LMG Ambassadorial Meeting on the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN and the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 5 September 2025)

Remarks by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

My delegation thanks Amb. Chen Xu and his team at the Chinese Mission for taking the initiative to organise this meeting. We thank Madam Valovaya and all distinguished panellists for gracing us with their presence and sharing their thoughts.

This week 86 years ago, the outbreak of the Second World War reached Europe. In China and Northeast Asia, the war had been going on for several years already.

Eight decades after the War's end, the United Nations remains the pre-eminent and only global institution for addressing questions of peace and security, development and human rights. The UN may mirror the imperfections of our world and suffer from the same contradictions, challenges and constraints as faced by its individual members. But the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter remain together the touchstone in our search for solutions while upholding the aspirations of our peoples. In this regard, let me express our hope in the promise of the Global Governance Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Excellencies,

Ideas and imagination have always had an outsized influence on the course of human history. Even bad ideas can survive long past their shelf life.

Preceding generations may have defeated the dark forces responsible for the Second World War, but the echoes of the ideas that animated them have always lurked in the shadows desperate to stage a comeback. And they are not zombies brought back from death, but alive and desperate for an encore.

This is not the time to rest on past laurels.

The forces of fascism, populism, exclusivism and racism that drove the worst excesses of WWII are still present, and increasingly unafraid and unashamed to manifest.

We have long warned of the downward spiral heralding the resurgence of these base tendencies. We would have preferred – gladly – to have been proven wrong. Instead, the politics of division, fearmongering and zero-sum games are being rewarded.

We see it in the Occupied Palestinian Territories just as we see it in Pakistan's own neighbourhood, as well as in other parts of the world.

Self-determination has become an inconvenience. Human rights and inherent human dignity are being trampled. Absolute protections under international humanitarian law are being caveated. The same cherished universality that drives spirited debates has given way to extreme partisanship, reflected in double standards whereby impunity is a reward for political allies, while censure is reserved for adversaries.

Funding shortfalls that we have been hearing of increasingly frequently have become the scapegoat for a larger political schism.

This is not what the UN Charter envisioned.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At a time of doubt and uncertainty, we must get back to basics.

As diplomats, we have always cherished consensus. But lively debate, meaningful divergence or even "agreeing to disagree" are at least as valuable as agreeing on the lowest common denominator. Such a low benchmark cannot be accepted as the exclusive gold standard to judge the quality of diplomatic outcomes.

The post-WWII system centred on the UN was and remains a hard-won achievement for all peoples. It may require an equally monumental effort to overcome the challenges facing us today.

Pakistan will continue to stand for genuine dialogue rooted in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the spirit of multilateralism.

As the international landscape evolves in the face of complex challenges, the need to improve, reform and adapt the UN has remained a consistent imperative for Pakistan.

We will continue to participate actively and contribute constructively.

Dialogue and cooperation amongst member states remain key to an inclusive process that can deliver meaningful results.

Thank you.

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