



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

**National statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during Panel
Discussion on Rights of the Child at the 44th session of the Human
Rights Council**

(1 July 2020)

Madam President,

We thank the panelists for their insightful presentations.

These presentations reinforce earlier studies on the range of harmful impacts of the changing climate, environmental degradation, pollution and toxic wastes on children. These are both immediate and long-term effects on the health, life, education and livelihood of children, among others.

The silver lining is that these impacts, as much as they are devastating, are reversible. But mitigating these risks requires a set of coherent, coordinated and sustained policy response, underpinned by science, political will, enhanced international cooperation and assistance.

Integrated and well-resourced national, regional and global response strategies can help ensure a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, that in turn is necessary for the full enjoyment of human rights. A healthy environment for children must also incorporate conditions of safety, family support, and a childhood free of violence. It is regrettable that millions of children living under illegal occupation are caught in armed conflict, and continue to be deprived of these human rights and conditions.

Madam President,

The international community has a shared responsibility to ensure that all children are provided a clean, healthy, safe and violence free environment, in which they can develop and grow into healthy adults and enjoy all their rights.

We encourage the panelists to also shed light on the impacts of violence and armed conflict on children and on factors that deny them the opportunities to enjoy these rights.

I thank you.