

2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear disarmament and reduction of the danger of nuclear war

Working paper submitted by China

The Chinese delegation hereby requests that the following elements be incorporated in the report of Main Committee I and the Final Document of the Review Conference.

1. A security concept based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation should be pursued, so as to ensure common security for all and create a favourable regional and international environment for nuclear disarmament.
2. The international legal framework governing arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation should be preserved, and predictability of the development in international security should be enhanced.
3. Adhering to multilateralism is the right path to maintaining and promoting international arms control and disarmament, including nuclear disarmament.
4. Efforts in nuclear disarmament, preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons and peaceful uses of nuclear energy are mutually complementary and reinforcing.
5. The goal of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons should be achieved at an early date and an international legal instrument thereupon should be concluded, thus realizing a world free of nuclear weapons.
6. Nuclear disarmament should be a just and reasonable process of gradual reduction towards a downward balance.
7. States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should take the lead in drastically reducing their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding way.
8. Nuclear disarmament undertakings, including intermediate steps, should follow the guidelines of promoting global strategic balance and stability and undiminished security for all.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

9. The missile defence programme should not affect global strategic balance and stability or impair regional and international peace and stability.

10. Prevention of weaponization of and an arms race in outer space is in the interests of all countries, and the Conference on Disarmament is urged to negotiate and conclude relevant international legal instruments as soon as possible so as to prevent the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, and to promote nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

11. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an important step in the nuclear disarmament process. Countries that have not done so should sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible so that it may enter into force at an early date according to its provisions, and the nuclear-weapon States should continue to observe their moratoriums on nuclear testing.

12. The Conference on Disarmament should reach an agreed programme of work so as to begin at an early date substantive work on nuclear disarmament, banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons, prevention of an arms race in outer space and negative security assurances.

13. The Conference agrees to undertake the following measures to promote nuclear disarmament, reduce the danger of nuclear war and diminish the role of nuclear weapons in national security policy:

(a) To abandon the policies of nuclear deterrence based on the first use of nuclear weapons and lowering the threshold of using nuclear weapons;

(b) To honour their commitment not to target their nuclear weapons against any countries, nor to list any countries as targets of nuclear strike;

(c) To undertake that at any time or under any circumstances, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons; not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones; and to conclude relevant international legal instruments thereupon;

(d) Not to develop easy-to-use low-yield nuclear weapons;

(e) To withdraw and return home all the nuclear weapons deployed outside their own territories;

(f) To abandon the policy and practice of “nuclear umbrella” and “nuclear sharing”;

(g) To take all necessary steps to avoid accidental or unauthorized launches of nuclear weapons.

14. The realization of universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is of extreme importance and countries that have not yet done so should accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States at an early date.