

2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by China

China strictly abides by the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has been making unremitting efforts to achieve the three objectives of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to promote the universality, authority and effectiveness of the Treaty. In response to the request of the 2000 Review Conference, the Chinese Government hereby submits to the 2010 Review Conference the following report on its implementation of the Treaty.

I. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

China firmly opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and has strictly fulfilled its non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

1. China has earnestly undertaken its international obligations and fulfilled its commitment to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime

Upon joining the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1984, China undertook to fulfil the safeguards obligations under the IAEA statute. In 1985, China voluntarily agreed to subject its civilian nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards. In 1988, the Chinese Government signed the Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in China. Thus far, China has agreed to place 15 nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. In March 2002, China ratified the Protocol Additional to the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Agreement and thus became the first nuclear-weapon State to bring the Additional Protocol into effect.

In November 1991, the Chinese Government announced that it would notify IAEA on a continuing basis of its export to or import from non-nuclear-weapon States of any nuclear material of over one effective kilogram. In July 1993, China



voluntarily notified IAEA of all its import and export of nuclear material as well as its export of nuclear equipment and related non-nuclear material.

In May 1996, China pledged not to provide assistance to any foreign nuclear facilities not under IAEA safeguards, including nuclear export, personnel exchanges and technical cooperation. In October 1997, China became a full member of the Zangger Committee. In June 2004, China joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

China supports and strictly implements Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and has submitted its national report on its implementation of the resolution in a timely fashion. China actively participated in the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in September 2009 and supported the adoption of Security Council resolution 1887 (2009).

2. The Chinese Government has established and improved the legal system of nuclear export control to ensure the effective enforcement of its non-proliferation policy

China has exercised stringent control and administration over nuclear exports, abiding by the three principles governing nuclear exports, peaceful uses only; acceptance of IAEA safeguards; and no retransfers to any third party without the prior consent of the Chinese side.

In September 1997, the Chinese Government promulgated its regulations on the control of nuclear exports, stipulating that no assistance, in whatever form, should be provided to nuclear facilities that are not under IAEA safeguards; that nuclear exports should be handled by companies designated by the State Council; and that the State should implement a nuclear export licensing system. The regulations also provide for a rigorous examination system for nuclear export, severe punishment for violations and a comprehensive and detailed control list.

In June 1998, the Chinese Government promulgated its regulations on export control of nuclear dual-use items and related technologies, instituting strict controls over the export of nuclear dual-use items and related technologies and a licensing system for related exports. It established an exporters' registration system, procedures for the processing and approval of exports and punishment for violations of the regulations.

With regard to nuclear export control system, China has now adopted internationally accepted practices, including exporters' registration, end-user and end-use certification, a licensing system, examination and approval principles taking nuclear non-proliferation as a starting point, a list control method and a "catch-all" principle. These principles are consistent with international practices. The control lists under the regulations on the control of nuclear exports and on the export control of nuclear dual-use items and related technologies encompass all the items and the technologies listed by the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

The amendments to the criminal law of the People's Republic of China adopted in December 2001 define illegally manufacturing, trafficking and transporting radioactive substances as criminal offences and punishable by the Criminal Law. In February 2002, the Chinese Government promulgated its provisions on the safeguard and supervision of nuclear imports and exports and nuclear cooperation with foreign countries.

The Chinese Government issued two white papers on China's non-proliferation policies and measures and China's efforts on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in December 2003 and in September 2005, which gave a comprehensive account of its policies on the prevention of nuclear proliferation, including its non-proliferation policy and measures, export control systems, export control laws and regulations, the responsibilities of relevant departments for export controls and mechanisms for their coordination and for the investigation and handling of violations.

In November 2006, China amended its regulations on the control of nuclear exports; in January 2007 it also amended its regulations on export control of dual-use nuclear items and related technologies.

