



Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at the General Debate of the First Committee, "Disarmament and International Security Committee", 77th session of the General Assembly. (4th October 2022)

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of the Non- Aligned Movement.

Our world today is adrift, geo-politically, economically and ecologically.

The risks are multiplying in the security and military domains.

The developing countries face the triple fuel, food and finance crisis.

Climate change is wreaking havoc with increasing frequency and fury, as evidenced by the massive floods disaster in Pakistan.

Failure to uphold the principles of the UN Charter has perpetuated old conflicts and triggered new ones.

Threats to peace and security have proliferated across Europe, Asia-Pacific and elsewhere.

A renewed and expanded global arms race is underway. Military expenditures have surpassed those of the cold war era. Outer space, cyber technologies, artificial intelligence, and new delivery systems, are being weaponized. Aggressive war fighting doctrines, including those for the use of nuclear weapons, are openly advocated.

Key arms control agreements have been discarded. Nuclear disarmament obligations remain unfulfilled. The international consensus on nuclear non-proliferation has broken down. The UN Secretary-General has warned that the prospects of a nuclear war are “back within the realm of possibility”.

Rebuilding durable and more equitable international security architecture is an urgent imperative. We need to follow fundamental principles:

One, full and consistent respect for the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, UN Security Council resolutions, and international law, especially non-sue of force.

Two, implementation of the assurance in the SSOD-I Declaration that: “every state has an equal right to security”.

Three, the UN’s potential to promote peace must be fully utilized. In a complex and multipolar world, the United Nations offers the most inclusive vehicle to build a durable structure of peace based on the UN Charter, international law, an effective arms control and disarmament regime, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

War is never inevitable and war cannot bring durable security or peace. Peace is always the product of compromise. Negotiations are the only pathway to peace.

Mr. President,

Peace and security in South Asia is threatened by the ultranationalist and hegemonic policies of one State, turbo-charged by the extremist ideology of Hindutva. Today, this government seeks to:

- Establish an exclusive Hindu State in India by oppressing and marginalizing its 200 million Muslims and other minorities;
- Crush the legitimate Kashmiri quest for self-determination with an occupation army of 900,000 troops;
- Threaten and intimidate Pakistan with the deployment of the vast majority of its land, sea and air forces and the adoption of doctrines which envisage fighting a “limited war under the nuclear overhang”;
- Build-up its conventional and nuclear weapons capabilities, including by the acquisition of weapons – amounting last year to \$73 billion – to threaten neighbours, impose its regional hegemony and promote its great power aspirations.

The proclaimed desire of the Hindutva leaders to occupy Azad Kashmir, and even to create “Akhand Bharat” – a concept which envisages Hindu rule over all South Asia and beyond – are indications of its aggressive and expansionist nature.

Lack of global accountability and the generous supply of advanced weapons and technologies from multiple sources have emboldened this regime to follow this aggressive course.

One recent indicator of India's reckless behaviour was the launch of a supersonic nuclear-capable missile into Pakistan's territory on 9 March this year. This could have escalated into a wider conflict, but for Pakistan's self-restraint. This incident cannot be dismissed as an "accident". The joint inquiry called for by Pakistan is essential to answer questions on the integrity of India's command and control system, its safety and security protocols; and the reasons for India's delayed admission of the missile launch.

Mr. President,

Pakistan desires, and is determined to pursue, peace, development and strategic stability in South Asia based on sovereign equality and mutual respect. Such a peace can be built:

First, through the resumption of negotiations to resolve the outstanding disputes between Pakistan and India, especially the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Second, by the maintenance of a balance of conventional and strategic military capabilities and deployments, including reciprocal measures for nuclear, missile and military restraints between the two countries. Pakistan's proposal for a Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia remains on the table.

We hope India will help to create conducive conditions for such a dialogue. This could lead to trade and investment cooperation, including connectivity between South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, China and beyond.

Mr. President,

Pakistan remains firmly committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world, achieved in a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory manner.

Pakistan reiterates its call for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Proposals for Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) and the Outer Space (PAROS) Treaty have been on the CD's agenda for the longest duration and are the most ripe for negotiations.

Pakistan has called for a Fissile Material Treaty that reduces existing stocks in a verifiable manner. The so-called Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) will freeze existing unequal and large nuclear arsenals and fissile material stocks held by some nuclear weapons States. Pakistan has opposed it and will continue to oppose such a discriminatory proposal.

Pakistan will, once again, table its four resolutions in this Committee to address regional and conventional arms control and disarmament and the provision of negative security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States.

I thank you.