

Conference on Disarmament
Plenary Meeting, 27 February 2020

Intervention by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi
(Permanent Representative of Pakistan)

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time we are taking the floor during your presidency, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming this important responsibility. We thank you for the revised proposal and appreciate the extensive consultations you have undertaken. We also thank you for providing the members with an opportunity to reflect on the proposal. Your commitment, coupled with the able support of your excellent team, continues to bring us closer towards resumption of substantive work in the CD.

Mr. President,

As you would recall from our discussions over the past few weeks – many members have called for a practical and balanced approach to our work. As we endeavour to find a solution, I reiterate the significance of realism and balance in our efforts.

This necessitates looking at things as they are and not how we wish they were or how they should be. Some of the realities that I have referred to earlier in this room is that there is no consensus to commence negotiations on any issue on the CD's agenda. And increasingly, as we have witnessed in the past few weeks we are finding it very difficult to even gather agreement on process and procedure.

We are fully aware that the 2018 document was a compromise proposal. It does not fully cater to any member's aspirations, but it also doesn't touch on any redlines. Nor is it entirely reflective of our ultimate objective – which remains Nuclear Disarmament. In our view, your proposal is recognition of how things stand.

Therefore, until we work to address larger realities that govern our work – your proposal remains the only practical option and we can go along with it.

Mr. President,

In pursuing our work, however, we must continue to ensure equal treatment and equal preference to each agenda item. An objective approach, devoid of arbitrary or subjective notions, remains fundamental.

It also remains crucial to address the legitimate concerns of all delegations. Our work should remain comprehensive, practical and balanced.

It is in this spirit, Mr. President, that we see value in your proposal for holding deliberations, similar to the Subsidiary Bodies in 2018. Certainly this is not an optimal solution but it could meet our approval in the given circumstances.

Such an exercise, that is deliberations in Subsidiary Bodies, could contribute further to the development of a better understanding of various perspectives, as well as facilitate exploring areas of convergence and identifying major differences.

It could also afford us an opportunity to suitably tailor our work to respond to contemporary challenges that shape our environment.

I look forward to continued constructive engagement and reaffirm my delegation's commitment to continue working for a solution that could meet the consent of all members of the CD.

I thank you, Mr. President.