

Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Human Rights Council on the Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 4 June 2009

Mr. President,

We have noted the update presented by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights themes and situations of particular concern.

Our security forces are engaged in law enforcement operations against terrorists. Militants and violent extremists.

The law enforcement measures have been undertaken to protect the fundamental rights of the people of the area, especially women and girls. The activities of the militants have led to temporary dislocation of persons from their homes. 80 percent of them are living with relatives and families. We are confident that with the return of normalcy to the affected areas, these families will be able to return to their homes which they are eager to do as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

The Government of Pakistan is deeply conscious of its responsibilities to protect the lives of its people as well as to promote the human rights of all of its citizens.

Before launching the law enforcement operations, the Government evolved a national consensus through debates in Parliament and convening of an all political parties conference. As a result, Government's policy enjoys the full support and confidence of all sections of society. At the same time, the Pakistani civil society including our independent and vibrant media, are fully engaged.

Mr. President,

The need of the hour is to focus on providing humanitarian assistance to the dislocated people in Pakistan. We look forward to working with the international community to this end.

I thank you, Mr. President.