Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (8-9 December 2014)

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize the concerns that have led to this process on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. There can be no doubt that the use of nuclear weapons will have a far reaching destructive impact even beyond the zone of conflict. The only real solution for negating this threat is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. For this reason, Pakistan has always supported the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention to prohibit the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and to provide for their destruction.

Introduction of nuclear weapons in 1974 in our region and the consequent direct threat to our security, changed our security paradigm. Having realized that no other avenue was open to us to ensure our security, either through bilateral or multilateral measures, Pakistan was compelled to develop a nuclear deterrent capability. Having done so, we are now committed to a strategic restraint regime and follow a doctrine of minimum credible deterrence, in order to ensure our security. Along with this, Pakistan is ready to enter into Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and more importantly towards a result oriented dialogue process, to resolve the underlying security threats in our region.

Within this context, we believe that this humanitarian process should also strive for the elimination of the underlying security reasons for the possession of nuclear weapons in order to achieve its goals, in particular the prevention of the devastating humanitarian impact of a nuclear weapons explosion, whether intended or otherwise.

I thank you,
Mr. Chairman.