

## FIRST COMMITTEE – 80<sup>th</sup> UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

### Statement by Pakistan Thematic Debate: Conventional Weapons October 2025

**Chair,**

1. The limitation and reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments was recognized as a central pillar of general and complete disarmament in final document of SSOD-I. States possessing the largest military arsenals were assigned a special responsibility to take the lead.
2. Yet what we witness today is the opposite. Global military spending has reached record levels. There is underinvestment in peace, diplomacy, and development — the very foundations of collective security.
3. The regulation of conventional weapons has yielded limited success. Advanced weaponry continues to flow unchecked into regions of tension, aggravating conflicts and, in some cases, enabling atrocities and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by occupying states. The Human Rights Council has documented weapons transfers in areas where genocide has been taking place.
4. One must ask: What meaning do export criteria hold when their application remains subject to political or commercial interests?
5. In South Asia, one State emboldened by destabilizing asymmetries, has adopted aggressive security concepts initiating conflicts and destabilization.
6. Pakistan, for its part, neither wants, nor is engaged in an arms race in the region. We have put proposals on the table including on conventional force balance and arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels.

**Chair,**

7. Instead of focusing narrowly on managing the effects of the arms trade, the international community must also address the drivers of militarization — including longstanding disputes, doctrines of dominance, the commercial incentives of the arms industry, and the absence of accountability for states that export instability through the transfer of weapons.
8. As a CCW Party and all of its five Protocols, Pakistan remains fully compliant with their provisions. The CCW remains the most appropriate forum to address the issue of IEDs in a comprehensive and balanced manner.
9. The ongoing work within the ambit of the CCW on LAWS should continue with an aim to develop international rules through a new Protocol containing prohibitions and regulations.
10. We believe that the issue of illicit small arms and light weapons should be addressed holistically and in a balanced manner. The UN PoA strikes a careful balance between the legitimate security needs of states with the imperatives to address the issue of illicit arms both on supply and demand sides.

11. Pakistan remains concerned at the acquisition and use of modern and sophisticated illicit arms by terrorist groups, including those abandoned in our neighbourhood which are being used in violence against my country. These terrorist entities receive external support and financing from our principal adversary.

12. Lastly, we take note of ongoing preparations on through-life ammunition management. We underline that future work should be state-driven, inclusive, and transparent, with a focus on technological developments and regional approaches.

**I thank you.**

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