



**Statement of Introduction by Deputy Permanent
Representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Mohammad Aamir
Khan for draft resolution “International cooperation on
humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from
relief to development” under Agenda Item 69
(06 December 2022)**

I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/77/L.35, entitled “International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development” on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

2. The Group would like to thank the delegation of Bangladesh for facilitating and coordinating the negotiations of the draft resolution on behalf of the Group.

Mr. President,

3. As we present the draft resolution this year, the Group of 77 and China continues to reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in providing assistance to countries and peoples affected by natural disasters, in accordance with the landmark General Assembly Resolution 46/182 and the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system.

4. The resolution recognizes the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and the need to ensure smooth transition between these three stages. It emphasizes that emergency assistance must support short and medium-term recoveries, leading to long-term development for the affected countries and peoples.

5. This year the resolution has introduced certain new substantive paragraphs [1] which we believe will further strengthen the humanitarian system in its prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts, and help minimize the loss of lives and other material damages caused by natural disasters. Allow me to share few highlights of this year’s focus in the resolution:

- i. **First,** the draft resolution encourages efforts to identify and systematically apply lessons learned and best practices to ensure improved humanitarian system-wide response; investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of natural disasters; increased efforts to prevent famine, food insecurity and malnutrition related to natural disasters and also incorporate mental health and psychosocial support services into disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

ii. **Second**, the text before us underlines the importance of taking early action with a view to minimize and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and in this regard, enhances its focus on increased localization of disaster preparedness.

iii. **Third**, the resolution stresses on the engagement of affected people and local communities in disaster preparedness and response. The Member States have been urged to increase contribution to the Central Emergency Response Fund and humanitarian country-based and regional pooled funds for strengthening early and rapid response.

iv. **Fourth**, in recognition of the close linkages between climate change and natural disasters, the resolution refers to the importance of enhanced access to international climate finance to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. It also recognizes the special financing needs of the countries faced with compound risks caused by humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters and climate change;

v. **Fifth**, stronger partnerships have been encouraged among national disaster management agencies and regional organizations, in accordance with their mandate to build, reinforce and complement their capacities, including through improved data sharing and interoperability.

We deeply appreciate the constructive engagement and great flexibility of all the Member States during the negotiations, which lead to the agreement on a range of substantive proposals introduced in the resolution this year.

We look forward to consensus adoption of the resolution and hope that it will, as in previous years, receive a large number of co-sponsors. We thank the delegations who already cosponsored the resolution and invite the remaining delegations to join the list of cosponsors.

[1] Apart from the technical updates there has been 10 new substantive paragraphs introduced in the resolution this year and 3 existing paragraphs have been updated with new languages.