II. Nuclear disarmament

China has taken a consistent stand for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons and the conclusion of an international legal instrument for that purpose. To eliminate nuclear weapons, China proposes the following:

First, all parties should foster a new security concept based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination in order to create a favourable regional and international environment for nuclear disarmament;

Second, nuclear disarmament should adhere to the important principles of the maintenance of international strategic stability and undiminished security for all;

Third, States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should continue to take the lead in reducing their nuclear arsenals drastically and substantially, in order to create conditions for complete and thorough nuclear disarmament.

As a permanent member of the Security Council and a nuclear-weapon State under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, China has never shunned its obligations in the field of nuclear disarmament. It has adopted the following open, transparent and responsible nuclear policy, unique among all nuclear-weapon States.

1. China advocates the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and exercises utmost restraint in scale and development of its nuclear weapons

China is the only nuclear-weapon State to advocate the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. As early as 1964, on the very first day when it possessed nuclear weapons, China solemnly proposed to hold a world summit to discuss the issue of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

China is firmly committed to a nuclear strategy of self-defence. China's nuclear weapons are solely for the purpose of defence against possible nuclear attack and will never be used to threaten any other country. China has never deployed nuclear weapons on foreign territory or taken part in any nuclear arms race in any form. It never seeks nuclear advantage, nor competes with other countries in

terms of input, number or scale. China has kept its nuclear force at the minimum level required for national security. In recent years, China has maintained a limited input of the lowest level in the development of its nuclear force, which is solely for the purpose of ensuring the safety and reliability of its nuclear weapons and preventing accidental launching or nuclear safety accidents.

From China's first nuclear test in 1964 to its declaration on the moratorium on nuclear weapon tests in 1996, China conducted fewer nuclear tests than any other nuclear-weapon State. In the 1980s, China officially closed its nuclear weapon research and development site in Qinghai.

2. China sticks to its commitment of not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and opposes the nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons

China is the only nuclear-weapon State that has adopted the policy of no first use at any time or under any circumstances. Whether confronted with nuclear threat or nuclear blackmail during the Cold War, or faced with the drastic changes in the post-Cold War international environment, China has never deviated from its commitment and will never do so.

China has been actively promoting the conclusion of a multilateral treaty on no first use of nuclear weapons among nuclear-weapon States, and formally presented a draft "Treaty on mutual no first use of nuclear weapons" to the other four nuclear-weapon States in January 1994. In September 1994, the Heads of State of China and the Russian Federation issued a statement in which they committed to mutual no first use of nuclear weapons and non-targeting of such weapons against each other. In June 1998, the Heads of State of China and the United States of America announced their decision not to target each other using the strategic nuclear weapons under their respective control. In May 2000, the five nuclear-weapon States issued a joint statement announcing that they would not target their nuclear weapons at any country. In November 2009, the Heads of State of China and the United States reaffirmed, in a joint statement, their commitment not to target each other using the strategic nuclear weapons under their respective control.

China calls on all nuclear-weapon States to renounce their nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons in order to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons in earnest.

3. China also undertakes unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones

China is the only nuclear-weapon State which has committed unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones. In April 1995, the Chinese Government issued a statement reaffirming its unconditional negative security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States and its commitment to offering them positive security assurances. In 2000, China and the other four nuclear-weapon States issued a joint statement, reaffirming their security assurance commitment made in Security Council resolution 984 (1995).

At the request of Ukraine and Kazakhstan, the Chinese Government issued statements on security assurances to those two countries in December 1994 and February 1995, respectively.

China actively advocates the conclusion by the international community of an international legal instrument to unconditionally provide both negative and positive security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States at an early date and support the efforts by Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to immediately commence substantive work and negotiations in this regard.

4. China supports the efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones

China has always respected and supported the efforts of countries and regions to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones or zones free of weapons of mass destruction on the basis of voluntary consultations and according to their respective situation.

To date, China has ratified Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, Protocol II and III to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, Protocol I and II to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. China also joined the Antarctic Treaty, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.

