Mr. Chairman,

For the last one year, the state of play in the United Nations Disarmament Machinery is receiving considerable attention albeit, evidently, for the wrong reasons. By virtue of constant repetition the hypothesis that the Conference on Disarmament is dysfunctional has crept into the UN disarmament discourse. Through clever semantics, media hype and bureaucratic activism, the international community is being led to believe that the CD can only justify its existence by working according to a certain agenda which consists in making negotiations on a fissile material treaty the centre-piece of the disarmament agenda. Ironically, the paramount priority of nuclear disarmament sanctified by the First Special Session of the General assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) decades ago is condemned to remain confined to the realm of discussions along with legally binding and negative security assurances and PAROS. But the high priests of disarmament are quite content with the status quo. The UNGA resolutions calling for nuclear disarmament as well as strong calls emerging from various Summits of the 118-member Non-Aligned Movement have been disregarded or brushed aside if not with contempt then certainly with benign neglect.

Mr. Chairman,

This deafening silence surrounding the real priorities is pierced by a cacophony about the imaginary malaise of the Conference on Disarmament. The CD is being subjected to all kinds of attack ranging from threats disguised as persuasion or outright menace of obsolescence or irrelevance unless it agrees to negotiate a fissile material treaty. Ironically, even the panacea of an FMT has been packaged with clever caveats that would protect the interests of the major producers of fissile material who, after amassing unknown stockpiles are now making a virtue out of necessity by declaring moratoria. However, in case of South Asia a lack of even handedness in nuclear commerce has created a strategic conundrum for Pakistan. As being touted at present, a discriminatory FMCT would permanently freeze a strategic handicap for Pakistan.
Some among those who want to be the proverbial knights in shining armour for the CD allege that Pakistan is holding up consensus on FMCT and thereby flouting the international will. This, quite simply, is not true. Pakistan is in favor of ensuring that CD remains true to its real calling that is to negotiate nuclear disarmament. We also support preserving the CD’s rules of procedure especially the consensus rule. We are ready to enter into substantive negotiations on nuclear disarmament, legally binding nuclear security assurances and prevention of an arms race in outer space. However, those who are spearheading the campaign for a discriminatory FMCT want it to be a custom-made an instrument that disregards the issue of existing stocks.

Mr. Chairman,

Strangely enough the contrived sense of urgency that we encounter in regard to CD since the last one year- though the stalemate goes much farther back in time- is eerily absent when it comes to the less than satisfactory state of affairs in the UN Disarmament Commission. Those who profess messianic concern for CD feel no compunction when thwarting consensus in UNDC or burdening its deliberations with redundancies and platitudes.

Pakistan, along with other Member States of the 118-strong Non-Aligned Movement, has noted with appreciation the opportunity presented by the High Level Meeting (HLM) convened by the UN Secretary General recently, for demonstrating our support for multilateral disarmament agenda and strengthening the UN disarmament machinery. However, there is a need for a more comprehensive, equitable and substantive approach aimed at building a renewed international consensus to take forward the international agenda on disarmament and non-proliferation. Accordingly, the NAM Member States are presenting a resolution this year on convening the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV). Only such a conference can provide a universal and inclusive arrangement to ensure substantive progress in disarmament and non-proliferation on an equitable basis and realistic means to revitalize the UN Disarmament Machinery.

Mr. Chairman,

Rather than trying to attenuate or unravel the UN disarmament machinery we should buttress it by providing it more human and financial resources. With all its imperfections, the UN Disarmament Machinery offers us the best available universal structure for reviving the international consensus on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. We have to approach these matters with due regard to the principles of sovereign equality and equal and undiminished security enshrined in the UN Charter and SSOD-I. We have to disabuse our selves of the notion that when it comes to security some are more equal than others.

We need to bear in mind that when it comes to the UN disarmament machinery, the solution lies in political will.
Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to take this opportunity to state on behalf of the esteemed sponsors as well as on behalf of Pakistan that like the previous years, we would be re-tabling the following resolutions:

I. L.4 entitled Regional Disarmament

II. L.5 entitled conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

III. L.6 entitled conventional arms control at regional and sub regional levels and;

IV. L.7 entitled confidence building measures in the regional and sub regional context.

V. In addition to the aforementioned resolutions, this year, Pakistan, in its quality as the current Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors, would be presenting the resolution on IAEA Report this year. We already, have circulated the clean text received from Vienna with to Permanent Missions in New York with the request for sponsorships. Action on the resolution is expected at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 8 November 2010.

During the First Committee segment devoted to action on resolutions, we would be making a more detailed introduction of these resolutions. Meanwhile, it may be worth pointing out that Pakistan’s traditional four resolutions have only been updated technically. The IAEA report resolution also, is factual in content. We look forward to the consensus adoption of all five resolutions.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.