violations.

We, therefore, urge the High Commissioner to continue monitoring and reporting the growing human rights crisis in the occupied territory to the Council.

We reiterate our call that all illegal actions in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir be reversed and fundamental freedoms of Kashmiris including their right to self-determination be realized.

I thank you!