



PAKISTAN

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Statement

by

Mr. Khalil Hashmi,

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United Nations, New York**

at the

**First Committee Thematic Debate
on "Regional Disarmament and Security"
(68th Session of the UNGA)**

New York, 30 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly has long recognized that global peace and security depends, in large measure, on stability at the regional and sub-regional levels. In the post-cold war era, most threats to peace and security arise mainly among States located in the same region or sub-region. Therefore regional approaches to disarmament and arms control are both essential and complementary to international and bilateral efforts.

The Final Document of SSOD-I, the UN Disarmament Commission and this Committee's resolutions have repeatedly reaffirmed the need for simultaneous pursuit of regional and global approaches including agreements in the area of disarmament and arms limitation. The international community has endorsed through these mechanisms and normative framework two well-recognized and tested tools i.e. conventional arms control and confidence-building measures, particularly at the regional and sub-regional levels

Mr. Chairman,

Several regions of the world have benefitted from the application of principles and guidelines in the areas of conventional arms control and CBMs evolved and agreed at the United Nations. It is important to recall and reiterate some of these principles i.e. preservation of balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments and military forces; the special responsibility of militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities in promoting agreements for regional security, undiminished security, and pursuit of disarmament measures in an equitable and balanced manner.

Regional arrangements for disarmament and arms limitation should accord priority in addressing the most destabilizing military capabilities and imbalances in both conventional and non-conventional fields. A stable balance of conventional forces and weapons is necessary to ensure strategic stability, particularly in tense regions. Preventing the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression remain important goals of conventional arms control.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the years, confidence building measures have proven their utility and efficacy in several regions and sub-regions including in the area of arms control, disarmament, and more broadly for international peace and security.

As the General Assembly resolutions and UNDC guidelines have affirmed, CBMs at the regional level have to be tailored to the specifics of the region and should begin with simple arrangements on transparency, openness and risk reduction before the concerned states find themselves in a position to pursue more substantive arms

control and disarmament measures. However, regardless of the specifics of different regions and the steps the concerned states undertake for confidence building, the ultimate aim of regional approaches should be to enhance regional and global peace and security.

Confidence-building measures are significant in that they can lead to the creation of favourable conditions for the peaceful settlement of existing international problems and disputes and to facilitate the solution of any situation which might lead to international friction. However, confidence-building measures should not become an end in themselves.

CBMs should be pursued in conjunction with earnest efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other concrete actions to ease regional tensions and build confidence among the States of the region can create a political environment conducive to promoting agreements on disarmament and arms limitation.

Without progress towards eliminating underlying disputes and causes of mistrust between states, the utility of confidence-building measures will diminish. Confidence-building measures alone cannot act as a substitute nor a precondition for steps towards peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan feels privileged to have spearheaded initiatives on regional disarmament, conventional arms control and the CBMs at the United Nations for several years now. Pakistan's three resolutions i.e. regional disarmament, conventional arms control and confidence building measures at regional and sub-regional levels are a practical expression of promoting these globally agreed goals.

As in previous years, Pakistan delegation has tabled draft resolutions on Regional Disarmament (A/C.1/68/L.50), Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context (A/C.1/68/L.51) and Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (A/C.1/68/L.52). These resolutions recognize the significance of regional approaches to arms control, disarmament and confidence building for international peace and stability and the complementarity between regional and global approaches. We look forward to the continued support of Member States in the adoption of these resolutions this year as well.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.