



**General Comments, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, on draft resolution on
New and Emerging Digital Technologies and Human Rights**
53rd HRC Session
14th July 2023

Mr. President,

We thank the core group for their constructive engagement and their willingness to address concerns of various delegations, including ours. This has allowed consensus to emerge, which we are happy to join.

The new digital technologies, like their previous incarnations, represent both immense promise but also perils especially in the context of respect for human rights, dignity and needs.

What is perhaps unique to the new digital technologies, particularly AI, is the pace of their development, deployment and their serious human rights impacts not only in the civil, and political domains but also on the social, economic, cultural and developmental side as well.

We thank the core group for taking on board our proposal to reflect promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. We look forward to greater focus on realization and enjoyment of these rights in the era of growing digital footprint.

We note that the existing normative framework lacks sufficient clarity and tools to ensure that military development and application of AI will be compliant with human rights principles and norms, especially in the context of lethal autonomous weapons.

We therefore underscore, once again, the need to enact effective guardrails through commencement of negotiations on a legal instrument to prohibit those autonomous weapons, without human control and regulate those where human oversight may exist.

We also reiterate the imperative of designing, developing, and using AI based applications by States and non-state actors in full compliance with the existing obligations under international human rights law.

I thank you!