UPR 42, January 30, 2023

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**Pakistan**

**Canada’s Intervention**

Mr. President,

Canada acknowledges the progress made by Pakistan to address human rights concerns and, in particular, welcomes the re-activation of the National Commission for Human Rights.

Canada recommends that Pakistan:

1. Safeguard the independence of the National Commission for Human Rights and ensure that it is empowered and sufficiently funded to perform its mandate, consistent with the Paris Principles and to establish Human Rights Courts as called for under existing legislation.
2. Establish the required Independent Commission under the *Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act* to address violence against journalists, especially women journalists.
3. Ensure the Minority Commission has sufficient minority representation as well as the statutory back-up, to ensure compliance and the execution of its powers.
4. Develop a strong policy and delivery mechanism to ensure the registration of women voters, and protect women voters from violence and disenfranchisement as they cast their ballots.

Approved: OAD, ISBAD HOM/Scanlon, IOD