



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the Joint Launch of 2022 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan and 2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 11 January 2022

Thank you, Under-Secretary-General Griffiths and High Commissioner Grandi, for presenting the humanitarian needs and launching this joint response plans.

We commend the UN system for its continuing advocacy, mobilization and delivery of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. These actions are critical to preventing a human catastrophe.

We deeply appreciate the generosity demonstrated by many donor countries, the UN, international organizations and humanitarian agencies.

Despite financial constraints, Pakistan has so far provided humanitarian support exceeding USD 35 million. We have also helped establish a humanitarian supplies hub; facilitated transit trade and cross border movement of Afghans in need.

Last month, Pakistan hosted an extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the OIC to galvanize humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan. We are pleased with the decision to establish a Humanitarian Trust Fund and Food Security Programme. We are confident that together with the UN and international organizations, the OIC countries will play their role in channelizing assistance.

And yet much more is needed as this joint launch indicates. Now is not the time to abandon the people of Afghanistan.

There are legitimate concerns over the situation of human rights, the nature of power sharing and terrorism in Afghanistan. They must be addressed meaningfully.

Similarly, a further review of sanctions is essential to save lives, secure the banking system and enable basic services.

Linking sanctions relief with humanitarian assistance would be unwise. A frozen banking system could spur an illicit financing system and exacerbate security risks.

Helping Afghans inside the country is both a cost effective and durable solution.

Amidst this crisis lies an opportunity to chart a path for sustainable peace and development in Afghanistan after decades of conflict. Peace, security, development and human rights can and should be advanced in mutually reinforcing ways.

Such a pathway requires prudent sequencing and prioritization of actions. The pace of political and diplomatic engagement needs to be enhanced, in tandem with humanitarian and economic assistance.

Similarly, a comprehensive approach along the lines of Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN) needs to be pursued.

We hope the international community will respond earnestly and generously to ease the suffering of the Afghan people and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe whose effects may spread far beyond the borders of Afghanistan and the region.

I thank you.
