**Pakistan’s Statement during ECO’s 9th MM on DRR**

**Honorable Chair, H.E Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of Committee of Emergency situations & Civil Defence, H.E. Amb. Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, Deputy Secretary General of ECO, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Representatives**

**Assalam-o-Alaikum and very Good Morning**

On behalf of National Disaster Management Authority and the Government of Pakistan, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and felicitation to the Economic Cooperation Organization and The Committee of Emergency Situation, Civil Defence of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for their gracious invitation, organising and extending hospitality during the 9th Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the beautiful & historic city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

It is both a privilege and an honor to speak at the **9th Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** under the auspices of the **Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**. We gather here by a common goal—to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of our people and the progress of our nations from the increasing threats posed by natural and human induced disasters.

**Excellencies & Distinguished Delegates!**

In recent years, our region has faced unprecedented challenges. Earthquakes, floods, droughts and other hazards have repeatedly tested our resilience. The effects of **climate change** are intensifying these threats, placing additional pressure on our economies, ecosystems, and infrastructure. In this context, the importance of regional cooperation in disaster risk management has never been more critical.

**The ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction** provides us with a strong foundation to act decisively and collaboratively. It is a testament to our shared commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness and reducing vulnerabilities across all sectors of society. Today, I would like to highlight three critical priorities that we, as ECO member states, must continue to focus on:

**First**, we must accelerate efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into our national development plans. By mainstreaming DRR strategies across all sectors such as health, agriculture, education, and infrastructure; we can build societies that are not only prepared for disasters but are also resilient in the face of future risks. This is key to protecting our development gains and ensuring long-term sustainability.

**Second**, enhancing **regional cooperation and knowledge sharing** remains crucial. We must leverage each other’s strengths, whether through sharing scientific data, promoting best practices, or jointly developing early warning systems. Our diverse experiences and expertise are our greatest assets in overcoming the challenges we face. I call upon our governments and institutions to continue fostering partnerships that transcend borders and bring tangible results for our people.

**Third**, we cannot ignore the growing impact of **climate change**. As temperatures rise and weather patterns become more unpredictable, the frequency and intensity of disasters will likely increase. We must ensure that climate adaptation measures are integrated into our disaster risk management strategies. This is not just about responding to disasters; it is about anticipating them, adapting to them, and building more resilient societies that can thrive in a changing climate.

**Last but not the least,** Innovation and technology play a crucial role in enhancing disaster resilience within the ECO region, especially in managing transboundary risks like earthquakes, floods, and pandemics. Advanced early warning systems, satellite-based monitoring, and data-sharing platforms enable member states to predict, prepare for, and mitigate the impact of disasters. Collaborative digital frameworks and mobile applications for real-time information exchange foster regional cooperation, while technologies like AI, drones, and GIS mapping improve emergency response and recovery efforts. These innovations enhance the capacity of ECO countries to address cross-border disasters efficiently and build long-term resilience. NDMA Pakistan has established state-of-the-art National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) in its headquarter having all the latest technology and tools for effective disaster management & ensuring effective anticipatory actions in country, and would be happy to provide support to ECO regional countries for its replication.

**Distinguished Delegates!**

In conclusion, while the road ahead is undoubtedly challenging, I believe that with **unity**, **cooperation** and **innovation**, we can protect our people, our economies, and our future. Effective DRR measures, such as resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, and sustainable land management, not only mitigate economic losses but also attract investment by ensuring stability. Additionally, regional cooperation under the ECO framework allows member states to pool resources and share expertise, enabling more efficient disaster response and recovery. This proactive approach fosters long-term economic growth, stability, and sustainable development by reducing the financial burden of disaster recovery and enhancing the resilience of communities and businesses. Let us take bold action today to prevent tomorrow’s tragedies. Together, we can build a more resilient, sustainable, and safer region for generations to come.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Republic of Tajikistan and all member countries for providing valuable and efficient support to Pakistan during unfortunate mega floods of 2022. Pakistan also assures of its all-possible support, God forbid, if any disaster strike in member countries.

I thank you all for your commitment to this cause and look forward to the fruitful discussions and outcomes of this conference.

**Thank you.**