



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

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Omar, First Secretary,
at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament
24 May 2022**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary meeting.

I am taking the floor to once again draw attention of this Conference to a matter of serious concern.

The deterioration of the international security environment and its cascading effects on regional peace, security and stability has been a central element of the conversations in this body for the past two years. Many members have drawn attention to it. Most have called for effective measures to address it.

At the same time, the international institutions mandated to control and regulate arms remain in a state of animated suspension. Many key arms control instruments have unravelled before our very eyes.

Not so long ago, the United Nations Secretary General assessed that the prospects of nuclear war are and I quote “back within the realm of possibility” unquote. The Secretary General also pointed out the inseparable link between prevention of nuclear war and prevention of war itself.

These facts not only illustrate that the concerns on regional and international security remain interconnected, but underscore the dangers and risks of the prevalent strategic environment.

And it is in this fraught scenario that I wish to once again draw attention of this Conference to dangers arising from the firing of a missile by India into Pakistan on 09 March 2022.

Mr. President,

Members of the Conference would recall that my delegation has periodically highlighted the pattern of reckless behaviour and actions by one country in the region that carries grave risks to peace and strategic stability in the nuclearized environment of South Asia.

These risks were further aggravated on 9th March when an Indian origin 'super-sonic missile' was fired, violating Pakistan airspace, endangering the lives of passengers in the commercial aircrafts and people on the ground.

Despite the grave nature of this incident, Pakistan exhibited restraint. For more than 48 hours, India did not intimate Pakistan about this missile firing.

The press statement issued by India on 11 March framed this serious incident as "technical malfunctioning leading to accidental firing of a missile".

The Government of Pakistan had formally asked the Government of India to provide clarifications to a set of queries including a joint probe. My delegation's statement at this Conference on 17 March 2022 listed these queries in detail.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, not only do these legitimate and urgent questions remain unanswered for over two months, we have had no response on the joint-probe either.

Given the short distances and response times in the Pakistan-India theatre, any misinterpretation by either side of each other's military actions could lead to responses with grave consequences for the region and indeed for the whole world, especially in a nuclearized environment.

The seriousness and gravity of the matter necessitates full transparency from India and a truthful response to the genuine concerns and queries of Pakistan.

The Foreign Ministers of the 57 states of the OIC on in their joint declaration of 23rd March 2022 also expressed their grave concerns on the incident and called on India to act responsibly. Let me quote the paragraph:

"We express grave concern over the violation of Pakistan's airspace, threat to passenger aircraft and dangers to peace and security in South Asia arising from the launch of supersonic missile on 9 March 2022 by India. We call on India to fully abide by international law and norms of responsible State behavior and conduct a joint probe with Pakistan to accurately establish facts." End quote.

Mr. President,

The meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers also adopted a unanimous resolution pointing out the grave threats to peace and security in South Asia ensuing from Indian actions and called on India, the UN Secretary General, relevant international bodies and international community to take serious note of this missile incident and to play their role in upholding strategic stability in the region.

I take this opportunity to highlight main points of this OIC resolution.

- i. Took serious note of the incident ... constituting a blatant violation of Pakistan's air space, established international aviation rules and safety protocols,*

- ii. *Expressed serious concern on the 9 March 2022 incident which constituted multiple violations of international law, United Nations Charter, Articles on the Responsibility of States, civil aviation rules and safety protocols, and endangered human life and property besides posing a grave threat to regional and international peace, security and stability,*
- iii. *Expressed deep concern at the threat to regional and international peace, security and stability posed by the incident,*
- iv. *Noted that the incident occurred against the backdrop of earlier acts of provocation by India including the tracking and interception by Pakistan Navy in its territorial waters of an Indian submarine and the statement of 28 December 2021 of the Indian Army Chief threatening Pakistan of surgical and pre-emptive strikes,*
- v. *Appreciated Pakistan's responsible handling of the incident despite the failure of the Indian side to take immediate remedial actions and timely notifying the missile launch to Pakistan to thwart the risk of escalation between the two nuclear armed states,*
- vi. *Strongly urged India to swiftly and positively respond to Pakistan's call for a joint probe to accurately establish the facts surrounding the incident,*
- vii. *Called upon India to fully abide by its international obligations, principles of the UN Charter and Articles on Responsibility of States,*
- viii. *Stressed that the duty to protect dangerous arsenals and materials and systems related to WMDs, as well as to ensure nuclear security, is a strict liability obligation under international law,*
- ix. *Expressed full support for Pakistan's consistent efforts and proposals for promoting peace and stability in South Asia,*
- x. *Exhorted the international community to take serious notice of this incident of grave nature in a nuclearized environment and play its role in upholding strategic stability in the region,*
- xi. *Urged India to work constructively with Pakistan for enhancing regional security and stability through the settlement of outstanding disputes and positively responding to Pakistan's proposal for a Strategic Restraint Regime including measures for arms control, restraint and confidence building,*

Mr. President,

Pakistan seeks peaceful relations with all its neighbours, including India. However, our desire for peace is accompanied by a strong resolve and capability for self-defence in line with the UN Charter.

Pakistan has consistently maintained that the international community including this body has an important role to play in averting the threat to peace and stability arising from such irresponsible behaviours.

We call on India to refrain from such reckless actions; demonstrate transparency and restore confidence about the security and safety of its weapons and the credibility of its command and control systems.

India must come clean on this missile firing incident and respond without delay to the questions and clarifications sought by Pakistan.

I thank you.
