



**Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at the
Security Council's Open Debate on "Peacebuilding and
sustaining peace: Investment in people to enhance resilience
against complex challenges
(26 January 2023)**

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes this debate on “investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges”.

2. People are at the core of the world order envisaged in the UN Charter. The Charter commences with the words: “We, the peoples....” This world order was constructed on the foundation of the central Charter principle of the right of peoples to self-determination. The Charter’s objectives include, in Article 55: (a) higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development; (b) solutions to economic, social, health and related problems; and c) universal respect for human rights.

3. It is obvious that in over the last seven decades, insufficient attention has been accorded to the “peoples” of our United Nations.

4. Although most of the peoples of the 193 Member States of the United Nations have exercised their right to self-determination, there are several who have been prevented from exercising this right due to foreign occupation and suppression. Two of the most intractable conflicts in the Council’s agenda - Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir - continue to fester, and threaten international peace and security, due to suppression of the right of self-determination through foreign occupation. Enabling the people of Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination must be a priority objective of the Security Council.

5. We have also failed to ensure universal respect for human rights. We are witnessing perpetuation of gross and systemic violations of human rights, particularly in conflict situations and in situations of foreign occupation. The endeavour to promote human rights is often eroded by the application of double standards and motivations of political priorities of some of those who “champions” of human rights.

6. Nor has the United Nations succeeded so far in promoting “higher standards of living, full employment” or “conditions of economic and social progress and development”. Our world is vastly richer than it was 78 years ago. Yet, inequality has increased and the division between the rich and the poor is growing. Over 800 million people live in abject poverty; cut-off from jobs and decent livelihoods; desperate for survival. Over the past three years the prospects of the poor have been devastated

by the COVID pandemic, climate change impacts and by proliferating conflicts.

7. The interdependence between peace and development is well established. It is now evident that conflicts are proliferating in the poorest parts of the world; that terrorism - which feeds on injustice and deprivation - has spread to these regions. To build “resilient” peace, we need resilient development. Therefore, it is imperative to implement Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, comprehensively and universally. We must:

- Alleviate the debt burden of the 54 developing countries which are in “debt distress”;
- Fulfill the target of 0.7% of the GNI has development assistance from the developed countries.
- Rechannel the unutilized IMF Special Drawing Rights for development;
- Recapitalize the Multilateral Development Banks and vastly increase concessional liming.
- Lower the exorbitant borrowing cost for developing countries;
- Restructure the unequal trade and tax regimes; and
- Align access to technology with the SDGs.

Mr. President,

8. It is a tragic irony that those most vulnerable to the growing impacts of climate change are peoples who have contributed the least to global warming and climate change. The recent IPCC report underlines that climate change is a “risk multiplier”, especially in areas under stress. To achieve durable peace, it is crucial to implement the climate agenda - for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage - and ensure “climate justice” through adherence to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, adequate adaptation support and compensatory assistance for loss and damage suffered by the most vulnerable developing countries.

Mr. President,

9. In response to the recent devastating floods disaster, Pakistan has formulated a Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (the 4 R's) plan in cooperation with our development partners. We are gratified by the generous support for this plan and its core objective of building back with resilience.

10. This demonstration of international solidarity and cooperation will, we hope, imbue all of the efforts by the international community to ensure that all peoples are equipped to address the complex challenges of peace, development, and climate change we face today.

I thank you.