China supports the efforts made by the countries members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and reached agreement in principle with ASEAN on the relevant issues concerning the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. China also welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, and has no difficulty with the current text of the Treaty and its protocol. China is willing to sign the relevant protocols at an early date when the above-mentioned treaties are open for signature.

China supports endeavours to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and hopes to see its early realization. China joined the consensus at the various sessions of the General Assembly on resolutions on establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

China respects Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and supported the adoption of relevant resolutions at the various sessions of the General Assembly. In 2000, China, together with the other four nuclear-weapon States, issued a statement undertaking to provide security assurance to Mongolia.

5. China firmly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and actively participates in the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

China supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and was one of the first countries to sign it. China has strictly abided by its commitment to a moratorium on nuclear testing. China supports the early entry into force of the Treaty and co-sponsored the resolutions on it at the First Committee of the General Assembly. China has also actively participated in all the conferences on facilitating the entry into force of the Treaty.

China has taken an active role in all the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and is steadily preparing for the national implementation of the Treaty, for which it has established a competent national agency to prepare for its implementation. China has undertaken the construction of 11 stations and 1 laboratory of the International Monitoring System, of which 6 seismic stations, 3 radionuclide stations, the Beijing radionuclide laboratory, as well as the National Data Centre, have been completed. The other two infrasound stations are under construction. China has also completed the domestic communications infrastructure, and conducted a full-fledged joint testing of the whole system. At present, China is working with the Provisional Technical Secretariat to prepare for the certification of the stations already completed.

China has taken an active part in the negotiations of the on-site inspection operational manual and other operational manuals. Chinese experts have carefully studied the on-site inspection techniques and developed a movable Ar-37 rapid detection system that can be used to quickly detect gases from underground nuclear tests. China actively supplied the system for the integrated field exercise held in Kazakhstan in 2008.

China has hosted several seminars and training courses in cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat, including a successful seminar on national data centres in Beijing in May 2009.

6. China attaches great importance to the safety of its nuclear weapons and has taken concrete measures to prevent the unauthorized or accidental launching of nuclear weapons

China attaches great importance to the safety management of its nuclear arsenals and has established sound regulations and procedures in this regard. To ensure the absolute safety of nuclear weapons, China: strictly implements rules and regulations for nuclear safety controls and the accreditation of personnel dealing with nuclear weapons; has adopted reliable technical means and methods; strengthens the safe management of nuclear weapons in the process of storage, transportation and training; continuously improves mechanisms and methods for emergency response to nuclear accidents; and has put special safety measures in place to avoid unauthorized and accidental launches. No accident concerning nuclear weapons has ever happened in China.

The decision-making and operational command authority of the Chinese nuclear force is highly centralized. The operations of the force must follow the orders from the Central Military Committee in the strictest and most precise manner.

7. China actively supports multilateral efforts on nuclear disarmament, and has made significant contribution to the multilateral nuclear disarmament process

China advocates that all nuclear-weapon States fulfil, in good faith, their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and publicly undertake not to seek permanent possession of nuclear weapons. When conditions are ripe, all nuclear-weapon States should join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. To attain the ultimate goal of complete and thorough nuclear disarmament, the international community should develop, at an appropriate time, a viable, long-term plan composed of phased

actions, including the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Over the years, China has voted for important nuclear disarmament resolutions at the General Assembly, including, most recently, resolution 64/57, “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments”, resolution 64/53, “Nuclear disarmament”, and resolution 64/27, “Conclusion of Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons”.

China supports the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in its substantive work on nuclear disarmament, security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive devices (fissile material cut-off treaty) and the prevention of an arms race in outer space in a comprehensive and balanced manner. In May 2009, China joined the consensus in the adoption by the Conference on Disarmament of its programme of work. China also supports the early commencement, within the Conference on Disarmament, of the negotiation and conclusion of a non-discriminating, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty, in accordance with the mandate contained in the Shannon report.

