Statement of
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Arab Republic of Egypt

The High-Level Humanitarian Event on Anticipatory Action:
A Commitment to Act Before Crises
(New York, September 9, 2021)
Thank You

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Mr. Martin Griffiths, Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Humanitarian Affairs - Emergency Relief Coordinator,

Your Excellencies Ministers and distinguished Head of Delegations

It is an honor to participate in this high-level humanitarian event on Anticipatory Action, and I would like to thank the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the governments of Germany and the United Kingdom for organizing this event.

Egypt shares the growing concern of the international community regarding the escalation of humanitarian crises and disasters in the world; as a result of instability, armed conflicts, natural disasters (drought/famine/floods/etc….) and unconventional threats such as epidemics. These crises showed the need to anticipatory actions in order to ensure rapid and effective humanitarian response to these crises.

Egypt renews its full support for the United Nations system humanitarian efforts in addressing different humanitarian crises and remains ready to provide all forms of necessary support to maximize the role of UN in responding to these serious humanitarian challenges. In this Context, we believe in the importance of deepening the positive dialogue and cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to reach a comprehensive approach for anticipatory action in the humanitarian field. This approach should be based on strengthening dialogue, information exchange, coordination among agencies and institutions related to early warning, risk reduction, and disaster response and development at all levels.

This highly needed anticipatory action should rely on efficient tools to ensure its effectiveness, mainly accurate predictive indicators; multi hazard early-warning systems; risk analysis models; sustainable funding mechanisms, and political and legislative frameworks for achieving timely and well-targeted anticipatory actions.

Building on this, Egypt highlights the importance of incorporating the anticipatory action approach into sustainable development strategies and plans, emergency preparedness policies and response programs, together with the establishment and the strengthening of humanitarian crises management institutions. This is important to enhance every country’s ability to predict, monitor, and get prepared to address potential threats. In this regard, Egypt stresses the importance of each country’s ownership of its own anticipatory measures in the humanitarian field, since implementation of such measures remains the responsibility of the state itself.
Equally important, is our believe that anticipatory action should remain as an integral part of the humanitarian action and that the lack of common understanding as well as politicizing the use of humanitarian principles, jeopardizes in the end both the scope and scale of humanitarian action.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Throughout previous years, Egypt invested serious and intensive efforts to ensure the availability of the basic tools for anticipatory actions in many countries of our region and to enhance their preparedness for potential crises.

Egypt has organized several capacity-building programs for officials from a number of African countries in the field of "crisis management", in addition to the training programs which are organized in the field of “conflict prevention”.

In July 2021, Egypt inaugurated the rain and climate forecasting center in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is the first of its kind in DRC and is totally funded by the Egyptian government. Its work will be reflected in protecting the people of Congo from sudden climate disasters as floods, drought and enhancing the country’s ability to deal with their negative effects.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Egypt is pledging an amount of $15,000 to the country based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) in the Democratic Republic of Congo in line with its commitment to support this brotherly Country and its People.