

# Xi, UN chief hold videoconference

Updated: Sep 24,2020 09:07 AM Xinhua

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping and United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had a videoconference on Sept 23.

Xi urged the international community to reaffirm their support for multilateralism and abiding commitment to the UN Charter.

Noting that COVID-19 is still ravaging the world, Xi said China firmly supports the key leadership of the UN system, especially the World Health Organization, in battling the pandemic.

China also firmly supports the UN system in strengthening international cooperation in COVID-19 prevention and containment, Xi added.

The President said China will honor its commitment to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good after putting them into use following the completion of vaccine development.

China will contribute to the vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries, Xi said.

Noting the emergence of many new problems amid the pandemic, Xi said these problems are in a way or another related to peace and development.

He said the UN Security Council should play the role of a collective security mechanism and the Security Council permanent members should play an exemplary role.

Pursuing unilateralism and seeking hegemony are unpopular and will surely be rejected, he added.

Xi said the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the problems of maladaptation and mismatch in the global governance system. However, all parties should think about how to improve it, instead of tearing it down and setting up another one.

In the world, there is only one system, namely the UN-centered international system, and only one set of rules — the basic norms of international relations based on the UN Charter, Xi said.

"China never pursues ideological confrontation, advocates 'decoupling' or seeks hegemony," Xi said.

He also said China will not sit idly by and allow its national sovereignty, dignity and development space to be undermined. Instead, China will firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and uphold international equity and justice.

The President called on all countries to rise above differences between countries, nationalities, cultures and ideologies to promote building a community with a shared future for humanity.

During the videoconference, Guterres expressed his gratitude over China's consistent and firm support for multilateralism and the UN.

Guterres highly commended a series of important initiatives and measures Xi announced at the UN General Assembly in spheres of practicing multilateralism, coping with climate change and promoting sustainable development.

He also expressed his support for China's efforts to push for jointly building a Silk Road of Green Development.

Guterres said the UN supports China in deepening cooperation with Africa and developing countries, and the UN hopes to continue strengthening cooperation with China and expects China to play a leading role.

# Chinese peacekeeping operations in new era display three characteristics

Source : [China Military Online](#) Editor : Huang Panyue 2020-09-22 08:29:09

By Li Yun and Zhang Mimi

BEIJING, Sept. 21 -- The whitepaper titled “China's Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations” was released on September 18, 2020. Senior Colonel Cai Hui, an associate professor with the School of International Relations of the National University of Defense Technology and a senior instructor with the Center for Peacekeeping Affairs under the Ministry of National Defense (MND), said in an interview that the Chinese military has made a series of historic breakthroughs in participating in UN peacekeeping operations in the new era. Especially in the past five years, the Chinese military has mainly demonstrated three new characteristics in its peacekeeping operations.

First, the size and type of peacekeepers continue to expand. The Chinese military have dispatched six batches of peacekeeping infantry battalions to South Sudan in performing armed patrols, security guards, and civilian protection tasks since 2015. Prof. Cai said that since 2017, three batches of peacekeeping helicopter units had been sent in succession to Darfur, Sudan, to perform tasks such as troop delivery, operational support, search and rescue evacuation, and logistics supplies. The troops have expanded from a single engineering unit to the current professional forces consisting of engineering, medical, security, infantry, helicopter, and other arms. Their mission area has expanded from one to five mission areas.

Second, the responsibilities and influence of peacekeepers continue to increase. As the Chinese military has continuously enriched its practical experience in participating in UN peacekeeping operations, more and more Chinese military personnel have taken up growing responsibilities, assuming more intermediate and high-level positions in UN peacekeeping operations and participating in the decision-making, organization and guidance of peacekeeping operations. Since 2015, three major generals and five colonel officers of the Chinese military have held senior positions

in the UN headquarters and peacekeeping missions, and relevant key roles have been served for 27 times.

Third, the function and tasks are more diverse. With the adjustment of the international situation and the change in the nature of armed conflicts, the mission of UN peacekeeping operations has shifted from traditional isolating conflicts, monitoring ceasefires to diversified tasks including protecting civilians, preventing illegal border crossings, disarming and demobilizing, restoring the rule of law and order, supporting elections, and assisting in building national governance.

