

CIIS Report

**In Pursuit of the “World Dream”:
The Progress and Prospects of China's
Promotion of a Harmonious World**

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In Pursuit of the “World Dream”: The Progress and Prospects of China's Promotion of a Harmonious World

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

China has made important theoretical progress in promoting the construction of a harmonious world. The country has greatly promoted the concept of Harmonious World by enriching its connotation and expanding its denotation with over 20 specific concepts and ideas. At the same time, China has continuously deepened its understanding of the way toward harmony, the methods to build up a harmonious world and the diplomatic strategy for promoting it. After realizing a number of innovations and developments in its diplomatic strategic thoughts, China has achieved a great stride in theoretical construction for building a harmonious world from superficiality to profundity, from roughness to fineness, and from simplicity to complexity, thereby developing the Harmonious World theory from a sketchy framework with only a general requirement and five basic appeals into a three-dimensional structure with both breadth and depth composed of many fields, levels, elements, actors and construction methods. By so doing, China has made great contributions to the development of Harmonious World theory by laying its foundation.

China has made unremitting diplomatic efforts to promote the construction of a harmonious world. On the one hand, China has made the concept "Harmonious World" well-known at home and abroad and earned wide international recognition by raising proposals, preaching, interpretation and negotiation. On the other hand, the Chinese Government has joined hands with various sectors in the society to promote the construction of a harmonious world in an all-round way. The efforts made in the latter aspect include promoting the general trend while always keeping in mind the overall situation, living in harmony with other countries, building toward a harmonious region, creating a harmonious and stable international and regional security environment, striving for harmonious development and common development, developing harmonious relations among different civilizations, building harmonious oceans; constructing harmonious outer space; building up harmonious cyberspace; and advancing the reform of international system and global governance.

During the process of China's promotion of a harmonious world, some problems and shortcomings have been revealed. Firstly, the notion of "building toward a harmonious world" has not turned into an analytical concept due to the obvious lagging-behind of theoretical construction. Secondly, relevant theoretical tools have not been mastered and well employed, which leads to insufficient guidance for diplomatic practices. Thirdly, there is doubt and lack of self-confidence in the idea of "building toward a harmonious world". Fourthly, in the external publicity of China's policies, the value of "harmony" is often missing and "seeking harmony through struggle" is seldom mentioned. Moreover, China has rarely actively responded to the harmonious voices and harmony factors that appear in the international community. Finally, the phenomenon of "much empty talk and little substance" still exists in China's diplomatic efforts in promoting the construction of a harmonious world. Meanwhile, China is faced with the following challenges in its promotion of a harmonious world: (1) How to ensure both "safeguarding legitimate rights" and "maintaining stability"; (2) How to develop a new type of major-country relationship; (3) How to take part in increasingly complicated global governance and shoulder a major country's responsibility; (4) How to seek development opportunities in the post-crisis era; (5) How to address new security challenges; (6) How to promote harmony and integration of different civilizations.

In the future, China should continue to pursue the World Dream characterized by lasting peace and common prosperity, follow the principle of combining theory with practice in promoting the Harmonious World concept, and integrate the World Dream with other national dreams and regional dreams; stick to the path of peaceful development and enhance its international recognition; be committed to promoting the development of a new type of international relations; develop and implement medium- and long-term strategies; actively seek international consensus; give impetus to harmonious development by common development; actively promote the improvement of international economic governance mechanisms; speed up the construction of international cultural governance mechanisms; further improve the mechanisms of international security governance; and actively carry out harmony-oriented diplomacy in an all-round way.

I. INTRODUCTION

After putting forward the Chinese Dream, which is the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, President Xi Jinping proposed the concept of World Dream, which is to achieve long-lasting peace and common prosperity.¹ Accordingly, it is believed that the construction of a harmonious world with long-lasting peace and common prosperity is the World Dream that China is pursuing.

Since the idea of building toward a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity was proposed in 2005,² China has included the construction of a harmonious world into its diplomacy as an important strategic thought and policy and put it into practice, achieving some important progress and obtaining lots of valuable experience. China is promoting the construction of a harmonious world along two lines: theory and practice, and equal importance is attached to them. On the one hand, while deepening its understanding of building a harmonious world unremittingly, China strives to promote the idea internationally and make it an important concept of diplomacy and international relations by turning it into concrete international propositions. On the other hand, while adhering to the path of peaceful development, China has continuously made concrete contributions, including a number of pioneering undertakings in diplomacy, the construction of a harmonious world by safeguarding peace, promoting development, strengthening cooperation and seeking win-win results in the international stage.

When the first decade in the 21st century comes to the end, China stands at a new historical starting point. Both international and domestic situations that China faces have undergone great changes. Domestically, with the deepening of reform and opening-up, economic restructuring is now at a crucial stage. Internationally, the financial crisis has pushed China to the center stage of global governance, precipitating the process of China becoming one of the major players

1 习近平[Xi Jinping]:《永远做可靠朋友和真诚伙伴——在坦桑尼亚尼雷尔国际会议中心的演讲》[Remaining Reliable Friends and Faithful Partners Forever- A Speech at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania], March 25, 2013. Retrieved from http://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_chn/zyxw_602251/t1024949.shtml

2 The symbol is that Chinese President Hu Jintao delivered an important speech entitled "Build towards a Harmonious World of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity" at the summit commemorating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations on 15 September 2005. The full text of the speech can be retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t213091.htm>

and decision-makers in important international affairs. The rapid increase of China's economic scale and comprehensive national power has prompted China to examine its development strategy increasingly from a global perspective, give more consideration to global issues, and make greater efforts to address global challenges. It has also impelled China to attach greater importance to its international development space, and take account of the interests of various parties in a better way. At the same time, during the post-financial crisis period, all countries in the world look forward to achieving sustainable development, reforming the existing international order, strengthening international political and economic governance, and seeing China play a greater role during the above-mentioned processes. In view of these developments, China needs to further promote the concept of "a harmonious world" and become more proactive in its diplomatic practice for constructing a harmonious world so that the idea of "building a harmonious world" will become more charming in theory and more valuable in practice in global governance.

This paper tries to provide a comprehensive summary of the progress China has made in promoting the construction of a harmonious world in both theory and practice. While acknowledging China's achievements in this regard, the paper outlines the direction for China's future efforts and offers policy recommendations based on the analysis of the challenges and problems that the country faces in building toward a harmonious world.



II. THEORETICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

With progress in implementing China's peaceful development strategy and continued advances in diplomatic practices, the Chinese leaders have constantly enriched and developed the concept of "Harmonious World" and great theoretical achievements have been made, which are of great significance to China's diplomacy and international relations in the 21st century, and deserves in-depth observation and comprehensive summarization.

A. The Creation of the Concept "Harmonious World"

Just as the human society entered the 21st century, Chinese leaders started to actively explore and think about the issue of "harmonious world" based on the profoundly changing pattern of international relations and the megatrend of economic globalization in the post-Cold War era, which resulted in the embryonic form of the idea "building a harmonious world". In his speech in the United Kingdom in May 2002, Mr. Li Ruihuan, then Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, put forward such views as "harmonious coexistence, coordinated progress", "maintenance of harmony and tranquility in the world" and "building a more prosperous, more promising and more harmonious world"³. In November that year, Comrade Jiang Zemin made a report to the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which states that China is willing to make joint efforts with the international community to zealously promote a multi-polar world, the harmonious coexistence of different powers, and the maintenance of stability of the international society.

In 2005, China formally introduced the idea of building a harmonious world. In April 2005, President Hu Jintao stated at the Asian-African Summit that Asian and African countries "should build on the fine tradition of the Summit, seeking common ground while reserving differences, advocate the spirit of openness and

³ 李瑞环[Li Ruihuan]: 《和谐相处 和谐共进》 ["Live in Amity and Move Forward Together in Harmony"]. Retrieved from <http://theory.people.com.cn/GB/11541014.html>

tolerance, respect the diversity of cultures, religions and values as well as the rights of all countries to independently choose their own social systems and development models, promote friendly coexistence and dialogues on an equal footing, enhance development and prosperity of different civilizations, and join hands to build a harmonious world”.⁴ In his speech delivered at the United Nations Summit in September 2005 entitled “Build Towards a Harmonious World of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity”, President Hu offered to the world for the first time a systematically expounded proposition on building a harmonious world. He pointed out that “countries can only create a bright future for mankind and truly put in place a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity when they rally closely together to seize the opportunities and take on the challenges”. He called on the international community to adhere to multilateralism to realize common security, advocate mutually beneficial cooperation to achieve common prosperity, uphold the spirit of inclusiveness to build a harmonious world together, and promote the reform of the United Nations actively and prudently. This important speech marked the official appearance of the concept “Harmonious World” as a fresh idea on international relations and global governance and signified that “to promote the construction of a harmonious world” has become an important part of the new thinking on China’s diplomatic strategy, thus being of epoch-making significance to China’s diplomacy.

B. Basic Cognition of Building a Harmonious World

China’s cognition of a harmonious world is based on its cultural tradition which stresses “harmony and peace”. The idea of building a harmonious world reflects the Chinese cultural tradition in external exchanges that celebrates the spirit of “the strong not bullying the weak”, “the rich not affronting the poor”, loving peace, honoring promises and living in harmony with all others far and near. As an old Chinese saying goes, “Morality leads to amicable kinship, amicable kinship leads to good-neighborliness, and good-neighborliness leads to harmony between nations”. Its essence is that any wise king should properly manage his clan and nation by promoting high moral values and then encourage all nations to live in harmony.

The concept of “Harmonious World” is in line with the idea of building a harmonious society in China, and a harmonious world is not necessarily a world

⁴ 《胡锦涛在亚非峰会上发表重要讲话（全文）》 [“Hu Jintao Delivered an Important Speech at the Asian-African Summit (Full Text)”]. Retrieved from <http://politics.people.com.cn/GB/1024/3343050.html>

of uniformity, but rather a world of "harmony without uniformity" in recognition of world multi-polarization and cultural pluralism, with full respect for national autonomy.⁵ A harmonious world should be democratic, amicable, just, and tolerant.⁶ In essence, a harmonious world is a world of lasting peace and common prosperity, and its basic connotation includes democracy and equality, mutual benefit and win-win approach, diversity of civilizations, security and stability, and a coordinated development of mankind and nature.

The concept of "harmonious world" represents China's important strategic thinking on the world's development path.⁷ A harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity is China's vision and initiative for global governance. Harmony is the key both to a better world and a better China-West relationship.⁸ The essence of the initiative is that the issues of the world should be resolved through dialogue, consultation and cooperation with all countries.⁹ The core of the proposition is that while recognizing the diversity of the world and differences in interests and cultures, efforts should be made to harmonize interests, resolve conflicts and promote cooperation for win-win progress in a peaceful and cooperative manner.¹⁰

China advocates the building of a harmonious world to send two messages: one is that China, as a nation seeking peaceful development, has the political will and policy imperative to pursue harmony, cooperation and win-win outcomes with the outside world; the other is that China, as a nation pursuing the "World Dream", i.e. a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity, has the political will and policy imperative to join hands with other countries to drive international relations and the world as a whole toward harmony. China has made it clear that "it will work together with other countries to promote the construction of a harmonious world, commit itself to acquiring mutual respect, enlarging consensus and living in harmony with all other countries, and exert itself to deepen cooperation with

5 《全球化、当代世界和中国模式——俞可平与福山的对话》[“Globalization, the Contemporary World and the Chinese Model – a Dialogue between Yu Keping and Fukuyama”], 《北京日报》[*Beijing Daily*], March 28, 2011.

6 The State Council Information Office, *China's Peaceful Development Road (White Paper)*, December 22, 2005. Retrieved from <http://www.china.org.cn/english/2005/Dec/152669.htm>

7 唐家璇[Tang Jiaxuan]: 《共谋和平发展 共建和谐世界》[“Work Together to Promote Peace and Development and Jointly Build up a Harmonious World”], Speech at the International Seminar on China's Peaceful Development and a Harmonious World, November 8, 2007, Beijing.

8 Liu Xiaoming, “Building a Harmonious China-West Relationship”, Lecture at University College London, Gustav Tucker Hall, UCL, January 28, 2011. Retrieved from <http://uk.china-embassy.org/eng/ambassador/t790936.htm>

9 李金章[Li Jinzhang]: 《中国的外交政策和中拉关系》[“China's Foreign Policy and China-Latin America Relations”], Speech at the luncheon of China-Latin America and the Caribbean Think Tank Forum, November 9, 2010, Beijing.

10 Yang Jiechi, “Work Together to Strengthen Cooperation and Foster Harmony”, Statement at the General Debate of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly, September 28, 2007, New York. Retrieved from <http://www.china-un.org/eng/ldhy/ld62/t370458.htm>

various countries around the world so as to achieve common development and mutual benefit. It will also actively promote multilateralism, democratization of international relations and international cultural exchanges so as to achieve common prosperity.”¹¹

With deepened understanding of the concept “Harmonious World”, China has formulated a basic understanding of building a harmonious world. The indication of this understanding can be found in the related discussions in Comrade Hu Jintao’s report to the 17th National Congress of the CPC. The report states,

“All countries should uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, observe international law and universally recognized norms of international relations, and promote democracy, harmony, collaboration and win-win solutions in international relations. Politically, all countries should respect each other and conduct consultations on an equal footing in a common endeavor to promote democracy in international relations. Economically, they should cooperate with each other, draw on each other’s strengths and work together to advance economic globalization in the direction of balanced development, shared benefits and win-win progress. Culturally, they should learn from each other in the spirit of seeking common ground while shelving differences, respect the diversity of the world, and make joint efforts to advance human civilization. In the area of security, they should trust each other, strengthen cooperation, settle international disputes by peaceful means rather than by war, and work together to safeguard peace and stability in the world. On environmental issues, they should assist and cooperate with each other in conservation efforts to take good care of the Earth, the only home of human beings.”¹²

Mr. Hu’s report presents both a general proposition on international relations and five basic appeals on political, economic, cultural, security and environmental protection aspects, thus establishing a basic theoretical framework for China’s endeavor to promote the building of a harmonious world.

11 新华社[Xinhua News Agency]: 《第十一次驻外使节会议召开 胡锦涛温家宝讲话》 [“The 11th Conference of Chinese Diplomatic Envoys Stationed Abroad Held and Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao Make Speeches”], July 20, 2009, Beijing. Retrieved from http://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2009-07/20/content_1370171.htm

12 Full text of Hu Jintao’s report at 17th Party Congress, Xinhua News Agency, 24 October 2007. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-10/24/content_6938749_10.htm

C. Deepened Understanding of Building a Harmonious World

Personalities of various circles in China have paid great attention and responded enthusiastically to the concept of "Harmonious World". With joint efforts of all parties, China continues to deepen its understanding of building a harmonious world and has made various theoretical achievements.

1. Refining the basic concepts and propositions of "Harmonious World"

Following introduction of the concept "Harmonious World", China has put forward a series of other new concepts: "harmonious international society"¹³, "harmonious development" and "harmonious environment"¹⁴, "harmonious Middle East"¹⁵, "harmonious region"¹⁶, "harmonious and relaxed external environment"¹⁷, "harmonious Asia"¹⁸, "harmonious Asia-Pacific community"¹⁹, "harmonious East Asia"²⁰, "new pattern of harmonious Northeast Asia"²¹, "harmonious Northeast

13 See the Shanghai Declaration adopted by the World Jurist Association (WJA) at its 22nd Congress, September 9, 2005 at http://old.chinacourt.org/zhuanti1/22clw/e_detail.php?id=177281.

14 See Li Zhaoxing: "A Road Towards Peace, Harmony and Common Development", Statement at the General Debate of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly, September 19, 2005, New York. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t214571.htm>

15 See Xinhua News Agency, "Chinese President on World Harmony, Middle East Peace", April 24, 2006. Retrieved from <http://www.china.org.cn/english/international/166599.htm>

16 On May 30, 2006, President Hu Jintao used the concept "harmonious region" for the first time in a joint interview by reporters from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China at the Great Hall of the People. On June 15, 2006, President Hu Jintao again used the concept in his address entitled "Working Together for a Better Tomorrow for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" at the sixth meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the SCO.

17 See 胡锦涛[Hu Jintao]: 《共创上海合作组织更加美好的明天》 ["Working Together for a Better Tomorrow for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization"], Address at the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO, June 15, 2006, Shanghai.

18 See 胡锦涛[Hu Jintao]: 《携手建设持久和平、共同繁荣的和谐亚洲》 ["Join Hands to Build a Harmonious Asia of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity"], Address at the Second Summit of the Asian Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures, June 17, 2006, Almaty.

19 See 胡锦涛[Hu Jintao]: 《推动共同发展 谋求和谐共赢》 ["Promote Common Development and Pursue Harmony and a Win-win Success"], Address delivered at the 14th Economic Leaders' Informal Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), November 18, 2006, Hanoi, Vietnam.

20 See 温家宝[Wen Jiabao]: 《共建和平、繁荣的和谐东亚》 ["Working Together towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Harmonious East Asia"], Speech at the Tenth Summit of ASEAN Plus Three, January 14, 2007, Cebu, Philippines.

