PAKISTAN

Explanation of Vote on draft resolutions entitled “Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations” contained in documents (L.41)

I am taking the floor to explain my delegation's vote on resolution “Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations” contained in document L.41.

Pakistan remains committed to the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world through the conclusion of a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory, comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction. As a member of NAM, Pakistan is a sponsor of resolution 70/34 (and draft L.64) on the follow-up to the 2013 high level meeting of the UN General Assembly on nuclear disarmament that calls for the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a convention in the CD.

In setting nuclear disarmament as its highest priority, SSOD-I emphasized that in the adoption of disarmament measures, the right of each state to security should be kept in mind and that, at each stage of the disarmament process, the objective should be undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces.

Pakistan believes that this cardinal objective can only be achieved as a cooperative and universally agreed undertaking, through a consensus-based process involving all relevant stakeholders, in a manner that results in equal and undiminished, if not increased security for all states.

The resolution put forward by the sponsors requires some essential elements. These include: (i) having nuclear weapons possessing states on board; (ii) taking on board the vital security considerations of states; (iii) importance of the consensus rule for the conduct of negotiations that would help States protect their national security interests; (iv) Primacy and centrality of the established disarmament machinery; and (v) taking a holistic and comprehensive approach that is indispensable for nuclear disarmament.

In light of these important factors, my delegation has been constrained to abstain from voting on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.