Prof. Cai pointed out that the Chinese military actively adapts to the needs of UN peacekeeping operations, and carries out various tasks such as security guards, military-police-civilian cooperation, humanitarian relief, support for reconstruction, etc., striving to provide people in conflict areas with public safety products and spread friendship and hope.

[http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-09/22/content\\_4871576.htm](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/news/2020-09/22/content_4871576.htm)

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## **Wang Yi Delivers a Speech at the French Institute of International Relations**

2020/08/30

On August 30, 2020 local time, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivered a speech entitled "Upholding the Trend of Peace and Development of Our World with Unity, Cooperation, Openness and Inclusiveness" at the French Institute of International Relations.

Wang Yi said, in the past six months, the world was swept up in an unexpected coronavirus epidemic. The disease has held up a mirror to a complex international scene where heartwarming acts of partnership and collaboration such as those between China and Europe are juxtaposed with the undertows of blame games, unilateralism and bullying. Yet, what is even more alarming than the coronavirus is a political virus that is stoking hatred and confrontation. Politicizing and attaching a geographical label to the epidemic, and even stigmatizing a specific country will not solve one's own problems. It will only erode international solidarity and cooperation.

Wang Yi emphasized, China's rejuvenation is to achieve national prosperity, national rejuvenation, and people's happiness, to return Chinese civilization to the forefront of human development and progress, and to open a new era of openness and integration between China and the world. Some people say that China's revival is to change or even conquer the world. This is ignorance of Chinese history and Chinese civilization. There has never been a gene of aggression in the blood of the Chinese nation. The pursuit of peace and harmony is rooted in the spiritual world of the Chinese people, and it is also the cultural origin of China's vigorous advocacy of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Wang Yi said, since the founding of the People's Republic of China more than 70 years ago, especially the 40 years of reform and opening-up, the Chinese people have achieved world-renowned achievements along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Following this path, China has achieved leapfrog development and seen continued rise of its comprehensive national strength. We the Chinese people have mastered our own fate and enjoyed a better life. China's development has not only benefited its own people, but also

the whole world. China has all along been a promoter of world peace, injecting positive energy into the evolving international architecture. China has all along been a defender of the international order, bringing stability to the global governance system. China has all along been a facilitator of globalization, making major contributions to building an open world. China has all along been a contributor to world development, providing sustained driving force for global growth. The development path chosen by the Chinese people meets the aspirations of the 1.4 billion Chinese people and conforms with the trend of peace and development of our times. It is a path that serves the interests of not only China but also the entire world. We have every reason to keep following this path.

Wang Yi said, given the evolving global environment, we have set out the goal of fostering a new, dual-cycle development architecture with the domestic cycle as the mainstay and with domestic and international development reinforcing each other. Such a development structure draws from the strengths of China's mega-sized market and the huge potential of domestic demand. China will further tap into its domestic demand, expand opening-up and share more of its development dividends with the rest of the world. We hope our recovery and development will fuel common recovery and development of the world.

Wang Yi said, China will stay committed to peaceful development. What China pursues is a new model of state-to-state relations featuring dialogue and partnership, not confrontation or alliance. We hope to forge broader partnerships. China will stay committed to open development. We will upgrade our open economy and pursue openness and cooperation in all directions, at all levels and in all forms. China will stay committed to cooperative development. We will work closely with all countries to pursue greater security, better development and meet common challenges together. China will stay committed to win-win development. We believe that global governance should be based on consultation, cooperation and shared benefits. We will make the pie of cooperation bigger and pursue common development with all countries. China is committed to inclusive development. We do not seek to export our system or model of development, nor are we interested in ideological confrontation. We will continue to take concrete actions to protect the diversity of civilizations and promote exchanges and mutual learning between development models.

Faced with changes and a pandemic unseen in a century, humanity needs to once again make a crucial choice, a choice between progress and regression, between solidarity and division, and between openness and seclusion. China and Europe should and must keep in mind our responsibilities for mankind's future and the fundamental interests of our people. We must say no to hatred and confrontation. We must stand firm on the right side of history. Together, China and Europe can bring more stability to this complex and volatile world.

