



**Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent  
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at  
Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2024 on  
“Putting humanity first in the face of conflicts and climate  
change: strengthening humanitarian assistance and respect for  
international humanitarian law, and promoting effectiveness,  
innovation and partnerships”**

**(25 June 2024, ECOSCO Chamber)**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

The Secretary-General's report in document A/79/78 makes for a somber reading. Almost 400 disastrous events were recorded in 2023 killing 86,457 people, affecting 93 million and causing \$207 billion in economic damages.

2. The world's humanitarian crisis is caused by the growing impacts of climate change, proliferating conflicts, and the accompanying violations of international humanitarian law.

3. The UN, especially OCHA and its agencies and other partners, have responded admirably in the most difficult circumstances. However, OCHA and other humanitarian agencies confront a chronic funding gap. The funding gap has increased by 16%. The UN and its partners require over \$40 billion to assist 180 million people.

4. We, the Member States, need to devise effective mechanisms for adequate, predictable and timely funding to respond to multiple and complex emergencies. The Central Emergency Response Fund has proved invaluable during the early phases of humanitarian crisis, including the 2022 floods in Pakistan. It must be fully financed in response to OCHA's projections.

5. The increasingly frequent and ferocious impacts of climate change make the availability of humanitarian and climate finance imperative. The Loss and Damage Fund will require far more funding than the \$800 million pledged initially. We have welcomed the Charter on Finance for Managing Risks launched at CoP28. Further, we need to promote policy coherence between climate change adaptation and integration, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response frameworks.

6. Following the floods, Pakistan formulated the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Plan (the 4RF) which received total pledges of \$10.9 billion of this; \$6.5 billion have been realized. \$4.4 billion have yet to be realized. The resilience compound of the Plan still remains to be funded.

7. Early warning systems are critical to predict and ameliorate the impacts of climate related disasters. In Pakistan, following the 2022 floods, we have developed capabilities to predict disasters, up to 10 months in advance, with projections in all domains. A specific NDMA app has been launched for guidance to the entire population. Pakistan is prepared to share our comprehensive low-cost models for global application.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. Most of the man-made disasters are caused by internal and cross-border conflicts as outlined in the SG's report. Humanitarian assistance in response to such crises must be accompanied by resolute efforts to address the root causes of these conflicts and establish durable peace. This will require an integrated approach encompassing, peace enforcement, peacekeeping, and peace-building, and conflict resolution, with appropriate roles for the UN, regional organizations and other relevant actions.

9. Human suffering in such disasters has been amplified by the wanton violation of international humanitarian law. We have seen the worst illustration of this in the genocidal Gaza war, which must be stopped immediately. Those who violate international humanitarian law; those who commit war crimes; those responsible for genocide, must be held accountable, including through appropriate judicial mechanisms. This is the best way to end impunity.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. Finally, a word about refugees and displaced persons. Most of these are hosted in developing countries. The principle of burden-sharing is absent. Pakistan has hosted over 5 million Afghan refugees over 40 years. Even today, we have over 1.4 million registered refugees, another 1 million unregistered and thousands who are entirely un-documented. Pakistan will apply its laws regarding all aliens who are illegally in the country. We also hope that now that conflict has ended in Afghanistan, the 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees will be repatriated soon under a fully funded UN Plan, as promised years ago.

**I thank you.**