21 See 温家宝[Wen Jiabao]: 《共同谱写中韩经贸合作的新篇章》 ["Jointly Write a New Chapter on China-ROK Economic and Trade Cooperation"], Speech at the luncheon of the ROK business community, April 11, 2007, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Asia”²², “harmonious ocean”²³, “harmonious maritime order”²⁴, “harmonious outer space order”²⁵, “harmonious outer space”²⁶, “healthy and harmonious Internet environment”²⁷, “harmonious civilized world”²⁸, “harmonious atmosphere”²⁹, “harmonious and stable cooperation”³⁰, “harmonious China-West relationship”³¹, “harmonious Eurasian region”³², “harmonious regional cooperation organization”³³, “harmonious regional environment”³⁴, “harmonious sub-region”³⁵, “peaceful and harmonious international and neighboring environment”³⁶, “harmonious cyber-world”³⁷, “harmonious cyberspace”³⁸, and “harmonious and stable international and

22 See Liu Xiaoming: “Opportunities and Challenges: Building Towards a Harmonious Northeast Asia”, Speech at the Ceremony Conferring the Medal of the Dean of the Fletcher School, September 10, 2007, Beijing.

23 On April 21, 2009, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of Chinese Navy, a multinational high-level naval seminar on Harmonious Ocean was held in Qingdao, China. The heads of naval delegations from 29 countries attended the seminar. The Chinese Navy Commander Wu Shengli delivered a keynote speech. On April 23, 2009, President Hu Jintao made a clear proposition on building towards a “harmonious ocean” in his meeting with the heads of these naval delegations.

24 This concept is proposed by Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin in his address to the opening ceremony of Pacem in Maribus XXXIII International Conference on Oceans held on September 3, 2010.

25 See Statement by H.E. Ambassador Liu Zhenmin at the Fourth Committee of the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly on Agenda Item 30: “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, October 21, 2009.

26 See General Statement by Ambassador Hu Xiaodi of the Chinese Delegation in Vienna at the 49th session of the UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee, March 23, 2010.

27 See *The Internet in China* (White Paper) released by the State Council Information Office on June 8, 2010 at http://english.gov.cn/2010-06/08/content_1622956.htm

28 See Wen Jiabao: “Getting to Know the Real China”, Statement at the General Debate of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly, September 23, 2010, New York. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t761353.htm>

29 See Wen Jiabao’s remarks in meeting US White House National Economic Council Director Larry Summers and Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Donilon, *People’s Daily*, September 8, 2010, Beijing.

30 See Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Jiang Yu’s Regular Press Conference on December 28, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw/s2510/t782317.htm>

31 See Liu Xiaoming: “Building a Harmonious China-West Relationship”, Lecture at University College London, January 28, 2011. Retrieved from <http://uk.china-embassy.org/eng/ambassador/t790936.htm>

32 See 程国平[Cheng Guoping]: 《携手合作 共同发展——记上海合作组织10周年》[“Work Together for Common Development: In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”], 《求是》[*Qiushi Magazine*], Vol. 12, June 2011.

33 See Hu Jintao: “For Peace, Development and Enduring Friendship”, Remarks at the 11th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, June 15, 2011, Astana. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t833513.htm>

34 See Wen Jiabao’s Statement at the 14th China-ASEAN Summit as a Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Relations, November 18, 2011, Bali, Indonesia. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-11/18/c_131255936.htm

35 See Naypyidaw Declaration released by the Fourth Greater Mekong Sub-region Economic Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting, December 20, 2011, Naypyidaw, Myanmar.

36 See Li Keqiang’s speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia 2012, April 2, 2012, Boao, China.

37 See 马晓天[Ma Xiaotian]: 《关注网络空间安全 构建和谐网络世界——在“网络空间安全：中国与世界”国际学术研讨会上的主旨讲话》[“Focus on Security in Cyberspace and Build a Harmonious Cyber World - a keynote address to the International Symposium on Cyber Space Security: China and the World”], May 28, 2012, Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/mil/2012-05/30/c_123208729.htm

38 See 《外交部条法司司长黄惠康在网络问题布达佩斯国际会议上的发言》[“Remarks by Huang Huikang,

regional security environment"³⁹, and so on. These concepts and propositions have greatly enriched and deepened the connotation and expanded its denotation of the concept "Harmonious World".

2. Getting a clear understanding of the nature of building a harmonious world

Adhering to dialectical materialism and historical materialism, China believes that building a harmonious world has the following intrinsic attributes: To build a harmonious world is a "strategic choice and historical responsibility"⁴⁰; it is both a long-term goal and a realistic task⁴¹, both the objective need of creating a favorable external environment for China's economic and social development and highly-condensed Chinese thoughts on the type of international relationship and order that China is going to promote in the new era⁴²; it is also the common aspiration of all peoples⁴³, thus the "World Dream". In this way, China combines idealism with realism, integrates the long-term vision with the phased strategic objectives, takes into consideration both the domestic and international situations, and links the "Chinese Dream" with the "World Dream". China has also made clear the political nature of promoting the construction of a harmonious world: It is a major initiative and an important measure of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics at the new stage in the new century; it is closely associated with peaceful development and has become one of the eight basic requirements for registering new victories in building socialism with Chinese characteristics under the new historical conditions.⁴⁴

Director General of the Department of Treaties and Laws of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the international conference on cyber issues in Budapest"], October 4, 2012. Retrieved from http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_chn/ziliao_611306/zyjh_611308/t977343.shtml

39 See 习近平[Xi Jinping]: 《携手合作 共同维护世界和平与安全——在“世界和平论坛”开幕式上的致辞》 [“Work Together to Jointly Safeguard World Peace and Security, remarks at the opening ceremony of the World Peace Forum”], July 7, 2012. Retrieved from <http://cpc.people.com.cn/n/2012/0707/c64094-18465868.html>

40 See President Hu Jintao's speech at the University of Pretoria, South Africa in February 2007. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t298174.htm>

41 See The State Council Information Office, *China's Peaceful Development* (White Paper), September 6, 2011. Retrieved from http://english.gov.cn/official/2011-09/06/content_1941354.htm

42 外交部党委中心组[The Central Study Group of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Committee of the Communist Party of China]: 《中国特色社会主义外交理论新境界》 [“A New Realm in the Socialist Diplomatic Theory with Chinese Characteristics”], 《求是》 [Qiusi Magazine], Vol. 4, 2013.

43 See “Report of Hu Jintao to the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China”. Retrieved from http://www.china.org.cn/china/18th_cpc_congress/2012-11/16/content_27137540.htm

44 Ibid.

3. Deepening its understanding of the overall requirements and the general rule of building a harmonious world

Over the years, especially since the outbreak of the international financial crisis in 2008, China, on the basis of exploring the way toward harmony, has deepened its understanding of the overall requirements and the general rule of building a harmonious world. To realize the “World Dream”, China advocates promoting the spirit of equality and mutual trust, tolerance and mutual learning, and cooperation and mutual benefit in international relations and jointly safeguarding international equity and justice.⁴⁵ China hopes that peace-loving and visionary people of all countries will work together to pursue peace, development and security, and build a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity.⁴⁶

China reckons that the harmonious relations between man and nature, man and society, man and man, country and country are all integral parts of a harmonious world. “Harmony without uniformity” is the essence of harmony, and “common development” is the goal of harmony.⁴⁷ Multi-polarization in international relations is the inevitable trend of world’s development, and countries should engage in cooperation with each other on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, which is “the way toward harmony”.⁴⁸

China also reckons that harmony means win-win and inclusiveness,⁴⁹ countries should cooperate with one another on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, carry out rule-based competition, and achieve common development and common prosperity through cooperation and competition. Therefore, China proposes that all countries “live together in harmony”, “pursue harmonious development”, “adopt a harmonious win-win approach”, and “make progress together in harmony”, and that various civilizations and development paths co-exist in harmony, various national cultures “integrate in harmony”, and the dialogues among civilizations be “harmonious and inclusive”.

Considering that the all-in-the-same-boat spirit represents a world view

45 Ibid.

46 Li Yuanhao: “United in Our Pursuit of Peace and Security”, Address at the Second World Peace Forum, June 27, 2013. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-06/28/c_132495968.htm

47 戴秉国[Dai Bingguo]: 《心灵环保, 和谐世界——在中国梵净山生态文明和佛教文化论坛上的演讲》 [“Environmental Protection of the Mind and a Harmonious World - Speech at the China Fanjingshan Forum on Ecological Civilization and Buddhist Culture”], July 20, 2013. Retrieved from http://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_chn/zyxw_602251/t1060485.shtml

48 Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Qiu Xiaoqi in the exclusive TV interview by reporters from the Xinhua News Agency on China-Brazil relations and the BRIC summit, March 18, 2010.

49 Liu Xiaoming: “Building a Harmonious China-West Relationship”, Lecture at University College London, January 28, 2011. Retrieved from <http://uk.china-embassy.org/eng/ambassador/t790936.htm>

advocating harmony, China upholds the spirit and opposes the practice of squeezing each other while in the same boat.⁵⁰ The country pointed out that with economic globalization, all countries in the world have increasingly formed a community of interests, and therefore, they should carry forward the all-in-the-same-boat spirit rather than exclude one another, trust each other rather than suspect each other, and that is "the way toward harmony" in the contemporary international community.⁵¹ Facing common threats and challenges caused by the international financial crisis, the international society should stick to free trade, because free trade helps keep the economy going like flowing water and brings benefits and peace to the people.⁵²

As for the way toward international and regional harmony in the Asia-Pacific region, China holds that countries in the world should abandon the Cold War mentality and zero-sum game, promote positive interactions and win-win cooperation in their region, and jointly build a harmonious Asia, a harmonious Asia-Pacific and a harmonious world.⁵³ China stated that "in order to achieve peaceful development and promote the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity, China must adapt to the profound and complex changes in today's world situation and make great efforts to create an international environment of peace and stability, a surrounding environment of good-neighborliness and friendship, an economic environment of equality and mutual benefit, and a security environment of mutual trust and cooperation".⁵⁴

To sum up, China believes that "the key to building a harmonious world lies in coordination of interests, settlement of conflicts and pursuit of win-win outcomes in a peaceful and cooperative manner in recognition of the world pluralism, divergence of interests and diversity of civilizations. Building a harmonious world is a continuous process of resolving contradictions and increasing factors conducive to harmony".⁵⁵ China holds that the world "should seek common ground while

50 戴秉国[Dai Bingguo]:《心灵环保, 和谐世界——在中国梵净山生态文明和佛教文化论坛上的演讲》["Environmental Protection of the Mind and a Harmonious World - Speech at the China Fanjingshan Forum on Ecological Civilization and Buddhist Culture"].

51 Press Conference hosted by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on China's Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations at the Fourth Session of the Eleventh National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 7, 2011.

52 《总理温家宝会见中外记者——2010年全国两会》["Premier Wen Jiabao Met with Chinese and Foreign Reporters at the National People's Congress and the National Political Consultative Conference of China in 2010"]. Retrieved from http://www.xinhuanet.com/zhibo/2010lh_zljzh/wzsl.htm

53 Keynote Speech by Tang Jiaxuan at the First Singapore Global Dialogue, September 24, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t756054.shtml>

54 Remarks by Xi Jinping at the Symposium Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) into the Korean War, October 25, 2010, Beijing. Retrieved from <http://cpc.people.com.cn/GB/64093/64094/13046050.html>

55 杨洁篪[Yang Jiechi]:《建设持久和平、共同繁荣的和谐世界——在中国发展高层论坛年会午餐会上的

shelving differences, discard bias and prejudice, work together to resolve disputes with a more open and inclusive mind, enhance win-win cooperation, uphold peace and build a stable, harmonious and happy world through joint efforts.”⁵⁶

4. Acquiring more comprehensive, thorough and systematic knowledge on how to build a harmonious world

For a long time, based on its own experience and lessons in building a harmonious society, China has actively got involved in relative foreign policy practices, acquired a more comprehensive, thorough and systematic knowledge on how to build a harmonious world, and introduced a number of concrete propositions. China believes that building a harmonious world means “peace among nations, amity among people, and harmony between man and nature.”⁵⁷ Countries around the world should promote harmony through development, cooperation and struggle. To build a harmonious international community upon the rule of law is in line with the common aspirations of all the people in the world, i.e. seeking peace and development and promoting cooperation, and it calls for joint efforts by all countries.⁵⁸ China stresses that “the building of a harmonious world starts with one’s neighbors”,⁵⁹ and begins in the mind.⁶⁰ China is aware that there will be no harmonious world without the building of harmonious regions.⁶¹ China actively advocates the building of a harmonious Asia-Pacific region, a harmonious Asia, a harmonious Northeast Asia, and a harmonious Eurasia. China understands that good-neighborliness and mutual trust, living together in harmony, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development constitute the common aspirations and interests of China and its Asian neighbors. Therefore,

演讲》[“Build Towards a Harmonious World of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity - Speech at the Luncheon of the Annual Meeting of the China Development Forum”], March 23, 2008, Beijing. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/chn//pds/ziliao/zyjh/t418780.htm>

56 See Remarks by Premier Wen Jiabao at the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Business Conference and Investment Seminar of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, January 18, 2012.

57 See Speech by Premier Wen Jiabao at the Paris École Polytechnique of France on December 6, 2005.

58 See Shanghai Declaration passed by the 22nd Congress on the Law of the World on September 9, 2005.

59 The theme of the participation by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the Shanghai World Expo also represents China’s important understanding of building a harmonious world.

60 From April 13 to 16, 2006, at the initiative of the Chinese Buddhist community and with the support of Buddhist personages from 41 countries and regions, the first World Buddhist Forum was held in the Chinese cities of Hangzhou and Zhoushan. The theme of the forum was “A Harmonious World Begins in the Mind”, with the discussions focusing on Buddhist cooperation, social responsibility and its peace mission. Since then, China has advocated home and abroad the idea of “religious harmony” and put it into practice.

61 Liu Xiaoming, “Opportunities and Challenges: Building Towards a Harmonious Northeast Asia”, Speech at the Ceremony Conferring the Medal of the Dean of the Fletcher School, September 10, 2007, Beijing.

China cherishes its traditional friendship with neighboring countries by continuing its policy of developing good-neighboring relations and treating its neighbors as partners. It is also committed to working together with its neighbors to create a regional environment featuring peace, stability, equality, mutual trust and win-win cooperation.⁶² China promises that it will not change its policy of living in harmony with neighboring countries no matter what difficulties and obstacles there might be.⁶³ As for relationship among major powers, China holds that relevant countries should establish a new type of relationship featuring harmonious coexistence. So long as major powers grasp the right world trend of peace, development and cooperation in the 21st century, stick to the direction set by their leaders with resolve, and never waver in their determination to overcome whatever difficulties coming their way, they will blaze a new trail of bilateral relationship characterized by mutual respect, harmonious coexistence and win-win cooperation, and their people of this and future generations will live in the sunshine of lasting peace, friendship and cooperation.⁶⁴

China believes that the human society is standing at a critical juncture of changes in the second decade of the 21st century, international relations should follow such a trend and adapt to the changes, and that relevant countries should carve a new path along which countries with different social systems, histories, cultures and development stages respect each other, live together in harmony and make joint efforts to obtain win-win results.⁶⁵ Following the international financial crisis, developed and developing countries are both faced with important opportunities for development as well as similar challenges, therefore relevant countries should work together, respect each other, live together in harmony and seek common development and prosperity.⁶⁶ China is willing to be a good friend and partner of every country, seek development through harmony and pursue win-win results through cooperation so as to make a greater contribution to the cause of human progress.⁶⁷

China reckons that countries with different political systems should build up

62 Remarks by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei at a regular press conference Q&A session on November 11, 2010.

63 贾庆林[Jia Qinglin]: 《永做好邻居好朋友好伙伴》 [“To be Good Neighbors, Good Friends and Good Partners Forever”], Speech at the Eurasian National University of Kazakhstan, November 10, 2010, Astana.

64 Remarks by State Councilor Dai Bingguo at the opening ceremony of the third round of China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue, May 9, 2011, Washington, DC.

65 Remarks by Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun at the Symposium on Sino-US Security Relations and Cooperation, June 28, 2011.

66 Remarks by State Councilor Dai Bingguo during the press opportunity after the second round of China-EU High-Level Strategic Dialogue, May 12, 2011, Budapest.

