Working paper on nuclear disarmament and reducing the danger of nuclear war, submitted by China

1. The complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons must be accomplished, thereby ushering in a world free of nuclear weapons. This will ultimately remove the threat posed by nuclear weapons to humankind and greatly enhance world peace and security.

2. To achieve the above objective, all States parties should respect one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity, abide by the Charter of the United Nations and other basic norms governing international relations, settle international disputes by political means and refrain from the resorting at the slightest provocation to the use or threat of force.

3. All States parties should pursue a concept of security based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, should commit themselves to the establishment of a new international political and economic order that is just and equitable so as to ensure common security for all, and should create a positive international environment conducive to progress in nuclear disarmament.

4. Efforts to preserve multilateralism and to combat unilateralism are important means of safeguarding and promoting the international arms control and disarmament process, in particular nuclear disarmament.

5. It is a matter for regret that the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems has been allowed to lapse. The maintenance of global strategic stability and the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation system is crucial for nuclear disarmament, and also responds to the essential interests of all countries. Missile defence programmes should not upset the global strategic balance and stability, nor undermine international and regional peace and stability.
6. Preserving the weapon-free status of outer space is in the common interest of all
countries. To that end, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should undertake
negotiations to conclude, at the earliest possible stage, a relevant international legal instrument
designed to prevent the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space and to promote nuclear
disarmament.

7. Any nuclear disarmament measures, including all interim measures, should follow the
principles of “maintaining global strategic stability” and “undiminished security for all” in a way
that is conducive to enhancing international peace and security.

8. The nuclear-weapon States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special
responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should take the lead in drastically reducing their
nuclear arsenals and ensuring that such reductions are made in a legally binding manner. The
decommissioned nuclear weapons should be destroyed. This will create conditions enabling
other nuclear-weapon States to join the nuclear disarmament process.

9. The reduction of nuclear weapons should be carried out in accordance with the principle
that it should, among other things, be effectively verifiable, irreversible and legally binding.

10. The role assigned to nuclear weapons in national security policies should be diminished
and the policy whereby nuclear attacks may be launched against other countries and the
threshold lowered for the use of nuclear weapons should be abandoned.

11. Each nuclear-weapon State must undertake not to aim its nuclear weapons against any
other country or to designate any other country as a nuclear strike target.

12. All nuclear-weapon States should undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons
and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or
nuclear-weapon-free zones at any time or under any circumstances and should conclude
international legal instruments for that purpose.

13. Nuclear-weapon States that deploy nuclear weapons outside their borders should
undertake to withdraw all such weapons and bring them back to their own territory.

14. No research and development work should be conducted on low-yield nuclear weapons,
which are more likely to be used.

15. The nuclear-weapon States should take all necessary steps to avoid accidental or
unauthorized launches of nuclear weapons.
16. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) marks an important step in the nuclear disarmament process. Countries that have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty should do so as soon as possible, so that the Treaty may enter into force at the earliest possible date, in accordance with its provisions. Nuclear-weapon States should maintain their moratoriums on nuclear testing.

17. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should, at the earliest possible date and on the basis of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work, begin negotiations on nuclear disarmament and a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

18. We welcome and appreciate the accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by Cuba. Countries that have not yet done so are urged to accede to the Treaty at the earliest possible date.

19. Once the above-mentioned measures have been conducted, a treaty on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons should be negotiated and concluded, thus bringing into existence a world free of nuclear weapons.