

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 19 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITY DATED 13 JANUARY 2010**

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward herewith for your information and record copy of a press statement dated 13 January 2010 issued by Pakistan's National Command Authority (NCA), the highest decision making body on strategic issues chaired by the Prime Minister. This statement clearly articulates Pakistan's position on the work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

It is requested that this press statement may be circulated as an official document of the Conference.

*(Signed):* Zamir AKRAM  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Pakistan to the  
Conference on Disarmament

M16<sup>th</sup> NCA MEETING

**Rawalpindi, January 13:** The National Command Authority (NCA) met, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, to review matters of strategic importance to Pakistan. This was the first NCA meeting which was chaired by democratically elected Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The NCA expressed satisfaction on the safety and security of Pakistan's strategic assets and the effectiveness of Pakistan's strategic deterrence. It emphasized the importance of Pakistan's policy of credible minimum deterrence and the maintaining of strategic stability in South Asia. It also reaffirmed Pakistan's policy of restraint and responsibility and its resolve to continue efforts to promote peace and stability in South Asia. It underscored the need for prevention of conflict and avoidance of nuclear and conventional arms race in the region.

The NCA took note of the developments detrimental to the objectives of strategic stability in the region. It observed that instead of responding positively to Pakistan's proposal for a Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia, India continues to pursue an ambitious militarization programme and offensive military doctrines. Massive inductions of advanced weapon systems, including installation of ABMs, build-up of nuclear arsenal and delivery systems through ongoing and new programmes, assisted by some external quarters, offensive doctrines like 'Cold Start' and similar accumulations in the conventional realm, tend to destabilize the regional balance. This relentless pursuit of military preponderance will have severe consequences for peace and security in South Asia as well as for the Indian Ocean region. Pakistan cannot be oblivious to these developments.

The NCA took serious note of recent Indian statements about its capability to conduct conventional military strikes under a nuclear umbrella. Such irresponsible statements reflected a hegemonic mindset, oblivious of dangerous implications of adventurism in a nuclearized context.

The NCA further noted that the India-specific exemption made by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and subsequent nuclear fuel supply agreements with several countries, would enable India to produce substantial quantities of fissile material for nuclear weapons by freeing up its domestic resources.

The NCA reiterated that, while continuing to act with responsibility and avoiding an arms race, Pakistan will not compromise on its security interests and the imperative of maintaining a credible minimum deterrence.

The meeting reviewed plans for civil nuclear power generation under IAEA safeguards as part of national energy security strategy to ensure sustained economic growth. It welcomed the renewed international interest in nuclear power generation to meet the challenge of climate change.

As a country with advanced fuel cycle capability, Pakistan is in a position to provide nuclear fuel cycle services under IAEA safeguards, and to participate in any non-discriminatory nuclear fuel supply assurance mechanism.

It expressed satisfaction at the steps taken by Pakistan at the national level for nuclear safety and security, which continue to be important considerations in the context of national nuclear power development plans.

The meeting reaffirmed that, as a nuclear weapon state, Pakistan is committed to work as an equal partner in international efforts for general and complete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it underscored the need for non-discriminatory policies and accommodation of the reality of Pakistan's nuclear weapon status for promoting global non-proliferation goals.

It emphasized that promotion of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament objectives in South Asia are linked with regional security dynamics and the need to address existing asymmetries and resolution of outstanding disputes.

The NCA stressed that, as the sole disarmament negotiating forum, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva should play its due role in global nuclear disarmament.

As far as the consideration of a Fissile Material Treaty (FMT) at the CD is concerned, Pakistan's position will be determined by its national security interests and the objectives of strategic stability in South Asia. Selective and discriminatory measures that perpetuate regional instability, in any form and manner, derogate from the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and, therefore, cannot be accepted or endorsed. Pakistan will not support any approach or measure that is prejudicial to its legitimate national security interests.

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