



**General Assembly  
Security Council**

Distr.: General  
11 July 2016

Original: English

**General Assembly  
Seventieth session  
Agenda item 97  
General and complete disarmament**

**Security Council  
Seventy-first year**

**Letter dated 8 July 2016 from the representatives of China and  
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement on strengthening global strategic stability between the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation, signed in Beijing on 25 June 2016 by the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, and the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vitaly **Churkin**  
Permanent Representative  
of the Russian Federation

*(Signed)* **Wu Haitao**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the People's Republic of China

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 8 September 2016.



**Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2016 from the representatives of  
China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General**

Original: Chinese, English and Russian

**Joint Declaration of the President of the People's Republic of China  
and the President of the Russian Federation on Strengthening  
Global Strategic Stability**

We, the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation, attaching great importance to the maintenance of international and regional strategic balance and stability, make the following statement:

We are concerned by the current increase in negative factors affecting global strategic stability around the world. The danger of this trend is, first and foremost, that individual States and politico-military alliances seek to gain a decisive advantage in the military or military-technology fields, in order to be able, without the slightest hindrance, to serve their own interests in international affairs through the threat or use of force. Blatantly disregarding the fundamental security principle of undiminished security for all, they attempt to sacrifice the security of other States in favour of their own. Such policies lead to uncontrolled growth in military power, shaking the global system of strategic stability and running counter to the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Some countries and alliances, seeking to acquire military dominance, stubbornly refuse to discuss the reduction and limitation of the weapons that ensure their own decisive military advantage, which is an important cause of the undermining of global strategic balance and stability.

Developments in the field of anti-missile systems are of particular concern. The non-constructive behaviour of unilaterally developing and deploying strategic missile defence systems all over the world has a negative impact on international and regional strategic balance, stability and security, and also undermines the basis for the formulation and adoption of multilateral political-diplomatic methods to deal with the proliferation of missiles and missile technology.

It is worth noting that outside forces often use conjectural pretexts for the deployment of the "Aegis Ashore" system in Europe and the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the planned deployment of that system in Northeast Asia. These deployments are totally unrelated to the real challenges and threats being faced in the field of missile proliferation, are clearly inconsistent with their stated objectives, and will seriously damage the national strategic security interests of States in the region, including China and Russia. China and Russia strongly oppose them.

The Prompt Global Strike system and other long-range precision strike weapons under development in some States could seriously undermine strategic balance and stability and trigger a new arms race.

The threat of weaponization of outer space and transformation of outer space into an area for military confrontation is on the rise. Further development of this trend undermines strategic stability, and, consequently, threatens international security.

Under these circumstances the start of a negotiating process to draft a legally binding international agreement ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space, based on the China-Russian draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects (an updated draft of which was submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on 10 June 2014), is highly relevant. Promoting an international initiative/political obligation not to be the first to place weapons in outer space is also of great importance. This is consistent with the objectives of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects jointly submitted by China and Russia, and is conducive to achieving the goal of preventing the weaponization of outer space.

Arms control is an important means of strengthening international security and stability. Any measures in this field should be guided by the fundamental principles of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament held in 1978. These principles are highly relevant and significant. In particular, disarmament and arms limitation measures should be equitable and balanced in nature, and should be conducive to strengthening the security of each State.

The rising risk of non-State actors acquiring chemical and biological weapons to carry out terrorist acts and violent extremist activities is of great concern. The repeated use of chemical weapons by “Islamic State” militants in Iraq and Syria exemplifies such events. One way to deal with this threat is to improve the foundations of the relevant international law. Therefore, the drafting at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva of an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism has great relevance.

The international community is accustomed to viewing “strategic stability” as a purely military concept in the field of nuclear weapons. This fails to reflect the breadth and multi-faceted nature of contemporary strategic issues. To achieve the goal of defending peace and security, the concept should be viewed from a broader and more advanced perspective in which strategic stability is taken as a condition of international relations, with the following main features:

- In the political field, all States and groups of States should strictly abide by the principles and norms of international law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the use of force and coercive measures; respect the legitimate interests of all States and peoples in the settlement of international and regional hotspot issues; and oppose interference in the political life of other States.
- In the military field, all States should maintain their military capabilities at the minimum level required to ensure their national security; should deliberately refrain from taking any such actions as building up their militaries and establishing or expanding military-political alliances that may be seen by other members of the international community as a threat to their national security, forcing them to take countermeasures to restore the undermined balance; and should resolve their differences through positive and constructive dialogue, thereby enhancing mutual trust and cooperation.

China and Russia call on all members of the international community to take these principles, aimed at consolidating peace, security and stability, as the basis for action, and stand ready to strengthen dialogue, cooperation and exchanges with the international community on that basis.

President of the People's Republic of China  
Xi Jinping

President of the Russian Federation  
V. V. Putin

Beijing, 25 June 2016

---