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**Draft Statement by Pakistan during an ID with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, 20 June 2012)**

Madam President,

My delegation congratulates Mr. Ben Emmerson for presenting his first report to the Human Rights Council.

In the introduction to his report, the Special Rapporteur spoke eloquently of the human cost of terrorism. Sadly, we, in Pakistan, are only too familiar with this terrible cost. My delegation takes careful note of the key recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to adopt a specific normative framework on the rights of the victims of terrorism. However, we believe that the victims of terrorism ~~are~~ also include those whose human rights were violated as a result of counter terrorism policies or actions and not just those who suffered as a result of terrorist attacks. We would like to the Special Rapporteur to focus on both these categories of victims.

In his report, the Special Rapporteur has made a reference to the obligation of states to ensure that counter terrorism measures are in conformity with international human rights and humanitarian law.

There is a need for a greater focus on this aspect. For example, the use of new technologies such as drones by the United States for targeted killings in counter terrorism operations raise fundamental questions which are of direct consequence to his mandate and need to be addressed by the Special Rapporteur. According to Western sources, more than a 1000 innocent people including women and children, have been killed <sup>in Pakistan</sup> as a result of such attacks but a conspiracy of silence and denial simply labels them as collateral damage.

The former and current Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions have spoken of the practice of targeted killings within the context their mandate. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has raised this issue in her latest report to the Council. Since the Special Rapporteur has been specifically tasked by the Human Rights Council to focus on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, my delegation expects him to look into this and other related violations of human rights in his future.

I thank you.

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