



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Umair Shakoor, Assistant Director, during
Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the Working Group on discrimination against
women and girls
53rd HRC Session
22nd June 2023**

Madam Vice President,

We take note of the Working Group's report on gender inequalities of poverty and agree with the contextual framework of the report. The concept that poverty is more than just an outcome of a lack of income or wealth, rather it is the result of a conspicuous and systemic failure leading to a vicious cycle of exclusion and discrimination that violates the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of the people, especially women and girls.

At the global level, the Working Group's focus on the negative impact of international debt on enjoyment of human rights by low- and middle-income countries is both important and timely. This Council must examine why the policies of international financial institutions have resulted in increase in poverty and inequality both between and within nations.

Madam Vice President,

We believe the Working Group's recommendation to international financial institutions to move away from growth-centered strategies to human rights-based approaches deserves serious attention in view of its immense potential to protect rights of women and girls.

Despite several challenges, Pakistan prioritizes protection of rights of women and girls.

The enactment of National Gender Policy Framework in 2022 and social welfare schemes such as Benazir Income Support Program are major policy interventions to protect and promote rights of women and girls.

I thank you!

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