



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

**Statement by Pakistan at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on  
Disarmament, Geneva  
08 March 2024**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for convening today's plenary meeting.

We would like to appreciate your role in chairing the work of this body in these three weeks and for steering our difficult consultations on the draft decision.

We acknowledge the transparency from your side and the close communication that you have maintained with a number of delegations to find a way forward.

For these tireless efforts, you and your entire team deserve our deepest appreciation. My delegation also engaged with you and other CD members in a constructive spirit over the past weeks.

However, we regret that despite your best efforts, we have been unable to reach consensus on a draft decision.

**Mr. President,**

As we outlined before, we believe that the 2022 decision continues to constitute as the least common denominator even today, which could enable us to undertake intensive work in subsidiary bodies sooner than later.

We have been hearing from almost everyone in this room that we must preserve and base our work on what we most recently agreed by consensus.

The 2022 decision is the true embodiment of a comprehensive and balanced approach; often requested overwhelmingly.

Even more importantly, the 2022 decision did not impinge upon the fundamental national security interests of any member, while leaving sufficient room to make progress in subsidiary bodies.

In this backdrop, especially, when we have still not not heard any substantive objections to the 2022 decision, we are unable to understand the reluctance to adopt the 2022 decision. We also do not know what material changes have taken place since 2022 that have led to this shift in the position of some states.

We would like to ask a simple question:

Did the 2022 decision prevent the CD member states from raising any areas of priorities or their preferences in the subsidiary bodies? Did the mandate adopted in the 2022 decision preclude the states from referring to any document of their choice in the work of the subsidiary bodies?

**Mr. President,**

The fact that Conference is not able to adopt a simple decision on resuming substantive work based on our last consensus agreement sends a particularly sobering message.

It not only points to the lack of political will by some of its members, but also clarifies that the afflictions of this body have a lot to do with the intent and approach of these members.

It is unfortunate and regretful that notions of narrow and subjective national preferences have been allowed to trump over the larger imperatives of disarmament.

It is also an affirmation that some would not allow any meaningful work at this Conference, unless the membership obliges them with their national preferences for formulations or references, that have no bearing either on core national security of its members or on the work that would be pursued in the subsidiary bodies.

**Mr. President,**

Going forward, it would be important to pay heed and address the root causes of the malaise that afflict this body. In our view, progress is possible, even if incremental in the future.

We would also like to thank the Russian Federation for the flexibility they have demonstrated, and we agree with their assessment that we should still give another chance to the 2022 decision.

Finally, Mr. President thanks once again and our sincerest commendations to you and your team for your efforts and work.

**I thank you.**