Statement delivered by Mohammad Aamir Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan on “The Responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”  
(26 June 2023)
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank for convening of the thematic debate and the presentation of Secretary-General’s report on the item, Responsibility to Protect.

Mr. President,

2. At the 2005 World Summit, the concept of Responsibility to Protect was presented as a noble humanitarian doctrine aimed at preventing mass atrocities and protecting vulnerable populations.

3. And yet history has proven that there are inherent double standards and political considerations both in the rationale of Responsibility to Protect and the application of its principles – which undermine this responsibility’s credibility and objectivity.

4. There is ample evidence to suggest that in many cases the military action to protect civilians swiftly transformed into regime change and destabilized the country further.

5. Such an abuse of Responsibility to Protect not only exposes the ulterior objective of pursuing geopolitical interests under the garb of duty to intervene to protect civilians but also highlights the inherent weakness of the concept of Responsibility to Protect.

Mr. President,

6. Apart from its abuse, the concept of Responsibility to Protect has also led to the criticism that some states have failed to invoke Responsibility to Protect by showing hesitancy either in condemning the massive human rights violations committed by so called “strategic allies” or by holding them accountable in the Security Council.

7. One specific circumstance, where Responsibility to Protect would surely apply, is in situations of foreign occupation or alien domination, such as, in occupied Palestine or in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which is rife with pressing human rights
emergencies and often equated with genocide and other similar crimes, but where voices to intervene to protect populations are unappealingly quiet.

8. For more than 7 decades, India has, 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. India has deployed 900,000 troops, resorted to extra-judicial killings; forced abductions; collective punishments; and the incarceration of the entire political leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference that is the true voice of Kashmiri people.

9. Pakistan in the past has also circulated a detailed dossier documenting, with evidence, over 3432 war crimes committed by Indian officials in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has issued two reports citing massive human rights violations, and proposed the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate these violations.

Mr. President,

10. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) proudly equated their ideology with Hitler's Nazis and called for the persecution of India's Muslims just like the Jews. Inspired by the same philosophy, today's Indian government is leading a systematic campaign to “cleanse” India as well as the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir of all vestiges of the rich Islamic heritage. The RSS was responsible for the organized pogroms against Indian Muslims in Bombay (1992), Gujarat (2002), Delhi (2021) and the destruction in 1992 of the historic Babri Mosque and the construction of a Hindu temple on the site.

11. The persecution of Muslims has become a routine norm in today's India as well as the occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the list continues to grow. However, most recently, on Saturday, during a visit of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah to Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Army personnel stormed inside a Mosque in Pulwama district of south Kashmir while Muslims were offering prayers and forced Muslims to chant certain slogans against their will.
12. Gregory Stanton, the head of Genocide Watch, has warned us recently of a possibility of genocide in Kashmir and in India. The International community, specially the advocates of Responsibility to Protect must carefully analyze the devastating human rights situation that is transpiring in India as well as the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. President,

13. The Responsibility to Protect concept was generated of an expectation that the international community must act to protect those in danger. However, the selective application of Responsibility to Protect driven by double standards and geopolitical considerations, and certain underlying ambiguities within the concept, undermine its credibility as a genuine humanitarian doctrine.

14. To truly uphold the principle of accountability and protect vulnerable populations, a more nuanced and balanced approach that avoids selectivity and promotes objectivity and impartiality is necessary.

I thank you.