**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**Review of Republic of Pakistan**

**28th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, 13 November 2017**

Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Pakistan and his delegation for the comprehensive presentation of the progress made since its last review in 2012.

Brunei Darussalam commends the broad-based, and inclusive approach taken by the Government of Pakistan in drafting its National Report.

On the right to adequate housing, we note that the growing population of Pakistan has led to a shortage of housing in the country. We therefore welcome the various steps taken by the Government to address this issue such as the Aashiyana Housing Scheme to provide affordable housing for its people.

As a recommendation, Brunei Darussalam encourages Pakistan to continue its efforts to ensure its people have access to affordable housing.

On children’s rights, my delegation welcomes the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict by Pakistan in November last year. We are pleased to note that the Criminal Law Act was amended in 2016 to expand its scope of protection for children.

In this regard, we recommend for Pakistan to continue to adopt measures which would further promote and protect the rights of the child.

As a fellow member of the OIC, Brunei Darussalam greatly appreciates the fundamental role of Pakistan as the coordinator of the OIC on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva.

We wish them a successful review in this Session.

Thank you.

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