



Statement by  
**Quadrilateral Group**  
**(Austria, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland)**  
at the  
**43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment**

*Geneva, 2 March 2020*

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Madam President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Slovenia.

Mr Boyd,

In the first report of your mandate, it was emphasized that the rights understood to be related to environmental protection are late arrivals to the body of human rights law and. Yet, as the time passed by, we began to understand that a sustainable environment is a necessary precondition for the enjoyment of multiple human rights. We must do everything to preserve it. Conversely, we learned that the respect of human rights contributes to better environmental policies.

We would like to welcome your report on the good practices. The report addresses on several aspects of the right, ranging from legal recognition to procedural and substantive elements. In the times of complex crisis situations and bad news at the forefront of our media and social media platforms, it is essential to promote good practices.

The group is committed to the engagement in the discussion of a possible global recognition of the right to a healthy environment. We warmly welcome the support assured by the Secretary General and other representatives of the UN at the opening of this session.

Mr. Boyd, how can the global recognition of a right to a healthy environment contribute to better environmental policies and their implementation?

Thank you.