NMD, TMD, Arms Control

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The US development and deployment of a TMD system in Asia will upset the regional military balance and undermine stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The TMD system is not only a part of the US national missile defense (NMD) system, but also a component of the US global missile defense system. The deployment of TMD could only worsen the security situation in Northeast Asia. That is why South Korea has refused the offer of joint TMD development with the United States. The deployment of TMD will bring a direct threat to the strategic interest of China. China has no intention of provoking a new round of arms race in the region. The US development of a TMD system is clearly against the trend of the Asia-Pacific region. The US development of a TMD system will also undermine the trust and cooperation between China and South Korea. The US deployment of a TMD system in the South China Sea will make it more difficult for China to hold the South China Sea as a term of the two China-US joint communiques. The US development of NMD and TMD has certainly led to an arms race and undermine the trust among the major powers. China, Russia, and even the United States' European allies have expressed their opposition against and concern about US development of NMD. China and other Asian countries have also shown their concern about the effects of US TMD development on the Asia-Pacific region.

In the United States, the issues of NMD and TMD have brought about heated debates on whether the idea of arms control is out of date and whether developing national missile defense systems is the best way to achieve an absolute US military superiority in both offensive and defensive capabilities, further enlarging the existing disparity between the United States and other countries. This will lead to a new round of arms race and undermine the trust among the major powers. Russia, China, and the United States have expressed their opposition against and concern about US development of NMD. China and other Asian countries have also shown their concern about the effects of US TMD development on the Asia-Pacific region. The US administration has repeated that TMD systems are only directed against the so-called "states of concern." This means that the United States is only interested in developing TMD systems to protect the United States and its allies against missile attacks. This reflects the changing US arms control and nonproliferation policies and the US tendency towards unilaterism. US development of NMD and TMD has a major negative impact on nuclear disarmament and international nonproliferation efforts. It has affected the relations of the major powers, US-China relations, and US-Japan relations in particular.

US NMD and TMD development also has undermined their cooperation in the field of arms control and nonproliferation. The failure of the US NMD, TMD, and Arms Control Congress (CWC) in 1993 and entered into force in 1997. The Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was extended indefinitely in 1995 and the CTBT was concluded in 1996. After 1996, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva began to prepare for the negotiation of the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT). Based on the aforementioned achievements, the international community should further promote the nonproliferation process and decreased the threat from weapons of mass destruction, but the US NMD and TMD development has even increased the distrust between China and the United States. The US development of NMD and TMD will upset the existing global and regional strategic balance and impede or even reverse the nuclear disarmament process. Over the past years, the United States has repeatedly provoked China and Russia with the so-called "states of concern." China, Russia, and the United States have expressed their opposition against and concern about US development of NMD. China and other Asian countries have also shown their concern about the effects of US TMD development on the Asia-Pacific region.

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