

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Fu Cong
Head of the Chinese Delegation &
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, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair of the Second PrepCom for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. I am confident that your rich experience and wisdom will lead this meeting to a success.

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.

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 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.

Besides, 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 is facing unprecedented challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

Against the background of globalization, the cold-war mentality and zero-sum game mindset is outdated. Pursuing absolute security 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. In this review cycle, we should remain true to our original aspiration, safeguard multilateralism firmly, insist on equal dialogue and consultation, so as to comprehensively maintain and promote the authority, universality and effectiveness of the Treaty.

Firstly, respect each country's legitimate security concern. A world free of nuclear weapons could not be achieved in one day. When addressing nuclear non-proliferation hot spot issues, we could neither break away from regional security environment. We should cultivate the awareness of a community of shared future for mankind, uphold a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, in order 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. Nuclear-weapon States should take more concrete actions to fulfill their obligations under the Article 6 of the Treaty. In this regard, states possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament. All nuclear-weapon States should reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines, and commit themselves in a legally binding manner to no-first-use of nuclear weapons, which is the most practical and valuable measure for nuclear disarmament at present.

Thirdly, respect the Treaty mechanism. 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.

Fourthly, respect the previous review outcomes of the Treaty. We should fully utilize the roadmap function of previous 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. 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.

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.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.