



**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
23 January 2024**

Consideration of Agenda

Mr. President,

On behalf of Pakistan delegation, I congratulate you on assuming the first presidency of this Conference and assure you of our support.

I wish to also acknowledge the warm words of welcome by you as Pakistan's new Permanent Representative to the UN and Ambassador to the CD. I look forward to working with all delegations and count on your support and cooperation.

I also take this opportunity to welcome the new Ambassadors of Japan, Norway, Finland, Malaysia and Ireland. We look forward to working closely with them.

It is good to be back in Geneva after 13 years, with its rich history and tradition in diplomacy. It feels like returning to a familiar home, reminding me of memories of tireless efforts and fervent hopes for a more peaceful world.

I cannot help but notice the same issues that we debated in this body, the same challenges we faced, and the same hopes we harbored; they all remain largely unfulfilled. Meanwhile, the world outside these chambers has continued to forge ahead especially in terms of weaponization of new technologies, new security dilemmas and new arms races.

Mr. President,

I have asked for the floor at this moment to speak about the Agenda.

At its first session in 1979, the Committee on Disarmament (the predecessor of the CD), which was established by SSOD I, agreed on a list of ten subjects for its future work on the cessation of the arms race and disarmament - often referred to as the “Decalogue”. This body has been adopting its Agenda within that framework.

It was in May 1992, in the middle of CD’s session of that year, when a new agenda item was last added.

While we have been adopting the same Agenda for several years now, it continues to remain under our regular review. This view is also endorsed by your remarks and the draft document in front of us as contained in CD.WP.652, where the CD is to decide, and I quote, to “resume its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome” to adopt this Agenda. Unquote.

Mr. President,

The Rule 27 states that while adopting its Agenda, “the Conference shall take into account the recommendations made to it by the General Assembly, the proposals presented by member States of the Conference and the decisions of the Conference”.

In July 2023, Pakistan presented a proposal in a working paper in the CD, as contained in CD/2334, titled, “Addressing the Security and Stability Implications of Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Autonomy in Weapon Systems”.

In the working paper, we outlined three steps for consideration by CD Member States:

- (a) Continued deliberations on the implications of regional and global security as well as stability resulting from the development, deployment, integration and use of AI for military purposes and autonomous weapon systems under existing agenda item 5;
- (b) Introduction of new agenda item in the future sessions of the CD on this subject;
- (c) And, subsequently, establishment of a subsidiary body to advance substantive work on this subject.

Mr. President,

The security implications emanating from the use of AI for military purposes and autonomous weapon systems have direct relevance to several agenda items of the CD.

It is a cross-cutting theme to the areas of nuclear disarmament, prevention of war, prevention of an arms race in outer space, and new types of weapons of mass destruction.

The inclusion of this item on our Agenda would demonstrate our responsibility to adapt and respond to the evolving security landscape.

However, as we have highlighted in prior consultations and as you have just noted, while several CD Member States support this proposal, we do acknowledge that there is currently no consensus on amending the Agenda.

In the spirit of compromise and flexibility, we are willing to join consensus on the draft Agenda as contained in CD/WP.652 with the understanding that we can revisit the proposed inclusion of new agenda item during the course of our year, as we had done back in 1992.

We would also like to highlight that until that happens, the subject of “Security and stability implication of Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Autonomy in Weapon Systems” can be deliberated under Agenda Item 5, or as some Member States have noted, under Agenda Item 6.

We hope that the CD Presidents of 2024 will take this into account, while putting forward their proposals in terms of organizing our work this year.

I thank you.
