

(Statement by Minister for States and Frontiers Regions, Lt. General Abdul Quadir Baloch on behalf of the Government of Pakistan: Announcement Plenary)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here in this beautiful city of Istanbul at the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, and I congratulate the Turkish government for making meticulous arrangements for this Conference and extending traditional Turkish hospitality.

This Summit is taking place amidst an unprecedented global humanitarian situation. We are witnessing complex crises, which are impacting millions, including women and children, young and old and triggering exodus of refugees and migrants. The root causes of these crises vary from new and old conflicts, wars, persecution and human rights violations, to devastation caused by natural disasters and the impact of climate change. People and communities have been left exposed more than ever before.

Today is, therefore, the time to reaffirm first of all, our faith in paramount principles that underline humanitarian action. We recommit to the centrality and continued relevance of UNGA Resolution 46/182 of December 1991. We also reaffirm our strong determination to try to find better ways of resolving conflicts, of improving emergency response, and of learning from each other the best ways of prevention, assistance and protection.

I wish to commend Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for bringing humanitarian action firmly on the political radar. The Secretary-General has also set the “Agenda for Humanity” through identification of five “Core Responsibilities” considered to be critical for the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

When we speak at this forum, we do so with knowledge and firsthand experience of relevant issues and challenges – be that as the host of the largest protracted refugee situation in the world, or a country that has shown remarkable resilience in responding to natural disasters, while at the same time building national capacities for risk reduction and management. Besides, whenever possible, we have been extending humanitarian assistance and support to others to the best of our ability and resources. Our support for Nepal is a recent example.

My delegation would like to stress the need for common but differentiated responsibilities in responding to humanitarian crises. While UN should strive for effective and efficient humanitarian action, it should also make efforts to resolve conflicts. Different circumstances, needs and peculiarities of different cultures and situations must be recognized while developing response mechanisms. We must ensure that distinctions between development and humanitarian action are not blurred as it will further exacerbate the situation of countries facing such crises. We should not conflate refugees with IDPs, or migrants with refugees. Institutional arrangements for refugees at the UN should be further strengthened. Role of the states must neither be diminished nor replaced. Rather, states should be helped proactively to further build their capacities.

Mr. Chairman,

We stand ready to continue working together with States and other stakeholders towards these goals. We commit to the objectives and purposes of the UN Charter for pacific settlement of disputes and conflicts. We commit to achieve resolution of longstanding disputes, particularly those on the agenda of Security Council, for durable peace and security in the world. We have also been one of the largest contributors of United Nations Peacekeeping troops, and our troops have sacrificed their lives for the cause of humanity.

We have hosted millions of Afghans for the past four decades. We commit to work for early repatriation of the 3 million Afghans who are still in Pakistan. We must also

commit to ensure that protracted refugee situations are neither neglected nor ignored, and are given adequate attention and resources by the international community alongside the new crises. A big chunk of humanitarian aid and financial assistance is being diverted towards the crisis in Europe today. But this should not come at the expense of neglecting other refugee situations. This is a cause of concern for us.

Burden sharing mechanism for refugee hosting countries should be a key priority. Pakistan commits to work for finding equitable burden sharing mechanisms for refugee hosting nations. The international community must do more to alleviate socio-economic burden on refugee hosting countries by finding new and additional ways.

Mr. Chairman,

We see prevention as one of the keys to disaster risk reduction. Pakistan recognizes global warming and climate change as priority areas for effective action. While Pakistan is committed to cope with the negative fallout of climate change, it considers availability of adequate finance as the core of the battle to confront the adverse impacts of climate change.

Pakistan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Natural disasters have negatively impacted our socio-economic development. Ever since, the devastating earthquake of 2005, and the floods in 2010 and 2011, Pakistan has put in place an effective disaster management infrastructure that focuses on resilience and risk management. Our National Disaster Management Authority, as a lead entity, has done well to respond to calamitous events in the country.

We are integrating gender perspective in disaster response policies. We also commit to empower women and girls as leaders and agents of change. Pakistan is further committed to enhance its national capacities for Disaster Risk Management and to proactively

contribute in this regard at regional forums, especially Heart of Asia (Istanbul Process) in the realm of CBMs on disaster management.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2016 is the year of possibilities for global humanitarian system. The decisions we make this year will shape the course of the world for a long time. Here at Istanbul, we are called upon to take the first, crucial step. By bridging differences, by listening to one another and by accommodating each other's views, we can come up with a robust, focused and more efficient global humanitarian system, while preserving the abiding core principles endorsed by resolution 46/182, to address humanitarian challenges of our times.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Pakistan's Commitments for Announcement Plenary of the World Humanitarian Summit

1. Refugees and Temporarily Dislocated People (TDPs)

- i. Pakistan commits to early repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees.
- ii. Pakistan commits to continue urging the international community to take into consideration the assessment by refugee hosting countries, together with UN agencies, and international financial institutions, of the impact of refugees on economies, societies, services, infrastructure, environment and security in order to provide the assistance required by host countries.
- iii. Pakistan commits to urge development actors to initiate projects which help to alleviate socio-economic burden on refugee hosting countries, particularly initiatives focusing on enhanced resettlement, humanitarian admission and family reunification opportunities in third countries.
- iv. Pakistan commits to work for finding equitable burden sharing mechanisms for refugee hosting nations at all levels.
- v. Pakistan commits to work with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that protracted refugee situations are neither neglected nor ignored, and are given adequate attention and resources.
- vi. Pakistan commits to share its experience and best practices in managing the largest protracted refugee situation in the world, particularly information sharing about development of national mechanisms and Proof of Registration (POR) cards.
- vii. Pakistan commits to strengthen capacity for efficient management of calamity based dislocated communities within the country to ensure relief and rehabilitation, in a timely manner.

2. Humanitarian Principles

- i. Pakistan commits to the centrality and continued relevance of UNGA Resolution 46/182 of December 1991 on international humanitarian response system.
- ii. Pakistan commits to reaffirm faith in paramount humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, as foundation of humanitarian action.

3. Conflict Resolution

- i. Pakistan commits to objectives and purposes of the UN Charter for pacific settlement of disputes and conflicts.
- ii. Pakistan commits to continue to contribute to UN's efforts to facilitate peace processes, and provision of enabling environment, through its significant participation in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

4. Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality

- i. Pakistan commits to empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.
- ii. Pakistan commits to ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.
- iii. Pakistan commits to ensure that gender perspective is included in disaster management policies, frameworks, plans and programs at all tiers of governance.

5. Natural Disasters & Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crises Differently

- i. Pakistan commits to accelerate the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as other relevant strategies and programs of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.
- ii. Pakistan commits to reinforce national and provincial leadership and capacities in managing natural disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.
- iii. Pakistan commits to improve the understanding, anticipation and preparedness for natural disaster and climate-related risks by investing in data, analysis and early warning, and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action.
- iv. Pakistan commits to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.

- v. Pakistan commits to ensure regional and global humanitarian assistance for natural disasters complements national and local efforts.

6. Financing: Investing in Humanity

- i. Pakistan commits to pursue present policy of rendering overseas rescue, relief and reconstruction support to regional as well as other countries during crises situations in future.

7. Delivering Aid to Ending Need

- i. Pakistan commits to promote disaster management CBMs at regional and international level to enhance emergency response output and need based humanitarian assistance during natural calamities.
- ii. Pakistan commits to share lessons learned, best practices and local experience based innovation for improvement in humanitarian response at large.
