

**Please check against delivery**

**Statement by Aftab A. Khokher, Acting Permanent  
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, at the  
Conference on Disarmament**

**17 September 2009**

Mr. President,

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) will conclude its 2009 session tomorrow (18 September 2009). Today we have formally adopted the annual report of the Conference to the United Nations General Assembly. The first draft of the report presented by you, Mr. President, provided us a good basis to start our work briskly. Our proposals presented during this process were well meaning and constructive. We demonstrated flexibility like other Members in the CD family to reach a consensus. The final shape of the report is the result of collective efforts of all CD Members to make it objective, balanced and factual. You, as a Chair, provided the right framework and atmosphere to realize this objective. Bilateral consultations were complementary and so were useful. We commend you for steering this process in an effective and efficient manner. We also acknowledge the contribution of your talented delegation, which was reinforced by our old friend Mr. Markus Rieterer, who came here from Washington. We appreciate the role and support of the Secretariat as well as assistance provided by the interpreters.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the following guiding principles which ought to underpin consensus on a programme of work of the Conference during the 2010 session:

*One*, any decision on a programme of work must be taken by the Conference. The Presidents, individually and collectively, like any member of the Conference, can make a proposal to the Conference for its consideration. The Conference will adopt it after negotiations in an open and transparent manner taking into account security interests and concerns of all of its members.

*Two*, any decision on a programme of work should be for the session and without any prejudice to any past, present or future position, proposal, document or priority of any delegation, or any

commitment undertaken in any other multilateral fora related to disarmament,

*Three*, the Conference on Disarmament, being the sole and single negotiating forum for arms control and disarmament treaties, should not preclude any outcome(s) under any agenda item, thus upholding the nature of this forum.

*Four*, a proposed programme of work, together with a schedule of activities to be elaborated after the adoption of the programme of work, should be for the duration of yearly session of the Conference. Therefore, it should not prejudice any future decision the Conference might take on its programme of work.

*Five*, all work, including by subsidiary bodies, should be carried out in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference .

Mr. President,

The Conference on Disarmament, in order to make substantial contribution must adopt a comprehensive and balanced programme of work for the 2010 session. The programme of work must envisage substantive outcomes on the four core issues nuclear disarmament, prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security assurances and fissile material treaty. Last three agenda items of the Conference on Disarmament are also important. The Conference, as part of a programme of work, can propose substantive discussions on agenda items 5, 6 and 7.

Mr. President,

We assure you as well as the incoming President Bangladesh of our support and cooperation in this regard.

I thank you Mr. President.