Explanation of Vote before the vote on draft resolution “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices” (L.65)

I have requested the floor to explain my delegation's vote on resolution Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices contained in document L.65.

The consistent and principled position of my delegation on FMCT is well known. Pakistan believes that a cut-off only treaty that simply freezes the status quo would neither effectively serve the objective of non-proliferation, nor of disarmament. By perpetuating the asymmetries in fissile material holdings, it will be highly detrimental to strategic stability at the global as well as at the regional levels, particularly in South Asia. In South Asia, such a cut-off treaty would only serve to worsen the strategic imbalance that is resulting from the grant of discriminatory waivers and exceptions from long held nonproliferation norms.

A treaty negotiated or considered under the Shannon Mandate does not guarantee the inclusion of existing stockpiles of fissile material in a manner that addresses the concerns I have just outlined. Pakistan has presented concrete proposals in the CD to cover existing stocks in a broader Fissile Material Treaty. We remain open to considering other such proposals as well to make substantive progress on a Fissile Material Treaty (FMT).

The current resolution is aimed at replicating the unsuccessful approach of the ill-advised GGE that worked during 2014 and 2015. As a non-representative body that was essentially duplicating the CD's work, the GGE failed to make any meaningful progress on the issue of fissile materials. Its outcome was a rehash of known positions and self-serving arguments, distracting us from focusing on the real issues and security concerns that are preventing consensus on this issue - and that need to be addressed to facilitate consensus on the commencement of negotiations in the CD.

Pakistan engaged with the lead sponsors of this resolution in a constructive and positive spirit. We made several textual proposals and drafting suggestions. Our initial proposals were aimed at starting substantive work on a truly non-discriminatory treaty in the CD, addressing both the future and the past production of fissile material. Regrettably, the sponsors expressed their inability to take these suggestions on board and persisted with a divisive approach that would further undermine the established disarmament machinery. In order to avoid this outcome, we offered a revised set of proposals that clearly demonstrated significant flexibility from our side. We deeply regret that even this was not accepted by the lead sponsors.

This leaves us with no option but to vote against this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.