

## Press Release

Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN spoke at the high-level Open debate in connection with "Ensuring the security and dignity of civilians in conflict: addressing food insecurity and protecting essential services" under the agenda item "Protection of civilians in armed conflict "was conducted in the Security Council United Nations today

<u>New York - May 23, 2023</u>

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Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN spoke at the high-level debate welcoming the convening of this important debate on conflict and food security by the Swiss Presidency.

As President of the Security Council for the month of May 2023, Switzerland held this debate to discuss how to address the intertwined challenges of ensuring the security and dignity of civilians in conflict: addressing food insecurity and protecting essential services.

"For Pakistan", Ambassador Munir Akram, reiterated that "the key to securing peace and stability in our region is the just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions". "Deprivation and hunger are being imposed on the Kashmiri people by the suppression imposed by a 900,000-occupation army, massive violations of their human rights and the progressive expropriation of their properties and means of livelihood" he added.

He expressed his concern that although "the imperative of preventing, resolving, and ending armed conflicts has never been so clear. Yet, the agenda of the Security Council has kept adding new conflict situations to old and entrenched issues; and hunger has continued to grow, with this proliferation of conflicts and other accompanying causes of poverty and deprivation that encompasses almost one billion people, one in every 8 humans, mostly in the "global South".

Pakistan commended the UN Secretary-General's Black Sea Grain initiative to ease the impact of the Ukraine war and accompanying restrictions on food security and reiterated desire for an early end of the war in Ukraine in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international agreements.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Security Council and the wider membership to take stock of the implementation of Council resolution 2417 (2018) pertaining to conflict and hunger five years after its unanimous adoption. Secretary-General of the United Nations • President of the International Committee of the Red Cross • Civil society representative briefed the Security Council.