First, we need to resolutely safeguard peace and development and oppose global divisions. China firmly opposes any schemes to create a new Cold War, and will not allow any force to deny the right of the Chinese people and people around the world to pursue development and a better life. The Chinese side hopes to join hands with Europe to send a strong message of our times, a message for solidarity and against division, for progress and against regression, for peace and development and against conflict or confrontation.

Second, we need to firmly uphold multilateralism and oppose unilateral acts of bullying. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China will always stand firmly for multilateralism, and advocate extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in global governance. China regards the European Union as a major force for a multi-polar world. We are prepared to work with the EU to uphold the effectiveness and authority of the multilateral system, promote fairness and justice and maintain the international order.

Third, we need to further expand mutually beneficial cooperation and oppose seclusion and decoupling. With China deeply interconnected with the world, decoupling from China means decoupling from development opportunities and from the most dynamic market. As two major economies in the world, China and Europe must stay committed to free trade, safeguard the stability of global industrial and supply chains, and play a key role in promoting development and prosperity in the post-COVID-19 world.

Fourth, we need to join hands to tackle global challenges and oppose the beggar-thy-neighbor approach. China and Europe need to set an example of advancing global governance by jointly strengthening the UN's coordinating role in international affairs. We need to reject the practices of putting one's own country first at the expense of others. We need to jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.



Wang Yi said, this year marks the 45th anniversary of China-EU diplomatic relations. The development of our relations over the past 45 years tells us that there is no fundamental conflict of interests between China and the EU; our cooperation far outweighs competition, and there are far more areas of common understanding than disagreements. Over the 45 years, an important experience we have gained is: China and the EU are entirely able to enhance trust through dialogues on an equal footing, achieve win-win outcomes through mutually beneficial cooperation, properly address differences through constructive communications, and jointly tackle global challenges through stronger coordination.

Wang Yi said, China always values the status and role of the EU and always supports Europe in playing a greater role in international affairs. At this crucial moment of fighting COVID-19 and pursuing post-COVID-19 recovery, China and Europe should strengthen solidarity and cooperation. We should press the "restart button" to resume dialogue and cooperation across the board and act as twin engines of the world economy, to inject strong impetus to international solidarity and cooperation. To that end, I propose that we develop our partnership in the following four areas.

First, we need to build an anti-COVID-19 partnership. China and the EU should strengthen cooperation on the development and production of vaccines, medicines and testing kits and support the WHO and other international institutions in playing their roles. The Chinese side is willing to speed up the construction of a "fast lane" that facilitates personnel exchanges and a "green channel" for the exchange of goods, so as to help the EU's economic recovery.

Second, we need to enhance our investment partnership. China and the EU should follow the principles of flexibility, pragmatism and meeting each other halfway, conclude a comprehensive, balanced and high-standard agreement within this year, conduct a joint feasibility study at an early date to kick-start the FTA process, and conclude the China-EU 2025 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation as early as possible to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

Third, we need to foster a green and digital partnership. China and the EU are highly complementary in green development and digital field, and enjoy a broad cooperation prospect. The two sides should deepen cooperation in such areas as environmental technology, circular economy, clean energy, and sustainable

finance. We should strengthen cooperation in areas like information and communications technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, big data, and cloud computing to create new growth areas of China-EU cooperation.

Fourth, we need to deepen our international partnership. China and the EU should further strengthen dialogue and cooperation on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development, and work together to tackle global challenges. We should also jointly uphold the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian Nuclear Issue, promote political settlement of regional and international hotspot issues, strengthen third-party cooperation with Africa, and contribute more to a safer and more sustainable world.

Wang Yi said, at present, the historic responsibility of maintaining peace and development and promoting world progress falls on the shoulders of the two major forces, China and Europe. We sincerely hope that China-EU relationship, a world-class relationship, will embrace a steady and long-term development and move to a higher level, so as to add more stable factors to the unstable world and create a better future for human society!

