



Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at Interactive Dialogue with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan

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Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for the report and take note of its deficit in providing the full context of the state of human rights in Afghanistan. The report has seemingly focused more on manifestations than the drivers and creates the impression of primacy of civil and political over economic, social and cultural rights.

The Report's conclusions especially significant decrease in violence, and civilian casualties are encouraging. The report's conclusion on near collapse of the economic system, with its profound impacts on human rights, is a matter of serious concern, especially for the immediate neighbours.

The people of Afghanistan deserve realization and enjoyment of their rights and freedoms, all after decades of conflict. Ensuring respect for rights and freedoms of the Afghan people remains a shared goal.

For this to materialize, several mutually reinforcing and sequential measures are essential on the part of de facto authorities as well as the international community.

An economic and state meltdown of Afghanistan would be catastrophic with far-reaching security, economic, social and rights implications.

Sustained international engagement with Afghanistan is indispensable for saving millions of lives, preventing state and economic collapse, affording basic public services, advancing human rights and an inclusive polity.

Pakistan continues to advocate for an inclusive, peaceful and stable Afghanistan in which all its citizens exercise their rights and freedoms and are able to meet their needs with dignity.

We echo growing calls for responding to humanitarian, human rights and development needs of the Afghan people. In this regard, Pakistan has provided food and humanitarian assistance, exceeding USD 35 million. We also hosted an extraordinary session of the OIC, which established a Humanitarian Trust Fund and Food Security Programme for the Afghan people.

A coercive approach has only hurt ordinary Afghans. A constructive engagement, unburdened by political considerations, is more likely to help safeguard and advance basic rights and dignity of the people of Afghanistan. Thank you.