67 Remarks by Premier Wen Jiabao in his press availability with EU leaders, May 20, 2009, Prague.

harmonious relationships with one another. On the one hand, they should seek common ground and win-win results by joining hands to achieve economic goals and by making concerted efforts for world peace and addressing global challenges, and they should collaborate with an open mind and share their achievements in science, technology and human progress. On the other hand, they should be adept at reserving differences and demonstrate the spirit of inclusiveness. To be specific, the differences in social system and values should not stand in the way of cooperation, different models of economic development can meet each other halfway, and the historical and cultural heritages of various countries should be seen as a common asset of all humanity. China proposed that a “harmony” index be set up for countries with different political systems and that we make it go up to encourage better mutual understanding and mutual benefit.⁶⁸ What’s more, by that doing, we can jointly create a new type of major-power relationship featuring cooperation and mutual benefit. China believes that the key to this new type of relationship is respect of each other’s core interests and major concerns, objective and rational perception of one another’s strategic intention, proper management of differences and avoidance of strategic misjudgment, mutual irritation and vicious competition. Rising powers do not challenge established powers, and established powers should accommodate rising powers.⁶⁹

China has also put forth such proposals as the construction of harmonious oceans, harmonious outer space and harmonious Internet environment, and the promotion of harmonious development of cities. China understands the important role of various fields and channels in building a harmonious world. In terms of security, China believes that the world should uphold a new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation and engage in the creation of a harmonious and stable international and regional security environment.⁷⁰ To make steady progress in arms control and disarmament process is an inevitable requirement of the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.⁷¹ A comprehensive and effective implementation of the Program of Action and other relevant international instruments, strengthening of capacity building of each country in related areas and continued promotion of multilateral processes for combating illicit trade in small arms are very important

68 Liu Xiaoming, “Building a Harmonious China-West Relationship”, Lecture at University College London”, Gustav Tucker Hall, UCL, January 28, 2011. Retrieved from <http://uk.china-embassy.org/eng/ambassador/t790936.htm>

69 Le Yucheg, “China’s Relations with the World at a New Starting Point”, Speech at the CIIS Forum, April 10, 2012, Beijing. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t925181.htm>

70 Remarks by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, August 12, 2009.

71 See Statement by Li Chunjie of the Chinese delegation at the general debate of the 2009 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, April 15, 2009, New York.

for maintaining regional stability, boosting economic development, and promoting the construction of a harmonious world with lasting peace.⁷²

Economically, China calls on all countries in the world to strive for harmonious development of the world economy, attach importance to promoting the development of economic globalization in the direction of balance, universal benefit and win-win outcomes, and take effective measures in that regard so as to alleviate imbalance in development and eradicate poverty. China maintains that the international community should actively push forward regional and global economic cooperation, work together to solve the problems arising from global economic development and safeguard economic security, and that all countries should go for mutual openness instead of blockade and endeavor to set up a open, fair and regulated multilateral trading system so as to give play to each other's complementary advantages, realize mutual benefit, and achieve win-win results for all.⁷³

In the cultural field, China believes that communication and exchanges between peoples serve as an important basis for achieving lasting peace and common prosperity in the world.⁷⁴ To strengthen cultural exchanges around the world and to expand the spiritual communication between peoples of different cultural backgrounds is an important way to promote the construction of a harmonious world.⁷⁵

In the field of multilateral diplomacy, China holds that the world should strengthen multilateral cooperation to promote harmony among various countries. The United Nations should be committed to promoting harmony between man and nature. To advance the UN reform and to enable the organization to play a more important role in maintaining world peace, promoting common development and strengthening cooperation among countries is crucial to building a harmonious world.⁷⁶ The Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) is willing to work with the

72 Statement by Ambassador Liu Zhenmin at the United Nations Security Council open debate on small arms, 30 April 2008.

73 胡锦涛[Hu Jintao]: 《促进中东和平 建设和谐世界——在沙特阿拉伯王国协商会议的演讲》 [“Promote the Middle East Peace and Build a Harmonious World -- Speech at the Consultative Assembly, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia”], April 23, 2006, Riyadh. Retrieved from <http://politics.people.com.cn/GB/1024/4322140.html>

74 杨洁篪[Yang Jiechi]: 《建设持久和平、共同繁荣的和谐世界——在中国发展高层论坛年会午餐会上的演讲》 [“Build towards a Harmonious World of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity, a speech at the luncheon of the annual meeting of the China Development Forum”], March 23, 2008, Beijing.

75 习近平[Xi Jinping]: 《加强文化交流, 促进世界和平——在第61届法兰克福国际书展开幕式上的致辞》 [“Strengthening Cultural Exchanges and Promote World Peace -- Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the 61st Frankfurt International Book Fair”], October 13, 2009, Frankfurt. Retrieved from http://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2009-10/14/content_1438506.htm

76 Yang Jiechi, “Work Together to Strengthen Cooperation and Foster Harmony -- Statement at the General Debate of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly, September 28, 2007, New York. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceun/eng/ldhy/ld62/t370458.htm>

legislative bodies of other countries to take full advantage of the important stage of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and actively carry out various forms of multilateral cooperation, jointly address challenges, join hands to open up the future so as to provide legal support to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.⁷⁷

Facing the new international situation in the 21st century, China attaches great importance to the media's role in building a harmonious world. China reckons that the media around the world should follow the trend of the times and strive hand in hand to provide a good public opinion environment for the construction of a harmonious world.⁷⁸

5. Putting emphasis on and obtaining a profound understanding of building a harmonious Asia

Asia is where China stays and thrives, the place that China depends on for an external environment which is crucial for its peaceful development. China has ardent expectations of Asia in its efforts to build a harmonious neighborhood and region. In view of this, the Chinese Government and its leaders attach great importance to the understanding and exploration of building a harmonious Asia.

China is of the view that Asian countries should treat each other with sincerity, good-will and an open and inclusive mind, allow different countries, nations, faiths and civilizations to live together in harmony and move forward through mutual learning.⁷⁹ Asian countries should promote such concepts as comprehensive security, common security and cooperative security, and help the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) make greater contributions to enhancing mutual trust among Asia-Pacific countries and to the construction of a harmonious regional environment.⁸⁰ China reckons that Asian countries should respect one another, enhance mutual

77 吴邦国[Wu Bangguo]:《实现千年发展目标国际社会不容辞——在第三次世界议长大会议上的书面发言》[“The International Community has Unshirkable Responsibility in the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals – Written Speech at the Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament”], July 19, 2010, Geneva. Retrieved from <http://politics.people.com.cn/GB/1024/12188853.html>

78 新华社[Xinhua News Agency],《胡锦涛在世界媒体峰会开幕式上的致辞》[“Remarks of H. E. Mr. Hu Jintao at the Opening Ceremony of the World Media Summit”], October 9, 2009. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2009-10/09/content_12200932.htm

79 Remarks by State Councilor Dai Bingguo at the Third Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, June 8, 2010, Istanbul. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t707236.htm>

80 《王毅出席东盟地区论坛外长会时强调应倡导全面安全共同安全合作安全》[“Wang Yi Stressed the Need to Advocate Comprehensive Security, Common Security and Cooperative Security when Attending the ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting”], 中国外交部网站[Website of the Chinese Foreign Ministry], July 2, 2013. Retrieved from http://www.mfa.gov.cn/mfa_chn/zyxw_602251/t1055330.shtml

trust, seek common ground while reserving differences and settle various contradictions and problems, including territorial and maritime disputes, through negotiation, dialogue and amicable coordination so as to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. In China's view, relevant countries should engage in close economic and trade relations and mutually beneficial cooperation, promote regional economic integration, improve existing regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms, and remain open-minded toward other regional cooperation initiatives. China believes that Asian countries should welcome countries from other regions to play a constructive role in promoting regional peace and development in Asia.

China has made the solemn commitment that it will not seek regional hegemony or sphere of influence, nor does it want to exclude any country from participating in regional cooperation. China's prosperity, development and long-term stability present an opportunity rather than a threat to its neighbors. China will uphold the "Asian spirit" of unremitting self-improvement, pioneering and enterprising, openness and inclusiveness, and all being in the same boat. It will remain a good neighbor, friend and partner of other Asian countries.⁸¹

6. Clarifying the relationship between building a harmonious world and other relevant concepts

(1) The relationship with building a harmonious society

Pursuing social harmony is a tradition of the Chinese nation. Since reform and opening up, China has introduced the idea of building a socialist harmonious society, then giving "harmony", a concept ingrained in traditional Chinese culture, a new connotation. Historically, thoughts on harmony such as "peace is of utmost value", "universal love" and "love without distinction" reflect Chinese people's desire and pursuit of a harmonious society in which "people love each other, everyone is equal, and the world belongs to all". Based on overall domestic and international situations, the contemporary China takes reform and opening up as an opportunity to actively safeguard and exploit the important period of strategic opportunities for its peaceful development. Domestically, China is steadily pushing forward the building of a comprehensive, fairly well-off society, and internationally, the country is actively engaging in building a harmonious world, hence a "double harmony" national strategy.

The "double harmony" national strategy is system engineering which relates

⁸¹ The State Council Information Office, *China's Peaceful Development* (White Paper), September 6, 2011. Retrieved from http://english.gov.cn/official/2011-09/06/content_1941354.htm

to the future of human society.⁸² The introduction of the strategy marks not only an economic rise of China but also a steady pursuit of a cultural rise, a trend that is consistent with the historical logic of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The idea of building a harmonious world presents a high-level overview of China's pursuit of its ideals in foreign relations and the core substance of its global strategy. The concept of Harmonious World is an extension of the vision of a Harmonious Society in the international realm, and both concepts complement each other in terms of pursuit of values and political logic. Therefore, the fact that China is committed to building a harmonious society will give new impetus to its endeavor of promoting the construction of a harmonious world. Correspondingly, China's promotion of a harmonious world will help create a favorable international environment for its effort in building a harmonious society domestically. From the national strategic level, the fact that China is committed to peaceful development means that the country will be necessarily committed to the pursuit of a peaceful external environment, a harmonious coexistence with all other countries, and the construction of a harmonious world.

China is internally committed to building a harmonious society and externally calling for the construction of a harmonious world, thus a two-way interaction, reflecting the profound wisdom of the Chinese culture, highlighting the image of China as a responsible and constructive major power.

China reckons that the domestic construction of a harmonious society serves as a premise and basis for working with other countries to build a harmonious world, and once a harmonious society with Chinese characteristics is built up, it will constitute an important part of a harmonious world. All those countries and peoples longing for world harmony should understand and support China's efforts in building a harmonious society for the reasons that it would be difficult for the world to be harmonious without a harmonious Chinese society, and that China's development is inseparable from that of the world, and China has already formed a community of common destiny with the rest of the world.

(2) The relationship with the peaceful development path

China believes that unswervingly taking the path of peaceful development is a strategic choice made by the Chinese Government and its people in keeping with the fine tradition of Chinese culture and the development trend of the times, which is determined by China's basic national conditions and development needs as well as a result of drawing on both experience and lessons from the rise and fall of great

82 杨琳[Yang Lin]: 《和谐世界从心开始——专访国家宗教事务局局长叶小文》 [“A Harmonious World Begins in the Mind – Exclusive Interview with Director of the State Bureau of Religious Affairs Ye Xiaowen”], 《瞭望》 [Outlook Weekly], Vol. 14, 2006, pp. 30-32.

powers in history.⁸³ The Chinese Government consciously integrates the grand goal of building a harmonious world with its long-term plan of peaceful development, and the integration serves as the basis and prerequisite for the construction of a harmonious world, making itself both a patriot and an internationalist. China insists on following the path of peaceful development so that one-fifth of the world's population will be able to live a fairly well-off life, which will be a great contribution to the mankind by making the world more harmonious. By adhering to the peaceful development path, China shows its sincerity in seeking peaceful development and its hope that more countries would follow suit. By so doing, a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity is expected to be realized. Correspondingly, if the world becomes more harmonious, China's pursuit of peaceful development will become easier. In this sense, adhering to the peaceful development path and promoting the construction of a harmonious world condition and reinforce one another, therefore they cannot be separated.⁸⁴

D. Innovations in Diplomatic Theory Brought About by the Idea of Building a Harmonious World

Great ideas stem from great practices and great ideas bring about a series of theoretical innovations. The idea of building a harmonious world has generated innovations and development of Chinese diplomatic philosophy and strategic thinking, given birth to a new world outlook and methodology, developed China's view on global governance, improved its outlook on international order, upgraded its concept of regional cooperation, and enhanced its understanding of international responsibility.

1. Forming a diplomatic philosophy featuring peace and harmony

To build a harmonious world is an extension of Chinese domestic policy of building a harmonious society and is an important part of China's foreign policy and diplomatic strategy in the new era. Speaking from the philosophical and cultural perspective, the concept of Harmonious World originated from China's

⁸³ The State Council Information Office, *China's Peaceful Development (White Paper)*, September 2011, Beijing. Retrieved from http://english.gov.cn/official/2011-09/06/content_1941354.htm

⁸⁴ 戴秉国[Dai Bingguo]: 《坚持走和平发展道路》[“Adhering to the Road of Peaceful Development”], 《<中共中央关于制定国民经济和社会发展第十二个五年规划的建议>辅导读本》[*Readings about CPC Central Committee's Recommendations on the Twelfth Five-Year Plan of National Economic and Social Development*], People's Publishing House (Beijing), 2010.

cultural tradition of “peace and harmony”. The Chinese nation always treasures peace, and the pursuit of peace is the most basic orientation of Chinese people’s values. Since ancient times, the Chinese people have regarded the pursuit of peace as a lofty social ideal. From Confucius’ philosophy of benevolence to Mozi’s political thought of “non-aggression”, from Mencius’ thought of “kingly way” (the ideology of non-hegemony) to Sun Tzu’ strategy of “no war”, all these ethics and philosophies (benevolence, loyalty and filial piety, faith and peace) constitute the mainstream of Chinese traditional culture and ideology.

Since its founding in 1949, the People’s Republic of China has actively promoted in the international community such norms and principles as peaceful coexistence, seeking common ground while putting aside differences, harmony without uniformity, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and China advocated new concepts of order, security, civilization, development and cooperation. All these ideas reflect the notion of peace and harmony, which is unique to the Chinese culture. Historically, the notion of peace and harmony originated from the traditional Chinese culture featuring the belief that “peace is of the utmost value”. It conforms to the trend of world multi-polarization and economic globalization, in line with the central theme of the era, that is, peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. The notion of peace and harmony not only serves as a guide to the contemporary China’s diplomacy, but has gradually become an important philosophy guiding the development of international relations. As a new Chinese diplomatic concept, “peace and harmony” not only represents the mainstream of China’s foreign policy, but also reflects Chinese people’s aspiration for peace and a better life. This new diplomatic philosophy shows that the era when China appeared in the international society as a “revolutionary” or a “bystander” is over, and that China has begun to express its views on the international regime, shoulder the responsibility of a major power, and maintain international institutional stability as a “participant” and an “insider”. The new philosophy also shows that China will take part in the construction of international relations as a builder of the international system, a maker of the international rules and a stakeholder of the international order.⁸⁵

85 方柏华[Fang Bohua]、任晶晶[Ren Jingjing]:《和谐世界”理念研究:回顾与前瞻》[“A Study of the Idea of a Harmonious World: Retrospect and Prospect”],《中共中央党校学报》[*Journal of the Central Party School*], Vol.4, 2008. Retrieved from <http://www.cntheory.com/news/Zzxxxxj/2008/928/0892894238C7512811810767E3D61E.html>

2. Promoting the development and innovation of China's strategic thoughts on diplomacy

The diplomatic strategy of building a harmonious world requires China to combine its development with the development of other countries, taking into account both domestic and international situations; to integrate the notion of "national interests first" with the concept of "mutual benefit and win-win cooperation", pursuing both its own interests and the overall interests of the region and the world; to adhere to both "independence and autonomy" and "opening-up and inclusiveness", combining the Chinese diplomatic philosophy and advanced international ideas, to stick to the combination of "national characteristics" and the "international role", stressing both the role of a major power and distinctive Chinese characteristics; to insist on both "seeking self-development" and "making the world better", combining handling domestic affairs with undertaking international responsibilities; and to uphold the principles of both "inheriting from the past" and "proceeding with the times", integrating inheritance with innovation. In this way, the "Chinese dream" is linked with the dreams of other countries and regions and that of the world at large. The diplomatic strategy of building a harmonious world also requires China to turn "peaceful coexistence" into "harmonious coexistence" and closely link "lasting peace" with "common prosperity", effectively integrating "peaceful development" and "win-win cooperation" as strategic approaches; not only insist on unity and cooperation with developing countries, opposition against hegemonism and power politics, and promotion of democratization of international relations, but also remain committed to harmonious coexistence with other major powers and achieve win-win progress through cooperation and joint governance. Under the guidance of this new diplomatic strategy, the Chinese culture is currently on a faster track to be known by the rest of the world and the process of building China's soft power has entered a new historical stage.

3. Bringing about innovations in world view and methodology

The world today witnesses accelerating globalization, intensified optimal allocation of production factors, and accelerated economic integration of various countries. Driven by network and information technology, the interdependence among countries is growing. With more frequent exchanges and increased common interests, countries over the world have formed a community of interests with shared stake. In the meantime, no country can build itself behind closed doors

or rely entirely on its own strength to achieve sustainable development. Instead they can achieve common development through mutually beneficial cooperation and balanced development through common development, ultimately realizing harmonious development and common prosperity. That requires all countries to uphold a new world view and methodology. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi once said,

“Comrade Hu Jintao’s report to the 17th National Congress of the CPC elaborated on the basic elements of a harmonious world from five perspectives: political, economic, cultural, security, and environmental protection, thereby enabling the concept of ‘Harmonious World’ to cover the new outlooks we have so far proposed: new outlook on order, new outlook on security, new outlook on civilization and new outlook on environment. Though just a framework, probably it constitutes the initial form of a new world view with Chinese characteristics.”⁸⁶

As to methodology, the harmony-centered world view is not only a thinking about the world, but also a thinking from the global perspective, i.e. a thinking using the “world” as a unit to analyze issues, which goes beyond the Western way of thinking that centers on nation/state. The harmony-centered world view reflects a strong sense of responsibility for the world and inevitably calls for creation of new ideas about the world as well as world system.⁸⁷ This will inevitably strengthen the sense of “global village” and community of human interests, destiny and responsibility and has laid the ideological foundation for promoting the all-in-the-same-boat spirit and win-win cooperation”.

