



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Statement by

Ambassador Zamir Akram,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan
to the United Nations, Geneva,

in the First Committee

on

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65th United Nations General Assembly.

New York,
12 October 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. We are confident that, under your able guidance, this Committee will achieve optimum results. We assure you of our cooperation. I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for your predecessor's excellent work last year.

Mr. Chairman,

2. As we approach the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the future of global peace and security hangs in a precarious balance. The hopes of a peace dividend and a just international order have failed to materialize even after twenty years since the end of the Cold War.

3. A multitude of disputes and conflicts have festered, enlarging in their deadly scope and intensity, providing the crucible for extremism and terrorism and involving a wide spectrum of state and non-state actors. The quest for hegemony, unbridled use of force and the pursuit of dubious concepts of containment, unilateralism and preemption by global and regional powers, have combined to make the world a much more dangerous and unstable place than ever before.

Mr. Chairman,

4. This grim situation has also undermined the efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Instead of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons has become the only goal.

Even this goal is pursued selectively. Some States have been denied the right to peaceful nuclear cooperation while others are helped in promoting unsafeguarded nuclear programmes as well as to build and upgrade strategic weapon systems, including anti-ballistic missiles as well as accelerating vertical nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

5. A growing asymmetry in military capabilities between major powers and medium and small states has further increased insecurity among states. In crucial regions, the pursuit of great power politics has destabilized the tenuous regional balance.

6. Similarly, the supply and development of a new generation of weapons at the tactical, theatre and strategic levels pose a major threat to regional as well as global security. Yet another alarming trend is the incremental militarization of outer space – the consequences of which we are yet to fully grasp.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In view of this dismal state of global security, it is important for the international community to search for a new consensus that can address and arrest these trends.

8. Attempts to forge a new consensus on arms control and disarmament requires the convening of SSOD-IV. This alone can ensure genuine and complete ownership of the outcome by all states. In discussing this issue we

are puzzled when some powerful nations argue that SSOD-I has been overtaken by events yet oppose convening SSOD-IV.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We are also dismayed by arguments from some states that the UN disarmament machinery, in particular the CD, has become dysfunctional owing to its rules of procedure. In reality the decade old stalemate in the CD and the overall international disarmament machinery, has nothing to do with rules of procedure. It is the lack of political will on the part of some major powers to pursue disarmament negotiations on the basis of equal security of all states as accepted in SSOD-I.

10. The UN disarmament machinery and the CD in particular, is not a handmaiden to the whims of the major powers or a device to confer legitimacy to their pursuit of discriminatory policies.

11. We also need to recognize that the CD does not work in a political vacuum. It reflects the dynamics in the real world. The current hiatus in the CD is not unprecedented. The CD has not undertaken negotiations for any multilateral instrument since it last concluded the CTBT in 1995.

12. Yet, it is only now, after more than a decade that certain countries have questioned the relevance of the CD, seeking ways to revitalize its functioning and even proposing to seek alternative venues. Why were they silent for more than ten years? Do they realize that by undermining the CD to pursue negotiations elsewhere on one issue on the CD's agenda, they would open up

the possibilities for negotiating other CD agenda items in alternative venues as well?

Mr. Chairman,

13. The international community has established the CD as the sole multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament agreements on the basis of equal security of States. Among the core issues on the CD's agenda, as enunciated by SSOD-I, are (i) nuclear disarmament (ii) negative security assurances and (iii) prevention of arms race in outer space. Pakistan, along with a majority of States, has always advocated the commencement of negotiations on these three issues in the CD at the earliest.

14. It was only after several years in 1994 that a new agenda item, the FMCT, was introduced on the CD's agenda. Since that time Pakistan has called attention to the fact that a treaty to only cut-off future production of fissile material would freeze the existing asymmetries in fissile material stockpiles, which would be detrimental for our national security. Accordingly we have been advocating a treaty that not only bans future production but also aims at reducing existing stocks of fissile material.

