

## **STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR MUNIR AKRAM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN IRAQ ON 22 JULY 2003**

**Madam President,**

It is an honour and pleasure to see you once again here with us to preside this important meeting. The importance of this meeting has been made obvious by the statements which we have heard from the distinguished Secretary General, whose presence we welcome this morning, as well as from his Special Representative in Iraq Sergio de Mello.

These statements have been made pursuant to resolution 1483 of the Security Council. We are happy to note that the United Nations staff in Iraq continues to serve as the eyes and ears of the international community. The incisive analysis of the Secretary General's report and the statements that we have heard reflect this adequately. We appreciate, in particular, Mr. De Mello's statement and would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for all related UN agencies who have worked in Iraq throughout the difficult days before resolution 1472 and 1483 were adopted to continue to provide for the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

**Madam President,**

The civilizations of the Tigris and Euphrates have enjoyed over the millennia the close ties with the Indus Valley civilization. The peoples of Pakistan and Iraq are bound by the ties of history, faith and culture and close cooperation in the days before repression and war afflicted this great and dynamic country. Throughout the recent months, Pakistan has always guided by the interests of the people of Iraq at every stage of deliberations in the Council. On 27 March, following the conflict, my delegation stated here that the principles which must guide the Council include the following:

- Respect for the political independence, unity, territorial integrity of Iraq and its neighbouring states;
- The right of the Iraqi people to choose their own political destiny and form of Government and to exercise their right to self-determination;
- Non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs;
- Permanent sovereignty and control over their natural resources.
- Respect for the religious and cultural traditions of the people of Iraq and sanctity of the holy places which are among most venerated in the Islamic world;
- The right of Iraqi nation to economic and social reconstruction.

**Madam President,**

We believe that these principles remain the framework and guiding objectives which must be promoted by the Security Council and the international community.

We believe that the restoration of peace internal stability in Iraq is in the interest of the Iraqi people, in the interest of the neighbouring countries and in the interest of the international community. In Iraq today there are enormous challenges, security, restoration of services, reconstruction, governance and administration of justice. But as in any crisis, these challenges are accompanied by opportunity- opportunity to revive Iraq's potential, as the leading nation in Arab, Islamic and the developing world. The people who have suffered so much deserve no less.

**Madam President,**

The Security Council has, following the recent conflict, sought to realize these objectives. Resolution 1472 and 1483 affirmed the basic principles of this policy that must guide us all including the Coalition Forces in the process of humanitarian and other help to Iraqi people, in securing the earliest and full restoration of Iraq's sovereignty and political independence.

The Secretary General report reflects developments from the perspective of the United Nations. We commend the efforts deployed by the Secretary General's Special Representative, his deputy and various UN agencies particularly the World Food Programme, as noted by the Secretary General in his report, which has reactivated public food distribution system. This is no mean achievement given the massive dependence of the Iraqi people on the public rationing system.

**Madam President,**

In his report, the Secretary General has noted that the primary concern in Iraq remains the restoration of the internal security which is threatened mainly by organized and unorganized crime and violence. General lawlessness has resulted in looting and sabotage of key infrastructure. Attacks by those who are presumed loyalist of the previous regime or the opponents of the Coalition Authority are also impeding the stabilizing actions. In the words of the Secretary General, and I quote "the lack of security affects every aspect of life in Iraq today in a fundamental way" The establishment of internal security is a prelude and precondition to normalization of political, economic and social conditions.

We believe that in promoting security certain essentials must be borne in mind:

**First** A strengthened indigenous mechanism is a sine qua non for halting looting and sabotage that engenders uncertainty and fear and prevents humanitarian operations and rehabilitation of basic services. Although the Coalition Provisional Authority is primarily responsible for security in Iraq, we believe that the nature of security operations can be improved by enlisting the support and participation of the Iraqi people for these operations.

