

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. KHURSHID M. KASURI, FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN IN
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(21 September 2005)**

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you and President Jean Ping for the success of the historic 60th Anniversary Summit. We admire the dedication and skill with which President Ping conducted the preparations for the Summit. We thank the Secretary-General for his initiative to convene the Summit and his numerous constructive ideas to advance Development and UN Reform.

2. Pakistan supported adoption of the final document. It reflects the existing consensus on a range of issues. However, like many others, we are disappointed with the results. We could have achieved more perhaps; if the agenda was not so extensive, if the Security Council reform had not sapped energy from the preparatory process; if negotiations on the document had been commenced earlier.

3. **Development** was, and remains, the highest priority for the vast majority of member states. The Summit was to focus on fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals. There are welcome recommendations on ODA targets, debt relief, enhancing and improving aid and addressing the special needs of Africa. But we did not advance very much on trade, investment flows and global governance.

4. However, we can recover lost ground, and lost time, on development through a focused and more determined implementation process. This objective must be accorded first priority. Fortunately, agreement exists already on development goals, including the MDGs. The developing countries are adopting national strategies to achieve these goals. Development partners must now demonstrate the political will to fully support these national strategies and to accept greater equity in the international trade and financial systems.

Mr. President,

5. We must quickly put in place an effective mechanism to promote and monitor the implementation of the goals and agreements on development. Adequate resources must be provided for this purpose.

6. The Summit has emphasized ECOSOC's role in promoting policy dialogue, development cooperation, post conflict development, and coordination within the UN system. Pakistan believes that ECOSOC should now serve as the central forum for follow-up and implementation of the development commitments made at the Summit. In this regard, we would propose that the model developed for tracking tsunami aid - the so-called DAD system – be replicated to assess the status of implementation of the agreed development goals. Pakistan has also offered to convene a high-level informal meeting of ECOSOC members, and other stakeholders, towards the end of this year, to review the steps taken to advance the implementation of the development goals and decide on further measures.

Mr. President,

7. The widely recognized inter-linkage between peace and development has now been institutionalised with the decision to establish the **Peace-building Commission**. Pakistan is proud that the Peace-building Commission evolved from the concept of "Ad Hoc Composite Committees" which we introduced in 2003. As a major troop contributor to UN peacekeeping operations and, in particular, through our engagement in complex missions, such as in Sierra Leone, Liberia, DRC and Burundi, Pakistan has a wealth of experience and expertise to

contribute to the work of the Peace-building Commission. We shall take part actively in the discussions to be held in the General Assembly to finalize the details and modalities for the commencement of the Commission's work.

Mr. President,

8. **Terrorism** is a global menace and requires a collective response. Pakistan has been a major target of terrorism. We are in the forefront of the international war against terrorism. At home, my government has instituted a number of short and long-term measures to eliminate terrorism and extremism. These include banning extremist organisations and detention of extremists, crackdown against hate material, halting the misuse of religious institutions, registration and reform of madrassas and fighting illiteracy and poverty.

9. The Summit has endorsed the elaboration of a comprehensive strategy against terrorism. We should set up an Ad-hoc Working Group to elaborate this strategy. A comprehensive strategy should oppose terrorism wherever and by whoever – individuals, groups or states. And no strategy can be comprehensive, if it does not address the factors that contribute to extremism including poverty, political and economic injustices, foreign occupation and denial of the right of peoples to self-determination.

10. **Dialogue and understanding between civilizations and religions** should also be an essential component of a comprehensive strategy on terrorism. There are several note-worthy and mutually reinforcing initiatives which can be coalesced to generate international and national action. These include President Musharraf's strategy of "Enlightened Moderation" which seeks to simultaneously promote internal reform in the Islamic world and the active support of the international community to help resolve political disputes and address the socio-economic and development challenges of the Islamic world.

Mr. President,

11. The failure to achieve agreement on **disarmament and non-proliferation** in the outcome document reflects the deep differences that exist among Member States. This is dangerous for peace and stability, especially in regions of tension. It is time for the international community, for the entire UN membership, not just some self-selected States, to promote a new consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation through the Conference on Disarmament or a special session of the UN Disarmament Commission.

Mr. President,

12. The Summit also could not achieve a full consensus on how to ensure the effective promotion of human rights which, with "peace and development", is the third pillar of UN reform. We should build on the agreement reached to evolve a full consensus. Pakistan will join in creating a new and representative Human Rights Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Its mandate and methods must promote cooperation rather than confrontation. We must also improve and rationalize the Sub-Commission on Human Rights, the host of special mechanisms that exist and the participation of Civil Society in the UN's work on human rights. We feel that this exercise of reform should be entrusted to a working group in Geneva.

Mr. President,

13. We have committed ourselves to **strengthen the United Nations** and make it more effective, efficient, democratic and accountable.

14. Our pledge to reaffirm the central position of the **General Assembly** should be given real meaning. The Assembly's role and mandate should be preserved from encroachment, especially by the Security Council. It is the General Assembly which should ensure the follow-up of the Summit's decisions.

15. In its capacity as the President of the **Economic and Social Council**, Pakistan will work closely with member states to implement the proposed enhanced role of the Council with adjustments to the Council's organization, agenda and working methods.

