



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

**Statement by Pakistan, at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on
Disarmament, Geneva
06 February 2024**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today's plenary meeting. We appreciate the outreach and consultations you have undertaken, including with the regional groups.

As you would recall from the general statements over the past two weeks, almost all members of the Conference have drawn attention to the complex international security landscape and its challenges.

Rather than inaction, the situation adds to the urgency for this body to do its part.

Our endeavours should be a pursuit of genuine multilateralism while fully taking into account the contemporary realities of international security landscape in all its dimensions.

This would entail advancing the notion of security that is responsive to the interest of all states, fully taking into account the legitimate security concerns of each and every member i.e. by truly practicing the principle of undiminished and equal security for all.

Most importantly, we should aim to adopt a balanced and comprehensive programme of work as a means and a basis towards fulfilment of this body's mandate.

Mr. President,

My delegation has clearly articulated its views in our previous statement on what and as to how the CD should proceed.

The reality, as also attested to by the Conference records, is that there is currently no consensus to commence negotiations on any agenda item. We have also increasingly witnessed disagreements impacting the process and procedure of conducting our work.

Our challenges in the CD remain a function of the policies, actions and developments pursued by its members, both inside and outside these conference halls.

While the CD must contend with the reverberations of these realities, it certainly does not mean that the Conference shouldn't undertake any work. In our view, the CD should continue to resume substantive work on all its agenda items.

In doing so, we must take into account what has worked, what has not and also recognize, what the needs of today are. It is equally important to avoid the pitfalls of arbitrary or subjective approaches. We must also not let the perfect become an enemy of good.

And it is in this spirit that my delegation considers the 2022 decision as the most practical least common denominator to build on.

In 2022, we were able to adopt reports of two out of five subsidiary bodies. Lack of consensus in other subsidiary bodies was not because of shortcomings in the mandate laid out in the 2022 decision. In fact, larger geo-politics and the ever-persistent differences in approaches under those agenda items inhibited progress.

Mr. President,

We also agree with those, who argue that 2022 decision was adopted in a certain context. And that context was the culmination of intensive efforts that had spanned over several years. After 2018, various iterations were tried to come up with a working model in the CD under respective CD Presidencies. It was only in 2022 under the Chinese Presidency, when we were able to unlock that compromise, which enabled us to undertake intensive work in subsidiary bodies.

In the absence of any major change in the position of key players, we must avoid re-inventing the wheel. Instead of undertaking another drafting exercise on the positions which are well-known and well-entrenched, we should simply adopt the 2022 decision as it is and save ourselves the precious time. It would be important to commence our work in the subsidiary bodies sooner than later to give ourselves sufficient time.

Mr. President,

We also share the perspective of members that the ultimate objective of substantive work at the Conference should be to develop and reach understandings that can eventually pave the way for negotiations, especially with a view to fulfilling this body's *raison d'être* and that is nuclear disarmament.

I wish to take this opportunity to also echo the call made by many members over the past two weeks, regarding the salience and significance of Negative Security Assurances as the first step on this pathway. We also support the proposal of establishing an Ad Hoc Committee on NSAs as the most practical step forward to enable this body in fulfilling its mandate.

Our discussions on NSAs in 2022, revealed that there is no fundamental obstacle to or insurmountable difficulty in pursuing outcome oriented work in this crucial area. Neither have we heard from any member as to how meaningful progress in this area, leading to formalization of NSA commitments into a legally binding instrument, undermines the core national security interests of any state.

Mr. President, an objective assessment makes it abundantly clear that of the topic of NSAs, as a low hanging fruit, represents the most realistic option for progress at this body and at the same time an opportunity to tangibly respond to the increasing dangers of the complex international security situation.

My delegation will continue to engage with you, **Mr. President**, and other members of this body in a constructive and pragmatic spirit to resume substantive work on all agenda items in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

I thank you.