Pakistan

Explanation of vote

L.33 “Verification in all its aspects”

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to explain our vote before the vote on the draft resolution entitled “Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in field of verification”.

Pakistan believes that verification is essential to promoting confidence among States in compliance with disarmament Treaties and agreements to which they are Parties. Verification ensures the effectiveness and integrity of such agreements.

The concept and practice of verification is, however, integral to arms limitation and disarmament agreements. It has no independent existence.

This is affirmed in the “Sixteen Verification Principles” prepared by the UNDC and endorsed unanimously by the General Assembly in 1988.

While in a spirit of cooperation, we have decided to go along with the draft resolution; we are not convinced that another Panel of Experts can make a significant contribution at this stage to the philosophy of verification.

Major disarmament initiatives since the verification principles were agreed upon, have suffered setbacks. The CTBT and the BWC Protocol are examples. It is not for want of knowledge in the field of verification that these initiatives have been sidelined but on account of political reasons. It seems that the FMCT will suffer a similar fate, since some now want what used to be termed as “toothless arms control”.

Concepts relating to verification cannot be promoted in a vacuum. We, therefore, doubt very much that this is a good time for setting up another Expert Panel for what may end up to be only an academic exercise.

On the other hand, any moves to revise or negate the already agreed parameters and principles in the field of verification or to propagate certain fringe experiences, such as UNMOVIC, as representing a new verification paradigm, will negatively impact the existing achievements and consensus on this critical issue.

The Expert Panel will do well to avoid such creative but misplaced impulses.

Thank you