

Safeguard Peace Together

Speech at the Peace Alert International Peace Seminar in Helsinki, Finland

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It gives me great pleasure to attend the "Peace Alert" gathering, and exchange views with you on major issues concerning current global security and development, in the hope of pioneering a way to push forward peace, stability and development.

Being the largest peace organization in China, the CPAPD's objective is to promote mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of China and the rest of the world in joint efforts to maintain world peace, oppose arms race and war, achieve arms control and disarmament, strive for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, protect environment, alleviate poverty and promote social harmony and sustainable development. I believe that friends present here as keepers, advocates and builders share the same belief with me.

Europe, being the homeland for most of you, serves as an irreplaceable pole in this multi-polar world and still highlighted in the global strategic landscape. At the same time, both Europe and China are the major actors in safeguarding world peace. Today, we gathered here at an important occasion, the 70th anniversary of the end of the World War II and of the founding of the United Nations. A review of the past could serve as a guide for us in observing the future trend of the world.

Generally speaking, the world today is facing both unprecedented opportunities and unprecedented challenges, but the opportunities outweigh the challenges. Over the past 70 years

the world has maintained overall peace, but local wars and regional conflicts constantly emerged. After the end of the cold war, the international balance of power is changing in favor of world peace, but the unpredictable factors still exist, impacting world peace and stability. To uphold world peace and promote common development remains a difficult long-term task.

I would like to highlight four difficulties at the current stage as follows:

First, complicated security situation

Peace, development, and cooperation are the common aspiration of peoples of all countries, an irresistible trend of history. Still, the hidden danger of security is lurking around. We have seen the growth of hegemonism and power politics, the increasingly active activities of international terrorism, the complex and ever-changing contradictions among different nationalities and religions, and the disputes over border territory. Constant local wars, endless conflicts and frequent crisis have become a normal phenomenon for some regions. The world is still facing realistic and potential threat of local wars.

Second, increasing issues of security challenges

Though various countries are making great efforts to deal with security challenges of all sorts, the international security challenges show a mixed and complex nature. Traditional and non-traditional security issues are often intertwined with each other. From the Middle

East Turmoil to Ukraine Crisis, from the Syrian disorder to Yemen upheaval, the danger of wars still exist close to us. At the same time, non-traditional security challenges such as economic safety, cyber safety and transnational crimes are becoming more and more pressing in recent years.

Third, problems of security mechanisms

The policy goal of the current world is to maintain peace through the building of security mechanisms. However, the process of such international and regional security mechanism-building is relatively lagging behind. The overall level of security cooperation is not high, the building of security systems is to be strengthened and the process of security cooperation still needs deeper engagement. Besides, some countries who are interested in forming exclusive small groups or military alliance, are not contributing to world peace and stability.

Fourth, outdated concepts of security.

In the world today, solving disputes or conflicts through negotiations and consultations are the main policy orientation, but the cold war and the zero-sum game mindset still have a market. The common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept awaits promotion. For some countries, they attempt to seek absolute security by strengthening the military alliance. I dare say that they live in the 21st century with the outdated thinking from the age of cold war and zero-sum game.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As Mr. Qian Zhongshu, a Chinese famous scholar once said: despite of vast oceans lying in between, people from the East and the West share similar hearts and minds; despite of huge differences among various academic schools, scholars from the East and the West pursue the same truth. These words vividly describe the "Peace Alert" seminar today. Though we are from the Oriental and the Western civilizations, we are devoted to the same noble cause of peace, development and prosperity of the world. Peace should be safeguarded by us all, development shared by us all, opportunities created by us all, and challenges met by us all. Here, I would like to take this opportunity to propose four points I think we should observe. With these historic lessons bearing in mind, we can build a safer world together for the future.

First, promote common security.

Common security means respecting and ensuring security of every country. If we can create a harmonious and stable international security environment, security will be shared by us as a whole. Up till now, China has built partnerships of various types with 75 countries,

including European countries, and 5 regional organizations. China is committed to maintaining common security and expanding common interests. As peace organizations, we should also actively help push forward peace movement, spread peace culture and arouse people's awareness of harmonious coexistence.

Second, promote comprehensive security.

Comprehensive security means upholding security in both traditional and non-traditional fields, so that we can achieve the balanced global security governance through multiple channels and comprehensive policies. China has always participated actively in the regional security cooperation, advocated the new security concept of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, and consolidated regional peace and stability. As peace organizations, we should consider for the long-term stability and order, carry forward security governance, actively engage in the process of building security mechanisms and deal with both traditional and non-traditional security in a coordinated manner.

Third, pursue cooperative security.

Cooperative security means promoting security of both individual countries and regions as a whole through dialogue and cooperation. China remains committed to seeking peaceful settlement of disputes with countries over self-claimed territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. China has completely resolved, through friendly consultations, issues of land boundary with 12 out of 14 neighboring countries. As peace organizations, we should actively take part in conflict-resolution and the post-conflict reconstruction process, and push forward political solution of disputes.

Fourth, pursue sustainable security.

Sustainable security means that we need to focus on both development and security so that security is durable. If every country can realize its own development, then sustainable development will promote sustainable security. China always advocates that every country should conform to era trend of peace, development, cooperation and win-win outcome, and jointly build a new road for global security that is shared by all and win-win for all. As peace lovers and advocates, we need to become a part of the mainstream force, both in our countries and the regions, to push forward reform, promote development and realize cooperation so

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