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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Clustered Interactive Dialogue –Special Rapporteur on Water and
Sanitation and Special Rapporteur on Hazardous wastes

Statement by Pakistan

(9 September 2019)

Mr. President,

We thank both the Special Rapporteurs for the presentation of their reports.

2. Regulation of access to water and sanitation services remains crucial for the developing countries for realization of human rights and Pakistan believes in ensuring that this right is also realized for all. Call to leave no one behind by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a unique prospect for all of us to work together for ensuring that the human rights conditions are improved around the globe.

3. The incumbent government in Pakistan has a people centric agenda and is focused at the management and implementation of a number of national level policies and plans for water, sanitation and hygiene, in close coordination with provincial and local governments and public health engineering departments. The National Drinking Water Policy of 2009, aims to provide access to clean, safe, affordable, sufficient drinking water and reduce inequalities in access to water.

Mr. President,

4. Pakistan reiterates that human rights are universal and everyone has the same right to safe and healthy work, regardless of income, age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion or status. It is the responsibility of the States to ensure, in coordination with all relevant stakeholders especially business enterprises, the protection of workers at elevated social or physiological risks. We thank the

Special Rapporteur for his hard work for elaborating the principles for the protection from hazardous wastes based on already agreed international standards.

5. The risks of harm by hazardous wastes and environment increase many folds in case of vulnerable segments of society especially the migrants, minorities and persons with disabilities. The rights of workers in global supply chains need to be protected. We request the Special Rapporteur to elaborate on possible steps that in his view can be taken for filling the legislative gaps at the international arena in order to provide remedy to the victims and protection from exploitation by companies in cases of transboundary nature.

I thankyou Mr. President.