



**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: Future proofing Trust for Sustaining Peace
(3 May 2023)**

Madam President,

Pakistan congratulates Switzerland on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council and it is a great personal pleasure to see you preside over the session of the Council. We are also grateful to Switzerland for convening today's debate.

2. The erosion of trust in the international political and economic system has been gradual, but it is now pervasive. The trust deficit cannot be attributed to a single factor or event. It can be attributed to the evolution of a toxic global security environment where States have come to believe that equipping themselves for war is the best guarantee of preserving national security, sovereignty and independence.

3. In Pakistan's view, trust among States has eroded primarily because the fundamental principles of the Charter have been consistently violated by powerful States and their allies and because insufficient attention has been paid to securing the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council, as required under Article 25 of the UN Charter.

4. Both the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions are cardinal pillars of international law and world order. Compliance with the Charter and Council's decisions is binding and obligatory on Member States. This is the critical pre-requisite for restoring mutual trust among Member States.

Madam President,

5. The UN Secretary-General should prepare an annual review of the situations on the Security Council's agenda where the Charter's principles are being violated and where the resolutions of the Council remain unimplemented. The Council can then utilize various means available under the Charter for example – in Chapters VI, VII & VIII – to secure compliance by the States which continue to violate the Charter's principles and the Council's own decisions. This would be the best way to "future-proof", and even to "present-proof", international peace and security.

Madam President,

6. Building international trust also entails addressing the root causes of conflict, including poverty, hunger, foreign occupation and oppression, denial of the right of the self determination, injustice, human rights violations and climate impacts. These are all conditions that should take center stage in the Secretary General’s agenda for peace. And to avert conflicts and to mitigate the impacts, an equitable and non-discriminatory arms control and disarmament regime is indispensable.

Madam President,

7. It is evident that conflicts, violence and terrorism have proliferated particularly in the poorest parts of the world. Resilient peace is impossible without resilient development. The multiple economic shocks of the past three years have reversed the prospects of achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. During the pandemic, and in the subsequent development crises, trust has eroded in the international system due to the wide deficit in solidarity and support for those who have suffered the most in these crises for no fault of their own. Even today, the Bretton Woods institutions continue with policies that directly exacerbate the fiscal and developmental challenges of the developing countries. Today, 54 States are in debt distress and in danger of default; over a hundred million people have descended back into extreme poverty; 300 million are in need of food aid. Meanwhile, climate impacts are mounting and the planet is becoming less friendly habitat, especially for the poor.

Madam President,

8. We know what needs to be done – the provision of adequate finance – of 4.2 trillion dollars annually to achieve the SDGs – through SDR creation and re-allocation through recapitalization of the Multilateral Development Banks; the fulfillment of Official Development Assistance and climate finance commitments, a sustainable resolution of the debt crises, an end to illicit financial flows; and development-oriented policies in international trade, taxation and access to technology. To restore “trust” it is essential that decisions are taken on these issues at the forthcoming SDG Summit.

Madam President,

9. As mentioned in the concept paper for this meeting, evidence-based insights are critical for strengthening transparency and decision-making in the Council and elsewhere. Yet, the Council's failures are not due to the failure of insight or recognition of realities. Of course, modern technological advances, such as artificial intelligence, are useful tools in building such insights. However, reliance on technology should not lead us to underestimate the unique value of the human factor in shaping the right and humane decisions at the United Nations, including in the Security Council. It is only by emphasizing and ensuring the values of humanity, morality and ethics which imbue the system of international relations constructed under in the UN Charter that we – the world's nations – can “future-proof” peace, security and prosperity.

Thank you!