



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

**Statement by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan, at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva
26 March 2019**

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and assuring you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

We thank Dr. Christopher Ford, the distinguished Assistant US Secretary of State for International Security and Non-proliferation for his opening remarks, introducing the topic of *Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament* (CEND) and the thinking behind this concept. We also thank the other speakers, the distinguished Ambassadors of UK, Netherlands and Brazil, for their thoughtful contributions.

Mr. President,

Pakistan can relate to the US approach of CEND, as we have consistently held the view that progress on arms control and disarmament cannot be delinked from the security challenges and concerns which force States to resort to nuclear deterrence for self-defence. As such, a dialogue on creating the environment for nuclear disarmament, and addressing the underlying issues which hamper this objective, is indeed an essential one.

We agree that for any serious effort towards arms control and disarmament, it is crucial to analyze the actual security conditions prevailing at the global and regional levels. For that reason, we believe that the geopolitical environments shaping the security perspectives of the key stakeholders as well as conflict resolution should be an important part of the conversations on creating the environment for nuclear disarmament. Conflicts exist not because of nuclear weapons. While there may be exceptions where a State's pursuit of nuclear weapons is driven primarily by considerations of status and power, in most cases

States have been forced to rely on nuclear deterrence in the wake of existential threats to security, conflicts, rivalry and mistrust.

We firmly believe that it is imperative to ensure that the conversations on this subject have the presence of all relevant stakeholders since the security concerns of the States at the regional and global levels are interlinked. Moreover, the following aspects must constitute an integral part of any discussion on creating the environment for nuclear disarmament:

1. Security concerns and threat perceptions – covering traditional military, including nuclear as well as non-nuclear, and non-military threats.
2. Efforts towards conflict resolution and addressing longstanding disputes.
3. Potential transparency and confidence building measures. Pakistan believes that CBMs and transparency measures should facilitate building of trust between States for them to take meaningful steps towards conflict resolution. Transparency and confidence-building measures could start with small steps which incrementally lead to more concrete agreements on restraint, avoidance of an arms race, and arms limitation.
4. Regional asymmetries and destabilizing arms build-ups both in the strategic and conventional realms.
5. Nature of security doctrines – both offensive and defensive – and their role in strategic stability.
6. Role of extra-regional players, their geopolitical objectives and implications for global and regional strategic stability.
7. Discriminatory approaches in terms of application of non-proliferation standards and access to dual-use technology.

Mr. President,

Pakistan views the US proposal on Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament as an opportunity for all stakeholders to work constructively towards addressing the underlying issues which have hampered meaningful progress on arms control and disarmament. We do not see it as a pre-condition, nor as a pre-requisite for progress on disarmament, but rather view it as an unavoidable and essential part of that process.

Pakistan remains committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world. We are ready to join negotiations towards this end in the CD. The first Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) agreed

by consensus that, in the adoption of disarmament measures, the right of each State to security should be kept in mind, and at each stage of the disarmament process the objective would be undiminished security for all States at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces.

Pakistan believes that nuclear disarmament can only be achieved as a cooperative and universally agreed undertaking, through a consensus-based process involving all the relevant stakeholders, resulting in equal and undiminished, if not increased security for all States.

I thank you, Mr. President.