

People Make Concerted Efforts to Build a Harmonious Asia

A speech at the Round Table Conference for NGOs Helping Build Asian Community of Destiny,
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Asia is the place of "Oriental Sunrise", but also the region with the most dynamic and potential in the world, and China is the Asia's most dynamic economy. Last year, the economic growth of the Asian emerging markets was more than doubled the world average, while China's economic growth was tripled the world average. The fourth Summit of CICA, and the First Annual Conference of the CICA Non-governmental Forum were successively held in China, the governments and peoples of Asian countries collectively discuss measures for peace, collectively search for a policy for security, and collectively promote momentum for cooperation, development, and win-win, which bears significance.

At present, the overall stability is the Asian scenario, seeking peace, promoting development and pursuing cooperation are the main trend of the region. Peace is the common aspiration of the Asian people, development is the strongest voice of the Asian region, and cooperation is the main theme of the Asian countries. But the regional conflicts and particularly potential conflicts are still in existence, security problems and security risks crop up from time to time, and uncertainties affecting peace and development still exist, which mainly embody in the following aspects:

First, the Asian security environment is

complicated. Take an overview of the Asian continent, the security environment is relatively complex, there are both frictions of real interests, and also issues left over by history; there are both territorial disputes of rights and interests, and geo-political game. In addition, there is a security impact generated by the major extraterritorial countries on the region, and practices of individual countries seeking absolute security through strengthening bilateral military alliance exacerbate regional tensions.

Second, Asia confronts many security challenges. Under the background of globalization, Asia witnesses increasing security challenges, and a complicated situation of the traditional security and non-traditional security intertwined. Especially in recent years, the non-traditional security challenges such as economic security, cyber network security, transnational crimes and other are becoming more prominent, the security challenges in Asia increasingly show diversified and complex features.

Third, the Asian security mechanisms are weak. The CICA, the ASEAN Regional Forum, etc. play a positive role in the region, but the overall level of security cooperation in Asia is not high, and compared with rapid growth of the Asian economic cooperation, the Asian security system building relatively lags behind,

and the regional security cooperation is not deep enough. Particularly, some countries are engaged in exclusive mini-blocs, which is not conducive to Asia's security and stability.

Fourth, the security concept for Asia needs to be improved. The Cold War mentality and ideas of zero-sum game in Asia can still find certain market, and the new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination remains to be improved and strengthened, and the security concept on common security, comprehensive security, cooperative security and sustainable security remains to be cultivated and popularized.

Under the above background, Asian NGOs representatives gathered together to discuss how to contribute to building Asian community of destiny and seek regional security, stability, development and prosperity by NGOs, which has important practical significance. People are the creator of history, and the civil power is an important factor in building a peaceful Asia and harmonious Asia. Asian NGOs can play an important and positive role in the areas of arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peace building, etc., as well as in promoting and safeguarding regional security and stability.

Firstly, as promoters of transnational peace movement. Non-governmental organization is one of actors of international relations and an active promoter of the transnational peace movements. The Asian NGOs promote peaceful movements, and disseminate peace ideas, which help to foster the Asian people's harmonious symbiosis concept. China since ancient times advocates ideas of maintaining "precious harmony", and "friendship with neighbors", adheres to the path of peaceful development, also hopes to work with other countries together to take the path of peaceful development and ensure the national

security as well as the security of others, and collectively build a harmonious and stable Asian security environment.

Secondly, as practitioners of regional conflict-resolution. The NGOs are playing an increasingly important role in the conflict resolution and the post-conflict peace rebuilding. The Asian NGOs should actively participate in the regional process of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, and promote various parties concerned for political solution of conflicts. China has consistently adhered to settling disputes by peaceful means, and advocated resolving the territorial disputes through diplomatic negotiations, resolved the border issue with 12 countries sharing land border through negotiations, and also hopes other countries to handle differences and disputes through negotiating process as their main policy orientation.

Thirdly, as participants in the regional security mechanism building. NGOs are active advocates of regional and even global agenda at large. Asian NGOs should cooperate with governments to jointly work for a regional prospect of long-term peace and stability, coordinate promotion of regional security governance; Asian NGOs should more actively participate in the Asian regional security mechanism building, and co-ordinate the maintenance of traditional and non-traditional security in the region. As a responsible member of the international community, China is a staunch force to safeguard regional peace. China is committed to the Asian security mechanisms building, and plays a positive and constructive role in regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the East Asia Summit and others. We also hope other countries, with a positive and pragmatic attitude, to participate in and jointly promote the Asian security mechanism building, and collectively develop a new framework for regional security and

cooperation.

Fourthly, as supporters of reform, development and cooperation. Asian countries still face an arduous task of economic development, improving people's livelihood and alleviating poverty, while reform is the main engine to drive development, development is an important foundation for the stability, and cooperation is the main channel to achieve sustainable peace. The Asian NGOs should become a national and a regional force to push forward reform, promote development, realize cooperation, and become a main force for lasting peace and common development. China adheres to deepening the reform and opening up, takes development as the top priority, and actively promotes cooperation and win-win with other countries. China advocates a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security concept, and holds that all countries should conform to the trend of the times featuring peace, development, cooperation and win-win in order to pioneer a new security path of collectively building, sharing, winning and supporting. We also hope to work with other countries to push forward the regional momentum of peace, development, cooperation and win-win.

Asia is our common homeland, the Asian community of destiny building needs bringing to full play the role of the state & government, the market & enterprise, the society & NGOs. Among them, the role of NGOs is indispensable. Asia's past development was benefited from the environment of peace and stability, and its future development needs more peaceful and stable environment. Peace depends on common maintenance, development can be shared, opportunities can

be created together, and challenges needs joint response. As long as we keep the objective on promoting security through development, pursuing security through cooperation, and consolidating security through mutual trust, Asia's peace and development will achieve greater success.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the world anti-fascist war victory and the Chinese people's victory over the Japanese aggression. Seventy years ago, about 2 billion people of more than 80 countries and regions involved in the war in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania, only the casualties of the Chinese army and civilian total more than 35 million. Chinese President Xi Jinping points out that the bitter lessons of the Second World War tells that the law of the jungle is not the road for human coexistence. The militaristic behavior and hegemony through power politics are not a measure for human peace. The winner to take anything necessary and zero-sum game are not the path for human development. Peace not war, cooperation not confrontation, and win-win not zero-sum are the human society's eternal theme for peace, progress and development. The past is the prologue. We should keep in mind our history and open up the future. Southeast Asian countries have a saying that "lotus flower rises with water-level", Asian NGOs should join hands for cooperation and make concerted efforts to strengthen the awareness of the Asian family and the concept of Asian community of destiny, work together to build a harmonious Asia, lead the world development momentum of the times, realize Asia's prosperity and development, and make greater contribution to the well-being and progress of human society.