

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Fu Cong
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Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs of China at the
General Debate in the
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the
2020 NPT Review Conference**

(23rd April, 2018 Geneva)

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair of this session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. I am confident that your rich experience and wisdom will lead this meeting to a success. The Chinese Delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation.

The NPT is the most important multilateral treaty in the field of international nuclear arms control. For the past half century since its conclusion, the Treaty has served as the fundamental legal basis and the key institutional guarantee for avoiding nuclear war, preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons, and bringing benefit of the peaceful use of nuclear energy to human beings. The status of the Treaty as international customary law is beyond doubt, and its Three Pillars, which are undergoing unceasing enhancement, have turned to be important components of the global security governance.

Mr. Chairman,

One year ago, the new review cycle of the Treaty began with uncertainties and questions waiting for answers from all of us.

Is the world getting more secure or insecure? On the one hand, peace and development remain the tide of the times. The call for nuclear disarmament by the international community goes even higher. The JCPOA on Iranian nuclear issue is being implemented effectively. Diplomatic settlement to Korean Peninsula nuclear issue encounters a new turning point. The cause of peaceful uses of nuclear energy has walked out of the shadow of Fukushima Accident, and entered into a new developing period. On the other hand, the U.S., with the largest and most advanced nuclear arsenal, uses untenable excuses to intensify its nuclear capability and nuclear

deterrence policy and lower the threshold for using nuclear weapons, which increases risks of nuclear arms race and threatens global strategic stability.

As the world is undergoing significant development, transformation, and adjustment, the nuclear disarmament process has come to a crucial crossroad. Should we uphold or abandon the existing disarmament negotiation mechanism? Should we continue to stick to the principle of consensus? Divergence between different disarmament routes is obvious, double-standard behavior related to nuclear non-proliferation is prevailing. Deficit of trust and governance in international security is prominent. The Treaty, though served as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation system, is facing unprecedented challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

To the above-mentioned questions, answers may differ among States parties. Nevertheless, we must recognize that, against the background of globalization, countries are increasingly becoming interdependent and sharing the common weal and woe. The cold-war mentality and zero-sum game mindset is outdated. Pursuing absolute security, overblowing great power competition and threatening to use military force will only raise tension and the risk of war, and make the world more insecure. The world could enjoy lasting peace only by the common security of all countries.

Historical experience demonstrates that, blaming each other will be of no help, and setting up new forums will be of no effective outcome. In this review cycle, we should remain true to our original aspiration, uphold the purposes and principles of the Treaty, safeguard firmly multilateralism, insist on equal dialogue and consultation, pool consensus and bridge differences, so as to comprehensively maintain and promote the authority, universality and effectiveness of the Treaty.

Firstly, respect each country's legitimate security concern. The current international security patterns roots from the integrated reaction among factors of historical evolution, geopolitics and national policies. A world free of nuclear weapons could not be achieved in one day. Based on the current international security reality, nuclear disarmament could only be pursued in a step-by-step manner, following the principles of "maintaining the global strategic stability" and "undiminished security for all". When addressing nuclear non-proliferation hot spot issues, we could neither break away from regional security environment, nor neglect the legitimate security concern of relevant countries. We should cultivate the awareness of a community of shared future for mankind, uphold a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, and build up a new form of international relations featuring

mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation. Besides, we should follow the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

Secondly, respect the tide of the times of peace and development. Comprehensive prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons go along with the tide of the times of peace and development, and is the universal aspiration of all countries. Before the realization of this ultimate objective, the will and right of non-nuclear-weapon States to be free from threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear war must be respected. Nuclear-weapon States should demonstrate their political will and take more concrete actions to fulfill their obligations under the Article 6 of the Treaty. In this regard, state possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bears special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should take the lead in substantially reducing those nuclear arsenals. All nuclear-weapon States should abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on first use of nuclear weapons and substantially reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines. Nuclear-weapon States should also commit themselves in a legally binding manner to no-first-use of nuclear weapons and to unconditional no use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones. At present, this is the most practical and valuable measure for nuclear disarmament, which is conducive to mutual trust among nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, and may in turn create favorable atmosphere for enhancing the Three Pillars of the Treaty in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

Thirdly, respect the Treaty mechanism. The international arms control and non-proliferation system with NPT as its cornerstone is an interconnected whole. It should not be treated partially or separately, for the slightest nudge to one part will cause the widest chain reaction of the rest. Double-standard and pragmatism, which may cause severe erosion to the authority and effectiveness of the Treaty, are the biggest enemy of the Treaty mechanism and the existing system. While implementing the Treaty, we must adopt the same standard from the beginning to the end and refrain from the behavior of supporting the Treaty when it 's in one's interest but ignoring it when it's not. Countries outside of the Treaty or refusing to undertake the Treaty obligations should not enjoy the dividend given by the Treaty mechanism. Arbitrary exceptions to the efficacy of the Treaty will make the Treaty an empty shell and even cause the complete collapse of the international non-proliferation system.

3

Fourthly, respect the previous review outcomes of the Treaty. The current review cycle does not come from nowhere and should not be started over again. What we need to do is to develop and innovate on the basis of previous heritage. Although the

2015 Review Conference ended without an outcome, Review Conferences in 1995, 2000 and 2010 witnessed their final documents. These review outcomes should be fully respected by all States parties. We should fully utilize the roadmap function of these review outcomes, engage in consultations with constructive attitude, break the stalemate on difficult issues, such as the Middle East WMD-free-zone, and enhance the these outcomes with our concrete actions.

Mr. Chairman,

China is committed to the path of peaceful development and has been actively promoting the build-up of the community of shared future for mankind. China will never constitute a threat to any state, and has no intention to become a strategic competitor of any one. China will not pursue absolute security at the price of other's interest. China has taken concrete actions to pursue the common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and firmly upheld the international nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation system based on the NPT. No States should misread or distort China's strategic intention.

China has always stood for the ultimate complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China sticks to a nuclear strategy of self-defense, adopts a highly stable nuclear policy, and firmly abides by its commitments of no-first-use of nuclear weapons and no use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones. China keeps its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security.

China supports the objective and purposes of *the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)*, and actively promotes the certification of monitoring stations in its territory. Four additional monitoring stations in China got certified last year. China supports the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to start the negotiation on FMCT on the basis of an agreement on a comprehensive and balanced program of work, pursuant to the Shannon Report (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein.

During the JCPOA implementation in the past two years, China has made in-depth participation, led the political direction and promoted implementation process. Under the current situation, we would continue our objective, impartial and responsible attitude and preserve the JCPOA together with all relevant sides.

On the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, China has always adhered to the political solution, held an objective and impartial position and endeavored to promote peace talks. Currently, the situation on the Peninsular has witnessed a hard-won relaxation. All parties involved should seize the opportunity and move in the same

direction. They should follow the “dual-track approach” by promoting the denuclearization and the establishment of a peace mechanism in the Peninsula simultaneously, in order to forge a future featuring lasting peace and stability.

China is making extensive international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, taking lead for nuclear security capacity building network at the regional level, and promoting the nuclear safety exchanges and cooperation in Asia and Europe, with the aim of advancing the international cause of peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

China, as already entered into a new era, will continue to firmly support the nuclear disarmament process, to uphold the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and to develop nuclear energy industry in a safe and efficient manner. We are ready to make more contribution to maintaining the global peace and stability.