

“Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”

Statement by Pakistan

New York, 21 February 2023

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. I would like to make additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

3. We live in a complex world where global peace and security are confronted by multiple threats and challenges. Resort to use and threat of use of force has become frequent. Foreign occupation and intervention are tolerated. Suppression of self-determination, great power rivalries, festering conflicts and unresolved disputes, terrorism, including new forms of terrorism and extremism and proliferation of ideologies of hate is gaining strength.

4. Sadly, in the midst of this all, the United Nations is often being deliberately marginalized. To affirm our commitment to the principles and values enshrined in the UN Charter, we must uphold multilateralism with the vision that was articulated by the UN founders back in 1945 to “save the world from the scourge of war”.

5. The UN is an indispensable actor in combating existential threats ranging from threats to peace and security including wars and situations of foreign occupation to pandemics to climate change and nuclear proliferation.

6. Secretary General’s “new agenda for peace” focusing on the growing risks to peace and security provides an input to member states to address current threats to international peace and security by reinforcing the United Nations.

Mr. Chair,

7. For a rule-based international order, respect for the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law is a pre-requisite. There is a need to uphold principles of justice and rule of law, cooperative multilateralism, sovereign equality, and settlement of disputes by peaceful means in the conduct of international relations.

8. The right to self-determination which is a fundamental pillar of the world order based on the Rule of Law is the central piece of multilateral framework for peace and security.

9. The “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States” adopted in 1970 urges member states to refrain from taking any forcible action which deprives peoples of their right to self-determination and freedom and independence.

10. While most dependent or occupied peoples have been able to exercise their right to self-determination peacefully, some have been forcibly denied this right and have been obliged to struggle for it. This is the situation in the occupied territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine.

Mr. Chair,

11. In order to reinforce the UN Charter and its organs, it is amply evident that the current and future threats to international peace and security can be addressed only through multilateral cooperation within the framework of the UN Charter and full adherence to its purposes and principles.

12. The deficits in addressing these threats do not denote the failure of the UN or its organs so much as the failure of member states to empower these organs and agree on collective and cooperative measures to address these threats.

13. The “New Agenda for Peace” must adopt concrete measures first and foremost to build trust among member states and at the same time strengthen and reinforce the capacity of the UN and its organs to more effectively address these threats.

14. Allow me to make following few suggestions in this regard:

i) The Security Council should be reformed through the process already underway to make it more transparent, more representative, more accountable, more democratic and more effective.

ii) Since the General Assembly is the most representative organ of the United Nations, it is vital to utilize its full potential to achieve a meaningful progress across the UN's three pillars.

iii) The UN's multilateral disarmament mechanisms (the C.D, D.C, and the First Committee) should be activated to fulfill their assigned functions of negotiating international disarmament treaties on the basis of agreed principles and objectives, in particular the Declaration and Programme of Action of SSOD-I.

iv) It would be opportune for the General Assembly to convene another Special Session to revive the consensus and agree on the new agenda for comprehensive disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, which responds to the legitimate security interests and objectives of all states.

v) As envisaged in its founding resolutions, the advisory and bridging role of the PBC should be strengthened to facilitate more informed decision-making by the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC through more extensive informal dialogues between the PBC, the Security Council, the Assembly and ECOSOC.

vi) The ICJ and other judicial mechanisms can play a critical role in the resolution of conflicts and disputes. The Court's jurisdiction should become mandatory on issues that are on the agenda of the Security Council. The General Assembly should promote inclusive dialogue on legal matters of global concern.

vii) We should establish a "Commission on the Elimination of All forms of Terrorism" (CEAT) as a subsidiary body of UNGA which is elected through equal geographical representation to implement the UN's GCTS, with regulatory, review and reporting mechanisms through a member states driven process in the wider UN membership

Mr. Chair,

15. In conclusion, it is time to redouble our efforts and reaffirm our commitment to the UN Charter and ensure that its principles are implemented equitably and efficiently. Unless we commit ourselves to

values and principles of the Charter, we will not be able to address the prevailing issues that we face today.

16. Let's keep the hope alive! Let's reaffirm our faith in the UN Charter.