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## **37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **ITEM 6 UPR Outcomes Pakistan**

19 March 2018

*Speaker: Amock Alikuleti*

Mr. President,

RADDHO welcomes the report of the Working Group on the UPR on Pakistan. We congratulate Pakistan for its engagement in its third cycle review, and for the measures taken in meeting its international human rights obligations, including ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the establishment of human rights institutions in the country.

We note that, despite institutional, legal and policy measures taken to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, the country's democratization process is still faced with a number of challenges. There remains a serious lack of political will to fight against the scourge of terrorism and the prevalence of religious extremism in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The socioeconomic plan of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas is a step in the right direction in what must be a comprehensive effort to fight against the underlying causes of terrorism and religious extremism.

Women and religious minorities have consistently suffered from deep-rooted discrimination in Pakistan. We, therefore, welcome the Hindu Marriage and Christian Marriage Acts, as well as the enactment of Vision 2025 – which aims at ending discrimination against women. These measures highlight the deplorable situation of these marginalized groups, which include the persecution of the Ahmadiyya community as well as Afghan refugees.

Finally, the challenges faced by Pakistan underscore the need for further efforts in the fight against religious intolerance and discrimination & violence against women. In this regard, we encourage Pakistan to continue its cooperation in the fight for an open, secure and inclusive society.

Thank you.