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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Fu Cong,
on Behalf of the P5 States,
at the General Debate in the Third Session of the Preparatory
Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference
(1 May 2019, New York)**

Mr Chairman,

China, as the coordinator of the P5 process, is delighted to make a statement, on behalf of the P5, at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference to brief all parties on the latest developments of the P5 process.

At present the uncertain and unstable factors in international situation are on the rise. The international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone is facing more challenges. The P5 has made great efforts in strengthening NPT regime. Since China assumed the role of P5 coordinator last July, the P5 has successfully convened the annual formal conference in Beijing, held two rounds of informal consultations in New York, organized several rounds of ambassador-level consultations in Geneva, held two rounds of dialogues with the NPDI, and carried out dialogue in Beijing with diplomats of non-nuclear-weapon states in China and representatives of the academia

On 30th January 2019, under the Chairmanship of China, the P5 held the 8th formal P5 Conference in Beijing. Focusing on the theme of “Strengthening the P5 Coordination and Safeguarding the NPT Regime”, the P5 had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on nuclear policies and doctrines, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and other issues. A number of common understandings have emerged from the discussions.

First, the P5 undertook to jointly fulfilling the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The P5 recognized that the current international security environment is facing severe challenges, and maintaining sound relations with each other is of crucial importance to global strategic issues. The P5 agreed to have an objective assessment of each other’s strategic intentions, enhance dialogue on nuclear policies and doctrines, promote strategic trust and common security, and make utmost efforts to

prevent nuclear risks, in particular resulting from miscalculation and misperception. The P5 also recalled the importance of maintaining the existing international arms control architecture, emphasized the importance of compliance with all international arms control agreements, and reaffirmed their commitment to existing negative and positive security assurances. The P5 expressed their readiness to renew engagement with the parties to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, and continue to work towards the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Second, the P5 undertook to jointly safeguard the NPT regime. The P5 emphasized that the NPT constitutes the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime as part of the international security architecture, and reiterated their commitment to abiding by all provisions of the NPT and promoting its universality. The P5 agreed to work to make the international security environment more conducive to further progress on nuclear disarmament, and to achieve a world without nuclear weapons with undiminished security for all, through a gradual approach. The P5 hold the view that the TPNW contradicts, and risks undermining the NPT, and reaffirmed their opposition to the TPNW. The P5 undertook to make maximum efforts in seeking peaceful and diplomatic solutions to the challenges facing the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and support the IAEA to strengthen the safeguards system within its mandate. The P5 will promote international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and enhance coordination and cooperation on nuclear safety and nuclear security. As previously agreed, the P5 reiterated their commitment to submitting their respective national implementation reports by the 2020 NPT Review Conference, and to working together to make the Review Conference a success.

Third, the P5 agreed to enhance coordination and dialogue through the P5 process. At present, the international security situation is undergoing complex and profound change. Interaction among major countries has a bearing on the international security environment, the evolution of the international order and the confidence of the international community. The P5 agreed to maintain their strategic dialogue on nuclear policies and doctrines, strengthen their coordination in the NPT review process, and in this regard to explore follow-up measures. The P5 will continue to call upon all members of the international community to engage in an open and constructive dialogue. The P5 reaffirmed their support to China to lead the efforts to advance the work of the second phase of the P5 Working Group on the Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms. The P5 welcomed the offer by the UK to host the next formal P5 Conference in 2020.

Since the Beijing Conference, China has actively coordinated with its P5 partners to implement the outcome of the Beijing P5 Conference. In this respect, a number of progress has been achieved.

First, the P5 has started the work of the second phase of the P5 Working Group on the Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms. The Group convened its first meeting in Beijing last February, in which the P5 expressed their intention to achieve new tangible results to be submitted to the 2020 NPT Review Conference based on the previous outcome submitted to the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The discussions on glossary of nuclear terms help to promote mutual trust and reduce misunderstandings and miscalculations among the P5, thus constituting an important transparency measure on their nuclear policies.

Second, the P5 renewed engagement with the ASEAN countries on the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. China, as the coordinator of the P5 process, facilitated such engagement in order to make progress towards early signing of the Protocol while preserving previous consensus, which received positive response from the ASEAN countries.

Third, the P5 actively engaged with non-nuclear-weapon states. The Chinese Ambassador of Disarmament, as the coordinator of the P5 process, briefed a CD plenary session about the outcome of the Beijing P5 Conference, which is the first time in history that the P5 collectively expresses their views to CD members. Besides, the P5 had a dialogue with the NPDI in the Australian Mission in New York this morning and exchanged views on NPT review process and national reporting issue, which we believe contributes to enhancing mutual trust between nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states.

Fourth, the P5 actively strove to strengthen the NPT regime. In this respect, the P5 Ambassadors of Disarmament held several rounds of consultations in Geneva. They agreed to strengthen the significant role of the NPT in preserving international peace and security, and at the same time, empower the NPT with a greater meaning of serving global development in the new era, through exploring pragmatic and effective initiatives of peaceful uses of nuclear energy that benefit all parties.

Fifth, the P5 convened the second Principals Meeting in the Chinese Mission in New York yesterday. The P5 reached 5-points consensus on the next steps of cooperation: First, to conduct experts-level consultations to explore the possibility of explaining respective nuclear policy and doctrine through jointly holding a side event during the 2020 Review Conference. Second, to renew engagement with the ASEAN countries on the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty under China's coordination. Third, to support China's leadership on the the Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms with a view to achieving new tangible results to be submitted to the 2020 NPT Review. Fourth, to explore the way to strengthen cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, nuclear security and nuclear safety, through the Friends of the Nuclear Energy based in Vienna. Fifth, to push for substantive discussions on FMCT-related

technical issues in the CD.

In conclusion, on behalf of the P5, I would like to thank the non-nuclear-weapon states for their support to the P5 process. The P5 is ready to work with other delegations in a push for a positive outcome at this PrepCom in order to lay a good foundation for a successful NPT Review Conference in 2020.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.