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

**Statement**

**347<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body of ILO**

**Statement by the Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative  
on behalf of OIC Group of countries  
on Explanation on Vote in ILO Budget GB.347/PFA/1  
(22 March 2023)**

**Madam Chairperson**

Over the past few months we had raised objections to the use of SOGI term in the budget document through our letter. We had also proposed alternate language. Our amendments in this GB Session also provided an avenue for consensus. Sadly it was not the intention of other side to prefer a consensus.

This should not surprise us since SOGI is a term that has become more familiar in academic work and UN discussions in the past decade or so. Use of an appropriate terms to describe sexual orientation has continued to evolve and documents of legal implications cannot be tied to social concepts which are neither universally defined nor accepted and whose societal and medical perspectives vary over time, across regions and where its own subscribers are still evolving their forms of expression.

Under such evolving grounds of perceived discrimination, was it not better to use a language that is legally sound while agreeing that all are entitled to rights and social justice promised under the law.

**Thank you**