

# Pursuing Peaceful Development and Building Harmonious Society

An address given to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council  
on, November 21, 2006 by His Excellency Zhou Wenzhoung,  
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I wish to take this opportunity to brief you on China's strategy of pursuing peaceful development and building a harmonious society. In recent years, China's development has attracted worldwide attention. With a population of 1.3 billion, China is the biggest developing country in the world. China's development and interaction with the international community will certainly leave a mark on the evolution of international relations and have an impact on world peace, stability and prosperity.

To find out in which direction China is going it is important to know what kind of development road China has chosen. Since adopting the reform and opening-up policy 28 years ago, China has increased its productivity remarkably and improved the living standards of its people. The fundamental reason for China's success is that it has found and adhered to the road of peaceful development that suits our country's national condition and goes along with the trend of the times. At home, we concentrate on economic and social progress. On the world scene, we commit ourselves to maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

Peaceful development is an inevitable choice that goes along with the trend of the times. Nowadays, the countries of the world are increasingly interdependent in many areas. Thus the peoples of all countries have found their future closely bound together. It is impossible for any one or any country to seek development in a closed, and therefore absolutely safe, environment. Peace is the condition for development, and development is the basis for peace. To maintain lasting world peace, countries and peoples of the world must seek balanced and sustainable development for all. China has embarked on a road of peaceful development. We are seizing the current historical opportunity to speed up our modernization and promote stability and prosperity in Asia-Pacific Region and the rest of the world.

Peaceful development is an inevitable choice that conforms with China's historical and cultural heritage. The Chinese culture always values "harmony," which is regarded as an important standard in life. We emphasize the principles of "harmony without uniformity," "harmony between man and nature," and "universal harmony." We advocate good relations between people, between man and nature, and between countries. China had suffered from aggressions by foreign powers in recent history, when economic and social development was all but impossible. The people of China therefore value and

cherish peace more than anyone else. Peaceful development conforms with the national spirit in the Chinese culture formed through thousands of years. Peaceful development also matches the Chinese people's ardent aspiration for peace and development.

Peaceful development is an inevitable choice for China's modernization. The government and people of China are fully aware that, despite the remarkable achievements of its reform and opening up efforts, China remains a developing country faced with many bumps in its road to development. Its basic national condition, namely a huge population, a weak economic foundation, developmental imbalances and relatively low living standards, remain unchanged.

Let me give you an example. In China's rural areas, there are 26 million people suffering from poverty. Throughout China, there are 60 million people with various disabilities in need of care and aid. This is China's basic national condition and it means that the central task for China will always be promoting social and economic development and improving the living standards of the people. China is still a long way from modernization. And the Chinese people need and cherish the peaceful international environment more than anyone else.

Ladies and gentlemen, China wants to achieve external peace and cooperation and internal harmony and development. Building a harmonious socialist society is the center of all endeavors in China and will remain so for a long period to come. Issues related to the building of a harmonious socialist society topped the agenda of the recently held Sixth Plenum of the Sixteenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. It was agreed that social harmony is an essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics and an important guarantee of China's prosperity, rejuvenation of its nation and happiness of its people. It was decided at the meeting to build a harmonious society enjoyed by all the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. This is a society of socialism with Chinese characteristics; it is a society based on democracy and the rule of law as well as fairness and social justice. It is a society of honesty and amity; it is a society of vitality, order and stability, and it is a society of harmony between man and nature.

By 2020, the following objectives and main tasks will be accomplished in our effort to build a harmonious socialist society:

- to build a comprehensive socialist democracy, legal system and rule of law and provide better protection for the people's rights and interests.
- to gradually reverse the trend of widening disparity between urban and rural areas and between different regions; formulate a reasonable and orderly income distribution structure so that household property and people's living standards will be generally increased.
- to provide relatively sufficient job opportunities, basically establish a social security system covering both urban and rural residents, improve basic public

- health service and greatly increase the management and service capabilities of the government.
- to noticeably improve the ethical, educational and health level of the entire population, and build up social ethics and harmonious interpersonal relationship.
  - to noticeably increase the innovative capability of the public and achieve initial success in building an innovative nation.
  - to further improve social management and order, increase efficiency in the use of natural resources, and noticeably improve the ecological environment.

On the whole, our objective is to build an all-round well-off society at a higher level, and ensure that everyone of our over one billion population shares the benefit. We will work hard to achieve this objective so that everyone in the country will exert all his effort, be properly provided for, and live in harmony with everyone else.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are at an important time of enormous changes and progress in the world. Peace, development and cooperation are the trend of the times. While economic globalization continues to deepen and science and technology make progress at a breathtaking pace, the international security situation is increasingly complicated. In such a world of profound change, we should all the more value harmony and work together to build a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity. This is what we must do to build a harmonious world: Uphold democracy and equality, and enhance cooperation and coordination; ensure amity and mutual trust to achieve common security; uphold justice and mutual benefit to bring about common development; and be open and inclusive and conduct dialogue among civilizations.

