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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General debate on ITEM 6- Universal Periodic Review

Statement on behalf of the OIC delivered by Pakistan

(20 September 2019)

Mr. President,

The OIC Member States fully support the UPR mechanism which aims to promote the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights and attempts to ensure universal coverage and equal treatment of all States.

The UPR has facilitated engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including the civil society, National Human Rights Institutions, in a meaningful dialogue and work for shared goals. During the UPR, States have been reporting on numerous efforts they have been making in focusing for the promotion and protection of all human rights. For the implementation of their international obligations and recommendations received during the UPR, many have voluntarily amended their domestic laws.

Mr. President

OIC member states appreciate the valuable role of the civil society and National Human Rights Institutions in supporting Member States. We believe that it has proven itself to be an effective peer review mechanism that warrants an opportunity for the exchange of best practices and sharing of experiences among member states on the basis of equality and non-discrimination. It has also strengthened cooperation between various stakeholders and domestic institutions and mechanisms.

The UPR process builds upon the principles of constructive and open engagement which is non-selective, inclusive, transparent, objective, and non-confrontational. The OIC countries wish to emphasize that any initiatives related to the UPR must be based upon these principles and should be devoid of the practice of selectivity and naming and shaming.

Mr. President,

The UPR Mechanism, through its universal coverage and equal treatment by all States, has proven to be one of the greatest successes of the Human Rights Council. We hope that it will continue to facilitate all of us in achieving the common objectives we espouse.

We would like to thank the OHCHR staff for their hard work and support rendered to the delegations, throughout the UPR process.

I thank you.