



**General debate on the revitalization of the work of the
General Assembly
New York, 7 November 2022**

Mr. President,

Thank you very much for convening today's meeting. Let me also thank and commend Ambassador Mitchell Fifield, PR of Australia and Ambassador Egriselda Lopez, PR of Ecuador for the able stewardship of the revitalization process during the seventy sixth sessions.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of NAM. We would like to add a few points in the national capacity as well.

Mr. President,

A key motivating factor in the revitalization debate has been the disparity between the General Assembly and Security Council. The Charter assigns both entities separate yet important roles and making optimum use of the assigned roles is key to achieving progress in the revitalization process.

Let me join others in reiterating that the General Assembly is the only UN body with universal representation. This unique feature provides ample space to this august forum to simultaneously address issues of global concern on one hand and those affecting individual members on the other.

It is for this reason that revitalization of the General Assembly is vital to promoting world peace, based on equal and indivisible security and sustainable development for all.

Indeed, the primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security is vested in the Security Council. But the Charter also delineates the role of General Assembly in several areas related to peace and security such as disarmament, international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The General Assembly should devote efforts to securing the full and comprehensive implementation of the principles of the right to self-determination, non-use of force, territorial integrity of states and non-intervention in their internal affairs. It should also develop the capacity to address the new and emerging challenges - such as climate change, the new arms race, governance of global commons and a knowledge based and digitalized world economy. Harnessing the true potential of the Assembly will augment the legitimacy and vitality of the United Nations, rendering it more effective and valuable for the people we serve.

A vibrant United Nations also requires frequent interaction and coordination between its primary organs, especially the General Assembly and Security Council. In several cases, the General Assembly can complement Security Council's work, for example, in the area of conflict prevention based on long term, structural prevention such as through addressing the longstanding root causes of conflicts. Such complementary work can lend immense value in forging a coherent and effective response to pressing international challenges across the three pillars of the United Nations.

Under the Article 24, Para 3 of the Charter, the General Assembly can invite the Security Council to provide subject-oriented special reports on the issues of current international concern. The need for such reports is felt even more whenever the Security Council takes a decision under Chapter VII of the Charter. It is also important that the reports provide a comprehensively elaborative, analytical and material account of the Security Council's work.

Mr. President,

While we can argue on the binding nature of the General Assembly's resolutions, there can hardly be two views on the Assembly's indelible contribution to the norm building and codification of international law. From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Convention to the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, the General Assembly has time and again made a meaningful impact on international legal landscape. We must continue to add to this solid structure of international legal framework through our work at the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

During the seventy-fifth session, Member States took an important decision to biennialize the resolution on the revitalization process. The development should serve as a welcome opportunity to dedicate more time to the implementation of the revitalization agenda and to evaluating the implementation status of General Assembly resolutions. Translating our collective ambition into action is vital to reinvigorate the General Assembly.

The resolution 75/325 reinforces the sovereign right of every Member State to introduce any new agenda or resolution in the Assembly. This provision has a special value for most Member States and preserving it in future resolutions should remain a priority. Rationalization should not mean a restriction on the prerogatives of the General Assembly membership.

The resolution 75/325 also consolidated the crucial gains achieved on the selection process of the UN Secretary General since 2015-16. This momentum must continue.

We also commend the resolution for its proclamation that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any Member State, and that the Secretary General should ensure that this principle is applied in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

The seventy sixth session afforded an opportunity to discuss at length, including through interactive dialogues, the role, authority and working methods of the General Assembly. Pakistan made substantive contributions during the deliberations, and we are thankful to the co-facilitators for reflecting several of our suggestions in the summary. We look forward to working with the same spirit on the remaining two clusters as well as the outcome document of the revitalization process this year.

I thank you.