



**Remarks by Permanent Representative of Pakistan,
Ambassador Munir Akram, during Agenda Item 70,
Right to Self-Determination
(27th October 2023)**

Mr. Chair,

The right of peoples to self-determination is a core principle, enshrined in Article 1 of the UN Charter, and the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Actions.

2. Over the years, the General Assembly has adopted norm-setting resolutions: namely resolution 1514, resolution 2625 and 2649. Although most people's under colonial rule have been able to exercise their right to self-determination, this has been denied so far to the peoples of Palestine and Kashmir.

3. Today, while the world watches, Israel is engaged in an indiscriminate genocidal campaign of bombardment of the unfortunate Palestine in the Gaza, as well as in the West Bank. We hope the UN General Assembly will succeed while the Security Council failed in stopping this latest Israeli aggression.

Mr. Chair,

4. Today, 27 October, is also being observed as "Black Day" in Jammu and Kashmir and in Pakistan. 76-years ago, on this day, India militarily occupied the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Security Council decided that "final disposition" of Jammu & Kashmir would be determined by the Kashmiri people through a UN supervised Plebiscite. India has prevented such an exercise of self-determination through force and fraud.

5. On 5 August 2019, India resorted to a series of unilateral and illegal measures, to annex occupied Jammu & Kashmir in what India's Hindu extremist leaders ominously called "the Final Solution". During the past 4 years, India has resorted to a campaign of gross and systematic violations of human rights in occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Mr. Chair,

6. The two reports issued by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, has called for a UN Inquiry Commission to investigate India's human rights violations. Since grave concern has been voiced not only by the High Commissioner and by over a dozen Special Rapporteurs and Special Mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. But India has not allowed these mechanisms or anyone to visit the occupied territories of Jammu & Kashmir.

7. Despite such international censure and concern, India has enjoyed impunity for its violations of human rights and international law due to the protection offered by some major powers.

8. Indeed, like Israel, India has resorted not only to intensified oppression of the Kashmiris but also a belligerent posture against all those who call upon it to halt its crimes, especially Pakistan. India's leaders, including its Defense Minister have repeatedly threatened Pakistan with aggression across the Line of Control in Kashmir.

Mr. Chair,

9. Pakistan's Foreign Minister has today written to the President of the Security Council, to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to apprise them of the grave situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to urge immediate action to press India to halt its massive violations of human rights and enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council.

I thank you.