



**Address by the Prime Minister at the General Debate of
the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly New York**

(26 September, 2025)

**Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

ASSALAM-O-ALAIKUM,

I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, on assuming the Presidency of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and thank Mr. Philemon Yang, for his stewardship of the previous Session.

I also commend Secretary-General António Guterres, for his bold leadership of the United Nations in testing times.

My fellow leaders,

Today is the third time I have had the honor of speaking to this august Assembly, as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Our world is more complex today, than ever before:

- Conflicts are intensifying;
- International law is being brazenly violated;
- Humanitarian crises are multiplying;
- Terrorism remains a potent threat;
- Disinformation and fake news undermine trust;
- Unrestrained arms race, and emerging technologies, aggravates risks of catastrophic miscalculation; and, above all;
- Climate change threatens our very survival.

Multilateralism is no more an option; it is essential.

While we welcome the “Pact for the Future” and the “UN80 Initiative”, mere declarations are not enough.

Excellencies,

Pakistan’s foreign policy, guided by the vision of Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah – is based on peace, mutual respect, and cooperation.

We believe in the peaceful settlement of disputes, through dialogue and diplomacy.

Last year, from this very podium, I had warned that Pakistan would act most decisively against any external aggression. Those words proved true, when, in May this year, my country confronted unprovoked aggression from our eastern front. The enemy came shrouded in arrogance; we sent them back in humiliation.

Excellencies,

India sought to extract political gains from a human tragedy, by spurning my offer of an independent investigation into the Pahalgam incident. Instead, it attacked our cities, and targeted our innocent civilians. When our territorial integrity and national security were violated, our response was in accordance with the inherent right of self-defense, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

Our valiant armed forces, under the stellar leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, mounted an operation of stunning professionalism and bravery. Repulsing the enemy's attack, under Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Babar Sidhu, our falcons took flight and etched their answer across the skies resulting in seven of the Indian jets turned to scrap and dust—a decisive response to the aggressor that will echo through the annals of history.

To the fearless architects of this victory, to every officer and soldier, heirs of our martyrs—their names are forever engraved in glory. To the mothers of our martyrs, their courage guides our path forward and their sacrifice shall never be in vain, Insha'Allah. And to every Pakistani, you stood as one unbreakable wall, a Bunyan Um Marsoos.

Excellencies,

Though in a position of strength, Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire,

facilitated by President Donald Trump's bold and visionary leadership. We express our deep appreciation to him and his team for their active role in bringing about the ceasefire. President Trump's efforts for peace helped avert a more threatening war in South Asia. Had he not intervened timely and decisively, the consequences of a full-fledged war would have been catastrophic.

We are also grateful to our friends and partners including China, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Iran, UAE, and the UN Secretary-General, for extending their diplomatic support to Pakistan at this crucial time.

Excellencies,

We have won the war and now we seek to win peace! Pakistan stands ready for a composite, comprehensive and result-oriented dialogue with India on all outstanding issues. South Asia requires "proactive", rather than "provocative" leadership!

India's unilateral and illegal attempt to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance defies the provisions of the Treaty itself, as well as the norms of international law. Pakistan has made it abundantly clear—and let there be no doubt—we will definitely, and ardently defend the inalienable right of our 240 million people on these waters. To us, any violation of this treaty represents an act of war.

Excellencies,

This latest Indian aggression serves as a stark reminder of the dangerous flashpoint between two nuclear armed rivals—the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

For nearly eighty years, India has tried to muzzle the voices of the brave sons and daughters of Kashmir. Thousands of widows, orphans and the elderly seek answers from all of us. When will their misery end? Who will provide them justice? Why is the international community still silent? Do the Kashmiris have no human rights?

Through this august house, I wish to assure the Kashmiri people, that I stand with them, the people of Pakistan stand with them, and soon, one day, Insha'Allah, India's tyranny in Kashmir will come to an end! Kashmir will gain its inalienable right to self-determination through an impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

The plight of the Palestinian people is one of the most heart-wrenching tragedies of our times. This prolonged injustice is a stain on the global conscience, and our collective moral failure. For nearly eighty years, the Palestinians have courageously endured Israel's brutal occupation of their homeland.

In the West Bank, each passing day brings new brutality, illegal settlers who terrorize and kill with impunity. And in Gaza, Israel's genocidal onslaught has unleashed unspeakable terror upon women and children in a manner we have not witnessed in decades, perhaps ever. In blind pursuit of its nefarious goals, the Israeli leadership has unleashed a shameful campaign against the innocent Palestinians, which history will always remember as one of its darkest chapters.

But speak we must, Madam President. Our words are too little too late for Hind Rajab — a child, nay, a little baby. We have all heard her trembling voice on that phone call, which little Hind made as she struggled to stay alive under Israeli onslaught.

Can you imagine that little girl—Hind Rajab—as if she was your daughter? Can you imagine not having the compassion to spare her life? My agony, and the agony of the entire Muslim Ummah, indeed, I think the agony of all nations on the planet is that we failed Hind Rajab.

As they say, “the smallest coffins are the heaviest to carry.” I for one would know, for I too carried the tiny coffin of a seven-year-old Irtaza Abbas, during the recent confrontation with India.

