



**National Statement, at the 2022 Social Forum**  
**Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation**  
**of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–**  
**2028**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

We thank the key-note speakers for their insightful views one of the very pertinent themes that have immense bearing on the rights, needs, and concerns of people and communities, across the globe.

Right of access to water and sanitation is not only a basic human right in itself but a precondition to human life and realization of all other social, economic and political rights. As enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 6, we must aspire to make clean water and sanitation a reality, for all.

Unfortunately, billions of people lack safely managed drinking water and sanitation, globally, despite the constant focus of global human rights machinery and the Declaration on the International Decade for Action.

The need for enhanced international cooperation has become increasingly important and urgent due to the onslaught of climate catastrophes, global warming, rapid population growth and the mounting demand for clean and safe drinking water and sanitation. It is natural that an unpredictable availability of water undermines socio-economic progress, hinders people's livelihoods, impacts social stability and can lead to increased conflicts, especially in the global geopolitical hotspots.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan's challenges in this regard are three-fold.

Firstly, we require a significant volume of clean water for domestic consumption for over 220 million people. Due to lack of access to clean drinking water many children fall victims to diarrhea every year.

Secondly, as an agriculture-based economy, the reliance on water has substantially increased due to the corresponding demand for crops and food. The changing weather patterns and erratic spells of rainy seasons has made it more difficult for farmers to execute plantation and harvesting of their crops.



Thirdly, unprecedented scale of destruction caused by the current climate-induced disaster, in Pakistan, has affected a population of around 33 million. 7.9 million people have been displaced, 2.3 million homes have been destroyed or damaged, and 1731 lives lost. However, even as we have mounted a massive relief and rehabilitation efforts -- with assistance from international partners-- hundreds of thousands of people have lost access to clean water and sanitation that exposes them to diseases such as dengue, malaria, diarrhea and so forth. The onset of winters has further exacerbated the situation for these vulnerable communities.

To conclude, in view of such growing challenges, all over the world, it is time to give the social & economic rights the rightful importance that they deserve. We reiterate that achieving sustainable development necessitates augmented international cooperation and efforts to provide people with safe drinking water and sanitation. Especially, in view of these unfortunate circumstances -- not limited to my country alone -- the developing world needs increased support and assistance from the global community to overcome these heightened challenges.

I thank you!