

**40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered ID with Special Rapporteurs on the  
Right to Privacy and Cultural Rights**

1 March 2019

Mr President,

We thank both the Special Rapporteurs for the presentation of their reports.

2. We firmly believe in the importance of right to privacy as a fundamental right of every citizen. Right to Privacy is provided for in Article 14 of our Constitution. The Government has adopted necessary legislation for the protection of this right in the form of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016. This Act contains a system of checks and balances in order to avoid any misuse. It also caters for the principles of necessity and proportionality in order to protect privacy while providing necessary protection to our citizens especially girls and women online.

3. The Right to Privacy on internet is important and complex. It needs proper deliberations amongst all stakeholders and all regions to define the scope and different elements of this theme. A balance must be achieved between the right to privacy and legitimate security concerns. Cyber harassment, propagation of hate speech by extremist groups, exploitative use of personal data by private and public entities and sanctity of citizens' big data are amongst the issues that are linked to the right to privacy. We seek views of the Special Rapporteur on this.

4. The Special Rapporteur may also share more information on his work on 'Privacy and Health Data'. We support the theme of 'Privacy and Gender' for future work of the Special Rapporteur in the context of cyber space.

5. We are supportive of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights.

6. Pakistan has diverse cultural heritage built upon 5 millennia's old history of the Indus Valley Civilization. Our dynamic cultural policy manifests the beauty and the message of peace and harmony intrinsic in Pakistani culture. The National History and Literary Heritage Division is working on Intangible

Cultural Heritage (ICH) component as well. Recently the life style of indigenous people from Kailash Valley was studied and their cultural practice called 'Suri Jagek' was documented. Suri Jagek, Nauroz and Falcony have been inscribed on the Representative List of UNESCO.

7. We support the point of view of Special Rapporteur that culture must not be misused to violate human rights. On the contrary, culture can have many positive implications for the enjoyment of universal human rights.

I thankyou Mr. President.