

**Speech**  
**of**  
**Senator Qurat Ul Ain Marri (Pakistan)**  
**for**  
**the Young Parliamentarians segment of the General Debate**

Madam President, distinguished delegates.

Assalom-o-Alikom and Good Evening!

As a proud Member of Pakistan's upper house, I am honoured to be addressing you today.

Pakistan's vibrant young people and dynamic women have remained at the forefront of every political struggle from before we gained independence in 1947.

Sadly, in the past few months all other struggles have taken a back seat as we grapple with a climate change.

Imagine if you will, going to sleep in your home and waking up neck deep in water, everything you owned, everything around you, washed away. Imagine scrambling to find a patch of high land so you can save yourself and your family. And then imagine having to swim kilometres to get them food or be rescued. Imagine being stranded with 5-6 feet of stagnant water around you, for months. Imagine the hunger, the disease, the poverty and the utter helplessness. Only then can you imagine what 33 million Pakistan's have been enduring. Every single day. For over two months now. Tragedy, disaster and death they don't discriminate. But the impact on the most vulnerable us surely the most devastating. 75% of the most effected in our floods are women and children. Schools, colleges, hospitals, homes, fields, all washed away or inundated. While a traumatized, vulnerable population grows increasingly weary as no country, no govt can deal with a catastrophe of this magnitude on its own.

33 million is the number of Pakistanis displaced, 33 million is more than the entire population of most countries present here. Pakistan is suffering today not because we messed up but because others did. Today it is us. Tomorrow it could very well be you. And it is only fair for us to expect the world to step up and do what is right, what is just and what is equitable, not only for us but also for you.

The developed countries of the world must be mindful of their privilege, mindful that this privilege come with a responsibility and today you must ask yourself are you fulfilling your responsibilities? I feel some introspection will tell you, that no you are not!