

(Mr. Wu Xueqian, China)

socialist modernization drive today. The Chinese people hope to approach and catch up with the developed countries in terms of economic development through the hard work of several generations. Therefore, China needs an international environment of durable peace -- peace not only in this century but also in the next century. For this purpose the Chinese Government has been conducting its foreign affairs with the basic objective of opposing hegemonism and power politics, maintaining world peace, developing friendly co-operation with other countries and promoting common economic prosperity. China will not enter into alliance or a strategic relationship with any super-Power. It will endeavour to establish and develop friendly relations in co-operation with other countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Upholding the arms race and promoting the realization of disarmament is an important part of China's independent foreign policy of peace. China maintains that the arms race, nuclear or conventional, on the ground or in space, should be brought to an end. China has always stood for the complete prohibition and the thorough destruction of nuclear, chemical, biological and space weapons as well as a substantial reduction of conventional arms. China is in favour of the peaceful use of outer space and is opposed to the arms race in outer space no matter who conducts it and in what form. The development of space weaponry will lead to further intensification and escalation of the arms race and greater tension and turbulence in international situations. The United States and the Soviet Union, the only two countries that possess space weapons and continue to develop such weapons, bear a special responsibility for the cessation of the arms race in outer space. It is our hope that they will heed the voice of the peoples of the world and take immediate and effective measures to halt the arms race in any form in outer space by refraining from developing, testing and deploying space weapons and destroying all existing space weapons.

China, a non-chemical-weapons State, was once the victim of the use of this weapon. China has all along stood for an early conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons, and made positive efforts to this end. We are pleased that marked progress has been made over recent years in the negotiations on chemical weapons at the Conference on Disarmament. We are of the view that the future convention should, as a priority, provide for the thorough destruction of the existing chemical weapons, as well as their production facilities, should ensure the non-production of new chemical weapons without harming or affecting the peaceful development of civilian chemical industry in all countries and should stipulate necessary and effective verification measures.