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Statement by Pakistan for UPR of Denmark

21 January 2016

(24<sup>th</sup> Session of Working Group on UPR)

Mr. President

We would like to thank the Danish delegation for presentation of Denmark's national report on UPR and commend progress made by Denmark since its last review including implementation of various bills to safeguard human rights especially rights of children, persons with disabilities, migrants and asylum-seekers, and rights of women.

We also thank Danish Government for accepting the recommendations made by Pakistan during the First Cycle of UPRs especially to give due consideration to the cultural and religious sensitivities of newly arrived foreigners and migrants when designing social integration policies and programmes. However, we note that little has been achieved.

We note that victims of trafficking are still treated primarily as irregular migrants, and policies and practices still emphasize return of victims to their countries rather than ensuring redress and protection. We also note with concern the increasing negative political discourse on migrants, especially Muslims, which affect them adversely in socio-economic spheres.

We recommend:

- That rampant hate speech on the social media should be monitored and addressed, especially that is directed at Muslims and refugees in public and political debates and manifests in Islamophobia;
- We also recommend that the government should raise awareness in public, regarding the limits and responsibility of freedom of expression, in accordance with international standards urging to take concrete legal and practical measures to combat incitement to religious hatred and intolerance;
- To discourage discrimination against minorities in Denmark, especially Muslims and to take effective measures to promote tolerance and counter attitudes which lead to stereotyping and hate crimes against ethnic and religious minorities.

We once again thank the Danish delegation for a comprehensive presentation and wish them a successful review.

I thank you.