



**Press Release**

***Nowruz is not just a celebration but also a moment of deep reflection: Amb Munir Akram***

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Ambassador Munir Akram, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, attended a special ceremony held at the UN headquarters to celebrate the International Day of Nowruz. He delivered an address on the occasion, celebrating the arrival of spring and the cultural significance it holds for millions of people across the globe.

In his statement, Ambassador Akram highlighted the essence of Nowruz as a symbol of nature's renewal and the resilience of the human spirit. He emphasized the importance of Nowruz as a moment for forgiveness, fresh beginnings, and embracing one another.

Quoting the renowned Pakistani poet Nasir Kazmi, Ambassador Akram captured the spirit of Nowruz, describing it as a festival of hope, joy, and blessings. He underscored the universal language of Nowruz, shared by diverse communities across Asia and Europe, uniting them through art, music, literature, and customs.

Acknowledging the celebrations in Pakistan, Ambassador Akram quoted Pakistan Prime Minister's message, extending greetings to those observing Nowruz. The Prime Minister, in his message, highlighted Nowruz as an opportunity to promote cultural synergies, unity, and inclusivity, thanking the Nowruz observing communities for their contributions towards building a better Pakistan.

Reflecting on Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, Ambassador Akram emphasized the deep-rooted connection between Nowruz and the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. He highlighted the significance of Nowruz, known as "Baharan" in Pakistan, particularly in regions like Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, where communities come together to celebrate.

Ambassador Akram stressed Pakistan's commitment to fostering peace, solidarity, and reconciliation through the celebration of Nowruz. By cherishing Nowruz as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Pakistan reaffirmed its dedication to promoting values that transcend differences and foster harmony within and beyond its borders.

However, amidst the celebrations, Ambassador Akram urged for reflection on pressing global challenges such as conflict, poverty, inequality, religious intolerance, and climate change. He called for solidarity with those enduring hardships, particularly highlighting the plight of the Palestinian people, as Pakistan strives for peace and justice for all.

Ambassador Akram concluded with an excerpt from the poem "Nawruz" by renowned Pakistani poet, Parveen Shakir, encapsulating the anticipation and hope associated with the arrival of spring.

Ambassador Munir Akram's statement encapsulated the spirit of Nowruz as a time of celebration, reflection, and renewed commitment to peace and unity.