



**Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the UN at the Opening of the 2024
Session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
(C-34)
(20 February 2024)**

Mr. Chair,

I wish to thank you for convening this important debate. Pakistan reposes complete trust in your leadership of the Committee. I also thank the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Dennis FRANCIS, and other briefers for their valuable remarks.

2. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of NAM, and we would like to add a few points in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

3. UN peacekeeping is a success story. It is a tangible expression of the collective security envisaged in the UN Charter.

4. Pakistan is very proud of its long-standing contributions to UN peacekeeping, having contributed 200,000 troops to 47 Missions in often challenging theatres. And, Pakistan has advanced novel concepts, such as multidimensional peacekeeping.

5. Pakistan also hosts one of the first peacekeeping missions, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which observes the ceasefire along the Line of Control in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

6. We are meeting at a moment when UN peacekeeping and our peacekeepers are confronting increasingly difficult challenges – from terrorists' criminal groups, tribal rivalries with unprecedented levels of threats to the safety and security of peacekeepers. Often there is no peace to keep. Two important Missions are being drawn-down, perhaps prematurely.

7. Pakistan reiterates its call for accountability for the growing attacks against UN peacekeepers. We are also concerned by the increased misinformation and disinformation against UN Peacekeeping Missions and Peacekeepers resulting in threats to their safety and security.

8. We concur with the Secretary-General's call for a serious and broad-based reflection on the future of peacekeeping. Any updated strategy for UN peacekeeping will have to reflect the following elements:

One, a peacekeeping mission must be part of an overall "political strategy" that seeks to address and resolve the underlying causes of conflict and violence;

Two, the mandates of UN peacekeeping missions must be responsive to the special circumstances of the situations being addressed and be realistic and achievable. It would be wise to formulate these mandates in consultation with troop contributing countries and host countries;

Three, each Mission should be provided adequate financial, human, material resources and advanced capabilities – UAVs, radar, early warning, intelligence and counter-IED – to implement its mandate;

Four, UN peacekeepers should receive adequate training, to fulfil their mandate and to respond to anticipated threats, Pakistan's CIPs offers several training programmes;

Five, improvements can be made in command and control structures, especially to ensure a timely response to attacks against civilians and peacekeepers;

Six, there should be greater accountability for attacks against UN peacekeepers instituted by host countries and the United Nations.

9. Finally, the distinction between peacekeeping and peace enforcement must be clear and distinct. In certain situations where large terrorist or criminal organizations are responsible for widespread violence, the international community will be obliged to respond with more robust actions than traditional "peacekeeping". Decisions for enforcement action should be taken after careful consideration. An enforcement mission would require strong and clear mandates, adequately trained, experienced and equipped troops, allocation of the substantial resources which such missions may

require, and, above all, the cooperation of the host government and of regional governments. Regional organizations can play a critical role in peace enforcement.

10. Pakistan is committed to forging peacekeeping partnerships, especially with the African Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

11. Pakistan will work with the UN and all interested States to further develop the concept of peace enforcement.

12. Such robust UN Missions could be “nimble and adaptable” as the Secretary-General has envisaged, but their mandates would need supplementary responsibilities such as pre-emptive conflict prevention, rather than reactive responses; cross-border interdiction; control over illegal exploitation of national resources; promoting intra-State and inter-State cooperation.

13. Pakistan will shortly organize a meeting at the Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) in Islamabad to elaborate the new concept of UN peacekeeping in the contemporary context.

I thank you.