



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during the
Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking
water and sanitation
54th HRC Session
14 September 2023**

Mr. Vice President

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

It is unfortunate that more than 2 billion people are living in situations of water scarcity, not only due to lack of access but also because of increasing toxification of water sources. Toxic chemicals do not naturally break down and thus remain in the environment.

Toxic contamination of water represents a high health risk to affected people and impedes enjoyment of their basic right to health.

As noted by the SR in the report, Climate Change is one of the major contributors in upsetting the water ecosystem. Many countries, and mostly developing countries, are oscillating between spells of drought and high rainfall leading to floods. This adversely impacts water supply and sanitation schemes, thus disrupting supply of safe drinking water for the affected populations, and creating a huge public health crisis.

We thank the SR for underscoring the need for climate change adaptation strategies to avoid degradation of ecosystems. Adopting a human rights approach to this end is critical, especially in protecting rights of populations living across river basins and in lower riparian areas.

We would like to request the SR to share ideas on what specific financing actions may be required to restore health of aquatic ecosystem, keeping in view special needs of the developing countries.

I thank you!