

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 2007 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA TO THE CONFERENCE ON  
DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING REMARKS OF  
2 SEPTEMBER 2007 BY THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON CHINA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE  
UNITED NATIONS MILITARY TRANSPARENCY MECHANISM**

I have the honour to forward to you the remarks of 2 September 2007 by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on China's participation in the United Nations military transparency mechanism.

I would be grateful if this letter and the remarks attached thereto could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

*(Signed):* Cheng Jingye  
Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs  
Head of Delegation of the  
People's Republic of China  
to the Conference on Disarmament

**REMARKS BY THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
ON CHINA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS  
SYSTEM FOR TRANSPARENCY IN MILITARY SPENDING**

Beijing, 2 September 2007

The Chinese Government has adopted two major decisions in the field of military transparency. It has decided, with effect from this year, to participate in the United Nations system for transparency in military spending and to resume its participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the issue of military transparency and has made concerted efforts to promote military transparency and to build mutual trust with all other countries in the world. In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Chinese Government has decided, with effect from this year, to participate in the United Nations system for transparency in military spending and to report basic data to the United Nations on its military expenditure for the previous financial year. This measure represents a major step forward by China in raising the level of its military transparency and fully demonstrates China's positive attitude towards building mutual trust with all other countries in the world.

China has made significant contributions to the establishment and development of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. After the Register was created, China annually submitted data on its imports and exports of conventional arms in the seven major categories covered by the Register. From 1966, however, a certain country provided data to the Register on its arms sales to the Taiwan province of China and this ran counter to the spirit of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the objectives and principles of the Register. China was therefore constrained to suspend its own reporting activities. As the country in question has since stopped these practices, China has decided, with effect from this year, to resume its reporting to the Register on imports and exports of conventional arms in the seven major categories.

I would like to reiterate that the Chinese Government has all along taken a prudent and responsible attitude in its arms exports and applied strict controls to such exports in keeping with its international obligations and domestic laws and regulations. China has always followed three principles in its arms exports: the exports should be conducive to the legitimate self-defence capability of the recipient country; the exports should not undermine the peace, security and stability of the region in question and the world at large; and the exports should not be used as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of the recipient country. China has also set strict and clear requirements regarding the end-user of its exported arms. Recipient countries are not permitted to transfer arms imported from China to third countries without China's consent.

China's participation in the United Nations system for transparency in military spending and resumed participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms demonstrate that China is putting into effect a new security concept centred on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation and that it supports the key role played by the United Nations in promoting transparency in armaments and mutual trust in the field of security among States. China will continue to work with the international community in a joint endeavour to promote international peace and security.

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