High-Level Event on Anticipatory Action

Statement by Ambassador Hyunjoo Oh, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN

09:00-13:00, Thursday, 9 September 2021

Allow me begin by thanking UN OCHA, Germany, and UK for convening today’s high-level event on anticipatory action. I believe that today’s topic is very meaningful and pertinent to the current humanitarian landscape.

In just over the last month, we have witnessed rapid deteriorations of global humanitarian crises, including in Afghanistan and Haiti. It is distressing to see that such recent developments have further amplified the already pressing challenges inherited from the past.

Despite our collective efforts, funding remains largely short of the ever-increasing humanitarian needs, as mentioned by many of today’s previous speakers. My delegation shares the view that a fast and impactful intervention, along with the value for money, now matters more than ever before.

In this light, anticipatory action can enable us to reach out to a larger number of beneficiaries in an effective and cost-efficient manner. Besides, such proactive interventions can help ensure the dignity of people affected by disasters and sustain benefits before, during, and after crises.

With this in mind, I would like to highlight the following three points.

First, we must build on the valuable lessons learned from the pilots. While we recognize the merits of anticipatory action as shown in the pilots, we encourage OCHA and its partners to systemize anticipatory action frameworks in the programmatic, process, coordination, and policy aspects. We also look forward to a phased approach in expanding its application to additional locations and types of shocks.

Second, more discussions need to follow on securing sustainable funding, particularly given the currently limited level of resources for anticipatory action.
When it comes to CERF, it is also important to have further discussions on the desired level of CERF allocations for anticipatory action. Such discussions should be done with a view towards balancing and fostering synergies between CERF’s life-saving mandate and its catalytic role in innovative approaches.

Lastly, early warning and forecast systems should be enhanced for better targeted action. In this regard, we support the Secretary-General’s ongoing efforts to strengthen system-wide data and analytics capabilities. Korea will continue to explore possible avenues for our contribution.

In closing, Korea has continued its contribution to CERF, which we consider as one of the key funding mechanisms for anticipatory action. Our contribution to CERF amounted to around 6 million US dollars in 2020 and 2021, respectively. We will continue our support for anticipatory action, including through CERF and CBPFs.

Thank you. /END/