

Hisaar Foundation
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Distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues, and fellow advocates for water justice,

It is an honour to represent Hisaar Foundation at this vital global gathering. We gather here not only to assess our progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6 but to chart a bold, inclusive path forward.

At Hisaar Foundation, based in Pakistan, we have long believed that water is more than a resource. It is a lifeline. Yet today, that lifeline is under threat—from the climate crisis, from inequality, and from systems that fail to prioritize justice and inclusion.

First, allow me to reaffirm a core belief that drives our work:

Water justice begins with community leadership.

Those living closest to the crisis are not passive beneficiaries —rural women collecting water, youth and indigenous communities managing water systems are leaders. Innovators and caretakers of ecosystems. We must move to true participation in decision-making.

Second, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss is intensifying water stress and disrupting global systems. We call for an integrated approach—one that brings together WASH services, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience with gender equity and local knowledge.

Third, we must confront a hard truth:

The global water financing system is not reaching the grassroots.

Billions are pledged each year, but we need a fundamental shift—financing must be localised, flexible, and accessible to those building resilience on the ground.

Fourth, we must take gender justice seriously.

Women make up the majority of water users and unpaid water managers across the Global South. If we are to achieve SDG 6, then gender equity must be structurally embedded.

Let us also recognize that we are at a critical juncture. Water governance must honour indigenous expertise, and resist the privatization and commodification of this essential resource.

Finally, the Indus River sustains over 250 million people. But it is at a tipping point. Climate change, glacial melt, mismanagement, and water wars are pushing it to the brink. We urge the international community to recognize the Indus system as a priority for global cooperation.

Let us work together to achieve our goals towards SDG6.

Thank you.