



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during the
Interactive Dialogue on Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all
countries to vaccines
52nd Session
16 March 2023**

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his report on this important subject of ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

With more than 750 million cases and 6.8 million deaths, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a Global Health Emergency.

The report notes that approximately 600,000 deaths could have been prevented globally if all countries had reached 40 per cent primary series vaccination coverage by the end of 2021, if vaccines had been distributed equitably.

Yet many Low-and-Middle-Income Countries are suffering from low vaccination rates, which is a direct consequence of inequitable distribution of vaccines.

Pandemic has exposed the global inequalities and has pushed millions in poverty creating more socio-economic challenges for developing countries.

Pakistan, at different international fora, has been advocating for an Equity-based approach to preventing, preparing, and responding to current and future pandemics.

Developing countries do not have sufficient capacities to manufacture vaccines and therefore transfer of technology and know-how is essential. We echo the High Commissioner's call to step-up vaccination production capacities of the LMCs.

We should all come together in the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation, as no one is safe until everyone is safe. Strengthening preparedness of countries through financial cooperation, capacity building and technology transfer with Equity at the core should be our current and future priority.

I thank you!