Statement by Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Counsellor, 
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations 
at the First Committee Thematic Debate 
on “Disarmament Machinery” 
New York, 02 November 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement. We also align ourselves with the Joint Statement made by the Russian delegation in support of the CD. In this context I want to clarify that there should be no misunderstanding or ambiguity whatsoever. Pakistan’s position with regard to FMCT, remain unchanged.

In the last three years, we have heard contrived concern over deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). According to this narrative, there is an impasse in this body for the last three years; and that the gridlock is only about one issue. The following facts however suggest otherwise:

    i) The CD has faced a deadlock over negotiations since 1996 – ever since the CTBT was concluded;

    ii) In fact the impasse over nuclear disarmament- the raison d’etre of the CD has existed for more than three decades;

    iii) Lack of consensus is not just about one issue. There is no consensus on all the four core issues on the CD agenda

    iv) The gridlock is not unique to the CD alone; there is a systemic deadlock in the entire disarmament machinery i.e. the CD, the UNDC and the First Committee;

Mr. Chairman,

There has also been much talk of changing the CD rules of procedures in an attempt to break the deadlock. Some important delegations have even called for redefining the consensus principle in the CD. My delegation is ready to work with other CD members on such a review or even reform of the CD. However, in our opinion, this prescription misses the fact that the CD was able to
successfully negotiate disarmament treaties i.e. the CWC and the CTBT with the same rules of procedure.

Pakistan also fully shares the majority view that there is nothing wrong with the procedures or working methods of the CD. The real problem lies in the external strategic environment which impacts on this forum. As we all know the CD does not operate in a vacuum and is affected by developments that take place outside its chamber.

**Mr. Chairman,**

To make progress in the CD, it is essential to ensure the security concerns of all States. This is the only way to unblock the CD. No treaty has ever been agreed nor it will be, by the negotiating States unless their legitimate security concerns are not accommodated.

There have also been efforts to explore other options to the CD. In our view, such attempts, perhaps well meaning, are contrary to the recognized international position adopted by consensus that the CD is the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament.

It will not be possible to elaborate elements or develop provisions of a treaty in an outside CD forum with limited membership and then try to bring it back into the CD for endorsement or adoption. It is very likely that the CD members, especially those not part of the outside option, would be willing to accept such conclusions or inputs.

Moreover, changing the forum or format will not overcome the fundamental obstructions. Worse still, there would be the temptation to seek outside CD options for at least some, if not all the issues on the CD agenda. Therefore, such a step will open a Pandora’s box for the CD and perhaps for the entire UN disarmament machinery.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, the CD is not a forum to only negotiate one item on its agenda – as is being argued by some. There are four core issues on the CD’s agenda and a way must be found to make progress on one if not the others. The criteria should be to make progress on one issue or issues that are not in conflict with the security interests of any member state.

In our view, negotiating an Instrument on Negative Security Assurances is eminently ready for negotiations as it is cost free in terms of security concerns/interests of any nuclear weapons state.

Thank you.