



Press Release

Pakistan is a litmus test for climate justice: UN Secretary General

UN Secretary General shares an oral update with UNGA on Pakistan flood

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Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, has called upon the developed countries to deliver the \$100 billion US dollars, and double climate finance for adaptation and resilience to help climate vulnerable countries like Pakistan. He said that developing countries need to be enabled to access finance, debt relief and concessional funding to cope with the challenge of climate change.

The UN Secretary General made these remarks while sharing an oral update with an informal meeting of UNGA on Pakistan floods in pursuance to the Resolution 77/1 on progress, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention passed by UNGA in October last year.

Recalling his visit to Pakistan in September 2022, Mr. Guterres said, “I will never forget the climate-related carnage I saw. Lives, homes, livelihoods, schools, hospitals – all obliterated. And I will never forget the stories I heard – particularly from women and men who abandoned their own homes and possessions to save their neighbours from the rising waters.”

The UN Secretary General described in detail the losses suffered by Pakistan due to unprecedented floods. He drew the attention of the member countries to the post-floods economic, reconstruction, and rehabilitation challenges. He said while Pakistan’s economy was in tatters and food price inflation estimated at about 40, “the floods devastated agriculture, raising prices and reducing incomes. Some eight million additional people have been pushed into poverty; millions more have been forced to move in search of work.”

Throwing light on the flash floods appeal under which the UN sought \$816 million US dollars for immediate aid and protection, the Secretary General said that the appeal was now 69 per cent funded. Talking about the Resilient Pakistan Conference held in Geneva early this year, he said that “billions were pledged – but the vast majority was in loans. Pakistan is still waiting for much of the funding, and

delays are undermining people’s efforts to rebuild their lives.” He called on the donors and international financial institutions to fulfill their commitments to help Pakistan rebuild itself according to the 4RF Plan.

The Secretary General said, “Pakistan needs and deserves massive support from the international community. The country is responsible for less than 1 percent of greenhouse gases – but its people are 15 times more likely to die from climate-related impacts than people elsewhere. Pakistan is a double victim – of climate chaos, and of our outdated and unjust global financial system that prevents middle-income countries from accessing much-needed resources to invest in adaptation and resilience.”

Mr. Guterres said that the world needed to act fast to address the climate challenge, stating that Pakistan was a “chronicle of climate chaos foretold”. He said that Pakistan was a ‘litmus test for climate justice’. He said the countries that were contributing the most to global heating must show responsibility by contributing the most to righting the harm they had done.

The Secretary General also called for early operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund so that the climate vulnerable countries like Pakistan could access grant-based finance without adding to their debt profile.

In his speech on the occasion, UN General Assembly President Mr. Dennis Francis urged the international community to “stand united shoulder to shoulder firmly grounded in our resolute commitment to Pakistan and in our global struggle against the daunting and worsening impacts of climate change.”

In his statement to the informal meeting of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, said that Pakistan had formulated a

comprehensive long-term National Adaptation Plan in collaboration with all stakeholders including the UN to fight the menace of climate change in an institutional manner.

Ambassador Akram termed the response to the 4RF Plan at the Geneva Conference last January, as most encouraging. He said that against the pledges of \$10.9 billion, \$6.9 billion, or around 60%, had been received, adding that the projects for \$4.74 billion (68%) have been approved for implementation, while another \$1.9 billion (28%) were in the pipeline. He said that Pakistan, in accordance with its commitment, also allocated \$2.7 billion in domestic resources in its current fiscal year budget (2023-2024).

Ambassador Akram thanked the international community, particularly friendly countries, UN organizations and development partners for their consistent support to Pakistan during the rescue, relief, rehabilitation phases. He also expressed his special gratitude to the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for standing by the people of Pakistan during one of the most devastating catastrophes in history. He also thanked Mr. Dennis Francis, President of General Assembly, for convening the informal session for an oral update on the Pakistan floods.

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme, Ms. Catherine Russel, Executive Director of UNICEF and Ms. Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs briefed the participants of the informal meeting about the work of their respective organizations in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Distinguished representatives of the European Union, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, China, Denmark, Turkiye, Japan, UAE, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, and Sierra Leone also shared their views on the occasion and expressed their solidarity with the government and the people of Pakistan.