



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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65TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT BY

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FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN

New York, 28 September 2010

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly.

As one of the Vice Presidents of this Session, we assure you of our full support and cooperation.

I also take this opportunity to convey profound gratitude and appreciation to my brother Ali Abdussalam Treki, the outgoing President, for his able leadership during the 64th Session.

Pakistan owes him gratitude for his timely initiative to convene a General Assembly Plenary Meeting on Humanitarian Emergency arising from floods in Pakistan.

Mr. President,

I come to this august house at difficult times in Pakistan's history.

The recent flash floods, worst in living memory, have left behind a trail of death and destruction.

Precious lives have been lost; millions of acre of crops have been washed away; homes have been destroyed; and livelihoods have been lost.

We are grateful to the UN, our development partners and other friends in the international community for standing up with us in this difficult hour; and for their important contribution in supporting rescue and relief operations in Pakistan.

The government remains focused in its resolve to address the challenges posed by this humanitarian crisis.

We are determined to build back a better and vibrant Pakistan; and to do so in a transparent and accountable manner. The resilience of our people should enable us to achieve this objective.

Mr. President,

We live in an ever more interconnected and interdependent world. A world where our fate and destinies are interwoven like never before.

A world, where it is increasingly difficult to maintain islands of peace and prosperity, while conflicts, oppression and adversity fester.

A world where dividends of peace are as easily shared, as is the fallout of adversity or instability.

Today, we face an integrated onslaught of a series of new and emerging challenges that seriously threaten economic growth and development, social cohesion and environmental protection in our countries.

We, clearly, have reached a decisive moment.

We will have to make wise and well considered choices that bring peace and prosperity to the present, while protecting and preserving it for the future generations.

Mr. President,

The response is simple. Global problems require global solutions.

The world needs a new multilateral approach that truly subscribes to the values and principles that we, the peoples of the United Nations, signed sixty five years ago.

The UN Charter envisages a world where equity is valued as much as entitlement; where inclusivity replaces exclusiveness; where dialogue and collaboration defines engagement; where transparency and openness guides business and decision making in global institutions.

Adhering fully and unconditionally to these values and principles is the way to put us on the road to durable peace and security, and sustained economic growth.

As the *Primus inter-pares*, UN is the only and truly universal multilateral organization that enjoys the credibility, legitimacy and universal acceptability to realize this, which is also its *raison d'être*.

Mr. President,

Pakistan supports comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make it more representative, equitable, transparent and accountable.

The reform of the Security Council must be guided by the principles of equality and democracy, which could conform to a dynamic future, not entrenched in the historical mistakes and individual privileges of the past.

We should look for an outcome that unites rather than divides the membership; strengthens rather than weakens the organization.

Our collective search should culminate in a consensus solution that corresponds to the interest of entire membership; particularly small and medium states, the developing countries and Africa.

Mr. President,

Pakistan, as a leading troop contributing country for the UN peacekeeping, is playing its due role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Our peacekeepers have laid down their lives in Missions, which were operationally demanding and geographically difficult.

The UN's unique status brings acceptance to its peacekeeping activities, and the success of peacekeeping operations in turn brings credibility to the world body.

For those suffering in a conflict zone, sight of a blue helmet provides a beacon of hope, which has illuminated the lives of millions by bringing peace and alleviating their pains and sorrows.

Mr. President,

Our commitment to the promotion of peace, security and stability; development of friendly relations with other nations; respect for the

sovereignty and territorial integrity and promotion of economic and social development is unwavering

It is this firm conviction that has enabled our democratic government to remain steadfast in its resolve to fight terrorism and extremism, even as we have to deal with the massive destruction caused by catastrophic floods.

Our national consensus and resolve to fight extremism and terrorism remains unshaken.

The world recognizes and applauds the important successes achieved by our security forces against terrorists.

These successes have come at a heavy cost.

More than 20,000 innocent civilians have fallen victim to terrorism. And more than 2,500 personnel of the security forces have offered the ultimate sacrifice. Our material losses are nearly US \$ 50 billion.

The Pakistani nation will persist in its efforts to eliminate terrorism.

The issue has both regional and global dimensions. It is imperative that all countries do more to combat this menace.

It is also essential to address the root causes of terrorism, which are often found in poverty, deprivation, injustices and oppression.

Terrorists recognize no borders; have no religion and no creed. It is, therefore, absurd to malign a whole people or a region or any religion on this account.

We cannot accept the stereotyping of Muslims as terrorists. Islam is a religion of peace, compassion and brotherhood. Terrorism is a complete antithesis to Islam's humanistic outlook and noble values.

Mr. President,

Pakistan supports the just cause of Palestinian people for the restitution of their inalienable national rights, including their independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

The brazen use of force against the humanitarian Freedom Flotilla on 31 May 2010, which resulted in the killing of humanitarian workers, was a flagrant violation of international law and norms.

