



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

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Omar, First Secretary,
at Third Meeting of Subsidiary Body 5, Conference on Disarmament, Geneva
14 June 2022**

Mr. Coordinator,

Thank you for convening this meeting.

In line with your proposed structure for meetings of this subsidiary body, I shall outline my delegation's perspective on CD's agenda items 6, comprehensive program of disarmament. I have addressed matters related to items 5 and 7 of the agenda in the previous two meetings of this subsidiary body.

Mr. Coordinator,

The agenda item comprehensive program of disarmament also invariably has threads connecting to other agenda items of the Conference and the larger arms control and disarmament questions. This is evident in the item's nature as well as its inception.

This item has been on the CD's agenda since 1980 i.e. 42 years. The roots of this item go back to Article 11 of the UN Charter and the declaration of 1970s as the disarmament decade, which also included a request to the CD to elaborate a comprehensive program on all aspects of the cessation of the arms race and general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

The final document of SSOD-I, hence, called for quote "elaboration of a comprehensive program of disarmament encompassing all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control becomes a reality in a world in which international peace and security prevail", end quote.

The decalogue, CD's permanent agenda established in 1979, included the item "comprehensive program of disarmament leading to general and complete disarmament under effective international control", which is reflected in our agenda for this session as comprehensive program of disarmament or CPD.

In 1980 a subsidiary body adopted an outline of the CPD, and despite agreement on several elements it could not produce an outcome and with the

exception of 2018 and the current year, this item has not seen a subsidiary body either since 1989.

Mr. Coordinator,

This brief history of the item and its subsequent evolution is important on two counts. First, it helps identify the reasons for having this item and the context surrounding its inclusion. Secondly, this rationale would facilitate its appropriate contextualization for our work in this subsidiary body today.

Let's examine the rationale and the context first.

The final document of SSOD-I in its paragraph 109 set out the rationale and context for elaborating a CPD.

It was in the context of emphasizing its priorities particularly nuclear disarmament that the SSOD-I states the purpose of a CPD and I quote “implementation of these priorities should lead to general and complete disarmament under effective international control, which remains the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament. Negotiations on general and complete disarmament shall be conducted concurrently with negotiations on partial measures of disarmament” end quote.

The immediate two paragraphs also elaborate the foundational conditions of the CPD i.e. peaceful resolution of disputes and explicit ruling out of possession of nuclear weapons, respectively.

Mr. Coordinator,

As is evident, the purpose and context of a CPD is to achieve and facilitate nuclear disarmament, to promote settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and to move towards general reduction of all other types of armaments, while ensuring equal and undiminished security for all.

And this brings me to the second aspect of this agenda item i.e. contextualizing our work today by reaffirming and returning to our own foundational principles.

In our conversations across the work of subsidiary bodies, including this one, the contemporary context and surrounding global political and security challenges have been detailed by many including my delegation. The palpable erosion of the rules-based international order has also been referenced plentifully. Attention has also been drawn to the defiance of international law, lack of accountability for acts of commission and omission and relegation of universal values to strategic commercial, and political interests.

To put it simply, these trends are polar-opposites of what we ourselves agreed to as essential requirements for disarmament.

Our recent discussions have also delved into emergence of new domains of strategic competition and conflict. The need to ensure peaceful only nature of outer

space activities, the imperative of reining in new types of destabilizing strategic weapons, a call for rethink towards unconstrained military spending, the urgency of addressing implications of new weapons technologies and their impact on international security and disarmament matters, the importance of keeping humans in control of weapons based on artificial intelligence and to prevent malicious activity in cyberspace, have all been emphasized.

Mr. Coordinator,

A conversation on CPD, therefore, is timely since all these elements tie into and have a direct bearing on a comprehensive program for disarmament.

To be fair, the blueprint for such a comprehensive program was laid down by our predecessors who recognized that this goal can only be pursued as a cooperative undertaking resulting in equal and undiminished if not increased security for all states.

What we need to do is contemporize this programme.

History of discussions at the CD shows that the stumbling block or lack of progress on any item for the last two decades has been tied to how major powers approach issues of security and arms. It is evident that these approaches have failed.

Therefore, a fundamental rethink, which is also in line with the approach agreed in our foundational document i.e. SSOD-I, is required.

This rethink starts with a reaffirmation of our commitment to follow our fundamental principles leading to revival of the global consensus to deal with the challenges that we face today. While arguably a complex task, it remains the only viable option for the multilateral arms control machinery to function and deliver, particularly the CD.

This consensus must also be anchored in the faithful and demonstrable adherence to international law.

It must contribute towards enhanced security for all states at the lowest possible levels of armaments and it must ensure that long-standing non-proliferation rules are not violated to carve out exemptions to the detriment of global and regional stability.

Pursuing outdated and failed approaches for arms control and disarmament will not yield results. The CD can and should do better. It has delivered in the past and can do so again by pursuing equity, fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations, non-discrimination and recognition of legitimate interests of all states.

Attaining our eventual objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons within a re-energized collective security system has been the CD's beckoning from the very beginning. Such a re-energized collective security system can and should begin also with work on a contemporized CPD.

I thank you, Mr. Coordinator.
