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Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the joint launch of UN 2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan

Geneva, 30 August 2022

Honourable Ministers,
Chairman National Disaster Management Authority,
High Commissioner for Refugees,
UN Resident Coordinator,
Under Secretary General for IFRC,
Director OCHA,
Excellencies and dear colleagues.

I want to begin by thanking you all here in Geneva for making the time and for attending this briefing.

On behalf of the Pakistan Mission in Geneva, I would like to echo our gratitude to the UN Country Team in Islamabad and OCHA Office in Geneva. Thank you so much for all your support in putting this briefing together.

We have just heard an overview of the unprecedented natural calamity, its human impact; the damage and needs assessment, the scale of loss of lives, livelihoods, livestock and infrastructure. The UN Secretary General has aptly described the situation as “monsoon on steroids”.

From Geneva’s vantage point, all that we work on a daily basis has been deeply affected in Pakistan, ranging from people’s access to food, housing, work, education, telecommunications, infrastructure, the environment and human displacement.

What has happened is more than just a humanitarian crisis. And today’s appeal in many ways is a call to action.

Just in the past few years, floods have hit almost all regions globally. From floods in Germany and Belgium during the same time period last year, to the recent floods in Sudan, Australia and the United States. All of them have claimed precious human

lives and caused extensive damage. In almost all cases, these extreme floods have been preceded by extreme heat waves.

The pattern is clear here. The scientific evidence points to one fact: Climate Change has exacerbated these extreme weather events. The monsoon rains in Pakistan this year have been around 90 percent heavier than the average downpour.

Developing countries have been trying to balance their climate commitments and development needs for a long time now. However, one such calamity erodes years of work.

Our common future will be determined by what we do. It is clear none of us can afford to delay actions that are critical to our survival or wait until disasters arrive at our doorsteps. An early and meaningful collective action on climate change is indispensable.

In terms of the appeal and follow up, Pakistan Mission in Geneva remains at your disposal for any additional information or clarification.

Thank you once again for your presence here today.
