



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

National Statement, delivered by Mr. Muhammad Hussain, Counsellor, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Right to Water and Sanitation at 45th session of the Human Rights Council

(15 September 2020)

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report, his hard work throughout the tenure of his mandate¹ and for providing useful guidelines.

As the Special Rapporteur has underlined, the fulfilment of the human rights to water and sanitation cannot be accomplished in a short time frame and is often dependent on the availability and use of resources.

For developing countries in particular, accelerating progress towards access to water and sanitation services remains a challenge due to limited economic resources and fiscal space, which is likely to worsen even further due to COVID-19 economic impacts. Yet, our collective roadmap of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continues to serve as a milestone to work together for doing all we can to realize the right to water and sanitation for all around the globe.

The Government of Pakistan is pursuing a people centric agenda and as part of these efforts we are integrating policies and plans to deal with water, sanitation and hygiene, in close coordination with provincial and local governments and public health engineering departments. The National Drinking Water Policy aims to provide access to clean, safe, affordable, sufficient drinking water and reduce inequalities in access to water.

We would like to ascertain Special Rapporteur assessment of the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on the progressive realisation of the right to water and sanitation, in the decade ahead.

I thank you.

¹ This is sixth year of his mandate (from 2015 to 2020)