
Conference on Disarmament

27 June 2019

English

Original: Chinese and Russian

Letter dated 11 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of China to the Conference on Disarmament and the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting the text of the joint statement by Mr. Xi Jinping, President of China and by Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation on strengthening contemporary global strategic stability adopted on 5 June 2019

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Chinese and Russian texts of the joint statement by the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir V. Putin on strengthening contemporary global strategic stability adopted on 5 June 2019.

We would be grateful if you could issue and circulate the letter and the annexed texts as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Li Song
Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs
Deputy Permanent Representative of China
to the Conference on Disarmament

(Signed) Gennady Gatilov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation



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

The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, basing their action on a relationship of comprehensive and equal partnership of trust and strategic interaction between the two States, conscious of their responsibility to ensure international security, and mindful of the importance of maintaining global and regional strategic stability, hereby issue the following statement.

The Parties recognize that serious challenges to international security have now arisen, and in this connection, they intend to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation in the strategic area and to resolutely defend global and regional strategic stability.

The Parties intend to further work together in the spirit of the Joint Statement of the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation signed on 25 June 2016 in Beijing to strengthen global strategic stability, and they confirm the importance of the principles that it set forth.

Russia and China note with alarm the extremely dangerous actions of certain States, which, acting in their own geopolitical and even commercial interests, are destroying or altering the existing architecture for arms control and for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to suit their needs. In pursuing strategic superiority in the military field with the intention of ensuring "absolute security", and with the aim of obtaining unlimited opportunities to bring military and political pressure to bear on their opponents, such States are unceremoniously destroying the mechanisms that work to maintain stability.

The Parties emphasize the importance of maintaining good relations between the major powers in order to resolve global strategic issues. The nuclear States bear the greatest responsibility for supporting international security and global strategic stability. They must eliminate mutual apprehension through dialogue and consultation, raise the level of mutual trust, strengthen common security and avoid strategic misunderstandings and misguided decisions.

The Parties specifically note that the nuclear powers must reject the "cold war" or "zero sum" mentality, halt the unrestricted development of a global missile defence system, reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security policies and effectively reduce the threat of nuclear war.

The denunciation in 2001 by the United States of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which for three decades had been one of the fundamental systems supporting strategic stability, was the prelude to its build-up of a global missile defence system. The actions of the United States, in particular its plans to develop means of strategic missile defence and to deploy them in various regions of the world and in outer space, continue to have an extremely negative effect on international and regional strategic balance, security and stability.

The decision by the United States to withdraw from the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) is capable of undermining strategic stability, of worsening the atmosphere of tension and mistrust, of drastically reducing predictability in the field of nuclear missiles and of leading to an arms race and increased potential for conflict in many regions of the world. China and Russia are in favour of resolving differences between the Parties to the INF Treaty through dialogue and consultation, restoring the INF Treaty as a viable instrument and preventing scenarios such as the ones described above. The Parties intend to support a close dialogue and coordinate their approaches in this field.

The collapse of the INF regime may also negatively influence prospects for the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, which expires in February 2021. Thus, for the first time in many decades, the risk has arisen that the mechanisms for mutual monitoring and transparency between the two major nuclear powers will be fully destroyed, which will have an extremely negative impact on efforts to establish the conditions for multilateral nuclear disarmament. Even now, it has seriously complicated the situation in the world and has had a negative effect on international security.

The Parties emphasize that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is one of the foundations of the modern international security system and a unique international treaty that harmoniously addresses the tasks of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and the right to cooperate on an equal footing in the harnessing of the atom for peaceful purposes. The Parties are for the strengthening of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime and call upon all countries participating in the Treaty to work actively to implement the final documents of the last review conferences; to actively push forward the three main aims of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of nuclear energy; and to facilitate the successful holding of the NPT Review Conference in 2020.

The Parties consider certain States' irresponsible approach to meeting their obligations under the NPT to be unacceptable. Such States should refrain from taking part in "joint nuclear missions" and return all nuclear weapons deployed outside the borders of the nuclear countries to their national territory.