4. Developing China’s outlook on international and regional order

In his speech at the George W. Bush Library when he visited the United States in October 2002, President Jiang Zemin pointed out that the Chinese nation has inherited from ancient times a fine tradition of honesty, harmony and good faith. These are the values that China has consistently abided by in the handling of foreign relations. The very purpose of China’s foreign policy is to safeguard world peace and promote common development. Two thousand years ago, Confucius said, “In human relationships, a gentleman seeks harmony but not uniformity”,

86 王毅[Wang Yi]: 《和谐世界：真正具有中国特色的外交理念》[“A Harmonious World: A Diplomatic Theory Truly with Chinese Characteristics”], 《世界知识》[World Knowledge], Vol. 5, 2008.

87 See 赵汀阳[Zhao Tingyang]: 《天下体系——世界制度哲学导论》[The “Under Heaven” System: a Philosophical Introduction to the World Institutions], Jiansu Education Press (Nanjing), 2005, pp.3-4.

which means harmony but not sameness, reserving differences without coming into conflict. Harmony promotes coexistence and co-prosperity, whereas differences foster complementarity and mutual support. The world's civilizations, social systems and development models can come together for exchanges and mutual learning. They can draw on others' strong points to make up for their own weaknesses through healthy competition, and achieve common development amid seeking common ground while keeping differences.⁸⁸

The introduction of the concept "Harmonious World" reflects China's pursuit and expectations concerning the prospects of the world's development, and further demonstrates the value orientation of China in dealing with international relations. To keep in line with this new diplomatic thinking, China calls on all countries to promote the spirit of equality and mutual trust, tolerance and mutual learning, and cooperation and mutual benefit in international relations, and jointly safeguard the international justice. In the field of international security, China advocates a new security concept and proposes the international community to join hands to achieve comprehensive, common and cooperative security. In the field of international development, China holds that all countries should work to make sure that economic globalization develops in a balanced manner and produces universal benefits, and that the 21st century will be a century of development for all.

As for world civilizations, China vigorously promotes dialogue and exchanges among civilizations and the elimination of ideological prejudice and barriers so that human society will become more harmonious, amicable and colorful with each passing day. On international environmental protection, China calls on all countries to jointly take care of the Earth, the only home of human beings and promote harmonious development of man and nature. As for the transformation of international system, China advocates continuously maintaining and strengthening the core role of the United Nations in the current international system, increasing the representation and voice of developing countries, and making the international system increasingly fair, just and inclusive.⁸⁹ The world should continue to press ahead with the reform of international financial institutions, abide by the principles of mutual respect and collective decision-making, and increase the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries.⁹⁰ The world should also build a fair and effective global development system and a fair, just, inclusive and orderly international monetary and financial system as well as a fair and equitable

88 《江泽民文选》[*Selected Works of Jiang Zemin*], Volume 3, 2006 edition, People's Publishing House, pp. 522-523.

89 何亚非[He Yafei]: 《国际体系的改革与完善》[*"Reform and Improvement of the International System"*], *People's Daily*, June 8, 2010.

90 Remarks by President Hu Jintao at the 19th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, November 13, 2011.

international free trade system.⁹¹

5. Giving birth to a view on global governance with Chinese characteristics

In the 21st century, with the development of globalization, China's relations with the outside world have undergone historic changes. China's future and destiny has been more closely connected with that of the world. Global issues and challenges as a result of economic globalization call for effective international regulation and governance. The process of global governance driven by the 2008 international financial crisis reflects the objective law of development of the contemporary international economic system. In the meantime, China, as a responsible developing country, has taken active part in the reform of international system, made efforts to promote multilateralism and global governance in a constructive manner so as to achieve harmonious development. China will continue to be involved in the aforementioned tasks. Recent years have witnessed the synergistic effect of economic globalization and the financial crisis, which has further complicated traditional international political and economic issues and brought forth a number of new global problems, hence further improvement of global governance is needed.

China believes that the international financial crisis has highlighted the deficiencies of the global economic governance system, but it has also enabled the international community to set out on a historical process of building a new system.⁹² China reckons that the global economic governance mechanism should reflect the changing global economic landscape,⁹³ that the world should continue to increase the voice of emerging markets and developing countries in terms of global economic governance and create an enabling institutional environment for their development, and that we should build a more equal and balanced global partnership for development, strengthen the North-South dialogue and South-South cooperation, intensify coordination and cooperation with the United Nations (UN) on development, and support the UN and its specialized agencies to continue playing an important role in world development.⁹⁴ China holds that the international community should put development issues on the top of the agenda, and that it is necessary to promote the establishment of global early warning systems, improve international society's ability in coordination, and strengthen the communication

91 Ibid.

92 Remarks by President Hu Jintao at the sixth G20 Summit, November 3, 2011.

93 Remarks by President Hu Jintao at the 19th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, November 13, 2011.

94 Remarks by President Hu Jintao at the Sixth G20 Summit, November 3, 2011.

and coordination among national governments, international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations so as to formulate a multi-level, multi-field global cooperation system.⁹⁵

China proposes that efforts be made to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between developing countries and developed ones, enhance the representation of developing countries in global governance mechanisms, and establish a new global partnership for development.⁹⁶ The BRICS countries should stay firmly committed to safeguarding their common interests, step up coordination in international economic, financial and development fields and enhance the status and role of emerging markets and developing countries in global economic governance.⁹⁷ It is China's view that no matter how the reform of the global governance system may unfold, the BRICS countries should always take an active and constructive part in the process and make the international order more just and equitable so as to provide institutional safeguards for world peace and stability.⁹⁸

6. Upgrading China's concept of regional cooperation

For a long time, China has attached importance to regional multilateralism and has considered the peace and stability of its neighborhood as a key to the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and as an important channel for China's integration with the international community. China is committed to living in harmony with neighboring countries and peoples, exchanging with different civilizations and cultures, and working with other countries to build a harmonious Asia and a harmonious Asia-Pacific. Historically, the ancient Chinese concept of good-neighborly relations has a profound impact on China's idea of cooperation with surrounding countries. Back in August 2001, at a forum on security issues in China's neighborhood, President Jiang Zemin pointed out in his remarks that the ancestors of the Chinese people as early as in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC) and the Warring States Period (475-221BC) recognized the importance of handling relations with their neighbors. Zuo Zhuan (《左传》), the first Chinese chronological history covering the period from 722 BC to 464 BC, stated that "it is a long-cherished treasure of a nation to foster harmony and build amicable ties with neighbors". Guanzhong (管仲), a statesman and prime minister

95 何亚非[He Yafei]: 《国际体系的改革与完善》 ["Reform and Improvement of the International System"].

96 Interview with President Hu Jintao by Le Figaro of France and the Lusa News Agency of Portugal, November 2, 2010.

97 Remarks by President Hu Jintao at the Third BRICS Leaders Meeting, April 14, 2011.

98 "Work Hand in Hand for Common Development: Keynote Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the Fifth BRICS Leaders Meeting", March 27, 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.fmcopec.gov.hk/eng/xwtd/wsyw/t1027968.htm>

of the State of Qi of the Spring and Autumn Period, argued that a wise king can attract talented people from faraway places and befriend the local people. He thought that a state should treat faraway states with courtesy, and nearby ones with amity. Former Chinese President Jiang Zemin believed that “a good relationship with neighbors is in the best interests of the nation.”⁹⁹

In the new era, China actively enhances friendly cooperation with its neighbors and works with them to promote the construction of a harmonious Asia. China calls on Asian countries to respect each other, enhance mutual trust, seek common ground while putting aside differences, settle disputes through dialogue and friendly negotiation, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. Countries in the region should strengthen economic and trade ties, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, promote regional economic integration, and improve existing regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms. China always honors its solemn promises made to the international community that it will never seek hegemony or sphere of influence, nor does it want to exclude any country from taking part in regional cooperation. China will uphold the Asian spirit of unremitting self-improvement, pioneering and enterprising, openness and inclusiveness, and being in the same boat. It will remain a good neighbor, friend and partner of other Asian countries.¹⁰⁰

7. Enhancing China's understanding of international responsibility

With continued strengthening of its comprehensive national strength and an expanding economy, China keeps readjusting and improving its foreign policy in line with the spirit of the UN Charter and its own policy goals, and has correspondingly undertaken international obligations, making its own contributions to the international community in economic, political, security, moral and other fields. China believes that the realistic idea of national interests cannot effectively accommodate the internal and external requirements of economic and social development of a nation and therefore cannot serve as a theoretical basis for the thinking on international responsibility. Thus, countries in the world should combine their national interests with their shared interests, and integrate their shared interests with their international responsibilities. For China, as the most populous nation and the largest developing country in the world, to run itself well is the most important fulfillment of its international obligations. As a responsible

99 《江泽民文选》[*Selected Works of Jiang Zemin*], Volume 3, 2006 edition, p.314.

100 中华人民共和国国务院新闻办公室[The State Council Information Office, P.R. China]: 《中国的和平发展》[*China's Peaceful Development (White Paper)*], People's Publishing House, September 2011, pp.19-20.

member of the international community, China has abided by the international law and the generally recognized principles governing international relations, and has earnestly fulfilled its international obligations. The country has actively participated in reforming international systems, formulating international rules and addressing global issues. It supports the development of other developing countries, and works to safeguard world peace and stability. As countries vary in national conditions and are in different stages of development, they should match responsibility with rights in accordance with their national strength. They should play a constructive role by bearing their due international responsibilities in accordance with their own capabilities and on the basis of aligning their own interests with the common interests of mankind. For its part, China will assume more international responsibility as its comprehensive national strength increases.¹⁰¹

8. Deepening China's understanding of harmonious development

Building a harmonious society, currently steadily promoted by the Chinese Government, is an unprecedented, historic undertaking. To transform its development mode and solve difficult development problems, the Chinese leaders put forth the "Scientific Outlook on Development" by following the law of development, thus providing a useful theoretical reference for other countries in their pursuit of harmonious development. The "Scientific Outlook on Development" is highly condensed experience and lessons of China and other countries in the pursuit of comprehensive and sustainable development. It stresses that in the pursuit of domestic development, countries around the world should consider not only natural elements but also human factors, pay attention not only to natural resources, environment and ecological sustainability but also to human resources, environment and human environment problems, and that we must not "squander our heritage, and leave our future generations with nothing".

In summary, China believes that to achieve harmonious development, three principles must be followed: sustainable development, comprehensive development and coordinated development, among which sustainable development is the core content. China calls on all countries in the world to strive to achieve harmony between man and nature in exploiting natural resources and to pursue sustainable economic and social development. To implement national development strategies, they need to meet the needs of the contemporary generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. While seeking their own

101 Ibid. p.19.

development interests, countries around the world should provide external driving forces for other countries' development through their own development. All countries in the world should promote comprehensive social progress and people's overall development on the basis of economic development. In implementing their national development strategies, every country should try their best to satisfy the needs of their citizens and to promote coordinated development of material, political and spiritual civilizations so as to lay a solid foundation for harmonious development.

9. Promoting the ideas of harmonious culture and harmonious civilization

Harmonious culture is the world's most advanced culture and the prerequisite for the building of a harmonious society and a harmonious world. The connotation of harmony is the essential attribute that distinguishes the harmonious culture from other cultures. All of its ideas and concepts, such as truth, values, development, aesthetics, ethics and ideals, use harmony as its premise and are built on the basis of the connotation of harmony. China regards the culture of harmony as the key to the co-building and benefit-sharing of a harmonious society and proposes that governments of all countries educate their people with it. History has shown that only under the guidance of the culture of harmony can a country be able to build up a harmonious polity and economy, that only educated by the culture of harmony can people consciously make efforts to construct a harmonious society and world. Through a series of diplomatic practices, using all available means, China introduced the concept and proposition of "building a harmonious culture", pointing out that we must first create, develop, improve and popularize harmonious culture in order to create a harmonious world. All countries should create conditions to build a "society featuring democracy and rule of law, equity and justice, sincerity and amity, vitality, stability and order, and harmony between man and nature." They should also achieve a cultural harmony in the broadest sense on the basis of continuous economic, political, social and cultural progress.

From the perspective of international relations, China believes that the concept of harmonious culture not only emphasizes that "peace is most precious" but also stresses "harmony without uniformity", acknowledging the differences between cultures. China maintains that all countries have the right to inherit and carry forward their differentiated harmonious culture. Cultural differences may lead to frictions and competition, and it is possible for different cultures to come to

harmonious coexistence through struggles and frictions, integrate with each other through exchanges and interactions, and finally achieve a new harmony among them. China believes that the contemporary idea of a harmonious culture requires that all countries take an objective, rational and open-minded attitude toward alien cultures, learn and draw on all the achievements of human civilization, and advocate the complementarities and merging of different cultures. China reckons that all countries should engage in cultural cooperation by following the principles of being inclusive, transcending differences, striving for consensus, and achieving coordinated development. They should respect the diversity of civilizations, promote harmonious coexistence of different civilizations, learn from one another through competition and comparison, and achieve common progress by seeking common ground while reserving differences. They should always stand for harmonious and inclusive dialogue among civilizations, respect each other's cultural traditions and values, oppose the theory of civilization clashes, eliminate ideological prejudices and barriers, and jointly promote the prosperity and progress of human civilization.

10. Developing a new security concept

In the era of globalization with increasing interdependence, there is increased connection between one country's security and that of another, between national security and international security, between internal security and external one, between traditional security and non-traditional security. The security issues have become increasingly diverse, infectious, co-moving, prompt, mutual, shared, comprehensive and cooperative. In view of the above new changes and features of security issues, China introduced and pursued a new concept of security in the 1990s.

The notion of "Harmonious World" further promotes the development and improvement of China's new security concept because it contains an important strategic thinking that stresses the pursuit of security through seeking harmony and innovative thoughts. The notion of "Harmonious World" requires that all countries in the world promote harmonization of international relations by peaceful development and win-win cooperation so as to ensure their harmonious coexistence. The "Harmonious World" concept calls on all parties to resolutely abandon the outdated ideas and obsolete methods and approaches, firmly establish the new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, adopt such new concepts as comprehensive security, universal

security and cooperative security, and make efforts to seek new answers to old questions and good answers to new questions so that they can keep resolving difficult development problems and security dilemmas that human beings are faced with.¹⁰² China believes that in face of increasingly complex and pluralistic security challenges, we should readjust the traditional security theories that are outdated and foster new concepts of international security which stress that “security depends on peace, development, cooperation and win-win principles.”¹⁰³

E. The Increasingly Matured Theoretical System of China's Promotion of a Harmonious World

With increasingly deepened understanding of building a harmonious world, the theory of China's promotion of a harmonious world has gradually matured. A previously rough theoretical structure with only a general proposition and five basic appeals has evolved into a multi-dimensional structure with great breadth and depth consisting of varied fields, levels, elements, dimensions, entities and approaches.

In addition to the introduction of new notions in the fields of international politics, development, security, civilization and environment, China also presents to the world new concepts of harmonious culture, harmonious religion as well as international system reform and global governance. Besides the global level, the theory also covers regional and sub-regional, national, domestic and individual levels. In addition to traditional areas of land, sea and air, it extends to outer space, cyberspace and other “new frontiers”. Besides the notion of harmonious coexistence, the theory also contains such elements as harmonious development, harmonious interaction, the “all-in-the-same-boat” spirit, and win-win cooperation. In addition to citing communities of common interests and common destiny, it also talks about a “community of shared emotions”¹⁰⁴ and a “community of shared responsibility”¹⁰⁵. Besides nation-states, it also includes such actors as international organizations, multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, different age groups, religious groups, sports organizations, the media and cities.

102 习近平[Xi Jinping]:《携手合作 共同维护世界和平与安全——在“世界和平论坛”开幕式上的致辞》[“Work Together to Jointly Safeguard World Peace and Security, remarks at the opening ceremony of the World Peace Forum”, July 7, 2012. Retrieved from <http://cpc.people.com.cn/n/2012/0707/c64094-18465868.html>

103 Li Yuanchao: “United in Our Pursuit of Peace and Security”, Address at the Second World Peace Forum, June 27, 2013. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-06/28/c_132495968.htm

104 See “Work Together for a Bright Future of Northeast Asia: Keynote Speech by Tang Jiaxuan at China-Japan-ROK Academic Forum”, October 19, 2011, Seoul, ROK. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t873180.shtml>

105 “China's Relations with the World at a New Starting Point——Speech by Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng at the CIIS Forum”, April 10, 2012, Beijing. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/zyjh/t925181.htm>

As for the way toward a harmonious world, the theory of building a harmonious world emphasizes "peaceful development" and "win-win cooperation" as the basic approaches. It stresses regional cooperation and common development in the belief that efforts should be made to promote harmony through development and cooperation, and that struggle is also necessary for achieving harmony. After the adoption of the "Scientific Outlook on Development" in China, people have gradually understood the importance of development in a scientific way for building a harmonious society and a harmonious world. Since the introduction of the notion of "Chinese Dream", the interaction and connection between the "Chinese Dream" and the "World Dream" have become hot topics for theoretical explorations.



