

PAKISTAN
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Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the Conference on Disarmament

Geneva; 26 August 2008

Mr. President,

I am making this statement in anticipation of the consultations on the draft report of the Conference to the UN General Assembly.

We know that you, your delegation and the Secretariat have been working hard on the first draft. We thank you for the effort you have made. Consultations and negotiations on the report will require careful handling. We are confident that under your guidance and leadership, we will be able to work towards the adoption a balanced report by consensus

The Conference has sufficient guidance and expertise for report writing. We also have the advantage of good precedents because the CD has been presenting its reports year after year.

We will read the first draft carefully, and present our views, comments, and amendments, wherever required, in the next formal plenary. At this stage, I would restrict myself to the general parameters and principles which have been guiding our discussions on the report.

In accordance with Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure, the report should be factual and reflect the negotiations and work of the Conference. This year no negotiations have taken place; but the CD has been working in both formal and informal settings; and proposals have been made about the Programme of Work.

The report should reflect diverse viewpoints, including substantive reservations, expressed during plenary meetings; and capture convergences and divergences. Evaluations, if agreed, could be made once and effectively. Repetition, selective quotations, and negative characterizations need to be avoided.

The report should not be interpretative. It should not give value judgments that would entail substantive negotiations due to varying interpretations of the content. It should not be used as a tool for discussion on the Programme of Work; or to place lop-sided emphasis on one theme or issue; or to seek legitimacy for interim, ad hoc measures taken for practical and functional reasons. For all these issues, we need independent space for conscious, collective decisions.

We must bear in mind that every year the Conference adopts its agenda and makes fresh efforts to reach consensus on a programme of work.

The report will be a negotiated document. We have full confidence in your wisdom and skills in holding these negotiations in an open and transparent manner. Wherever we have difficulties in reaching a consensus, we can draw upon past precedents.

Substantial activities have taken place in the CD during this year. We commend the six Presidents for their drive, resolve and hard work to breathe new life into the CD. In 2009, replication and emulation of the new work ethic, the new impulse, and high standards of professionalism demonstrated by them and the Conference will be a success in itself. Next year, early in the session, we should resolve differences over key issues and commence negotiations.

I thank you, Mr. President.
