

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 2008 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA TO THE CONFERENCE ON
DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM
THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHINA TO THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

I have the honour to forward to you a message from Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, addressed to the Conference on Disarmament.

I would be grateful if this letter, together with the message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): WANG Qun
Ambassador
Head of Delegation of the People's
Republic of China to the Conference
on Disarmament

**Message from Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's
Republic of China, to the Conference on Disarmament**

As the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament is entrusted with the important mission of promoting the cause of global arms control and disarmament. China attaches great importance to the Conference and has actively participated in the discussion on all the items on its agenda, prominent among which is that of prevention of an arms race in outer space.

At the current time, the issue of outer space has become an integral part of the everyday life of humankind and affects both the well-being and social progress of all countries. Through its unremitting efforts over the years, the international community has adopted a series of international legal instruments which have played a positive role in ensuring the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

Preventing the weaponization of outer space and an arms race in outer space and ensuring the peace and tranquillity of outer space are goals consistent with the shared interests of all countries. It is therefore essential that the international community develop new legal instruments to strengthen the existing legal regime on outer space. The United Nations General Assembly has, over a period of more than 20 years, adopted resolutions by an overwhelming majority which reiterate that the Conference on Disarmament must play a leading role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement to prevent an arms race in outer space.

In view of the above considerations, China and the Russian Federation have jointly prepared a draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects. It is our hope that the Conference will start substantive discussion and reach consensus on this draft as soon as possible. China stands ready to work with all other members of the Conference on Disarmament in pursuit of this goal. We also hope that, thanks to the joint efforts of all its members, the Conference will be able to make real progress in its work this year.
