

Statement by Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN in Geneva
Ambassador Bilal Ahmad at the General Debate of UNGA First Committee,
10 October 2025

Chair,

I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your elections and assure you of our full cooperation.

2. We align ourselves with the statement of the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement).

Chair,

3. We meet this year against a deeply troubling international security backdrop. The global landscape is marked by rising instability, widening mistrust, and a fraying commitment to the foundational principles of the UN Charter.

4. Policies of strategic dominance are in vogue. Relentless arms races continue, with global military spending now at an unprecedented 2.7 trillion dollars.

5. Old conflicts linger. New ones erupt. All because violators of international law act with impunity. There is an increasing resort to the unilateral use of force.

6. This year alone, the world has seen multiple theatres of armed conflict expand, with catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

7. The war in Gaza has been a stain on the collective conscience of the international community. Pakistan welcomes the announcement of an agreement on the first phase. We hope this will lead to a permanent ceasefire and lasting peace.

8. Closer to home, South Asia was once again brought to the brink. In May this year, India launched an unprovoked military assault against Pakistan - employing dual-capable missiles, autonomous loitering munitions and fighter aircrafts, in blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law. Civilian homes, schools, and places of worship were struck, killing innocent men, women, and children. This marked the first-ever use of such capabilities by one nuclear-armed state against another.

9. Pakistan was compelled to exercise its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter. Our response was precise, downing seven Indian aircrafts forcing India to seek a ceasefire, facilitated by President Trump and supported by several other friendly countries.

10. Notwithstanding this humiliating defeat, the Indian leadership persists in describing these reckless actions as the “new normal” in South Asia, vowing to strike Pakistan again, whenever it chooses, on any pretext it can manufacture. Its political and military leaders speak openly, including just last week, of “changing geography”

and “erasing Pakistan from the map” indulging in the dangerous delusion that one nuclear-armed state can simply wipe another off the face of the earth.

11. Is this “new abnormal” acceptable in a region where two nuclear-armed states live side by side? This Indian indignancy is dismissive of the international community’s desire for peace, stability, and risk reduction.

12. India continues to evade bilateral dialogue on nuclear and missile restraint, as well as on risk-reduction measures - conduct unbecoming of a responsible custodian of nuclear weapons. The last formal talks between Pakistan and India on nuclear and conventional confidence-building measures were held more than a decade ago, in 2012. Since then, emboldened by its perceived military and technological asymmetry, India has treated dialogue not as a responsibility, but as an instrument of coercion and leverage.

Chair,

13. Last month, the Prime Minister of Pakistan speaking at the UN General Assembly stated, *and I quote* “we have won the war. And now we seek to win the peace” *unquote*.

14. It is time to move away from the politics of escalation and towards the imperatives of coexistence. Pakistan stands ready for a composite, comprehensive and a result-oriented dialogue with India on all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. Our proposal on a Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in the region for avoidance of a mutually debilitating arms race also remains on the table.

Chair,

15. At the global scale, we continue to witness modernization of nuclear arsenals, development of destabilizing technologies, and weaponization of new domains.

16. The arms control architecture is being systematically dismantled with now even the last remaining bilateral arms control agreement set to expire early next year.

17. The major military powers resist arms control measures and instruments which require making compromises on their strategic advantages. They only back proposals that would cost them nothing.

18. The negative trends on the global security landscape have led to a continuing stalemate in the disarmament machinery. It is time to reaffirm our foundational vision enshrined in the SSOD-I Declaration.

19. A durable and equitable international peace and security architecture must emerge from the following principles:

One, universal and consistent application of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, UN Security Council resolutions, and international law, especially recommitment to the principles of non-use of force and peaceful resolution of disputes. To promote this, under our Presidency in July 2025, the Security Council unanimously adopted Pakistan-sponsored resolution 2788 on “Strengthening Mechanisms for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes”;

Two, implementation of the assurance in the SSOD-I that “every state has an equal right to security”;

Three, faithful compliance with and fulfillment of arms control and disarmament obligations by respective states;

Four, reinvigoration of conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels including establishment of zones of peace under the auspices of the UN; and,

Five, strengthening cooperative and inclusive multilateralism in pursuit of collective security and prioritizing the UN machinery over strategic alliances that serve the interests of a select few.

Chair,

20. In the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Pakistan supports the immediate start of negotiations in the CD on a legally binding Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) and a Treaty on Prohibition of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT).

21. The proposal for a treaty banning only the production of fissile materials seeks to perpetuate existing asymmetries by excluding from its scope several metric tonnes of existing stocks that can produce thousands of new nuclear weapons. Such proposals that are cost-free for its proponents but disregard the legitimate security needs of others will remain a non-starter.

22. Artificial Intelligence in military applications is no longer a distant concern - it is a present and urgent challenge. Without guardrails, AI risks accelerating decision-making beyond human control, eroding accountability, and destabilizing strategic stability. For developing countries, the danger is twofold: exclusion from shaping norms, and exposure to the consequences of an unregulated technological race. Governance of military AI must therefore be anchored in the UN, grounded in equity and inclusivity. All relevant multilateral fora must play complementary roles within their respective mandates.

Chair,

23. Lastly, Pakistan will, once again, table its four resolutions in this Committee to address regional and conventional arms control and disarmament and the

provision of negative security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States. We count on the support of Member States for their adoption.

I thank you.
