



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during
Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment
of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**

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Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for presenting the report.

We acknowledge the increasingly important role played by new technology in the field of healthcare, including the artificial intelligence tools.

Digital tools not only play a significant role in educating the public, spreading awareness, providing counsel through telemedicine, symptom recognition, reporting and contact tracing but they can also be effectively used for combatting misinformation against vaccines or stigma attached to certain diseases.

Similarly, widespread deployment of AI tools can assist practitioners in early diagnosis and treatment of several diseases.

However, we share SR's concerns regarding the human rights implications of the application of AI tools and the several risks associated with these technological developments, especially those related to violations of right to privacy and protection of children and women.

AI applications in the area of health must be designed, developed and used in accordance with principles of transparency, accountability and non-discrimination.

In this context we echo SR's concerns regarding the colonial dynamics in the development of modern technology and digital tools. Global south continues to provide access to its genetic resources and digital sequence data without having an adequate benefit sharing mechanism.

There is also a need for bridging the digital divide as it is crucial to combat existing inequalities within and among states.

Lastly, we would like to bring to SR's attention that while we acknowledge everyone's right to enjoy access to healthcare, however, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is not a universally recognized vulnerable group under international law, as depicted in the report.

I thank you!