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Intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“Decade of Action and Delivery of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

Remarks by Pakistan

December 3, 2019

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank you Mr. Chair and the distinguished panelists for an insightful discussion.

Human rights and the 2030 Agenda are mutually reinforcing and international human rights mechanisms have a significant role in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening synergies between the 2030 Agenda and human rights would also ensure better coherence between political commitments and legal obligations.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations rightly observed during the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, and I quote “Every measure to uphold human rights helps deliver sustainable development and peace.” Unquote. But we are still far from where we aim to be. We need dedicated, coordinated and cooperative efforts to implement the SDGs and realizing human rights for all.

Mr. Chairperson,

When our leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they understood that countries are not at the same levels of development. Their capacities and natural circumstances vary. Financing for development, both domestic and international, would continue to remain a key factor in realizing SDGs.

Mr. Chairperson,

The 2030 Agenda endorses primarily structured around the Right to Development. Pakistan believes that in line with the Declaration on the Right to Development, States have the right and duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that work for the well-being of the entire population without any discrimination, through their active, free and meaningful participation in development and ensure the fair distribution of the benefits of development.

Finally, we agree with the panelists that peaceful settlement of conflicts and disputes, particularly inter-state and vital to promoting peace and meeting SDGs. Similarly, regional connectivity projects to promote trade and investment can enable regions lagging behind to catch up to other regions doing well on SDGs.

We would seek views of the panelists on the importance of mainstreaming “dispute settlement” and “regional connectivity” in the SDGs domain, as these aspects are often overlooked.

I thank you.