Madam Chairperson,

Resolution 46/36 L of December 1991, the first one on the issue of “transparency in armaments”, affirmed that transparency in the field of armaments could reduce the occurrence of dangerous misperceptions about the intentions of States and thereby enhance trust and confidence among them. We agree with that assertion.

According to the same resolution, the UN Register of Conventional Arms was envisaged “as a first step” of confidence-building among States. However, 15 years hence, it is clear that the objectives of promoting transparency in armaments remain far from being achieved. What we have seen in these years is excessive and destabilizing arms-build-up in various parts of the world. We therefore continue to believe that promoting transparency should not become an end in itself.

All Member States had agreed in the final document of SSOD-I that gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis, in absolute figures or in terms of percentage points, particularly by nuclear weapons States and other militarily significant States, would contribute to curbing the arms race and increase the possibility of reallocation of resources being used for military purposes to economic and social development. It further reaffirmed that it was possible to achieve reductions in military budgets without affecting the military balance to the detriment of national security of any State. These agreed objectives are yet to be translated into action.

Earnest and parallel efforts are therefore needed to address the underlying causes that have so far prevented in realizing the objectives of this resolution. In our view, it is important to redouble efforts towards balanced reduction of armaments and forces, restraint in provision and acquisition of destabilizing arms, easing regional and sub-regional tensions and finding just resolution of conflicts. Pakistan has and will continue to pursue a restraint regime in South Asia encompassing the elements outlined above.

I thank you Madam Chairperson.