



OPANAL
Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

General Conference

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Agenda Item 6

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Statement by the People's Republic of China

Dear President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Your Excellencies and dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the secretariat as well as the member states for convening this conference during such a difficult time.

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean is an important step taken by the regional countries to maintain peace and security in the region and the world. It's of great importance to promote the nuclear disarmament process and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone of Latin America is the crystallization of regional countries' collective wisdom and serves as a good demonstration for the establishment of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones.

China always supports the establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone of Latin America. We've signed the Additional Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in August 1973 and ratified it in June the next year. China kept its promises and is faithfully complied with the policy of not using nor threatening to use nuclear weapons against, or to conduct nuclear test in the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone of Latin America. China will continue to honor its promises and push the other nuclear-weapon states to do the same.

China has all along committed itself to promoting the global nuclear governance, and supporting international efforts on establishing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. The Chinese Government has already signed and ratified the relevant protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Treaty of Rarotonga, Treaty of Pelindaba, and Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. China respects Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and firmly supports the ASEAN member countries to establish the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. China also supports countries in the Middle East to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions and relevant documents of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) review conference. For years, China has actively called on all nuclear-weapon states to undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and conclude an international legal instrument to this end.

Mr. President,

The 10th Review Conference of NPT will be convened next year. China attaches great importance to this treaty, which is the cornerstone of international arms control and non-proliferation system, and is committed to preserve its authority, universality and effectiveness. China is willing to promote the three pillars of the treaty in a balanced manner with the Latin American countries, uphold the existing international consensus on nuclear disarmament, push for a political and diplomatic solution to regional hot-spot issues, promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and create favorable conditions for a successful Review Conference.

China would like to remind everyone to pay attention to the latest challenges encountered by the NPT. The nuclear submarine cooperation among the US, the UK and Australia involves highly-enriched uranium. This is a flagrant violation of the spirit of NPT and has serious nuclear proliferation risks. The cooperation gives the international community every reason to question Australia's sincerity in complying with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations as a non-nuclear weapon state party to the NPT, and proves once again that the US and the UK pursue double standards and put narrow-minded geopolitical interests above

international nuclear non-proliferation rules. The international community should urge the three countries to go back on the right track and stop such irresponsible behavior.

Mr. President,

From the very day of possessing nuclear weapons, China has been an advocate for the comprehensive prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. China is committed to the policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances and undertakes unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states or nuclear-weapon-free zones. China's nuclear forces are always kept at the minimum level required for national security. China is the only nuclear weapon state to make and honor this commitment. China has never deployed nuclear weapons on foreign soil. China has never engaged in any form of nuclear arms race and nor will China ever do so.

Mr. President,

China appreciates the efforts made by Latin American countries to promote the nuclear disarmament process and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. China would like to make unremitting efforts, together with Latin American countries, to realize the ultimate goal of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and the realization of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Thank you.