DISARMAMENT COMMISSION
Agenda item 7

REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD
OF DISARMAMENT

Working paper: People's Republic of China

Basic position of the Chinese delegation on agenda item 7: Review
of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament

1. In accordance with the provisions of its Charter, the United Nations has a
central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. It should
facilitate and encourage all disarmament measures, whether unilateral, bilateral,
regional or multilateral, and it should be kept informed of all disarmament efforts
and developments, whether unilateral, bilateral, regional or multilateral, without
prejudice to the progress of negotiations.

2. In order to create favourable conditions for success in disarmament
negotiations, all States should strictly abide by the provisions of the Charter,
refrain from actions which might adversely affect efforts in the field of
disarmament and display a constructive approach towards disarmament negotiations
and the political will to reach agreements.

3. As the question of disarmament concerns the security of all countries, it
should not be monopolized by a few big Powers. Disarmament agreements between them
must not jeopardize the interests of other countries. All countries, big or small,
militarily strong or weak, should enjoy equal rights to participate in the
discussion and settlement of problems related to disarmament.

4. The United Nations is entitled to consider all international disarmament
issues. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, as the sole multilateral
disarmament negotiating body, has the right to conduct negotiations or substantive
work in appropriate forms on all international disarmament issues, particularly
those priority items for disarmament as stipulated in the Final Document of the
Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution
S-10/2). The implementation of these rights should not be limited or obstructed.
5. Multilateral disarmament deliberations and negotiations and bilateral, small-scale or regional disarmament negotiations should be mutually complementary and promote each other. As compared with the latter, the former have the central role and primary responsibility, manifested both in deliberations and concrete negotiations on the major disarmament issues having an overall bearing on and involving the security and interests of all countries, as well as in providing guidelines and basic principles for the bilateral, small-scale or regional disarmament negotiations. Participants in bilateral, small-scale or regional disarmament negotiations should constantly keep the United Nations and the multilateral negotiating body informed of developments in their negotiations. It should be more so when the subject matter of their negotiations concerns the wider interests of other countries beyond those of the participants.

6. The participants in bilateral negotiations should take an active and constructive part in United Nations disarmament deliberations and multilateral negotiations. They should not overlook or hinder multilateral negotiations on the pretext that similar disarmament issues are being tackled in bilateral negotiations.

7. The United Nations should constantly oversee the implementation and observance of international disarmament agreements and take prompt and necessary action against non-compliance. It should also take part in the establishment and implementation of a verification system for multilateral disarmament agreements on the basis of a consensus among Member States.

8. In order that world public opinion may acquire a better understanding of disarmament issues and exercise a still more positive influence on them, the United Nations should strengthen the dissemination of information on the arms race and disarmament with the full co-operation of Member States.