



**National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,  
Permanent Representative to the UN, during the Interactive Dialogue with the  
Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict**

**8 March 2021**

**Madam President,**

We thank the SR for the report and appreciate her work.

We support the mandate of the SR within the overarching context of armed conflict. In that respect, we underscore that children living under occupation or in armed conflict face multiple challenges related to education, health-care, social services as well as their safety & security.

We invite SR's attention towards the dire situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K). Living in one of the most militarized zones in the world, Kashmiri children are the victims of perpetual lockdowns and multiple forms of violence ranging from use of pellets, torture, arbitrary detentions including children's arrest during night raids, internment at army camps to house demolitions in the so called cordon and search operations by occupation forces.

**Madam President,**

Under the garb of COVID-19 pandemic related measures, the scale and modes of Indian violence unleashed against Kashmiri children has resulted in severe psychological complications and accentuation of mental health crisis. According to independent sources, hundreds of cases of psychological disorder have been reported at the child guidance and well-being center run by UNICEF at Srinagar.

We urge the Special Representative to continue monitoring the human rights situation of children in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and urge the Indian authorities to uphold the rights of Kashmiri children in the context of commitments in line with UN Security Council resolution 1261 (1999) and relevant international human rights and humanitarian laws applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

I thank you.