



National Statement delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan at 52nd Human Rights Council Session

6 March 2023

Mr. President,

We take note of Special Rapporteur's report.

We share SR's concerns over decisions, hindering access to secondary education for Afghan girls and women and others aspects of life. We urge the de facto Afghan authorities to ensure equal access to education for all in line with Afghanistan's international human rights obligations.

The human rights situation remains of concern but it is the humanitarian crisis that Afghans are trapped in. Currently, 97% of Afghans are in deep poverty and over 20 million face acute hunger.

Multiple external factors including sanctions, freezing of funds and disengagement of some development partners have exacerbated this situation.

The financial restrictions are not just impacting social, economic, and cultural rights of ordinary Afghans but also those of people in the region. The unintended consequences of these measures include triggering informal financial channels to sustain human lives in Afghanistan resulting in destabilizing financial impacts in the region.

This Council must focus its efforts where it can contribute to help Afghans beyond geopolitics.

For this, sustained international engagement to avoid widening economic crises is indispensable.

Pakistan remains a strong advocate for an inclusive, peaceful and stable Afghanistan, where all its citizens, including women, girls, and minorities, enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms.

Thank you.