



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

**Right of Reply by Mr. Muhammad Omar, First Secretary,
at Plenary Meeting of Conference on Disarmament, 21 January 2021**

Mr. President,

I have taken the floor to respond to the comments made earlier today by the Indian delegation.

Mr. President,

Deflection, duplicity and disinformation is what defines India's ruling party today. What we heard today amply testifies to these signature Indian traits.

Lets take deflection first. This Conference may recall that my delegation had asked for a denial or a rationale for the several irresponsible statements made by Indian leadership on issues that are within the purview of this body. Instead of response to these queries, the Indian delegation has chosen once again to deflect.

Let me now highlight the duplicity trait. Contrary to what several UN Security Council resolutions have determined that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory whose final disposition is to be carried out by a UN supervised plebiscite, the Indian delegation has once again chosen to resort to duplicity.

Let me remind the Indian delegation that the UN Security Council has met three times, since August 2019, to specifically discuss the situation in the occupied territory, arising out of India's illegal and unilateral actions that are contrary to the Council's decisions.

The fact that the Security Council discussed this issue thrice is evidence enough to debunk the Indian duplicity and dubious claims that Jammu and Kashmir is its internal matter. Feigning amnesia or pandering to domestic constituencies cannot and will not change facts of international law.

Mr. President,

As for disinformation, the EU DisinfoLab has published Indian Chronicles which provide detailed evidence of India's leveraging of fake news and propaganda as a policy tool against my country.

In February 2019, after staging "false flag" operation, India maligned Pakistan with terrorism-related allegations; stirred up hyper-nationalism in the country; claimed to have launched so-called "surgical strike"; and then deviously manipulated national sentiment in its bid to win elections. The pattern is unmistakable, and has been repeated to suit the RSS-BJP regime's electoral calculations.

The transcript of latest revelations provides further evidence of how the Pulwama attack from 'false flag' operation to massive electoral success was scripted and fully realized. They also demonstrate how actions of this reckless regime driven by considerations of domestic politics are gravely imperiling regional peace and security.

Today, the Indian delegation has further corroborated this evidence by churning out falsehoods.

Mr. President,

Contrary to India's self-serving and facile mantra of "cross-border terrorism", it is India itself which has long distinguished itself as the fountainhead of terrorism in the region.

Can the Indian delegation deny that India's serving Navy Commander, Kulbushan Jadhav, has not aided, abetted and committed serious acts of terrorism inside Pakistan? Can Indian delegation deny that members of the BJP, the ruling party, who have terrorism cases against them have not been appointed Ministers in this country?

The Indian delegation would be well advised to realize that the CD is not a sounding board for its falsehoods and eschew these futile tactics. Instead this body is duty bound to take cognizance of statements, policies and unlawful actions that imperil regional and international peace and security.

Mr. President,

India's assertion of its security interests transcending the regional or sub-regional contexts do not stand the test of any standard of objectivity supported by facts on the ground.

Here are some facts. The overwhelming numbers of India's conventional and non-conventional capabilities remain deployed and directed against Pakistan.

India's obsession with Pakistan and its hegemonic mindsets continue to be reflected in its leadership's rhetoric, ever so often.

And to say the least, it is disingenuous to try and assert security interests in a singular dimension, or in isolation. Such a narrative contravenes global consensus on the inter-linkage of security matters between regional, sub-regional and global level. Regional and sub-regional approaches, together with a global approach, are an agreed foundational component of disarmament discourse and deliberations.

Let me remind the Indian delegation that the outcome document of SSOD-I considers bilateral and regional disarmament measures as fundamental, calling for, and I quote, "agreements or other measures should be resolutely pursued on a bilateral, regional and multilateral basis with the aim of strengthening peace and security at a lower level of forces".

The UN Disarmament Commission in its 1993 "Guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security" states and I quote "regional and global approaches to disarmament and arms limitation complement each other and both should be pursued simultaneously". It in fact considers, and I quote again, that "regional approach to disarmament and arms limitation is one of the essential elements in global efforts to strengthen international peace and security".

Mr. President,

The UN General Assembly, for the past three decades, has continued to adopt a resolution on regional disarmament by consensus; stressing on the CD to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues; affirming that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

One wonders whether the Indian delegation has renounced these fundamental principles or is just using its signature deflection tactics in the context of the CD.

Mr. President,

The fact that India has to resort to old arguments is testament to their tactics again. The so-called Network comprised of several people from over two dozen countries spanning four continents. A.Q. Khan's involvement in this international network was an individual act, not sanctioned by the State of Pakistan.

Pakistan thoroughly investigated his involvement and shared its findings with the IAEA and other concerned countries. It helped in exposing the international associates of this clandestine supply network and he was placed

under strict restrictions which remain in place to this day. Other countries' nationals involved with the network did not meet the same fate and in most cases escaped punishment altogether.

The AQ Khan issue is a closed chapter. Since this incident, Pakistan has taken a series of effective measures to preclude any possibility of such an occurrence in the future.

Mr. President,

As for the myth of India's so-called "impeccable non-proliferation record". Let me remind you that India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974 by diverting nuclear material from CIRUS reactor, in gross violation of its solemn safeguards commitments to the suppliers of that reactor. In fact, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) that generously awarded a waiver to India in 2008 was established in direct response to that nuclear test in 1974. The CIRUS reactor continued to operate and churn weapons-grade plutonium till 2010.

Unlike India, Pakistan has not violated any of its international commitments or safeguards obligations in the development of its civil and military nuclear programme to this day.

Mr. President,

India's gratuitous claims about its support for FMCT have been addressed previously by my delegation on two occasions and are part of record of this Conference. Suffice to recall, it is India which has amassed tons of unsafeguarded fissile material in a so-called "strategic reserve", directly aided and abetted by external suppliers through the so-called nuclear cooperation agreements and legally untenable NSG waiver.

India has neither declared a unilateral moratorium nor ceased the production of fissile material – which it continues to exponentially expand by building new fast breeder reactors. India also remains one of the biggest opponents of incorporating existing stockpiles in the scope of a treaty on fissile material.

With these facts in view, India's grandstanding and diversionary tactics can at best be described as delusional.

Finally, we reiterate and call on the Indian delegation to pursue objectivity and refrain from deflections, duplicity and disinformation and engage with this body in a responsible manner to address the serious questions of arms control and disarmament as vital means to advance peace and security in South Asia and beyond.

I thank you.