



National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment at 46th session of Human Rights Council

(08 March 2021)

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his presentation.

We take note of the Report's sobering findings about the level of State cooperation with the mandate-holder.

Pakistan fully recognizes the valuable advocacy work done by the Rapporteur against torture.

We continue to engage constructively with the Rapporteur by responding to communications and providing inputs to his thematic reports. We are also consulting internally about the SR's interest for a country visit to Pakistan.

As a State Party to CAT, Pakistan has taken a wide-range of legislative, policy and administrative measures to eradicate torture, in all its forms and manifestations.

Pakistan's criminal law prohibits custodial torture and imposes strict penalties in case of any violation. The Fair Trial Act outlines additional guidelines to ensure transparency during the investigative process.

The Government of Pakistan has also enacted nation-wide prison reforms in light of Bangkok and Mandela Rules, with special focus on women prisoners.

A comprehensive anti-torture bill has been advanced for legislative process in order to consolidate these national efforts.

Pakistan remains deeply concerned over systematic use of torture by occupation regimes to suppress people's legitimate struggle for self-determination by state terrorism.

One country in our region, which today sits as HRC member, continues to inflict the worst form of torture and ill-treatment on occupied Kashmiri people with full impunity. This country has stalled an official visit by the Rapporteur, despite extending standing invitation to all mandate-holders.

Pakistan invites the Rapporteur's views on how his mandate intends to spotlight the systemic use of torture in UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation, given the lack of cooperation by concerned countries.

I thank you.