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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Union of Northwest Human Rights Organisation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Climate Change: Impacts and Disasters

The effects that have occurred on the planet due to climate change for the last few decades, these effects have forced man to think that man is actually digging his own grave by polluting the environment. Because apparently no matter how much progress we see in today's modern world, its drivers are somehow affecting the environment around us. All the developed countries in the world are engaged in tampering with nature by polluting the atmosphere of the world due to carbon emissions. The latest example of which is the recent flood in Pakistan, due to which Sindh has been affected the most. The rehabilitation of the people of Sindh affected by this flood has not been possible yet.

But the question arises, can environmental destruction be prevented through seminars, debates and talk shows? Or does it require some other strategy. But what might that strategy be? The United States of America, China and European countries have been contributing to environmental destruction for years. In a developing country like Pakistan, there are neither so many factories nor any big industry, but directly or indirectly, we are constantly suffering from environmental destruction.

Climate change is not only a process that increases the pollution in the air but it also affects human health and psychology and we ignore these effects. According to a report, climate change will change the way we live, causing water scarcity and making it difficult to produce food. Some regions may become dangerously hot and others may become uninhabitable due to sea level rise.

Extreme weather events such as heat waves, rains and storms will become more frequent and intensify, threatening people's lives and livelihoods. Citizens of poorer countries are less likely to adapt and will suffer the most. Polar ice and glaciers are melting rapidly. Low-lying coastal areas as well as seas are prone to flooding.

When frozen ground melts in places like Siberia, methane, a greenhouse gas, is released into the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change. Weather conditions favorable to wildfires are increasing. In addition, in countries where deforestation continues, the environment is likely to be severely affected. Because when forests are cut down, the entire ecosystem is affected, from birds to birds.

When trees are cut down, human life and other creatures lose a large supply of oxygen. So we are making the environment favorable for carbon by this process. In a country like Pakistan, which does not even have 5% forests, it is not surprising that the rains are more than normal in these conditions, because we are inviting natural calamities to come and beat. Recently, COP 27 was held in Egypt, the main objective of which was to improve the environment of the world or how to avoid the deteriorating effects of the environment. The meeting was attended by the countries of the world and it was decided to pay compensation to Pakistan in connection with the recent flood disaster. But more importantly, isn't it better that the aid we release after any disaster be used to prevent disaster when the likelihood of disaster increases?

Many countries of the world, including Pakistan, are ready to spend billions of dollars after disasters caused by the destruction of the environment, but even a quarter of the billions of dollars is spent on raising awareness about environmental destruction, planting forests, protecting other life. If spent for, we can avoid a huge disaster.

Polar ice and glaciers are melting rapidly these days. Low-lying coastal areas as well as oceans are at risk of flooding. When frozen ground melts in places like Siberia, methane gas is released into the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change. There is a fire. Wildfires will cause some animal species to move to new areas, but climate change is happening so fast that many species are likely to become extinct. Polar bears are at risk of disappearing as the ice on which they depend is rapidly melting.

In the race of material development, human beings have forgotten that by tampering with the environment and nature, they have made destruction available for themselves. But it is possible to avoid this catastrophe and it can only happen if we increase the environment friendly activities and try to understand the importance of environment and succeed in

explaining it to every citizen. If this is not done, we will be leading to the end of the world by further worsening the deteriorating environment.
