



**National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during the Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**

14 March 2022

Mr. Vice President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur (SR) for his report.

We appreciate SR's efforts to analyze seeds systems from the human rights perspective and suggesting actions, contributing towards protecting farmers' rights and ensuring realization of rights to food, health and safe, healthy and secure environment.

Considering report's importance and its linkages with discussions at other technical fora, it also needs greater and deeper reflection by the respective national authorities.

We reaffirm the importance of protecting and promoting fundamental rights of farmers without any discrimination and appreciate their significant role in promoting biodiversity, preserving ecosystem and ensuring food security. The availability and supply of quality seeds remain significant for ensuing high quality and yield of crops.

We also recognize the negative impacts of hazardous chemicals and low-quality pesticides on human rights especially rights to health and food. Commercial interests can at times outweigh respect for human rights values.

As an agricultural economy, Pakistan highly values farmers' participation in key decision-making processes related to various facets at federal, provincial and district levels. In each district, there are District Advisory Committees which include representation from farmers community. These Committees regularly provide inputs to ensure provision of quality of seeds and pesticides.

We agree with SR's assessment regarding inequitable production and distribution systems globally. In this regard, we appreciate SR's comments regarding ways and means to address this inequality with the objective to achieve food security.

I thank you.