



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Muhammad Hussain, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**20 September 2021**

**Madam President,**

We thank the Independent Expert for his report, highlighting the issues of ageism and discrimination against older persons.

The independent expert has rightly spot-lighted the gap in the contemporary international human rights law explicitly in dealing with discrimination on the basis of age. We would invite his attention towards two key principles of “non-discrimination” and “equality”, reflected in all core human rights covenants. These principles emphasize states’ obligations in upholding human rights of all including older persons through providing access to livelihoods, food, health, shelter and social protection. States are obliged to respond to observations of treaty bodies as well as recommendations of the UPR process related to rights of older persons.

With a strong social system, underpinned by the Islamic principles of respect and care for all, irrespective of age, Pakistan highly values the importance of promoting and protecting rights of older persons. Pakistani society has an inbuilt mechanism of strong family system which provides care to the older people by the younger members of the family. Maintaining this traditional family system remains a priority for the State and society in Pakistan.

Promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights requires integrated measures i.e. legislative, policies and institutional measures. Invariable, the policy and institutional responses are significantly dependent on adequate economic resources and well-equipped machinery. We would invite IE’s views on the co-relation between commitments and constrained outlined above.

I thank you.