



**National statement delivered Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on
the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while
Countering Terrorism
52nd Session
14 March 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report. We reaffirm that the use of digital technologies in CT activities should be within the parameters of international law including international human rights and humanitarian laws especially the principles of proportionality, distinction and necessity.

The SR has rightly explained the dynamics behind the development and use of highly sophisticated technologies under the pretext of national security and counter-terrorism measures. We share her concerns over the use of biometrics, Artificial Intelligence and surveillance as tools for racial discrimination, profiling, and segregation against migrants and minority communities.

Pakistan was the first country in the Human Rights Council which highlighted the need that use of armed drones should be in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian laws.

Over the years, developments in technology are gradually eroding the necessary element of human control over their design, development and use. There are open-ended questions on transparency and accountability with respect to development and use of these technologies.

The respect for human rights values especially human dignity and privacy should lie at the core of digital technology and their use.

We invite SR to comment on the urgency of developing legally binding instrument to ensure that design, development, deployment and potential use of autonomous weapon systems within the ambit of international law.

We would also like the SR to share her views on the need for a human rights compliant normative framework to guide the design, development, deployment and use of digital technologies especially those related to surveillance, Artificial Intelligence and biometrics so as to mitigate risks.

I thank you.