



Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, during Security Council's Open Debate on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Effective multilateralism through the defense of the principles of the UN Charter" (24 April 2023)

Mr. President,

It is a profound pleasure personally for me to see you preside over the Security Council. The Pakistan delegation also thanks you and the Russian Presidency for organizing this important debate on international security and “effective multilateralism”.

2. We also thank the Secretary General for his important briefing.

Mr. President,

3. Today, International peace and security confront multiple threats, arising from violations of the principles of the UN Charter; great power rivalries; a renewed global arms race, proliferating conflicts and disputes; spreading terrorism, hate and islamophobia; organized crime; rising poverty; and growing climate impacts.

4. We believe that these multi dimensional and global challenges can be only overcome through multilateral corporation. We reject a unipolar, bipolar or even a so-called “multipolar” world if this is dominated by a few large and powerful States. Such an “order” would be contrary to the principle of sovereign equality of States. We seek “ effective multilateralism”— a multilateral order constructed on the basis of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, one in which each Member State has an equal voice and an equal stake.

5. At the same time, we must express our concern at some new concepts advanced in some of our discussions within the United Nations, such as “multi-stakeholder” and “networked” multilateralism. These concepts too are contrary to the UN Charter, which envisages an international system composed of equal and sovereign member States.

Mr. President,

6. “Effective Multilaterism” can address the current and emerging threats to international peace and security.

7. A critical part of this endeavour must be to promote universal and consistent respect for the fundamental principles of the UN Charter by all States, irrespective of their size, power or influence. To this end, the UN Secretary-General should prepare an annual review of situations on the Security Council's agenda where the Charter's principles and/or the resolutions of the Council are being violated or remain unimplemented. The Security Council must take bold decisions to secure the compliance by States with the Charter's principles and its own resolutions and decisions. The Council has various means available to it, under the Charter, to secure such compliance.

8. The Secretary General rightly mentioned decolonization is a major achievement of the United Nations. Yet a prime illustration of derogation from the Charter and Security Council resolutions is the situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where the exercise of the right to self determination by the Kashmiri people, prescribed by the Security Council, has been subverted and suppressed by India through seven decades of force and fraud. Another is the situation in occupied Palestine. Protestations of commitment to the UN Charter ring hollow when no action is taken to redress these blatant violations of the UN Charter and resolutions of the Security Council on the two issues which has remained on the agenda of the Security Council for the last seventy-five years.

9. Second, if the world is to avoid global catastrophe, it is now essential to redress the rising tensions between the major military powers. We hope that a sincere effort will be made to end the war in Ukraine on the basis of the Charter and international agreements. We hope that tensions will not be further provoked in Asia. We are concerned at the expansion of military alliances and escalation of military expenditures and capabilities. These developments also threaten peace and stability in South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

10. The "Summit of the Future" next year should reaffirm the solemn commitment, especially by the "militarily significant States", to refrain from the use or threat of force; respect the UN Charter's principles;

implement Security Council resolutions; restrain military expeditions and provocative deployments; and eschew military blocs and alliances.

Mr. President,

11. Rising global tensions have undermined the entire edifice of arms control and disarmament, An uncontrolled arms race – which now encompasses several new weapons and new domains of competition – will, sooner or later, lead to a disastrous conflict involving States armed to the teeth with conventional and nuclear weapons.

12. The United Nations can and should take the lead in reviving the process of arms control and disarmament, based on the consensus achieved at the 1978 first Special Session on Disarmament (SSODI). Whos central principles were: equal security for all States; ensuring national security at the lowest possible level of armaments, and the preservation of military balance and mutual restraint at the global and regional level. We must also outlaw dangerous military doctrines, especially the presumption that conventional wars can be fought between nuclear armed states without fear of nuclear escalation.

13. The UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary General can do much more to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes through the multiple modalities available under Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter.

14. The agenda for peace mentioned by the Secretary General must also address the fundamental causes of conflict, including poverty and hunger; foreign occupation and oppression; injustice human rights violations and environmental and climate impacts.

Mr. President,

15. Finally, effective multilateralism can only be built on the foundations of strong international institutions. The Security Council should be enlarged and become more representative, accountable,

democratic, transparent and effective. It should not become an enlarged club of the large and powerful States.

16. However, a reformed Security Council, in itself, offers no panacea to ensure effective multilateralism. It must be accompanied by fully utilizing the considerable potential of the General Assembly; the activation of the UN's Disarmament machinery; and most critically, the reform and democratization of the Bretton Woods institutions.

Mr. President,

17. Effective multilateralism, in short, must be comprehensive, inclusive and equitable. Pakistan will work assiduously to promote such effective multilateralism, including in the preparations for the Summit of the Future next year.

I thank you, Mr. President.