

Honored delegates, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this illustrious convention. I have the honor of representing the great nation of Pakistan here today. We are gathered to discuss a matter of supreme importance, both to my nation and to the world. Because of the gravity of the matter at hand and its import for the security of every nation on the globe, we must be sure to leave no stone unturned in the search for an acceptable resolution. It is my hope that our deliberations will set a precedent for civility, respect, and mutual trust that can be extended to the many future negotiations among us.

I hope this conference will be remembered long after it closes for the agreements we will establish as a group and for the progress we will make. The nation of Pakistan greatly values its allies and prospective allies present at this conference. Your interests are in our interest. Indeed, all of us here have fundamentally the same goal: to preserve peace and stability in the Middle East. We will do everything within our power to ensure our security within the region and create new and mutually beneficial economic growth.

Territorial security and the safety of our population are paramount concerns in our modern age. National security threats are foremost in all our minds. Particularly, the disparate distribution of nuclear power, much of which is concentrated in the hands of a few power-hungry nations, represents a threat to the security of all others. Together, we at this conference must negotiate to relieve the suspicion and mistrust that plagues our relations and prevents us from providing reliable guarantees for the safety of others. When the merest actions taken in self-defense are interpreted as aggression, we find ourselves leaping out of the frying pan and into the fire. In such a state of uncertainty and fear, the peaceful nations of the world must maintain a broad range of options to protect themselves from the predation of certain larger nations.

Again, we are all here in the interest of global stability. Stability is essential for economic growth and global progress, two goals that Pakistan holds dearly. Each nation is responsible for the well-being of its people, and must be allowed to take the necessary steps to ensure prosperity and peace for its citizens. Pakistan believes that it is unjust to restrict the sovereignty of fellow nations by dictating the terms of their own economic security. The powerful should not be the only ones able to provide clean, reliable electricity at a reasonable price. Possession of the modern comforts derived from the technological inheritance of mankind should not be restricted to a few wealthy nations, but should be made available to all. Pakistan does not support unwarranted intervention in the affairs of other nations seeking only their own prosperity.

Fellow nations, your concern for the well-being of people around the globe is truly admirable. Global stability and prosperity are best served when the people of the world are served by a government with their best interest at heart. For this reason, benevolent governments seek to preserve their control over the territories they are

tasked with protecting; hoping that by doing so all will achieve greater happiness. But sometimes malicious governments insist on denying to their people the right to be ruled by confederates who share their concerns. Pakistan is no stranger to this problem. Every day, the people of the region of Kashmir cry out in suffering. They have been denied a benevolent government for far too long. The unjust occupation of Kashmir by a criminal regime that does not share its views and does not consider its needs must end. In solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren we demand that the UN sponsor a referendum within the region, so that our brothers may exercise their right to live free of foreign oppression.

The interests of all are served by stability in South Asia and the Middle East. Stability requires trust in government, and trust in government requires legitimacy. Therefore, global security will be improved if the people of Kashmir are allowed to decide on a legitimate government for themselves. Such a decision affects the entire region, to be sure, and as so many of our interests require security to proceed, it affects us all. We must insist that our deliberations here at this conference include providing an opportunity for the people of Kashmir to choose for themselves the terms of their rule. Because Pakistan considers this issue to be critical to the security of our region, and because we consider the security of our region to be of paramount importance to the world, all of our other interests must necessarily be made subordinate to that goal. The Pakistani delegation looks forward to discussing these issues in more depth, and we anticipate discovering that our common desires are not so disparate as we may think. Thank you.