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The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and with reference to Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working rural areas letter on "Input for HRC and UNGA reports on peasants and other rural workers" dated 12 February 2025, has the honour to attach herewith response of the Government of Pakistan.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic Pakistan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the assurances of its highest consideration.



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Input for HRC and UNGA reports on peasants and other rural workers

1. What are the main challenges facing peasants, small-scale fishers, pastoralists and other people working in rural areas in your country?

5. What are the challenges or violations facing peasants and other people working in rural areas in their exercise of the right to participate in public affairs at the local, national and international level?

8. What policies and measures have been found effective in empowering peasants and other rural communities to participate in decision-making at the local, national or international levels?

One of the main impediments to fair representation and participation in public affairs for people working in rural areas is the misappropriation and denial of their intellectual property rights. This can take the following forms:

- Non-recognition of an agricultural good or genetic resources obtained from rural areas for usage in value-added production such as pharmaceuticals;
- Acquisition of a resource without prior informed consent,
- Copying of the designs, patterns or forms of local crafts, dresses, works of art and other cultural expressions for profiteering; and
- Denial of the right of rural people to a financially adequate and mutually agreed access and benefit sharing regime.

Recognition of the intellectual property rights of rural people and sharing of benefits accruing from the utilization of such intellectual property are essential to improving the quality of life of the concerned communities. In many instances, Indigenous Peoples and local communities assist in the cultivation, harnessing and preservation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge which are later misappropriated by large corporations or businesses abroad. Such instances invariably entail violations of the collective rights acknowledged under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007. Effective measures need to be taken to ensure that the intellectual property rights of people working in rural areas are not only recognized by all states but also protected by them, insofar as their national jurisdictions are concerned.
