

**UN Security Council  
Open Debate**

**Maintenance of International Peace and Security  
Upholding the United Nations Charter**

**Statement by  
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Permanent Representative**

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**Mr. President,**

I congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Council in the very first month of Vietnam's current term as a member. Thank you for convening this debate at the start of the year in which we observe 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Charter.

**Mr. President,**

2. The values of the Charter have served us well. The purposes and principles of the Charter have become the foundation of international law. They have played their part in the journey of many Member States towards peace, security and international cooperation. Reiteration of support for these values is timely.

3. However, in a world constantly in flux, the challenges to international peace and security are a step ahead of the systems designed to tackle them. It is evident now that fires are all around the horizon.

4. To undertake a fair evaluation of the available mechanisms without belittling their importance, we need to ask ourselves – are they still fit for the purpose of implementing the fundamental principles of the Charter?

**Mr. President,**

5. The central premise of the Charter, in terms of peace and security, is ensuring world peace subject to law. For this, collective security was the formula proposed. Alas, that goal has been elusive. Hence, the instruments for implementing the primary objective have, over time, been engaged in other pursuits.

6. As the quest for international cooperation in matters of peace and security has grown, improvisations have come to the fore.

**Mr. President,**

7. The genius of the Charter was to recognize that instead of constraining the abilities of sovereign states, Charter institutions magnified them. Hence, there is a case to be made for innovations that enlarge the vision of global rule of law.

8. It is possible that just as Generals often re-fight the last war, the drafters of the Charter responded to the factors and forces that led to World War II, without anticipating what we are now faced with. Notwithstanding all its imperfections, the United Nations Charter is still the main incarnation of the global spirit. Constancy to its principles promotes common good. Moving away from a formal system which is well understood, to one which is based on untested interpretations, may have unexpected consequences. Justice dispensed on the fly may come to be resented.

9. It is increasingly acknowledged that the Council faces crises of identity and legitimacy, as well as relevance and performance. The globalisation of terror networks; the weaponisation of new technologies; the inability to counter those resorting to subversive statecraft are showing up the shortcomings of the Council. One delegation that epitomizes the dark arts has, yet again, displayed its wares by peddling falsehoods earlier today. These we dismiss with disdain. My simple response to Pakistan is even though it is late, neighbour, heal thyself of your malaise. There are no takers here for your malware.

**Mr. President,**

10. We need the Council as part of the political tool kit to address ongoing and future threats to global peace and security.

11. The answer to the crises the Council faces, lies in invoking and working through Charter provisions that provide for reform and change. We need a Council that is representative of current global realities, credible, and legitimate, rather than one that rests merely on the claim that it existed at the inception. The Council needs to be fit for purpose for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

12. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "*One must care about the world one will not see*". Resilient organisations are those that are not resistant to change, or else current emergencies can turn into catastrophes, even while we continue our endless prevarication. Humanity, it is said, progresses when it collectively rises to its responsibility to the future. It is now time to do that.

Thank you, Mr President.

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