



**Pakistan’s statement delivered by Counsellor Naeem Sabir Khan
on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly - First
Thematic debate on the “Role and authority of the
General Assembly”**

(28 March 2024)

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

We thank you for organizing this open debate on the work of the General Assembly. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of NAM.

2. While several steps can be taken to improve the processes and procedures of the General Assembly, its revitalization is dependent not on the process but on substance. Revitalization is essentially a political rather than a procedural endeavour.

Co-Chairs,

3. My delegation would like to highlight the following areas that should form part of the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group:

One, is the re-affirmation of the role and authority of the General Assembly on international peace and security vide Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 & 35 of the UN Charter, especially the complementary authority of the General Assembly for peace enforcement when the Security Council fails to act. This authority is significant in the context of the developments in Gaza.

Two, our recommendations should require the Security Council to submit a comprehensive, detailed and analytical annual Report to the General Assembly and to submit special issue-related reports on current developments;

Three, we should reaffirm the Assembly's role in addressing any issue of global concern, for example, climate change, development, finance, terrorism, and disarmament, including through the creation of the General Assembly's subsidiary bodies;

Four, we should affirm the General Assembly's contribution to norm-building and codification of international law which should not be usurped by the Security Council through Chapter VII resolutions, which are only meant to address threats to or breaches of international peace and security;

Five, we must limit the encroachment of the Security Council on numerous "thematic" issues which are squarely within the ambit of

the General Assembly, for example, the women, peace and security agenda; development and security; climate change and security.

Six, we should enhance the General Assembly's contribution and role in the peaceful resolution of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, including mediation, conciliation etc;

Seven, our recommendations should develop the General Assembly's role in addressing new and emerging challenges and the governance of the "global commons", such as Outer Space, the Oceans, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Autonomous Weapons, etc;

Eight, the General Assembly should establish a dedicated mechanism to monitor the implementation of its resolutions. As a first step, the UN Secretariat should be asked to prepare a report on the current status of implementation of General Assembly resolutions.

And Nine, Efforts to erode the authority and role of the Assembly's Budgetary the Fifth Committee must be resisted. The role of the Committee on Programme and Coordination, the CPC needs to be strengthened and the ACABQ needs to avoid arbitrary positions in its budgetary recommendations.

Co-Chairs,

4. The Charter assigns distinct but complementary roles to both the Security Council and the General Assembly. It is vital to uphold and respect the General Assembly's role as the principal deliberative, policy-making and norm-setting organ of the UN.

I thank you!