



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

National statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during Panel Discussion on Climate Change and Rights of Persons with Disabilities at 44th session of Human Rights Council

(08 July 2020)

Mr. Vice-President,

We thank the Deputy High Commissioner and the panelists for their insightful reflections.

Even as scientific evidence has enhanced the mutually reinforcing linkages between climate change induced natural disasters and the resultant displacement, there is greater awareness also on their cumulative negative effects on a wide range of human rights, including on persons with disabilities.

We agree that mitigation and adaption strategies in response to climate change should factor in the special needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy and Framework of Action seek to ensure that elderly persons, children and persons with disabilities get special attention during climate induced natural disasters.

Mr. Vice-President,

While developing countries produce miniscule amount of greenhouse gases, they are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Around 90 percent of economic disruption¹, resulting from this global problem, is estimated to be shouldered by developing countries, having a direct bearing on availability of their fiscal space for designing policies and projects to protect vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.

This situation requires enhanced international cooperation, especially mobilization of climate financing and technology transfer for developing countries, as agreed in the Paris agreement.

Mr. Vice-President,

In our discussions on climate change in the Council, we should not lose sight of its developmental dimensions. The right to development provides a firm anchor point on which the Council should build its work in this area.

¹ Climate Vulnerability Monitor Report (2012) Report



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In this connection, we invite the panelists to share views on how realization of the right to development can be conducive for promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change.

I thank you.