Statement by H.E. Ambassador Wu Haitao
at the Thematic Debate on Nuclear Disarmament at the
69th Session of UNGA First Committee
(October 20, 2014, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

China advocates and promotes the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China is always committed to a nuclear strategy of self-defense. China never threatens any other country with its nuclear weapons. It has never provided nuclear umbrella for any other country, never deployed nuclear weapons in any other country, never taken part in nuclear arms race in any form. China always keeps its nuclear force at the minimum level required for national security.

No-first-use of nuclear weapons can lower the threat of nuclear weapons, reduce the risks of nuclear war and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is an important step towards the complete and thorough nuclear disarmament. China has always honored its commitment that it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and in any circumstance. China has also committed unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones. China is the only nuclear-weapon state that has made and honored such commitments. This is in itself a genuine action of nuclear disarmament.

China actively supports multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts and has voted for important nuclear disarmament resolutions at the UNGA, such as "Nuclear Disarmament", "The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" and "Follow-Up to the 2013 High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament". China supports the Conference on Disarmament to start its substantive
work on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, FMCT and prevention of an arms race in outer space, in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

China supports the purposes and principle of the CTBT and has strictly abided by its commitment to a moratorium on nuclear test. China is steadily preparing for the national implementation of the Treaty, and has actively taken part in all the work of the CTBTO. China is dedicated to promoting the early entry-into-force of the Treaty.

China stands for concluding a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally effectively verifiable FMCT as early as possible in the Conference of Disarmament in accordance with the Shannon Report (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, so as to contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

China actively carries out research on nuclear arms control verification technologies and has made important progress in the research on verification measures and technological means. China has exchanged views with other nuclear-weapon states on its research progress in the P5 Conferences.

China’s nuclear strategy and nuclear policy has been consistent, open and transparent. China holds the view that, nuclear transparency should be guided by the principle of “undiminished security for all”, and relevant measures should be adopted by countries on voluntary basis in line with their national situation, taking into consideration their specific security conditions.

China has taken active measures in nuclear transparency. In recent years, the Chinese Government has published various white papers and has submitted its national report to the third PrepCom for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. These documents elaborate China’s nuclear strategy, nuclear weapon employment policy, development of nuclear forces, command and control of nuclear forces and their alert status.

Mr. Chairman,
China maintains that all nuclear-weapon states should fulfill in good faith their obligations under article VI of the NPT and publicly undertake not to seek permanent possession of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament should be a just and reasonable process of gradual reduction toward a downward balance. States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals should continue to take the lead in reducing their nuclear arsenals drastically. When conditions are ripe, all nuclear-weapon states should join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. To attain the ultimate goal of complete and thorough nuclear disarmament, the international community should develop, at an appropriate time, a viable and long-term plan composed of phased actions, including the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

China is of the view that maintaining global strategic balance and stability will lay a solid foundation for international nuclear disarmament process. Therefore the China believes that the practice of seeking absolute strategic advantage should be abandoned and China is against the deployment of missile defense systems that disrupt global strategic balance and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

China is ready to work together with the international community to further promote the ultimate goal of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.