



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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FOREIGN SECRETARY  
AND  
LEADER OF PAKISTAN DELEGATION

IN

THE GENERAL DEBATE OF  
THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York,  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007.

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to this prestigious office. Your vast political experience and diplomatic skills will undoubtedly guide the General Assembly towards success in dealing with its important agenda.

I wish to express our deep satisfaction and pride at the significant achievements of your predecessor Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Al-Rashid Al-Khalifa during her Presidency. Her stature and accomplishments symbolize the prominent role that women are playing in the Muslim world.

Let me also express our high appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon for the distinctive and assiduous manner in which as our new Secretary General he has engaged himself to address crises and humanitarian situations. We support the Secretary General's commitment to improve the United Nations to respond to the contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Mr. President,

The end of the Cold War at the dawn of the Twenty-first century had given rise to hopes for a better future. A decade later, the world is in the grip of deepening uncertainty and aggravating turbulence. There are new threats of terrorism and violence and of widening divisions among cultures and societies driven by suspicion and prejudice. At the heart of these growing malaise is not a clash of values or civilizations, it is the failure of the international community to address festering disputes and our collective inability to universalize opportunities and benefits offered by the phenomenal advances of technology and globalization for the betterment of all peoples.

Conflicts continue in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan. In South Asia, the Kashmir dispute is yet to be resolved. Old disputes are compounded by new confrontations. Also, serious challenges are emerging in the shape of climate change, energy security, financial and trade imbalances.

In this complex world, the United Nations provides a critical and indispensable role. The UN is at the apex of the expanding international interaction and remains the only acknowledged instrument to regulate global affairs on the basis of agreed principles and norms.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is a grave and pervasive threat. Terrorism destabilizes societies. It must not be associated with any faith or culture. It must be countered and rejected addressing both its manifestations and the root causes.

Equally disturbing are trends to malign other cultures and faiths and reinforce divisions especially between the West and the Islamic world. Tolerating Islamophobia, in

the guise of freedom of expression, is dangerous. More than ever before, in this globalized world, we need understanding, harmony and building of bridges among all cultures and peoples through initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations, Interfaith Dialogue and Enlightened Moderation.

Mr. President,

Conflict and violence in the Middle East is fundamentally linked to the Palestinian issue that has agitated two generations of Palestinians and Muslims around the world. Essentially, Palestine is an issue of freedom. Security cannot be ensured by denying the Palestinians their freedom. The salvation lies in what the Arab nations had proposed in Beirut five years ago. Pakistan supports that position. The world has a historical responsibility to end the tragedy of the Palestinian people by enabling them to establish their own state in Palestine consistent with the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the Arab Peace Plan. Israel must also withdraw from the other occupied Arab territories and fully respect the territorial and sovereign integrity of Lebanon. Efforts that deflect from these basic imperatives would only prolong agony and turmoil in the region.

Pakistan is deeply concerned over the grave situation in Iraq. We deplore the internecine bloodshed. Peace in Iraq can only emerge through dialogue, mutual cooperation and tolerance. It is vital both for the Iraqi people and for the region to ensure the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and full respect for its sovereignty.

Pakistan is also disturbed by the ominous confrontation over Iran's nuclear issue. We have insisted on recourse to diplomacy because resort to use of force could lead to incalculable consequences for this already inflamed and highly sensitive region.

Mr. President,

In our region, violence and the rise of terrorism and extremism owe to the developments of nearly three decades when neighbouring Afghanistan became the last front of the Cold War. Ironically, in the 80s, the struggle in Afghanistan had helped consolidation of freedom movements that culminated in the surge of freedom signified by the fall of the Berlin wall. In the 90s, however, Afghanistan suffered international neglect and indifference until the shock and horror of 9/11 refocused international attention on this war ravaged country.

The unfortunate happenings in our neighbourhood impacted on our society giving rise to terrorism and extremism especially in the tribal regions bordering Afghanistan. We are fighting Al Qaeda and other terrorist elements with resolve and determination. We have deployed nearly 100,000 troops for this purpose. A large number of our troops have sacrificed their lives. In the tribal regions, we have taken political and administrative measures and have plans to bring about socio-economic transformation. As part of a comprehensive strategy we have introduced reforms to counter extremism.

We are cooperating internationally and reject irresponsible comments and insinuations especially in certain sections of the international media casting aspersions on

our intentions and efforts. It must be appreciated that the challenge is enormous and requires a sustained and protracted endeavour both locally and at the international level.

Mr. President,

Pakistan desires a peaceful environment in the region. No country stands to gain as much as Pakistan from peace and stability in Afghanistan. We therefore support every initiative that could help the Afghans to achieve national reconciliation and to rebuild their country. The recently convened Grand Jirga in Kabul offers hope. A great deal will depend on the effectiveness of the follow up mechanisms especially the 50 member joint Council that is mandated to reach out to the opposition to promote peace in the area.

The international community also has an important responsibility to help Afghanistan with a Marshall Plan-like programme for reconstruction.