15. Over the past few years, some powerful countries, in pursuit of their commercial interests as well as dubious notions of balance of power, have embarked upon an unfettered and discriminatory nuclear cooperation arrangement in gross violation of their international commitments. This has accentuated our security concerns as such nuclear cooperation shall further widen the asymmetry in stockpiles in our region. Meanwhile, our suggestion

for a reduction of stockpiles has been rejected by some of the major nuclear weapon states.

16. In view of these circumstances, the National Command Authority of Pakistan, the highest decision making body on strategic issues, in a meeting on January 13, 2010 concluded that Pakistan will not support any approach or measure that is prejudicial to its legitimate national security interests. Thus, an FMCT that purports only to ban future production of fissile material, will permanently freeze a strategic disadvantage for Pakistan, and is therefore unacceptable to us.

Mr. Chairman,

17. Clearly it is not through choice but necessity that Pakistan is opposed to negotiations on an FMCT. The responsibility for this lies with those countries that have, for their own interests, brought about a qualitative change in the strategic environment in our region by entering into discriminatory nuclear cooperation agreements and in the process have drastically undermined the international non-proliferation and disarmament framework.

Mr. Chairman,

18. The CD was not created to only negotiate the FMCT. Those attempting to present FMCT negotiations as the touchstone of the CD's success are in fact seeking to divert the international community's attention away from nuclear disarmament, which remains the key priority of the CD. Pakistan remains ready to begin negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the CD at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman,

19. One subject on which the CD could make quick progress and advance the nuclear disarmament agenda is by concluding a legally binding and effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The demand for security assurances is a pending issue on the agenda of international arms control and disarmament since the 1960s.

20. For all non-nuclear-weapon States, the commitments of the nuclear-weapon states reflected in resolution 255 (1968) of the Security Council and 984 (1995) of the Security Council, are insufficient, qualified and partial. The only credible way is to transform them into a legally binding instrument to be concluded by the CD.

21. Similarly, the CD needs to move ahead with concrete steps towards addressing the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. The growing dependence of the international community on space for economic development and for security underscores the importance of the peaceful uses of outer space. It is in the common interest of humanity to explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes.

22. Concerns about the weaponization of outer space are growing. The CD, being the sole negotiating disarmament forum, has the primary responsibility to negotiate and conclude a multilateral treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

23. Those states that are opposing negotiations in CD on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and prevention of an arms race in outer space, should come forward and explain their position. Unfortunately, such forthrightness is sorely missing and all we find is a litany of complaints about lack of progress in the CD, its paralysis or resort to a blame game.

Mr. Chairman,

24. Pakistan remains firmly committed to the BWC. Its strengthening as well as universalization remains an important priority for Pakistan. Pakistan's commitment to the BWC is evidenced from our deep involvement in the efforts to bolster the implementation of the convention.

25. We believe that the forthcoming Seventh Review Conference must positively address the issue of verification protocol, seek enhanced implementation of the Convention, particularly Article X and promote its universalization.

26. Pakistan wishes every success to OPCW's new DG Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü of Turkey and will extend to him our full support. It is vitally important to preserve the viability of the CWC by strict adherence to and respect for its provisions. It is a matter of considerable concern that two major possessor States have declared their inability to comply with their obligations to completely destroy their chemical weapons by the final deadline of April 2012. We urge them to redouble their efforts to comply with their obligations.

27. Pakistan supports dealing with the issue of cluster munitions within the CCW framework with due balance between military and humanitarian considerations. We share the international concern over the ill effects of the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. We believe that focus should be on strengthening the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons which is a consensual framework, rather than trying to supplant it with other mechanisms or creating parallel instruments. As regards a potential Arms Trade Treaty, for which the Small Arms and Light Weapons problem is highlighted as the main justification, Pakistan is in favour of a gradual, step by step, inclusive, universal and consensual approach with due regard to every state's right to self-defense as enshrined in the UN Charter.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.