



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by  
Ambassador Zamir Akram  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan  
to the United Nations  
Geneva**

**in the First Committee**

**on**

**Monday, 12 October 2009 at  
64<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly**

New York  
12 October 2009

**Statement by Ambassador Zamir Akram,  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Geneva,  
at the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGA's First Committee, New York  
12 October 2009**

**Mr. Chairman,**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the First Committee. I am confident that, under your able leadership, the session will achieve important results. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in this endeavour.

Pakistan fully associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

**Mr. Chairman,**

We meet this year in an environment characterized by optimism flowing from the expression of positive intentions and renewed commitment to the objective of disarmament by the major nuclear weapon states. This has imbued the policy makers, intelligentsia and civil society everywhere with a sense of hope. There is an expectation that the recent pronouncements will generate the necessary momentum and willingness to take concrete actions for the realization of a peaceful and stable world - free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction - and an equitable global security architecture underpinned by equal and undiminished security for all states.

Like all other states, Pakistan, which has always espoused the cause of general and complete disarmament and worked assiduously towards peace and stability at the global and regional levels, is encouraged by these developments. At the same time, we also remain mindful of the ground realities which continue to threaten the realization of the ideals spelt out at the First Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament (SSOD-I).

The objectives of disarmament and global peace and stability cannot be effectively pursued in isolation from these realities which mark the contemporary global and regional security situation. These include:

- **One**, the imbalances and asymmetries in defense spending, regionally as well as globally, which are counter-productive to arms control objectives and also undermine attempts to establish peace and security. Despite the end of the cold war, national defence budget of the major powers continue to increase. Total military expenditure during 2008 was over US \$ 1,470 billion which, according to SIPRI reports, represents an increase of 45% since 1999.

There is, therefore, a need to take concrete steps for addressing the asymmetries both in the nuclear and conventional fields that exist at the regional and sub-regional levels.

- **Two**, regional disputes continue to fester around the globe, particularly in South Asia and the Middle East. To make matters worse, we have seen emergence of new conflicts.

For the success of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation measures, causes of arms race and threats to peace must be reduced by effective actions for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

- **Three**, derogation from non-proliferation norms and discriminatory exceptions, for political or strategic interests and disregard for any equitably applicable criteria, has undermined the credibility and legitimacy of the non-proliferation regime.

In order to restore and reinvigorate the non-proliferation regime, a new global non-proliferation and disarmament construct is required based on the principles of non-discrimination and universally applicable criteria. In this regard there is also a need for realism and mainstreaming in the nuclear order, in an equitable manner, those states that have never been parties to the NPT. In this context Mr. El Baradi has referred to “complex security perception” of these states and has called for pragmatic steps.

- **Four**, the growing trend of promoting security of some states at the cost of the others through measures adopted by a select group of states outside recognized multilateral negotiating forums. This undermines the principle of equal and undiminished security for all states.

Since the issues of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation affect the vital security interests of all states, therefore, all states should have the opportunity to fully participate and play an equal role in negotiations on these issues.

Multilateralism and multilaterally negotiated, universally accepted and non-discriminatory agreements, therefore, provide the best way forward for achieving the objective of disarmament and non-proliferation. The tendency to bypass recognized United Nations negotiating forums should be eschewed.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Disarmament, non-proliferation and peace and security are inextricably linked. A holistic approach encompassing the simultaneous pursuit of these objectives is the only solution. Progress in any one of these spheres has a beneficial effect on all of them; in turn, failure in one sphere has negative effect on others.

The best venue to pursue a holistic strategy for disarmament and global peace and security is the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the best manner to do so will be through the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced Programme of Work for the CD, which accords equal treatment and priority to all agenda items, particularly the four core issues of nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, prevention of arms race in outer space and fissile material treaty.

Disarmament is the *raison d'être* of the CD. The objective of disarmament should, therefore, be the central theme of the substantive work of the CD in relation to all items on its agenda. The CD members bear a heavy responsibility to ensure that the CD does not deviate from the role defined for it by the SSOD-I.

Within this framework, Pakistan will extend its full support to efforts by within the CD to reach a consensus on a programme of work as soon as possible.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Access to nuclear technology for socio-economic development, including nuclear power generation for energy security, is the right of every state. As a fossil fuel deficit country, Pakistan needs to explore all possible sources of energy including nuclear power generation. In this regard we emphasize the need for the adoption of universally acceptable criteria, which are applied without discrimination, for access to nuclear technology for peaceful uses under appropriate international safeguards. The IAEA Director General has on several occasions advocated the adoption of such a non-discriminatory criteria-based approach.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pakistan agrees with the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the recently adopted Security Council resolution 1887. However, the realization of the objectives of 1887 should be anchored in upholding the respective roles of the relevant international organizations and forums. The issues of verification and non-compliance have to be addressed in the context of the international agreements to which states are parties and in accordance with the mechanisms defined for this purpose within those agreements.