III. DIPLOMACY: EFFORTS AND EFFECTS

China is committed to living with other countries and peoples in harmony and advocates harmonious integration of different civilizations and cultures. It is also committed to working with other countries and forces to build a harmonious Asia, a harmonious Asia-Pacific and a harmonious world. China promotes the idea of building a harmonious world internationally with the hope that it will be universally accepted as a key principle of international relations. Meanwhile, China engages in building a harmonious Asia, a harmonious Asia-Pacific and a harmonious world by implementing its multi-dimensional diplomatic strategy in an all-round manner. The great theoretical and practical contributions that China has made to the construction of a harmonious world cannot be denied or ignored.

A. Vigorously Promoting the Concept of Harmonious World

By promoting the concept of Harmonious World through initiatives, publications, exposition and negotiations, China has made the concept well-known home and abroad, and enjoying worldwide recognition.

The introduction of the notion of building a harmonious world is yet another important theoretical contribution that China has made to international relations and a remarkable initiative that pushes forward the development of international relationship in the 21st century. This idea has gradually shown its powerful ideological fascination. It stemmed from China's assiduous pursuit of a World Dream of lasting peace and common prosperity. It contains the notion of "harmony" which integrates the traditional philosophy of the East and the modern civilization of the West, and more importantly, it reflects China's unremitting efforts in promoting and publicizing the idea of a harmonious world.

Chinese leaders have delivered many important speeches on building a harmonious world on many important international occasions, thereby promoting the concept in the most effective way. At the same time, China has widely spread the concept of Harmonious World in the international community and has made

it part of many important bilateral and multilateral joint communiqués. To promote the idea, China has also held several multilateral forums, at which many key declarations were published, including the Shanghai Declaration at the 22nd Congress on the Law of the World with “creating a harmonious international society based on the rule of law” as its core content, the Hangzhou Declaration at the 3rd Globalization Forum with “respecting the cultural diversity and building a harmonious world” as the core agenda, the Guangzhou Declaration on Cultural Diversity and a Harmonious World summarizing the proceedings of the International Symposium on Cultural Diversity, and the Nishan Declaration on Harmony at the First Nishan Forum on World Civilization. Moreover, Chinese religious circles published the Joint Declaration on Promoting Religious Harmony. All these efforts have made the concept of Harmonious World internationalized and substantiated, thereby turning it from “China’s solo performance” to a “chorus of the international community”.

China’s above efforts have produced remarkable effects. Firstly, the concept of Harmonious World has been widely acknowledged and deeply understood at home. The concepts of Harmonious World and Harmonious Society have brought out the best in each other, produced a great wave in ideological, arts, academic and even religious circles, and have powerfully fueled the renaissance of Chinese traditional culture and expanded its influence in other parts of the world. The different schools of international politics theory in China, including realism, idealism and constructivism, have all recognized and accepted this concept. There have been many discussions and research on it in various circles in China, yielding numerous works with insightful thoughts, wisdom and social impact. And this makes the concept of Harmonious World enjoy popular support in the country.

Secondly, the concept has been widely accepted and commended by different circles internationally. In the ideological circle, it is said that more than 70 Nobel Prize winners held a seminar on the future direction of human society in the 21st century and concluded that “We must ‘travel’ back to 2,500 years ago and learn from the wisdom of Confucius if we would like to survive the 21st century,”¹⁰⁶ and the wisdom is the way toward harmony. Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former French premier, stated clearly that the mainstream of the 20th century was confrontation, while the 21st century would be a century of harmony.¹⁰⁷ And in the political and

106 吴同瑞[Wu Tongrui]:《构建和谐社会、和谐世界与中华文明》[“Chinese Civilization and Building the Harmonious Society and Harmonious World”],《北京大学学报》(哲学社会科学版)[*Journal of Peking University(Philosophy and Social Sciences)*], Volume 44-1, January 2007, p.15.

107 Jean-Pierre Raffarin,《国际形势与中法关系》[“International Situation and France-China Relations”],《外交评论》[*Foreign Affairs Review*], No. 1. 2010, p.13.

diplomatic circles, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the world-famous geo-strategist, spoke highly of the idea of building a harmonious world in 2009, saying that it can serve as a new platform for the development of China-U.S. relations. In the academic circle, European scholars have become interested in the comparative study between China's concept of Harmonious World and the European concept of Global Governance and a research project has been done for that purpose.

Thirdly, driven by the trend of peace, development and cooperation of our times, there have appeared stronger appeals for "harmony" and more harmonious "notes" in the international community, and the two have echoed each other in some way. In the Report of High-level Group of UNAOC (Alliance of Civilization) published in November 2006, the word "harmony" was mentioned five times, for instance, "diminishing hostility and in promoting harmony among the nations and cultures of the world". This report also listed the guidelines to the promotion of harmony, much in common with China's idea of a harmonious world. In May 2007, Nicolas Sarkozy advocated "reconfiguration for a more effective, just and harmonious world order". And later the Obama administration put forth the idea of "multi-partner world" and has attached importance to its cooperation with emerging powers. In his speech at Cairo University on June 4, 2009, Obama explained that the reason why the United States focused on seeking a new start of its relations with Muslim countries and turning against extremism was to ease tensions with the Muslim world and to pursue a harmonious coexistence. The above initiatives can be seen as harmonious "notes" that the U.S. is forced to play in an international "symphony" of harmony. Moreover, the concept of "friendship diplomacy" proposed by Yukio Hatoyama, former Japanese Prime Minister, also sang a melody of "harmony". The melody of "harmony" with the most obvious characteristics of our times is the solidarity and win-win spirit demonstrated by close cooperation among various countries to address the international financial and economic crisis that broke out in 2008.

B. Pushing Forward the Construction of a Harmonious World through Multi-Faceted Diplomacy

As soon as the idea of building a harmonious world was put forward, it has become a guideline for Chinese diplomacy. The Chinese Government cooperates with all walks of life to promote the construction of a harmonious world, making some great achievements and producing far-reaching impact.

1. Taking into consideration the overall situations and shaping the general trend

China has endeavored to harmonize domestic and international situations and to boost the positive interactions between the building of a harmonious society and that of a harmonious world. From the perspective of development, China has actively put into practice the Scientific Outlook on Development and tried to reach the goal of scientific, independent, open, peaceful, cooperative and common development. In the complex and volatile context of globalization and international financial crisis, China has managed to maintain the momentum of sound and rapid economic development, displaying the vitality of the Chinese model.¹⁰⁸ At the same time, China has made tangible contributions to the construction of a harmonious world by building a harmonious society at home and improving the material and cultural living standard of its people, which account for one fifth of world's total population.¹⁰⁹ From the perspective of international governance, China has tried to shape the world's general trend of peace, development and cooperation through comprehensive implementation of the concept of mutual benefit and win-win approach in external exchanges, driving the world toward lasting peace, common prosperity and universal harmony and turning the 21st century into a century marked by peace, harmony, cooperation and scientific development.¹¹⁰

2. Living in harmony with other countries

China is actively managing major-country relationship and working to build a framework in which its relations with other major countries are generally stable and mutually beneficial and develop in a balanced way. China is also joining hands with other countries to start a new chapter in history in which countries with different social systems, cultural traditions and development stages respect each other, live together in harmony, and conduct win-win cooperation. In the history of China's diplomacy, the year 2005 was known as the Year of Strategic Dialogues, during which China started a new type of strategic dialogues with several major countries, including India (January), Russia (February), Japan (May), the U.S. (August), the U.K. (December) and the EU (December). Thereafter, this kind of new strategic

108 The State Council Information Office, P.R. China, *China's Peaceful Development (White Paper)*, September 6, 2011. Retrieved from http://english.gov.cn/official/2011-09/06/content_1941354.htm

109 杨洁篪[Yang Jiechi], 《共谋合作, 共建和谐——在第六十二届联合国大会一般性辩论上的发言》[“Seek Cooperation Together and Jointly Build Harmony – Address at the General Debate of 62nd UN General Assembly”], September 29 2007, New York. Retrieved from http://www.china.com.cn/news/txt/2007-09/29/content_8985693.htm

110 See “Sanya Declaration of the BRICS Leaders Meeting”, April 14, 2011. Retrieved from http://www.gov.cn/misc/2011-04/14/content_1844551.htm

dialogues has expanded rapidly and now has covered almost all major countries. China is actively promoting cooperation with other emerging powers and the construction of a fair and democratic multi-polar world, while giving an overall consideration to the relationship between the North and the South, the West and the East so as to establish a harmonious international relationship.

China has further strengthened friendship and cooperation with developing countries by safeguarding common interests and seeking common development, created a new situation of win-win cooperation and solidified the foundation of Chinese diplomacy. China pursues the foreign policy of developing good-neighborly relationship and partnership with neighboring countries. By properly handling complex issues such as disputes over territory and actively pushing forward regional cooperation and community building, China has further strengthened strategic ties and maintained a favorable environment in its neighborhood. In spite of the complex situation in its neighborhood, peace and development are still the common aspiration of both the Chinese people and the people of China's neighboring countries. Because of its rapid development, the Chinese economy has become a powerful "engine" for the development of other Asian countries, including both advanced economies like Japan and the Republic of Korea, and less developed areas, such as South and Southeast Asia. Therefore, China has made remarkable achievements in building a harmonious neighborhood, an excellent example of which is the launch of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2010.

3. Building toward a harmonious region

China has proposed and promoted the building of a harmonious Northeast Asia, a harmonious Asia, a harmonious Asia-Pacific and a harmonious Eurasia. Particularly, the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has contributed greatly to the building of a harmonious Eurasia. The SCO has been carrying out a mutually beneficial and win-win opening-up strategy and pushing forward the construction of a harmonious region with lasting peace and common prosperity.¹¹¹ The SCO embodies the Shanghai Spirit, the essence of which is mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and seeking common development. It reflects the member states' fresh perspectives on security, development, cooperation and civilization. As an inspiration to the

¹¹¹ 程国平[Cheng Guoping]: 《携手合作 共同发展——记上海合作组织10周年》 [“Work Together for Common Development: In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”], 《求是》 [Qishi Magazine], Vol. 12, June 2011.

world, the Shanghai Spirit is a major contribution to the efforts of fostering a new type of state-to-state relationship and building a harmonious region.¹¹² Over the past ten years, the SCO member states have signed over 100 important cooperation documents and established multi-tiered, wide-ranging consultation mechanisms. They have made considerable progress in their cooperation within the SCO framework. From the Declaration on the Establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to the Treaty of Long-term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, from the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism to the Agreement on Intergovernmental Cooperation in Ensuring International Information Security, and from the Program on Multilateral Economic and Trade Cooperation to the Agreement on Intergovernmental Cultural Cooperation, the cooperation within the SCO is continuously broadened and deepened, covering political, security, economic, cultural and other fields.¹¹³ The next decade is a critical period for the development of the SCO, and we should make all-out efforts to build the SCO toward a regional cooperation organization that features sound institutions, smooth coordination, comprehensive cooperation, openness and harmony and continue to pursue good-neighborly policy so as to build up a harmonious region.¹¹⁴

4. Creating harmonious and stable international and regional security environment

Since the end of the Cold War, the traditional and non-traditional factors threatening peace have been interwoven and interacted. Terrorism, financial crises, diseases and natural disasters have become major factors threatening the global security. History has shown that the old concept of security based on military alliance and military forces does not help guarantee international security, let alone the building of lasting peace over the world. Military force can never create peace, and power cannot guarantee security. China holds that countries in the world should abandon the Cold War mentality, introduce a new thinking on security featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, establish a fair and effective mechanism of collective security, prevent conflicts and wars and maintain world

112 杨洁篪[Yang Jiechi], 《睦邻友好, 共创和谐——写在上海合作组织10周年纪念峰会召开之际》[“Work Together for Good-neighborliness and Harmony: On the Occasion of the Summit Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”], June 10, 2011. Retrieved from http://www.gov.cn/gzdt/2011-06/10/content_1881506.htm

113 Ibid.

114 《胡锦涛在上海合作组织成员国元首理事会第十一次会议上的讲话》[The Address of President Hu Jintao at the 11th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization], June 15, 2011. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2011-06/15_c_121540309.htm

peace and security.

The new thinking on security is based on mutual trust and opposes guaranteeing security by military alliance and increased armaments. It upholds the principle of mutual benefit, pursues common security and universal security, and stands against pursuing one's own security at the expense of others' security. And it also advocates further cooperation on security issues among different countries on an equal footing so as to guarantee common security and world peace.

To this end, China has always tried to promote negotiations and peaceful settlement of international disputes, such as the establishment of the Six-Party Talks and seeking a political settlement of the crises in West Asia and North Africa. Since its inception in August 2003, the Six-Party Talks have been held 6 rounds and remarkable achievements have been made, including the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005. At an international conference in commemoration of the 6th anniversary of the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 held in 2011 in Beijing, Mr. Yang Jiechi, then Chinese Foreign Minister, pointed out that "the Six-Party Talks are in the common interests of all the parties and keep up with the trend of the times, so this process shall not be stopped by any forces". For the turbulences in West Asia and North Africa, China reckons that we should respect the desire and aspirations of the people in the region for reform and development, as well as the rights of the countries and people there to independently handle their internal affairs and choose their own political systems and paths of development. China hopes that relevant parties in the region express their political will by legal and non-violent means, bridge their differences through dialogues, consultations and other peaceful means, and seek proper solutions to the crises by launching inclusive political processes. China also stresses that we must strictly observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations, and respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the countries in the region. The international community can provide necessary and constructive assistance to relevant countries in their efforts to resolve the domestic crises by political means. China opposes armed external intervention or attempts for "regime change".

5. Striving for harmonious development and common development

Harmonious development is not only a goal that the Chinese people have pursued for thousands of years, but also the dream shared by all human beings. So it has become an important part of Chinese foreign strategy and policy in the new

era. From China's perspective, the most fundamental step for building a harmonious world is to resolve the issue of economic development. China has unswervingly followed the path of peaceful development, making great efforts to achieve a peaceful, open, cooperative and harmonious development. For a long time, China has been developing itself by seeking peaceful international environment and has been promoting world peace through its own development. China mainly relies on its own strength, reform and innovation to achieve its own development. At the same time, it remains open to the outside world. China conducts exchanges and cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit so as to achieve win-win outcome and common development.

Since the outbreak of the international financial crisis in 2008, the Chinese economy has served as one of the major engines of the world economy. On the one hand, China has succeeded in preventing the world economy from further deterioration through maintaining rapid development of its own economy, and has effectively driven the economic recovery of its neighboring countries and major trading partners. On the other hand, China has taken an active part in international cooperation to deal with the financial and economic crisis, supporting relevant countries with trade and capital so as to achieve economic recovery and development. In the meantime, China advocates and practices the spirit of being in the same boat, and makes great contributions to the world economic recovery and achievement of win-win cooperation and common development.

6. Developing harmonious relations among various civilizations

The Chinese culture with a history of five thousand years advocates harmonious coexistence of man and nature, the pursuit of professional careers, care for the family, allegiance to the country and ruling the country by virtue. The above values are, to a large extent, complementary with the individualistic outlook on career, family and country. In an era full of increasing tensions between man and nature, wars and conflicts around the world as well as diversified values, the Chinese culture can provide references for the way toward harmonious coexistence of different civilizations. To this end, promoting dialogues among civilizations has become a major channel for building a harmonious world, and enhancing exchanges and communication between different cultures has become an important pathway leading to harmony.¹¹⁵

115 习近平[Xi Jinping]:《加强文化交流,促进世界和平——在第61届法兰克福国际书展开幕式上的致辞》[“Strengthening Cultural Exchanges and Promote World Peace -- Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the 61st Frankfurt International Book Fair”], October 13, 2009.

China is committed to promoting mutual respect and harmony among people of different races, religions, beliefs and cultures. China supports the holding of China-Arab Civilization Dialogue, China-Arab Friendship Conference and China-Arab Press Cooperation Seminar on a continuous basis, and welcomes more exhibitions, art festivals, cultural weeks and publication of more fine works by the two sides.¹¹⁶ China also takes an active part in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Interfaith Dialogue, and makes full use of this multinational, multicultural, multi-religious and multi-faith platform to increase exchanges among various civilizations, thereby contributing to the construction of a harmonious world.¹¹⁷

China holds the banner of “harmony without uniformity and a harmonious world” and has held various forums on civilization to promote a new type of relationship among civilizations featuring mutual respect and harmonious coexistence. The first Nishan Forum on World Civilizations was held on September 2, 2010 for a Confucian-Christian dialogue and the Nishan Declaration on Harmony was released during the forum. The second Nishan Forum was held in May 2012 and participants reached broad consensus on a series of issues, such as strengthening dialogues among civilizations, promoting communication and exchanges, and establishing neo-humanism that features “harmony without uniformity”. It also reached a consensus on protecting cultural heritage and promoting civilization dialogues, and encouraged the youth to actively participate in these dialogues. The organizing committee has decided to hold the forum every other year. During the second Nishan Forum, Xu Jialu, President of the Organizing Committee, had a working meeting with Christopher Bath, senior advisor of the UNAOC and they agreed on a cooperative partnership.

