



**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
25 January 2022**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary meeting. On behalf of my delegation, I congratulate you on assuming the first presidency of this Conference.

Mr. President, we deeply value your wealth of arms control experience, expertise and foresight. We also recognize your personal contribution to this body as part of the Chinese delegation in the 1990s. We are confident that you will steer the work of this Conference very ably and wisely.

We also welcome your constructive engagement with members of this body and for the early circulation of your plans for the first week of our work. We assure you of our full cooperation and support.

Allow me to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Ambassador Febrian Ruddyard of Indonesia, and Ambassador Dušan Matulay of Slovakia. We look forward to working closely with them.

We thank the CD Secretariat for its support under the skilful leadership of Secretary General Ms. Tatiana Valovaya.

In line with the general format of today's meeting, let me share Pakistan's perspective on the drivers of the international security landscape and its varied impacts, the role and relevance of this body and the priorities it should pursue in the year ahead.

Mr. President,

Our world today is adrift, marked by a fragile security environment at the global and regional levels. New challenges are accompanied by the erstwhile ones, as we witness:

- An escalation of political and military tensions across Asia and elsewhere;
- A renewed and expanded global arms race in which outer space, cyber technologies, artificial intelligence, and new delivery systems, are being weaponized;
- The revival of military alliances and bloc politics;
- The demise and erosion of key arms control agreements, long-standing norms and architecture;
- The non-fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations even after five decades;
- And the virtual demise of the international consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation due to discriminatory policies, growing mistrust and strategic asymmetries.

The danger of war, in particular nuclear war, is growing. The risk of a nuclear confrontation, either by reckless design or miscalculation, is increasing.

The recognition of these dangers in the recent Joint Statement by the permanent members of the UN Security Council is a positive development. So is the acknowledgement about creation of a security environment more conducive to progress on nuclear disarmament. An agreed pathway on concrete measures for strategic stability at the global and regional levels is essential to mitigate these risks.

This pathway requires inter alia compliance with existing nuclear disarmament obligations; redressal of conventional and strategic asymmetries at the regional level, pacific settlement of outstanding disputes, and cessation of destabilizing arms build ups and by addressing the security concerns of all States, as envisaged in SSOD-I.

Mr. President,

The regional security environment in South Asia continues to deteriorate primarily because an ultra nationalist regime in the region is pursuing: a) ideologically driven Hindutva and Hindu Rashtra policies; b) hegemony, unlawful actions and subversion in neighbouring countries; and c) unprecedented acquisition, expansion and modernization of arms and delivery systems.

This regime, an aspirant for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council and a self-professed “largest democracy”, continues to violate international law and democratic principles, with impunity. Since August 2019, this regime is embarked on imposing a genocidal “Final Solution” in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, in open defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

It has unleashed a most brutal reign of terror and oppression on the Kashmiri people, youth, women and civilians, and even against its own minority populations. It has financed, facilitated and directed state-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan and other neighbours.

To mask these crimes, this regime has resorted to the world's most notorious disinformation campaign, in addition to staging "false flag" operations.

This extremist regime has embarked on massive militarization, by spending US\$73 billion last year alone on the acquisition and development of new conventional and non-conventional land, air and sea based weapons systems.

It has also nuclearized the Indian Ocean; deployed anti-ballistic missile systems; canisterized nuclear capable missiles; acquired anti-satellite weapons; and increased the range and sophistication of all its delivery systems. 70 percent of India's weaponry and forces are deployed against Pakistan.

Lack of global accountability and generous supply of advanced weapons as well as technologies have enabled India to continue its defiance of international law, norms and rules. These acts of omission and commission have emboldened this nuclear armed state to operationalize its dangerous doctrines of pre-emptive aggression against Pakistan into war-fighting strategies, to continue perpetuating occupation and to foment terrorism.

The international community, including this body, must call out this impunity and wilful defiance of international legality. Failure to do so entails risks to regional peace and security in South Asia and beyond. This Conference cannot and should not ignore these clear and present dangers.

Mr. President,

Pakistan desires and is determined to pursue peace, development and strategic stability including a peaceful neighbourhood, based on sovereign equality and mutual respect.

Pakistan cannot however remain oblivious to the evolving security dynamics in our immediate neighbourhood. Pakistan will do whatever it takes to deter and defeat all forms of aggression.

