



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

**Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, at the
Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament
15 February 2022**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary meeting and for circulating the draft proposal on a Programme of Work (PoW) for the CD.

We appreciate your continuing consultations in an inclusive and transparent manner.

We also appreciate that the draft P-6 proposal takes on board several suggestions made by CD members. We note this proposal is consistent with the clear and concise approach you have pursued and it has gained broad-based support primarily because of its comprehensive and balanced treatment of all agenda items.

We assure you of our continued support in this endeavour and urge other delegations to do so as well.

Mr. President,

We believe the proposal you have presented is fully responsive to calls made by many in this Conference for a pragmatic and realistic approach. The proposal, therefore, has the real potential to unlock the decades long impasse in this body.

The proposal offers a roadmap. It certainly is not ideal. It may not meet the national priorities of delegations, including mine. Yet, it is a pathway to enable the Conference to eventually fulfil its mandate. Most importantly, it is the embodiment of a core tenet of diplomacy i.e. the art of the possible.

Mr. President,

The national priorities of all members are very clear. As you rightly noted in the last plenary meeting, this proposal does not undermine the principled position or the core national security concerns of any country.

Let us also be clear. Assertion that national priorities are or should constitute CD's priorities has not worked previously. They will not work in the future. These assertions have indeed reinforced the deadlock in this Conference of more than two decades.

Therefore, the proposal before this Conference represents a least common denominator that has significant potential to garner agreement, break the logjam and put the CD back to work.

Mr. President,

The proposal you have presented rightly avoids the known redlines of many, thus creating conditions that are conducive to commencing substantive work. We have heard calls by several CD members for demonstration of flexibility and political will. We could not agree more. We urge everyone to show flexibility and political will towards this proposal as well.

I want to underline here that my delegation also has very strong national priorities, starting from conclusion of a legal instrument on Negative Security Assurances, a convention on nuclear disarmament, to a treaty on PAROS. These priorities are clearly not reflected in the proposal. Yet, in the interest of allowing this body to move forward, we lend our support to this proposal and urge others to do likewise.

Mr. President,

Let me now address the question of how the Subsidiary Bodies should conduct their work. We also take note of the suggestions circulated yesterday on OP-3 of the draft proposal. While we await formal feedback, we have some initial thoughts which we would like to share.

We see the rationale behind the suggestion, which is to structure the work of the Subsidiary Bodies, based on common understandings and agreement of the membership. In principle, we are not opposed to this approach.

Let me however point out though that the CD has an agenda that has been agreed already. The SBs should align their work with this agenda. Arguably, the Subsidiary Bodies need not adopt another agenda for their work. The SBs can however consider and agree on topics and subjects under each agenda item. We are open to how this understanding is formalized, either through this proposal or by other means, such as the Presidential Statement.

We share the views of those members who have highlighted the benefits of conducting the work of Subsidiary Bodies in formal settings. We also understand that informal meetings have their own advantages as well. While our preference is for formal meetings, we would demonstrate flexibility if members decide otherwise.

I wish to reiterate my delegation's principled position on adherence to the established practice of rotation and the principle of equitable geographical representation with respect to appointment of coordinators. We trust every effort will be made towards this end.

I thank you.
