

**2000 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Letter dated 1 May 2000 from the Permanent Mission of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations addressed to the
United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs**

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations has the honour to transmit to the Department for Disarmament Affairs the National Report on the Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by the People's Republic of China and requests the latter to circulate this Report as a document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Annex

National Report on the Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by the People's Republic of China

Since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (hereinafter referred to as "the Treaty") was extended indefinitely in 1995, the international situation has undergone complex and profound changes. A series of negative developments has occurred in the field of international security, seriously affecting the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. China has nevertheless continued to abide by the provisions of the Treaty, making tireless efforts to achieve the three major objectives of the Treaty: preventing nuclear proliferation, advancing the process of nuclear disarmament, and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In accordance with the requirement of the Treaty's 2000 Review Conference, the People's Republic of China is providing the following information concerning its implementation of the Treaty.

I. Prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons

China has complied strictly with its obligations under the Treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It has always taken a serious and responsible attitude, and firmly opposes the proliferation of nuclear weapons in any form to any country. It has consistently adhered to the policy of not advocating, encouraging or engaging in the proliferation of nuclear weapons and not assisting other countries in the development of nuclear weapons. At the same time, China believes that in the effort to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the legitimate right and needs of different countries, particularly the developing countries, to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should not be overlooked. Nor should double standards be applied in the name of non-proliferation in order to limit or hinder nuclear exports and nuclear cooperation between States for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

China has always maintained that strict control and management of nuclear exports can help prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and enhance international security. To that end, it has consistently adhered to three principles with regard to nuclear exports, namely, that they be used exclusively for peaceful purposes; that they be subject to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and that they not be transferred to any third party without China's approval. Besides taking practical action to exercise strict control over its nuclear exports, China is also taking steps to develop a sound legal regime for the control of such export. In May 1997, the Chinese Government issued a Circular on Questions concerning the Strict Implementation of the Nuclear Export Policy of China, which expressly states that nuclear materials and equipment and related technologies may not be provided to or used in nuclear facilities that are not under IAEA safeguards. In September 1997, the Chinese Government issued its Regulations of the People's Republic of China concerning Nuclear Export Control, which stipulate that no assistance of any kind be provided to nuclear facilities not under IAEA safeguards, that only nuclear export to entities designated by the State Council may engage in nuclear exports, and that the State must implement a nuclear export licensing system. Also, using similar lists with general international recognition as reference,

China has drawn up its own Nuclear Export Control List. On 10 June 1998, the Chinese Government issued its Regulations for the Export Control of Nuclear Dual-use Items and Related Technologies, instituting strict controls on the export of nuclear-related dual-use items and related technologies.

China has consistently supported and participated in international cooperation to prevent nuclear proliferation, actively fulfilling its international obligations. The Chinese Government announced in November 1991 that it would, on a continuing basis, notify IAEA of China's export to or import from a non-nuclear State of any nuclear material over one effective kilogram. In July 1993, China formally undertook to notify IAEA on a voluntary basis of the import and export of all nuclear material as well as the export of any nuclear equipment and related non-nuclear material. In May 1996, China undertook to refrain from providing any assistance to nuclear facilities that had not accepted IAEA safeguards, in other words, there would be no nuclear exports to them and no personnel and technological exchanges or cooperation with them. In May 1997, China sent observers to a meeting of one of the multilateral nuclear export control mechanisms — the "Zangger Committee", and became a full member of the Committee in October that year. Since 1993, China has actively participated in the negotiations on a model additional protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement, and made important contributions towards the completion of the model protocol. In August 1998, China reached an agreement with IAEA on concluding the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement and undertook to declare to the Agency any relevant information concerning its nuclear cooperation with non-nuclear-weapon States. China signed the Protocol on 31 December 1998.

Believing that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an effective means for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, China has consistently supported efforts to establish such zones on the basis of consultation and voluntary agreement among the States concerned. China signed Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in August 1973, ratifying it in June 1974; signed Additional Protocols II and III to the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty in February 1987, ratifying them in October 1988; and signed Protocols I and II to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in April 1996, ratifying them in September 1996. To resolve differences with ASEAN countries on the Protocol to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Free Zone as soon as possible, China actively participated in consultations with those countries with a constructive and flexible attitude, and reached agreement on the Protocol in July 1999. It also indicated its readiness to sign the Protocol as soon as differences between ASEAN and other nuclear States were resolved. Furthermore, China actively supports efforts by the Central Asian countries to establish a Central Asian nuclear-free zone and has participated actively in consultations with the States concerned. China also actively supports the efforts of Mongolia to become a nuclear-weapon-free State. It supports initiatives to establish nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, South Asia, and the Korean Peninsula, and endorses the resolution of non-nuclear-weapon States on the establishment a nuclear-free zone in the southern hemisphere.

