

FIRST COMMITTEE – 80TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION
Thematic Debate: Disarmament Machinery
New York, 28 October 2025

Statement by Pakistan

Chair,

1. The disarmament machinery — established following the SSOD-I — remains fundamentally sound in its design, procedures and methods of work. It has, after all, delivered landmark disarmament instruments over the decades.

2. However, in recent years, its output has fallen far short of expectations. This is hardly surprising. The current international security landscape is marked by deepening mistrust, renewed arms races, and conflicts that have eroded even the minimal level of understanding once possible during the Cold War. In such an environment, expecting progress on issues that directly engage national security interests is unrealistic.

3. Calls to “revitalize” the machinery often presume that the problem lies in its architecture or working methods. That is an oversimplification. The real obstacle is not procedural — it is political. States negotiate or withhold cooperation based on their threat perceptions and security imperatives. No change in working methods can override those calculations. A procedural fix cannot solve a substantive security problem.

4. What is needed, instead, is a realistic assessment of security requirements within the prevailing regional and global threat environment — and above all, a renewed commitment to the principle of equal and undiminished security for all States and principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

5. As the world’s sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament remains an indispensable pillar of the UN disarmament machinery. Its paralysis reflects not institutional failure but the larger strategic climate in which it operates. The same applies to the Disarmament Commission, the First Committee, and the various disarmament conventions that face similar political headwinds.

6. Overcoming this impasse in the multilateral disarmament machinery remains a challenging task. However, seeking pathways outside established forums, especially when pursued on a non-consensus basis and without the participation of all stakeholders, is counterproductive.

7. In the Pact for the Future, Member States agreed to revitalize the UN’s role in disarmament, including by recommending preparations for a fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD-IV). This is a welcome step. Yet, convening SSOD-IV alone will not suffice. It must serve to reaffirm our foundational commitments — and to implement them faithfully, learning from the shortcomings of the past and build a system fit for the future.

8. Any approach must rest on one basic premise: the recognition of the right to equal security for all States, in both conventional and non-conventional domains, and at regional as well as global levels.

Thank you.