DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT

Pakistan: working paper

The General Assembly,

Considering that:

The concept of universal and collective security visualized in the Charter of the United Nations can become a reality if substantial progress is made towards the goal of General and Complete Disarmament. Despite the intense consideration of disarmament within and outside the United Nations, progress has been marginal and negligible. There are several facets and dimensions of the disarmament problem which require urgent solutions.

The greatest stimulus to the global arms race is the effort of the great Powers, especially the two major nuclear Powers, to maintain a strategic balance, primarily in Europe but increasingly in other parts of the world. The existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, continue to pose a threat to the very survival of mankind.

Efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons have not been accompanied by complementary steps to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race, to reassure the non-nuclear weapon States against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons and the ensure that all States accept and adhere to the goal of non-proliferation. The objective of nuclear non-proliferation cannot be furthered by restrictions on the transfer and development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes; on the contrary, such measures place needless strains on international co-operation and introduce a new element of division between the developed and developing countries.

The disproportion in the military strength and power between the industrialized and developing countries is an element in the existing inequitable world political and economic order.
The creation of a global strategic balance should not be an end in itself; nor should it be allowed to recreate the concept of spheres of influence. Such policies heighten the danger of local and regional conflicts.

The "opportunity cost" of the diversion of more than $1 billion a day to the arms race is incalculable. This irrational use of the world's finite resources distorts the economic development of all States, large and small, advanced and underdeveloped, contributes to the current problems of inflation, balance of payments deficits, energy shortages and has created economic and political obstacles in the way of establishing the New International Economic Order.

The development of technology is a destabilizing factor in the so-called strategic balance. Some newly developed weapons and those that are planned, such as FGMs and RCVs as well as developments in laser technology, will make possible the selective use of force and place in the hands of those who possess such weapons the capacity to dominate and control other States:

Therefore, declares:

(1) The achievement of General and Complete Disarmament under strict international control is essential to ensure universal peace and security, promote global progress and prosperity, and establish a new and stable international political and economic order.

(2) Disarmament is an integral part of the endeavour to evolve a new international order based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, especially those concerning respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the right of peoples to self-determination and national independence.

(3) Disarmament will be facilitated by an international climate of trust and confidence; in turn, the creation of such an international climate depends to a large extent on progress towards disarmament.

(4) The enormous expenditure on armaments by States do not contribute materially to their security but on the contrary intensify the international climate of insecurity and serve further to fuel the arms race.

(5) Nuclear weapons pose the most immediate and all-pervasive threat to international peace and security and to the very survival of mankind. It is, therefore, imperative to prohibit the use of such weapons, prevent their qualitative development, reduce and ultimately eliminate the nuclear weapons and delivery systems of the nuclear weapon States and take measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

(6) The promotion of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace are effective instruments by which non-nuclear-weapon States can promote non-proliferation, insulate themselves from the nuclear and conventional arms race and thus enhance their security.
(7) The objective of harnessing nuclear technology for economic development and preventing its diversion to military purposes can and should be fully reconciled without jeopardizing the respective fuel cycle policies of various countries or international co-operation, agreements and contracts for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which should be fulfilled in good faith in accordance with their terms and provisions.

(8) The progressive and balanced reduction of conventional weapons would be facilitated by measures to resolve outstanding disputes and remove sources of tension.

(9) The arms race and current global expenditures on armaments interpose significant obstacles in the way of establishing the New International Economic Order based on a rational and equitable distribution and utilization of the world's human and material resources and productive capacities.

(10) All States, both the developed and developing countries, should commit themselves to reducing their expenditures on armaments and divert the human and material resources saved thereby to economic and social development and improving the conditions of life especially in the developing countries.

(11) The United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, has the primary responsibility to promote General and Complete Disarmament and to oversee, monitor, facilitate and encourage all measures - unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral - in this field.

(12) Member States commit themselves to the following goals and principles which shall guide all disarmament efforts:

(i) The goal of disarmament negotiations is to achieve agreement on a programme which will ensure:

(a) That disarmament is general and complete and war is no longer an instrument for settling international problems, and

(b) That such disarmament is accompanied by the establishment of reliable procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes and effective arrangements for the maintenance of peace in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(ii) Agreements on partial measures of disarmament or non-armament will be productive only if these form an integral and sequential part of measures aimed at General and Complete Disarmament. Each measure and stage of disarmament should be carried out within specified time-limits;

(iii) Verification should be an essential component of disarmament agreements and measures;

(iv) Disarmament must be achieved, at each stage, in a balanced manner and ensure equal security for all States;

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(v) The primary responsibility for progress towards general and complete disarmament rests on those Powers with the largest nuclear and conventional military arsenals and on other militarily significant States;

(vi) The use of nuclear weapons, under any circumstances, is indefensible and should be considered a crime against humanity;

(vii) The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction must, as a matter of first priority, be curbed and prohibited and stockpiles and deployments of such weapons be reduced and ultimately eliminated altogether;

(viii) The non-nuclear-weapon States in particular have the need to be assured that their security will not be jeopardized by the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against them by the nuclear-weapon States;

(ix) The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones of peace constitute one of the most effective disarmament measures that can and should be initiated and accepted by the non-nuclear-weapon States;

(x) The nuclear-weapon States must undertake binding obligations not to introduce or station nuclear weapons in nuclear-weapon-free zones and Zones of Peace and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against States which comprise these zones;

(xi) All States have the right to develop, acquire, transfer and use, without hindrance, nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and to determine their peaceful nuclear programmes in accordance with their priorities, needs and interests. Access to nuclear technology should be available to all States under agreed international safeguards applied through the IAEA on a non-discriminatory basis;

(xii) The expenditure on conventional arms and the level of armed forces should be restrained and progressively reduced, in the first instance by the major Powers and other militarily significant States;

(xiii) Reduction in the arms expenditures and armaments of States should be achieved in a balanced and equitable manner;

(xiv) The financial savings and human and material resources made available through disarmament should be primarily diverted to promote economic and social development, especially in the developing countries.