



Press Release

**Pakistan's remarks on the Secretary-General United Nations'
report on the work of the Organization**

New York – February 07, 2023

Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed the General Assembly debate at the United Nations which gathered to debate on the 'Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization'.

The annual report on the work of the Organization provides an overview of the highlights of the previous year, indicates the major areas of activity on the work of the UN around the world and outlines future priorities.

Ambassador Munir Akram thanked the Secretary-General for presenting his comprehensive report on the work of the Organization and for his eloquent briefing this morning.

While he acknowledged, that current, emerging, and future challenges in promoting international peace, development and human rights can be best addressed through multilateral cooperation within the framework of the UN Charter, he insisted that it is "essential to empower and fully utilize the United Nations to promote international cooperation to realize the agreed objectives of peace, development and human rights".

Global Efforts to Eliminate Terrorism:

He expressed his worry on the fact that "global efforts to eliminate terrorism have fallen short of expectations". It is essential to address: one, the "conditions conducive" for terrorism i.e. the root causes; two, the new and emerging forms of terrorism, reflected in right-wing extremism, neo-fascism and the rise of hate, xenophobia and Islamophobia; three, distinguish terrorism from legitimate struggles for self-determination and liberation from foreign occupation; four, address "state terrorism"; "state-sponsored" terrorism; and five, ensure the protection of human rights while combating terrorism. Consistent with the profession that terrorism should not be equated with any religion, UN reports should avoid the use of words such as "Islamists", "Jihadi", "Islamic State" or "radical Islam".

Right to Self-Determination

“There are too many instances of injustice, inequality and oppression among and within States. We have not achieved the universal realization of the core and fundamental right of self-determination for all peoples – certainly not for the peoples of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir” said Ambassador Munir Akram during the General Assembly debate on the ‘Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization’

Ambassador Akram expressed his deep concern over the current threats to peace and security “emanate mainly from violations of the UN Charter’s fundamental principles – especially the non-use or threat of use of force, and the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination – and festering conflicts, great power rivalries” He added that “the volatile security environment is further exacerbated by growing poverty, injustice, inequality, hate, intolerance, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. Climate impacts, environmental degradation and a water emergency had added another layer to the challenging security matrix”.

Agenda for Peace:

In this regard, “the new agenda for peace proposed by the Secretary-General must, therefore, first do everything possible to ensure consistent and universal respect for the central principles of the UN Charter, for UN Security Council resolutions and for international law” he suggested.

Danger of Nuclear Use:

He also warned of a “danger of nuclear use” especially in Europe and Asia. “We must prevent a major conflict, especially in a “nuclearized” environment; promote international cooperation to avert global threats and challenges; prevent the negative consequences for the security and development of developing countries”.

Edifice of arms control and disarmament:

Maintaining that “the entire edifice of arms control and disarmament has been undermined by the rising global tensions, he suggested “to develop a “new consensus” on disarmament which can offer “equal security for all States” at “the lowest possible level of armaments”

Resolve festering disputes

He urged that the festering disputes should be resolved through the various modalities available under the Charter, including in Chapter-VI and VIII.

He encouraged enlarging the role of judicial mechanisms and extend the ICJ’s mandate to all issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

He also suggested utilizing the considerable authority of the Secretary-General, especially under Articles 99 and 101 much more vigorously. “No party to a dispute should be able to reject the Secretary-General’s offers of mediation or good offices” he suggested.

Root causes of conflict and implement Agenda 2030, the SDGs, and the Paris Climate Goals

To overcome the root causes of conflict and implement Agenda 2030, the SDGs, and the Paris Climate Goals, he urged that “the forthcoming SDG Summit in September, will be accorded highest the priority in 2023”

Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria

He also expressed “Pakistan’s profound condolences to our brothers and sisters in Turkiye and in Syrian Arab Republic for the massive loss of lives and destructions due to this unfortunate and

devastating earthquake”. He informed that “Pakistan has extended its commitment to help in any ways it can to the brotherly countries”.

Exchange of Right of reply

Ambassador Akram's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir drew a response from an Indian representative that led to a verbal exchange with a Pakistani delegate.

Pakistani delegate, Hafizah Humera Javaid served a strong response, saying that the repetition by India of a wrong position does not make it acceptable.

“The right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination has been recognized and promised to them by the Security Council through its resolutions”, she asserted.

She highlighted India’s efforts to prevent the exercise of this right through force and fraud.

“India had imprisoned the entire Kashmiri leadership, illegally detained Kashmiri youth, executed young boys, violently put down protests and burned down entire neighborhoods and villages” she informed.

She expressed Pakistan’s resolve despite India’s deployment of “close to 900,000 security forces to Jammu and Kashmir, making it the most militarized zone in the world” adding that “such measures only strengthen the resolve and resilience of the Kashmiri people”

Pakistan reiterated its commitment to continue to expose Indian brutality and inform the international community of Kashmir’s' plight.