Chinese nuclear experts have been conducting extensive and fruitful research on verification measures and the technical means necessary for bringing about nuclear disarmament, such as nuclear warhead/components authentication technology and information barrier technology.

8. China continuously increases its nuclear transparency and improves strategic mutual trust with relevant countries

China’s nuclear strategy and nuclear policy has been consistent, open and transparent. China unswervingly follows the path of peaceful development, pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and a defence policy that is defensive in nature. China holds the view that nuclear transparency should be guided by the principle of “undiminished security for all” and that relevant measures should be adopted by countries on voluntary basis in line with their national situation, taking into consideration their specific security conditions. With the precondition of safeguarding national security, China has made continuous efforts and taken positive measures to ensure nuclear transparency.

Since 1998, China has published six white papers on national defence, clearly explaining its defence policy, military policy, force building and the nature and responsibility of the strategic missile force, its history of development and its structure and organization. China also actively promotes strategic mutual trust with relevant countries. Since 2006, the headquarters of the Chinese strategic missile force has received various visits from countries, including the United States and the Russian Federation. In September 2009, China participated in the permanent five conference on confidence-building measures towards disarmament and non-proliferation issues. These multilateral and bilateral exchanges fully demonstrate China’s sincerity on the issue of nuclear transparency and have played a positive role in building strategic mutual trust between China and other nuclear-weapon States.

9. Missile defence and outer space

China is of the view that maintaining global strategic balance and stability will lay a sound foundation for the international nuclear disarmament process. To that end, China is against the deployment of missile defence systems and relevant international cooperation that disrupt global strategic balance and stability. It also actively promotes the multilateral process of preventing the weaponization of and arms race in outer space.

Since 2005, China has continuously urged the international community to negotiate an international legally binding instrument to prevent the weaponization of and arms race in outer space. In 2006, China, together with the Russian Federation, submitted working papers to the Conference on Disarmament on transparency and confidence-building measures, definition issues, existing international legal instruments and verification aspects (see CD/1778, CD/1779, CD/1780, CD/1781, respectively). In February 2008, China and the Russian Federation jointly submitted a draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (CD/1839), and actively called for discussions in the Conference on Disarmament on the issue. In August 2009, China and the Russian Federation submitted a joint working paper entitled “Principal questions and comments on the draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects and Answers to Them” (CD/1872), answering questions from various parties regarding definition, application, verification and other aspects of the draft Treaty.

China has for years co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution on prevention of an arms race in outer space at the First Committee of the General Assembly. Every year since 2005, China has co-organized with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Russian Federation and Canada, seminars on outer space security in Geneva, facilitating extensive and in-depth discussion on issues relating to outer space security, such as prevention of arms race in outer space, outer space transparency and confidence-building measures and sustainability of outer space.

III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

China is actively dedicated to international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and holds the view that non-proliferation should not undermine the rights to the peaceful uses of the nuclear energy by any country, in particular developing countries.

1. China earnestly implements the statute of IAEA and actively participates in various activities of IAEA

Promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is one of the important objectives set out in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the statute of IAEA. China supports and actively takes part in IAEA technical cooperation activities and pays its assessed contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time every year. Following the principle of “active participation, give and take”, China has contributed human, material and financial resources to the Agency’s technical cooperation activities, while receiving the

Agency's assistance. By the end of 2009, China had provided voluntary contributions of \$35 million. China has also provided 800 person-days of expert service and 1,400 person-days on training and visits of foreign experts in China.

China actively participates in the negotiation and drafting process of relevant international conventions in the nuclear field. China has signed or acceded to 14 international conventions and agreements in this field, including the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Nuclear Safety. In April 2006, China acceded to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management Safety and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

In April 2009, the Chinese Government co-hosted, with IAEA, the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century, which facilitated exchanges and cooperation among the international community of nuclear energy and contributed to the development of nuclear energy in the world.

2. China is consistent in upholding the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit as it actively engages in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

China has signed intergovernmental agreements of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy providing the foundation for exchanges and cooperation in the nuclear field between China and more than 20 countries.

