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**35th session of the UPR Working group**

**Consideration of the UPR Report of Sweden**

**Statement by Pakistan**

(Monday, January 27, 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan welcomes the delegation of Sweden and thanks them for presentation of their national report.

We appreciate Sweden for achieving a high rate of representation of women in political and public life. However, we are concerned at the insufficient representation of disadvantaged groups of women, including of women belonging to minority groups, those of Roma, Sami, and foreign origin, in decision-making. We are also concerned about continued reports of hate speech, including on the Internet, and racist and xenophobic violence against Muslims, Afro-Swedes, as well as the chronic negative portrayal of Muslims in the media. We also share concerns of the Human Rights Committee about the large number of incidents of religious intolerance, including physical assaults against persons belonging to religious minorities, such as Muslims and Jews, and attacks against their places of worship, and about underreporting of such cases.

My delegation recommends Sweden to:

1. Accelerate efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles;
2. End the gender pay gap and strengthen relevant laws to eliminate discrimination against women in labour market;
3. Add concrete, targeted and measurable actions in its national plan to counter and prevent all forms of racism, discrimination, religious intolerance and violence against minorities; and
4. Investigate and apply appropriate sanctions against people, especially in leadership role, for hate speech, and take the necessary measures to promote tolerance, diversity and inter-cultural dialogue.

We wish Sweden a successful review.

I thank you Madam President.