Mr. Chair,

The world is in the midst of a multifold crisis. There is a looming threat of climate change. COVID-19 pandemic has eroded the economic and health infrastructures worldwide. And, blatant disregard and violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) are on the rise.

2. The pandemic has reversed decades of progress in social development, eroding the capacity of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda. It has severely impacted health systems around the world,
particularly in low-income countries. In addition to the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis continues to generate human suffering and humanitarian needs.

Mr. Chair,

3. Pakistanis are a generous and hospitable people. Pakistan’s policies are imbued with the spirit of humanitarianism. Despite resource constraints, my country has borne the burden of hosting millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades. They have been accorded protection, access to education, health and livelihoods without any distinction.

4. Pakistan has also faced humanitarian emergencies arising from natural disasters and climate related events. Given recurrent natural catastrophes such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, and cyclones, Pakistan has been ranked as one of the top ten countries most affected by climate
change in the past 20 years despite being one of the lowest emitters.

Mr. Chair,

5. To address humanitarian challenges we face today across the world, specifically in the developing countries, we would like to propose:

First, humanitarian assistance should be responsive to the needs of the country or community hosting refugees, displaced and destitute people. Imposing pre-conditions on humanitarian assistance is immoral and contrary to International Humanitarian Laws. Financing for humanitarian assistance should be mobilized from all sources and channels, public and private.

Second, the humanitarian assistance should not become a victim of geopolitics. UN’s humanitarian principles, including the principles of neutrality and impartiality must be
upheld. Approximately 2.1 million Palestinians need humanitarian assistance and $510 million is required to address their plight. Similarly, an estimated 95 percent of Afghans are without sufficient food, as the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan intensifies. Similarly, the oppressed people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are also in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

**Third**, we must work collectively to promote the vision of an equal and inclusive world where no one is left behind. This implies a future global economic and social order where no country, people, or individual is excluded from the benefits of development and progress.

**Fourth**, humanitarian activities have benefitted from digital tools and innovation. However, humanitarian operations in remote regions of the world are impeded by the absence of connectivity. It is critical that we not only ensure the provision of
humanitarian assistance through digital means, but also bridge the digital divide between the developing and developed world.

**Finally,** International Humanitarian Law must be respected in all humanitarian emergencies, including situations of conflicts and foreign occupation. We call upon international community to end selective application of international humanitarian law. The 900,000 Indian troops, who, illegally and brutally occupy Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir, must be held accountable for gross and systematic violations of international humanitarian law.

I thank you.