16. The **Security Council** has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. But it lacks transparency and democracy. It is neither fully representative, nor accountable to the general membership. The rationale for its reform is therefore clear. The Council should be enlarged by adding 10 additional non-permanent members to reflect the entire spectrum of the UN's membership. It could allow immediate re-election to enable major countries to seek more frequent membership of the Council. But, it should not add to inequality by inducting new "permanent" members. This will alienate many important countries, divide and weaken the United Nations, and further reduce the Council's credibility and legitimacy.

17. The proposal of the Uniting for Consensus is equitable, fair and democratic. It has the flexibility to accommodate the positions and aspirations of all countries and regional and political groupings, including Africa. It will increase the representation of the general membership in the Security Council. It will enhance the stature of the General Assembly by making the Security Council more accountable to the general membership. We are ready to continue efforts, in any open and transparent format, including the Assembly's Open-ended Working Group, to reach consensus on the reform of the Security Council.

Mr. President

18. Pakistan is gratified that the Summit has reaffirmed the central "values and principles" of the United Nations and acknowledged that the range of threats we face requires our "urgent, collective and more determined response". It also acknowledged that many threats are interdependent. We welcome the renewed emphasis on the pacific settlement of disputes and the Charter's strict constraints on the use of force. It is befitting that we are observing the "International Day of Peace" today.

19. Pakistan believes that, while dealing with new threats – such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction – the United Nations must continue to accord priority to addressing and resolving the numerous disputes and conflicts that afflict so many regions of our world.

20. In **Africa**, there is a new dynamic of regional ownership and international engagement and partnership in addressing conflicts and complex crises. Progress is, however, mixed. Relative improvements in Sierra Leone and Liberia are contrasted by numerous challenges in Cote d'Ivoire, DRC and Burundi. We are heartened by the prospects of peace in the Sudan. Somalia, on the other hand, still awaits the international attention and support needed to restore security and consolidate the painful gains in the peace process. Pakistan will continue to contribute to the UN and international efforts for restoration of peace and stability in Africa.

21. The early Resolution of the **Israeli-Palestinian** issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and a two-State solution, will usher in an era of peace and stability in the Middle East. We have welcomed Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza and trust that this will be followed by withdrawal from the West Bank, leading to the creation of an independent and viable Palestinian State. Pakistan will do whatever it can to promote durable peace in the Middle East. This will contribute considerably to eliminating the conditions which encourage extremism and terrorism.

22. Pakistan also hopes for the early restoration of peace and Security in **Iraq**. We should encourage a democratic consensus among its peoples and regions, which preserves Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, and the strengthening of its national capability to preserve security against violence and terrorism.

23. **Afghanistan** has crossed another milestone with the successful holding of Parliamentary elections. The international community must remain fully engaged to help Afghanistan overcome the remaining challenges. Pakistan is committed, bilaterally and multilaterally, to support efforts for peace and security and development and reconstruction in Afghanistan. We wish to see the three million Afghan refugees we still host return to their homes in safety and honour.

24. There should be no self-serving questions or quibbling about Pakistan's commitment and contribution to peace and security in Afghanistan, which is also in Pakistan's best interest. Pakistan is actively engaged in halting illegal cross-border movement and containing the threat posed by the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, including through the (Pak-Afghan-U.S.) Tripartite Commission. Pakistan's military presence along the border far exceeds the combined strength of the national and international military presence in Afghanistan. We have recently proposed partial fencing of the border to minimize chances of illegal movements. We hope this will be accepted and implemented.

Mr. President,

25. Relations between India and Pakistan are improving. There is new hope for peace and cooperation in South Asia. We must also give this hope to the people of **Jammu and Kashmir** in their legitimate quest for self-determination. In his address to the Summit on 14 September, President Musharraf said that Pakistan and India must not remain trapped, by hate and history, in a cycle of confrontation and conflict. For this to happen, it is essential to find a just solution of the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir, acceptable to Pakistan, India and, above all, to the people of Kashmir. The same day, the President met with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York to further advance the ongoing composite dialogue between our two countries.

Mr. President,

26. Peace in our neighbourhood will also provide a fillip to the efforts being undertaken by Pakistan for rapid and equitable socio-economic development. We share the emphasis laid by the Summit on the role of national policies and development strategies in the achievement of sustainable development. The government has taken a series of actions to transform Pakistan into a modern, dynamic, progressive and democratic Islamic state. Our policies have produced visible results: macro-economic stability, an 8.4% growth rate, a reduced fiscal deficit and growing export earnings, external remittances and investment. The major focus of our government now is to accelerate the transfer of economic benefits to the people of Pakistan. We are confident of achieving all MDG targets.

27. Pakistan is also succeeding against terrorism and extremism. It is on the path to sustainable democracy. Our people have been empowered from the grass roots level up. This includes an ensured 30 percent representation for women at all levels. And minorities have been brought into the mainstream. We are determined to sustain these positive trends in our national development. At the same time, we are working to forge close economic partnerships in the region and beyond.

Mr. President

28. It is in this same spirit of constructive engagement that Pakistan wishes to pursue cooperative multilateralism and to strengthen the United Nations – this unique forum which is indispensable, in our interdependent world, for all States, large or small, powerful or weak.

29. Pakistan participated actively, and contributed constructively, to the preparation of the Summit and its outcome. We are committed to furthering the reform process in the follow-up to the Summit's decisions. We look forward to working closely with all member states, and would like to assure you,

Mr. President, of our full cooperation in this historic endeavour.

Thank you!