



Press Release

**Pakistani Parliamentarians at the United Nations to attend
Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN**

New York – February 13, 2023

A delegation of Pakistani parliamentarians is here at the United Nations to represent the country at the Annual Parliamentary hearing at the United Nations. The delegation is headed by Mr. Zahid Akram Durrani, Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan. The delegation includes Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Sana Jamali, Senator Naseema Ehsan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir and Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman.

During the opening session of the Annual Parliamentary Meeting, Deputy Speaker, Zahid Akram Durrani made an intervention on the access to safe water and hygiene as a basic human need for health and well-being. He emphasized on the need for enhanced cooperation on water as climate change increasingly impacts water availability especially in South Asia.

Regarding Water stress levels, which are considered when water demands of a country exceeds its water supply, Deputy Speaker, Durrani, expressed his concern that “globally water stress levels remained safe at 18.6 per cent in 2019, yet South Asia registered high levels of water stress at over 75 per cent.”

“Pakistan is estimated to be among the top ten water scarce countries in the world,” said Mr. Durrani while emphasizing the multiple risks such as famine, disease, epidemics, migration, inequalities within and between countries, political instability, and natural disasters due to water shortage.

To overcome these challenges, the Deputy Speaker, stated the need for three essential requirements: finance, technology transfer and enhanced international cooperation.

In the second session on access to safe water as a human right, Senator Sana Jamali, during her intervention, made references to the 2010 and 2015 United Nations recognition of the consumptions of safe water as a basic human right in accordance with international law under the Human Rights Council. Ms. Sana Jamali called upon duty bearers and international organizations to aid the developing nations by widening their capacities, providing financial resources, and technology transfer in accessing affordable and safe drinking water as well as improving sanitation and hygienic situations for all.

“In order to fulfill the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation we would highlight three essential requirements: finance, technology transfer and enhanced international cooperation, especially to developing countries,” said Senator Sana Jamali.

The 2023 Annual Parliamentary Meeting is being held from Feb 13 to Feb 14 as a joint initiative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the President of the General Assembly. The conference aims to initiate a global conversation surrounding matters of sustainable development and was divided into two sessions. Session one was entitled SDG 6 as a lynchpin of sustainable development and Session two entitled access to safe water and sanitation as a human right. Welcome remarks were made by: Mr. Csaba Korosi, President of the General Assembly; and Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Later Deputy Speaker, Mr. Zahid Akram Durrani also met President of General Assembly (PGA), Mr. Csaba Korosi on the sidelines of the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.