



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Second Secretary, during
Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights
HRC 55th Session**

7 March 2024

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for presenting her report.

There can be no doubt that science and technology have a critical role to play in the realization of all human rights, including the right to development and the sustainable development goals.

Development must, therefore, be culturally sensitive and self-determined, as well as centred on benefiting the people.

We recognize the transformative potential of science and technology for Pakistan's socioeconomic development and enabling our people's ability to enjoy all human rights.

Mindful also of the risks – both known and unknown – of technological progress, we are also determined to overcome challenges which impede the harnessing of full power of technology, such as the growing digital divide and increasing reluctance to technology transfer.

We see merit in the SR's emphasis on taking a human rights approach to scientific matters. Pakistan remains ready to contribute for strengthening the relevant international legal and normative framework to address challenges, while mitigating against potential risks and adverse impacts.

Mr. President,

This engagement with the mandate comes amid the unending Israeli occupation forces' attacks on the besieged Palestinian civilians.

We commend the Special Rapporteur for joining calls for impressing upon the need for upholding the cultural rights of the people of Palestine, and calling on Israel to cease its brutal assault, occupation and atrocities against the Palestinian people, particularly against their heritage and culture.

I thank you.