40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered ID with Special Rapporteur on Right to Food and Independent Expert on Effects of Foreign Debt

28 February 2019

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. We attach great importance to this subject and it is in this spirit that Pakistan has also extended an invitation to the Special rapporteur to undertake a visit to Pakistan.We look forward to receiving her soon. The focus of the report on the rights of fishery workers,who contribute to the food security and nutrition of others, is apt and relevant.

We also concur with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur for adoption and enforcement of legislation to criminalize contemporary forms of slavery practices in the fisheries sector. Pakistan has always been an active advocate of abolition of all forms of slavery and the Government has taken numerous steps which include adoption of various laws, programmes and policies to eliminate child labour. Pakistan has also enacted laws to addresses all kinds of violence and discrimination against women.

Mr. President,

We also take note of the report of the Independent Expert on effects of foreign debt which has presented Guiding principles on human rights impact assessments of economic reforms.

Pakistan believes that the realization of human rights is often affected by resource scarcity. Therefore, the economic reform policies that affect availability of resources have severe negative impacts on the enjoyment of all human rights.

We fully agree that the impact of economic reform measures and policies shall be evaluated in correlation to the existing international human rights norms and standards. We therefore believe that external creditors must also carry out an impact assessment of their conditionalities on the population of a state receiving the loans, This will also be helpful to the State concerned in undertaking an informed policy decision.

I thank you.