



Statement by delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary at the Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

10 March 2022

Mr. President,

We agree with the SR that scaling down pollution and use of toxic substances is essential to protect and promote the human right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment.

We echo Report's sobering findings that middle and low-income countries are bearing the brunt of these 'environmental injustices' due to global structural inequalities, runaway consumerism in wealthy States, and lack of international support to these countries.

More disturbingly, there is a well-established nexus between pollution, production of toxic substances and climate change. By using 10 percent of fossil fuels globally, chemical industries are causing air pollution and emitting more than 3 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually. Without addressing these inter-sectional challenges, achieving the 2030 Agenda as well as targets set under the Paris Agreement will remain a distant dream.

Pakistan is taking numerous legal, administrative and policy measures, with a view to providing a healthy, clean and sustainable environment to its citizens. Under our national Environmental Protection Act, individuals and business enterprises are legally required not to emit or discharge any kind of pollutant. We are also implementing a phased ban on use of plastic bags, thereby reducing industrial demand for toxic substances.

In Rapporteur's views, what concrete options are available to meaningfully scale up international assistance, and technology transfer to developing countries, so that they can enable their people to enjoy a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Thank you.