



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Adeel Mumtaz Khokhar, First Secretary, during
the Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Right to Food**

61st Session of Human Rights Council

5 March 2026

Madam Vice President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of the report.

We concur with the report's analysis that the growing commodification and concentration of land is emerging as a major structural driver of hunger and violations of the right to food. It is alarming that just 1 per cent of the world's farms control nearly 70 per cent of global agricultural land, which continues in our view undermines equitable access and sustainable food systems.

Madam Vice President,

The SR rightly reminds us that the land and the water flowing through and around it forms the foundation of life and food systems. This is particularly relevant for agrarian economies, where access to land and water determines livelihoods, resilience, and food security.

For Pakistan, water from transboundary river systems remains the primary source for irrigation and agricultural production and is central to sustaining national food security.

Madam Vice President,

We are alarmed at the observation in the SR's report that, in the State of Palestine, an entrenched system of occupation and apartheid uses land degradation, enclosure and the destruction of agricultural systems as tools of control, including in Gaza as part of a wider strategy of starvation and destruction.

We are deeply dismayed that the continued dispossession of Palestinians from their land and water resources further undermines their ability to sustain food systems and exercise their fundamental rights, including the right to food and the right to self-determination.

Echoing the SR's recommendation on secure and equitable rights over natural resources to promote peace and self-determination, could the SR elaborate on what accountability measures, including sanctions, should apply when these rights are violated?

Thank you