Since 2012, the Nishan Forum has begun to enjoy worldwide influence. On April 16, the Organizing Committee of the Nishan Forum successfully hosted the Paris-Nishan Forum entitled “Confucianism and New Humanism in a Globalized World” at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in collaboration with the UNESCO and the Confucius Institute headquarters. From October 3rd to 7th, 2012, Liu Changle, Vice President of the Nishan Forum Organizing Committee and Chairman of Phoenix TV, attended the tenth annual session of the “World Public Forum

116 温家宝[Wen Jiabao], 《共创中阿合作的美好未来——在中阿合作论坛第四届企业家大会暨投资研讨会开幕式上的讲话》[“Jointly Create the Bright Future of China-Arab States Cooperation: Remarks at the opening ceremony of the Fourth China-Arab Business Conference and Investment Seminar under the Framework of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum”], Sharjah, UAE, 18 January 2012. Retrieved from http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2012-01/18/c_111449624.htm

117 《实现不同信仰间和谐，维护世界和平——王学贤大使在第六届“亚欧不同信仰间对话”会议上的讲话》[“Achieve Harmony among Different Beliefs and Safeguard World Peace: Remarks of Ambassador Wang Xuexian at the Sixth ASEM Interfaith Dialogue”], April 7 2010. Retrieved from http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_chn/ziliao_611306/zyjh_611308/t705502.shtml

(WPF) - Dialogue of Civilizations” on Rhodes Island, Greece, and made a keynote speech, at the invitation of the WPF.

From December 10th to 11th, 2012, co-hosted by the Organizing Committee of the Nishan Forum, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN, and China Energy Foundation Committee, the New York-Nishan Forum on World Civilizations was held at the United Nations Headquarters. Experts from China, North America and the UN Headquarters had five rounds of dialogues between Confucianism and Christianity around the theme of “Harmony Based on Shared Values – Beyond National Identities and Beliefs”. Vuk Jeremic, President of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly, thought highly of the forum held at the UN Headquarters, taking it as a great contribution made by the Nishan Forum to the UN efforts on dialogue of civilizations and as a symbol of the tendency of civilization development.¹¹⁸ From November 29th to 30th, 2012, co-hosted by the UNAOC and the United Nations Association of China and co-organized by Shanghai Society for United Nations Studies and Zhongdao Group, the Asia-South Pacific Consultative Conference of the UNAOC was held in Shanghai, the theme of which was “Promoting Harmony through Diversity and Dialogue”. It is the first time for the UNAOC to hold such kind of events in Asia. Mr. Cui Tiankai, Vice Foreign Minister of China, attended the meeting and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. In his speech, he welcomed the UNAOC to “take root in” Asia, and promised to support the activities of the UNAOC as always.¹¹⁹

7. Building up harmonious oceans

Oceans cover more than 70% of the earth’s surface, and 80% of the world population live in coastal areas. “It is impossible to build a harmonious world without harmonious oceans, and it is impossible to achieve harmony throughout the world without the harmony in oceans on our blue planet.”¹²⁰ At the meeting with heads of 29 foreign navy delegations in Qingdao to participate in celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PLA Navy, President Hu Jintao said,

118 《“纽约尼山世界文明论坛”在联合国总部成功闭幕,文明对话成为世界不同文明交流时代强音》

[“The New York Nishan Forum on World Civilizations was successfully concluded at the UN headquarters and civilization dialogues have become the mainstream of the exchange era of different civilizations in the world ”], November 15, 2012.

Retrieved from http://www.nishan.org.cn/news/xwdt/201211/t20121115_7677995.html.

119 《外交部副部长崔天凯出席联合国文明联盟亚太地区协商会议》[“Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai attended Asia-South Pacific Consultation of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)”], November 30, 2011. Retrieved from http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_chn/wjb_602314/zjzg_602420/gjs_603130/xwlb_603132/t994148.shtml

120 《吴胜利：构建和谐海洋，就应当让海洋远离战争》[“Wu Shengli: To Build Harmonious Ocean, We Should Keep Wars Away From It”], April 21, 2009. Retrieved from <http://www.chinanews.com/gn/news/2009/04-21/1655971.shtml>

“To promote the building of harmonious oceans is an important part of building a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity. It is also the good wish and common pursuit of the world people. To enhance exchanges among navies of various countries and to conduct international cooperation on maritime security is of great importance for building harmonious oceans.”¹²¹

Hu added that “with a more open, practical and cooperative spirit, the Chinese Navy will actively participate in international cooperation on maritime security and make unremitting efforts to attain the goal of building harmonious ocean”.¹²² The leaders from the Chinese Navy also had in-depth discussions with the 29 heads of foreign delegations on the theme of “building harmonious oceans”. They reached broad consensus on a number of issues, including non-traditional security challenges, maintenance of maritime peace and security, and joint efforts in building harmonious oceans.

The efforts that the Chinese Navy has made for building harmonious oceans include the following: 1) While welcoming visits by other navies, the Chinese Navy ships have visited harbors all over the world; 2) On the platform of multi-national naval activities, the Chinese Navy has made deeper communications with foreign partners; 3) By enhancing exchanges and joint exercises, the Chinese Navy has learnt from other navies and improved its capability of making peaceful use of navy forces; 4) The Chinese Navy hospital ship “Peace Ark” visited the Gulf of Aden and five countries in Asia and Africa to carry out “Mission Harmony - 2010” humanitarian medical service, which has enhanced friendship between the Chinese people and people in other parts of Asia and Africa; 5) Since the first naval escort fleet set sail from Sanya of Hainan Island on December 26, 2008, China has sent 14 fleets, 37 ships all together to carry out escort missions in the waters of the Gulf of Aden and Somalia and successfully safeguarded the protected vessels and people. In future international escort operations, the Chinese Navy will further enhance cooperation with foreign navies and guarantee the safety of protected vessels with bravery and selflessness. They will fully demonstrate the new image of a powerful naval force and tell the world, with facts and actions, that the Chinese Navy is forever a peace-loving force and a staunch force for building harmonious oceans

121 张旗、曹海华、曹金平[Zhang Qi, Cao Haihua, Cao Jinping]: 《中国海军已成构建“和谐海洋”的一支重要力量》[“Chinese Navy Has Become an Important Force in Building ‘Harmonious Ocean’”], 《解放军报》[PLA Daily], May 22, 2010. Retrieved from <http://news.163.com/10/0523/08/67BTBGHO00014AEE.html>.

122 吴胜利[Wu Shengli], 《不辱护航使命 共建和谐海洋》[“Successfully Carrying Out Escort Missions and Jointly Building Harmonious Ocean”], 《中国军队》[China Armed Forces], Issue 3, 2010. Retrieved from <http://military.people.com.cn/GB/8221/51754/106084/106145/13180881.html>

together with other navies.¹²³

China is also committed to making greater efforts together with other countries to build harmonious oceans to promote peace, security and openness of the ocean, and to strive for the balance of science-based protection of the ocean on the one hand and rational utilization of the ocean on the other, so as to achieve common development for all members of the international community and mutually beneficial outcome.¹²⁴

8. Constructing harmonious outer space

At the 52nd plenary session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) on June 6, 2009, Mr. Tang Guoqiang, China's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Vienna said the Chinese Government had always stood for and abided by the principle of peaceful use of outer space and considered it an important part of its efforts for building a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity.¹²⁵ On October 21, 2009, in his statement at the Fourth Committee of the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly on Agenda Item 30 with the theme "International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", Ambassador Liu Zhenmin, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, called for the building of a "harmonious outer space order" conducive to peace, development, cooperation and the rule of law.¹²⁶

China has always followed the idea of harmonious outer space and reverently observed the principles outlined in the five outer space treaties. It is committed to building an outer space featuring peace, development, cooperation and the rule of law. China reckons that legal system building is important guarantee of a harmonious outer space.¹²⁷ It holds that the five outer space treaties constitute the legal frame for peaceful exploration and uses of space, guarantee the correct

123 Ibid.

124 See Chinese Mission to the United Nations, "Statement by H.E. Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly on Agenda Item 76: Oceans and the Law of the Sea", December 6, 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjwb/zwjg/zwbdt884957.htm>

125 《中国常驻联合国代表：中国主张和平利用外空原则》["Chinese Representative to the UN Said that China Sticks to the Principle of Peaceful Use of Outer Space"], Xinhua News Agency, June 3, 2009. Retrieved from http://www.gov.cn/jrzq/2009-06/04/content_1331609.htm

126 "Statement by H.E. Ambassador LIU Zhenmin at the Fourth Committee of the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly on Agenda Item 30: 'International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space'", Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN, New York, 21 October 2009. Retrieved from <http://www.china-un.org/eng/hyyfy/t621883.htm>

127 《陈佩洁临时时代办在联合国外空委法律小组委员会第50届会议上的一般性发言》["Statement by Chen Peijie, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Delegation in Vienna, at the 50th Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)"], 外交部网站[The Website of Chinese Foreign Ministry], March 28, 2011. Retrieved from http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_chn/ziliao_611306/zyjh_611308/t811998.shtml

direction of human space activities, and form an important regime ensuring harmony in outer space.¹²⁸

The existing outer space legal regime, despite its important role in regulating the space activities of all countries, maintaining order in space and promoting space cooperation, is neither sufficient to prevent weaponization of outer space and an arms race there, nor adequate to effectively cope with space environmental issues, for instance, space debris. Therefore, the legal system building of outer space is still a heavy task and we have a long way to go. Without prejudice to the existing legal framework, the Chinese Government supports and actively advocates the conclusion of a comprehensive legal instrument through negotiation in an attempt to maintain peace and tranquility in outer space, find solutions to the new issues to be faced with in the exploration and uses of outer space and promote legal system building on outer space. We believe that the COPUOS will continue to have an important role to play in this process.¹²⁹ The principal means of building a harmonious outer space is to enhance international cooperation and promote common development in this field.

China always conducts space cooperation based on the principle of “equality and mutual benefit, peaceful use and common development” and takes delight in sharing its own achievements in space exploration and utilization with the rest of the world. So far China has made great successes in space cooperation with many countries over the world.

In December 2008, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), which consists of UN members in the Asia-Pacific region, such as China, Turkey and Pakistan, formally started operation in Beijing. The organization aims to promote the exchange of technology, resources and exploration results and multilateral cooperation in space technology and its application, improve members’ ability in the field and contribute to the peaceful use of outer space. When bushfire occurred in Australia in February 2009, China provided Australia with 141 frames of satellite data and 24 volumes of analytic reports of fire monitoring, providing important references for Australia’s fire fighting operations in time. According to agreements inked by China and Brazil on May 20, 2009, the Earth receiving

128 “Statement by Ambassador Hu Xiaodi, head of the Chinese delegation in Vienna, at the 49th session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS”, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, March 22, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.chinesemission-vienna.at/eng/dbtyw/hplywk/t706116.htm>

129 “Statement by Ambassador HU Xiaodi, head of the Chinese delegation in Vienna, at the 53rd session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of United Nations”, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, June 6, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.chinesemission-vienna.at/eng/fyywj/t707978.htm>

stations of Hartebeeshoek in South Africa, Aswan in Egypt and Maspaloms in Spain will process and distribute data from the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite-02B (CBERS-02B) to African states.¹³⁰

China pays special attention to the capacity building of developing countries in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. In June 17th, 2010, the host-country agreement for UN-SPIDER Beijing Office was signed, marking a new milestone in the cooperation between the Chinese Government and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). On May 29th, 2010, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) China Research Center was inaugurated and the first international seminar was held on global cooperation on environmental impact. The IAA China Research Center will support the academic research management of the global IAA research groups and become a platform for carrying out international space exchanges and cooperation and promoting communications and exchanges among space experts from various countries. From May 31st to June 3rd, 2010, the China Aerospace Association and the International Astronautic Federation co-sponsored the First World Moon Conference in Beijing. Experts from 26 countries and regions held extensive discussions on such items as life science and manned lunar landing.¹³¹

9. Developing harmonious cyberspace

China warmly greets the advent of the Internet Age, and takes internet development as a significant opportunity to boost its reform and opening-up policies and modernization drive. The Internet has gradually been led onto a track of comprehensive, sustained and rapid development in China. The Chinese Government will stick to the basic principle of administering the Internet in accordance with the law, try to follow the nature and law of Internet development in the light of national conditions, and promote the scientific development of the Internet with effective administration so as to contribute to Internet development worldwide. China believes that national situations and cultural traditions vary from country to country, and for that reason the concerns about cyber security also differ. We should fully respect other countries' concerns about cyber security, seek harmony amid differences, promote development through exchanges, and jointly safeguard international cyber security. China maintains that all countries should, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, actively conduct exchanges and

130 王宝钺[Wang Baokun], 《建立“和谐外空” 促进共同发展》[“Build a ‘Harmonious Outer Space’ to Promote Common Development”], <《经济日报》[*Economic Daily*], June 13, 2009, p. 7.

131 “Statement by Ambassador HU Xiaodi, head of the Chinese delegation in Vienna, at the 53rd session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of United Nations”.

cooperation in internet industry, jointly shoulder the responsibility of maintaining global cyber security, promote healthy and orderly development of the industry, and share the opportunities and achievements brought about by Internet development.

China advocates developing a harmonious cyber world and has made unremitting efforts for it. First, China is committed to jointly setting rules for cyberspace. It believes that what cyberspace needs are not wars and hegemony, but rules and cooperation. In September 2011, China and relevant countries jointly submitted a draft of International Code of Conduct for Information Security to the UN, aiming at starting an open, progressive and inclusive discussion. China reckons that relevant parties should conduct close cooperation on the rules of cyberspace on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit, and that the UN should play a role as the main channel of cooperation, listen to the opinions of other parties, deal with the concerns of all relevant parties in a balanced way and push forward the rule-making process.

Secondly, China is committed to cooperating with other countries in fighting cyber crimes. China attaches great importance to regional cooperation in maintaining cyber security. In 2009, China signed the ASEAN-China Coordination Framework for Network and Information Security Emergency Responses and the Agreement among the Governments of the SCO Member States on Cooperation in the Field of Ensuring International Information Security with the ASEAN and SCO member states respectively. In combating network crimes the Chinese public security organs have taken part in the Interpol Asia-South Pacific Working Party on IT Crime, China-US Joint Liaison Group and other forms of international cooperation, and have held bilateral and multilateral meetings successively with such countries or regions as the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Italy and Hong Kong. China proposed that the international community set up a legal system of cyber security as early as possible and improve it step by step so as to define the rights and responsibilities of each side in fighting cybercrime and cyber-terrorism. It also advocates signing bilateral legal assistance treaties, enhancing coordination on case investigations and building up a long-acting international cooperative mechanism on the combat against cybercrime.¹³²

Thirdly, China is committed to speeding up development of Internet protection technology. The issue of cyber security cannot be resolved without the development of cyber security protection technology. The continuous appearance of new tricks for network attacks requires further improved network protection capability. Faced

132 马晓天[Ma Xiaotian], 《网络安全离不开国际合作》[“Internet security requires international cooperation”], 《人民日报海外版》[*People's Daily Overseas Edition*], May 31, 2012. Retrieved from http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrbhwb/html/2012-05/30/content_1059039.htm

with this increasingly serious situation, China has gathered human, intellectual and financial resources to speed up development of cyber security protection technology, including antivirus, anti-hacking and encryption and authentication techniques, and strengthened the "shield" for cyber security.¹³³

Fourthly, China is committed to improving cyber security dialogue mechanisms. Though connected, the Internet in various countries belongs to different sovereignties, which makes it necessary to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation in this field. The Chinese Government has always supported and conducted international exchanges and cooperation on cyber security. For instance, Chinese representatives have been sent to all previous sessions of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and other important international and regional meetings related to the Internet. China has actively promoted the establishment of bilateral dialogues and exchange mechanisms in this field. Since 2007, the Chinese Government has held such meetings as U.S.-China Internet Industry Forum and Sino-British Internet Round Table. In order to draw on the experience of other countries in developing and administering the Internet industry, the Chinese Government has sent dozens of delegations since 2000 to visit over 40 countries in Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Africa respectively, and has applied some of their successful experience to its own Internet development and administration. China holds that all countries should continue to promote the establishment of dialogue and exchange mechanisms on cyber security for governments, enterprises and academia, push forward dialogues and cooperation on cyber emergency management so as to enhance mutual trust, share experience, resolve disputes and overcome difficulties.

Fifthly, China has committed itself to establishing relevant diplomatic mechanisms for handling cyber affairs. The Chinese Foreign Ministry set up a cyber affairs office in 2013 to coordinate diplomatic activities regarding the Internet. China and the U.S. have established a working group on cyber security under the framework of the Strategic Security Dialogue for in-depth discussions on relevant issues.

Being the most universal, representative and authoritative international organization, the UN serves as the best platform for discussing international rules on cyberspace.¹³⁴ To build a harmonious cyber world, it is necessary to give play to the role of the UN in international Internet administration. China supports the

133 Ibid.

134 Huang Huikang, "Statement at Budapest Conference on Cyber Issues", Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, October 4, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.chinesemission-vienna.at/eng/zgbd/t977627.htm>

establishment of an authoritative and just international Internet administrative organization in the UN framework through democratic procedures and on a worldwide scale. Considering that the basic resources of the Internet are vital for the development of the Internet and cyber security of all countries, China is of the view that every country should have equal rights in managing the basic resources. For that purpose, the Chinese Government proposed that a multilateral and transparent allocation system of the basic resources be established on the basis of the current administrative model to promote balanced development of global Internet industry.¹³⁵

10. Promoting the reform of international system and global governance

To pursue harmony through reform is an important and even the only way toward a harmonious world. To push forward the reform of international system and build an international system corresponding to the harmonious world is an inherent and necessary requirement of the construction of a harmonious world. Bearing that in mind, China pushes forward reasonable reform in the UN in order to enhance its ability to meet global challenges.

