



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

**Statement by Pakistan at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on  
Disarmament, Geneva  
16 February 2024**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for convening today's plenary meeting.

Since a reference has been made to my country in the remarks delivered by you, I am compelled to take the floor to respond by providing an accurate context of our consultations on the draft decision and highlighting the considerations that guide our position. I will be speaking both on the procedure of our consultations and on the substance of it.

**Mr. President,**

When our consultations on draft decision began this year, we have been hearing nothing but broad support for the 2022 decision in this room.

Instead of putting forward the 2022 decision as the zero draft for our consideration, you asked the Conference to consider and I quote, "minimal changes", unquote, to the 2022 decision. We cautioned against going down that road, as we have been highlighting the delicate balance of compromise unlocked in the 2022 decision.

We were also puzzled by the criteria of the membership of the small group and its selection as the venue for negotiating the new language. However, we still engaged in consultations in good faith, while acknowledging the concerns of the several other member states, who felt excluded from the negotiations.

**Mr. President,**

We understand that in multilateral diplomacy in open settings, documents are debated, modified, amended until they are accepted by all members. While debating the new language, previously agreed formulations are usually kept as a baseline to which the delegates could always revert to, in the absence of new agreements. This is the best way to reach consensus.

However, we witnessed that during the last rounds of consultations, a number of contentious proposals were introduced in the text, certainly not the “minimal changes”, and despite the well-known differing positions of a large number of CD member states.

While concluding our last plenary meeting on 08 February, you noted and I quote, “it was clear where the red lines are”, unquote.

Nonetheless, the draft distributed by you to a very small membership of the CD, and that you have referred to in your remarks, contained controversial references, which we had consistently opposed in the negotiations.

We also do not agree with your characterization that Pakistan is the only member state, who is not ready to join consensus.

Firstly, there is no consensus on the text – not even an emerging one, if there are more than one member state, who would prefer to continue working on the new proposals.

Secondly, distributing a text, which has been clearly opposed by a member state, in a small exclusive group is not akin to placing it under silence procedure to the full membership of this body.

**Mr. President,**

Now to the substance of our concerns.

The 2022 decision remains the last proposal successfully adopted in this body to conduct our work.

In 2022, we were able to adopt the reports in two of our subsidiary bodies. For the other three subsidiary bodies, the lack of agreement did not emanate from any shortcomings in the mandate contained in the 2022 decision. The disagreements have always been contingent on the policy priorities of member states, their threat perceptions and their core national security concerns.

While we did not hear any objections to the 2022 decision, we engaged on the proposals that had come from a few member states. We continue to believe that these proposals require further work to enjoy consensus.

In the negotiations, we also witnessed once more the obsession with the FMCT and the Shannon Mandate. We were told that the CD has negotiating mandate only on one issue and a number of attempts were made to directly or indirectly reflect problematic references in the text. These delegations have made the CD hostage to a single issue and consider it as a forum, which can negotiate nothing but the FMCT.

Let me repeat what we outlined in our last plenary meeting. The assertion that national priorities are or should constitute CD's priorities has not worked in the past. Nor will it in the future. These self-serving assertions have indeed been the principal cause of reinforcing the deadlock in this Conference for over two decades. Progress in this body is contingent on the flexibility and compromise from all delegations.

**Mr. President**

In the end, I will conclude by congratulating Indonesia for assuming the next presidency and express hope that under the able and wise leadership of the distinguished Ambassador of Indonesia, all delegations will make honest efforts towards reaching consensus by accommodating everyone's concerns. Rest assured, you will find Pakistan as a willing partner in these joint efforts.

**I thank you.**