



**Statement by Ambassador Mohammad Aamir Khan,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the  
United Nations at the First Committee's Thematic  
Debate on Regional Disarmament and Security,  
(25 October 2022)**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

The salience of regional approaches to regulate arms, build confidence and promote security has been consistently recognized by the international community.

The UN General Assembly continues to reinforce the mutually reinforcing co-relation between international and regional peace, security and stability.

The Final Document of SSOD-I, the UN Disarmament Commission guidelines of 1993, and this Committee's resolutions have repeatedly reaffirmed the need for simultaneous pursuit of regional and global approaches including agreements in the area of disarmament and arms limitation.

This complementarity of global and regional approaches to arms control is based on the recognition that most threats to peace and security arise mainly among States located in the same region or sub-region.

Accordingly, a number of core principles have been evolved and agreed at the United Nations to shape these approaches. These include: **one**, preservation of balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments and military forces; **two**, the special responsibility of militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities in promoting agreements for regional security; **three**, the right to undiminished security; and **four**, pursuit of disarmament measures in an equitable and balanced manner.

Several regions of the world have benefitted from the application of these principles and guidelines in the areas of conventional arms control, risk reduction measures, confidence-building measures (CBMs), particularly at the regional and sub-regional levels.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Over the years, confidence building measures have proven their utility and efficacy in several regions and sub-regions including in the area of arms control, disarmament, and more broadly for international peace and security.

As the General Assembly resolutions and UNDC guidelines have affirmed, CBMs at the regional level have to be tailored to the specifics of the region and should begin with simple arrangements on transparency, openness and risk reduction before the concerned states find themselves in a position to pursue more substantive arms control and disarmament measures.

However, regardless of the specifics of different regions and the steps the concerned states undertake for confidence building, the ultimate aim of regional approaches should be to enhance regional and global peace and security.

Confidence-building measures are significant in that they can lead to the creation of favorable conditions for the peaceful settlement of existing international problems and disputes and to facilitate the solution of any situation which might lead to international friction. However, confidence-building measures should not become an end in themselves.

CBMs should be pursued in conjunction with earnest efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other concrete actions to ease regional tensions and build confidence among the States of the region can create a political environment conducive to promoting agreements on disarmament and arms limitation.

Without progress towards eliminating underlying disputes and causes of mistrust between states, the utility of confidence-building measures diminishes. Confidence-building measures alone cannot act as a substitute nor a precondition for steps towards peaceful settlement of disputes.

A stable balance of conventional forces and weapons is necessary to ensure strategic stability, particularly in regions mired in tensions. Preventing the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression remain important goals of conventional arms control.

**Mr. Chairman,**

For several years, Pakistan has led initiatives at the United Nations to promote the goals of regional disarmament, conventional arms control, and CBMs.

Pakistan delegation will present three resolutions in this Committee on regional disarmament; confidence building measures in the regional and sub-regional context; and conventional arms control at regional and sub-regional levels.

These draft resolutions recognize the significance of and complementarity between regional and global approaches to arms control, disarmament and confidence building to promote international peace, security and stability.

We look forward to the continued support of Member States for the adoption of these resolutions this year as well. **I thank you.**