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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ID with WG of Expert on People of African Descent

Remarks by Pakistan

24 September 2019

Mr. President,

Pakistan thanks the members of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent for presentation of the report and reaffirms its commitment to this Working Group and to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), which constitute a solid foundation for the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia and related intolerance.

Acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitute grave violations of human rights and Pakistan condemns them in all forms and manifestations. There is an urgent need to address this issue with greater resolve and political will, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world.

Mr. President,

We are concerned that racial discrimination continues to be systemic and denies meaningful and effective development to people of African descent globally. Pakistan concurs with the Working Group's conclusion that there is need to increase visibility, identify gaps and guide the formulation of policies and actions to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Afrophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent. It could also serve as a baseline to measure progress in the realization of the human rights of people of African descent in accordance with international human rights.

We are concerned at the incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination & related violence, religion-based hatred as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, that continue to rise around the world. Such acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and racial, religious and ethnic profiling affronts human dignity and equality, and must be condoned. The international community has the shared responsibility to take effective measures to address and combat such incidents.

Mr. President,

It is important to recall the principles of DDPA that urge the States to adopt measures to create equal opportunities and to provide effective remedies and redressal for the victims. We must also take into account the discrimination in the fields of employment, health, policing and education.

To conclude, we emphasize the need to unite our energies to fight the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hatred and related intolerance.

I thank you.