China has also carried out extensive and fruitful exchanges and cooperation, including personnel exchanges, equipment and technology acquisition and trade, with countries including the United States, Japan, Canada, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Australia. China has exported nuclear materials to the United States, Japan and Canada, among others, and has acquired nuclear power equipment and technology from France, Canada, the Russian Federation and the United States.

China attaches great importance to cooperation with other developing countries and always provides them with assistance, within its capability. All the cooperation in this area has been carried out either under the strict IAEA safeguards or as IAEA technical cooperation projects.

The Chinese Government actively supports multilateral cooperation in promoting nuclear technology development and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In November 2006, the Chinese Government signed the Charter of the Generation IV International Forum. In August 2007, it ratified the Joint Implementation Agreement on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. In 2007, China joined the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. In March 2008, China joined the Framework Agreement for International Collaboration on Research and Development of Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems. In October 2009, it hosted the third executive committee ministerial meeting of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, promoting more common understanding among the international community on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

3. China vigorously promotes its domestic peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to serve the sustainable economic and social development

China attaches great importance to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, coordinates the scale of development of nuclear energy with that of

other energy sources and pays attention to the rational utilization of resources and the treatment and disposal of radioactive waste. It also strives to balance economic efficiency with technological progress, and short-term with mid-term and long-term development. The development of nuclear energy will drive the development of related domestic industries and technological progress, thus promoting all-round progress in science and technology as well as economic and social development.

China has now established a fairly complete nuclear industry with certain scale of productivity. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy in China have entered a fast track of development. At present, nuclear power plants in operation in China have a total capacity of 9,100,000 kilowatts and have been running well. In addition, 28 nuclear power units are under construction, with a total capacity of 31,400,000 kilowatts. To achieve sustainable economic and environmental development, nuclear power, as a clean and safe source of energy, will play an increasingly important role in China's future energy structure. In nuclear power development, China will stick to the principle of "rely mainly on independent efforts while cooperating with foreign partners, promote domestic production while importing technologies", actively carry out international cooperation, study and acquire advanced technologies in various ways.

4. China attaches great importance to nuclear safety and security, firmly opposes nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism and actively fulfils its relevant international obligations

China participated in the drafting of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. China has started the domestic ratification process for the Convention and will actively move this process forward. In 2008, China ratified the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, further improving its safety and security system for nuclear materials, in compliance with the Convention. China strictly abides by Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009), and takes concrete measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring sensitive materials. China actively participates in international efforts to strengthen the management of radioactive sources, and supports the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. According to the requirements and principles contained in the code of conduct, China amended its regulation on the safety and protection of radioisotopes and radiation devices, which came into force on 1 December 2005. The Chinese Government actively promotes the nuclear industry in increasing their inputs in nuclear security, widely adopting internationally accepted norms and practices, and fostering a nuclear security culture within civil society.

China takes strict and effective measures in nuclear safety. It has established fully functional nuclear safety legal systems, management, monitoring and emergency response systems and has maintained a good record in terms of nuclear safety. China has enacted a series of laws and regulations in this regard, including the regulations on civil nuclear establishment safety surveillance, the regulations on the control of nuclear material, the regulations for the emergency management of nuclear accidents at nuclear power plants and the law on radioactive pollution prevention and control.

China actively supports and participates in the nuclear security cooperation of IAEA and other multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation in this regard. As an initial partner of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, China always actively participates in various activities under the initiative. During the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, China had good cooperation with IAEA and relevant countries in the field of nuclear security. In recent years, China actively provides nuclear security assistance to other developing countries. China has provided assistance within the realm of its capabilities to other countries in the region by way of technological demonstrations and personnel training. China actively participated in the Global Nuclear Security Summit held in the United States in April 2010. China is considering setting up a national nuclear security “Centre of Excellence” through cooperation with relevant countries in order to play a larger role in regional nuclear security cooperation.