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Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 18:40

# UN: A sunrise organization?

By Kishore Mahbubani **China Daily (Asia)**

In 2000, I was the Singapore Ambassador to the United Nations when the UN General Assembly (UNGA) unveiled its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Kofi Annan was UN Secretary-General. Bill Clinton was US president. It was a time of great hope. Everyone believed that the UN represented the only vehicle for humanity to come together and cooperate. By contrast, even though many world leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, addressed the UNGA by video at the special commemoration of the 75th Anniversary on Monday, the air of doom and gloom surrounding the UN was clear and palpable. Few believe today that the UN still functions as a beacon of hope.

This conventional wisdom of pessimism on the UN is dead wrong. If there is one global organization that has become indispensable for humanity, it is the UN! Why so? COVID-19 has sent humanity a clear metaphysical message. All of humanity is now on the same boat. In the past, when 7.7 billion people lived in 193 separate countries, it was as though they were living in 193 separate boats. Now they live on 193 separate cabins on the same boat. This is why COVID-19 could spread from one end of planet Earth to another in a matter of months.

There is only one problem with our global boat. We have governments taking care of each cabin. We have no strong institutions of global governance to manage our global boat as a whole. The only organization which enjoys the universal representation of humanity and can provide such global leadership is the UN. In a small, shrinking, interdependent planet Earth, the UN has become an indispensable organization. Hence it will grow as a sunrise

organization in the 21st century.

Still it faces real challenges. The most powerful country, the United States, has become disillusioned with the UN. At the height of COVID-19, when humanity needed to cooperate to fight it, the US left WHO (after leaving UNESCO earlier). It has paralyzed the WTO.

Can we persuade the US to support the UN again? Yes, we can. In 2003, President Bill Clinton gave a powerful speech in Yale University. He said that if the US was going to be the number one country forever, it could continue behaving unilaterally. Yet, if the US could conceive of becoming number two, it would be in the long-term national interest of the US to “create a world with rules, partnerships and habits of behavior” that the US would like to live in if and when it becomes number two. In due course, American pundits and policymakers will come to accept the wisdom contained in Bill Clinton’ s advice.

Yet, the UN cannot rest on its laurels. It needs to constantly reinvent and reform itself. As the new rising power, China can help to provide some quiet leadership in UN reform, especially since China believes in a “community of shared future” . Every community needs a parliament where members can share their views, discuss, compromise and reach a consensus. The only functioning global parliament is the UNGA. Working with other key stakeholders, like the EU, the African Union, Latin America, India and ASEAN, China can help to quietly revive the UNGA.

Similarly, the **UN Security Council** (UNSC) needs reform. It was wise of the founding fathers of the UN to give the great powers a veto in the UNSC as it gave them a powerful stake in the UN. This is why the US has not left the UN, even though it left the League of Nations. However, the veto power was intended for the great powers of today and tomorrow, not the great powers of yesterday. UNSC reform is difficult. The biggest obstacle is lack of agreement on

who should be the new permanent members.

This is why, in my book, *The Great Convergence*, I proposed a new formula of 7 permanent members, 7 semi-permanent members and 7 elected members. This 7-7-7 formula will bring in India, Brazil and an African state (to be chosen by Africa) as permanent members. Getting India in is key. As Martin Wolf of the *Financial Times* wisely said, “Exhausted by the burden of its pretensions, the UK should soon offer its seat on the security council of the United Nations to its former colony.”

Finally, the finances of the UN need to be fixed. The European Union (EU) members believe in the UN but they have been strangling the necessary funding for the UN because they believe they pay too much. Unwisely, the EU led the charge to reduce mandatory contributions to the WHO from 62 percent in 1970-71 to less than 20 percent today.

To address these grievances of the EU, we must reduce the percentage of Western funding to the UN. The West European and Other States Group represent only 12 percent of the world's population but they contribute over 50 percent of the UN Budget. This should stop. Asians, who represent over 50 percent of the world's population, should pay more.

In his speeches, President Xi has announced generous voluntary contributions to key UN projects. It would be good for other Asian states to follow China's example in announcing their willingness to contribute more to the UN system. This could strengthen the UN and make it once again a beacon of hope. Asians can then feel proud that in the 21st century, the Asian Century, they led the way in reviving and rejuvenating the UN.



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*The views don' t necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*

<http://www.chinadailyasia.com/article/144236#UN:-A-sunrise-organization?>

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