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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Association MIMAN, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Adverse Impact of Climate Change and Neglected Flood Victims in Balochistan, Pakistan: Urgent Action Required

The devastating floods in Balochistan, Pakistan have caused immense suffering and displacement, exacerbating the vulnerability of the local population. The adverse impact of climate change on the realization of the right to food, as highlighted in the UN Secretary General's report, further compounds the challenges faced by flood victims. This statement sheds light on the plight of the flood victims in Balochistan, emphasizes the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments, and highlights the environmental concerns related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other Chinese projects. Urgent action is needed to address the immediate needs of flood victims, mitigate the effects of climate change, and ensure sustainable development in the region.

Plight of Flood Victims in Balochistan:

The floods in Balochistan have resulted in the displacement of thousands of people, destruction of homes, and loss of livelihoods. The affected population is left without adequate shelter, food, clean water, and access to healthcare. The lack of swift and substantial assistance from the federal and provincial governments has further exacerbated the suffering of the flood victims, leaving them in dire conditions.

Impeding provincial funds to Balochistan:

Balochistan suffered from devastating floods in October 2022. The relief and redevelopment efforts have been very lax. The attitude of the Central Government of Pakistan has been condemnable as they have starved the afflicted province of funds.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo stated that of the amount allocated to Balochistan by the National Finance Commission, not even 10% has been provided to the provincial government.

The dire situation was explained by the Chief Minister as "If this three-month share of the NFC is not provided by the federal government, the Balochistan government will not be able to pay salaries of its employees in the coming month,"¹

It is pertinent to note that the funds generated by the international relief efforts for the floods in Pakistan do not appear to have reached Balochistan. Balochistan National Party (Awami) secretary general and provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch as reported in Tribune Pakistan:

"Balochistan wants to get a suitable share of assistance for the rehabilitation of flood affectees pledged by global partners in donors conference held in Geneva,"

According to the constitution, Balochistan's share in the national finance commission (NFC) award was protected, but the province received Rs1 billion less during the last financial year, while the payment for this quarter of the current financial year, which is close to Rs40 billion was not provided.

"We demand our due share in the NFC award and not any relief package from the federation," he added Balochistan, he said, was facing a severe financial crisis at present and did not even have money to pay the salaries of the employees. He claimed that the federal government had not given funds to the province for the rehabilitation of the flood victims. He called on the political leadership to make collective efforts for the signing of a new charter of democracy and economy for a stronger and prosperous Pakistan."

Though Balochistan is rich in natural resources and mineral wealth, it is not able to use the benefits of these due*2. Two out of the three large scale mining projects in Balochistan are run by the Chinese Metallurgical Construction Corporation and a very small share of the

profits make it back to the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation. This extractive-colonial attitude towards Balochistan has left the province impoverished.

The UN and the International Community are called upon to insist on accountability from Pakistan for the funds contributed by them to the flood relief efforts and indicate that the funds must be distributed equitably.

Climate Change and the Right to Food:

The report of the UN Secretary General on the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food highlights the urgent need to address climate-related challenges in order to protect the fundamental rights of individuals, including their access to food. In Balochistan, the floods and other climate-related disasters have disrupted agricultural activities, leading to food insecurity and exacerbating the vulnerability of the local population. The federal and provincial governments must prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to safeguard the right to food and ensure the long-term well-being of the affected communities.

Negligence of Government in Addressing the Needs of Flood Victims:

The lack of assistance from the federal and provincial governments is deeply concerning. It is the responsibility of the government to provide immediate relief, shelter, food, and medical aid to the affected population. The failure to fulfill this duty undermines the rights and dignity of the flood victims, perpetuating their suffering and compromising their well-being. The governments must allocate adequate resources and develop effective strategies to address the immediate needs of the flood victims and facilitate their rehabilitation.

Environmental Concerns and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was claimed a significant infrastructure project in Balochistan against the concerns of the local. While it promises economic development, it also raises environmental concerns. The adverse environmental impact of large-scale infrastructure projects can exacerbate climate change and pose long-term risks to the region. It is alarming that no comprehensive study on environmental pollution and impacts related to CPEC and other Chinese projects has been conducted, indicating a lack of foresight and environmental responsibility.

Recommendations for Immediate Action:

- a) Immediate Relief and Rehabilitation: The federal and provincial governments must provide immediate relief, including food, water, shelter, and healthcare, to the flood victims in Balochistan. Rehabilitation efforts should focus on restoring livelihoods and ensuring long-term sustainable development.
- b) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: The governments should prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, including investment in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture practices, and water management systems. These efforts will help build resilience against future climate-related disasters.
- c) Environmental Impact Assessments: Comprehensive environmental impact assessments should be conducted for all major development projects, including CPEC and other Chinese projects. These assessments should identify potential environmental risks, propose mitigation measures, and ensure sustainable development in line with international environmental standards.
- d) International Support and Cooperation: The international community, including relevant UN agencies, should monitor and take notice of the projects which have severe consequences to the climate change and make Pakistan accountable to mitigate the

international standards and agreements of climate change adaptations. Check and balance can facilitate the implementation of effective strategies.

Conclusion:

The neglect of flood victims in Balochistan and the adverse impact of climate change on their right to food require urgent attention and action from the federal and provincial governments. The environmental concerns associated with CPEC and other Chinese projects further compound the challenges faced by the region. It is essential for the governments to prioritize the well-being of the flood victims, address the adverse effects of climate change, and ensure sustainable development. The international community should provide support and collaboration to mitigate the impact of climate change and promote the rights and resilience of the affected communities in Balochistan.

Baloch Voice Association (BVA) , Baloch Peoples Congress (BPC) , Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP) , Baloch Voice Foundation (BVF - Balochistan) , NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

*1 - <https://www.dawn.com/news/1724035>.

*2 - <http://thebalochistanpoint.com/balochistan-rich-in-natural-resources-and-poor-in-living-conditions/>