

India's right of reply in response to Pakistan's statement at 4th UN Environment Assembly

Delivered by Shri Rahul Chhabra, PR to UNEP on 15th March, 2019 in Nairobi

I have come here again in front of you to respond to misguided and improper allegations of Pakistan against India.

It is unfortunate that Pakistan delegation has misused this forum and wasted the time on matters not relevant. But to put things in perspective, it is important that Pakistan delegate needs to come out of denial of Pakistan state complicity in cross border terrorism. It would be important for them to not pollute the regional environment with insecurity by breeding terrorists and providing terrorists shelter in territories under their control. They should take credible, verifiable and irreversible action against terrorism, rather than trying to deflect global attention from their complicity in state sponsorship of terrorism.

We strongly believe that this is not the forum to discuss political issues which do not deal with concerns of environment. Hence, we strongly object to the raising of the issue of airstrike by India in Pakistan. The fact remains that non-military, pre-emptive and counter-terrorism airstrike by India was specifically targeted against a terrorist training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammad, a UN proscribed terrorist organisation.

The airstrike by India in Balakot in Pakistan was a precision and accurate strike directed at terrorists located in a terrorist training camp and the strike was not aimed at any environmental damage.

We strongly believe that non-relevant issues which have no connection with environment should not be mentioned and discussed here.

India expects Government of Pakistan to take immediate and strong action against Jaish-e-Mohammad and other terrorist groups operating from their soil and territory under their control. India no longer expects token actions.

We expect international community to urge Pakistan to take immediate and concrete action to deal with terrorism emanating from their soil by implementing its solemn promise made to India in 2004 that it will not allow its soil or territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India. We expect Pakistan to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism and bring the perpetrators to justice and live upto its Public commitment.

We assure you of our sincere desire for normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an atmosphere free from terror.