



**Statement by the Permanent Representative of
Pakistan, Security Council Open Debate
“Maintenance of international peace and security:
Strengthening the role of African States in addressing
global security and development challenges”**

(23 May 2024)

Mr. President,

I thank you and the Mozambique delegation for convening this important debate on Africa. I also wish to thank the United Nations Secretary-General, Commissioner for the African Union and the Chair of the PBC for their briefings.

Mr. President,

2. Africa is a rich continent, with fertile lands, plentiful resources and industrious people. However, over the past few centuries, the continent was colonized; its people enslaved – literally; its resources callously exploited and its nations divided into European fiefdoms.

3. Following its own independence in August 1947, Pakistan participated actively in the liberation of African nations and their exercise of the right to self-determination. To realize their independence, many of our African brothers were enabled to travel on Pakistani passports to promote their national freedom struggles.

4. Since achieving independence, African States have rapidly evolved their national, regional and continental institutions, including the African Union, SADC, the West African Economic Community and the African Security Council, which are unique manifestations of African solidarity and cooperation.

5. Yet, foreign exploitation of African resources has persisted; external intervention has often destabilized African nations and regions; the emergence of terrorist groups and criminal gangs, as well as the socio-economic impacts of externally generated climate change have triggered numerous conflicts across the Sahel and several other regions and countries of Africa.

6. But Africa is on the rise. It is brimming with vigour and vitality. African economies are growing dynamically. Africa's Vision 2023 outlines its strategies. African nations are determined to ensure that there are “African solutions to African problems”. And, Africa rightly demands rectification of the historic injustice in its representation on the Security Council and other International organizations.

7. The adoption of resolution 2719 (2023) was a historic step aimed at enabling Africa to develop the capability to preserve and, where necessary, enforce peace and security in the African continent. We must work to give life to the provisions of this resolution.

8. To this end, and responding to the UN Secretary-General's recommendations, the UN Security Council, together with African and other interested partners, should develop the concept and structures for "new" forms of peace operations including peace enforcement. Such "new" peace operations will require:

- broader and more robust mandates;
- the allocation of adequate resources and finance;
- the training of African and other participating peacekeepers;
- the provision of appropriate and advanced equipment.

9. Pakistan will contribute actively to these objectives, including as a member of the Security Council, if, God willing, we are elected to the Council on 6 June and in proposed international meetings we are organizing in Islamabad.

Mr. President,

10. Eons ago, the South Asian subcontinent was sundered from Africa by a colossal tectonic event. Yet, across the seas, the links of our people with Africa have remained close and intense. Over the past few centuries, sea-borne trade brought a sizable African population to our shores, which they still inhabit. Pakistan has adopted a policy we call "Engage Africa". We are embracing our sister African states through trade, investment and security cooperation.

11. As our connectivity grows, with China through the CPEC, and with Central Asia, Pakistan will serve as a bridge to bring Asia and Africa closer together, a befitting reversion to our pre-historic geography and to the Asia-Africa future, which was envisaged by our leaders at the Bandung Conference.

I thank you.