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

Statement

**6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,
Pakistan's National Statement
delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi,
Acting Permanent Representative**

(16 May, 2019)

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I extend felicitation to the UN DRR and the Government of Switzerland for co-hosting the 6th Global Platform.

This is remarkable opportunity for the international community to work towards implementation of Sendai Framework priorities and targets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being a disaster prone country, Pakistan has learnt the lesson to invest in DRR to preserve the gains of development.

We have come a long way in terms of policy development, governance, institutional capacity building, coordination, coherence, and strengthening our response capacity.

Since developing a National DRR Policy in 2013, we never rested, and kept on updating our levels of preparedness. Our National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under the guidance and leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, has launched our National Disaster

Response Plan 2019 to improve our level of preparedness and capacity to respond. It addresses multiple hazards including, floods, earthquakes, avalanches, drought and industrial hazards.

Over the years, we have strengthened and continue to improve the response capacity of our institutions at the national, provincial and the local level. We have Provincial Disaster Management Authorities and developed Disaster Risk Management Plans particularly for disaster prone cities in Pakistan.

Pakistan's School Safety Framework is one of our flagship projects to make our schools more resilient against natural disasters.

The special needs of vulnerable groups particularly; women, children, and the elderly are an important consideration for us. We have been able to engage private sector and other stakeholders by establishing a network "Pakistan Resilience Partnership", a network of government, private businesses, media, civil society and academia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We aim to undertake micro level Multi – Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessments of all districts to form part of Disaster Management Information System that will provide a common operating picture to all stakeholders. We will be able to make evidence-based and informed decisions not only in response but also for contingency planning and risk sensitive development planning and implementation.

A dedicated investment facility has also been made available in the form of National Disaster Risk Management Fund established with the support of Asian Development Bank. The fund currently stands at over USD 200 Million, while the Government of Pakistan aims to take it to USD One billion in next four years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2030 SDG Agenda recognizes the urgent need to reduce the risk of disasters. Our national efforts on DRR and disaster management have paved the way for realization of numerous SDGs in Pakistan and our SDG implementation plan mainstreams disaster mitigation and management. Preservation of environment (SDG15), building resilient infrastructure (SDG 11) and protecting the vulnerable against drought, and floods (SDGs, 2, 6 and 13) are essential priorities in our work on DRR and mitigation.

We are in the process of preparing a set of recommendations for aligning our disaster preparedness policies with SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The nature and magnitude of disasters being faced by the world cannot be coped single-handedly particularly by the developing countries. We have been able to reach this level through collaboration with international and UN partners. Pakistan has traditionally stood for international cooperation in the field of DRR. We call for sharing of experience, knowledge and transfer of technology for collective benefits.

We have been actively contributing to the implementation of Sendai Framework through our Disaster Risk Management Status Reports and feeding into UNDRR national reporting mechanism on Sendai Framework.

Pakistan is actively participating in DRR activities both at regional and global level. We are part of DRR initiatives in SAARC and ECO. Pakistan, along with Kazakhstan, is leading Confidence Building Measures on disaster management in Heart of Asia /Istanbul Process. We have concluded a number of cooperation agreements with friendly countries. We stand ready to support and share our assistance and experience with the friendly countries in the time of need.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Session has certainly provided us another opportunity to learn defining the future strategies for international cooperation. We welcome forging new partnerships, development of disaster risk informed policies and making investments for durable and sustainable development.

Our common objective in this endeavour is to preserve the gains of development and civilization for our future generations.

I thank you all.