

**Statement by Mr. Naseer Ahmad Faiq
Charge d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN
on the Report of the Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 63**

1 November 2022

Mr. President,

- I would like to begin by thanking H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, the President of Human Rights Council for presenting the annual report of the Human Rights Council. I also join other speakers in congratulating Mr. Volker Türk on his appointment as new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and our congratulations also goes to the newly elected members of the Human Rights Council.
- I also wish to take this opportunity to welcome the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Afghanistan in March 2022 and the first mission of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in May, as well as his recent visit in October 2022 and the statements issued at the conclusion of these Missions.

Mr. President,

- In the face of current social, political, economic and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the role of the Human Rights Council in promoting and protecting the human rights as well as addressing the human rights violations particularly in Afghanistan and other conflict affected countries is more crucial than ever. We applaud the efforts of the Council in discharging its mandate. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for convening the thirty-first special session on the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan. I would also like to extend our gratitude to the Human Rights Council members for adopting a resolution on the situation of human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, in addition to the resolution S-31/1 adopted on 24 August 2021, and resolution 48/1 of 7 October 2021 wherein the Council appointed a special rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. We would also like to welcome the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur by the Council.
- In the past two decades, despite all challenges, Afghanistan made some progress on the promotion and protection of human rights and economic development. Some of these efforts included serving as a member of the Human Rights Council for the period of 2018-2020, joining most important human rights conventions and presenting its national reports, adopting national laws and action plans. However, with takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban by force on 15 August 2022, all these achievements have been reversed.

Mr. President,

- As reported by the Special Rapporteur, the human rights situation in Afghanistan is extremely concerning and it has been repeatedly reflected in the UN Secretary-General quarterly reports and the recent report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan. These include the continued human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving summary or extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, forced displacement, collective punishment, violence against peaceful protesters, journalists, and former defence and security personnel, reprisals, raids on offices of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups, violations and abuses of the human rights of all women, children, and members of ethnic and minority communities, committed by the Taliban.

Mr. President,

- The situation of women and girls are highly concerning. The systematic imposition of discriminatory policies by the Taliban to limit fundamental rights and freedoms of women and girls including the freedom of movement and the rights to education, work, and public participation are against the principles of international human rights treaties and conventions.
- The Taliban have been systemically implementing an apartheid against women, denying fundamental human rights. Plus, women's vital contributions to society are diminished by lack of access to education, employment and leadership. Reversing advancements of the past two decades, the Taliban has made Afghanistan the worst country for women in the world. Years of internal conflict and natural disasters have put all Afghan lives in precarity and women, girls and children feel the strain on their lives deeply.
- To effectively address the impunity and prevent the widespread gross violations of human rights in Afghanistan, we need to further strengthen the mechanisms of monitoring and reporting including through the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMA) and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. I thank UNAMA and the Special Rapporteur for their work on documenting human rights violations and abuses and I call on the international community to continue the support for their work.

Mr. President,

- In conclusion, I would like to stress that through accountability and actions we can uphold the human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world. To advance new paths for development, peace and security, all citizens of Afghanistan including women, youth, and minorities must be fully incorporated into political, economic, and social life. To this end, I would like to reiterate that only through an inclusive and accountable government based on the rule of law, justice and the will of people and with full, equal and meaningful inclusion of women in all segments of Afghan society we can ensure justice, peace and security in Afghanistan.

I thank you.