

*Time allowed: 3 minutes*



**National Statement by Pakistan at World Health Assembly (75<sup>th</sup> Session),  
*“Health for Peace, Peace for Health” (Agenda item 3) on 22-28 May 2022***

**Mr. President,  
Dr Tedros, Director General, WHO  
Honorable Ministers,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Health and peace are mutually reinforcing fundamental rights of every human being without distinction.

Today, people around the world are facing the devastating health, social and economic impacts of violent conflicts, climate change, poverty and a prolonged pandemic. We deeply appreciate the seminal role played by WHO in saving lives and promoting better standards of health for all. Its Global Health for Peace Initiative (GHPI) is an important undertaking, which emphasizes that the connection between health and peace is real, powerful and essential to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of health programmes.

**Mr. President,**

Peace is not only about the absence of violence. It is as much about fostering peaceful societies. Clearly, conflicts are a major obstacle to enjoyment of health. Lack of access to health and basic social services can lead to feelings of exclusion, which in turn can be a stimulus for conflict and violence. There is a nexus between peace, security, development, and health. We need to acknowledge that social injustice and systemic inequalities including in health are invisible drivers of violence.

The fundamental importance of peace for development is recognised by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the WHO Constitution, and the 13th General Programme of Work. The 2030 Agenda puts people and their wellbeing at the center of all actions, following the principle to “leave no one behind”. Goal 16 aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

We all agree that no individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. But today most of the developing countries are reeling from the cascading challenges of an unabated climate emergency, uneven economic recovery from the pandemic, and a triple crisis of food, energy and financial deficits. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated deep existing injustices in societies, highlighting socio-economic and health inequalities. It has further strained already-compromised health systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Global military expenditure surpassed 2 trillion dollars for the first time in 2021. What is even more worrying is that this expenditure has continued to rise even during the last two years in which the world was going through the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is clear that we need to set our priorities right. Primacy of health diplomacy in conflict-affected and vulnerable (FCV) settings is essential. By prioritizing health outcomes in FCV settings, and embedding health interventions in equity and universal access, the drivers of conflicts and violence can be addressed more meaningfully.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of deeper integration between health and peace. Therefore, it could serve as an entry point for a more fundamental transformation of the health sector and a stronger foundation for sustainable peace.

**Mr. President,**

Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. We should uphold our unwavering commitment to multilateralism, as there is simply no sustainable alternative to dialogue, international cooperation, and global solutions. Let us reaffirm our commitment to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and rededicate ourselves to support all

efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and resolution of disputes by peaceful means.

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