The Parties emphasize the importance of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for the settlement of the situation of the Iranian nuclear programme and reaffirm their unstinting commitment to resolutely and unconditionally implementing these agreements, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and article 25 of the United Nations Charter. The Parties note with satisfaction that the reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency have constantly found that the Iranian side has scrupulously met its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and they hereby state that it is unacceptable for the United States to unilaterally declare sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Parties call upon Iran to refrain from further steps to halt the implementation of obligations in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and call for the Plan's other participants to respect their obligations.

The Parties consider that the nuclear test ban is an important step towards comprehensive and final nuclear disarmament and is of great importance for stability and security in the world. The Parties also strongly support the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. China and Russia note that the declarations by the United States concerning a refusal to ratify the Treaty and the decision to begin preparing a test site for further nuclear testing seriously undermines the Treaty. The Parties will continue to make every effort to bring the Treaty rapidly into force.

The Parties consider that arms control is an important tool for strengthening international security and stability. The central role in the arms control process belongs to the United Nations and its multilateral disarmament mechanism. The Parties are for increasing collective efforts in support of multilateralism and consider that it is essential to renew comprehensive multilateral work on the pressing issues on the arms control agenda and to depoliticize such activities.

Any measures in this field must be guided by the fundamental principles of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, held in 1978. Specifically, arms reduction and limitation must be equitable and balanced and must strengthen the security of each State.

The real prospect of an arms race in outer space and of the transformation of outer space into a scene of military confrontation, which undermines strategic stability, is of serious concern. A ban on the placement of weapons of any type in outer space could prevent the emergence of a serious threat to international peace and security. All countries must first and foremost scrupulously observe international law, which provides for the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including maintaining international peace and security, promoting international cooperation and expanding mutual understanding among States. The international community must work together to improve the relevant legal system.

China and Russia welcome the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts that was established to consider and develop recommendations for substantive elements of a legally binding international instrument for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, specifically including the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, and regret that the United States blocked the adoption of the report in the Group.

The Parties support the negotiation by the international community of a legally binding multilateral document that would provide reliable guarantees for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the placement of weapons there, on the basis of the Chinese-Russian 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 – the only forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations – plays a key role in negotiating international agreements for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, in all its aspects. Transparency and confidence-building measures help to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space. China and Russia believe that the international community must make active efforts to advance international initiatives and political commitments to refrain from being the first to place weapons in outer space.

Observance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction is of great importance, including through the adoption of a Protocol to the Convention, inter alia providing for an effective mechanism to verify compliance with the Convention, and also the implementation of joint efforts to counter activities that raise issues under the instrument. The establishment of international mechanisms that duplicate the Convention's functions and operate outside the ambit of the United Nations Security Council is unacceptable.

The Parties highly value the contribution of the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons in ridding the world of this type of weapon of mass destruction, and they emphasize 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 key importance to maintaining the substance and achieving the goals of this international treaty, and to maintaining peace and security. The international community must consider instances of the alleged use of chemical weapons on a depoliticized basis, in the framework of the Convention.

The continued use of chemical weapons in acts of terrorism and provocation, and the ability of extremist organizations to produce such weapons, is of serious concern. In response to this threat, multilateral negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament are needed to draft an international convention to fight acts of chemical and biological terrorism.

The Parties consider that the development of new branches of science and technology and their reorientation to the military may have an influence on arms control and, as a result, on international security. This may also have a negative impact on global strategic stability and lead to changes in the means and methods of warfare and the emergence of new dangers and risks and of intractable legal and political and diplomatic problems. The Parties intend to strengthen cooperation and together to analyse how to address the new dimensions of strategic security. The Parties also believe that the international community must, within the United Nations, study the possible effects of scientific and technological achievements on international security and consider the question of their legal regulation, while ensuring the equal participation of all parties and taking full account of their positions and concerns.

Russia and China express their unswerving commitment to work together for the maintenance and strengthening of the system of international mechanisms for non-proliferation and arms control that was formed after so much effort. The Parties call upon the entire international community to share this approach and to make a considered assessment of the consequences of actions aimed at undermining the existing system of agreements in the area of arms control, arms reduction and non-proliferation.

(Signed)

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

Vladimir V. **Putin**, President of the Russian Federation

Moscow, 5 June 2019