Mr. President,

Pakistan is engaged in a peace process with India that has led to significant improvement in bilateral relations. The two countries must now seize the opportunity provided by the conducive international and regional environment to address problems especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute that has been at the heart of conflict and tension in South Asia. Both sides will have to demonstrate political will, courage and flexibility. We are pursuing a solution that is acceptable to India, to Pakistan and above all to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

President Pervez Musharraf has offered important ideas that have resonated with the Kashmiri people who must be involved with the process. At the same time it is essential to create an environment free of human rights violations in Kashmir for a sustainable peaceful solution. A peaceful settlement responding to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people will usher in a new era of mutual trust and cooperation in South Asia.

Mr. President,

In our region, the incipient US-India nuclear deal injects a new element. We have concerns over strategic stability which we will maintain despite our firm opposition to an arms race in South Asia. Secondly, we also have a strong interest in developing civil nuclear power generation under international safeguards.

Our nuclear and strategic assets are solely for defensive purpose. We started pursuing the nuclear option only after 1974 when the strategic balance was disrupted by the first Indian nuclear test. Our initiatives for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons received scant response internationally. In 1998, again we were faced with a dilemma and had to respond to the Indian tests to establish deterrence. Our failure to do so would have created a dangerous ambiguity about our capability with the risk of miscalculation.

I wish to reaffirm that our strategic capability is solely for deterrence and defence. We are opposed to an arms race and want to maintain minimum credible deterrence. We will not be the first to test in our region. We will never use our nuclear capability against

non-nuclear weapon states. We remain fully committed to the objective of general and complete disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. We want to be treated as a partner rather than a target of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are committed to developing nuclear power generation under international safeguards to meet our growing energy needs.

Mr. President,

It is evident that global consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation has been seriously eroded. There are several reasons for this. The disavowal of nuclear disarmament by the NPT nuclear weapon states, the emergence of de-facto nuclear weapon states not parties to the NPT, the failure to address the security concerns of non-nuclear weapon states and the discrimination in the conduct of peaceful nuclear cooperation. There is an obvious need for a new and universal consensus on non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful nuclear cooperation that eliminates dangers and risks and establishes cooperation on an equitable basis. In the coming months, the NSG states have a heavy responsibility as any endorsement of a selective or discriminatory approach could fatefully damage the existing consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

The world is slowly recognizing the existential threat posed by climate change. The special event held on 24 September has been useful in crystallizing the issues which must be addressed.

Environment is a responsibility and an opportunity. Responsibility is to heal the Earth that is scarred and degraded. The challenge goes far beyond Kyoto. Collectively, we need to restrain our avaricious and extravagant living. Opportunity lies in developing environment as an employment sector to absorb a part of the world human resource in a meaningful activity. We must realize that with technological advances it would no longer be feasible to rationally utilize the entire global work force in production, manufacturing and service sectors.

Mr. President,

Against the backdrop of the new challenges, large parts of humanity continue to suffer from hunger, poverty and disease. This is tragic in these modern times where the miracle of technology has empowered the world to effectively overcome the vestiges of our primitive existence. The Group of 77 has, therefore, insisted on a broad endeavour for sustainable development based on economic growth, social development and environmental protection. We should adopt coherent and mutually reinforcing policies and actions to advance in these three directions with the same degree of political and legal commitment. The United Nations has a central role in the realization of Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals.

Pakistan, as the current Chair of G-77 & China, has suggested steps to enable developing countries to coordinate and enlarge their national development cooperation effort. In accordance with the mandate of the second South Summit, we will convene a Panel of Eminent Experts of the South to further develop the common positions for

developing countries in critical areas like trade finance, technology, energy and climate change.

Mr. President,

Pakistan agrees that the UN's management and secretariat should be reformed and modernized especially to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the system. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz is the Co-chair of the UNSG's High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence. The reform process must, however, remain sensitive to the fundamental principle of sovereign equality of states in the decision making process. This specially applies to the issue of the expansion of the Security Council. The Security Council reform must enlarge the representation of all member states rather than expand the circle of the privileged. The Security Council functions must also be developed in a manner that these do not eclipse the Charter responsibilities of the UN General Assembly or those of the other principal organs of the United Nations

Mr. President,

In Pakistan, our aspirations are the same as elsewhere to accelerate our socio-economic development, build a knowledge based society and contribute to peace and development in the world consistent with the deeply held values of our faith and our vision for a modern progressive Islamic state. This has been the orientation for setting priorities and introducing reform programmes by the government of President Musharraf. There have been significant accomplishments in strengthening institutions, promoting democratic polity and building a sound economy.

To give a few examples, today, we have robust grass-root level democratic institutions with mandatory one third women representation. Our minorities have been integrated into the political mainstream. Our media is free, vibrant and assertive. Our economy has seen stable growth over the past eight years, and in this period, Pakistan's national output and per capita income has doubled. We are now preparing for elections as our elected national and provincial assemblies will shortly complete their full term of office. As we enter this important phase in our political life, we do so with deep awareness that a strong and stable Pakistan is pivotal for peace and progress of our region.

I thank you.

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