



**Right to Reply by Mr. Gul Qaiser Sarwani, Counsellor Permanent
Mission of Pakistan to the UN, in response to India's comments,
During the UNDC General Debate
(2 April 2024)**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation is compelled to take the floor in response to the comments made by the delegation of India.

The observations made by my delegation might be uncomfortable for India, but they remain irrefutable facts.

It is a fact that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is on the agenda of the UN Security Council for more than 75 years.

It is also a fact that the Security Council in its resolutions decided that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir shall be determined by its people through a United Nations- supervised plebiscite. And, India is bound to comply with this decision in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter.

Mr. Chair,

Let me reaffirm that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and is not, by any means, a so-called “integral part of India.” Repeating a wrong position would not make it acceptable at any point or at any forum.

Contrary to India’s assertion, the situation in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India’s massive arms build up, aggressive posturing, and war-fighting doctrines are completely relevant to the Commission’s work, as they carry grave implications for regional and international peace and security - and hence impinge on efforts towards disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the draft programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, during the negotiation conducted by the Indian Presidency in January and February of this year, we witnessed once again an obsession with the FMCT on the basis of the Shannon mandate - which is a cost-free measure for nuclear weapons possessing states that have amassed huge quantities of fissile material stocks far in excess of their defence needs - unlike Pakistan, whose national security will be directly and adversely affected by a treaty that

only provides for a cutoff in fissile material production. The CD was again made hostage to a single issue that has been the principal cause of reinforcing its longstanding deadlock. Progress in the CD is contingent on the flexibility and compromise from all delegations. Failure to achieve consensus in the CD also reflects on the lack of sincere and inclusive efforts by the President to bring all member states on board.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding terrorism, Pakistan has rendered innumerable sacrifices in the international fight against terrorism and has achieved unparalleled success in defeating this menace. The threat of terrorism that Pakistan faces today is orchestrated, supported and financed by our eastern neighbor, which is a known state sponsor of terrorism. Previously it used to perpetrate terrorism against its immediate neighbors. Now, its terrorist franchise has gone global to countries farther away.

Pakistan has concrete evidence of its sponsorship of the terrorist organizations, which have carried out multiple attacks against our civilians and military targets. The captured spy on our soil, Naval Commander Kulbhushan Yadav, testifies to their vast terrorist network.

Mr. Chair,

We hope that the international community will play its due role in adequately addressing such attempts to undermine the peace and security of the entire region, which has a direct impact on prospects of disarmament at the regional and global levels.

I thank you.