



**National statement delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, First Secretary, during the Panel Discussion on Climate Change at the 47th session of Human Rights Council**

*Theme: Human Rights of older persons in context of climate change*

**30 June 2021**

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner and the panelists for their insightful remarks.

The negative impact of climate change on human rights of older persons will further increase in scale, as this demographic segment is estimated to represent one sixth of world's population by 2025.

It is, therefore, only reasonable to factor in the special needs of older persons when evolving mitigation and adaptation strategies. We should also explore ways and means to channelize their rich experience and expertise for climate action advocacy.

Madam President,

Today, developing countries are at the forefront of enduring human rights consequences of the climate change. This is despite the fact that these countries produce miniscule amount of greenhouse gases.

Droughts, hurricanes, floods, and resulting human displacement have taken a heavy toll on social fabric and economies of these countries. The COVID-induced socio-economic challenges have also unevenly impacted developing countries, further shrinking the fiscal space to fund policies and projects that protect the vulnerable.

The contagion has particularly made older persons more vulnerable to human rights effects of climate change by disrupting access to food, livelihood, housing, health services and other basic necessities.

This dire state of affairs calls for up-gradation of global cooperation, in the spirit of 'leaving no one behind'.

In recovering better, stronger and more resilient from this pandemic, the global community should focus on fulfilling the human rights and development needs of the marginalized and the vulnerable, including elderly persons.

We, therefore, call for full and effective implementation of the landmark Paris Agreement, as well as mobilization of additional climate financing and technology transfer in support of developing countries' efforts.

Only a coordinated and mutually reinforcing approach can effectively push back against the devastating effects of the twin crises of climate change and COVID pandemic. I thank you.