



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

**Statement by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan, at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament,
Geneva
13 June 2024**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary meeting to take action on the Decision on the Work of the Conference for 2024.

We thank you and your team for the hard work, for your leadership and for the wisdom you exhibited in guiding the work of the Conference.

The previous CD Presidents Iran and Indonesia also deserve our appreciation in steering our work on the Decision in the right direction.

Under your leadership, the CD members exhibited flexibility and engaged constructively.

Your efforts were instrumental, in combination with the pragmatic approach of CD members, which eventually led to the presentation of a proposal that met the approval of the Conference.

This was certainly the spirit with which my delegation engaged with you and other CD members to build on our common pathway to take the CD forward.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Decision on the Work of the Conference today is indeed a significant achievement.

While we agree with the general sentiment that realities outside this Conference room have a bearing on this body, at the same time, it should not be an excuse for not conducting our work in the CD. By undertaking substantive work in the subsidiary bodies, we provide ourselves a dedicated opportunity to address the key arms control and security elements tied to those realities.

Mr. President,

Like several other delegations, we have been calling for adoption of the 2022 text since the start of this year. This preference was based on the recognition that despite individual positions or priorities, the mandate contained in the 2022 decision, with its delicate balance, remains the least common denominator on which the CD Member States agreed last time to conduct substantive work. While we lost precious time in attempts to find new language, we note that barring minor edits in a few other places of the text, we have essentially adopted the same mandate of the subsidiary bodies from the year 2022.

During the negotiations, we exercised maximum flexibility on the proposals that were put forward by various delegations.

In PP5, we are now also referring to the previous efforts made in the Conference on Disarmament, which includes proposals and ideas that have been presented by different delegations in the past.

Since we are able to adopt this decision only in June, we are unlikely to complete our work in subsidiary bodies in 2024. The language in OP6 gives us the opportunity to transport our understanding to next year without losing precious time again in the beginning of 2025. However, we do note that the CD would need to adopt another decision for that purpose in the beginning of the next year's session in accordance with the rules of the procedure.

We also acknowledge that this is an exceptional arrangement only meant to facilitate our work next year and to make up for the six months that we lost this year, while remaining true to our rules of procedure, which foresee annual adoption of our Decision.

Mr. President,

For my delegation, an International Convention on Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) and a Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT) will continue to remain as priority areas to be pursued in the work of the subsidiary bodies 4 and 3.

In addition, we had also submitted a proposal to include a new item on CD's Agenda, titled "Addressing the Security and Stability Implications of Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)". While we recognized that there was no consensus on this proposal during the adoption of our Agenda early this year, we had highlighted that for now we will continue to take up this issue within the existing Agenda of the CD and in SB5.

Furthermore, we support calls for commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention, which we would discuss in SB1.

In SB2, we look forward to discussing all initiatives and proposals, which can contribute to the prevention of nuclear war. We understand that the issue of fissile material is also very important for many delegations. We are looking forward to having in-depth deliberations on the huge amount of fissile material stockpiles accumulated outside safeguards in different regions and the measures that are needed to address this issue in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. President,

Lastly, we note that our Decision neither contained the exact dates of subsidiary bodies meetings nor the names of the Coordinators.

We understand the constraints in this regard and are satisfied by your statement that these details will be agreed at a later date.

Nonetheless, we would take this opportunity to also thank all volunteers who have already stepped forward to take on the role of Coordinators. We assure them of our full support and look forward to working with them.

Going forward, it would be equally important for this Conference to keep key ingredients in view i.e. a comprehensive and balanced approach and adherence to the cardinal principle of equal security for all states.

These elements remain fundamental in tackling the urgent security and disarmament questions that face us at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.

Thank you once again, **Mr. President** and our sincerest commendations to you and your team for the sterling work.

We wish you all the best.
