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41st SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General debate on ITEM 6- Universal Periodic Review

Statement on behalf of the OIC delivered by Pakistan

(July 5, 2019)

Mr. President,

I make this statement on behalf of the Member States of the OIC.

UPR mechanism aims at promoting universality, interdependence, indivisibility and inter-relatedness of all human rights and ensures universal coverage and equal treatment of all states. The OIC member states strongly support this mechanism.

The UPR has helped develop a collaborative space for the States and a wide range of stakeholders, including the civil society, National Human Rights Institutions, and members of parliaments to work for shared goals. The synergies created by this collective effort have been instrumental in furthering the agenda of human rights. States have demonstrated sincere efforts for the promotion and protection of all human rights and reporting on these efforts to the Council in their regular UPRs. OIC member states appreciate the valuable role of the civil society and National Human Rights Institutions in supporting the Member States. This collaboration has also strengthened domestic institutions and mechanisms.

Mr. President

In line with the IB-Package, the UPR mechanism deserves an opportunity for the exchange of best practices and experiences among member states on the basis of objectivity, transparency, equality, non-selectivity and non-politicization. It builds upon the principles of constructive engagement in an objective, inclusive and non-confrontational manner. The OIC believes that this approach will greatly assist in meeting the common objectives we espouse in the Human Rights Council. We believe that the States and Civil Society must remain sensitive to the cultural, religious and societal underpinnings while making recommendations.

In this respect, the OIC recalls that the responsibility of the implementation of recommendations, that have been accepted by a State during its Universal Periodic Review, falls primarily and exclusively on the State concerned, whose efforts can be supported by the international community by strengthening its technical capacities, in consultation with and on the request of the interested State.

Mr.President,

In conclusion, we would like to thank the staff of the OHCHR for their hard work and support rendered to the delegations, which helps make the UPR a smooth process.

I thank you.