Peace and stability in South Asia can be achieved through:

- **One**, resolution of outstanding disputes between Pakistan and India, first and foremost, the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people;

- **Two**, maintenance of a balance of conventional and strategic military forces between Pakistan and India; and
- **Three**, reciprocal measures for nuclear, missile and military restraint between the two countries.

Pakistan's proposal for a Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia remains on the table.

Mr. President,

Pakistan considers the CD a vital organ of the international security architecture; the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating body and an indispensable part of the UN disarmament machinery.

As the only forum where all militarily significant States participate on an equal footing, the CD's role and place remains unique. However, absent a more conducive environment, acknowledgement and redressal of vital national security interests and concerns, this body will likely remain hamstrung, affected also by the tumultuous geo-political and fragile security environment at global and regional levels.

The Conference has its own role and responsibility within this larger context. To begin with, its work must respond to the foremost global challenges. Approaches and proposals that ignore the effects of policies and actions taken outside this body have not worked for decades. Nor are they likely to do so in the future.

Ascribing arbitrary priorities and repeating self serving notions of ripeness have prevented the Conference from addressing its most fundamental agenda item i.e. nuclear disarmament for too long. In fact, the CD has been deliberately stalled for several decades from negotiating some of its oldest agenda items, having far-reaching significance for international security.

Blaming the long-standing deadlock on the CD's rules of procedure or methods of its work does not stand the test of facts either. Several important treaties have been successfully negotiated with the same procedures and methods.

A concerted effort is needed to revive the international consensus on security and disarmament. This consensus will have to be anchored in demonstrable adherence to international law. It must both acknowledge and take steps to mitigate the dangers of war and arms races. It must contribute towards enhanced security for all States, at the lowest possible levels of armaments. And it must dispense with special exemptions and exceptional treatments.

Mr. President,

Pakistan remains firmly committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world that is achieved in a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory manner. Pakistan will continue to support commencement of negotiations, without further delay, on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention towards that end in the CD.

Pakistan also supports the immediate start of negotiations in the CD on a legally binding Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) and a Treaty on Prohibition of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT).

The global build-up of advanced weapons, platforms and means of delivery, in combination with rising tensions, has increased the danger of a nuclear war. This makes work on the agenda item Prevention of Nuclear War, a high area of priority for this Conference.

Should there be consensus; Pakistan stands ready to join substantive work on other contemporary issues such as chemical and biological terrorism, weaponization of cyber space, lethal autonomous weapon systems and other types of destabilizing weapon systems, including delivery systems.

Mr. President,

As regards fissile materials, the ritual calls by a handful of States for a production cut-off only treaty or a so called FMCT, as envisaged under the Shannon Mandate, remain a diversionary tactics, at best. A treaty that ignores huge asymmetries in fissile material stocks would diminish rather than promote stability and security at global and regional levels.

Such a proposal has minimal disarmament value. It only serves to freeze the status quo to the perpetual strategic advantage of a select few. That these asymmetries in our region are being further accentuated by generous external support and supplies, speaks to the flawed and untenable nature of this outdated mantra.

On the other hand, Pakistan has called for a Fissile Material Treaty that covers existing stocks in a verifiable manner. Amidst the on-going geo-political risks to strategic stability, the proposal for the so called FMCT does not represent a solution to contemporary arms control and disarmament requirements.

It is well past the time to instead start work in earnest towards developing a new basis for negotiations on a treaty whose scope expressly encompasses existing stocks and applies equally to all States without discrimination. Any proposed treaty that is completely cost-free for its proponents, while being disproportionately detrimental to the legitimate security interests of my country, would remain a non-starter.

Mr. President,

The CD can and should resume substantive work on all its agenda items, taking into account what has worked and what has not. It is vital that all agenda items are treated in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

Latest developments including in South Asia related to Outer Space add to the urgency of concluding PPWT. Together with nuclear disarmament, proposals for NSAs and PAROS have been on the CD's agenda for the longest duration and are the most ripe for commencing negotiations.

As a first step, the Conference should prioritize commencement of negotiations on legally binding NSAs. Such NSAs are a low hanging fruit that does not affect the core national security interests of any state.

My delegation will continue to engage with you, Mr. President, and other members of the CD to resume substantive work on all agenda items and where agreeable, on new and emerging issues.

We will engage in this exercise constructively and on the basis of the parameters I have outlined above.

I thank you.
