

Pakistan, 13 Sep '07

Mr. President,

Let me begin by paying a well deserved tribute to you for your excellent leadership during your Presidency. You listened, you consulted and you synthesised inputs. We were glad to see you acting as a catalyst and bringing year-long consultations of the CD Session to an elegant end, which might well be the beginning of a genuine consultative process for exploring consensus.

I will be a remiss if I do not compliment your able aides, especially Dr. Hussain Ali, whose facilitation supported your Presidency and helped the entire Conference. Above all, we congratulate Syria.

In the past two weeks, we passed through a phase of intense engagement on the Conference's annual report to the United Nations General Assembly. It was not an easy task. I want to thank several delegations for their "due diligence". Their understanding, flexibility and ingenuity helped us bridge gaps and resolve differences. We still have a long way to go and we need each other's support in this continuing endeavour.

Mr. President,

In the past three years, the CD has witnessed increased activity and focus. The goal of reaching consensus has not been achieved. The 2008 session should make earnest efforts to reach consensus on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work. In this regard we would welcome consultations by you and incoming Presidency.

The document CD/2007/L.1 raised hopes this year. Throughout this session, we have been saying that we have serious and substantive concerns. We were ready to table our amendments to L.1 since May 2007 so that negotiations on the basis of an agreed document could be initiated. We refrained from doing so to allow for completion of our own inter-departmental review process and consultations with CD members. Now our review process is complete. And we need to intensify consultations to reach consensus.

Mr. President,

As I stated in this Chamber on August 16, 2007, the National Command Authority (NCA), the highest body responsible for the formulation and development of our strategic policy and systems, made the following announcement on August 2:

"The NCA reviewed the current status of negotiations on disarmament issues in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, including regarding the proposed FMCT. The NCA reiterated Pakistan's position in favour of non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty, taking into account the security concerns of all states."

Recent developments in the nuclear field in South Asia have serious implications for strategic stability in South Asia. A strategic restraint regime, which we have pursued since 1998, should not become elusive. Pakistan's brief in the CD is anchored in its core national security interests.

Mr. President,

The decade long stalemate in the CD was caused by the attempts to (a) scupper the Shannon Mandate which enjoyed universal adherence and (b) remove from the table the A-5 and other proposals which had near universal support and presented good basis for compromise.

We believe that the Conference should make a sure-footed beginning for substantive work. In this regard, we have made the following suggestions:

One, the Conference should set itself the task to negotiate a "non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable" fissile material treaty. The CD should work towards a tangible and concrete goal. A weak, tenuous FMT will be neither a disarmament measure nor a non-proliferation measure. Without a verifiable FMT as an objective, the central plank of CD's activity will be missing.

Two, a FMT negotiation mandate should distinctly recognize the possibility of taking up the question of the scope of the treaty and the existing stocks of fissile material.

Three, equal and balanced treatment be given to all the four core issues.

Four, Ad Hoc Committees, as provided for in the CD Rules of Procedure, should conduct negotiations.

In the coming months, we are ready to hold consultations with CD members on these points.

Our understanding on certain issues of the 2007 session is as follows:

- a) The coordinators were "appointed" under the authority of the Presidents; and the CD president transmitted their reports under his own responsibility. The coordinators acted in their individual capacities. They were not Special Coordinators, and thus they do not substitute or supplant existing mechanisms, as recognized by the CD's Rules of Procedure.
- b) The P-6 coordination has played an important role in generating activity in the CD. This arrangement remains informal. The P-6 proposals are subject to open negotiations and concurrence of all members. Their initiatives are not a *fait accompli*.
- c) As an exceptional measure and for practical reasons, in the first part of the 2007 session, the issues relating to a fissile material treaty were taken up by the Coordinator under Agenda item 2 instead of Agenda Item 1, where they belong. This was a one time occurrence and as such it does not constitute an agreed precedent.

I thank you, Mr. President,