



**National statement delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary during Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change at 50<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**23 June 2022**

Mr. President,

We congratulate the SR on his appointment, and take note of his thematic priorities.

Within the scope of these priorities, we encourage the SR to highlight the perspectives, needs and predicaments of developing countries, especially those of Small Island Developing countries. These countries are at the forefront of bearing the human, social and economic cost of climate change, which is not of their own making.

The COVID pandemic has further renewed urgency to bridge the ‘climate divide’ between the global North and the global South. The triple crises of health, economy and climate have constrained fiscal space for developing countries to effectively design and implement mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies. This runs the risk of reversing gains made in combating climate change.

Pakistan has faced real impact of climate change and environmental hazards in the forms of floods, changing patterns of rains, extreme heat and forest fires.

It is also essential and urgent that the SR must robustly use his technical assistance mandate, and mobilize climate financing, and technology transfer for developing countries’ on the basis of the agreed principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’.

Equally important is that the SR should engage in raising awareness and advocacy about addressing scientifically proven drivers of climate change. In this regard, it is important to identify how to involve common people and communities in joint action and best practices at individual or community level. Building better and stronger also requires a reset of fundamentally flawed financial and economic policies, which prioritize wealth over health of people and planet.

Mr. President, we are the cusp of a climate emergency. What we choose to do now will bear inter-generational consequences for protection of human rights and the planet. As supporter of the mandate, we look forward to working closely with the SR and assure him of our constructive engagement.