



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

**Remarks by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan, at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament,
Geneva
21 May 2024**

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me express that the Government and the people of Pakistan are deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic news of the martyrdom of President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a helicopter crash.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and to the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We stand in solidarity with them in this time of national tragedy. Pakistan observed the day of national mourning when our flags were also flown at half-mast.

President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian were esteemed leaders and statesmen whose contributions to reinforcing Pakistan-Iran relations will always be remembered. They visited Pakistan last month.

May the departed souls rest in eternal peace.

Mr. President,

I would also like to acknowledge your tireless efforts in holding extensive consultations on the draft decision building on the good work done by the Indonesian Presidency.

We are grateful for your Working Paper (CD/WP.655) outlining the dual-track approach that you adopted as well as for sharing the outcome of your consultations and efforts regarding the draft decision.

We believe that the time to present and introduce new proposals in the text was five months ago. Similarly, the moment to insist on old formulations, which did not enjoy success, has also passed for this session.

This week, as we approach the end of the third Presidency, we must focus our efforts in salvaging our commonalities and adopting a decision to establish subsidiary bodies. While, we may not have the benefit of the full session length available to the subsidiary bodies, we may still be able to undertake some useful substantive work.

In view of this, we believe that while the draft decision presented by you may not fully satisfy the concerns of everyone, including my delegation, in the interest of constructive engagement and maximum flexibility, we stand ready to join consensus on it under your Presidency. However, this flexibility is also subject to reciprocity from others.

We hope that all CD Member States will be able to demonstrate the same level of flexibility and constructive approach, as shown by some delegations including mine in the negotiation process.

I would like to thank you and your team once again for your efforts on the draft decision.
