Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan
Permanent Representative of Pakistan
in the General Assembly Plenary on the
Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization
(Agenda Item 109)

7 October 2014

Mr. President,

We thank the Secretary General for a comprehensive and forward-looking report.

This past year has been a difficult year for peace and security, as existing conflicts became more complex, new conflicts emerged and new forms of violence hit several countries.

We commend the Secretary General's statesmanship in the face of these challenges. His single-minded focus on dialogue, diplomacy and the pacific settlement of disputes was a ray of hope in many dark situations.

The state of peace and security in many parts of the world is precarious and it is drifting towards disarray. The post-Cold War equilibrium is under severe stress. New cold wars and rifts are surfacing.

In hindsight, it appears that regional and trans-regional institutions had not been built over the years that could have absorbed the shocks of the last year and fended off the tragic events we witnessed.

The United Nations leads the efforts of the international community but it also needs the support of regional underpinnings that could transform this community into one family with common idiom for peace and security.

The Secretary General in his assessment has talked about worrying trends in the global security environment. He has specifically mentioned Ukraine, the Middle East, South Sudan and the Central African Republic. The differences between criminals, hostile groups and peace spoilers have blurred. He has also alluded to potential safety and security risks from the unauthorized use of nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical materials. We should have strategies in place to counter these threats.

We appreciate the combined efforts of the Security Council and the Secretary General to create a semblance of stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the extended Great Lakes region; as well as in the
Greater Sahel region, including Mali. But peace in these regions, as well as in West Africa, is fragile and prone to relapse to conflict. The Ebola virus has made the situation worse.

We support the efforts of the international community to oppose the reign of terror unleashed by the ISIS, a phenomenon that does not have sanction of any religion or denomination. In addition to dealing with this scourge directly, it is imperative to steer warring forces in Syria towards dialogue and reconciliation.

After the summer of killings in Gaza this year, a two-state solution should not become a mirage once again. We call on the Quartet to revive the stalled peace talks to free Palestinian prisoners, lift the blockade of Gaza, and reach agreement on Palestine's fully sovereign statehood.

The United Nations peacekeeping missions play a pivotal role in making and sustaining peace. Pakistan, as a top troop contributor, will continue to put its peacekeepers at the disposal of the UN. Only recently, we have deployed more than 1,100 troops to the Central African Republic to help stabilize the situation there.

We will fully engage with the Secretary General and his high-level panel on the upcoming strategic review of peacekeeping. We appreciate the necessity for flexible, mobile and nimble operations; and look forward to discussing the full range of issues covering core mandates, rapid deployment, command and control, new technologies and international humanitarian law implications.

US Vice President Joe Biden's timely initiative to host a Summit has helped us put some of these issues on the table so that we can come up with a clearer roadmap for peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

In our neighborhood, we are pursuing a policy of constructive engagement to resolve differences and to enhance economic opportunities for the region.

Longstanding, festering issues cannot be swept under the carpet. As Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said before this Assembly: The core issue of Jammu and Kashmir has to be resolved through negotiations, in accordance with the wishes of its people. In this regard, he reminded the United Nations of its own responsibility.
We express deep concern over the recent escalation of violations of the cease fire at the Line of Control and the Working Boundary by the Indian security forces. As a result of the Indian firing yesterday, four innocent lives were lost on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. We call upon the Indian Government to immediately cease fire and help us preserve tranquility. UNMOGIP must be enabled to play its role in monitoring the ceasefire.

In Afghanistan, we have welcomed the formation of the new Government. We wish the people of Afghanistan well, as they strengthen their security institutions and pursue economic development. Pakistan will steadfastly work with Afghanistan to fight terrorism and to create new opportunities for collaboration in the industrial, trade, infrastructure, and energy sectors.

Mr. President,

In our ongoing fight against terrorism, we are determined to eliminate this threat from our soil. Our heroic armed forces are taking out terrorists, dismantling their hideouts and networks, and choking the vicious sources that feed them. Our entire nation stands united to defeat this evil force and its ideology of hate.

Mr. President,

In the realm of non-proliferation and disarmament, Pakistan advocates security for all. To gain movement in the Conference on Disarmament, the four core issues - disarmament, a fissile material treaty, prevention of arms race in outer space and negative security assurances – must be tackled simultaneously; and without accentuating asymmetries in existing stocks of fissile materials.

Pakistan qualifies for membership of export control regimes, especially the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and full access to peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Mr. President,
UN reform should be comprehensive. The Security Council should reflect the interests of all member states - small, medium-sized and large - and not the ambitions of a few. The Prime Minister of Pakistan told this Assembly last month: “There should be no new permanent seats in the Council. This will be contrary to the democratic character of this world body”.

Mr. President,

The Millennium Developments Goals gave a uniform template to the UN to reduce poverty; push down child and maternal mortality; improve access to clean water, education, and health; and enhance gender parity and women empowerment. Overall, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. But we know that our work is far from done.

In the next fifteen years, we need an integrative vision for ambitious goals for sustainable development, matching resources to achieve them, and broad partnerships that would deliver on the transformative universal agenda that we will put together.

The post-2015 Development Agenda has to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. But it would be an illusion to think that we would be able to achieve these goals, without putting equal emphasis on peace and stability, democratic governance, the rule of law, access to justice, human rights, gender parity and above all institution building. These are all indispensable critical enablers for sustainable development.

The sustainable development goals, negotiated and endorsed by member states, reflect their collective will to end poverty and create conditions for equitable distribution of wealth. We now look forward to the Secretary General’s synthesis report that would include the Open Working Group’s work and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The latter’s recommendations will have to be harmonized with the rules that would emerge from the third International Conference on Financing for Development next year. This will be necessary to unlock resources. But these resources will not be available if we do not work hard to build partnerships between the United Nations, governments, businesses, civil society and multilateral financial institutions.
We believe that we should build a *review system* into the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Secretary General's extraordinary leadership and diligence was instrumental in making last month's Climate Summit successful. If conscious human activity is the dominant cause of the observed global warming, and there is compelling scientific evidence that it is, we can take steps to reverse it. It is therefore absolutely necessary that political commitments made by world leaders at the Climate Summit this year are translated into a global climate agreement in 2015.

Mr. President,

Along with Denmark and Norway, Pakistan would continue to steer and support the efforts of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy for All to promote universal access, to improve energy efficiency and to increase the ratio of alternate energy in the overall energy mix.

Mr. President,

During this session, we would support your efforts to make progress on these critical issues.

I thank you