



**Statement by Pakistan during the Special Meeting on the
“Social and Economic Measures to prevent genocide, war
crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”**

**Delivered by Ambassador Aamir Khan, Deputy Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the UN**

(ECOSOC Chamber, 24 January 2023)

Madam President,

We thank the Economic and Social Council for convening this special meeting on a very important topic “Social and economic measures to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”.

Madam President,

2. In view of range and intensity of crises around the world today, it is ever important to detect enabling circumstances and potential triggers of conflict around the world. Grievances over inequitable distribution of power and re-sources appear to be a fundamental motivating factor in the commission of mass violence against ethnic, sectarian, or political groups.

3. Among the socio-economic risk factors, the most common remain; situations of armed conflict, extreme poverty and defamation and political, economic or social injustice.

4. Most significantly, societies that have already experienced serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law or atrocity crimes, or where these are currently taking place, can be more prone to further atrocity crimes. These are typically violations of civil and political rights, but they may include also severe restrictions to economic, social and cultural rights, often linked to patterns of discrimination of certain groups, populations or individuals.

Madam President,

5. One specific circumstance where provisions of the principle of protection should apply is in situations of foreign occupation or alien domination, which can easily spiral into genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We would request the views of those who propagate the R2P concept on the need for collective action to protect the people of occupied Palestine or of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

6. For more than 7 decades, India has, through force and fraud, denied the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people, in violation of multiple resolutions of the Security Council prescribing a free and fair plebiscite.

Madam President,

7. There is also a systematic campaign under way in India by the ruling adherents of Hindutva where Muslims are murdered by lynch mobs, subjected to periodic pogroms and robbed of their livelihoods and citizenship, under the patronage and with the encouragement of the ruling BJP-RSS Government.

8. Most recently, a BBC documentary has also examined the pogrom against Muslims during riots in the western state of Gujarat in 2002. This had “all the hallmarks of an ethnic cleansing” according to the Documentary.

9. Noticing this dangerous trend, Professor Gregory Stanton, the founder of Genocide Watch, has warned that genocide of Muslims could very well happen in India.

10. Such crimes fall squarely within the ambit of the World Summit’s decisions on the responsibility to protect.

11. The concept of “Responsibility to Protect (R2P)”, as articulated in paras-138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome documents, continues to evoke varying perspectives as well as conflicting interpretations. However, even after several years, a consensus on the scope of the principle has not been achieved and its application remains driven solely by political considerations.

12. First, from the outset, the proponents of the concept have sought its application beyond the parameters enunciated in paragraphs 138 and 139 of the Summit outcome documents.

13. Secondly, R2P has been sought to be applied in situations where it cannot be proven that despite its primary responsibility the State concerned has manifestly failed to offer protection to its own population against these listed crimes.

14. Thirdly, any collective action must be authorized by the Security Council. The application of R2P even in the absence of an express Security Council authorization is dangerous. It could lead to interpretations where states assume a right to intervene in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

Madam President,

15. It is obvious that we need further objective discussion on the application of the R2P concept. Pakistan looks forward to such a discussion.