

40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representatives of the Secretary General for Children and armed conflict and violence against children

5 March 2018

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Representatives for the presentation of their reports and consider their work important in the protection of fundamental rights of children. Although these two reports are discussed together, the context and substance of the mandates of the two SRSGs are different, which must be recognized.

2. As indicated by the Special Representative, growing violence is affecting young children all over the world. Millions of children endure violence throughout childhood, often at the hands of people they know and trust.

3. Pakistan is committed to eliminate this menace. In addition to Convention on the Rights of the Child, Pakistan is also a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and is in the process of enacting national legislation and policies to enforce these conventions.

4. National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) has been established to monitor the situation of child rights in the country. Laws have been promulgated to criminalize child pornography, sexual abuse, cruelty and trafficking. Federal Ombudsmen has appointed Child Commissioners at the Federal and Provincial levels to monitor and address the grievances of children.

5. 2019 is a year of opportunity. It marks the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is a strategic milestone on the path towards ensuring children's wellbeing and freedom from violence. Working together, we can realize the vision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2030 Agenda of a world free from fear and from violence, with no child left behind.

Mr. President,

6. The SRSG's mandate is circumscribed by relevant security council resolutions. We agree with her that denial of education and health facilities for

children in conflict situations makes them more vulnerable to trafficking and violence. We must work together and take all necessary measures to save children from such elements.

7. In this context, we request the SRSG on Children and armed conflict to give due consideration to the situation of children, living in occupied territories which are on the Agenda of the UN, in the context of their access to education and health facilities, in her future reports.

I thank you Mr. President.