**Second** Security operations need to be conducted in a way that are sensitive to the welfare and sentiments of the Iraqi people, and sensitive to their cultural and religious values. To move the popular sentiments in Iraq, from suspicious to trust and from skepticism to hope, it is essential to expedite the process of transition to represent the Government by the Iraqi people.

**Madam President,**

Security is, of course, the responsibility of the Coalition Provisional Authority. The United Nations' assistance in building and training Iraqi police and security forces can be promoted and enlarged under provisions of paragraph 8 of resolution 1483. This resolution, as we noted on 21<sup>st</sup> May, also opened the doors to the friends of Iraq to contribute to the welfare of the Iraqi people, including for the creation of an environment of peace and security in the area. Clearly such contributions from Iraq's friends, who share common values with the people of Iraq, should be in response to the wishes and desires of the Iraqi people themselves.

**Madam President,**

In operating paragraph 9 of resolution 1483, it was envisaged that there would be an early creation of Iraqi Interim Authority. The Secretary General has emphasized and I quote "the need for an Iraqi body widely accepted as representative so that the key issues facing Iraq can begin to be addressed by Iraqis themselves". Pakistan believes that the formation of the Governing Council is a welcome first step in the direction of returning governance and sovereignty to the

people of Iraq as soon as possible. We welcome the presence here of Mr. Adnan Pachahi, Mr. Chalabi, Ms. Aqila Hashmi, members of the Governing Council in our meeting today.

**Madam President,**

The Security Council in its resolution 1483 has expressed its resolve that the day Iraqis will govern themselves must come quickly. In this context, the Secretary General has also indicated the need for setting up a clear and specific and sequence of events leading to the end of military occupation in Iraq. Establishment of the recognized representative Government in Iraq is the eventual destination of the political process in Iraq under resolution 1483. The UN is well placed to assist the Iraqi people in this process. We hope that CPA, in coordination with the United Nations, will chalk out a course of events leading up to early restoration of Iraq's sovereignty. United Nations' engagement in this process would enhance its legitimacy and credibility in the eyes of the international community, more importantly in the eyes of the Iraqi people themselves.

**Madam President,**

The economic independence of Iraqi people constitutes a fundamental element of their national sovereignty. The administration of Iraq's economic and natural resources is a trust which was given to the Coalition Authority under resolution 1483 as a temporary measure due to the exigencies of the situation. The administration of Iraq's resources must be transparent and consistent with the provisions of international law and resolution 1483. In particular, we would like to indicate that the Security Council under paragraph 12 of resolution 1483 decided that the International Advisory and Monitoring Board would not only advise but also monitor the transactions of the Development Funds. We hope that this consideration will be fully reflected in the revised regulation of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board.

Secondly, the provision of basic services has a direct and reciprocal relationship with the establishment of security. Iraq Oil for Food Programme has catered to the needs of the Iraqi people for many years. We need to consider how to retain the basic operational capacity created under the Oil for Food Programme to deliver basic needs and reconstruction requirements of the Iraqi people.

**Madam President,**

Iraq faces gigantic task of economic and social reconstruction and rehabilitation. We believe that the United Nations is best suited to lead and coordinate the international efforts in this direction.

**Madam President,**

Pakistan has maintained that the Security Council in its deliberation on Iraq has broadly reflected the sentiments of the world peoples. The Security Council and the United Nations have demonstrated extraordinary unity after the war to move the situation towards normalization. Resolution 1472 and 1483 represent the sincere efforts on behalf of the Security Council and the international community to come together to protect and promote the interests of the Iraqi people. The Secretary General and the Special Representative has already made significant contribution to this end. They must be provided full support for the realization of the on-going task listed in paragraph 98 of the report and to exploring ways and means to broaden the contribution of the United Nations in the areas outlined in para-99 of the report.

Pakistan stands ready to extend all possible assistance and cooperation to the Iraqi people to realize their aspirations- to maintain their unity, restore their sovereignty, regain their control over their natural resources and to re-establish relations of fraternity and friendship with all their neighbors and other states of the region.