**UPR 28, November 13, 2017**

**Recommendations by Canada for Pakistan’s UPR**

Mr. President, Canada thanks Pakistan for its presentation and welcomes its recent accession to the *Hague Convention on Child Abduction*.

Canada recommends that Pakistan:

1. Implement measures to prevent violence, persecution and discrimination on the basis of religion, and in particular prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws by requiring all cases to undergo prior judicial review before charges may proceed.
2. Advance disaggregated data collection and analysis on laws, policies and safeguards for women and girls by fully staffing and funding the National Human Rights Institutions outlined in its *Action Plan for Human Rights.*
3. Bring to justice anyone who threatens, abducts, or attacks human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers or others who work to promote democracy by
4. Legislate a specific definition of torture as recommended by the CAT in June 2017.

Canada is concerned by reports of forced conversions, spurious blasphemy charges, and sectarian attacks against religious minorities. What steps can be taken to further promote freedom of religion in Pakistan?

We further encourage Pakistan to reinforce efforts to promote women’s access to education and health, economic opportunities and political empowerment.

Thank you.