



National Statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during ID with the SR on cultural rights

61st session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 4 March 2026)

Mr. Vice President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of her report.

Pakistan concurs with the report's premise that biodiversity and cultural diversity are interdependent. We share the Special Rapporteur's view that the protection of nature cannot be pursued at the expense of cultural rights.

Pakistan values our natural biodiversity. Our people cherish the enduring bond between nature and culture. Across our diverse ecosystems, communities have long nurtured and safeguarded natural resources through community led, culturally grounded stewardship practices that sustain ecological balance and resilience.

Mr. Vice President,

We underscore that international cooperation remains essential. Technology transfer, capacity building and predictable financing are critical for developing countries to achieve biodiversity targets in a manner consistent with their human rights obligations and development priorities. **Madam Special Rapporteur**, how best could this be achieved?

Finally, Mr. Vice President, Pakistan reiterates its grave concern over continued attacks aimed at erasing the cultural heritage and local ecosystems of the Palestinian people. Upholding cultural rights of people under foreign occupation is a binding obligation under international law. Protecting these rights assumes greater urgency amidst prospects of cultural erasure and an unfolding genocide.

Thank you.

-end-