



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**THIRD SESSION OF THE
GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Geneva, 11 May 2011

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN ON
THIRD GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
(GENEVA: 11 MAY 2011)

Let me first thank the Secretariat for convening this Conference on implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). I am happy to note such a large scale presence of member states. This indeed, represents our common will to fight natural disasters.

The latest multiple disaster in Japan demonstrates, that no nation, whether developing or developed, is safe from the onslaught of natural hazards. The terrible economic and social consequences of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan followed by unprecedented floods in 2010 demonstrate the frequency of natural disasters, especially over the last decade.

Accordingly, it has become imperative for the international community to develop the capacity to cope up with the terrible consequences of these rapidly recurring disasters.

For Pakistan, as with many other developing countries, pursuit of sustainable development has become more difficult, due to the combined affects of climate change and natural disasters. As a result, we are increasingly confronted by 3 essential security challenges - water security, food security and energy security. This has given rise to a multitude of problems such as scarcity of food, increase in poverty levels, unemployment, challenges in providing adequate education and health facilities. In the face of these ever increasing challenges, our resources remain scarce and unpredictable. Therefore, the task before us is formidable.

In response to these challenges, Pakistan has established a robust and comprehensive disaster risk management system to forestall the future threat of natural disasters and save precious resources by building a strong response capacity. These measures have been developed on the basis of our experiences in dealing with the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods.

This new system is based on a sound legal footing. Our National Disaster Management Act was passed by the Parliament in 2010 and looks at ways of converting DRR strategy into action through use of local means and potential. To convert this action into reality, a comprehensive institutional framework has been created at the National, Provincial and District levels.

Integrating DRR into developmental projects remains our prime focus. We are ensuring this in all future plans in coordination with our Planning

Commission. In order to build the resilience of the communities, the National Disaster Management Authority has identified 50 most vulnerable districts and accordingly we have embarked upon building capacities of the communities at the Union Council on gross-roots level through a comprehensive Community Based Disaster Risk Management Programme which has been recognized by the UNISDR as a best practice.

Pakistan is also participating actively in DRR activities both at regional and global level. It is part of DRR initiatives in SAARC and ECO as well. We have profound presence in School Safety Initiatives aimed at protecting lives of most vulnerable.

Though much has been achieved, a lot more needs to be done. We believe that technological gaps, financial constraints, lack of capacity and dependency syndrome of local institutions will impede our efforts towards a more robust DRR. Despite having good system of early warnings of hydro-meteorological hazards, we still lack an integrated multi hazard early warning system.

The Government of Pakistan would therefore welcome further international cooperation in DRR and is willing to be part of multilateral as well as regional and bilateral cooperative mechanisms for our common benefit.
