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40TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Remarks by Pakistan at Annual Panel discussion on the rights of persons
with disabilities - habilitation and rehabilitation**

March 6, 2019

Mr. President,

We appreciate the insightful interventions of the panellists which focus on ways and means for habilitation and rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities.

2. My delegation believes that Persons with disabilities have every right to act as productive and important citizen of the society and States must provide persons with disabilities access to appropriate support to carry out daily activities and participate in society.

3. In Pakistan, the need for making preventive, curative, and rehabilitation efforts are well recognized at the government and non-governmental levels. A National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons was constituted in 1981 to oversee and execute the policy made for employment, rehabilitation and welfare of the PWDs. Provincial Councils for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PCRDP) are working in each province.

Mr. President,

4. The Government has adopted a triangular approach for the welfare and rehabilitation of PWDs by focusing on Health, Education and Social Welfare aspects. Training Institutes are imparting occupation specific skills to the PWDs in line with the job demands. In addition, the Government is also implementing community based rehabilitation (CBR) activities to promote independent living and inclusion of the PWDs in the community.

5. Due to resource constraints, the sustainability of support services and arrangements represents a major challenge in both developing and developed countries. We have observed great successes achieved by the persons with disabilities once equality of opportunity is ensured for them through provision of basic tools. We request the panelists to elaborate how technical assistance and exchange of technology can contribute to this objective.

I thank you Mr. President.