
Mr. Facilitator,

I thank you for convening these consultations on Cluster IV: “Strengthening the United Nations.”

2. The Pakistan delegation associates itself with the statements made by Malaysia and Jamaica on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 and China, respectively.

3. Pakistan shares the overarching objective of discussions under this cluster i.e. to strengthen and adapt the United Nations – both its intergovernmental organs and its Secretariat – to achieve our shared and common objectives reflected in the UN Charter and to respond to the challenges and opportunities faced by the international community at the dawn of the 21st Century. In this context, it is essential to restate that our Organization exists to promote its Purposes and Principles; to harmonize the policies of its Member States; and to respond to the concerns and aspirations of all its Members – large and small, rich and poor, powerful and weak – and all the “peoples” of the United Nations.

4. It is obvious that institutional reform or changes must be a consequence of decisions to be taken on identified requirements, weaknesses and strengths of the UN system. Secondly, our organization, like any institution, can function efficiently if it has four essentials: one, clarity of objectives and process; two, political support of the broad membership; three, adequate resources to finance agreed actions and programmes; and four, adequate and qualified personnel.

5. In the context of institutional reform, our point of departure should be to restore the fine balance established by the Charter among the Principal Organs of the United Nations. Over the years, there has been a gradual erosion of the role of the General Assembly and ECOSOC while the scope of action of the Security Council has expanded well beyond its Charter mandate. It is our conviction that a strengthened United Nations can only be built when all the principal organs are enabled to perform their respective roles as envisioned by the Charter.

Revitalize the General Assembly

6. Everyone agrees that the General Assembly’s role and authority needs to be revived. The General Assembly is the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. At the Millennium Summit, our leaders pledged to enable the General Assembly to play that role effectively. We must redeem that pledge.

7. Revitalization of the General Assembly’s authority and role can happen only if Member States agree to allow it to play this role. We must not limit this debate to improvement of working methods and committee structures. To make a real difference, all Member States should at the forthcoming Summit: (i) renew their political commitment to implement General Assembly resolutions on a non-selective and non-discriminatory basis; (ii) stipulate unequivocally that the General Assembly’s mandated role under the Charter should not be undermined by infringement of its functions by other organs, particularly the Security Council; (iii) pledge adequate human and financial resources to the Organization to ensure the full implementation and follow up of all mandated activities; (iv) reaffirm that the priorities of the Organization should be determined by the General Assembly, which should also exercise full authority to allocate and reallocate financial and human resources required to fulfill intergovernmental mandates; and (v) direct that the General Assembly resolutions 58/316, 58/126, and other relevant resolutions on streamlining the agenda and work of the Assembly should be fully implemented.
Reform the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

8. Consultations so far in the General Assembly have clearly indicated a strong desire on the part of the membership to strengthen the role of the ECOSOC to enable it to play its Charter functions in the economic, social, humanitarian, environmental, cultural and related fields. We believe the ECOSOC can build on its unique position as the central forum for system-wide coordination to: (i) promote global dialogue and partnerships on world economic and social policies and trends; (ii) promote implementation of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals; (iii) provide guidance for operational activities including at the country level; (iv) play its due role for system-wide coordination to help operationalize integrated and coordinated follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits at the country level; and (v) contribute to international efforts in conflict prevention and peace building through support for development and reconstruction.

9. A number of Member States have been engaged in informal consultations to evolve a set of measures to enable the ECOSOC to perform these functions. A paper has been prepared as a result of these informal consultations. It will be considered on 5 May in an informal meeting of the ECOSOC and, with appropriate modifications, submitted to the President of the General Assembly and to his Facilitators. It is our hope that the September Summit will be able to adopt the necessary decisions to strengthen the ECOSOC.

10. Of course, if there is a general agreement that ECOSOC should serve as the central institution for international economic and social policy formulation, coordination and coherence, we shall need to empower it further – most importantly, by agreeing to be bound by its decisions, if necessary through an appropriate amendment to the UN Charter.

Establish a Human Rights Council

11. The proposal to create a new Human Rights Council cannot be a panacea for addressing the real underlying problems that afflict the human rights machinery in the United Nations. Suggestions to change structures miss the central point: the politicization of human rights. Creation of a smaller standing Council would go against the general trend of democratization of the United Nations and more representative intergovernmental mechanisms. It would also require Charter amendment which could delay reform for several years even if agreement can be reached on the proposed change.

