



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ASIF ALI ZARDARI

PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

AT THE

SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York,
25 September 2009

Statement by the
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
His Excellency Mr. Asif Ali Zardari,
at the Sixty Fourth Session of the
United Nations General Assembly,
New York
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BISMILLAH IR-REHMAN AR-RAHIM

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASSALAM-O-ALAIKUM

I am honoured to return to this chamber of hope, peace and cooperation.

I wish to convey to you the warm greetings of the people of Pakistan.

We are delighted to see you, Mr. President, presiding over the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

High ideals of the United Nations have inspired our vision of the global society.

A global society that is based on:

Peace and justice;

Freedom and human rights;

Equality and equal opportunity;

Freedom from want and hunger;

Tolerance and harmony;

A global society; that celebrates its unity in diversity;

That believes in sovereign equality of nations, large or small;

That promotes, truth and reconciliation.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the people of Pakistan I assure you of our cooperation to fashion a safer and better world;

A world in which all children - yours and mine - live in peace and harmony.

Mr. President,

This is a world in which we all depend on one another.

It demands a return to the path of the United Nations.

It calls for reforming the United Nations on principles of sovereign equality and consensus building.

Mr. President,

In Pakistan the will of the people has prevailed;

Our people have witnessed a profound democratic transformation.

We have entered into a new era of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

Democracy in Pakistan is of great importance, not only for our country, but also for our region, and the world.

Pakistan has struggled hard for democracy.

My late wife Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto led the fight for democracy and laid down her life for it.

Following in the footsteps of her great father Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto she made the ultimate sacrifice, so that our nation may live in democracy.

We are now following in her footsteps.

I, my Party, my people and Pakistan's democracy are grateful to the international community to our Secretary General His Excellency Ban Ki Moon for constituting an International Commission of Investigation into her assassination.

We are confident that the Commission will bring out all dimensions of her life, work and tragic assassination.

Mr. President,

The world supported our struggle for democracy.

We thank you for that support.

Democracy in Pakistan is beginning to achieve successes in the fight against militancy.

The real challenge now is to make democracy sustainable, indeed irreversible.

This requires that democracy should be able to deliver;

It should meet aspirations of our people for progress and prosperity.

It must give our people peace and stability.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, our neighbourhood has witnessed decades of conflict.

Pakistan has suffered greatly from terrorism and religious extremism.

Terrorism and extremism was not known to our society and culture.

Religious extremism entered our society and the region when we all in the free world decided to confront the rival ideology.

The policy was based on the exploitation of religion to motivate Muslims around the world to wage jihad.

It was the policy when the jihadi leaders were referred to as the “Moral equivalents of George Washington”.

It was a policy that allowed war-lords and criminals to destroy civilization.

The virus multiplied and has affected the world.

To eliminate militancy we must strike at its roots.

Surgery alone may not be enough.

We need to address the causes of deprivation, poverty and illiteracy.

We need to adopt dialogue, development and a judicious use of force as our strategy.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has firmly responded to the challenges of extremism and militancy.

Democracy has given people's ownership to the fight against terrorism.

Today our nation stands fully united in this struggle.

Our law enforcement agencies have, within a short span of time, cleared the large areas in Malakand from the militants.

Over 2.5 million were forced to leave their homes.

About 2 million were hosted by their relatives and friends.

I salute the host families.

Democracy and political ownership of war have proved to be chief weapons in the fight against militancy.

In a short span of ten weeks most of the internally displaced have returned to their homes.

We are now engaged in rebuilding their lives.

Pakistan appreciates the support and understanding of the international community in our efforts.

We urge the international community to reinforce this support further.

We are determined to eliminate terrorism and extremism from our territory.

For this early return of peace and stability in Afghanistan is critical.

The flow of weapons across the region must stop.

The funding and support to militants by drug barons and other elements must stop.

We also believe regional efforts for peace and stability.

We also believe that regional cooperation against terrorism and extremism holds great promise.

We emphasize regional efforts for peace and stability.

Pakistan will continue to work with Afghanistan and the international community for the early restoration of peace and stability in that country.

Pakistan has hosted almost 3 million Afghan refugees for the past three decades.

We have been providing for them on our own.

We call upon the world to help in the safe return of refugees to their homes.

Pakistan's democracy has begun to deliver.

We are doing more in our self interest.

We urge the world democracies to do more for peace and development of the people affected by militancy and terror.

We need to create economic opportunities for our people.

We urge our friends and partners to help Pakistan with market access for the economic revival and well-being of their people.

Mr. President,

Pakistan desires friendly relations with India.

We believe that dialogue is the only way forward.

The absence of dialogue leads to tensions that must be avoided.

We look forward to the resumption of the Composite Dialogue process.

We seek a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues with India.

Meaningful progress towards resolution of the Kashmir dispute is necessary for durable peace and stability in South Asia.

Mr. President,

Pakistan also supports the rights of the Palestinian people as guaranteed in several UN Resolutions.

Durable peace in the Middle East requires that the issue of Palestine is addressed meaningfully.

We also call for the immediate release of {Ahn-Sun-Sew-Kee}.

Mr. President,

All nations seek security.

Peace and security are closely linked.

Equal security for all is important.

We support all efforts for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The principle of equal security is of fundamental importance for achieving these objectives.

Imbalance in security especially at the regional levels needs to be redressed.

Pakistan will continue to play a constructive role:

- In promoting conflict resolution and restraint in South Asia.
- In promoting initiatives on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on the basis of non-discrimination.

Mr. President,

Pakistan's priority is economic development.

We wish to build on our internal strengths.

In this effort, we seek partnerships.

We seek to develop win-win situations.

We are engaged in economic revival by:

- Developing our agriculture,
- Building mega hydel projects,
- Initiating water conservation projects and
- Undertaking infrastructure development projects.
- Promoting regional trade and cooperation

and

- Encouraging, beyond governments, the corporate sector in the development.

We need to develop frameworks for cooperation that will deliver quickly.

Mr. President,

In overcoming the challenges faced by the world the United Nations has a central role to play.

Guided by its principles and the high ideals in its Charter the UN is destined to succeed.

Pakistan is determined to convert all challenges into opportunities.

A democratic Pakistan will continue to uphold the ideals and values of the United Nations.

Together we shall succeed.

Thank you.