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**Concluding Statement by the Head of Delegation**(28th session of the UPR Working Group)

**13 November 2017, Geneva**

**Mr. President,**

 On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank all delegations for their constructive participation in our UPR.

2. We are pleased with the substantive exchange of views and inputs from the Member and Observer States. I wish to also thank all relevant stakeholders for their contribution through written submissions.

3. We value this frank and useful interaction. Dialogue and cooperation are at the core of advancing the human rights agenda. We are grateful for thoughtful contributions from everyone as these inputs would be useful to further improve our work in the area of human rights.

**Distinguished delegates,**

4. Our delegation has tried to respond to your questions and comments. Due to time constraints, we may not have been able to respond to each and every question. However, we did endeavor to cover all themes and ideas raised from the floor. We will discuss and examine the suggestions with national stakeholders and try to incorporate them, to the extent possible, into our policies and priorities.

5. Protection and promotion of human rights is anchored into our national constitutional framework. We consider the promotion of human rights as a national duty to our people. We also see advancement of this agenda as a means to improving lives and livelihoods of our own people. Making progress in this area is, therefore, in our own national interest.

6. As I mentioned in my opening statement, Pakistan values the UPR process for its objectivity and transparency. UPR’s utility in improving human rights situation on the ground is widely acknowledged. Therefore, the international community, particularly the Human Rights Council must continue to support and strengthen this mechanism, in line with principles and modalities identified in the Institution Building Package. Pakistan stands ready to play its role in this regard.

**Distinguished delegates,**

7. It is gratifying to learn through this dialogue that the international community is cognizant of challenges that Pakistan faces, in particular those emanating from the fight against terrorism. Let me reassure you that these challenges do not deter us from making further strides in the field of human rights in Pakistan.

8. Even as we have made progress at several levels, we are mindful of the implementation challenges. And such challenges are not unique to Pakistan alone. The Government remains committed to promoting the human rights agenda comprehensively. We will do so both by consolidating the progress made and by further improving the implementation framework.

9. Before I conclude, Mr. President, I would like to convey our deep appreciation for your able stewardship of this session. I also wish to thank the Secretariat and interpreters for the support they have extended. I would also like to thank in advance the members of Troika – Egypt, Iraq and Latvia for their support and cooperation in our UPR process.

 **Thank you, Mr. President.**

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