



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

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Omar, First Secretary,
at the Third Meeting of Subsidiary Body 1, Conference on Disarmament,
Geneva
31 May 2022**

Mr. Coordinator,

Thank you for giving my delegation the floor. We appreciate the able manner in which you are chairing the meetings of Subsidiary Body 1.

Thank you also for sharing the interim summary report of our work in this subsidiary body so far. We would be sharing our feedback in due course.

Following your proposal, my remarks today shall focus on how to advance the substantive work in line with SSOD-I outcome document and the way forward.

Mr. Coordinator,

Our discussions in this subsidiary body have clearly outlined the state of play around nuclear disarmament.

We have delved into the various aspects of arms accumulation and their impacts, including on prospects of nuclear disarmament; touched on non-compliance by some with long established norms and principles in the nuclear domain which erode strategic stability and hinder progress in the CD; elucidated the intersectionality of conventional capabilities, threat perceptions and security considerations that drive states to acquire nuclear weapons; and outlined that the conversation on cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament is inextricably tied to the mutually reinforcing relationship of various weapon systems in tandem with nuclear weapons, and their collective impact on the security of states, particularly in situations of asymmetry in conventional and nuclear capabilities.

The question therefore is how to proceed and how can this subsidiary body contribute. We believe that the interim summary you have presented hints at it in the manner of a practical roadmap that could enable the CD to achieve cumulative and systematic progress. My delegation stands ready to engage on such a roadmap.

Mr. Coordinator,

My delegation has previously shared elements that would be essential to such an exercise. I take this opportunity to elaborate them further.

The **first** rung of such a roadmap would be the reaffirmation of fundamental principles of arms control, the foremost being the attainment of equal and undiminished security for all States.

The **second** rung would be a renewed commitment to achieve nuclear disarmament within a reasonable timeframe to revalidate the NPT bargain.

A true demonstration of this commitment would be withdrawing of opposition and allowing commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament at the CD. Questions on definitions and other arrangements can be discussed during the course of negotiations.

Moreover, the litmus test of the credibility to fulfill these legal obligations would be a universal, unconditional, and legally binding treaty negotiated at the CD on NSAs.

The **third** rung would be demonstrated reduction in the largest nuclear stockpiles. This would build confidence and pave the way for other nuclear weapon states to join disarmament efforts.

Fourthly, as a concrete pragmatic step towards disarmament, the nuclear weapon states need to halt future production and eliminate all existing stocks of fissile materials through a non-discriminatory Fissile Material Treaty.

A treaty on fissile materials must: prevent vertical and horizontal proliferation; contribute to prevention of a nuclear war; factor in real world developments; contribute meaningfully to the nuclear disarmament regime; and deal with the question of fissile materials in all its aspects and dimensions, including regional and global stability considerations.

Announcement of unilateral moratoria on fissile material production are hardly a virtue and are merely an indicator that such states have acquired fissile material far in excess of their legitimate defence needs. Such assertions are not verifiable or irreversible, nor did they prevent increase in nuclear arsenals as evidenced.

The **fifth** element would be agreement on measures to institute balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments, especially at the regional and sub-regional levels, given the direct causal relationship of conventional weapons with nuclear arsenals.

The **sixth** element is to address the motives which drive States to acquire weapons to defend themselves, including perceived threats from superior conventional or non-conventional forces and the existence of disputes and conflicts

with more powerful States. Measures to address these root causes would be part of any realistic nuclear disarmament roadmap.

And Lastly, a clear recognition in our roadmap that the strengthening of international legal regime to prevent militarization of outer space and bringing cyber weapons and autonomous weapons under effective international control, would be central to any efforts on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Coordinator,

The goal of a nuclear weapons free world that is achieved in a universal, verifiable, time-bound and non-discriminatory manner can only materialize through a comprehensive and holistic approach, in accordance with the principles agreed by SSOD-I.

This subsidiary body can take the first step by agreeing to such a roadmap that serves the purpose of achieving nuclear disarmament and an end to the nuclear arms race.

I thank you.
