

Stance on Nuclear Disarmament and the NPT Review Conference

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I. Current Challenges

Currently, the NPT review process and other important multilateral mechanisms of arms control and disarmament have been faced with severe challenges. The world has entered a new era marked by turbulence and transformation, and geopolitical conflicts are frequently emerging. The risk of nuclear arms race or even the outbreak of nuclear war, are on the rise. The fundamental cause lies in the growing deficits in peace and security, and the grave dangers posed by hegemonic acts such as bullying the weak, seizing assets through deceit, and zero-sum games. Some countries are obsessed with cold war mentality, pursuing absolute security and absolute strategic advantage, continuously expanding military capabilities, and provoking military confrontations. This has led to a widespread rise in insecurity among nations, prompting them to strengthen their military capacities for self-defense. Meanwhile, the world is witnessing severe erosion of multilateralism, the international arms control regime, and global strategic stability. The global nuclear arms control governance framework is in a dire situation of partial collapse and lack of momentum, weakening constraints on nuclear arms races. Issues such as nuclear sharing and “friendly proliferation” becoming increasingly prominent, seriously undermining the international nuclear non-proliferation mechanism.

II. On the Nuclear Non-proliferation

The complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons serve the common interests of mankind. We believe that nuclear disarmament should be pursued based on the principles of "maintaining global strategic stability" and "undiminished security for all" through a fair and reasonable, rational and pragmatic approach. Countries possessing the largest nuclear arsenals should fulfill their special and primary responsibilities for nuclear disarmament and continue to make drastic and substantive reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally-binding manner, so as to create conditions for other nuclear-weapon states to join nuclear disarmament process. Meanwhile, nuclear-weapon states should reiterate that nuclear weapons must not be used and nuclear wars must never be fought, and issue a political statement in this regard in response to the fair appeal of non-nuclear-weapon states, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones. All parties should uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, abandon Cold War thinking, respect each other's legitimate security concerns, continuously improve the international security environment, effectively safeguard global

strategic stability, fundamentally eliminate the drivers of nuclear arms races, and advance the nuclear disarmament process.

III. On the NPT Review Conference

The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), serving as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, a crucial pillar of the international security system, as well as the important international law foundation for global security governance, has provided a solid institutional guarantee for avoiding nuclear war, preventing nuclear proliferation, and promoting nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind. All parties should firmly support the purposes and objectives of the NPT and properly address the relationship between nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament. We call on all parties to engage in full consultation on the basis of mutual respect for each other's security concerns, seek common ground while reserving differences, and work together to revitalize multilateral disarmament mechanisms. Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) as the largest non-governmental peace organization in China, calls on all parties to adhere to the original aspiration, uphold multilateralism, jointly promote substantive outcomes at the upcoming NPT Review Conference, and advance in a balanced manner the three pillars of the NPT: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in order to safeguard world peace and security.

IV. On the Specific Issues

- (1) The US has been trying to frame and smear other countries in order to evade international arms control obligations, which will impact its own international credibility. The US should reaffirm the commitment to the moratorium on nuclear testing, maintain the global consensus on the prohibition of nuclear tests, and refrain from creating excuses for resuming nuclear testing.
- (2) Recently, Japanese government promotes to revise the "three non-nuclear principles", and officials even publicly claim that "Japan should possess nuclear weapons". Such acts amount to a blatant challenge to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT as the cornerstone and the postwar international order, a serious threat to international peace and stability, and a U-turn from Japan's commitment to "peaceful development." The peace-loving people all over the world should be on high alert and firmly against the dangerous tendency Japan has shown on the issue of nuclear weapons. Japan should abide by international law and its Constitution and stop the venturing and provocative moves towards owning nuclear weapons.