



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Second Secretary, during the
Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking
water and sanitation
57th HRC Session
16 September 2024**

Madam Vice President,

Pakistan thanks the Special Rapporteur for his insightful report that could provide a thematic basis for a meaningful exchange of ideas, within and among countries, on the subject.

We take note of his assertion that water cycle and climate system be recognized as humanity's common global heritage, on the need for establishing a fair criterion of responsibility and for forging agreements and institutions that allow effective democratic governance.

We see merit in the SR's view that addressing sustainability challenges in use of water for economic uses like irrigation, hydroelectric production, industry and mining and other areas require an integrated approach and ensuring that no one is left behind should be the ultimate goal.

However, the unfortunate ground reality remains that more than two billion people endure situations of water scarcity, not only due to a perennial lack of water availability but because of the increasing impact of climate change.

Climate Change remains one of the major contributors in creating risks for the water ecosystem.

Many countries, and mostly developing countries, are oscillating between spells of drought and high rainfall leading to floods.

It is critical to foster cooperation, especially in protecting rights of populations living across river basins and in lower riparian areas.

Having faced one of the worst climate induced catastrophes, in the recent years, we would request the SR's views on how should international cooperation be strengthened, keeping in view special needs of the developing countries in combatting the negative consequences of climate change.

I thank you!