12. We can call the human rights bodies by any name – Commission or Council – but we believe that it would be unwise to separate human rights from the context of socio-economic development. Nor will efforts to reduce the present size of human rights bodies evoke broad agreement.

13. We believe effective measures can be taken to rectify the shortcomings of the Human Rights Commission and other human rights machinery. As stated in my statement of 19 April, there is a need to: (i) de-politicize the Commission’s work; (ii) avoid a country-specific approach; (iii) adopt a thematic approach; (iv) rationalize the appointment and work of special rapporteurs; (v) make the office of the High Commissioner more representative and professional; (vi) enlist the Sub-Commission to act as an expert body and to undertake confidential consideration of human rights situations in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 1503; (vii) take decisions by a 2/3rd majority; and (viii) elect the members of the Commission and Sub-Commission by 2/3rd majority.

Peace-building [and Development] Commission

14. During the consultations on 21 April, Pakistan welcomed the idea of creating a Peace-building Commission. We hope this could be established at the Summit in September. We have
outlined our views regarding the proposed Commission’s mandate, composition and reporting mechanisms. I am circulating a paper which contains our detailed views on the mandate, composition and other aspects of the Commission – which we suggest should be called “Commission for Peace-Building and Development.”

Security Council Reform

15. Pakistan supports a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. It should be made more representative of the UN’s general membership. Its working methods should be improved to make it more transparent, accountable and efficient. There is certainly a momentum today for Council reform.

16. However, such enlargement of the Council should not merely serve the national ambitions of a few large countries; it should respond to the national interests of all Member States. Pakistan has, therefore, consistently opposed the concept of creating new permanent members. Their permanent occupation of additional seats naturally implies reduced chances of representation for other Member States. Obviously, this will be a zero-sum game – with six “winners” and 180 “losers.”

17. Deep differences remain on this issue. They have already overshadowed the main purpose of the September Summit i.e. to review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The declared intention of a Group of 4 countries to submit a resolution to impose the endorsement of their unilateral and self-serving proposal through a vote in the near future, will heighten the divisions at the UN, disrupt the preparations for the September Summit, including the development agenda, and derail the endeavour for UN reform. The tensions which have arisen in certain parts of the world would spread to other regions. Instead of a “United Nations,” we would become the “Divided Nations,” to the glee of this Organization’s detractors.

18. The phased approach outlined by this Group of 4 countries is also likely to lead to an impasse and indefinitely frustrate efforts to reform and enlarge the Security Council. Given the mutually exclusive positions of several regional groups and constituencies as well as lack of agreement on any “six” candidates, it will be difficult for the G-4 to secure the support of a 2/3 majority of UN Member States for a so-called framework resolution. Even if a framework resolution was adopted, the subsequent phases of the process, involving election of new permanent members by 2/3 majority and securing 2/3 majority support for a Charter amendment, would be extremely difficult. No list of 6 putative permanent members will enjoy the support of a 2/3 majority of Member States. Even if the aspirants succeeded in traversing their envisaged 3 stages, ratification of a Charter amendment, adopted by a divided vote, is not assured, given the opposition of some significant countries in various regions, the reluctance of even some of those governments which may be persuaded to vote for the G-4 approach and, importantly, the declared reservations of three permanent members to a result not achieved by consensus. The G-4 “road map” will lead to a dead end. It will freeze the status-quo. All those who desire Council expansion – including the G-4 – would be losers. The UN would be a house divided. And, tensions will escalate in almost every region in response to this naked power play.

19. In sharp contrast to the G-4’s arbitrary and rigid position, the Uniting for Consensus movement has adopted a flexible approach and supports the evolution of a solution that can accommodate the interests of all countries and groups. Such a solution can be achieved through painstaking dialogue to develop a consensus. A consensus solution will ensure the acceptability, legitimacy and sustainability of Council reform. It would also ensure quick ratification and real results.

20. It is evident that the vast majority of UN Member States would prefer dialogue and consensus to voting and division. This is why 119 delegations participated in the April 11 UFC meeting. The Uniting for Consensus movement is currently engaged in evolving viable alternative
models for Council reform. We will soon share these with other Member States. We believe that discussion of these alternatives is the best way forward to evolve a solution which accommodates the interests of all states and regions.

21. It is our hope that the President of General Assembly and his consultations and facilitation process would ensure that efforts at consensus building on this and other UN Reform issues is not disrupted by any precipitate move. We remain ready for constructive engagement and dialogue with all interested parties in any suitable forum or format to find a mutually acceptable solution.

