

41st SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Remarks by Pakistan for Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group (WG) on Discrimination against Women and WG on Business and Human Rights

26 June 2019

Mr. President,

We thank the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Working Group on Business and Human Rights of their insightful reports and presentations.

2. Pakistan is committed to upholding & safeguarding the rights of women. Cross-sectoral policies aimed at reducing gender inequalities, removing barriers to women participation, such as harassment at work place, and making laws against gender-based violence, and ensuring women education have been adopted and being implemented.

3. Policy and administrative measures are underway to effectively implement these laws. In order to achieve women empowerment, the Government has made education for children up to 16 years of age, free and compulsory. National Commission on the Status of Women is also playing an instrumental role. Pakistan has taken a number of steps for the elimination of gender-based violence including:

- i. Establishment of 26 Women Crisis Centres across the country.
- ii. Enactment of Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Acts in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Violence against Women (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2019 is in the pipeline
- iii. Family Protection and Rehabilitation Centre for Women has been established in Islamabad to provide support and family protection and rehabilitation for the survivors of domestic violence.
- iv. Collation and analysis of data on violence against women by Gender Crime Cell (GCC) of National Police Bureau gather to assist policy makers to develop comprehensive and effective measures to control violence.
- v. Establishment of Ombudsman offices at Federal and Provincial level in Punjab and Sindh to investigate cases of harassment at the workplace

Mr. President,

4. The UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights provide us with an opportunity to develop a business environment that has an element of human rights due diligence and at the same time attractive to the business enterprises. We need to transform the narrative and culture both nationally and internationally by advocating the benefits that responsible investments and business practices can accrue for both the community and the business enterprise.

5. We agree with the Working Group's assessment that despite non-discrimination provisions in the constitutions and laws of many countries, in practice women continue to experience multiple forms of discrimination, disadvantage, exclusion and violence in all spheres of life.

6. We would request the Working Groups to elaborate how they learn from each other's work and experience in ensuring that transnational corporations share and promote a corporate culture conducive for the promotion and protection of human rights of the local communities, especially women.

I thank you Mr. President.
