Madam President,

We are grateful to the Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan for his 10th and last report on the work of the organization.

Let me avail this opportunity to convey our deep admiration to Secretary General for his able stewardship of the UN in a challenging decade, and for promoting the centrality of effective multilateralism in resolution of global issues. His commitment to the ideals of the UN Charter, in mainstreaming peace, security, development, and human rights, forging a global consensus on Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, would be remembered for long. We hope his vision of the UN reforms would help the Organization to position and transform itself in meeting the challenges of 21st century.

The report offers a comprehensive overview of the challenges that the UN is often called upon to respond. It reinforces the need for an effective UN system which can effectively respond the contemporary challenges, political disputes, wider complex internal conflicts, peoples inalienable right to self determination in situations of foreign occupation; development cooperation; eradication of poverty disease and hunger; early and predictable response to humanitarian catastrophe; comprehensive response to terrorism that inter-alia addresses root causes of this scourge;
non-discriminatory global disarmament; and promoting cooperation and dialogue for human rights of all people.

Madam President,

It is obvious that the existing and emerging challenges of the 21st Century cannot be addressed unilaterally, even by the most powerful states. They must be overcome through multilateral and cooperative solutions. The UN is the premier organization for this purpose. The 2005 Summit, the SG’s reports and the process led by President Jan Eliasson have made impressive progress towards revival and reform of the UN. Further reforms are underway in UN Management and mandate review, which Pakistan is proud to co-chair with Canada and Ireland. The anticipated report of the High Level Panel co-chaired by Prime Minister of Pakistan will hopefully enhance the coherence and effectiveness of the UN operational activities for development.

The ability of the UN to play a central role in global affairs, rests on our political will and commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. The principles and purposes of Charter transcend transition in global politics, economy and society. We must adhere to these objectives and ensure their implementation in letter and spirit.

No one can dispute that in order to move beyond conference servicing entity, the United Nations needs to reform and transform to deliver its mandates in the most effective and efficient manner. However, this process should preserve the principle of sovereign equality of states. The balance among the principle organs as defined under the Charter must be respected. Any effort to undermine inter-governmental and
international character of the organization would be counter-productive. Revitalization of the General Assembly, through genuine political will by implementing its resolutions, restoring its role in defining global economic agenda, safeguarding its norm setting and legislative role and preventing the encroachment of its functions by Security Council would be imperative for strengthening the sense of collective ownership of the organization.

Madam President,

The Secretary General notes some encouraging developments on debt relief and increase in ODA. However, the larger picture continues to reflect morass and call for consistent efforts to sort out the impediments to promote genuine and credible international development cooperation. These impediments alluded by the Secretary General include inadequate financing for development, widening of global epidemics, suspension of Doha Round negotiations, agricultural subsidies, slow progress on trade access, transfer of technology and FDI, and growing inequalities within and across states.

The development goals, commitments and policies represented in the MDGs and reaffirmed in major international Summits and Conferences including in 2005 World Summit can be translated into action only through a coherent international approach to development. The UN should, therefore, develop concrete ways and means to promote “full realization” of internationally agreed development goals, through concerted actions by all concerned “actors” i.e. national governments, development partners, relevant international institutions, civil society and the private sector. An appropriate mechanism to monitor the implementation of these commitments is imperative. Pakistan had
presented a comprehensive proposal in this context, which deserves serious consideration as we embark upon the implementation of the development resolution during this year.

Madam President,

Our world continues to face major conflicts festering instability and bloodshed. The UN active role in resolution of several major conflicts, in facilitating elections, in reform of security sectors and providing social services to all in many regions has indeed been impressive. However, we deeply regret that UN failure in playing any role, for the resolution of the of the oldest conflicts on its agenda, such as Jammu and Kashmir.

The marginalization of the UN in resolution of these conflicts resulting from the arrogance of power; impeding peoples right to self determination; persisting with illegal occupation and repression of occupied people; and the propensity to use disproportionate force explain the continuity of some of the major conflicts of our time.

Madam President,

The UN can truly be proud of its Peacekeeping efforts. These difficult and perilous missions have been instrumental in the transition of several societies from conflict to post conflict stabilization. As a largest troops and police contributing country, we fully support the Secretary General’s call for providing adequate resources and strengthening the mandates of the PKOs. The TCCS must be involved at every stage of defining the peacekeeping mandates. We hope that operationalization of Peacebuilding Commission would help in providing comprehensive
strategies and coordination of the rebuilding of post conflict societies as envisioned in the 2005 World Summit Document.

Madam President,

We take note of the Secretary Generals comprehensive strategy on combating terrorism. We believe that global strategy must confront and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remove the underlying causes of terrorism and extremism including political conflicts and disputes, economic injustice and underdevelopment, and the hostility and misperception between civilization and cultures especially between Islam and the West.

There are areas in which international consensus needs to be constructed. Disarmament and non-proliferation is an important area of discord, discrimination and double standards. The NPT regime needs to be modernized by normalizing relations of nuclear weapons states like Pakistan and India, with the objectives and norms of non-proliferation regime. We suggest that special conference be convened to build such a new consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Another outstanding issue is the reform of the Security Council. This is of vital interest to every member state. The current realities are complex. A solution to Security Council reform would need to accommodate the interest of all, and will have to be resolved by consensus or the widest possible agreement. While Security Council reform has been discussed and debated for a decade, compromise has not been explored through
negotiations. A negotiating process, coupled with political flexibility and diplomatic creativity, which ensures the participation of all Member States was needed to explore possible option for an agreed solution.

The UfC dinner Co-hosted by the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Italy on 20 September 2006 on the sidelines of the UN GA Session was a manifestation of our commitment to promote such a negotiated solution. The event underscore the need for reform of the Security Council, unanimous support for a negotiated, rather than a voted outcome, and exploring an agreed solution with flexibility and creativity. We believe that we may start the process with an open mind.

Madam President,

We also hope that the negotiations on strengthening the ECOSOC would be concluded at an early date. The ECOSOC through annual ministerial reviews must promote global dialogue and partnership on global policies and trends and assess progress on the follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits. ECOSOC should convene a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international development cooperation, to promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development entities.

The Council should play a major role in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities. The Council should also support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing
humanitarian emergencies including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response from the United Nations. Based on the experience gained within ECOSOC in the area of post-conflict reconstruction and development, the Council is expected to further promote a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction by inter-acting effectively with the Peace-building Commission.

Abiding by our commitment to strengthen the United Nations as a vital instrument of effective multilateral cooperation, Pakistan delegation would support your endeavors in this context.

Thank You Madam President.