



**Opening of the 2023 Session of the Special Committee on
Peacekeeping Operations (C-34)**

(Statement)

(21 February 2023)

Dear brother Tijjani,

I congratulate you on chairing another session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Pakistan reposes complete trust on your leadership of the Committee.

Let me start by expressing Pakistan's condolence to the delegation of Senegal and to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO) on the tragic loss of UN Peacekeepers.

We align with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The UN should be justifiably proud of the rich history of UN peacekeeping, and especially its competitive advantage, vis-à-vis other forms of multilateral intervention involving uniformed personnel.

Pakistan takes immense pride in its longstanding contributions to UN peacekeeping. From deploying troops in most challenging theatres to proposing novel concepts such as the multidimensional peacekeeping, Pakistan has been at the forefront of international efforts to end conflicts and restore order. With over six decades of hard-earned experience, skill and sacrifice of our personnel in the field, let me submit a few specific comments:

First, peacekeeping must remain distinct from peace enforcement and counter terrorism operations. We agree that the nature of conflict has changed and asymmetric threats have emerged. However, in responding to these trends, we must not allow UN peacekeeping to drift into grey zones and assume the role of militarized enforcement operations without conscious planning and decisions. The experience of those who have responded to complex situations through military intervention in other countries has not been very edifying. The principles, integrity and impartiality of UN peacekeeping should be preserved. An integral feature of UN peacekeeping should be to develop the capacity of host countries to address the security threats posed by terrorists or armed groups.

Second, peacekeeping must be driven by the spirit of burden sharing. The Secretary General's A4P initiative also underlines the vital importance of bilateral and multilateral partnerships. These partnerships should be encouraged through co deployments and training initiatives such as the Triangular Partnership Program. Pakistan continues to host

peacekeeping training programs for international participants at the Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) in Islamabad in the areas of leadership, gender, protection of civilians and community engagement. We look forward to further enhancing the scope of such training programs in collaboration with partner countries and UN Secretariat.

Third, as the representation of women peacekeepers has increased progressively in recent years, we believe that equitable geographical representation of women should be ensured while making the selections for leadership roles in peacekeeping missions. The presence of female peacekeeping leaders from the global South will incentivize greater participation of women peacekeepers from developing countries. Pakistan has made concerted efforts to increase the number of women in its peacekeeping contingents, achieving successfully the target of 50 percent female representation in our community engagement platoons.

Fourth, the protection of peacekeepers is a collective responsibility of the Security Council, host countries, TCCs and the UN Secretariat. To ensure the safety of peacekeepers, mandates should be realistic and achievable; and Missions equipped with adequate resources. Similarly, the selection of TCC's should be based on capabilities. Quality should take precedence over political expediency.

Fifth, we are encouraged to see that on the A4P+ concept, the UN is committed to innovative and tech-enabled peacekeeping. We must develop and promote peacekeeping specific technologies which respond to the current peacekeeping requirements, such as day and night vision surveillance equipment, advanced IED detection systems, explosive ordnance disposal, mine resistant and high mobility light tactical vehicles, telemedicine capabilities and state of the art medical evacuation facility.

Finally, we believe that peacekeeping is most effective when it is part of the overall 'political strategy' to resolve conflicts and build peace. This strategy should embrace the entire peace continuum from conflict prevention to conflict resolution. The goal of protection of civilians is best served by preventing the outbreak of armed conflict, addressing the root causes of conflict, and finding just and sustainable political solution through dialogue and mediation.

When we consider long running missions which operate in fragile security environments, we must rethink the needs and tools they require for achieving lasting peace and stability. The HIPPO report, the A4P initiative and C-34 reports, all emphasize the primacy of politics as a key pillar to build and sustain peace.

Mr. Chair,

As a host to the United Nations Observer Mission in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), Pakistan has always fulfilled its commitments to help in the implementation of its mandate. We support strengthening UNMOGIP to make it more effective. We believe UNMOGIP has been and continues to play an important role in the maintenance of peace and security along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.