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**41<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Explanation of Vote by Pakistan**

**Resolution L.8 Rev.1 titled “Consequences of child, early and forced marriage”**

Child, early and forced marriages can result in severe violations and abuses, and constitute a direct impairment to the enjoyment of human rights, especially of women and girls as well as men and boys, victims of this harmful practice.

Successive Governments in Pakistan have remained committed to ensure women their rightful place in the society. We have adopted and implemented various laws and policies such as The Prevention of Anti-Women Practices and Child Marriage Restraint Acts, which prohibit marriage of minors and prescribes punishments for anyone, including a parent or guardian, for conducting a child marriage.

Pakistan greatly values Council's work and discussion on such an important topic and is grateful to the Core-group for keeping this discussion on the agenda of the Council and for their availability and engagement with all stakeholders.

However, there are some references in the resolution which remain a concern for our delegation. For example, the use of term "Comprehensive Sexuality Education" and intimate partner violence, which are not agreed by many delegations, including ours.

Pakistan believes that the term “reproductive rights” is the sovereign prerogative of national legislative processes in accordance with paragraph 8.25 of the ICPD. Therefore, such references cannot be properly understood without the qualifiers of ICPD and Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

We also wish to clarify that women and girls’ equality, in particular in the context of “equal” access to health-care services, autonomy, including bodily and economic autonomy, among other things, is not in line with States’ obligations under international human rights law, including Convention on Rights of the Child and the respect for parental rights.

Pakistan therefore disassociates itself from these references in the resolution, which are outside the agreed language, in particular in **PP-7, PP-16, PP-17, PP-22, OP-2, OP-9 and OP-10**.

We request the main sponsors to pay more attention and caution in the next session with a view of maintaining the solid consensus strongly needed around this particular discussion at the Human Rights Council.

I thank you.