



Press Release

Pakistan hopes 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees will be repatriated soon under the UN funded plan

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Pakistan has said that while the majority of the refugees and displaced persons have been hosted by developing countries, the principle of the burden-sharing has been missing.

Pakistan said that it hosted over 5 million Afghan refugees for over 40 years; with 1.4 million registered refugees, another one million unregistered and thousands entirely undocumented still living in the country.

Making a statement in the ECOSOC during the Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2024 today, Ambassador Munir Akram, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, hoped that 1.4 million registered refugees will be repatriated soon under the UN-funded plan, as promised years ago, in the wake of the conflict in Afghanistan having come to an end.

He made it clear that Pakistan will apply its laws regarding all the aliens who are illegally settled in the country.

Ambassador Akram stressed that the increasing humanitarian crises are largely driven by climate change. He underlined the importance of early warning systems to mitigate the impact of climate disasters.

"Following the 2022 floods, Pakistan has developed capabilities to predict disasters up to 10 months in advance, with projections across all domains. We have launched a specific NDMA app for public guidance and are prepared to share our low-cost models for global application," he said.

The Pakistan Ambassador to the UN reiterated the need for increased humanitarian and climate finance, citing the Loss and Damage Fund, for which \$800 million were initially pledged, but which he said requires significantly more funding.

He also emphasized the importance of the Charter on Finance for Managing Risks, launched at CoP28, and the need for policy coherence between climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian response frameworks.

Referring to Pakistan's Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Plan (4RF) post-2022 floods, Ambassador Akram noted that while pledges of \$10.9 billion were made by the international community, only

\$6.5 billion has been realized, leaving \$4.4 billion pending and the resilience component unfunded.

Ambassador Akram cited the United Nations Secretary-General's report (document A/79/78), which recorded nearly 400 disastrous events in 2023, resulting in 86,457 deaths, affecting 93 million people, and causing \$207 billion in economic damages.

He commended the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its partners for their response under challenging circumstances but noted a chronic funding gap that has increased by 16%. He urged member states to establish mechanisms for adequate, predictable, and timely funding.

The Pakistan UN Ambassador called for an integrated approach involving peace enforcement, peacekeeping, and peace-building to address the root causes of conflicts.

Highlighting the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and violations of international humanitarian law, he demanded accountability for war crimes and genocide through appropriate judicial mechanisms to end impunity granted to Israel.