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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

Tel: + 41 22 7330220

Fax: + 41 22 734 4907

Email: info@missionofnamibia.ch

Chemin Louis Dunant, 15

CH -1202, Geneva

Please Check Against Delivery

Statement by Namibia

UPR of Pakistan, 14th Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR,
30 October 2012

Madame President,

Namibia warmly welcomes the delegation of Pakistan to the 14th Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR.

Pakistan's efforts over the last few years to improve the promotion and protection of human rights are commendable. The Government has reviewed its Constitution to advance civil, political and social rights; it has further ratified core international human rights instruments and has actively participated in the Human Rights Council. The establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in Pakistan further highlights the Government's commitment to ensure fundamental rights and freedoms.

Madame President,

Namibia is however concerned about the lack of freedom of religion in practice in Pakistan, particularly amongst minority groups. Namibia recommends that Pakistan repeal discriminatory blasphemy laws against religious minorities and ensure that there is no impunity for those who commit hate crimes.

Namibia condemns the shooting of Malala, the 15 year old activist, and recommends that Pakistan ensure girls' education in all provinces.

Namibia further recommends to Pakistan to abolish the death penalty.

Finally, my delegation wishes Pakistan all success in its UPR implementations.

I thank you Madame President.

All official correspondence should be addressed to the Head of Mission