



Statement

by

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Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. of the Arab Republic of Egypt
on Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**Plenary Meeting of The General Assembly
To Consider The Humanitarian Situation
Resulting From Floods In Pakistan**

19th August 2010

Check against Delivery

Mr. President,

**H.E. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan**

Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, I would like to extend our sincerest and heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Pakistan for their losses and sufferings endured during this horrific disaster which has been plaguing the country for the past weeks.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude for convening this important meeting at this timely juncture to consider the current humanitarian situation resulting from the continuous monsoon floods in Pakistan. Moreover, the Movement commends the rapid response of the Secretary General and the United Nations Organization in support of the relief efforts in the immediate aftermath of this calamity.

Mr. President

Pakistan is presently witnessing one of the gravest natural disasters in its recent history. The current Monsoon rains have resulted in floods of unprecedented magnitude which –according to preliminary assessments- have destroyed almost 900,000 homes, hundreds of roads, many bridges, educational and health facilities, electricity transmission lines and government buildings, affecting nearly 20 million persons, and resulting in the loss of crops vital for domestic food consumption and export.

Unfortunately, this disastrous situation could worsen as it is feared that further heavy Monsoon rains will continue, thus increasing the risks of floods in many areas of Pakistan and making the danger of out-break of water borne and communicable diseases even more imminent. NAM is ready to join hands with the international community in preparing for this disaster of still unforeseen consequences by taking concerted and expeditious actions to avert the expected aggravation of the current situation in Pakistan.

Mr. President

NAM acknowledges the tremendous efforts exerted by the Government of Pakistan to mobilize all available resources to address this serious situation. We must recognize the gravity of such a calamity which inflicted the loss of billions of dollars to the Pakistani economy through the destruction of infrastructure and millions of acres of farmland, where over 3.2 million hectares of standing crops, representing 16% of the total cultivable area, have so far been damaged. Furthermore, we must be aware not only of the current consequences of this disaster, but also of its repercussions on the livelihood of the Pakistani population in the months to come, in particular in the agricultural sector where the loss of stored planting seeds and destruction of standing crops and irrigation systems is likely to lead to severe food shortages in the near future.

As the situation worsens, the resolve of the Members of the Non-Aligned Movement grows stronger. Many members of the movement during the past few weeks have committed themselves to contribute to the international assistance efforts, and to support the Pakistani Government's attempts to alleviate the suffering of millions of persons, and deal with the enormity of this challenge. In this regard, two Egyptian Plans have already arrived to Islamabad carrying hundreds of tons of medicines, medical supplies and equipments, tents and food aid.

Today, the movement re-affirms the readiness of its members to intensify their efforts and increase their assistance to the government of Pakistan through bilateral, regional and multilateral emergency relief and development frameworks.

At this junction in time, the international community has to augment its efforts not only to address the short-term relief measures but to also take into consideration the need for long-term rehabilitation of the affected population as well as the reconstruction of infrastructure in the affected areas. Now is the time to deliver on the commitments the international community has made to provide predictable emergency relief assistance and aid for the short and long-term to overcome the effects of this disaster.

Thank you Mr. President