II. Nuclear disarmament

China is active in supporting and participating in international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to advance the process of nuclear disarmament. It favours a comprehensive ban on and the complete destruction of nuclear weapons, as well as the conclusion of an international legal instrument for this purpose, in a manner similar to the comprehensive bans on chemical and biological weapons.

To eventually eliminate nuclear weapons completely, China believes that:

(1) Nuclear disarmament should be a fair and reasonable process of gradual reduction towards a downward balance, based on the principles of maintaining international strategic balance and stability and ensuring the undiminished national security interests of States;

(2) It is imperative for those States with the largest nuclear arsenals to assume special and primary responsibility in nuclear disarmament issues; they should continue to make significant reductions in their nuclear arsenals in order to create the conditions for the participation of other nuclear States in the multilateral nuclear disarmament process;

(3) To achieve progress in the process of international nuclear disarmament, there must be an international atmosphere of peace, cooperation and trust, in which all practices of hegemonism and power politics and attempts to gain absolute military advantage are forsaken, thus removing some of the basic motivations for States to develop or retain nuclear weapons.

As a nuclear-weapon State and a permanent member of the Security Council, China has never evaded its own obligations in nuclear disarmament. It is willing to join the multilateral nuclear disarmament process when the nuclear arsenals of the United States of America and the Russian Federation have been reduced to a level comparable to those of the other nuclear States, when the nuclear weapons being cut have been destroyed, when development and deployment of outer-space weapon systems as well as missile defence systems that undermine strategic balance and stability have been halted, and when all nuclear States have undertaken not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. China supports the “intermediate measures” of nuclear disarmament proposed by non-nuclear States. These are measures that should and must be taken. China is ready to consider the implementation of these measures at an appropriate time and under appropriate conditions in the nuclear disarmament process. For the time being, China has made significant contributions to the cause of international nuclear disarmament by unilaterally assuming some important obligations that other nuclear States have not yet accepted or are not willing to undertake.

First, China has adopted a rational nuclear strategy, firmly rejecting the policy of nuclear deterrence based on the first use of nuclear weapons. Ever since it first possessed nuclear weapons, China has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances. It appeals to all nuclear States to renounce the policy of nuclear deterrence and commit themselves not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. To facilitate negotiations among nuclear States on no-first-use of nuclear weapons, China formally presented a draft “Treaty on Mutual No-First-Use of Nuclear Weapons” to the United States of America, the Russian

Federation, the United Kingdom and France, in January 1994, and proposed that the five nuclear States should begin consultations on it as soon as possible. At the same time, China actively seeks to reach arrangements on a bilateral basis with other nuclear States for mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons. On 4 September 1994, Chinese and Russian leaders declared their commitment to mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons and non-targeting of such weapons at each other. On 27 June 1998, China and the United States issued a joint declaration announcing the non-targeting of nuclear weapons at each other. In April 2000, five nuclear States — the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France and China — issued a joint declaration announcing the non-targeting of nuclear weapons at one another or at any non-nuclear State.

China has also made an unconditional pledge not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State or nuclear-free zone. In April 1995 it issued a statement reaffirming that it would provide an unconditional negative security guarantee to all non-nuclear States, and promising to provide a positive security guarantee to such States. It appeals to other nuclear States to provide unconditional negative and positive security guarantees to non-nuclear States and to conclude an international legal instrument for this purpose as soon as possible.

Second, China's development of a limited nuclear force is intended solely for defence purposes, aimed at breaking the nuclear monopoly, preventing nuclear war, and, ultimately, eliminating nuclear weapons. China has shown great restraint in the development of its nuclear weapons, having conducted only 45 nuclear tests in the 32 years from 1964 to 1996. China has performed the least number of nuclear tests, and possesses the smallest nuclear arsenal. It has never been involved in the nuclear arms race and has never deployed nuclear weapons outside its borders.

Since the 1990s, as the international security environment has improved, China has gradually cut back on its nuclear weapons development programme. Its research and development site in Qinghai has been closed. After an environmental cleanup, the site was officially returned in May 1995 to the local Government to be used at its own discretion.

Third, China actively participated in the negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), making substantial compromises and sacrifices to facilitate the Treaty's conclusion. It announced a moratorium on nuclear testing in July 1996 and was among the first group of States to sign the Treaty when it was opened for signature in September 1996. China supports the early entry into force of the Treaty, in accordance with its provisions, and has already submitted it formally to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for ratification. China is also taking active part in the preparations for the CTBT Organization, undertaking to establish 11 international monitoring stations within China, and is giving full support and making complementary efforts towards the preparations for that Organization and the construction of the CTBT international monitoring system.