We cannot—we must not—fail these children of Gaza, or any child anywhere—we must find a path to a ceasefire.

Pakistan firmly supports the demand of the Palestinian people for

the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state, with pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Palestine can no longer remain under Israeli shackles. It must be liberated!

Excellencies,

Pakistan was among the first to recognize Palestinian statehood in 1988. We welcome the recognition of the State of Palestine by a number of countries recently and urge others to also follow suit.

We are further grateful for President Trump's timely initiative to invite Arab-Islamic states for a consultative session at the United Nations. It has rekindled hope for a ceasefire in the near future for which the credit must again be attributed to his quest for peace.

Excellencies,

Israel's recent attack on Doha, and its continued violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of numerous countries is reflective of its rogue behavior. Pakistan stands with the brotherly people of Qatar. We also support all efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict, in line with the UN Charter, to end human suffering and global turmoil caused by this protracted war.

Madam President,

Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. For over two decades, Pakistan has been at the frontline of global counter-terrorism efforts—having suffered over 90,000 casualties and endured over 150 billion USD in economic losses.

Today, we face externally sponsored terrorism, particularly from foreign-funded groups, such as the TTP, Fitna al-Khawarij, Fitna al-Hindustan, BLA and its Majeed Brigade. Operating from Afghan soil, these groups are responsible for some of the most heinous attacks inside Pakistan, including the dastardly Jaffar Express incident earlier this year.

Our brave security forces continue to combat this threat, and we will continue this fight till the last terrorist is neutralized, and the last proxy has been eliminated.

As an immediate neighbor, Pakistan has a direct stake in a peaceful Afghanistan. We believe that the key to development and prosperity lies in regional stability and connectivity. Pakistan continues to engage with all partners to extend humanitarian assistance, promote economic recovery, and encourage an inclusive political framework in Afghanistan. The Interim Afghan Government must, however, uphold human rights, including women's rights. Above all, we expect the IAG to take effective action against terrorist groups and to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for terrorism against any country.

Madam President,

Global peace, harmony and shared prosperity can best be advanced through dialogue, tolerance and understanding. There must be no space for hate speech, discrimination or violence against any person, or against any religion. Hate-driven ideologies, such as India's Hindutva-driven extremism, pose a danger to the entire world. While there is growing recognition of the dangers posed by Islamophobia, the imperative of effectively combating this menace can hardly be overemphasized. Pakistan welcomes the appointment of a UN Special Envoy to combat this scourge.

Madam President,

While we are confronted with the climate crisis, it demands the most urgent collective action. In 2022, Pakistan had endured massive floods that caused significant losses amounting to USD 34 billion. This year again, we are dealing with another mega flood, with thousands of villages washed away, millions of people displaced, more than a thousand killed and billions of dollars of crop, livestock and property lost to floodwaters. Our nation stands united in these testing times and we are dealing with this natural calamity with remarkable resilience. I have declared a climate emergency to cope with this challenge.

The catastrophic floods of 2022 and 2025 are glaring examples of loss and damage caused due to climate change. Pakistan contributes less than 1% of global emissions annually, yet it continues to face the relentless brunt of climate disasters. Pakistan is among the top 10 most vulnerable countries bearing the brunt of this challenge. Nevertheless, we are enhancing our climate resilience, and concurrently expanding the use of clean energy.

Our commitment to ambitious climate action is reflected in our Third Nationally Determined Contribution. However, while Pakistan is doing its part, those most responsible for the climate crisis must deliver on climate finance commitments, to support climate action in developing countries.

Pakistan is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda. Our national development strategies are aligned with the SDGs.

Excellencies,

While we deal with climate change, I bear good tidings on the domestic economic front. Socio-economic development and the welfare of our people are among my government's foremost priorities. We have successfully implemented deep-rooted structural macro-economic reforms, modernized and broadened our taxation system, intensified efforts to mobilize productive investment, and embraced digitization, AI and crypto as the tools of the future.

Infrastructure, energy, industry, agriculture, mining and technology are priority areas for us. Strategic partnerships, including our All-Weather Cooperation with China, through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under President Xi Jinping's landmark Belt and Road Initiative—are contributors to our progress.

I admire the vision and foresight of President Xi Jinping, whose recently launched Global Governance Initiative, along with other global initiatives, offers a comprehensive framework for a more just and inclusive development.

Excellencies,

As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Pakistan is playing its constructive role in conflict prevention. The unanimous adoption of Resolution 2788, under our Presidency of the Council, has renewed our collective commitment to multilateralism, respect for the UN Charter and effective implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan will continue to advocate a stronger and reformed UN peacekeeping, and the peacebuilding architecture.

Madam President,

Pakistan supports a United Nations that is more effective, more credible and more representative. In particular, we are committed to a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, that reflects the interests of all Member States. The Council's credibility is damaged by paralysis and selectivity. Adding more permanent members will only compound this problem.

Excellencies,

At the end, let me assure you, that Pakistan will always stand for peace, justice, and development—for a reinvigorated UN, and for cooperative multilateralism, that is fair and inclusive, and delivers for all.

Let this 80th anniversary not simply 'commemorate' history. Let us 'make' history and chart a future—for the next 80 years—with these United Nations, as humanity's enduring hope for global good.

Let us truly strive to become "Better Together."

I thank you.