

Statement by the Secretary, M/o of Climate Change

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Honorable Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen

Excellences and Distinguished

Delegates,

Good morning and
Assalam o Alaikum

1. On behalf of Government of Pakistan, I wish to congratulate the Government of Mongolia and UNISDR Asia Pacific for hosting Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018. I want to express my deep gratitude to the Government of

Mongolia for extending fabulous hospitality to me and my delegation in the great city of Ulaanbaatar.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

2. Today, the nature of the common challenges that our region faces is complex, multi-dimensional and transnational. The multi hazardous threats of both natural and man-made disasters have created a dire need and great scope for extensive mutual

cooperation at the regional level. The situation warrants focused interventions with strong commitment which may ensure better preparedness to mitigate the negative impacts of hazards.

3. We need to accord high priority to risk prevention and identification for better planning and interventions. Furthermore, it is absolutely crucial to align our national priorities, policies,

plans and strategies, with the global processes and frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), The Paris Climate Agreement and most importantly the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

4. Sendai Framework on DRR emphasizes the need for **‘coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurements’** to

ensure credible links with the global processes. In a way, Sendai Framework provides us a unique opportunity to move towards vision for “Risk Sensitive Development as Cornerstone for Sustainability”.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

5. Realizing the nature of close linkages between disasters and development efforts, the Government of Pakistan through Vision 2025, National

Climate Change Policy-2012 and National DRR Policy-2013 has embarked upon developing and implementing focused strategies to reduce vulnerabilities to disasters. Establishment of National Fund for Disaster Risk Management with the assistance of Asian Development Bank is one important step towards that end.

6. We have also developed our next ten years National Flood Protection Plan to mitigate the possible effects of hydro meteorological disasters. I am happy to share with you that we are among those few countries who had developed their long term Disaster Management Plan in 2013 and are vigorously pursuing its implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

7. I am glad to report that before AMCDRR, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan organized an international conference from 20 to 22 June, 2018 in Islamabad with the theme of “Capitalizing on Pakistan’s Experience in Handling Disasters, Creating Synergies among Global Frameworks - Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward for the Region”.

The Conference highlighted the urgent need to develop and strengthen synergies between the global agreements and national/regional policies and plans. We also hosted 6th Meeting of Regional Technical Group of DM-CBM of Heart of Asia, Istanbul process wherein delegates from Afghanistan, India, Iran, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkey actively participated.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

8. Pakistan, despite its challenge of recurring disasters, has made substantial progress to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction. We have strengthened our indigenous response mechanism and are progressively moving toward a proactive approach of Disaster Risk Management, capitalizing on our rich

experiences as well as adoption of global best practices.

Key highlights of our achievements are:

1. Establishment of National Disaster Risk Management Fund with the seed money of USD 228.4 million with the assistance of Asian Development Bank.

2. Development of National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 2013 to reduce vulnerabilities to disasters.

3. A comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Services Project at a total cost of US\$ 92 million with the financial assistance of The World bank is in final stages of approval;

4. Bilateral MoUs in the field of disaster management have been signed with Cuba, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan;

5. Pakistan is actively contributing at regional level with SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), Economic Cooperation

Organization (ECO), and
Shanghai Cooperation
Organization (SCO) etc.

I thank you all. *for your Attention*