



**National Statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during the Interactive dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy**

61st Session of Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 11 March 2023)

Mr. Vice President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her presentation and take note of her report.

Existing rules on cross border data transfers do not adequately address international collection of personal data, including through tracking technologies such as cookies. The absence of comprehensive global standards enables “data havens” while legal or jurisdictional uncertainty weakens the protection of the right to privacy.

Pakistan continues to review and strengthen the legal and oversight framework on data collection consistent with obligations under the ICCPR. The Government is advancing a Personal Data Protection Bill to govern lawful processing, explicit consent, purpose limitation, breach notification requirements, remedy and accountability.

Mr. Vice President,

In striking the important balance between transparency, privacy and State responsibility, we underscore the following:

Firstly, any global framework for protecting the right to privacy must respect the diversity of legal systems and traditions.

Secondly, it must address and help narrow differences in technical and regulatory capacity among states without causing fragmentation or undermining sovereignty.

In addition to legal standards, investment and international cooperation and technology transfer remain essential to reduce both digital divides within and between states.

Thank you.

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