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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Pakistan

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-third session
19 June – 14 July

Mr. President,

The fourth UPR review of Pakistan took place at a time when it is facing an economic crisis, droughts and floods exacerbated by climate change and political volatility. In this context, Amnesty International welcomes Pakistan's support for recommendations on the human rights impact of climate change but we regret its failure to make concrete commitments to prevent other human rights violations.

We urge Pakistan to swiftly implement supported recommendations on climate change,¹ including enhanced social protection programmes, and the urgent adoption of a national heat action plan and adaptation plans.

Mr President,

Despite Pakistan's commitment² to criminalize and end enforced disappearances and hold perpetrators accountable, enforced disappearances of journalists, human rights defenders and critics continue. We urge the government to end the use of enforced disappearances, disclose the whereabouts and fate of the forcibly disappeared, hold suspected perpetrators accountable in fair trials and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Similarly, Pakistan supported recommendations to protect religious minorities,³ and to provide protections and safeguards against blasphemy laws⁴ yet religious minorities continue to face

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendations 46.214 (Malaysia), 46.215 (Maldives), 46.216 (Romania), 46.217 (Sri Lanka), 46. 218 (Timor-Leste), 46.219 (Plurinational State of Bolivia), 46.220 (Islamic Republic of Iran), 46. 221

² Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.117 (United States of America), 46.119 (Estonia), 46.120 (Ireland)

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.93 (Norway), 46.94 (Romania), 46.135 (Sierra Leone), 46.136 (Slovakia), 46.145 (Croatia), 46. 226 (Japan), 46. 326 (Sierra Leone), 46.327 (Turkmenistan), 46. 330 (Egypt)

⁴ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.7 (Germany), 46.48 (Kingdom of

violent attacks and live in fear of accusations of blasphemy that can lead to persecution, prosecution and even the death penalty or murder by vigilante mobs. As such, we are dismayed that the government only noted recommendations to repeal blasphemy laws.⁵

Mr. President,

With essential safeguards in The Protection of Transgender Persons Act 2018 ceasing to be in effect due to a Federal Shariat Court ruling, transgender people are now even more vulnerable to harassment, discrimination, violence and even death. We urge the government to commit to implementing noted recommendations⁶ to protect transgender rights, including by taking urgent steps to stop the reversal of these protections.

Amnesty International welcomes Pakistan's pledge to enact the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021⁷ and to protect women from all forms of violence. This undertaking must translate into concrete action by Pakistan to address the ongoing issue of violence against women. We urge Pakistan to reverse its position and swiftly implement recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁸

Thank you.

the Netherlands), 46.49 (Czechia)

⁵ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.46 (Italy), 46.50 (Poland), 46.51 (United States of America), 46.52 (Greece), 46.53 (Ireland), 46.54 (Spain), 46.58 (Switzerland)

⁶ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.92 (Kingdom of the Netherlands), 46.333 (Mexico), 46.334 (Chile), 46.336 (Iceland)

⁷ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.232 (South Africa), 46.247 (Australia),

⁸ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review- Pakistan, A/HRC/53/13/Add.1*, recommendation 46.27 (Sierra Leone), 46.28 (Montenegro), 46.29 (Colombia, Slovakia), 46.30 (Mexico), 46.31 (South Africa), 46.32 (Argentina), 46.33 (Iceland), 46.34 (Cyprus)