



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during the 3rd UPR of Belarus

(2 November 2020)

Madam. President,

Pakistan welcomes the delegation of Belarus to its 3rd cycle of Universal Periodic Review and appreciates its engagement with the process.

It is encouraging to note that Belarus has remained engaged with the international human rights mechanisms including Special Procedures of the HRC, Treaty Bodies and OHCHR. The standing invitation to 9 Special Procedures is a reflection of this cooperative approach.

We note that since its last UPR in 2015, Belarus has taken steps to align national laws with its international human rights obligations. The enactment of national action plans for gender equality & access to pre-school education; provision of free medical healthcare and adoption of national action plan on rights of persons with disabilities are indeed positive developments. We recognize resource constraints constitute a major challenge for developing countries including Belarus to ensure implementation of national legislations on ground to advance human rights agenda and ensure socio-economic progress.

Madam President,

My delegation would like to make the following recommendations:

1. take steps to establish national human rights institution and bring it in line with Paris Principles
2. Continue to make efforts for provision of social security, primary healthcare and access to pre-school education.

I thank you.