

**Statement of the Chinese Delegation on
the vote of resolutions related to "nuclear disarmament"
(28 October 2004)**

Mr. Chairman,

Before voting on the three nuclear disarmament draft resolutions L.22, L.23 and L.26, the Chinese delegation would like to explain its voting position in the context of China's basic positions and policy towards nuclear disarmament.

China has all along stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. In the process of promoting this objective, we believe that the following are indispensable:

-- Any nuclear disarmament measures, including interim steps, should follow the principle of maintaining global strategic stability and undiminished security for all countries.

-- Countries with the largest and most advanced nuclear arsenals should further substantially cut down their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner, thus creating favorable conditions for achieving complete nuclear disarmament.

-- All nuclear-weapon states should undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and unconditionally undertake not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones.

-- Preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in the outer-space would be conducive to promoting the process of nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the main thrust, objective and content of the draft resolutions L.25 and the other two for promoting nuclear disarmament and realizing a nuclear-weapon-free world at an early date. However, they have not reflected some of the basic points as mentioned above, thus further improvements are warranted.

As for the draft resolution L.22, entitled "A new agenda: Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments", we would vote in favor. Nevertheless, we have some reservations on some parts of this resolution. Such as, it fails to reflect "no-first-use of nuclear weapons" and "the prevention of an arms race in outer-spaces being conducive to promoting nuclear disarmament process". On the transparency of nuclear weapons, it fails to mention that nuclear transparency is related to an international environment of peace, stability and trust, and should be considered in the process of nuclear disarmament negotiation. In addition, the concept and definition of "non-strategic nuclear weapons" as mentioned in this resolution are not clear.

We will abstain on the draft resolution L. 23, entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons", as it fails to mention some fundamental principles of nuclear disarmament and a few measures it advocates are premature to be implemented under the current international situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.