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40TH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on persons with disabilities and Independent Expert on Albinism

5 March 2018

Mr. President,

We appreciate the focus of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the disability-specific forms of deprivation of liberty. We also share her concerns that in a number of situations, Persons with disabilities are deprived of liberty in order to access services that should have been delivered in the community.

Respect and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is deeply rooted in the cultural, societal and family norms of Pakistan. Pakistan ratified the CRPD in 2011, but it has been adopting a range of constitutional, policy, legal, and institutional measures for ensuring the rights of PWDs in line with its Constitutional guarantees and societal norms. Pakistan's laws recognize the right of persons with disabilities to liberty and security, on an equal basis with others.

In Pakistan there is no allowance for the deprivation of liberty of any person with disabilities based on an actual or perceived impairment or mental capacity. All persons with disabilities have procedural guarantees on an equal basis with all other persons in all legal proceedings.

We would like to seek views of the Special Rapporteur on the role of family and society in providing support and assistance to the persons with disabilities.

Mr. President,

We thank the Independent Expert on the rights of Persons with Albinism for the presentation of her report. We are alarmed at the reports of attacks, mutilations, trafficking of body parts of persons with Albinism as reported by the Special

Rapporteur and urge the international community to take necessary steps to curb such activities.

On its part, Pakistan involves persons with albinism in all programmes and activities without any discrimination. We consider that stigmatization against persons with albinism, owing to myths and misbeliefs, is unacceptable. Apart from legislative and administrative measures, we need to work on education and sensitization of all people about the different aspects of rights of persons with Albinism.

I thank you.