Pakistan, a country rich in history and cultural diversity, recognizes the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of women. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan acknowledges that the issue of women's rights is of utmost significance in achieving sustainable development and social harmony. This position paper outlines Pakistan's stance on key aspects related to women's rights, with a focus on policies, challenges, and commitments to addressing this critical matter.

Pakistan has implemented several policies and initiatives to address women's rights issues. The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal rights to all citizens, regardless of gender. Additionally, the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, is in place to ensure a safe working environment for women. The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is another initiative aimed at empowering women economically through financial assistance. Despite ongoing efforts, challenges persist in fully realizing women's rights in Pakistan. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence and honour killings, remains a concern. Limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities further hinders the empowerment of women. Traditional and cultural norms, at times, impede the effective implementation of gender equality measures.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan remains committed to advancing women's rights and gender equality. To address the challenges mentioned, Pakistan plans to:

* Strengthen legislative frameworks: Continuously review and update existing laws to better protect women from violence and discrimination.
* Improve access to education: Implement initiatives to enhance educational opportunities for girls, focusing on marginalized communities.
* Economic empowerment: Introduce programs to support women in entrepreneurship, job creation, and skill development.
* Raise awareness: Conduct public awareness campaigns to challenge stereotypes and promote a culture of gender equality and respect.

Pakistan is dedicated to creating an inclusive society where women can exercise their rights freely and contribute to the nation's progress. By addressing challenges, strengthening policies, and fostering a culture of equality, Pakistan aims to build a future where women are empowered and their rights are fully realized.

Ayse Defne TURAN

Delegate of Pakistan