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

Statement

347th Session of the Governing Body of ILO

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

Madam Chairperson

On several occasions, the OIC has conveyed specific comments and question on inclusion of the term “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)” in the Program and Budget documents-in terms of its legality, mandate and relevance. We have not heard back on these issues. Perhaps, we may in due course because this could be a continuing issue. In that stride, let me seek some additional clarifications to better understand implications for member states.

Madam Chairperson

May we request the authors of the program & budget document to identify the specific legislative authority and mandate to prepare this document. On what basis they decided to part away from agreed international formulations on discrimination. More importantly, even if it was so decided then on what basis SOGI has been chosen over other emerging forms of discrimination.

Making a special reference to SOGI and no other emerging forms of discrimination is akin to promoting inequality in vulnerable segments, for example those being discriminated due to immigration policies, islamophobia and workers suffering from food insecurity and climate change etc.

Madam Chairperson

In addition, how is it expected that national financial contributions that are approved by national oversight bodies and parliaments of member states **could be based for** objectives that are in contradiction with the laws enacted by these such national parliaments oversight bodies.

Finally, **Madam Chairperson**, develop country based qualitative and quantitative **resources including on SOGI** and advance their position in labour matters. If it remains the wisdom of the authors of program & budget document that they are empowered by an overarching mandate to **trend** such programs that many members states find contradictory to the international law and their own laws, then which legal arrangements will guide the relationship between field offices, implementing partners and the members states, especially if and when it comes to the question of **on the ground legality and immunities and privileges** of those mandated to pursue such programs.

Therefore, we have no option but to express our reservations and reiterate that inclusion of controversial term of SOGI is and shall remain unacceptable to us.

Thank you.