Statement by Li Chijiang, Secretary General of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
(New York, May 2019)

Distinguished Chairperson and delegates,

Over the past years, the international security situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. Competition among major powers and geopolitical issues are intertwined, progress in global security governance remain stagnant, existing international arms control and non-proliferation mechanisms are under severe pressure, and the impact of large-scale application of emerging science and technology in the military field on global strategic stability is becoming increasingly prominent.

As the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and global security, the challenges and opportunities faced by NPT coexist. On the one hand, the United States pursues unilateralism policy, adopts such negative measures as "expanding military capability, discarding treaties and withdrawing from multilateralism", lowers the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, withdraws from the INF treaty, push forward global anti-missile deployment and seeks its absolute security and global hegemony, which seriously affects global strategic stability. We are deeply concerned about such trend.

On the other hand, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has issued a new disarmament agenda to inject new vitality into the multilateral arms control and disarmament process. The situation on the Korean Peninsula has taken a turn for the better. China's initiative of "double suspension" and "dual-track approach" has been welcomed by the international community. The leaders of the United States and DPRK, DPRK and ROK held summit meetings, which created conditions for the peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. With the joint efforts of relevant parties, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iranian nuclear issue has been continuously implemented and the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and the authority of the United Nations have been safeguarded. In order to advance the NPT review process, China hosted the Beijing P5 Conference. All parties conducted in-depth exchanges of views on
nuclear strategy, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and reached many important consensuses. We welcome these positive achievements.

We call on all countries to uphold multilateralism and take decisive action to promote the success of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. First, demonstrate political will and action, to further strengthen the universality, authority and effectiveness of NPT, and to promote the three pillars of NPT in an all-round and balanced manner. Second, strengthen dialogue and consultation, discard "unilateralism" and "double standards", promote peaceful solutions to hotspot issues in nuclear non-proliferation areas. Third, follow the principle of "undiminished security for all", reduce the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines, commit no-first-use of nuclear weapons, safeguard the new START and the INF treaties, and realize the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons in a step-by-step manner. Fourth, strengthen international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promote nuclear safety and security, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

NPT constitutes the cornerstone of the existing international security architecture, which is unshakable. Governments and non-governmental organizations should strengthen communication and make joint efforts to build a community of shared future and a world of lasting peace and universal security. China Arms Control and Disarmament Association has successfully held a public event of the Beijing P5 Conference, inviting the heads of P5 delegations to communicate with think tanks, scholars, media and diplomatic missions, thus enhanced mutual trust among different stakeholders of arms control community. In order to promote the NPT review process, China Arms Control and Disarmament Association will work with partners from Chinese and American think tanks, to hold 16th PIIC Seminar on International Security in October this year. We are ready to continue to contribute to the success of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.