



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

8 EAST 65th STREET – NEW YORK, NY 10021 – (212) 879-8600

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STATEMENT

BY

AMBASSADOR MASOOD KHAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

AT

THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 60TH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

“OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION”

New York
12 October 2005

Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan

During the Thematic Debate
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
October 12, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

My brief intervention is on the CWC and BTWC.

We welcome OPCW Director General Rogelio Pfrter's report the First Committee that the six chemical weapons possessors continue to destroy their declared stockpiles, and that the process of securing stockpiles and verification of destruction is moving apace.

We have also taken note of the Director General's statement that "the lion's share of the task lies ahead" and that "major challenges remain". It is a matter of concern that destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles by major possessors is falling behind the schedule. Obviously the pace of the verified destruction of the declared stockpiles should be accelerated.

We have to work also on reducing the risk of chemical weapons proliferation and their possible access by non-state actors or terrorists. In that context, speedy and complete destruction of CW stockpiles is critical. The OPCW Director General has rightly pointed out that the know-how to produce simple chemical weapons is widely available and the financial and technological hurdles in this regard are much less problematic. Hence, we need more vigilance, more resolute action.

We commend the efforts being made for the Plan of Action on the Implementation of Article VII Obligation. In this regard practical difficulties and resource constraints faced by the developing countries should be properly and adequately factored in. Assistance and technical support to state parties, upon request, will help expedite implementation for the Plan of Action. Implementation of the Plan of Action is an ongoing process based on a cooperative approach.

The chemical weapons prohibition regime, overseen by OPCW, is a manifestation of the success of multilateralism. This example can be replicated in other areas of disarmament and non-proliferation.

For its part, Pakistan has faithfully complied with all the provisions of the CWC and is committed to further strengthening the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

We attach importance to universal adherence to the Convention by all states. Implementation of the CWC should be carried out in a way that chemical and technological activities and capabilities, not prohibited by the Convention, are not adversely affected. Thus, it is important that the international cooperation in economic and scientific fields is expanded.

On the BTWC, we should not lose hope or abandon efforts to strengthen international cooperation to ensure compliance and verification. In fact, we should make renewed efforts to achieve this objective.

We should try to build bridges and develop collective strategies to prevent acquisition or proliferation of biological weapons. A productive endeavour is underway to evolve appropriate codes of conduct as well as self-discipline by industry and scientific and medical institutions. In order to use the full potential of bio-sciences, we must act responsibly, while preserving the space necessary for research and industrial applications.

We need to develop a long-term perspective. We should untangle ourselves from the past wranglings and look towards the 2006 Review Conference and beyond for five to ten years. The pace of change in bio sciences is phenomenal, which requires a new international paradigm that would allow for fullest cooperation amongst nations to prevent proliferation and to use bio-sciences for the service of humanity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman