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**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN  
Geneva**

**Statement**

**Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the Substantive Session of  
ECOSOC 2019 June 24-26, 2019**

**“Promoting action to save lives, reaching those in need and  
reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking  
towards the seventieth anniversary of Geneva Conventions of 12  
August, 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary  
General”**

**Statement by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Anrabi, Acting  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank you and other members of the bureau for organizing the Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) of the substantive session of ECOSOC.

We hope that our deliberations in the General Debate as well as during the Panel Discussions would lead to concrete conclusions that will help the UN System humanitarian assistance, reach those in need and help minimize the impact of climate related disasters.

This year's theme of the Segment is very pertinent in the context of rise in the people in need of our assistance, and innumerable human and economic losses caused by climate induced disasters in recent years. The challenge to respond in a timely and predictable manner to humanitarian emergencies and disasters, especially for the UN system, is becoming more and more challenging. Secretary General's Climate Summit is very timely.

The Geneva Conventions have proved their worth during last seventy years. New technologies and techniques have placed stress on the humanitarian law. Therefore, we may reinforce our respect for International Humanitarian Law, and evolve consensus to address the challenges posed by modern times.

**Mr. President,**

We reiterate our commitment and full support for the guidelines contained in the annex to the GA resolution 46/182 of 16 December 1991 as the framework for the provision of UN humanitarian assistance. The principles, of neutrality, humanity and impartiality, should remain the basis of all responses to humanitarian emergencies.

We also reaffirm the primary role of the concerned State in the initiation, identification, coordination and delivery of such humanitarian assistance. Access of humanitarian personnel to the population in need is greatly linked with effective and timely coordination with national and local authorities present at the ground.

Timely, predictable and quality financing is important for UN humanitarian response. CERF has played useful role. Here, we would like to emphasize that humanitarian financing should be mobilized on the basis of fundamental humanitarian norms. Innovative instruments might not deviate from these principles.

**Mr. President,**

Today, natural disasters aggravated by the climate change affect more people in the world than humanitarian emergencies caused by conflicts or internal strife. As the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance are increasing, there is need to match action.

Pakistan has suffered from various natural disasters. We continue to be among the countries most impacted by climate change. We have come a long way in terms of policy development, institutional capacity building, coordination, coherence, and strengthening our response capacity. Since developing a National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy in 2013, we never rested, and kept on updating our levels of preparedness. Recently, we had launched our National Disaster Response Plan 2019 with a view to improving our level of preparedness and strengthen the capacity of the

country to respond. We have strengthened the response capacity of our institutions at the national, provincial and at the local/district level.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of Pakistan, with the support of UN, is effectively addressing the challenges.

Pakistan continues to host Afghan refugees for the last forty years, which stand around 3 million. We have provided them protection and invested in building human capital by provided access to education, health and livelihood. We have protected their human rights by registering around 900,000 Afghans in last two years, and allowed them to open bank accounts to live a life of self-reliance.

**Mr. President,**

Togather with UN system, and international community, we are playing our part to reach those, most in need. We will continue to do our part of responsibility. We call for concerted efforts for prevention, and preparedness, to minimize losses.

We believe in worth of multilateral system and UN. We deeply appreciate the work done by its humanitarian arm. We shall continue to support strengthening the role of ECOSOC in humanitarian coordination and supervision.

**I thank you.**