



**Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at the
Security Council's Open Debate on "Ensuring the security and
dignity of civilians in conflict: Addressing the food insecurity
and protecting essential services"
(23 May 2023)**

Mr. President,

Pakistan welcomes the convening of this important debate on conflict and food security by the Swiss Presidency.

2. Today, there are over 250 million people who go to bed hungry each day. Seventy percent are in areas of armed conflict. The majority of them are children.

3. This nexus between hunger and conflict is well established and vividly visible in so many recent and contemporary conflict situations.

4. The imperative of preventing, resolving and ending armed conflicts has never been so clear. Yet, the agenda of the Security Council has kept adding new conflict situations to old and entrenched issues; and hunger has continued to grow, with this proliferation of conflicts and other accompanying causes of poverty and deprivation that encompasses almost one billion people, one in every 8 humans, mostly in the “global South”.

5. The primary endeavor in this Council, and other global forums, must remain the promotion and maintenance of peace and security and the resolution of conflicts and disputes in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

6. For my own region, the key of securing peace and stability in our region is the just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Deprivation and hunger are being imposed on the Kashmiri people by the suppression imposed by a 900,000-occupation army, massive violations of their human rights and the progressive expropriation of their properties and means of livelihood.

7. It is, therefore, sad to see some but not all of the Group of 20 representatives allowed themselves to be used in India’s attempt to portray a false sense of normalcy in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Human Rights Council’s Special Rapporteur on Minority Rights Fernand

De Varrenes on 15 May warned of this attempt to normalize military occupation. He said and I quote “The situation in Jammu and Kashmir should be decried and condemned, not pushed under the rug”.

8. The consequences of 40 years of conflict are also writ large in Afghanistan. Almost 95 percent of Afghanistan’s population exists in extreme poverty. Even as we seek to ensure women’s rights, and end terrorism in and from Afghanistan, the world cannot allow the Afghan people to be consigned to prolonged poverty. The UN Secretary-General’s humanitarian appeal for Afghanistan should be fully funded. And the Afghan economy must be rapidly revived through the release of Afghanistan’s assets abroad; revival of its banking system; reconstruction of its infrastructure and implementation of the “connectivity” projects.

9. Pakistan commends the UN Secretary-General’s Black Sea Grain initiative to ease the impact of the Ukraine war and accompanying restrictions on food security. We hope this agreement will be implemented faithfully and fully. Above all, Pakistan desires an early end of the war in Ukraine in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international agreements.

I thank you.