Pakistan's right of reply against India delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Annual Report

59th session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 18 June 2025)

Madam Vice President,

Barely a day after the High Commissioner called for preventing disinformation, it is deeply regrettable that the delegation of India has been unable to resist its penchant for misleading this Council.

My delegation is constrained to set the record straight.

First, following the incident of 22 April 2025 in Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir, India laid the blame at Pakistan's feet without evidence, dismissed calls for an independent and impartial investigation and ignored international calls for restraint.

Even before its own investigation authorities put out a public call for evidence, India intensified its oppression against the people in IIOJK. Even worse, India carried out deliberate and unjustifiable military strikes on civilians, residences, and places of worship in Pakistan.

I ask: which member state would ever allow such wanton aggression against its people in blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law?

Second, Indian leadership and a hyperbolic media have amplified disinformation, Islamophobia and hate speech to absurd new levels. For instance:

- The widow of a victim of this April's attack in occupied Jammu & Kashmir was vilified for opposing reprisals against Kashmiri and Indian Muslims.
- Indian leaders publicly threatened the people of Pakistan with "bullets" and parching thirst by disrupting water flows in the Indus River system; threats that were repeated just now.
- A ruling-party Minister called India's military spokesperson a "terrorist's sister", presumably for her religious identity.

This genie of hatred must be put back in the bottle before it consumes society

Third, the territory of Jammu & Kashmir is not, has never been and will never be a so-called "integral part of India."

It remains an internationally recognized disputed territory until the people of Jammu and Kashmir exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with numerous UNSC resolutions.

India's reservations to common Article 1 of the ICCPR and ICESCR regarding the right to self-determination are a foil for its denial of this fountainhead of all human rights.

It underlies the Indian occupation of Jammu & Kashmir as well as numerous other territories and is reflected in the large number of movements against Delhi's yoke.

Resolving the Jammu & Kashmir remains key to lasting peace and prosperity in South Asia and best safeguard against future human rights abuses.

But India is following a beaten path of invoking terrorism for geopolitical motives.

We are ready to discuss Indian support for the Fitna of terrorism along Pakistan's Western borders. And unlike India, we have the evidence to engage in a substantive conversation.

Rather than blaming Pakistan or Muslims, we urge India to revisit its Hindutva supremacist pursuit of hegemony, uphold the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, and, importantly, behave like a normal country at peace with itself and its neighbours.

It can start by heeding the High Commissioner's calls from his presentation this Monday (16 June 2025).

Thank you.

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