China has taken an active part in the development of G20 mechanisms. To address the international financial crisis and improve the mechanism of G20, China has made various efforts together with other member states, including promoting the establishment of rules and regulations, maintaining a balance between representativeness and efficiency, strengthening macroeconomic policy coordination among member states, encouraging the reform of international financial institutions and supervisory systems, and establishing a global economic and financial system that is balanced, inclusive and conducive to sustainable development. All the above efforts have transformed the G20 into a platform for promoting the establishment of crisis management systems, stimulating economic development and reforming international institutions.

China believes that major efforts are still needed to reform and improve the international monetary system, the international trading system and the bulk commodity pricing mechanisms. It proposes that the international community advance the reform of the international monetary system in a steady way, expand the use of the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the IMF, reform the SDR currency basket, and develop an international reserve currency system with a stable value, rule-based issuance and manageable supply. China also suggests

¹³⁵ The Information Office of Chinese State Council, *The Internet in China (White Paper)*, June 8, 2010. Retrieved from http://english.gov.cn/2010-06/08/content_1622956.htm

that all countries continue to uphold the banner of free trade to oppose trade and investment protectionism, move forward the Doha Round negotiations, reaffirm the commitment of not taking new trade protectionist measures, and strive for a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory international trading system. As for bulk commodities, China advocates stabilization of the price at a reasonable level to safeguard global energy and food security, and in particular, to meet the energy and food demand of developing countries. To attain the above goals, China proposes that the international community make bulk commodity pricing and regulating mechanisms more equitable and transparent, expand production capacity, stabilize supply and demand, strengthen supervision and curb speculation. Such being said, we can conclude that China has made unremitting efforts in promoting the reform of international system and global governance.



IV. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Given that China is still in its infancy of promoting the construction of a harmonious world thus far, the theory of Harmonious World needs to be perfected and its practice needs to be strengthened, with some problems and shortcomings inevitably exposed. Many in the international community think that China's concept of Harmonious World is unrealistic, criticizing it as one of China's diplomatic slogans.¹³⁶ Although "this is a big misunderstanding",¹³⁷ it reflects the problems that China is faced with when promoting the construction of a harmonious world. In the meantime, China is confronted with many challenges at various levels and in a variety of areas, which require attention and appropriate response. Only by properly addressing these challenges and achieving good results can China make real significant contributions to the construction of a harmonious world.

A. How to Solve the Lagging-Behind Problem of Diplomatic Theory Construction

Generally speaking, the construction of diplomatic theories related to building a harmonious world obviously lags behind, and relevant theoretical tools are not well mastered or employed, leading to insufficient guidance on diplomatic practice. To be specific, the concept system of the theory of a harmonious world needs to be perfected; the concept of "Harmonious Diplomacy" or "Harmonious World Diplomacy" has neither achieved unity in thinking nor been officially recognized; the construction of the theoretical system of "promoting the construction of a harmonious world" needs to be vigorously advanced, and the status of the system in the whole system of diplomatic theories with Chinese characteristics and its guidance role in China's diplomatic practice also needs further study and demonstration. In addition, at present, a harmonious world is seen more as a

136 陈延军[Chen Yanjun], 《践行“和谐世界” 中国“七”头并进》 [“Practicing ‘Harmonious World’, China Works Along ‘Seven’ Lines”], 人民网[people.com.cn], September 20, 2010. Retrieved from <http://world.people.com.cn/GB/12777863.html>

137 Ibid.

normative concept, not as an analytical concept, which greatly affects its theoretical functions and practical values.

B. How to Promote Unity in Thinking

In all walks of life in China, a lot of people believe in the concept of Harmonious World, however there is also no shortage of skeptics. The supporters argue that the concept and proposal of building a harmonious world complies with the progressive trend of the times and is another major contribution China has made to the international community. Being very presentable, the concept should be vigorously advocated and promoted so as to enhance China's soft power. On the contrary, skeptics argue that although the concept of Harmonious World is good, it is utopian and lacks not only the underpinnings of a systematic theory and adequate protection by international law, but also sufficient international recognition and the support of diplomatic practice. It is, at best, a diplomatic slogan to attract international attention, and therefore it should be confined to theoretical discussions and not be taken seriously.

Some critics argue that including the concept and principles of "building a harmonious world" into international documents through diplomatic negotiations needs bargaining, even at some price, and may cost too much diplomatic resources. There are also concerns that some countries might use the concept to "tongue-tie" China and wantonly infringe China's geopolitical and economic interests, crippling its ability to justifiably safeguard national interests.

C. How to Improve Policy Proclamation and Overseas Exchanges

Because of the lack of theoretical understanding, China has two shortcomings in foreign policy proclamation related to promoting a harmonious world. On the one hand, "harmony" is missing in policy proclamation, a reflection of theoretical imprecision and technical imperfection. For example, on promoting BRICS cooperation, China proposed joining hands to establish "a just and democratic multi-polar world", rather than "a just, democratic and harmonious multi-polar world".

In its foreign policy proclamation texts, China has, intentionally or otherwise, an "capping" or "overstatement" inclination, that is, affirming China's willingness

and goal to promote the construction of a harmonious world only at the very end of the documents or where a theoretical feature is needed. However, the word “harmony”, full of vigor and penetrating power, can entirely bear the concept of Harmonious World and can be employed more smartly and flexibly so as to produce better effect in policy proclamation. On the other hand, China seldom or lightly refers to firmly opposing all kinds of extremism, power politics, hegemony and various international discriminations, a reflection of lacking both dialectic understanding of harmony and the understanding of “seeking harmony through struggle”.

In addition, in recent years, China has seldom taken the initiative to echo the harmonious voices and factors that occasionally appeared in the international community, resulting in the phenomenon of China talking to itself. For example, China has not actively joined the “chorus” or “symphony” when the aforementioned UNAOC made harmonious voices and the U.S., Europe and Japan released harmonious “notes”.

D. How to Change the Phenomenon of “Much Empty Talk and Little Substance”

Just as mentioned earlier, China has made great efforts and achieved some significant successes in promoting the construction of a harmonious world, with equal attention paid to theory and practice. However, it still seems that the underpinning framework is missing, and more work needs to be done in substantiating related concepts and policy proposals. To be specific, the creation of relevant specific mechanisms in the international community should be strengthened, particularly the establishment of a specialized international mechanism for promoting harmonization of international relations and international harmonious culture. Besides that, a large number of professional talents proficient in the theory of Harmonious World need to be cultivated.

E. How to Ensure Both “Safeguarding Legitimate Rights” and “Maintaining Stability”

While promoting the development of a harmonious world, neighborhood and region, China must take account of “safeguarding the rights” and “maintaining

stability" in a balanced way, both resolutely safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests and maintaining a peaceful and stable external environment. However, it is easier said than done.

First, "tall trees catch more wind". As the world second largest economy, China has become the focus of international attention. The "China factor" in international relations is increasingly prominent, and people are making a great clamor for arguments of "China threat", "China's responsibility", and "China's assertiveness". Most developed countries expect China to shoulder responsibilities that go beyond its development stage, take advantage of international rules to shape China's future development, and build "coalitions of interests" to restrict and squeeze China's development space, whereas developing countries usually expect China to provide more experience in economic development, more opportunities for economic and trade cooperation and greater development assistance.

Secondly, things do not occur as people wish. China adheres to peaceful development and is willing to get along with all parties in harmony and carry out cooperation to achieve win-win results. It is also committed to promoting the megatrend of peace, development and cooperation, and to the construction of a harmonious world. However, some external forces have deliberately planned to spoil the good environment of China's peaceful development by messing things up in the Asia-Pacific, making overall arrangements in China's neighborhood, fanning up flames or adding fuel to the flame, and constantly making troubles. At present, China's legitimate rights and interests in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and South China Sea are all being challenged severely. In particular, on the South China Sea issue, some countries are emboldened by external support and continuously play the game of "small countries bullying the big ones".

Given the above problems, it has become a major urgent task for China's diplomacy to find ways to resolve disputes, manage and control conflicts, seek win-win outcome and continue promoting the construction of a harmonious neighborhood and region while safeguarding its own legitimate rights and interests.

F. How to Build a New Type of Major-Country Relationship

As a key factor, the major-country relationship has a large bearing on the overall situation of building toward a harmonious world. To promote a harmonious world, we must have a new thinking on how to handle and develop major-country relationship, and encourage major countries to live in harmony with one another.

At present and in the future, with the U.S. pivoting eastward and adopting a rebalancing strategy, strategic mutual distrust between China and the U.S. grows, and confrontational strategic gaming between the two has shown a rising trend. At the same time, China-U.S. interdependence is continuously deepening. Whether to implement its strategy of reviving its high-end manufacturing industries and doubling U.S. exports in the post-crisis era, or to resolve major global and regional issues, the Obama administration is increasingly in need of China's support and strategic cooperation. Therefore, China-U.S. strategic gaming is becoming more and more complex, and new visions and strategies are needed for the two countries to get out of the set pattern of "zero-sum games", explore the way toward win-win cooperation and harmonious coexistence, and take the road to a new type of major-country relationship.

Russia led by Putin is adjusting its global strategy, but is faced with the lure from the West. New approaches and initiatives are needed to consolidate and deepen China-Russia strategic cooperative partnership. Europe and Japan are both severely troubled by sovereign debts, and the deterioration of the euro crisis in particular has increased the difficulty and uncertainty of global economic recovery while bringing forth a series of political and social problems domestically. New ideas and approaches are needed for China to work together with them to address the crisis in the spirit of solidarity, plan the overall economic development and governance in the post-crisis period, safeguard shared interests and achieve common development through deepened cooperation. China-Japan relations are trapped in historical resentments and territorial disputes. To get out of the trouble and ensure the megatrend of East Asian regional cooperation not to be reversed, both China and Japan need new ideas and countermeasures.

G. How to Participate in Increasingly Complex Global Governance and Shoulder a Major Country's Responsibility

Global economic governance has become a major trend of international relations in the post-crisis period and an important issue in foreign relations of all countries. Nowadays the international community is in greater need of cooperation than ever because the world economy is in need of impetus, the international financial crisis and the sovereign debt crisis are lingering, and the reform of international regimes is having a hard time. What makes things worse is

the frequent emergence of such challenges as terrorism, proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), climate change, transnational crimes, financial, energy, food, public health and cyber security, and natural disaster. The Chinese Government is confronted with the thorny issues of how to play its due role in promoting international cooperation and how to contribute to global governance with its Eastern wisdom and make greater contributions.

Historical experiences show that any rapidly developing major country will inevitably undergo growing pains. China is no exception. For historical, cultural, political and other reasons, China is faced with misgivings, discrimination and precautions from many countries in foreign exchanges. At the same time, since the end of the Cold War, hegemony and power politics, terrorism, national separatism, political extremism and a variety of discrimination in international politics have brought forth terrible disasters, hindering the development of harmonious international relationship and a new order of international politics. At present, facing the great turbulence in West Asia and North Africa, developed countries do their utmost to rope in some countries in the region to knock together a coalition of interests under the cover of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P), and use force to bring about "regime change", which is actually a new form of interventionism, triggering a new round of international political competition. China must handle the following diplomatic issues appropriately: breaking the aforementioned invisible barriers for its development; upholding justice; safeguarding the spirit of the UN Charter; promoting the international rule of law and international cooperation and governance, while at the same time not becoming the main subject of international criticism.

H. How to Seek Development Opportunities in the Post-Crisis Period

The international financial crisis has exposed the deficiencies and shortcomings of international financial and economic system. The sovereign debt crisis in developed countries is hard to get through, the UN Millennium Development Goals are hard to achieve and sustainable development of the world faces plenty of challenges. At the same time, trade wars, currency wars and "carbon tax" wars are becoming increasingly fierce. While vigorously developing green economy, countries in the world have launched a new round of competition for advantages in

economic development.

More importantly, the international financial crisis has moved up the time for promoting the development of low-carbon economy, and developed nations have launched one after another their own strategies to develop green economy and to establish rules and regulations in the fields of international transaction and production so as to acquire first-mover advantages and build fences to protect their vested interests. The Chinese Government, firms and different sectors of its society must seriously address the issue so that it can obtain the opportunity of equal participation in green economy development at the very start and get first-mover advantages in economic development.

I. How to Address New Security Challenges

National security has a large bearing on the overall situation of harmonious society building and the economic and social foundation of harmonious world promotion. At the national level, building toward a harmonious world requires all countries to achieve sustainable economic growth and all walks of life to live in harmony. At the global level, building toward a harmonious world requires a relatively balanced development of developing and developed countries and coordinated development of various regions so that world economic development can benefit as many countries and nations as possible. At present, the old security concept characterized by military alliance and Cold War mentality is still lingering in the world, and traditional and non-traditional security threats are on the rise and interwoven. For example, with nuclear risks escalating, international nuclear non-proliferation regime is faced with more serious challenges. Security competition among countries has been extended from land, sea and sky to such “high frontiers” and “new frontiers” as outer space, cyberspace, deep sea and polar areas. The issue of cyber security, in particular, has become increasingly prominent.

Geopolitically, the U.S. “return” to the Asia-Pacific has resulted in complex challenges to the regional security, inviting a sea change in regional security structure and order. In this regard, China should make an early effort to formulate good policies and actively explore the ways for positive interaction and cooperation between China and the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region so as to achieve win-win outcome.

J. How to Promote Harmony and Integration of Different Civilizations

Cultural harmony and inter-civilization harmony are the spiritual foundation of harmonious world building. Currently, the cultural pattern of a strong West versus a weak East and a strong North versus a weak South has not changed. In the field of international relations, developed countries reveal their cultural superiority from time to time, and the clashes of civilizations and religions break out now and then. The U.S., Europe and other developed countries forcefully promote the so-called "universal values", and continue to expand their cultural influence all over the world with their strong economic, cultural and technological strength and influential public opinion tools. Particularly in cyberspace, they have increased their cultural influence on the youth of other countries by exploiting various new media. Therefore, there is still a long way to go for the international community to protect the diversity of civilizations and development paths, to promote dialogues and exchanges among civilizations, and to achieve inter-civilization harmony.

Meanwhile, China is faced with a major diplomatic issue, i.e. how to build a cultural bridge to effectively integrate itself into the mainstream international society, to build a stable vehicle for cultural integration, and to expand personal connections for harmonious world building.



V. THINKING ON COUNTERMEASURES

Judging from the above analysis, we can make the following conclusions: Firstly, China's promotion of a harmonious world is advanced in theory and effective in practice; Secondly, there is large space for further development and progress of China's promotion of a harmonious world in both theory and practice; and thirdly, the future prospect of China's endeavor in the above regard is bright. Considering the above, China should keep its belief in harmony, uphold and carry forward harmonious culture, understand and grasp the means to achieve harmony, speed up internal process of building a harmonious society, and consistently and comprehensively promote the construction of a harmonious world.

A. Continuing to Follow the Principle of Combining Theory with Practice to Promote the Concept of Harmonious World

Chinese leaders should insist on advocating and promoting various ideas related to building toward a harmonious world on different occasions, put forth more feasible proposals and initiatives, and not leave behind regrettable diplomatic documents in which the word and idea of "harmony" is not fully exploited. The Chinese leaders should add the wings of dream to the idea of building toward a harmonious world and widely spread it in the name of "World Dream". In addition, they ought to seek fusion and integration of the "Chinese Dream", regional dreams and the "World Dream". They should also actively echo or respond to various harmonious voices in the international community, vigorously promote the development of international harmonious culture, and oppose all forms of extremism.

Meanwhile, Chinese leaders should pay attention to theoretical construction, and strive to build a pyramidal theoretical system composed of three major components: the way toward harmony; the inherent requirements and ways of implementation of building toward a harmonious world; and the diplomatic strategy

for achieving the construction of a harmonious world. In such a theoretical system, the relationship between building toward a harmonious world and the concepts of peaceful development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and scientifically conducting diplomacy will be further identified, and the position of Harmonious World theory in the diplomatic theory system with Chinese characteristics will be established. In such a theoretical system, the concepts of "Harmonious Diplomacy", "Harmony Index" and "Harmonization" will be defined scientifically, and "Harmonious World" will play the role of an analytical concept. Such concepts as "seeking harmony through struggle", "promoting security through harmony", "promoting development through harmony", and "enhancing cooperation through harmony" will be developed into theories, and the differences and similarities between the Chinese concept of "building toward a harmonious world" and the Western idea of "global governance" will be further understood, with some biased international ideas and proposals being corrected.

In practice, China should continue to pursue the goal of living in harmony with other countries, insist on properly resolving disputes with relevant countries through dialogues and negotiations, and pay attention to the construction of a harmonious neighborhood, a harmonious region and harmonious oceans through regional cooperation. At the same time, China ought to promote the building of a harmonious world through bilateral and multilateral channels. In particular, the country should attach greater importance to the reform of international system and global governance, solidarity and cooperation with other BRICS countries and the construction of various communities. As Chairman Mao Zedong said, "one should adopt a long-term horizon to analyze a problem in order to find solutions", China should keep sufficient strategic patience and make preparations for complex situations in the process of promoting the building of a harmonious world.

