



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

UNDC SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

New York
15 April 2009

**Statement by Ambassador Farukh Amil, Acting Permanent
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations at the UNDC
Substantive Session – 15 April 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure for the Pakistan delegation to congratulate you, the Vice Chairs, Chairs of the Working Groups as well as Members of the Bureau at their election to positions of high responsibility in the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

2. Pakistan attaches high importance to UNDC as the specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery. This important forum enables the UN membership to hold in-depth deliberations on disarmament issues leading to concrete recommendations. In consonance with our national policy we assure you of our utmost cooperation towards ensuring the success of the 2009 Substantive Session as well as the remainder of the current cycle.

3. We align ourselves with the Group position of the Non-Aligned Movement so succinctly presented by Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Since the epoch making First Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in 1978 (SSOD-I) the lofty ideals of disarmament and international security have, frequently, been tested. We have seen the cherished goal of 'equal security for all' being eclipsed by unilateralism, narrow geographical groupings and inadequate attention to the security concerns of the developing countries. It is crucial to understand the security compulsions that underpin a developing country's desire to buttress its military capability at the cost of its social and economic development.

5. While it is encouraging to see signs of improvement in the quest for the cherished goal of disarmament a lot of work needs to be done. But above all, the world needs a genuine revival of the political will that gave us SSOD-I to ensure that the objectives of the momentous document do not remain confined to UN documents.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Besides the unfulfilled promise of disarmament we continue to see nuclear weapons occupying a central place in military doctrines. It is important for us to remember that the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons should not be relegated to the sidelines due to real and imagined non-proliferation fears. Only through an equitable approach and genuine empathy for the security concerns of all States can we hope to achieve nuclear disarmament. At the same time, we have to avoid discriminatory application of non-proliferation norms and the resort to military and coercive means to counter proliferation.

7. Pakistan's proposal for convening a Special International Conference to evolve a new consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation stems from its desire to see a global disarmament and non-proliferation regime that is in consonance with realities on ground.

8. Such a consensus can only be worthwhile if it:

- i) revives commitment by all possessor states to bring about complete irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament;
- ii) makes non-proliferation norms non-discriminatory;
- iii) normalizes NPT's relationship with non-NPT nuclear weapon states;
- iv) eliminates vertical proliferation;
- v) ensures fulfillment of every state's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
- vi) addresses the question of missiles in all respects including deployment of ABM system;
- vii) prevents militarization of outer space including development of anti-satellite weapons;
- viii) curbs numerical and technological escalation in conventional capabilities;
- ix) ensure full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- x) rejuvenates the United Nations Disarmament machinery including the Conference on Disarmament, United Nations Disarmament Commission and the First Committee;
- xi) addresses the question of fissile material on the basis of the Shannon mandate and the A-5 proposal for a universal non-

discriminatory and multilateral treaty which is internationally and effectively verifiable.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Genuine international security can only be ensured by a holistic approach wherein major power eschew picking and choosing as per national agendas and convenience. In this respect, regional approaches to security questions can strengthen such efforts at the global level. However, endeavours in this regard can be hamstrung due to procedural difficulties like we have seen in the case of the UNDC agenda. It is worth remembering that the solution to global security concerns lies, inter alia, in strengthening the United Nations Disarmament Machinery including the UNDC as the UN's specialized deliberative body. Weakening these institutions by design or default will only exacerbate our problems. No extra UN mechanism can be a substitute for institutions that enjoy universal ownership and legitimacy.

Thank you.