

**Statement by Mr. Masood Khalid, Acting Permanent Representative of  
Pakistan to the United Nations on "The Situation in Afghanistan" at the  
Security Council, 23 May 2002**

**Mr. President,**

I wish to begin by congratulating you on your Presidency of the Security Council and for presiding over this public meeting on this important subject.

Afghanistan has suffered for twenty-three long years. They have suffered at the hands of man as well as nature. Afghanistan remains a devastated country and its people badly in need of outside help. Today, millions of Afghans are either sheltered abroad as refugees or face tremendous hardship inside their own country. Afghanistan's problems are manifold. Its people require emergency relief assistance, immediately. The country itself needs massive recovery and reconstruction. Although Afghanistan is turning a new leaf and in spite of hopes of a better tomorrow, the process entailing complete normalcy and stability certainly looks to be a long and arduous one.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan has welcomed the Bonn Agreement as a landmark event that seeks to bring about a fundamental change in Afghanistan through peaceful means. This Agreement forms a basis for evolving a genuinely homegrown, broad-based and multi-ethnic political dispensation in Afghanistan. A milestone event in this evolution will be reached next month with the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga. We hope that this will be the first step in a process which will ultimately lead to the establishment of a genuinely representative government in Afghanistan which is acceptable to all Afghans, and that which promotes unity and stability, internally, and which respects its international obligations, externally, including those of its neighbours.

Pakistan also extends its fullest support and cooperation to the United Nations-led efforts in Afghanistan. We have welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). We hope that in addition to supervising relief and recovery efforts, the UN will continue to play its role as a facilitator in helping the Afghans to find "homegrown" solutions to their problems.

**Mr. President,**

Now that the international community has committed itself to peace, stability, recovery and reconstruction of Afghanistan, it must remain steadfast in completing the task that it has begun. We must draw lessons from Afghanistan's tragic past. History would have been different, the suffering in Afghanistan, and the violence which exacerbated it could have been avoided, if the international community had not walked away from Afghanistan, once success was achieved in the Cold War.

We are heartened by the assurances of the major powers that this time they would not walk away from Afghanistan, that they are committed to helping Afghanistan to build peace through the Bonn political process and to help in the rebuilding of the economy and society of this war-ravaged land. An Afghanistan, at peace with itself and at peace with its neighbours can play a vital role for the promotion of peace, security and cooperation in the region.

**Mr. President,**

It is apparent that without security inside Afghanistan there can be no stability, no reconstruction or recovery. It is the essential prerequisite on which the entire future of Afghanistan and its people depends. The implementation of the Bonn Agreement, and indeed the political and economic

future of Afghanistan depends on ensuring peace and security there. The Afghan people have suffered far too long at the hands of ambitious warlords and fratricidal factions. The international community must, therefore, ensure that the re-emergence of these trends are not allowed to obstruct the establishment of a stable political structure in Afghanistan as envisaged in the Bonn Agreement.

The Bonn Agreement stipulated the establishment of a "United Nations mandated force" for the maintenance of security for Kabul as well as other areas of the country. We support the deployment of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul, and the extension of its mandate for another six months. We feel that its size and scope must now be expanded and extended to encompass the entire country, especially its major urban centers. We had joined the international community in helping to rebuild Afghanistan's army and police. Pakistan has offered to assist in the training of the Afghan national army and police as well as cooperation in drug control and revamping of the judicial system in Afghanistan. But this processes may be far too slow to address Afghanistan's immediate internal security requirements and thus to keep the implementation of the Bonn process on track.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan has been providing shelter to millions of Afghan refugees for over two decades. We welcome the large on-going return of refugees back to Afghanistan. We hope that the international efforts will provide adequate financial and operational means to ensure their rehabilitation, resettlement, and re-integration into the emerging new Afghan society. Pakistan has pledged 100 million dollars worth of assistance for Afghanistan's immediate rehabilitation and reconstruction needs, which includes the reconstruction of its infrastructure and the rehabilitation of its communications system and power generation sectors. Out of these 10 million dollars have already been disbursed.

Pakistan has extended its fullest support and cooperation to the Afghan Interim Administration. We appreciate the warm welcome given by the Afghan Interim Administration to President Pervez Musharraf, when he visited Kabul this April. President Musharraf has assured Chairman Karzai that "your agenda is our agenda". We are fully committed to maintaining and improving fraternal ties with Afghanistan and we will continue to work with the Afghan authorities and the international community for Afghanistan's recovery and stability.

**I thank you. Mr. President.**

New York  
23 May, 2002