22. The reform of the Security Council, and other fundamental UN reforms, are serious issues for the entire Membership. It is more important to achieve consensus on these issues rather than oblige Member States to take a rushed decision according to an arbitrary deadline.

**Strengthening the International Court of Justice**

23. Under the relevant cluster discussions, Pakistan has outlined the measures required to strengthen the international judicial system. We believe there should be greater resort to the ICJ for adjudication or Advisory Opinions on legal aspects of disputes between states. The General Assembly should resort more frequently to the ICJ for its advisory opinions on important legal issues. The ICJ should also be empowered, at the request of the General Assembly, to review decisions taken by the Security Council.

**Reform the Secretariat**

24. We have taken note of the recommendations made by the Secretary General on the reform of the Secretariat. We fully support the need to provide the UN with the resources required to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities.

25. It needs to be stressed that the UN is an intergovernmental Organization. Its actions and activities should be Member-driven, not Secretariat-driven. Intergovernmental oversight needs to be strengthened, not weakened, given the admitted shortcomings in the management and personnel of the UN Secretariat.

26. The recommendations of the Secretary General regarding personnel matters, such as one-time staff buy out, flexibility in the management of UN's budget and human resources, etc. are technical matters. Further clarification and information is required on various aspects of the proposals. These issues should be dealt with through the ongoing intergovernmental consideration of the human resource management reform and the comprehensive review of the budget process.

27. As for the proposal for the review of mandates, we wish to point out that the General Assembly is already seized with this matter in accordance with the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation (PPBME) regulations, relevant resolutions, and established procedures. In this regard, we wish to reaffirm that only the General Assembly is authorized to set the priorities of the Organization and decide on allocation or re-allocation of financial and human resources.

28. We agree with the need to make the Office of the Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) more independent. The current difficulties being confronted by the United Nations arise, in large measure, from a steady dilution of intergovernmental oversight. While we agree with the strengthening of the accountability structures within the UN, we also believe that the strengthening and independence of the OIOS, and its accountability to the General Assembly, will contribute to greater transparency, accountability, oversight and address the concerns voiced about the mismanagement at the United Nations.
29. I would like to add that the human resources of the Organization must be managed through a competency based system. There should be no room for arbitrary decisions on appointments or dismissals. Greater and real transparency and accountability in personnel matters, including recruitment and separation of staff, can obviate the need for subsequent staff buy-outs.

**System wide Coherence**

30. Pakistan supports the efforts of the United Nations system of funds, programmes and specialized agencies to promote coherence in their policies and coordinate actions at the country level to effectively assist the Member States in meeting the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. In this regard, it is of paramount importance that these efforts for coherence should address the specific needs and priorities of the recipient countries and enjoy the full ownership of the country concerned. In this context, we believe that the UNDG should complement the work of the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

**Process related Issues**

**Mr. Facilitator,**

31. I seek your indulgence, and that of the President of the General Assembly, to obtain greater clarity regarding the process of drafting and negotiating the final outcome document of the September Summit. While we have actively participated in the thematic consultations, our past experience has been that the views expressed by certain Member States and by the NAM and G-77 on the Panel’s report were not adequately reflected in the Secretary General’s report. Now that we are engaged in an intergovernmental process, it is essential that the Member States are reassured that this will not happen again. Summaries of the consultations on various clusters should therefore be prepared and made available to all Member States to ensure transparency and inclusiveness and to build mutual confidence.

32. The drafting of the final outcome document should not be left in the hands of one or a few individuals. It should be done through an intergovernmental process. An informal Working Group should be established for this purpose.

33. It is equally important to reach a clear understanding that the entire process will be consistent and that will play by the same rules on all issues. The GA resolution adopted on modalities envisages the achievement of the broadest possible general agreement on all major issues. The process outlined in the President’s road map is designed to promote such agreements. However, in case, a resolution is submitted on one issue, it will be untenable to argue that resolutions should not be moved on other issues. This could disrupt the consensus-building process envisaged in the President’s Road Map. The outcome of our September Summit would then become uncertain and perhaps highly controversial.

34. As we conclude our consultations on the four thematic clusters, I would like to take this opportunity to assure the President, and all Facilitators, of the full cooperation and participation of the Pakistan delegation in reaching a successful and consensus outcome of the UN reform process.