



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

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Omar, First Secretary,
at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament
17 March 2022**

Madam President,

Thank you for convening this plenary meeting.

I am taking the floor to draw attention of this Conference to a pattern of reckless behaviour and actions by India that carries grave risks to regional peace and strategic stability in a nuclearized environment.

Let me briefly outline them once again.

One, continued pursuit of dangerous doctrines such as cold start;

Two, irresponsible rhetoric by Indian leadership against Pakistan;

Three, anti-satellite weapon test;

These risks have been further aggravated last week on 9 March when an Indian origin 'super-sonic missile' was fired, violating Pakistan airspace.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan has addressed a letter to the President of the UN Security Council and UN Secretary General drawing attention to the serious implications of this missile launch on regional peace and security.

Allow me to highlight the main points of this letter.

The missile entered into Pakistani air space from near Suratgarh in India on 9 March and ultimately fell to ground near Mian Channu city, 124 kms inside Pakistan border at around 1850 hours.

The missile launch not only caused damage to civilian property but also put at risk human lives on the ground in Pakistan. The flight path of the missile could have endangered civilian lives since several domestic and international passenger flights were operating within Pakistan's air space at the time.

Pakistan strongly condemns the blatant violation of its airspace in contravention of the established international norms and aviation safety protocols. Such irresponsible incidents are also reflective of India's disregard for air safety and callous approach towards regional peace and stability.

We have taken note of the Press Statement by the Indian Press Information Bureau's Defence Wing regretting the "accidental firing" of the Indian origin missile into Pakistani territory due to "technical malfunction" and the decision to hold an internal Court of Inquiry.

However, we believe that the grave nature of the incident raises several fundamental questions regarding security protocols and technical safeguards against accidental or unauthorized launch of missiles in a nuclearized environment. Such a serious matter cannot be addressed with simplistic explanation.

India must explain and clarify the following questions:

- its measures and procedures in place to prevent accidental missile launches and the particular circumstances of this incident;
- the type and specifications of the missile that fell in Pakistani territory;
- the flight path and trajectory of the accidentally launched missile and how it ultimately turned and entered into Pakistan?
- Was the missile equipped with self-destruct mechanism? Why did it fail to actualize? Are Indian missiles kept primed for launch even under routine maintenance?
- Why did India fail to inform Pakistan immediately about accidental launch of the missile and waited to acknowledge until Pakistan announced the incident and sought clarification?
- whether the missile was indeed handled by its armed forces or some rogue elements?

The entire incident indicates multiple shortcomings and technical lapses of serious nature in India's management of strategic weapons.

The Indian decision to hold an internal court of inquiry is an insufficient measure, given its demonstrated incompetence or else a deliberate provocation.

Since the missile violated Pakistan's air space and landed on its territory, Pakistan has demanded that the truth of the matter and the facts surrounding the incident be established through a joint probe with Pakistan.

Given the short distances and response times in the Pakistan-India theatre, any misinterpretation by either side of each other's military actions could lead to responses with grave consequences for the region and indeed for the whole world, especially in a nuclearized environment.

Pakistan seeks peaceful relations with all its neighbours, including India. However, our desire for peace is accompanied by a strong resolve and capability for self-defence which will be exercised in accordance with our rights under the UN Charter.

Pakistan has consistently maintained that the international community has an important role to play in averting the threat to peace and stability in South Asia. It is time that the international community opened its eyes to India's irresponsible behaviour and its cavalier disregard for peace and stability in the region.

Madam President,

My delegation will submit full text of the letter of our Foreign Minister to the Conference for issuance as an official document.

It is ironic that a country that has been piloting annual resolution in the General Assembly on reducing nuclear dangers continues to act in ways that accentuates them.

We call on India to refrain from such reckless actions. India must demonstrate transparency and restore confidence about the security and safety of its weapons and the credibility of its command and control systems.

Absent such actions, risks of war and conflict arising from India's irresponsible and cavalier actions will only grow. This Conference must take cognizance of these acts, their implications and the steps necessary to prevent them, when it takes up agenda item two i.e. prevention of nuclear war.

Meanwhile, we await India's clarifications to the questions outlined above.

I thank you.
