



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

**Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan, at the Plenary Meeting of Conference on Disarmament, Geneva
13 August 2020**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary meeting. On behalf of Pakistan delegation, I congratulate you on assuming the presidency of this Conference. We welcome your outreach and consultations prior to this meeting. We also appreciate the support and efforts of the Secretariat to organize this plenary.

In line with the framework that you have outlined for today's meeting, I wish to briefly share our perspective on recent developments in the field of disarmament, the CD's work and options for future work.

Mr. President,

At the last plenary in June, I had shared our detailed appraisal of the contemporary global order, especially with reference to the international security environment.

I had drawn attention of this august body to the causes and consequences of the negative developments and disturbing trends on the arms control and disarmament landscape and architecture.

My delegation had also proposed a roadmap to manage and perhaps begin to halt and reverse the damage done to the global order as well as the arms control agenda.

As we meet, the diagnosis and prognosis hold true.

Mr. President,

Let me briefly share our assessment of recent global developments in and around the field of disarmament. The international order, multilateralism and long-standing norms and rules continue to be undermined. Unilateralism has emerged as a defining feature of our times.

There are valid and growing perceptions about lack of international accountability of the big and the powerful who defy and violate international law, often with impunity. Despite avowed commitments to the rule of law, strategic, political and commercial interests continue to trump universal values and norms.

Power asymmetries are rising as powerful states seek absolute security and domination through weaponization, integration and operationalization of space and cyber technologies.

Instead of working on controlling and reducing arms, many States are pursuing their expansion and sophistication.

Nuclear dangers are increasing as thresholds for nuclear testing and use are lowered by some States.

These developments entail enhanced risks of miscalculation and tensions with the escalating potential of crisis, confrontation and new armed conflicts, especially in regions marked by power asymmetries.

The multilateral machinery designed to deliberate and negotiate arms related constraints therefore gets directly affected by these developments at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.

Mr. President,

Let me briefly share how these global developments impact on South Asia and vice a versa.

Most of the worrying elements of the global picture are evident in our region where the largest State remains embarked on a policy course to deliberately violate international law and norms.

This pre-meditated defiance of international rule of law is accompanied by an unbridled policy of hegemony and offensive doctrines. Rather than holding this State accountable for such recklessness, it is being shielded, politically, and aided with generous conventional and non-conventional supplies from outside the region.

Jammu and Kashmir, under illegal occupation and alien domination of India, represents both a cause and manifestation of these policies. Every tenet of international human rights and humanitarian law has been trampled upon in the illegally occupied territory.

Just last week, the world marked the completion of one year of India's unilateral actions in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir that contravene UN charter, and several UN Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council has held three discussions on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) including one held last week. Pakistan welcomes these discussions which underscore the importance the Council attaches to this international dispute and the risks to peace and security that may arise out of unlawful actions.

Mr. President,

The fountainhead of Indian policy of defiance of international law and norms lies in its Hindutva ideology that seeks inter alia establishment of Hindu Rashtra (State) by all means, including through policies of hegemony and repression.

I have previously drawn attention to the belligerent statements by Indian leaders and pursuit of offensive doctrines on subjects that fall in the purview of this Conference. It would be naive to dismiss such statements and doctrines as mere

bluster and bravado. They indeed represent the increasingly militarized mindset that defines Indian polity today.

India has a track-record of deflecting international attention from its illegal actions and state-led oppression in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The plausibility of India resorting to a “false-flag” operation or launch another military adventure against Pakistan can therefore not be ruled out. There are continuing signals of such aggressive Indian designs as evident by its growing ceasefire violations and attacks against civilians across the Line of Control.

As I said in the last meeting, Pakistan neither seeks war nor a conflict with India. However, as we demonstrated last year, if attacked, Pakistan has the will and capability to defend itself and will respond resolutely to any act of aggression.

The international community, especially international bodies mandated to maintain international peace and security and to control arms, have a duty to take cognizance and press India to halt its grave violations of international law and refrain from stoking regional tensions.

Mr. President,

As regards the work of the Conference and future options, it is clear that the CD has not been able to commence negotiations on its core agenda items for several decades. In fact, some of its oldest agenda items, that have far-reaching significance for international security, have been and continue to be prevented from being negotiated.

The root causes of this long-standing deadlock do not lie in the CD’s rules of procedure or methods of its work. After all, this Conference has successfully negotiated several important treaties with the same procedures and methods.

The impasse in the CD is a consequence of larger geo-political developments, policies and postures that I have outlined before. The Conference is therefore affected by these developments and is obliged to operate in such an environment.

Mr. President,

Overcoming the current deadlock and exploring options for the future would necessarily entail demonstrable adherence to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

It also requires reaffirmation that these principles are universal and that faithful compliance by all States, big or small, is essential to maintaining the integrity of the rules-based international order. It must also include full and effective implementation of international treaties and UN Security Council resolutions by all states.

With this framework as a foundation, revival of a global consensus on arms control and disarmament on the basis of equity, balance, restraint and cooperation among states is both urgent and essential.

Even as consensus building will be a complex task; there are no viable alternatives to addressing the myriad of international security challenges. I have spelled out in my last statement elements of reviving such consensus.

Mr. President,

Specifically in the context of CD, only a realistic approach that draws on what has worked and what has not, will work. Subjective notions of ripeness have neither gained traction in the past nor would they, going forward.

The CD has and should continue to be able to resume substantive work on all its agenda items. Should there be consensus, we are open to substantive work on other contemporary issues such as chemical and biological terrorism, weaponization of cyber space and lethal autonomous weapon systems.

The global build-up of advanced weapons, platforms and means of delivery, together with rising tensions, heightens nuclear risks and dangers. This makes work on Prevention of Nuclear War a high area of priority for this Conference.

On our part, we will continue to engage with other members and Presidents of the CD to enable it to resume substantive discussions on all agenda items and where agreeable, on new and emerging issues.

I thank you.