



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN **Geneva**

Statement

43rd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children** **Remarks by Pakistan** **2 March 2020**

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for presenting her report.

Government of Pakistan is committed to protect children from violence and abuse, in accordance with its human rights obligations. In this context:

- Prevention of the Electronic Crime Bill has been passed, which among others, criminalizes child sexual exploitation¹.
- Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2016 has also been adopted, which covers all aspects of child exploitation, including, among others, exposure to seduction, child pornography and child abuse.
- All forms of transnational trafficking in persons were prohibited with the adoption of Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018.
- The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) has prepared a code of ethics for the media for reporting of cases of children's sexual abuse. In this regard, orientation workshops in all provinces have been organized to sensitize media persons.
- Child Victims are provided protection in Government run shelters established at the federal level as well as in provinces.
- The federal and provincial governments have developed and are implementing Child Protection Management Information System, a national monitoring system that collects district-level data in five thematic areas, including child trafficking and sale of children.
- National and provincial legislatures have made strict laws for punishing offenders for child trafficking, sexual exploitation.

¹The Bill in its Section 19 states that whoever commits an offense with respect to a minor shall be imprisoned for a term which may extend to ten years, or with fine up to ten million rupees or with both. In case, the victim of the cyber stalking is a minor the punishment may extend to five years or with fine up to ten million rupees, or with both in accordance with Section 21 of the Bill.



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Madam President,

To supplement these efforts, the National Assembly of Pakistan has passed Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Bill in January this year. Pakistan is also developing the registry of sex offenders, which would be linked to such official records of other countries to keep track of the activities of those involved in sex crimes.

Pakistan echoes Special Rapporteur's call for more robust and meaningful efforts to ensure the accountability, in cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

I thank you.