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40TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Remarks by Pakistan at Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child -
How children with disabilities can be empowered by realizing their rights,
including the right to education**

March 4, 2019

Mr. President,

We share concerns that children with disabilities are more vulnerable to discrimination both at individual level and societal levels. Pakistan promotes and ensures full and effective inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the community in line with the Islamic teachings and international best practices. A number of stringent measures have been adopted to fully protect their rights.

We believe that education is a powerful tool to empower children with disabilities and protect them from discrimination. Article 25A, introduced in the Constitution of Pakistan through the 18th Amendment, aims at provision of free and compulsory education to all children, including children with disabilities.

Government is ensuring provision of medical rehabilitation, educational, pre-vocational and vocational training facilities, assistive aid and free pick and drop services to educational institutions to children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are provided training in different sports and Pakistani Athletes with disabilities have been participating in the Special Olympics winning gold and silver medals.

Pakistan also shared its experience for developing and implementing inclusive and comprehensive public policies for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, in a side-event on Assistive Technology on the sidelines of WHA last year.

Mr. President,

National Policy for Persons with Disabilities aims for provision of a conducive environment for the realization of the full potential of persons with disabilities including children leading to their empowerment irrespective of caste, creed, colour, race, or religion in all spheres of life including social, economic,

personal and political. The government has established National Commission on the Rights of the Child who is responsible for monitoring the situation rights of the child in the country.

We request the panelist to elaborate how in their view, exchange of international best practices and teacher training, between developed and developing countries can help achieve the common objective of empowerment of children with disabilities.

I thank you.