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43RD SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
General Debate - Agenda Item 5: “Human Rights bodies and mechanism”

Statement by Pakistan
(15 June 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan values the 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 always endeavored to constructively engage with the UN treaty bodies, mandate-holders and the Council’s associated Forums and would continue to do so.

Earlier this year, Pakistan’s 5th periodic report under CEDAW was successfully reviewed. We are closely reflecting on the concluding observations made by the Committee.

This clearly demonstrates our enduring commitment to promote and protect human rights, including through fruitful interaction with concerned UN bodies and mechanisms.

Madam President,

We urge Human Rights Bodies and Mechanism to exercise their mandate with objectivity and transparency; avoid politicization or double standards; and assess each situation on human rights merit.

Pakistan has been following the on-going discussions to strengthen the Council’s prevention mandate. We have taken note of the report, submitted by the Rapporteurs, pursuant to HRC resolution 38/18.

In this regard, we would like to emphasize integration of preemptive approach on situations of foreign occupation due to denial of human rights, higher level of impunity and imposition of draconian laws to perpetuate illegal occupation.

All human rights bodies and mechanism must, therefore, pay greater attention to UN recognized situations of foreign occupation and evaluate responsibility of occupation regime under the 4th Geneva Convention.

In our neighbourhood, events of the recent past have demonstrated how unilateral actions by the occupying power to illegally annex a disputed territory, which has been on the UN's agenda for over seven decades, has led to a human rights crisis.

The primary goal of these unlawful actions by the occupier is to change the demographic composition of the occupied territory. There are sufficient historic lessons when such actions are tolerated or ignored by the international community, catastrophe ensues and the risks of genocide increases.

Therefore, Pakistan urges all Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms to exercise its preventive mandate and respond to these early warning signs; demand from the concerned country to restore basic rights and freedoms of the subjugated people fighting for their right to self-determination; rescind its unlawful actions of last August; and continue to objectively assess the situation through on-ground monitoring and reporting.

I thank you.