



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

**Statement by Pakistan at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on
Disarmament**

06 June 2024

*(Building capacity in disarmament through education and research,
under Agenda Item 6)*

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening the plenary meeting today. We would like to join others in appreciating the panelists for their contributions.

Mr. President,

Education and research are key tools to advance the goals of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The significance of these tools has only increased in a world where buildup of armaments continues to be prioritized over the pursuit of peace as well as prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The SSOD-1's call on governments and international organizations to develop programmes "with a view to contributing to a greater understanding and awareness of the problems created by the armaments race and of the need for disarmament" therefore remains relevant.

I would also like to recall the important objectives contained in the Secretary General's first report on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which came out 22 years ago (A/57/124). The report had noted and I quote, "the Disarmament education is broadly focused on the need to reduce armaments with a view to their complete elimination as a means of reducing both the likelihood and the severity of armed conflict. Disarmament education focuses on the process of disarmament itself, the steps to achieve it and the positive effects that disarmament has on socio-economic development. This approach may touch upon conflict resolution or examine the causes of war and the interaction between technology and warfare". Unquote. These objectives remain as relevant today as ever.

Mr. President,

The United Nations Secretariat and member states have taken several steps in promoting awareness, enhancing knowledge and understanding, particularly among youth on disarmament issues, processes and mechanisms.

We would like to particularly recognize the continued usefulness of the UN Fellowship on Disarmament, particularly for developing countries diplomats. This Fellowship remains one of the most important tools in the UN Disarmament Education Strategy.

UNODA deserves appreciation for running this fellowship course regularly in a professional manner despite the modest fiscal resources available.

Pakistan had the privilege of hosting the UN Disarmament Fellows from 24 countries in October 2022. It was a useful opportunity for the participants to get acquainted with various themes of arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation from a developing country perspective.

Mr. President,

There is a symbiotic relationship between fellowship programs, disarmament education initiatives, networks and research centres. However, it is essential to synergize these streams to ensure diversity of perspectives, balanced representation of experts from across regions and voices.

Disarmament education and research should contribute towards developing a greater understanding of the drivers of conflict and instability in various parts of the world. Greater attention is needed on problem solving approaches, especially in the regional and sub-regional contexts where threat perceptions are most pronounced.

Mr. President,

We would like to commend UNIDIR in promoting education and research and for providing invaluable support in the diverse field of disarmament through its publications and events.

The SSOD-I envisaged UNIDIR as an in-house institute to undertake research on disarmament and security issues and disseminate it globally for awareness raising and capacity building, especially for the benefit of developing countries.

Over time, due to institutional and financial issues, this aspect of UNIDIR's work has somewhat diminished, with the programmatic priorities largely being determined by donor funding.

We call on all States to support increase in the regular budget subvention for UNIDIR and also strive to enhance their share of un-earmarked voluntary financial contributions to the Institute to enable it to determine its own programmatic priorities.

I thank you
