



**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  
10 February 2021**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for convening this meeting and for your continuing efforts, along with the P-6. I want to also join other delegations in welcoming the new ambassadors of Colombia and New Zealand.

We also appreciate this opportunity to share views on the latest version of the draft proposal.

**Mr. President,**

I want to begin by contextualizing the work we are undertaking and the larger environment in which we are obliged to operate.

Lets be clear about the bigger picture i.e. the realities of global and regional strategic environment and how this milieu has a mutually reinforcing impact on the arms control agenda and its machinery.

My delegation has certainly drawn attention to this environment and realities and how they govern the CD's work and direction.

The documents we are considering today, in many ways reflect the state of affairs.

**Mr. President,**

We have made and heard calls for balance and equal treatment. It may well be that some, including my delegation, may view that these documents do not fully meet these two thresholds. Yet, on our part we have demonstrated maximum flexibility and we hope other do the same as well.

That the routine mantra of an obsession with a single issue arbitrary priority by some has handicapped the CD from delivering is a reality. It is also a reality is that there is no agreement on any of the priorities advocated by delegations.

Therefore, a comprehensive and balanced approach that is anchored in realism and takes full account of the larger global and regional contexts is essential. We know, this by no means is an easy task to undertake for any CD President, yet it remains essential.

We recognize your hard work, we value your outreach and appreciate the sincere efforts you and your team have undertaken. We view your current proposal a step in the right direction that takes into account these realities.

As for balance, we believe your proposal is headed in the right direction, even though it falls short of what we have clearly and consistently underscored.

**Mr. President,**

For the record, let me reiterate, preferential treatment of one particular item must be done away with in its entirety.

I want to make one point very clear, this is a point which we have consistently made during our bilateral consultations and during our statements at the CD. And this point is that the previous formulation in the time table on subsidiary body 2 was not acceptable.

Any tinkering with or additions to the proposals that we have in front of us today, for subsidiary body 2, would take us backwards, and would detract from the common goal that we wish to achieve.

**Mr. President,**

Under your guidance, we may have reached a point that enables the CD to resume substantive discussions on all its agenda items. We support your efforts and we hope to adopt these documents.

It is vital for the CD not to regress but move forward. The CD must move towards greater balance in the treatment of all agenda items, timetables and indeed the entire work of the Conference.

This would be imperative to enable the Conference to address the real issues which merit our attention and not get entrapped in the shackles of its own legacy again. At the same time, addressing the legitimate concerns of all delegations should remain paramount.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**