

**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khalid, Deputy Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Open Briefing on the
Situation in Côte d'Ivoire**

25 July 2003

First, I would like to join others in conveying our warm sentiments of friendship and best wishes to Ambassador Greenstock. His contribution to the deliberations of the Security Council was no doubt valuable and will be long remembered. I am sure that his many outstanding qualities will be an asset in his new assignment.

It is also my pleasure to join others in welcoming Prime Minister Seydou Diarra and his delegation to today's public meeting. Let me also thank the Spanish presidency for convening this meeting. It testifies to the continued and sustained attention that the Security Council gives to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

The visit to the United Nations of Prime Minister Diarra comes in the wake of the recent mission of the Security Council to the West African sub-region, among whose main destinations was Abidjan. Earlier, in April, the Security Council discussed the situation in Côte d'Ivoire in a public meeting, with the participation of a high-level ministerial delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Côte d'Ivoire has a clear road map to peace in the form of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The people of Côte d'Ivoire have courageously and wisely opted for that path. The success of the peace process hinges on the faithful implementation of that agreement. That is also the mandate of the Government of national reconciliation. We thank the Prime Minister for his briefing today, which outlined the significant progress made in the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as well as some key areas in which work remains to be accomplished.

We support the Council's action. We encourage the authorities and all parties in Côte d'Ivoire to work towards full implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. We hope that the people of Côte d'Ivoire will be able to achieve the desired objectives of peace and stability in the spirit of national reconciliation. In that regard, we laud the efforts being made by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.

Côte d'Ivoire has withstood the turmoil that accompanied the unfortunate developments that, one after the other, struck the country since September last year. However, the crisis is not yet over. A lot of damage has been done in all spheres of national life: political, security, economic, social and human rights. Beyond national frontiers, the subregion as a whole has suffered the negative fallout of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. Therefore, the need and urgency of remedying the situation is felt by all. Côte d'Ivoire is fortunate that in its hour of crisis, it has been the beneficiary of timely assistance and support at various levels: bilateral, regional and international. We appreciate the role played by France and ECOWAS in stabilizing the situation there. The United Nations is also actively engaged in the peace process through the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) and the Special Representative, Mr. Tevoedjre, who is present here. His personal efforts merit special mention. Apart from the political process, the challenge of economic rehabilitation and reconstruction requires the continued support of the international community. Pakistan joins the appeal to the donor community for adequate contributions in that regard.

One central conclusion that emerges from the consideration of conflict situations in Africa and elsewhere is the need for parallel progress on several interrelated tracks: credible security, developing consensus solutions, humanitarian relief for suffering people, provision of justice and economic revival including through adequate economic assistance. Addressing those complex

issues should be the responsibility not only of the Security Council but of all organs of the United Nations — perhaps through the mechanism of composite committees, which our delegation has suggested on previous occasions.