



**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
08 February 2022**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's meeting. We appreciate the consultations that you have undertaken so far, in a transparent manner.

We commend your leadership and welcome the flexibility demonstrated by delegations that allowed the smooth adoption of the decision last week on participation of non-members in the work of the Conference.

Mr. President,

The start of the Year of the Tiger has indeed been auspicious. We wish China a successful Winter Olympics.

We also thank you for sharing your proposal and providing the members with an opportunity to reflect on your "Non Paper on a Programme of Work (PoW) for the CD for its 2022 session".

Mr. President,

Before addressing the draft proposal, I wish to underline some key considerations that remain central to our deliberations.

As you would recall from the past two weeks, almost all members of the Conference have drawn attention to the complex international security landscape. Many have also highlighted the dangers this environment entails and the urgency for this body to do its part.

Certainly this Conference can and should play its due role to chart an agreed pathway i.e. effective measures to mitigate these dangers at the global and regional levels.

For the Conference to do so, however, some basic ingredients should be in place i.e., trust, understanding of mutual concerns, and willingness to abide by the central arms control tenet of ensuring equal security for all states.

Together, these fundamental elements can help create a conducive environment both outside and inside the CD, thereby paving the way for the Conference to make substantive progress.

Mr. President,

We also took careful note of your comments outlining your vision for the CD to craft a way forward in its work, based on three aspects:

One, fully taking into account the new realities of international security landscape in all its dimensions, and the need for CD to shoulder its responsibility to respond to them.

Second, the pursuit of genuine multilateralism, advancing the notion of security that is responsive to the interest of all states, and to fully take into account the legitimate security concerns of each and every member i.e. by practicing the principle of undiminished security for all.

Third, the importance of adopting a balanced and comprehensive programme of work as a means and a basis towards fulfilment of this body's mandate.

We fully support your vision and approach.

I wish to note that in their remarks over the two weeks many members had echoed your call for a comprehensive and balanced approach to our work at the CD. And we take note of the support that has been extended today as well.

As we endeavour to find a way forward, I would therefore, reiterate the significance of realism, a comprehensive and balanced approach and respect for the fundamental principle of undiminished security for all.

This would form the first step in creating a conducive environment that I referred to earlier.

Mr. President,

My delegation has clearly articulated its views in our previous statement on what and how the CD should proceed. The Conference records attest there is currently no consensus to commence negotiations on any agenda item. And increasingly, over the past few years, it has been difficult to even agree on the process and procedure.

There is no evidence to suggest that the CD's impasse is attributable to its rules of procedure or methods of its work.

However, this certainly does not mean that the Conference shouldn't undertake any work. Quite the contrary, it should first start with the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive PoW.

In our view, 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 doing so, we must take into account what has worked, what has not, and also what the needs of today are.

Several members have also pointed to the need for utilizing elements that have worked and avoid the pitfalls of arbitrary or subjective approaches. This does not entail copy pasting, but instead tailoring these elements to the realities of today.

Given the divergent positions of many delegations, therefore, a comprehensive, balanced, objective and equal approach to each agenda item remains fundamental and must be reflected in the PoW.

Mr. President,

In this context, your proposal represents recognition of these fundamental considerations. While it is not ideal or representative of what this body ought to do, in our view, it still represents a good basis to frame our work for 2022.

However, in pursuing this avenue, we must remain mindful that a return to Subsidiary Bodies does not amount to recreating 2018 as was. This encompasses both, the substantive and organizational aspects.

The well established multilateral principle of rotation of Chairs of Subsidiary Bodies, if we do get to appoint Coordinators, must be ensured. No one Subsidiary Body is the singular domain of one regional group or the other. It would be important to ensure an equitable, representative and objective appointment of Coordinators.

We are also fully aware that a return to Subsidiary Bodies does not fully cater to any member's aspirations. Nor it is 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. Certainly it is not an optimal solution but it could be a practical one in the given circumstances.

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

I thank you.
