National Statement by Ambassador and Permanent Representative Tahir Andrabi during General Debate under Item 4: "Human rights situations that require the Council's attention"

63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 22 September 2026)

Mr. Vice President,

Human rights situations requiring this Council's attention are best addressed through dialogue and constructive engagement. But situations of protracted foreign occupation are the real test of that approach. When this council fails to act on such situation, impunity is entrenched.

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) is one such situation.

After nearly eight decades of occupation, India continues to flout international law, defy UN Security Council resolutions, and violate IHL, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention with respect to the territory of Jammu & Kashmir it has occupied.

India's settler-colonial project in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is accelerating with 4.2 million fake domiciles, land seizures, gated colonies, temple construction and liquor shops. Demographic re-engineering underway in the territory can be a prelude to ethnic cleansing.

To cement India's illegal occupation, over 900,000 Indian troops continue to violate every right of the Kashmiri people, starting from their inalienable right to self-determination. Avenues for remedy have been foreclosed with draconian laws and a pliant judiciary.

The human rights situation in IIOJK meets every objective criterion for consideration by this Council.

We urge the Council to consider the human rights situation in IIOJK and establish a Commission of Inquiry, as OHCHR reports have recommended.

The cost of silence and political expediency must not be borne by the Kashmiri people.

Thank you.

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