



**Press Release**

**Pakistan at the Open debate in connection with "Famine and conflict-induced global food insecurity" under the agenda item "Maintenance of international peace and security" held at the United Nations**

**New York – August 03, 2023**

\*\*\*

The meeting was called by United States of America as the President of the Security Council.

Antony J. Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State presided time meeting.

Pakistan expressed its gratitude to the United States for convening today's High-Level Open Debate on Famine and Conflict-induced Global Food Insecurity.

Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Aamir Khan spoke on behalf of Pakistan.

He thanked the briefers for their valuable insights.

Ambassador Aamir khan expressed his concern that last year there were approximately 258 million food-insecure people living in 58 mostly developing countries. "The primary drivers of food insecurity are under-development, recent economic "shocks", such as COVID and climate impacts, as well as old and new conflicts "he said.

"Pakistan remains concerned that, according to the FAO and World Food Programme, 15.3 million Afghans are projected to face high food insecurity": he said.

"Pakistan will continue to provide support to the 29 million Afghanis in need of humanitarian assistance and help revive Afghanistan's economy": he assured.

While food insecurity accompanies most conflict situations, it becomes particularly acute and endemic in situations of prolonged foreign occupation.

In this debate, Pakistan drew attention has been devoted to some of these situations, but not others. I would like to draw special attention to the situations of the peoples of occupied Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir.

"Both these peoples have suffered foreign occupation for seven decades. They have been subjected to blockades and lockdowns, collective punishments, including deliberate economic and food deprivation", he said

"The best solution to food insecurity in conflict zones is the earliest cessation of the use of force and violence and the durable and just solution to these conflicts" he insisted.

He stressed in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, "the Security Council must secure the implementation of its resolutions calling for a UN supervised plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self determination".

"The world community must ensure that economic deprivation and food insecurity are not utilized by the Indian occupation to crush the legitimate freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people" he said.

Ambassador Aamir Khan also urged to support the early end of the war in Ukraine in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international agreements. "Pakistan has commended the UN Secretary-General's Black Sea Grain initiative, which aimed to ease the impact of the Ukraine war and accompanying restrictions on food security".

He expressed hope that this agreement will be revived at the earliest with the concurrence of the parties and implemented effectively and comprehensively.

"We believe that food insecurity in conflict zones should be addressed comprehensively. This implies universal and consistent application of UN Charter principles, Security Council resolutions and international law in all conflict situations and dispute resolution. It is double standards and selective application of international norms which makes their violation possible, especially by powerful states" he added

In conclusion, he says that "the food insecurity afflicting so many also requires immediate solidarity and structural solutions".

"In the immediate context, we must mobilize food supplies to those facing famine and food insecurity due to any cause. We must enlarge food production and moderate food prices. We must not cut off supplies by food export bans in manifestations of selfish nationalism. We must expand food production especially in the developing countries facing shortages. We must mitigate the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable countries. We must reform unequal agricultural trade. And, to help millions of people in need, and save thousands of lives, we must act with urgency and solidarity." he suggested in his concluding remarks.