



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

National Statement, delivered by Mr. Muhammad Hussain, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on Older Persons at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council

(18 September 2020)

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

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, underpinned by the Islamic principles of respect and care for all, irrespective of age. Pakistani society with an inbuilt mechanism of strong family system provides 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.

Recently the Ministry of Human Rights has undertaken a human rights survey on aged persons in Pakistan. A draft bill regarding Senior Citizens' rights is also in advanced stage of legislation.

There is a need to strengthen the important community contributions made by older people through their abilities and resources, such as by engaging them in decision making and other important roles.

I thank you.