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**Statement made by Pakistan during the review of Tunisia
during the 13th session of the UPR Working Group, 22 May 2012, Geneva**

I thank you Madam President,

We congratulate the Honorable for presenting a comprehensive national report that frankly acknowledges the challenges envisaged by the government in the field of human rights, following the popular revolution of the Tunisian people. Though the challenges are daunting, we believe that the post-revolution phase also provides a set of unique opportunities to remove structural and institutional impediments in the promotion and protection of human rights.

We also take this opportunity to appreciate the role of the Tunisian people in the peaceful and successful transition from dictatorship to democracy.

Madam President

We have noted that Tunisia has ratified a number of international instruments over the past one year. We appreciate the resolve of the leadership to strengthen human rights infrastructure by aligning national legislation with the international human rights instruments. At the same time, we are of the view that ratification process of these instruments must be incremental, thoroughly planned, and be aimed at strengthening capacities of all relevant stakeholders before undertaking new international obligations.

We note with appreciation the resolve of the government to establish an independent judiciary for administration of justice without any discrimination. We believe that an independent judiciary would be instrumental in reaping the fruits of the popular revolution. We are also encouraged to note the resolve of the Tunisian leadership to combat poverty, social disparity, marginalization and exclusion. We recommend that Tunisia start medium and long-term development projects in the underdeveloped regions in order to generate employment and promote national harmony.

In conclusion, Madam President, we wish the people and the Government of Tunisia success in their endeavors to build a democratic and just society. We also call upon the international community to support the national efforts in the democratic transformation.

I thank you.

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