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**31st session of the UPR Working group**

**Consideration of the UPR Report of Saudi Arabia**

**Statement by Pakistan**

**(November 5, 2018)**

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the delegation of Saudi Arabia and thanks the head of delegation for a comprehensive presentation of their national report.

We are pleased to note that Saud Arabia has promulgated a number of laws and policies to give effect to its human rights obligations and priorities. We commend in particular its efforts to empower women and promote gender equality which have resulted in occupation of several decision-making positions in the public and private sectors by Saudi women.

My delegation recommends the Government of Saudi Arabia to:

1. Expedite efforts for the proposed formulation of its national human rights strategy to protect and promote human rights.
2. Appreciating that the Kingdom deploys all its capabilities and capacities to serve the Two Holy Mosques and millions of pilgrims from all over the world, we call on it to continue its efforts to ensure their protection and wellbeing
3. Provide legal assistance to the victims of human rights violations, especially to the most vulnerable among them, such as women, children, domestic servants and persons with disabilities.

We wish the Government of Saudi Arabia a successful review.

I thank you Mr. President.