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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Clustered Interactive Dialogue – IE on the rights of older persons and SR
on the right to development

Statement by Pakistan

(11 September 2019)

Mr. President,

We thank both the Special Rapporteurs for the presentation of their reports.

2. The Independent Expert has aptly highlighted the challenges in realizing the rights of older persons in humanitarian settings. In realizing rights of older persons, we should be cognizant of the economic and social pressures that tend to affect the older persons. Pakistan has a strong social system, influenced by the Islamic principles of respect and care for all, irrespective of age. Pakistani society has an inbuilt mechanism of provision of care to the older people by the younger members of the family. Maintaining this traditional family system, together with targeted intervention for assistance to the elderly remains a priority for the State and society in Pakistan. We also agree with the Special Rapporteur that there is need to strengthen the important community contributions made by older people through their abilities and resources, such as by engaging them in conflict resolution activities and in decision making.

Mr. President,

3. Pakistan fully supports the mandate and work of the Special Rapporteur on Right to Development. Ensuring that no one is left behind requires a dedicated focus on the equal distribution of wealth and resources. The widening disparities of today's world require the adoption of sound national and international policies to empower the bottom percentile of income earners and promote inclusion of all. Right to Development (R2D) ensures freedom from poverty, which is a core Human Right.

4. Pakistan has always striven to put human rights of people at the centre of its development strategies and agreements. The incumbent Government in Pakistan is following a multifaceted approach towards development through structural reforms, investment friendly policies, and social safety nets for the vulnerable.

5. We agree with the Special Rapporteur that development financing must be based on the priorities of recipient partners and must guarantee that beneficiary States have ownership of development projects carried out with this financing. The enjoyment of fundamental right to development by all cannot and MUST not be allowed to be constricted by the limited ability of states, particularly developing countries, to provide enabling environment conducive for its achievement. We would request the Special Rapporteur to elaborate how in his view we can advance towards an inclusive development process that neither ostracizes anyone nor is at the expense of anyone.

I thank you Mr. President.