Kazakhstan

Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance

I thank you for convening this vital meeting to discuss coordination of humanitarian assistance for an unprecedented increase of refugees and internally displaced persons, exacerbated by conflicts, civil unrest, human rights violations as well as natural disasters.

Today’s discussion must be in the context of highly challenging and risky operating environments of complex emergencies and diverse humanitarian issues.

My delegation calls for timely and effective implementation of the recommendations and Action Plan of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), to bring about a Transformative Agenda to improve humanitarian leadership, coordination, accountability and transparency both at the headquarters and in the field. Hence the rationale for establishing a rapid response mechanism to support the deployment of experienced humanitarian personnel, following a humanitarian crisis.

The Common Framework for Capacity building for Emergency Preparedness should be optimized to synergize efforts of humanitarian and development organizations for better country readiness, feedback, and mechanisms for participation. For instance, the legal preparedness is an essential requirement to avoid delays in entry permits for relief personnel, goods, equipment and transport and oversight gaps. Timely action also calls for broadening partnerships within each of the regions and internationally. Likewise, engagement in global policy and operational issues, as hosted by UNHCR and OCHA, will help improve dialogue on root causes and policy issues.

Humanitarian financing is the key to effective aid and so the Consolidated Appeals Processes can be further refined, and the Central Emergency Response Fund and the Humanitarian Fund need to be ‘augmented focusing on humanitarian action for all and access by all, including women, youth and elderly – the most vulnerable for just humanitarian assistance.

Finally, we must seek solutions to make humanitarian action fit for the challenges of 2015 and beyond.

We are pleased to say that OCHA’s Sub-regional Office for the Caucasus and Central Asia assists UNDP and the Kazakhstan National Office of Disaster Management in information management, disaster preparedness and response in the region.

Kazakhstan calls for maintaining the civilian character of humanitarian assistance and supports the activities of the OCHA office in Almaty at all levels – regional, national and local levels. We therefore support the successful operation of OCHA’s Central Emergency Response Fund as an important tool to ensure predictable, adequate and timely funding of international humanitarian operations.

Kazakhstan has transformed itself from a recipient to a donor country, and being active in Central Asia. From 2010 Kazakhstan has provided humanitarian assistance totalling $10 million to several countries, suffered from natural disasters, just to name some of them – Afghanistan, Haiti, Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Japan, and others. Kazakhstan has also contributed US $ 500 000 for the Somalia Pooled Fund, created at the suggestion of Kazakhstan in the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

As of December 2011, Kazakhstan has been officially a recognized member of the UN International Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

Currently, Kazakhstan is finalizing establishing its own State Agency for the provision of international development assistance, called KazAID, which at the same time, will also engage in humanitarian assistance and funding. Thus, KazAID marks the entry of Kazakhstan in the humanitarian community, becoming its new donor. Presently financial assistance is also under review for the countries of East Africa.

Earlier this year, in August, in Almaty was signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Establishment of the Central Asian Centre for Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be the focal point for the UN Hub in Almaty that Kazakhstan plans to host to secure greater peace, development and stability for the region.