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Note verbale dated 8 December 2017 from the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations (Vienna), with reference to its note verbale of 4 May 2017 (A/AC.105/1150), has the honour to provide the following notification with respect to the re-entry into the atmosphere of the space laboratory Tiangong-1.

China attaches great importance to the re-entry of Tiangong-1. For this purpose, China has set up a special working group, made relevant emergency preparedness plans and been working closely with its follow-up tracking, monitoring, forecasting and relevant analysing. Until 26 November, Tiangong-1 had been orbiting at an average altitude of 296.0 km (perigee: 281.7 km; apogee: 310.2 km; inclination: 42.65°). Currently, it has maintained its structural integrity with stabilized attitude control. According to the latest forecast, its re-entry is expected between the first 10 days of February and the last 10 days of March 2018. Tiangong-1 weighed 8.5 tons at launch, 10.5 metres long, with a maximum diameter of 3.35 metres. Tiangong-1 uses methylhydrazine and dinitrogen tetroxide as its engine fuel. Based on analysis, the remaining small amount of fuel will be burned and destroyed along with its structural components during the course of re-entry and will therefore not cause any damage on the ground.

China will continue to closely track and monitor the operation of Tiangong-1 and will regularly publish relevant information through the website of the China Manned Space Engineering Programme (www.cmse.gov.cn) as well as other relevant media.

