

Statement by the Chinese Delegation at the Main Committee II of the NPT  
2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and  
the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all  
other Weapons of Mass Destruction  
(4 May 2015, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

From the outside, please allow me on behalf of the Chinese delegation to congratulate you on your election as the chairman of the committee. I am confident that under your leadership, the work of the committee will be successful. You can count on the full support and cooperation of China.

Strengthening the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation and eliminating the risk of nuclear proliferation is in the common interest of the international community and it is our common responsibility. NPT as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime plays an important role in the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and the maintenance of international peace and security. China is ready to join the common efforts of the international community to promote positive outcome on the question of nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

There are complex root causes for nuclear proliferation, which should be addressed in a holistic manner and worked through in the following areas,

Firstly, international and regional security environment should be improved. States must respect and give due consideration to the legitimate security concerns of each other, and nurture a sense of community of common destiny so that a world of mutual benefit and common security can be built through win-win cooperation. Such an endeavor not only represents the fundamental way to eliminate the danger of nuclear proliferation but also the prerequisite for advancing the non-proliferation process.

Secondly, Concerns regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be addressed by political and diplomatic means. Parties should address their relevant concerns within the framework of existing international law, on the basis of equality and mutual respect and through dialogue. Parties should refrain from resorting to force or the threat of force, do not adopt double or multiple standards and or pursue other agenda in the name of non-proliferation.

Thirdly, the fair and reasonable nature of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime should be guaranteed, its authority and efficacy should be strengthened. States should work together to ensure that various obligations under the NPT are honored in a

comprehensive, faithful and balanced fashion and standard of proliferation prevention should not be judged on the basis of close or distant relations among states. In this process, multilateralism must be upheld, and the fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory nature of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime should be strengthened on the basis of democratic decision-making and broad participation of states.

Fourthly, NPT as the cornerstone of the process should be strengthened and consolidated, Its universality should be promoted. States that have not done so should access as non-nuclear weapon states and place all their nuclear facilities under the safeguard of the IAEA. The role of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations and agencies should be brought into play. The universality of the IAEA comprehensive safeguard agreement and its additional protocol should be promoted. The efforts of the Zangger Committee and the NSG should also be supported.

Fifth, balance the relationship between non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons will build an enabling International security environment for mankind to truly benefit from nuclear energy. Promoting the development of nuclear energy can also contribute to the achievement of non-proliferation goals. Nuclear non-proliferation should not sabotage the legitimate right of all countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the same time, countries should strictly undertake their responsibilities and honor their obligations on NPT provisions rather than carrying out proliferation activities under the pretext of peaceful use.

Mr. Chairman,

China is committed to enhancing the universality, efficacy and integrity of NPT. China firmly rejects nuclear proliferation in any form by conscientiously honoring its international obligations and effectively implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on non-proliferation. China has also continuously improved and strengthened its legal framework and legislation on export control for nuclear non-proliferation so as to guarantee the effective enforcement of non-proliferation policies.

China always respects and supports the efforts of states concerned in establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with their regional conditions and on the basis of voluntary agreements. Last April, China has ratified the Protocol to the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (CANWFZ). China supports the efforts of ASEAN countries in building a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in Southeast Asia and has resolved all outstanding issues related to the Protocol with ASEAN countries. China is ready to sign it as early as possible and without reservations.

Mr. Chairman,

China has always taken a responsible approach in actively engaging in international non-proliferation cooperation and has made relentless efforts towards the settlement of nuclear issues in certain regions.

On the Iranian nuclear issue, China always advocates peaceful settlement of the issue based on dialogue and negotiation which contributes to the maintenance of international nonproliferation regime and respects Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy as provided for by the Treaty. China welcomes the solutions on key parameters of a joint comprehensive agreement reached by the P5+1 and Iran at the foreign ministers' meeting in Lausanne last April, a symbol of crucial progress made in political and diplomatic efforts. At present, the six countries and Iran are stepping up their efforts in drafting the comprehensive agreement. China appeals to all parties concerned to cherish the progress made in the negotiations, continue to meet each other half way, and push for a comprehensive agreement that is fair and just, mutually beneficial and aimed towards a win-win outcome. As the member of the P5+1 mechanism, China has been closely engaged with all the parties concerned and has put forward a variety of "China's proposals" and "China's thoughts" from an non-biased, fair and responsible perspective. China will continue to play a constructive role in the negotiation in the final stage so as to contribute positively to the search for a comprehensive, lasting and proper resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue.

On the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, China has consistently aimed towards the denuclearization of the Peninsula and is firmly opposed to nuclear proliferation. It is also our firm belief that peace and security on the Peninsula should be maintained, and the relevant issues be resolved through dialogue and consultation. The Six-Party Talks remains the realistic and effective means towards the denuclearization of the Peninsula. All parties should continue to create conditions for its resumption. China is committed to continuously pushing for the denuclearization process on the Peninsula and preserving long term peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and across Northeast Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

According to the Action Plan of the Eighth NPT Review Conference, the International Conference on the Establishment of the Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of massive destructions was scheduled in 2012. China regrets that by far the conference has not taken place and expresses its full understanding and support for the legitimate concerns of the Arabic countries.

A Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of massive destructions, once established, will help ease tension in the region and enhance peace and security in the region and the world. It is important for the international community to continue to place high emphasis on and lend strong support to the efforts on establishing the Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of massive destructions. The international conference for this purpose must not be delayed indefinitely.

We welcome the proposed working paper submitted by the Arabic Group and the Non-Aligned Movement States to this Review Conference. We call on all parties concerned to fully demonstrate their political will and proactively hold discussions based on extensive consultations on how to go beyond the standstill and make breakthrough. This is the only way for this Review Conference to make joint decisions based on consensus and lay down conditions for an early convocation of this international conference. China is ready to actively participate in this process and provide all necessary support.

Mr. Chairman,

In the comprehensive working document submitted to this conference by the Chinese delegation, there is a chapter dedicated to China's proposition on “prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation”. We hope to see its contents reflected in the relevant reports.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.