



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate - Agenda Item 5: "Human Rights bodies and mechanism"

(29 September 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan recognizes the valuable contributions made by the Council's allied mechanisms and bodies in advancing the global human right agenda.

In the spirit of genuine dialogue, Pakistan has been responding to various communications sent by the mandate-holders. We have also been regularly reporting to treaty bodies.

We reaffirm of our continued and constructive engagement with the UN treaty bodies, mandate-holders and the Council's associated forums.

Madam President,

In terms of operationalizing the preventive mandate, as laid out in para-5 (f) of UNGA resolution 60/251, Pakistan firmly believes that the Council should pay special attention towards protection and promotion of human rights in internationally recognized situations of foreign occupation, based on widely accepted objective criteria.

These situations represent human rights emergencies due to the sheer scale, and magnitude of continued, systematic human rights abuses, being perpetrated by occupation powers with complete impunity.

As 'ears and eyes' of the Council, the UN Special Procedures, as well as other mechanisms and bodies, have a crucial role in monitoring human rights crimes in situations of foreign occupation, fixing responsibility of the occupation regime under international law, and inviting the Council's attention towards them.

Madam President,

The South Asia region is home to one such long-standing situation of foreign occupation, where unilateral and illegal actions to alter demography of the disputed territory by the occupying power have led to a full-fledged human rights crisis.

During the last 14-months, the human rights landscape in the occupied territory has undergone a fundamental change. This warrants a credible and swift action by the Council in exercise of its prevention mandate so as to halt further widespread abuses which, as history tells us, often precede illegal demographic alteration of occupied territories.



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We, therefore, strongly urge all Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms to:

- (a) exercise their preventive mandate;
- (b) respond credibly to these early warning signs;
- (c) call on the concerned occupying power to rescind its illegal measures, which are aimed at depriving the subjugated people of their basic rights and freedoms, in particular their right to self-determination; and
- (d) remain actively seized of the situation through consistent monitoring and reporting to the Council.

I thank you.