

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
11 June 2019

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 101
General and complete disarmament****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Letter dated 7 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
China and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement on strengthening global strategic stability in the modern era between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation (see annex), signed and issued on 5 June 2019 by Xi Jinping, the President of the People's Republic of China, and Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation.

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 101, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ma Zhaoxu**
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China

(Signed) **Dmitry Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation



Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of China and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on strengthening global strategic stability in the modern era

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, based on the relations of comprehensive, equal and trustful partnership and strategic cooperation between the two states, conscious of their responsibilities for ensuring international security and considering the importance of maintaining global and regional strategic stability, state the following:

Recognizing that nowadays international security is facing serious challenges, the two sides intend to deepen mutual trust and strengthen cooperation in the strategic sphere, as well as persistently protect global and regional strategic stability.

The two sides intend to continue to act in the spirit of the Joint Statement by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the People's Republic of China on Strengthening Global Strategic Stability signed in Beijing on June 25, 2016, and confirm the importance of the principles set forth therein.

Russia and China note with concern the extremely dangerous actions of certain state that demolish or alter the existing architecture of arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to suit its geopolitical and even commercial needs. In pursuit of strategic advantage in the military sphere and "absolute security", and in order to gain unlimited capabilities of exerting military and political pressure on opponents, such state unceremoniously sabotages the mechanisms instrumental for maintaining stability.

The two sides stress the importance of preserving good relations between the major powers in resolving global strategic issues. Nuclear-weapon States bear great responsibility for maintaining international security and global strategic stability. They should resolve problems of mutual concerns through dialogue and consultations, enhance mutual trust, strengthen common security, as well as avoid misunderstandings and misguided strategic decisions.

The two sides emphasize that the nuclear powers should move away from the Cold War mentality and zero-sum games, stop the unrestricted development of global missile defense (MD) system, diminish the role of nuclear weapons in national security policy and earnestly reduce the threat of nuclear war.

The denunciation by the United States of America of the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems in 2001, that had been one of the pillars of the system maintaining strategic stability for three decades, was a prelude to the building-up of the U.S. global MD system. Actions of the U.S., particularly its plans to develop and deploy strategic missile defense assets in various regions of the world and in outer space, continue to have an extremely negative impact on international and regional strategic balance, as well as security and stability.

The decision by the United States of America to withdraw from the Treaty Between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (the INF Treaty) would undermine strategic stability, heighten tensions and mistrust,

drastically reduce predictability in the nuclear and missile field, lead to an arms race and increase potential risks of conflict in many regions of the world. Russia and China advocate resolving differences between the Parties to the INF Treaty through dialogues and consultations, restoring the viability of the INF Treaty and preventing developments towards the above-mentioned scenarios. The two sides intend to maintain close dialogues and coordination in this regard.

The collapse of the INF Treaty system can have a negative impact on the prospects of the Treaty Between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, that expires in February 2021. Thus, for the first time in decades, mechanisms of mutual supervision and transparency within the two major nuclear powers are at risk of total destruction with an extremely negative impact on efforts to create prerequisites for multilateral nuclear disarmament. This already complicates the situation in the world and affects international security.

The two sides underline that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is one of the pillars of the modern international security system, a unique international Treaty that harmoniously combines nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and equal cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy. The two sides advocate strengthening the non-proliferation regime, call on all state parties to the NPT to actively implement provisions of the final documents adopted at the previous Review Conferences and actively promote the three pillars of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, so as to contribute to a successful outcome of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

The two sides are of the view that the irresponsible approach of some states to the fulfillment of their NPT obligations is unacceptable. Such states should renounce the nuclear sharing policy and repatriate all nuclear weapons deployed outside the territory of the nuclear-weapon states.

The two sides underscore the significance of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and reaffirm their irrevocable commitment to the continuous and unconditional implementation of the agreement in conformity with the UN Security Council resolution 2231 and article 25 of the UN Charter. The two sides note with satisfaction the repeated confirmation in the IAEA reports of the Iranian side's strict compliance with its JCPOA obligations and declare that the unilateral U.S. sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran are unacceptable. The two sides call on Iran to refrain from further steps to cease the fulfillment of its JCPOA obligations and urge other JCPOA participants to fulfill their commitments.

The two sides believe that ban on nuclear tests is an important step towards a comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament and is of great importance to international security and stability. The two sides strongly support the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as well. Russia and China note that the U.S. statements on not seeking the CTBT ratification and start preparations of their nuclear-test site for potential resumption of nuclear tests undermine the CTBT. The two sides will continue to make every effort to facilitate the early entry into force of the CTBT.

The two sides believe that arms control is an essential tool for strengthening international security and stability. The UN and its multilateral disarmament machinery shall play a central role in the arms control process. The two sides advocate strengthening collective efforts towards multilateralism and deem it necessary to resume substantive multilateral work on the most topical issues of the arms control agenda with no politicization. Any measures in this sphere should be regulated by fundamental principles of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the

United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (1978). In particular, measures for reduction and limitation of arms should be equitable, balanced and conducive to strengthening the security of each state.

The realistic prospect of an arms race in outer space and it being turned into an arena for military confrontation that would undermine strategic stability has become a serious concern. Prohibition of the placement of weapons of any kind in outer space could avert a grave threat to international peace and security. All states should, above all, strictly comply with international law that provides for the peaceful use of outer space, including to maintain international peace and security, promote international cooperation and understanding among states. The international community should improve the relevant legal system by joint efforts.

Russia and China welcome the work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts, established to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, and express regrets that the US has blocked the adoption of the report of the Group.

The two sides advocate that the international community should negotiate a multilateral legally binding instrument that would provide for reliable safeguards against an arms race in outer space and the placement of weapons in outer space, based on the Russian-Chinese Draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects. The Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum has the primary role in negotiating an international agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. Transparency and confidence-building measures contribute to the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. Russia and China believe that the international community should actively promote the international initiative/political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space.

It is important to comply with and strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC), including by adopting the Protocol to the Convention providing for, inter alia, an efficient BTWC's compliance verification mechanism, as well as by joint efforts to counteract activities raising questions in the context of the BTWC. It is unacceptable to establish international mechanisms that duplicate the functions of the BTWC and bypass the UN Security Council.

The two sides highly appreciate the contribution that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons makes towards construction of a chemical weapon-free world, and stress that the integrity, effectiveness and universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction are of great relevance to preserving the purposes of and achieving the objectives of the Treaty, as well as to maintaining peace and security. The international community should deal with incidents of alleged uses of chemical weapons by observing the principle of depoliticization within the framework of the Convention.

The ongoing use of chemical weapons in terrorist activities and provocative behaviours, as well as extremist organizations' capacity to produce such weapons cause serious concerns. To address the threat of chemical and biological terrorism, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Chemical and Biological Terrorism should be negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament.

The two sides believe that the development of new science and technology, as well as their reorientation towards the military sphere may affect arms control, and consequently global security. This might also have an adverse impact on global strategic stability, cause a change in forms and methods of warfare, create new dangers and risks, and trigger stubborn legal, political and diplomatic challenges. The two sides aim to enhance cooperation, examine together the regulation of new strategic dimensions of security. The two sides also advocate that the international community explores, within the UN, a potential impact that scientific and technological advances can have on global security, as well as consider the issue of their legal regulation, while ensuring equal participation of all stakeholders and full consideration of their positions and concerns.

Russia and China express their continued commitment to working together to maintain and consolidate the hard-won system of international non-proliferation and arms control machinery. The two sides call upon the entire international community to support this approach and provide a balanced assessment of the implications of the actions aimed at undermining the existing system of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.
