



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd Session of Human Rights Council **Agenda Item-3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Environment** **Statement by Pakistan** **02 March 2020**

Madam President,

My delegation congratulates the Special Rapporteur for compiling international good practices for realization of the right to environment.

As one of the countries vulnerable to climate change with miniscule greenhouse gases emission, Pakistan is fully committed to advancing the realization of the right to environment. As noted by the Special Rapporteur, Pakistan has some good practices to offer in this domain e.g. providing rapid access to clean cooking in households, elaborating legal framework for eliminating discrimination in the provision of water and sanitation services, and upholding the constitutionally protected right to breath clean air by national court.

We are also reflecting on the rich contents of his report in spirit of mutual learning while taking into account our national context and circumstances.

Madam President,

Guided by our Prime Minister's vision of "Green and Clean Pakistan", we are taking several concrete steps in this arena.

The '10 billion tree tsunami', a massive a forestation project with a target to plant 10 billion trees in 05 years, is already underway through active public and civil society participation.

We have launched a comprehensive electric vehicle policy, in order to wean away from polluting transport system. We are proud to announce that last year, we launched the world's first zero emission metro line in Karachi, one of our biggest cities.

In order to fulfill our growing energy needs, we are making a purposeful transition towards renewable energy sources, and are targeting a huge 60% shift towards clean "carbon free" energy by 2030.

We have begun a phased country-wide ban on usage of single-use plastic bags.

Madam President,

We endorse the point made by the Special Rapporteur that we are collectively facing a 'daunting environmental crisis of our own making'. It is, therefore, vital that we think and act beyond short-sighted political and economic interests and join hands in pursuing a sustainable pathway of development.

I thank you.