B. Adhering to the Peaceful Development Path to Enhance International Recognition

China should learn the experience and lessons from the rise and fall of great powers in history, unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development with Chinese characteristics, actively explore new strategies, approaches and measures for the development of emerging powers, and provide references for other emerging powers to achieve sustainable development. Moreover, China

should conscientiously study and develop some strategies and tactics to break “the military blockade against China, strategic hedging against China, political restraints on China, economic exploitation and transformation of China, and cultural infiltration into China” by some countries. China should also demonstrate its sincerity of promoting the construction of a harmonious world with the posture of peaceful development, promote common development of the mankind by its own development, and eliminate the international community’s doubts and misunderstandings of China through peaceful development, showing that China’s development will not disturb or threaten anyone. To acquire wider international recognition, trust and cooperation, China should show the world that what it pursues is common development by following the path of peaceful development.

C. Being Committed to Promoting the Construction of a New Type of International Relationship

To lay a solid international relations foundation for further promoting the construction of a harmonious world, China should actively build up a new type of international relationship in accordance with the constantly changing international political, economic and security situations. China should also establish a harmonious international order featuring “peaceful coexistence of powerful countries, mutual assistance between the powerful and the weak, orderly symbiosis of the big and the small, donation and relief from the rich to the poor” on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit, mutual assistance and mutual learning. To attain the above goals, China should make a correct assessment of the situation, view and handle international relations with a new mentality, explore new answers to such old questions as “what does it look like when an established power meets an emerging power?” and commit itself to building a new type of major-country relationship characterized by mutual respect and mutual trust, cooperation and win-win approach, harmonious coexistence and positive interactions.

China should strive to achieve the following goals: Firstly, blazing a new trail for major-country rejuvenation by sticking to the set direction and adhering to the concepts of peace and cooperation; Secondly, breaking the “historical determinism” engulfing China-U.S. relations by exploring a new type of major-country relationship featuring peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation; Thirdly,

propelling the international community to find out a path characterized by diversity, inclusiveness, lasting peace and common prosperity by going with the trend of economic globalization and political multi-polarization.¹³⁸ China should overcome various obstacles and suppress all interferences to strengthen cooperation with all other major countries. Since its relationship with the United States is crucial, China should pay special attention to this bilateral relationship and make sure that it develops on the right track toward a new type of major-country relationship.

D. Developing and Implementing Medium- and Long-Term Strategies

Building a harmonious world is complex and ever-changing systematic engineering, which requires a long-term historical process. In the meantime, many disharmonious factors in the world need to be eliminated one by one, with new disharmonious factors emerging. Therefore, as the proposer and initiator of the concept "Harmonious World", China needs to keep a cool head, carry forward the spirit of being realistic and pragmatic, and develop medium- and long-term strategies. China should take a long-term perspective and base its policy on reality. It should also implement and adjust feasible policies and measures, prepare for long-time hard struggles, speed up the formulation of effective coordination mechanisms, coordinate the actions by governments, firms and different sectors of the society, and fully mobilize the enthusiasm of all parties concerned to form a joint force for building a harmonious world.

E. Actively Seeking International Consensus

China should take advantage of any opportunity to promote the concept of building a harmonious world, driving it in the political field, introducing it in the theoretical field, devising it in the policy field, and carrying it forward in the cultural field, to gain understanding, support and cooperation from all governments and peoples. Given that the concept of Harmonious World is still in its infancy, its fundamental meaning and ultimate goals need further interpretation, and that

138 崔天凯、庞含兆[Cui Tiankai and Pang Hanzhao], 《新时期中国外交全局中的中美关系——兼论中美共建新型大国关系》[“On China-US Relations amid China's Overall Foreign Relations in the New Era as well as the Joint Construction by China and the US of a New-Type Relationship between Major Powers”], 《中国国际战略评论2012》(上) [China International Strategy Review 2012 (Vol. 1)], Center of International Strategic Studies, Peking University.

requires politicians, thinkers, theorists and other dignitaries of the world to make concerted efforts to build consensus on the necessity and the ways of constructing a harmonious world. They should not only explain the concept from the philosophical perspective, but also strive to implement it at the policy level and transform it into realistic initiatives so as to benefit all humanity as early as possible.

F. Promoting Harmonious Development through Common Development

China should firmly keep its status as a major developing country, suppress all interferences, continue to well handle its own affairs to build material basis for promoting the construction of a harmonious world, set a good example for other countries in terms of participating in the construction of a harmonious world, and provide experience in promoting the concept of Harmonious World internationally. To achieve the above aims, China should unremittingly build a harmonious society internally and unswervingly follow the path of reform and opening-up, promoting development through reform and striving for the well-being of all Chinese people, regardless of his or her ethnic group, thereby bringing forth social harmony. At the same time, China should hold high the banner of common development and harmonious development, support other countries' endeavor to achieve sustainable development through its own continuous development and growth for the achievement of common development, and make plans to generate positive interactions with relevant countries and international organizations for the construction of a harmonious world. Meanwhile, apart from continuing to take advantage of every opportunity to call on developed countries to shoulder more international responsibilities, China should advocate morality and justice and surrender part of its profits, help under-developed countries to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals and enhance their independent development capacity, and ultimately achieve world peace and development. By so doing, China can win wide support of international public opinions and consolidate its position as a promoter and builder of a harmonious world.

G. Actively Promoting the Improvement of International Economic Governance Mechanisms

China should firmly keep in mind the relationship between a harmonious world and harmonious economic development and governance, conform to the megatrend of international economic governance, actively participate in global economic governance, and express Chinese views, raise Chinese ideas, proposals and agenda during the process so as to both effectively safeguard its own interests and promote the common interests of international community. China should speed up its research work on economic governance theories and infiltrate as much China's theoretical elements, political proposals and specialized initiatives as possible into international documents through active diplomacy, making them accepted and supported by the international community. China should steadily promote the construction of new international economic governance mechanisms and the reform of current governance mechanisms to achieve sustainable development of world economy. In the meantime, China should actively push forward the establishment and improvement of the mechanisms in such fields as world economy, crisis warning and management, technological assistance, capacity building, international dispute resolution, conflict mediation, and exchanges on development models and theories and the experience in governing a state.

H. Speeding up the Construction of International Cultural Governance Mechanisms

To reinforce national cohesion and solidarity and to enhance its affinity and influence abroad, China should attach importance to internal cultural development and external cultural exchanges, and strengthen its work in that regard. China should bring the advantages of its own culture into full play, and actively cultivate and employ national soft power from the strategic height of building a harmonious society in an all-round way.

Firstly, in accordance with the national cultural development strategy and the themes of external cultural exchanges, China ought to make demonstrating its good national image of reform and opening-up, solidarity and enterprise, equality and friendliness and being sincere and responsible as the strategic tasks of external cultural exchanges. The country should also actively introduce to the outside world

the profound meanings of fine traditional Chinese culture, announce China's policy of peaceful development, and demonstrate its splendid civilization of the past, development and progress at present and peaceful vision for the future.

Secondly, China should expand areas of external cultural exchanges, conduct extensive international exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, science and technology, tourism, journalism and other areas, effectively strengthen internal coordination, and further form a comprehensive and multi-level structure of external cultural exchanges to promote the building of international harmonious culture.

Thirdly, China should enhance its capacity to export its cultural products, deepen the reform of cultural administrative system, integrate its international cultural resources, develop external cultural undertakings and industries, implement an international cultural strategy of quality goods, expand exports of cultural products, and promote its fine culture to the outside world.

Fourthly, China ought to effectively strengthen and improve its public diplomacy by continuously exploring effective means, employ modern and internationally accepted tools, use the rhetoric easily accepted by for foreigners, and actively echo the harmonious public opinions and ideas in the international society so as to enhance the charisma and influence of China's public diplomacy and create a friendly international public opinion environment for its own development.

Fifthly, China should promote the development of international harmonious culture through bilateral and multilateral diplomatic channels, promote the civilization of harmony, and establish various international mechanisms for developing the culture and civilization of harmony. China can also host some international forums and organize such activities as World Harmonious Culture Year (or Month or Week) so that an international network advocating the construction of a harmonious world can be gradually built and expanded.

I. Further Improving International Security Governance Mechanisms

China should firmly grasp the megatrend that traditional security threats and non-traditional ones are interwoven, one party's security is closely linked to that of other parties, and one country's security is closely connected with global security. Bearing that in mind, China ought to firmly establish the concepts of

comprehensive security, cooperative security, common security, and even universal security to effectively safeguard international security, combine the enhancement of its own strength with the promotion of international collaboration, and coordinate political, economic, cultural, information and national defense security. The country should also strive to strengthen security dialogue and collaboration with other countries, vigorously promote a new security concept, adhere to multilateralism, oppose arbitrary or threatening use of force, and advocate resolving disputes through negotiations, accommodating different interests through dialogues and enhancing mutual trust through cooperation, thereby fully protecting the national interests of all countries and achieving universal security. Besides that, China should continuously deepen multi-lateral security cooperation, strengthen dialogues and consultations with other countries on major international and regional issues, and promote international cooperation to deal with global challenges facing all mankind. To resolve common security problems, China ought to create conditions to establish collective security mechanisms, actively participate in and promote the construction of international mechanisms relating to global and regional governance. In particular, the country should consolidate the position of the UN as the core of collective security mechanisms, and play its due role as a responsible power in addressing common security issues. China should also uphold the idea of Harmonious World, apply the concept of "seeking security through harmony" at all stages of conflict prevention and resolution, including among others preventive diplomacy, crisis management and handling, peace-keeping, peace-making, and peace-building. As to international intervention and humanitarian protection, China should stress the integration of two concepts: Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and Responsible Protection (RP).

J. Actively Carrying Out Harmony-Oriented Diplomacy in an All-Round Manner

China should firmly believe in the scientific nature, political correctness and progressiveness of the concept "Harmonious World". While deepening its understanding of the Harmonious World theory, China should make promoting the construction of a harmonious world a guideline of its diplomacy without doubt. The country must dare to face various challenges in reality and join hands with all parties to build a harmonious world through all-round diplomatic efforts.

First of all, China should plan major-country relationship from the strategic height of promoting the construction of a harmonious world, actively follow the new trend of major-country interactions and relations adjustments, expand common interests, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, properly handle contradictions and disagreements, and stabilize and develop relations with all other major countries. While striving to build up a new type of major-country relationship, China needs to advocate and promote the establishment of a just, democratic and harmonious multilateral world.

Secondly, China should actively promote friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries, and continue to implement the foreign policy of building good neighborly relationships and partnerships with its neighbors, and creating an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood, thereby better benefiting neighboring countries through its own development. The country should also reinforce the sense of community, vigorously promote regional cooperation, positively participate in the building of regional cooperation and governance mechanisms, and well handle hotspot issues in its neighborhood so as to build a peaceful, tranquil, harmonious and friendly neighboring environment. China ought to pay special attention to fully realizing the brand and demonstration effects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in building harmonious regions and promote the establishment and improvement of the SCO internal mechanisms.

Thirdly, China should further strengthen solidarity and cooperation with developing countries, maintain and promote the momentum of emerging powers' collective rise, and reinforce dialogues, consultations and coordination with other major developing countries and their own international organizations. China should also expand pragmatic cooperation with developing nations in various fields, strengthen and improve its foreign aid work by doing concrete and beneficial things for them and their people to the best of its ability. At the same time, China should make good use of G20, BRICS, "G77 plus China" and other mechanisms to enhance South-South cooperation and take advantage of various multilateral mechanisms to promote North-South dialogue for the purpose of achieving harmonious development of North-South relations.

Fourthly, China should conduct multilateral diplomacy more extensively, well perform the role and duties of a permanent member of the UN Security Council, make effective use of multilateral mechanisms, take a constructive role in dealing with international affairs and resolving major hotspot issues, and actively get involved in the modification and formulation of international rules, thereby making

multilateral mechanisms an important platform for safeguarding China's national interests and promoting the construction of a harmonious world.

Fifthly, China should actively carry out public diplomacy and diplomacy in specialized areas, uphold the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and make the idea of a harmonious world go deeper into the heart of the people of different nationalities, be accepted by more elites of other nations, and play a greater role in providing theoretical guidance.



VI. CONCLUSION

Since the birth of the concept “Harmonious World” in 2005, China has applied the strategic thought of promoting the construction of a harmonious world to its diplomatic practice, and has made unremitting efforts in both theoretical and practical dimensions, resulting in significant achievements that deserve high praise. By so doing, China has accumulated rich experience in promoting a harmonious world, laying solid theoretical and practical foundation for future efforts.

In terms of theory, China has made great contributions to the development of the concept “Harmonious World” by enriching its contents and expanding its outreach with over 20 new specific concepts and proposals. At the same time, by continuously deepening its understanding of the way toward harmony, the methods of building up a harmonious world and the diplomatic strategy of promoting the construction of a harmonious world, China has achieved some innovations and developments in diplomatic strategic thoughts, has realized a great stride in building the theoretical framework of constructing a harmonious world from superficiality to profundity, from roughness to fineness, and from simplicity to complexity, and has developed the Harmonious World theory from a sketchy framework with only a general requirement and five basic appeals to a three-dimensional structure with both breadth and depth composed of many fields, levels, elements, actors and construction methods.

In terms of practice, China has made full use of various international occasions and channels to spread the idea of a harmonious world by such means as raising proposals, preaching, interpretation and negotiation. By that doing, China has made “building a harmonious world” a major global discourse, which has earned wide international recognition and has been written into some important diplomatic documents. At the same time, under the guidance of “building a harmonious world” strategy, China has launched a series of pioneering undertakings through its all-round diplomacy and active work in numerous levels and fields. Notably, China has made significant progress in advocating and practicing the spirit of “solidarity, cooperation and mutual benefit”, building toward a new type of major-country

relationship, developing harmonious regions and oceans, promoting reasonable reform of the international system, and strengthening global economic governance.

Looking ahead, on the one hand, it will not be easy for China to promote the building of a harmonious world, with many difficulties to overcome, many serious challenges to face and many problems to solve. For that reason, China should strengthen its political will, harbor strategic self-confidence and patience, adopt dialectic thinking and, if necessary, strengthen its effort of "seeking harmony through struggles". China ought to stand on the grounds of justice and responsibility, and dare to sacrifice tactical and short-term harmony for strategic and long-term harmony. On the other hand, China needs to closely follow the trend of the times, "peace, development and cooperation", do its utmost to suppress all kinds of internal and external interferences, abide by the principle of harmony, and vigorously conduct harmony-oriented diplomacy so as to seek the maximum international recognition and cooperation, and make new contributions to the building of a harmonious world.

In its future efforts in promoting the construction of a harmonious world, China should continue to pay equal attention to theory and practice and make the two mutually reinforcing. The country ought to advocate the "World Dream" of lasting peace, common prosperity and harmonious progress, and make it merge with other dreams, such as the "Chinese dream", the "Asian dream", the "Pacific dream", etc. The country must energetically carry out theoretical construction, strive to improve as early as possible the pyramidal theoretical system composed of three "building blocks", namely, the way toward harmony, the inherent requirements of a harmonious world and the ways to achieve it, and the diplomatic strategy of promoting a harmonious world. Furthermore, the country should develop the concept of "Harmonious World" into an analytical one on the basis of deepened scientific research. At the same time, China should vigorously substantiate the "Harmonious World" concept by turning specific proposals into practical actions and mobilize various domestic and international forces to advocate and carry out harmony-oriented diplomacy with rich contents and varied forms, and create a "supporting structure" and a favorable cultural atmosphere for the building of a harmonious world. The Chinese Government should exert itself to develop a new type of major-country relationship, promote global governance in a comprehensive manner, take active part in dialogues among civilizations, extensively conduct international activities relating to harmonious culture, and cultivate relevant professionals. While promoting the construction of a harmonious world in an all-

round way, China ought to focus on the building of a harmonious Asia-Pacific and neighborhood.

Although the path of building a harmonious world is tortuous, its prospect is bright. With the tide of the times, “peace, development and cooperation”, rolling forward, with the continuous enhancement of China’s comprehensive national power and international influence, and with the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, China is bound to make greater contributions to the building of a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity, and the rosy future of a harmonious world will be ever closer to the mankind.

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Dr. Chen joined CIIS in 2001 as an assistant research fellow. He has participated in over 20 research projects in national, provincial/ministerial and institutional levels, and chaired or independently undertaken 5 of them. Several of Dr. Chen's research achievements have won awards at the ministerial or institutional levels.

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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the progress and achievements in theory and practice that China has made in promoting the construction of a harmonious world, explains the problems and challenges that China faces in the process of building a harmonious world, and points out the direction and strategy of China's future efforts in this regard.

China has greatly promoted the concept of Harmonious World by enriching its connotation and expanding its denotation with over 20 specific concepts and ideas. The country has also made unremitting diplomatic efforts to promote the emergence of a harmonious world, with some problems and shortcomings being revealed. Currently, China is faced with various challenges, including safeguarding its own legitimate rights while maintaining international and regional stability, developing a new type of major-country relationship, etc.

In the future, China should continue to pursue the World Dream characterized by lasting peace and common prosperity, follow the principle of combining theory with practice in promoting the Harmonious World concept, integrate the World Dream with other national dreams and regional dreams, and actively carry out harmony-oriented diplomacy in an all-round way.

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