



National statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during ID with the SR on the right to food

58th session of the UN Human Rights Council

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Madam Vice President,

Pakistan welcomes the Special Rapporteur and thanks him for presenting the mandate's latest report.

Let us also at the outset appreciate the Special Rapporteur's steadfast support to the Palestinian people's dignity, sovereignty over their natural resources, and right to food.

Madam Vice President,

We take note with appreciation of the Special Rapporteur's ambition to see transformative change in food systems at the global and national levels.

My delegation shares the concern that vast improvements in production and distribution in recent decades have not translated into food and nutrition security for far too many in the world.

We echo the conclusion that the progressive realisation of the right to food can neither be a by-product of corporations' pursuit of profit nor a Sisyphean search for productivity at the expense of future generations and the planet itself.

Pakistan has witnessed firsthand the combined effects of rising debt and climate change on food insecurity and nutrition, especially for children who are particularly at risk.

We have responded with a national emergency that encompasses a comprehensive national nutritional program to improve children's health and nutrition. This includes a special focus on less-developed areas through school meals programmes under the pioneering Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

Yet much more needs to be done.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

A new approach to the right to food that gives centre stage to local communities and international solidarity is undeniably appealing for a world in need of solutions.

What, in your experience, are the most major obstacles to realising such transformative change and how to overcome them?

Thank you.