Explanation of Vote before the vote on Draft Decision "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" (A/C.1/69/L.20)

Mr. Chairman,

Last year my delegation had opposed this decision to set up a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on FMCT on the grounds that such a step would undermine the Conference on Disarmament as well as the fact that such a GGE, with just a discussion mandate, would bring no value addition to the CD’s deliberations on this issue.

Our assessment of the proceedings of the GGE so far, justifies our reservations. We therefore see no merit in continuing the work of this GGE at great cost to the meager resources of the United Nations.

The deliberations of the GGE have demonstrated wide gaps between the positions of the Nuclear Weapons States and the Non-Nuclear Weapons States over vital issues such as fissile material stocks, definition of fissile material, equitable verification procedures and entry into force. These are fundamental issues which cannot be resolved by a handful of states and even if they were to resolve these differences, their views will not be binding on the international community.

Another fatal flaw of the GGE on FMCT is the absence from its deliberations of two nuclear weapons states. As a result, this GGE is still-born.

By contrast, the CD remains the only appropriate forum for consideration of the fissile material issue. Not only are all the nuclear weapons states present in the CD but the mandate of the GGE can and has been the basis of substantive discussions on FMCT in the CD. The GGE is, therefore, a needless diversion and duplication.

For these reasons, the Pakistan delegation calls for a vote on this draft decision contained in the document A/C.1/69/L.20 and shall vote against it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.