We look forward to a prompt, impartial and transparent inquiry of the incident by the UN Secretary General's panel.

Mr. President,

Jammu and Kashmir is one of the oldest disputes on the agenda of the United Nations.

The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is about the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Kashmiri people through a free, fair and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices.

Pakistan views the prevailing situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir with grave concern. Over the past two months, more than 100 Kashmiris have been killed by the Indian security forces in Kashmir.

We strongly condemn this brutality.

The human rights of the Kashmiri people must be respected, and their voices heard to create an enabling environment for a peaceful solution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan reaffirms its complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people, and urges the international community to persuade India to end its repression in Kashmir.

Pakistan is willing to engage India in a comprehensive dialogue to normalize relations between the two countries by finding amicable solutions to all outstanding issues, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

A peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Resolutions and taking into account the aspirations of the Kashmiri people would create conducive atmosphere for durable peace and stability in the South Asian region.

Mr. President,

It is in the spirit of global solidarity and good neighbourly relations that Pakistan has hosted the largest concentration of refugees anywhere in the world for over 30 years.

We continue to host our Afghan brothers as a moral and humanitarian duty.

No country has suffered more than Pakistan from the direct and indirect consequences of decades of conflict in Afghanistan. We, thus, have an abiding stake in peace and stability in Afghanistan. Our commitment to this objective remains firm.

The time has come to transform Afghanistan from the center stage of proxy wars, interference and confrontation into a hub for international cooperation and development.

Pakistan believes that restoring the societal equilibrium in Afghanistan is an Afghan responsibility and cannot be imposed externally. We support all efforts at national reconciliation that are Afghan-owned and Afghan-led.

We congratulate the Government of Afghanistan on holding of successful parliamentary elections in the country. It will strengthen President Karzai's initiation of national re-conciliation and re-integration.

Mr. President,

Disarmament and non-proliferation are important pillars of the international peace and security architecture. We remain committed to both objectives. We believe that this should be pursued in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner.

Asymmetric build-up of conventional weapons and espousal of aggressive doctrines, impact negatively on regional security.

Pursuit of discriminatory policies, and disregard for the security interests of states, seriously erode globally the moral authority that must

underlie equitable approaches to promote the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We have consistently pursued a policy of conventional and nuclear restraint, along with conflict resolution in South Asia. We reaffirm our proposal for a Strategic Restraint Regime as an important modality to promote the cause of peace, stability and security in our region.

Mr. President,

Pakistan, with fifth largest population in the world, and with only 0.4% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, is 135th on the list of global greenhouse gas emitters.

Despite such a low contribution, climate change is causing irrevocable damage to Pakistan, with tremendous social, environmental and economic impacts.

While the world continues to discuss climate change and its scientific basis, and to find a fair and equitable outcome from the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations, climate change has already become a reality for 170 million Pakistanis.

The present situation in Pakistan reconfirms our extreme vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change. It also complicates the post-flood reconstruction and rehabilitation scenario in Pakistan.

It is in Pakistan's interest to work vigorously and creatively for an early and successful conclusion of the ongoing climate change negotiations under UNFCCC auspices. We are hopeful that 16th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Cancun later this year will define a pathway to reach an agreed outcome at an early date.

Any lasting solution will have to respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of countries.

Mr. President,

With an active and empowered Parliament, a vigilant and well informed civil society, free media and independent judiciary, the democratic

government is putting in place mechanisms to ensure good and accountable governance at all levels in the country.

The democratic Government, inspired by the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, attaches special attention to the promotion and protection of human rights of all segments of society; particularly women, children and minorities. In May this year, Pakistan ratified International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention Against Torture (CAT). Pakistan is now a State Party to all 27 core human rights conventions.

We welcome the creation of new composite Gender entity - the UN Women. We hope it will lead the efforts for promotion of women rights, empowerment and equality throughout the world.

Mr. President,

Pursuing peace and forging close regional economic partnership is an important pillar of our strategy to pursue economic growth and development in Pakistan.

We are working through both ECO and SAARC to further deepen regional collaboration and to expand people-to-people contacts, including through Inter-Parliamentary cooperation.

Mr. President,

Our strategy and actions at the national level stem from a firm belief that the primary responsibility and central action in our pursuit for economic growth and development vests in our nation.

Despite a challenging economic and security environment, we are pursuing an aggressive reform programme. This agenda focuses on a pro-poor growth, boosting rural economy and agriculture, affirmative actions for women and minorities and expansion of social safety nets.

We are conscious that this requires enhanced fiscal space for which we have introduced economic and tax reforms in close collaboration with International Development Partners.

Mr. President,

We have to work together to make this world a safe and secure place for our children.

We have to make strenuous endeavours to achieve the ideals of the UN Charter.

We have to make this world a prosperous place free of hunger, want and poverty.

We owe this all to our future generations. We cannot afford to fail in this endeavour.

I thank you