



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

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Omar, First Secretary, at the Plenary Meeting of
the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva
26 January 2021**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's plenary meeting. We appreciate the outreach and consultations you have undertaken. We also thank you for providing the members with an opportunity to reflect on your draft proposal.

Mr. President,

As you would recall from our discussions last week – many members had reiterated the call for a comprehensive and balanced approach to our work at the CD. As we endeavour to find a way forward, I reiterate the significance of realism, comprehensiveness and balance in our efforts.

We recognize your efforts to build on Algeria's draft from last year. This represents an acknowledgment of realities that this body has to contend with. We note however that in some important ways, your proposal goes beyond the emerging agreement of last year

The document presented by Algeria was an organic document with inextricable links between the substantive decision on a Programme of Work and the Subsidiary Bodies established to implement it.

Changing one element of the document necessitates a close examination of other aspects, which would have to be amended to ensure the delicate balance that the proposal aimed for.

A similar dynamic exists within each of the operative paragraphs as well.

Mr. President,

As my delegation had stated last week, our view on the CD's work remains clear. There can be no creative drafting solutions to the larger challenges we face. The positions of various delegations and the larger realities that shape them are evident. We have heard nothing different during our discussions last week either.

The records of this Conference testify that there is no consensus to commence negotiations on any issue on the CD's agenda. And increasingly, over the past few years, we are finding it even difficult to agree on the process and procedure.

Similarly, there is no agreement either on according a preferential treatment to any agenda item. If at all there is to be a preference, then nuclear disarmament singularly remains the Conference's priority.

Mr. President,

My delegation had also recalled in the last meeting that the CD has and should continue to resume substantive work on all its agenda items.

Even with its list of disagreements over the years, the Conference has agreed to conduct substantive work.

In pursuing the CD's future work, we should therefore build on these elements and avoid the pitfalls of arbitrary or subjective notions.

Ensuring equal treatment and equal preference to each agenda item remains the best and only option.

If we are to make headway in our work, we must remain mindful of the dynamics which govern and shape our work.

Mr. President,

In consideration of what I have outlined, we see no need for any unnecessary treatment of Subsidiary Body – 2 or any particular item in a preferential manner. Similar subjective approaches and arbitrary preferences have hamstrung the conference in the past.

In our view, there are redundancies in the document which should be eliminated, particularly in the descriptive part of the Subsidiary Bodies timetable.

The operative paragraphs also require some modifications to ensure coherence of our work. Adjustments to paragraphs 1 and 2 would have to be made to remove redundancies and bring clarity.

A comprehensive, balanced and objective approach remains fundamental and needs to be reflected in the document.

Mr. President,

We are fully aware that a return to Subsidiary Bodies does not fully cater to any member's aspirations. Nor is it entirely reflective of our ultimate objective, which remains Nuclear Disarmament.

However, it remains an option that has worked, given the larger realities that inform our work. It also remains crucial to address the legitimate concerns of all delegations.

It is in only through such a spirit, Mr. President, that we can chart a way forward for substantive work at the CD during our 2021 session. Certainly it is not an optimal solution but it is a practical one in the given circumstances.

My delegation looks forward to continued and constructive engagement, and reaffirm our commitment to work towards a way forward that meets the consent of all members of the CD.

I thank you.