

151st IPU Assembly and Related Meetings

(19-23 October 2025, Geneva)

National Statement by Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at 151st IPU Assembly General Debate on the theme Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis

Bismillah irr Rehman irr Raheem

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Distinguished Guests, Dignitaries,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very good afternoon!

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I am honoured to address this august Assembly on the urgent and deeply relevant theme of “Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis.”

We convene today at a moment of grave and complex global challenges. The international security architecture, built painstakingly over decades, is under unprecedented strain.

Rules are disregarded, treaties are violated, and the universally agreed principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are eroded with impunity.

This troubling reality calls for renewed global commitment to the very norms and values that underpin our shared humanity.

Mr. President,

Pakistan remains firmly committed to upholding international humanitarian law, the cornerstone of global humanitarian architecture.

We take pride in our long-standing tradition of promoting the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.

As a current member of the United Nations Security Council, Pakistan continues to advance the agenda of civilian protection, strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law, and advocate for principled, apolitical humanitarian assistance in all situations of armed conflict.

Mr. President,

While the recent Gaza Ceasefire Plan offers a glimpse of hope to millions of innocent Palestinian children, women, and men, it will nevertheless remain a lasting stain on human conscience that for two long years, the world stood as a silent spectator to a campaign of collective punishment and relentless bombardment of an innocent population.

The humanitarian catastrophe in the Occupied Palestinian Territories demands a decisive and coordinated international action.

We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, unhindered humanitarian access, and a just and durable solution based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Mr. President,

The people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir continue to endure an occupation that defies international law and the fundamental principles of human rights and human dignity.

For over seven decades, they have been denied their right to self-determination by India, a right explicitly recognized by numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The ongoing restrictions, demographic changes, and suppression of civil liberties represent grave and persistent violations of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions.

Earlier this year, Pakistan faced a direct and unprovoked act of aggression from India.

Our nation, united and resolute, responded with measured precision and unwavering resolve, reaffirming our commitment to peace but also to the defense of our sovereignty and territorial integrity through Operation Bunyan-al-Marsoos.

Equally concerning are attempts by India to undermine the Indus Waters Treaty, an internationally guaranteed agreement, threatening regional stability and shared humanitarian resources.

Mr. President,

Despite Pakistan's enduring commitment to peaceful neighborhood relations, we continue to face cross-border terrorism sponsored by Indian-sponsored proxies in Afghanistan in shape of Fitna-Al-Khawarij.

The presence of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens in neighboring territories poses a serious threat to regional peace and security.

Our armed forces have acted with exceptional restraint and professionalism, conducting targeted and proportionate operations only to protect innocent civilians and safeguard our borders.

Pakistan continues to exercise restraint while urging its neighbors to prevent the use of their soil for terrorism.

We seek no escalation, only mutual respect and cooperation in the shared fight against terrorism, as terrorists recognize neither borders nor humanity.

Mr. President,

Alongside these security challenges, we face the existential threat of climate change.

Despite contributing less than 1% to global emissions, Pakistan stands among the most climate-vulnerable nations.

The devastating floods we have endured remind us that climate change is not a distant risk but a present humanitarian crisis, one that demands global solidarity, fair financing, and technology transfer from those most responsible to those most affected.

Mr. President,

These conflicts, compounded by the growing climate emergency, have become tipping points for humanitarian catastrophe. They remind us that when political disputes remain unresolved and the planet's balance is ignored, it is ordinary people who bear the gravest cost.

As representatives of our peoples, we parliamentarians carry the moral and political responsibility to ensure that humanitarian norms are upheld without exception, that civilians are never targeted or deprived of life's essentials, and that our collective action, in conflict zones or in response to climate disasters, is guided by justice, empathy, and the rule of international law, for the true humanitarian imperative goes beyond relief; it is about restoring dignity, ensuring accountability, and building resilience.

Mr. President,

In this spirit, Pakistan proudly sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 2788 (2025) on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, urging all nations to prioritize dialogue, mediation, and confidence-building to prevent conflicts and avert humanitarian crises. This reflects Pakistan's steadfast belief in diplomacy, dialogue, and the power of multilateralism.

Parliaments have a vital role in translating these ideals into action, by ensuring respect for international humanitarian law, protecting humanitarian action from politicization, and integrating humanitarian, developmental, and climate resilience agendas.

Let parliamentary diplomacy be a bridge in times of division, guiding the world away from confrontation and toward compassion, away from despair and towards dignity.

In these uncertain times, let us reaffirm that humanity is our common cause, and the rule of law our collective compass.

I thank you all.
