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**41st SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Explanation of Vote by Pakistan**

**L.6 Rev.1 entitled “Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls”**

Pakistan is committed to upholding & safeguarding the rights of women and believes in promoting women’s rights to participate in all spheres of life, free of discrimination. Cross-sectoral policies in our country aimed at reducing gender inequalities, removing barriers to women participation, such as harassment at work place, making laws against gender-based violence, and ensuring women education have been adopted and are being implemented.

Pakistan greatly values Council's work and discussion on means and ways to eliminate discrimination against women and girls. We are grateful to the delegations of Mexico and Columbia for keeping this discussion on the agenda of the Council and for their availability and engagement with all stakeholders.

However, we regret that several concerns still have not been addressed in the text. There are some references in the resolution to comprehensive sexuality education, which we believe, like many other terms have not been agreed by all States. These themes must be interpreted in the context of relevant national laws and cultural sensitivities.

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 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 and OP-5(e)**.

I request you Mr. President to make this explanation of vote a part of the official record.

I thank you.

