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United Nations Disarmament Commission 2025 Session

7-25 April 2025

Pakistan Statement for the General Debate

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Pakistan associates with the NAM statement delivered earlier today.

I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on assuming their positions for the 2025 session. We hope that the second year of the UNDC's three-year cycle will mark consolidation of efforts to provide concrete recommendations on two important issues before us: nuclear disarmament as well as emerging technologies in the context of international security.

Mr. Chair,

Guided by the decision of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) in 1978, nuclear disarmament remains highest priority of the UN Disarmament Commission since its inception. The Final Document of SSOD-I acknowledged the time-bound elimination of nuclear weapons as an important goal for the international community. With the overarching objective of "undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces", SSOD-I recognized that disarmament should take place in such an "equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage".

Despite these commitments, there has been a clear lack of progress on nuclear disarmament in the decades following SSOD-I. Rather, hundreds of billions of dollars are being committed to nuclear modernization programs. We are witnessing unprecedented increase in military spending in recent memory, fueling ever-increasing arms race now turbocharged by technological advancements.

At the same time, the global security environment continues to deteriorate. The relentless pursuit of power and geopolitical competition has intensified in recent years, taking us further away from this important international priority. The largest

nuclear powers continue to shirk their disarmament obligations. And discriminatory policies in the nuclear domain continue to remain in vogue.

Mr. Chair,

While remaining firmly anchored in the fundamental principles of disarmament, our path forward cannot be devoid of prevailing realities. It is more relevant than ever to reaffirm our commitment to the foundational goals and objectives of nuclear disarmament. Towards this ultimate objective, the following considerations are important:

- a. Reaffirm fundamental principles of arms control, the foremost being the attainment of equal and undiminished security for all states.
- b. Demonstration by nuclear weapon states of a renewed commitment to achieve nuclear disarmament consistent with their legal and political obligations.
- c. Providing non-nuclear weapon states assurances that they will not be threatened with the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, by nuclear weapons states through a universal, unconditional, and legally binding treaty negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament.
- d. Direct causal relationship of conventional weapons with nuclear arsenals requires concrete measures to institute balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments, especially at the regional and sub-regional levels.
- e. Address the motives which drive states to acquire weapons to defend themselves, including perceived threats from superior conventional or larger non-conventional forces and the existence of disputes and conflicts with more powerful states.

We hope that the Commission will be able to make meaningful progress this year towards this important goal. On its part, Pakistan will continue its constructive engagement and contribution to our deliberations in the Working Group-I.

Mr. Chair,

Emerging technologies including cyber, automation, quantum computing, Artificial Intelligence and developments in biotechnology offer huge opportunities but also pose equally greater risks in the maintenance of international peace and security. Early and effective measures are essential to prevent the development, deployment and use of new weapons and technologies which can destabilize international security, disrupt disarmament and extend arms race into new domains – including outer space, cyber space and the oceans.

Artificial Intelligence is fast becoming pervasive feature of our daily life with profound impact on international peace and security. AI is being increasingly integrated into military operations, offering efficiencies but also posing risks to international peace and security. The use of AI in the military domain presents security, operational, technical, ethical, normative, and legal challenges, particularly concerning compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

The proliferation of military AI technologies, particularly autonomous weapons, risks initiating new arms races and destabilizing regional and global security environments. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that AI does not become another area of ongoing arms race with huge implications for global peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

The scale and novelty of AI's military implications require a multifaceted, holistic multilateral response. We believe that the United Nations should play a central role in international response to challenges associated with AI in military domain. We must prioritize consolidation of our efforts over selective approaches and fragmentation. In our view, the United Nations provides best universal platform for these discussions to ensure legitimacy and inclusivity with equitable participation of all Member States.

United Nations Disarmament Commission is uniquely positioned to undertake in-depth deliberations and offer recommendations on this important emerging area of international security. Within the Working Group-II, the UNDC could develop guidelines and recommendations on confidence building measures related to military AI applications both at global and regional levels. Practical guidelines may contain key elements including reaffirming normative foundations, recommending operational and technical risk mitigation measures, developing military AI risk reduction strategies, and addressing proliferation concerns while ensuring equitable access to peaceful AI uses.

Pakistan is ready to contribute to further deliberations on this important issue in the Working Group-II.

I wish a productive session to all and meaningful discussions during the 2025 session.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.