Fourth, China has consistently opposed the development and deployment of outer space weapon systems as well as missile defence systems that undermine global strategic balance and stability. To preserve global strategic balance and stability and maintain the momentum of progress in nuclear disarmament, China, together with the Russian Federation and Belarus, submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a draft resolution dated 1 December 1999 on

preservation of and compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. The draft resolution was adopted with the support of the great majority of Member States.

Fifth, China supports the negotiations to conclude a multilateral, non-discriminatory and verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. In April 1997, China, together with the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and France, issued a joint statement supporting the conclusion as soon as possible of a treaty banning the production of such materials on the basis of the mandate contained in the Shannon Report. Despite the current adverse developments in the area of international security, China's position of support for negotiations to conclude such a treaty remains unchanged. However, as there are still individual countries that not only possess huge nuclear arsenals and an oversupply of fissile nuclear material but also seek to develop national missile defence systems, China feels that the prevention of an arms race in outer space has greater urgency than a treaty to ban fissile-material production. China therefore asks the Conference on Disarmament to consider the issues of a fissile-material production ban treaty, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and nuclear disarmament in a balanced manner, paying equal attention to the security concerns of all parties.

Sixth, in order to advance the process of nuclear disarmament, China submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a proposal for a comprehensive and interlinked nuclear disarmament process, which called on nuclear-weapon States, *inter alia*, to negotiate immediately and sign a treaty on mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons; to undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States and nuclear-free zones; to conclude a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty and a fissile-material production ban treaty; and to sign the Convention on the Comprehensive Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. On 26 March 1999, President Jiang Zemin of China again gave a systematic elaboration of China's position on nuclear disarmament issues at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. He pointed out that the elimination of nuclear weapons, which would totally eradicate the danger of nuclear war, was an objective pursued unswervingly by the Government and people of China. China is willing to work together with all countries to further the nuclear disarmament process in order to achieve the noble goal of the comprehensive ban on and complete destruction of nuclear weapons.

III. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and international cooperation in this field is an important expression of the balance between the rights and obligations set out in the Treaty, as well as one of its most important objectives. It should receive the same attention as the other objectives.

As a developing country with a certain capability in the nuclear industry, China pursues mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty. It has signed intergovernmental agreements of cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy with 16 countries, including the Russian Federation and France, laying down the foundation for exchanges and cooperation in the nuclear field. In its activities of

peaceful nuclear cooperation, China has always adhered to the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality and mutual benefit. It has provided, within its ability, assistance to developing countries in such areas as nuclear power, nuclear medicine and the application of nuclear technologies. The Chashma nuclear power plant that China and Pakistan are building in cooperation is proceeding smoothly. China has exported a research reactor to Algeria, and neutron-source mini-reactors to Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ghana and the Syrian Arab Republic, enhancing those countries' capacity for scientific research and education in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. China helped Ghana build a Centre for Nuclear Medicine, contributing to the improvement of health care in that country. It is also participating actively in mutually beneficial cooperation with developed countries. Equipment and technologies for the four nuclear power plants under construction in China are being acquired from France, the Russian Federation, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom, among others. As China's reform, opening-up and economy move further ahead, its involvement in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will continue to expand both in breadth and in depth.

On the multilateral side, China has developed fruitful exchanges and cooperation with IAEA in such fields as nuclear power plant construction, nuclear safety, nuclear waste management and the application of nuclear technologies. China has consistently urged that IAEA should bear in mind the objectives set forth in its Statute and strive to "accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to world peace, health and prosperity"; and that its two major areas of activities — IAEA safeguards and promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy — should be pursued in a balanced manner. In its cooperation with the Agency, China is guided by the principle of give and take, engaging in cooperation that is bi-directional and mutually beneficial. It pays its technical cooperation assessments on time and in full, and, to the extent that its resources permit, also makes additional voluntary contributions. It plays host to scientific and technical personnel from developing countries for study tours and training in China, and sends experts at the Agency's request to provide technical services and give lectures for interregional projects and international training courses. At the same time, through such cooperation and exchanges with the Agency, China has gained much technical and management experience, which has had a positive effect in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy in China. China also participates actively in cooperative activities in nuclear science and technology in the Asia-Pacific region, making an important contribution to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in that region.

In order to comply fully with the obligations set forth in the Treaty to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and international cooperation in this field, China is of the opinion that technical assistance to developing countries should be further strengthened; that unreasonable restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technologies to developing countries should be eliminated; and that the development and utilization of nuclear energy by developing countries for peaceful uses should be given active support, so that nuclear energy can bring benefits to all mankind.