



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

**Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan, at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva
04 February 2021**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's plenary meeting. We appreciate your continued consultations and efforts. We also thank you for providing the members an opportunity to reflect on the most recent version of your draft proposal.

Mr. President,

As we know, many members have called for a pragmatic approach as a sensible way forward. As you are also aware; perhaps an even larger number in the CD has stressed on the importance of comprehensiveness and balance being maintained.

The willingness expressed by members to resume substantive discussions at the CD is a hopeful sign. It is all the more imperative, therefore, that we treat this hope with pragmatism and balance, to have a clear chance at realizing this opportunity.

Mr. President,

Doing so would start with reflecting this call for comprehensive and balanced approach in the documents, in a way that takes the CD forward. The current draft, in our view, has yet to factor this integral component.

If creative drafting were a solution to the larger challenges that shape CD's work, we would not have witnessed the last two decades unfold as they did. Attempts to reflect subjective priorities of a few and misleading notions of ripeness have continued to hamstring the Conference. Now these repeated calls appear as a deflection to not allow the Conference to focus on its highest priority of pursuing nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

The Conference cannot afford to remain an echo chamber for perpetuity. It cannot continue to be viewed as accommodating the interests of only a few. There is, therefore, an urgent need to dispel these perceptions, for the Conference to deliver.

Mr. President,

The unbalanced treatment of Subsidiary Body – 2 detracts from the pragmatic approach which you aim to be pursuing. Therefore, it is essential to ensure equal treatment and equal preference to each agenda item, and that remains a high priority.

Mr. President,

Views have been previously expressed on OP's 1 and 2 of your initial draft. We support the streamlining changes you have made to the two paragraphs, which are now OP-2 and OP-3 in the current version. However, we do not see the need for repeating language from OP-2 to the new OP-3. All options have been exhaustively listed in OP-2 and we would support deletion of the new sentence added to OP-3 in the current version, to avoid redundancies.

And finally, delegations that have addressed OP-7 have again pointed the need to bring clarity and we echo what Cuba and others have suggested on adding the word "adoption"

Mr. President,

We should, therefore aim for the doable and the reachable. It also remains crucial to address the legitimate concerns of all delegations. In our view, a comprehensive and balanced approach remains fundamental.

One clarification we would request from you is in terms of the process and the roadmap ahead. There is, as of now, not much clarity on the modalities going forward. We have encountered problems on the platforms that we have used to interact. We would appreciate if you could share with us as to how you plan to proceed in terms of presenting your proposal and the further work that hopefully can begin in the Subsidiary Bodies. Our preference remains for at least a hybrid format. We would welcome any thoughts that you might have. ,

Thank you.