



Press Release

***President of the UN General Assembly Applauds Pakistan's
Role in Global Peace Efforts at Pakistan Day Reception***

New York – March 22, 2024

Recognizing Pakistan's steadfast, devoted and robust commitment to multilateralism, Mr. Dennis Francis, the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA), has applauded Pakistan's role as a member of the UN, its multiple terms on the Security Council, and its consistent presence and leadership in various UN bodies, including ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council.

He commended Pakistan's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, and acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistani peacekeepers in promoting global peace and security.

Mr. Dennis Francis made these remarks while addressing the Pakistan Day reception as the chief guest. The event, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, was attended by the senior diplomats of the New York-based Permanent Missions, the UN staffers, members of academia, media, civil society organizations and the Pakistani diaspora.

The President of the UN General Assembly extended his warm greetings to Pakistan and said that Pakistan's National Day commemorates the adoption of the Lahore Resolution in 1940 and the adoption of the first Constitution of Pakistan in 1956. He highlighted Pakistan's journey towards independence and its subsequent contributions to establishment and maintenance of global peace, security and harmony.

“As the largest contributor of police and troop personnel to the UN for decades, Pakistan’s unwavering dedication to maintaining peace globally is clear and manifest,” the PGA said.

The President of the General Assembly lauded Pakistan's diplomatic achievements, citing examples such as Muhammad Zafarullah Khan's presidency of the UN General Assembly and membership of the International Court of Justice. He also praised Pakistan's efforts in addressing global challenges, including its role in advocating against Islamophobia and its contributions to climate action and environmental sustainability.

Referring to the second recently adopted resolution on measures to combat Islamophobia, the PGA said, "I take this opportunity to applaud Pakistan's consistent work – working alongside the membership of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – to elevate the concern about Islamophobia."

Mr. Dennis Francis had words of special praise for Ambassador Munir Akram. He said when the world confronted the "perfect storm" of economic and development challenges in 2021, "Pakistan's ECOSOC presidency in 2021, under His Excellency Munir Akram, successfully, achieved a consensus on debt relief and restructuring, larger concessional assistance, and the creation of new Special Drawing Rights."

The President of the UN General Assembly praised "Pakistan's resilience and extraordinary potential to deal with climate disasters and contribute to the goal of sustainability."

As a reminder of what Pakistan experienced in 2022, the PGA recalled, "with climate change being arguably our most formidable foe, the people of Pakistan have remained the victims of a grim calculus of climate injustice."

Highlighting the partnership between Pakistan and the General Assembly, he recalled how the UN General Assembly rose up to the challenge in solidarity with the people of Pakistan and convened an oral update last year to garner international support for continued assistance of the flood-stricken people of Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between Pakistan and the UN, particularly in areas such as sustainability and disaster response.

The PGA extended Ramadan greetings and emphasized the importance of compassion and peace during the holy month. He underscored the significance of fostering goodwill and solidarity among communities, reaffirming the commitment to spread compassion and peace.

In his welcome address, Ambassador Munir Akram highlighted Pakistan's unwavering commitment to multilateralism and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. He emphasized Pakistan's active role as a

Member State of the UN since 1947, supporting initiatives aimed at promoting international peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights.

Pakistan's foreign policy, Ambassador Akram stated, is rooted in the principles of the UN Charter, including the non-use or threat of force in international relations, respect for sovereignty, and territorial integrity, right to self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs of states. He underscored Pakistan's consistent efforts to champion the causes of the Global South and promote cooperative multilateralism.

Highlighting Pakistan's contributions to the UN, Ambassador Munir Akram outlined several notable achievements of Pakistan. These include Pakistan's service on key UN bodies such as the Security Council, ECOSOC, and the Human Rights Council, as well as its leadership roles in the Group of 77 and China. Additionally, he also acknowledged Pakistan's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, with over 200,000 service members serving in 46 missions worldwide.

Ambassador Akram announced Pakistan's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026, and sought support from the international community. He expressed confidence in Pakistan's ability to contribute meaningfully to the Council's mandate for international peace and security.

The reception concluded with expressions of gratitude from Ambassador Munir Akram to all esteemed guests, especially the President of the UN General Assembly for making time to attend the Pakistan Day reception.