

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Working paper on cessation of the nuclear arms race and realization of nuclear disarmament

The cessation of the nuclear arms race and the realization of nuclear disarmament are common desires of the people of the world. The first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament pointed out explicitly in its Final Document that "effective measures of nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war have the highest priority". It expresses the strong demand of the people for early nuclear disarmament. Resolution 41/59 F adopted at the forty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly once again urged the United States and the Soviet Union to discharge their special responsibility for nuclear disarmament and to take the lead in this regard. This resolution, enjoying support from all the United Nations Member States, including the Soviet Union and the United States, pointed out the correct and effective way to the realization of nuclear disarmament.

Having declared that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought", the United States and the Soviet Union have each made proposals for a drastic reduction of nuclear weapons and conducted many rounds of bilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, but so far progress has been slow except on individual issues. The United States and the Soviet Union should, in the light of the desire of the people of the world for peace and disarmament, negotiate in earnest with a view to reaching agreement on nuclear disarmament that is truly conducive to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and the relaxation of international tension, and without detriment to the interests of other countries, and should implement the agreement as soon as possible.

Despite the fact that nuclear disarmament has always been placed on its agenda as an important priority item, the Conference on Disarmament has yet to play its due role in the field of nuclear disarmament, as it has been unable to establish an ad hoc committee on this item.