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CONSIDERATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1990s AS THE THIRD DISARMAMENT DECADE

Recommendation on the basic elements of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade

Working paper submitted by China

I. General

In giving a brief review of the situation, achievements and problems of the 1980s in the field of disarmament, reference should be made not only to the encouraging changes that emerged in recent years in the international situation and achievements in disarmament, such as the progress in negotiations on a convention on banning chemical weapons, the convocation of such important international conferences as the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and the conclusion of the INF Treaty by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but also to the continuation of the super-Power arms race and its new tendency towards qualitative improvement and extension into outer space. Although the international situation has been somewhat relaxed, the danger of war is yet to be completely removed. The five goals set by the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/46, annex) are still far from being realized. It is therefore necessary and timely to initiate the Third Disarmament Decade. The international community should seize the favourable opportunity before it and vigorously promote the cause of disarmament in the next decade by adopting concrete measures so as to ensure international peace, security and stability.
II. Goals and principles

The goals of the Third Disarmament Decade should include the following:

(1) Halting the arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race. The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should take the lead in halting the testing, production and deployment of all types of nuclear weapons and drastically reducing their nuclear arsenals, so as to create conditions for the comprehensive nuclear disarmament process. As the first step, they should reach agreement as soon as possible on reducing by 50 per cent their strategic nuclear weapons;

(2) Concluding at an early date the convention on a total ban of chemical weapons so as to achieve soon the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of these weapons;

(3) Ensuring that the conventional disarmament talks in Europe achieve early results with a view to reducing tension and confrontation in the region and contribute to international security;

(4) Addressing the issue of preventing the arms race in outer space as a priority and taking concrete and effective measures completely to ban and destroy space weapons;

(5) Adopting effective measures to promote the realization of the goals and principles set by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

The principles of the Third Disarmament Decade should include the following:

(1) The validity of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2) and the basic principles contained therein should be reaffirmed;

(2) Vigorous measures should be adopted without delay to check the new tendency in the arms race towards qualitative improvement and extension to new fields. The utilization of nuclear energy and high technology to serve peaceful purposes should be underscored;

(3) The States possessing the largest nuclear and conventional arsenals bear a special responsibility for halting the arms race and realizing disarmament, and should take the lead in making concrete moves for drastic reduction of armaments;

(4) As the question of disarmament concerns peace and security of all States, it should not be monopolized by a few big Powers. All States, big or small, strong or weak, should enjoy equal rights to participate in the deliberation and settlement of the problems relating to disarmament. No bilateral agreement on disarmament should jeopardize the interests of other States;
(5) The activities and role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament should be strengthened;

(6) Bilateral and multilateral activities and measures for disarmament should promote and complement each other;

(7) Peace and development are major issues of today's world. To strive for disarmament is for the purpose of both peace and development. In order to maintain international peace and security, it is imperative to check aggression and seek just and reasonable settlement to regional conflicts. All States should strictly abide by the Charter of the United Nations and develop their relations on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. At the same time, efforts should be made to improve international economic relations and promote development and co-operation.

III. Activities

Appropriate and necessary expansion and adjustment should be made on the basis of the corresponding parts of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade in accordance with the above-mentioned goals and principles while taking into account the developments and changes in the past decade. For instance, under the item "Priorities", "prevention of arms race in outer space" should be added with a call that the States possessing the greatest space capabilities and engaged in the development of space weapons should commit themselves not to test, develop, produce and deploy space weapons and to destroy all their existing ones, and, on this basis, an international agreement should be concluded by all States on the complete prohibition and destruction of space weapons. In addition, under the item "Disarmament and International Security", it should be pointed out that the strict compliance by all countries in their external relations with the five principles of peaceful coexistence is not only the premise necessary for the establishment and development of a new type of State relations and that of a new international political order, but also the basic condition to bring about progress in disarmament.