



**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan  
at the United Nations Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting  
“Unlocking the Potential of Science for Peace and Security”  
(17 May 2024)**

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**Mr. President,**

We thank you for organizing this meeting and thank the briefers for their valuable insights.

The application of Science has enabled immense progress and prosperity for humankind in virtually every walk of life. We lead healthier, safer and more comfortable lives today, thanks to these advances.

Scientific knowledge and tools also enable us to anticipate threats more effectively. For example, climate modeling, disease surveillance systems, and early warning mechanisms have demonstrated the power of scientific data in informing proactive responses.

At the same time, modern science and technologies have also led to the advent of new tools of warfare –moving from sticks and stones to gun powder to nuclear weapons and cyber warfare. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled autonomous weapons is poised to be the new revolution in military affairs.

Today, the convergence of AI and information warfare – marked by the exponential proliferation of disinformation through online platforms and social media – is also being used to wage “hybrid warfare” for fomenting social discord and spreading propaganda leading to discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan has made significant strides in various advanced scientific fields, including nuclear technology, space exploration, and biotechnology.

As a nation committed to progress and stability, Pakistan firmly believes in harnessing the beneficial power of scientific advancements to address contemporary challenges.

Pakistan also recognizes the transformative potential of science in advancing peace and security.

We underscore the imperative of removing barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to scientific knowledge, equipment, material and technology, including its transfer to developing nations. The dual use nature of certain technologies should not in of itself serve as a barrier or pretext for denying access to them by developing countries.

Unless fair and equitable access to new and emerging technologies is provided to the developing countries, and all undue restrictions removed, the Global South will lag even further behind in the achievement of SDGs.

The role of new and emerging technologies is undeniable for the progress of any society, as well as for maintenance of international peace and security if used in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

Pakistan has repeatedly raised concerns on the unregulated military applications of emerging technologies and their use by both State and Non-State actors for destructive purposes. We support the calls for establishing legally-binding norms to regulate the military uses of emerging technologies to promote regional and global strategic stability.

In conclusion, Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to unlocking the potential of science for peace and progress. By embracing scientific advancements, fostering international cooperation, and promoting responsible scientific practices, we can build a safer and more prosperous future for succeeding generations.

**I thank you.**