



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar, First Secretary during
Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on Foreign Debt
HRC 61st Session
5 March 2026**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

Pakistan thanks the Independent Expert for the presentation of her report.

We share the view expressed in the report that international assistance and cooperation are important responsibilities and should be approached as commitments grounded in international frameworks rather than discretionary charity.

Mr. Vice President,

Ongoing wars and rising global uncertainty are hitting developing countries first and hardest, especially through fuel price shocks. These shocks are not inevitable. They are the direct consequence of actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, contrary to the principles of the UN Charter, while others are left to bear the economic fallout.

We remain concerned at the report's conclusion that current international assistance and cooperation arrangements function as instruments of resource extraction, and that developing countries lack an effective forum through which to advance and defend their interests within the international financial architecture.

Mr. Vice President,

In this regard, we would like to inquire:

- a) How does the Independent Expert assess the impact of rising geopolitical tensions and potential disruptions to global energy supply routes on developing countries? What steps could be taken from a human rights perspective to shield them from external shocks arising from such conflicts?
- b) How can international financial institutions integrate human rights safeguards to provide more predictable, counter cyclical support to developing countries during periods of global economic instability?

Thank you