

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**6" Session of UN Environment Assembly.**

**(26th February to 1st March, 2024)**

Excellency, Ms. President,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Executive Director (UN Environment),

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all I would like to congratulate the UN Environment, and people of Kenya for hosting the Sixth Session of UN Environment, It is indeed a great opportunity for Member States to bring their local perspectives to discussions at the global level UN Environment Assembly.

Ms. President.

As the focus of forum is on "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution", I want to assure you of our full support in carrying forward the agenda in Pakistan to achieve the environmental dimension of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

Ms. President

Countries transitioning to a green economy necessitate substantial economy-wide structural and technological transformations, or at the very least, the integration of sustainability measures within key sectors including energy, urban infrastructure, transportation, industry, and agriculture. This transition encompasses the adoption of green investments domestically and internationally, the creation of green employment opportunities, and the facilitation of sustainable trade practices.

Ms. President

Pakistan among the top-ten most climate-vulnerable nations, has suffered USD 29.3 billion in climate-related losses (1992-2021), equivalent to 11.1% of the 2020 GDP. The 2022 floods alone incurred an estimated total loss of USD 30 billion. The Ministry's proactive measures are vital to mitigate Pakistan's climate threats, safeguarding the economy and development projects from potential loss and damage. As a responsible member of the international community Pakistan has formulated a comprehensive climate change agenda, which includes several flagship initiatives.

One such initiative is the Green Pakistan Up scaling Programme, the achievements of Green Pakistan Up scaling Programme have garnered acclaim from prestigious organizations such as the World Economic Forum, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Bonn Challenge and other international entities Building upon this success and validated by independent monitoring, the Government of Pakistan has committed to the ambitious goal of planting 10 billion trees nationwide.

This expansive project is anticipated to yield significant dividends in terms of ecosystem preservation mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of random floods, regulation of rainfall patterns, mitigation of droughts, and promotion of biodiversity conservation efforts.

Ms. President

Government of Pakistan has launched The Living Indus Initiative, led by Pakistan in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), represents a concerted effort to sustainably manage and conserve the Indus River ecosystem. The initiative is recognized as the World Restoration Flagship by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This joint initiative involves coordinated actions aimed at addressing various challenges confronting the Indus River, including pollution, habitat degradation, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss. By working closely with UN agencies, governmental bodies, local communities, and non-profit organizations, the Living Indus Initiative endeavors to promote environmental sustainability, bolster ecosystem resilience, and safeguard the ecological integrity of the Indus River basin for present and future generations.

Pakistan's commitment to mitigation, as per the ND C-2021 includes key initiatives in energy management and transition to renewables. The impending carbon market policy reinforces Pakistan's dedication, offering economic incentives for emission reduction projects. In 2021, the global voluntary carbon market surged to \$2 billion, quadrupling its 2020 value. The ongoing momentum anticipates a market size between \$10 billion and \$40 billion by 2030, offering substantial opportunities for Pakistan.

Pakistan finds itself in a position where climate adaptation is not a matter of choice but a necessity due to the profound impacts it faces at ground zero. The country's climate adaptation requirements range between 7 to \$14 billion annually. Consequently, climate-compatible development emerges as an inevitable trajectory, emphasizing the imperative to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change.

In alignment with this imperative, Pakistan is implementing initiative titled "Recharge Pakistan through Integrated Flood Risk Management and Building Resilience to Climate Change through Ecosystem-based Adaptation," This initiative aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change by employing ecosystem-based adaptation strategies. By the year 2030, the project anticipates positively impacting around 10 million vulnerable individuals reducing their exposure to flood risks and facilitating the adoption of climate-resilient livelihoods.

Ms. President

The Pakistan National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was unveiled on 26" July 2023, which outlines a vision for a climate-resilient Pakistan, where communities possess robust socioeconomic and environmental capacities. Together they aim to pursue prosperity, prioritize personal and national well-being, and safeguard ecosystems through inclusive sustainable practices. The primary objective of the NAP is to bolster the sustainable development of vulnerable communities by cultivating social, economic, and environmental resilience. This entails a gradual empowerment process that ensures fair resource allocation, leveraging gender-responsive, participatory, transparent, and socially inclusive approaches. The NAP serves as a comprehensive framework, delineating the fundamental principles, initiatives, and strategies guiding Pakistan's adaptation endeavors.

The Government of Pakistan has taken significant steps to mitigate the environmental impact of the automobile sector and boost the economy. It has approved the National Electric Vehicle Policy, aiming for a 30% transition to electric vehicles by 2030. Additionally, the world's first "zero emissions" metro line project has been initiated in Karachi.

Ms. President

Pakistan, like many other developing nations, grapples with significant environmental issues stemming from rapid economic and population growth. This has strained natural resources, particularly land and water, climatic impacts and environmental degradation.

Efficient management of natural resources, combating deforestation and land degradation, and controlling pollution are paramount concerns to address these challenges, Pakistan has introduced nature base solutions through various projects including tree plantations at national level, Recharge Pakistan Programme and 30 percent transition of transportation to electric vehicles from fossil fuel base. These initiatives would be beneficial for recognizing and leveraging the positive relationship between economic growth and environmental preservation, steering development toward sustainability.

Pakistan's economy presents an opportunity to transition toward sustainable growth by promoting cleaner production methods and encouraging responsible consumption patterns within society.

Ms. President,

Pakistan has consistently taken a leading role in international initiatives aimed at environmental conservation and sustainable development. The government is committed to intensifying efforts to ensure that development activities prioritize environmental considerations.

Through policies, programs, and grassroots interventions, the government is actively working to reduce environmental footprint and enhance resilience against environmental and climatic impacts at national and local level. The devolution of environmental responsibilities to the provinces has empowered them to comprehensively address conservation agendas.

This political will towards environmental sustainability is also evident in the renewable energy sector, where the government is keen on leveraging the country's abundant wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear energy resources. Over 365 small run-of-the-river hydro projects have been established in the northern regions, providing access to off-grid and affordable "zero carbon" electricity.

These initiatives reflect a transformative shift towards a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for Pakistan, aimed at reducing emissions and fostering sustainable development. Achieving our ambitions will be challenging but feasible, requiring collective effort from all stakeholders.

The contributions to and effects of climate change are by no means evenly distributed around the world. Prosperous countries are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, particularly through transportation and energy production, whereas the impacts of climate change are frequently felt more strongly in developing countries which may have less ability to respond to the changes. The gravity of change also differs geographically with Polar Regions experiencing the greatest amount of change in the physical environment. It is important for all governments and stakeholders to understand and assess the financial needs of developing countries, as well as to understand how these financial resources can be mobilized. Provision of resources should also aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation.

I hope UN Assembly will advocate the case of developing and vulnerable nations for the provision of financial and technological support and engage the regional and international agencies and developed countries for the successful implementation of initiatives of developing countries to address the impacts of climate change in their respective geographies.

Pakistan, on its part, is ready to make its contribution

I thank you.