Statement made by Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative at the CD Plenary

11 June 2013

Mr. President,

- We wish to thank you for arranging discussion today on revitalization of the CD. We have carefully listen various statements and with respect to certain points raised would like to state our position.

- The challenges confronting us in the field of disarmament pertain not just to the CD but cover the entire disarmament machinery created by the SSOD-I, including the UN Disarmament Commission.

- The overarching reason for creating the CD by SSOD-I was to negotiate nuclear disarmament. Seen in this light, it is unfortunate that no progress has been made towards nuclear disarmament for the last 32 years.

- The G-21, which is the largest group in the CD, has also clearly stated that nuclear disarmament is its top priority in the CD.

- The Secretary General UN in his seminal speech in October 2008 gave the highest priority to nuclear disarmament and as a first step suggested that the nuclear weapon states to fulfill their commitments given towards nuclear disarmament.

- In order to assess the impasse at the CD, it is important to acknowledge the following basic facts:

  - CD’s work is a reflection of the prevailing political realities since it does not operate in a vacuum.

  - No treaty can be negotiated in the CD which is contrary to the security interests of any member state.

  - The lack of progress in the CD cannot be attributed to its rules of procedure. These same rules have made possible the successful negotiations of the CWC and the CTBT.

  - The reasons for the CD’s dysfunction lie in the real world outside the CD.
- The lack of consensus exists not only on one of the 4 core issues but on all 4 core issues. So there is no consensus minus one.

- From Pakistan’s perspective, the discriminatory policies relating to nuclear cooperation pursued by some major powers was creating insecurity and imbalance and Pakistan had been compelled to take a stand against nuclear exceptionalism, selectivity and discrimination.

Mr. President,

- An honest and objective approach to revitalize the work of the CD should take into account the following steps.
  
  o All issues needs to be treated in an equal and balanced manner.
  
  o Lack of progress on one issue should not lead to an impasse as other issues should be taken up for consideration.
  
  o Nuclear disarmament remains the longest outstanding issue and it needs to be taken up on a priority basis.
  
  o We are convinced that a treaty on NSA is eminently ripe for negotiations because such a treaty would not undermine the security interests of any state and would promote our common security in a substantive way.
  
  o The CD should take into account the legitimate security interests of all states.
  
  o Policies based on double standards, selectivity and discrimination should come to an end.
  
  o We should convene SSOD-IV to evolve a comprehensive programme to revitalize the international disarmament machinery.

Mr. President,

- The agenda of the CD consists of many issues of which there are the so-called 4 core issues. There is no agreement as to which particular issue is ripe or not ripe for negotiations. In view of the largest group of states in the CD, i.e. G-21 nuclear disarmament is ripe for negotiation. If there is no progress on nuclear disarmament, then negotiations for NSA and/or
PAROS can be taken up. CD’s inability to undertake negotiations on any of these core issues is of course attributable to opposition from some CD members.

I thank you Mr. President.