Pakistan favours efforts aimed at promoting transparency in armaments generally, including through reporting on military expenditure, exports/imports of military equipment and procurement through national means. However, transparency is a means to an end, not an end and a policy pursuit in itself. The ultimate goal of such efforts should be aligned with mitigation of tensions, confidence building and resolution of conflicts through dialogue and mediation.

Pakistan has been supporting the resolutions entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures” including Resolution 66/20. However, our decision on furnishing information regarding military expenditures is guided by the following considerations:

a) Given the huge disparity between military expenditure of major powers and other countries, the initiative for reduction of military expenditure should come from States with largest arsenals;

b) Reduction should be in a manner that does not upset military balance, either globally or regionally. To maintain an equilibrium it would be more equitable to link the reduction of expenditure with clearly specified reduction of military personnel and hardware;

c) Apart from technical difficulties the success of the concept will ultimately be determined by conflict resolution and creation of confidence between States.

We look forward to contributing meaningfully to the work of the GGE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman