



**Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN
at the General Assembly Debate on the 'Report of the Secretary
General on the Work of the Organization'**

(7 February 2024)

Mr. President,

We thank to the Secretary-General for presenting his comprehensive report on the work of the Organization in Doc. A/78/1 and his briefing earlier today. The Report comprehensively covers the activities of the UN.

2. It is obvious that the current threats to peace and security emanate mainly from violations of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter, especially non-use of force, foreign occupation, demand of self-determination, great power rivalries, and a new arms race. The volatile security environment is further exacerbated by growing poverty, climate change, injustice, inequality, hate, intolerance, xenophobia, and Islamophobia.

3. We agree that these challenges can only be effectively addressed through multilateral cooperation within the framework of the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

4. The United Nations should actively seek to resolve festering disputes, such as the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. There are several modalities for conflict resolution available under the Charter, including the Secretary-General's authority under Art. 99, Judicial mechanisms, especially the ICJ should be authorized to address all issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

5. We must prevent a major conflict, especially in a "nuclearized" environment; promote international cooperation to avert global threats and challenges by ensuring consistent and universal respect for the central principles of the UN Charter and international law and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

6. We support the efforts of the Peace Building Commission to address the resolution of conflict situations through the parameters of development.

7. We need to develop a “new consensus” on disarmament which can offer “equal security to all States” at “the lowest possible level of armaments”.

Mr. President,

8. It is evident that global efforts to eliminate terrorism have fallen short of expectations. We must address all the 4 pillars of the “Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner. It is essential to address: the “conditions conducive” for terrorism i.e. the root causes; the new and emerging forms of terrorism, reflected in right-wing extremism, neo-fascism and the rise of hate, xenophobia, and Islamophobia; distinguish terrorism from legitimate struggles for self-determination and liberation from foreign occupation; address “state terrorism” and “state-sponsored” terrorism; and ensure the protection of human rights while combating terrorism.

Mr. President,

9. We all want to see a Security Council that is more representative, more democratic, more transparent, more effective, and more accountable. This goal can only be attained through a comprehensive reform that caters to the interests of all Member States – small, medium, and large. The UfC model is the most likely to secure the “widest possible” support.

10. The IGN process offers the best platform to reach an agreed and negotiated outcome.

Mr. President,

11. As the Secretary-General has often said: “the Sustainable Development Goals are on life-support”. Today, over 100 developing countries confront food, fuel, and financial insecurity and over 60 developing countries are trapped by unsustainable debt.

12. The commitments made in Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, at the FfD Conferences, under the UNFCCC and, most recently, at the SDG Summit must be implemented. The United Nations has made immeasurable contributions to the advancement of human rights, but we are still far from the aspiration of the Charter.

While political and civil rights are assumed to be obligatory, the Right to Development must also become binding through the adoption of a binding International Convention on the Right to Development.

13. We hope to realize these objectives at the forthcoming Summit of the Future. Unfortunately, we have got off to bad start. The Pact of the Future must reflect the views and priorities especially of the developing countries, which constitute the vast majority of the UN's membership.

I thank you.