

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear disarmament

Working paper submitted by China

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are important elements of global nuclear governance, and have a direct bearing not only on global peace and stability, but also on the security of all countries and the well-being of humankind. All parties should focus on global nuclear governance, further enhance their common understanding and cooperation, and promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a comprehensive, balanced and steady manner.

I. China's basic positions on nuclear disarmament are as follows:

(a) Universal security is the guiding principle of nuclear disarmament. A new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination should be pursued. The legitimate and reasonable security concerns of all countries should be fully respected and accommodated. Efforts should be made to build relations among countries based on mutual understanding and trust. International disputes should be resolved peacefully through dialogue on a basis of equality. Efforts should be made to create a peaceful and stable international security environment which provides the necessary conditions for further progress towards nuclear disarmament;

(b) Strategic stability provides the basic assurances needed for nuclear disarmament. The principles of maintaining global strategic stability and undiminished security for all should be observed. Attempts to seek absolute strategic advantages should be abandoned, as should programmes to develop and deploy missile defence systems which undermine global and regional strategic stability. Efforts to promote multilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space, should be vigorously pursued. The practice of providing a nuclear umbrella and the policy of nuclear sharing by some countries should also be abandoned;

(c) The step-by-step approach should be the fundamental means of promoting nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament should be a just and reasonable process of gradual reduction towards a lower-level balance. Countries



with the largest nuclear arsenals bear special responsibility and should continue to take the lead in making drastic and substantive reductions in those arsenals. When conditions are ripe, other nuclear-weapon States should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. The international community should develop, at the appropriate time, a viable long-term plan comprising phased actions that steadily promote nuclear disarmament until all nuclear weapons are ultimately eliminated;

(d) Existing mechanisms should constitute important platforms for dealing with nuclear disarmament. The authority, universality and effectiveness of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be maintained, and the important roles of such existing mechanisms as the First Committee of the General Assembly, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament should be given full play. Consultations on an equal footing and democratic decision-making on the basis of consensus will provide legal and institutional assurances for promoting the international arms control and disarmament process, including nuclear disarmament.

II. Proceeding from the above-mentioned basic positions, China proposes that, pending the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons, the following measures should be taken:

(a) All States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States at the earliest possible date, and should scrupulously implement the relevant obligations;

(b) All States should work together to promote the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, all nuclear-weapon States should maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions;

(c) The Conference on Disarmament should begin at the earliest opportunity the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the mandate established in document CD/1299, with the full participation of all the parties concerned. The United Nations group of governmental experts to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices should carry out its work in strict accordance with its mandate under the relevant General Assembly resolution;

(d) Nuclear-weapon States should abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on first use of nuclear weapons; not target their nuclear weapons against any country, or list any country as a target of nuclear strikes; ensure the security of nuclear weapons and avoid accidental or unauthorized launches of nuclear weapons; not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and negotiate and conclude a legally binding international instrument in this regard in the Conference on Disarmament at an early date; and support efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones or other weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zones.