The States that arrogate for themselves the right to define their approach towards key arms control and disarmament issues, based on their national security assessments, must also recognize the right of the other states to decide freely about their adherence to international instruments. No state can be expected to approach the issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation in isolation from its security concerns.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Weapons of Mass Destruction are not the only threat to durable international peace and stability. In parallel with negotiations on nuclear disarmament, there is an urgent need for negotiations on the balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. As laid down in the Final Document of SSOD-I, these negotiations should be conducted with particular emphasis on militarily significant states. The disturbing trend of escalation in the number and sophistication of conventional weapons has to be arrested as it has a causal relationship with the continuing reliance on nuclear weapons.

There is a need to focus on conventional arms control, which is not limited to controls over only trade in conventional arms but also includes measures for arms reduction, limitation and restraint. Any future arrangement on conventional arms which addresses the transfer of arms but not their development, production and deployment will be inequitable against countries which do not themselves produce conventional armaments. It will, therefore, prove difficult to conclude or implement. Threat perceptions emanating from the possession, development, production acquisition and development of larger and more lethal or sophisticated weapons and weapon systems by potential adversaries need to be addressed in the framework of any new arrangement on conventional arms. The issue of conventional imbalances within regions and the impact of arms transfers on regional stability should be addressed first and foremost.

Illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and diversion from licit to illicit channels of SALW, is a matter of international concern. In this regard, we fully support the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and light Weapons (SALW). We believe that this mechanism should be further strengthened to deal with all aspects of the SALW problem. In parallel

states must also recognize their responsibility to streamline and strengthen their national export controls in order to prevent the possibility of diversion of arms from legal trade to illicit channels.

Diversion of arms is a matter of great concern for Pakistan. Terrorists and militants have been using arms and ammunition illegally trafficked into Pakistan. This poses a great challenge in the context of our ongoing law enforcement operations in the areas bordering Afghanistan.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pakistan accords great priority to the promotion of an environment of peace and security at the regional and global levels. Our policy stems from our conviction that a peaceful and secure environment internally, regionally as well as globally would positively contribute towards economic growth and development which would lead to reduction in poverty and help to enhance the welfare of our people.

Pakistan's desire to promote peace is also reflected in its adherence to the objective of non-proliferation. We share the concern that proliferation of WMDs could destabilize the global security environment. We have, accordingly, put in place wide ranging legislative, regulatory and administrative measures to strengthen our national export controls in accordance with international standards. We are a party to a number of international instruments and initiatives on non-proliferation and nuclear safety and security and continue to strengthen our partnership with the international community in the global efforts against proliferation and possible acts of WMD terrorism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our vision for South Asia is anchored in a security architecture based on preventive diplomacy, confidence building and conflict resolution. Our concerns arise from growing strategic imbalance in South Asia that includes the recent introduction of nuclear submarine and SLBMs.

Pakistan's efforts for the maintenance of peace and security in South Asia are well known. Between 1974 and 1998, we made several proposals to keep South Asia free of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately these proposals could not elicit a positive response. However, we have persevered in our efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. As a responsible nuclear weapon state, Pakistan is pursuing a policy of credible minimum deterrence. Pakistan's proposal for Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR), which has three inter-locking elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional balance. This warrants serious consideration and support of the international community. We expect extra-regional powers to adopt even handed policies in South Asia and avoid steps that undermine the regional strategic balance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The President of Pakistan, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2009, said:

(Quote) "All nations seek security. Peace and security are closely linked. Equal security for all is important. We support all efforts for arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. The principle of equal security is of fundamental importance for achieving these objectives. Asymmetries in security especially at the regional levels need to be redressed. Pakistan will continue to play a constructive role in promoting conflict resolution and a strategic restraint regime

in South Asia and in promoting initiatives on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on the basis of non-discrimination.” (Unquote)

This vision will continue to guide our approach towards the issues of global and regional peace and security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Before concluding my statement, I would like to inform you that Pakistan will be presenting its four resolutions in the Committee. In your opening statement, you stressed the importance of adoption of the resolutions by consensus. We share your goal and hope that, with your support, our resolutions would be adopted by consensus.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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