A harmonious country is one of rule of law, stability, peace and prosperity. A harmonious world is democratic, amicable, just and inclusive. China will endeavor to build a harmonious society at home and remain committed to peace on the world scene. We aim to develop our country by upholding world peace and promote world peace through our own development.

As a big, responsible country of the world, China is playing a positive and constructive role in international affairs.

China is committed to maintaining world and regional peace and security. We abide by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, support the role of the UN in maintaining world peace and, at the same time, honor our international obligations and responsibilities. China has been participating extensively in international peacekeeping, counter-terrorism and arms control cooperation. We have sent over 5,000 military, police or civilian personnel to 15 UN peacekeeping operations. We firmly support international counter-terrorism efforts and have participated in a broad range of multilateral non-proliferation mechanisms and cooperation in non-traditional security areas.

On major international and regional issues, such as the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and the Iran nuclear issue, China has been working actively to promote peace

and negotiation. The current situation on the Korean Peninsula is grave and complicated. China is firmly opposed to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear tests. We continue to pursue the objective of denuclearization on the Peninsula and oppose nuclear proliferation. We stand for a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and negotiation in order to maintain peace and stability on the Peninsula and in the rest of Northeast Asia. China will continue to make unremitting efforts toward this end.

China promotes the establishment of a fair and reasonable international order. We stand for a multi-polar world where international relations are characterized by democracy and rule of law, cultural diversity is respected and dialogue between different civilizations is enhanced. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China actively participates in multilateral diplomacy. To date, we have signed or acceded to nearly 300 international conventions and participated in over 130 international organizations. In multilateral cooperation within our region, we call for equality, consultation, seeking common grounds and reserving differences. We also advocate open regionalism and support the countries and groups within our region to participate in broader international cooperation, build on shared interests and seek common development. China has contributed its share to regional and trans-regional cooperation by actively participating in many regional organizations, such as APEC and ASEM.

China works hard to promote mutually-beneficial and win-win international economic cooperation. We believe that common development is achievable only through integration with the world economic system. And integration is exactly what China has been working hard to achieve. Since joining the WTO in December 2001, China has, as pledged, rectified and amended some 3,000 laws, regulations and sectoral rules. This has created better conditions for China to carry out international economic and technological cooperation. China has opened over 100 WTO categories of service trade sectors, or 62.5percent of the total 160 categories, quickly approaching the level of the developed countries.

China is also one of the leading developing countries in the world in terms of openness. Seventy percent of our economic aggregate is foreign trade-related. Foreign trade and foreign direct investment have become major propellers of China's economic growth. In the next few years, China's annual import is expected to exceed \$600 billion and will increase to \$1 trillion by 2010. This means greater opportunities for mutually-beneficial cooperation between China and the rest of the world and a big push for global economic growth. At the same time, China's overseas investments will grow at 20percent annually. China will also increase aid and assistance and reduce and waive debt to help other developing country grow faster.

At the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation early this month, President Hu Jintao announced that China will provide \$3 billion of preferential loans and \$2 billion of preferential buyer's credits to Africa in the next three years. China will also cancel the outstanding debts on the interest-free Chinese

government loans that matured at the end of 2005 owed by the heavily indebted, poor and the least developed countries in Africa that have diplomatic relations with China.

Ladies and gentlemen, China's peaceful development provides an important opportunity for the steady development of China-U.S. relationship in the new century. This relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. Developing a sound and steady relationship between China and the United States is one of the priorities of China's independent foreign policy of peace. Back in the 1970s, the reopening of the gate to China-U.S. relationship brought about a profound change in the international structure. Despite the ups and downs since our countries established diplomatic relations, the overall trend of our relationship is positive. After the end of the Cold War, the China-U.S. relationship withstood the major test of a changed international structure and still maintained an overall momentum of improvement and development. The new international situation in the new century has now bestowed new features on the China-U.S. relationship. This relationship has an increasingly significant global impact and a direct influence on the situation in Asia-Pacific region and the world at large.

Last April, President Hu Jintao paid a successful visit to the United States. During the visit, he and President Bush reached a new and important agreement on advancing the all-round constructive and cooperative China-U.S. relationship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They confirmed that China and the United States share broad and important strategic interests. We are stakeholders in the global system as well as constructive partners with each other. A sound China-U.S. relationship has strategic significance to the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in Asia-Pacific and the rest of the world. This agreement is a clear definition of the current status and future of China-U.S. relationship. It also charts out the course for, and gives strong impetus to, the development of our bilateral relations.

Right now, the China-U.S. relationship on the whole has maintained the momentum of sound development, with close exchanges at the highest levels. Yesterday in Hanoi, Vietnam, President Hu Jintao and President Bush held their third meeting this year alongside the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. The meeting went very well. The two leaders had an in-depth discussion and reached important consensus on China-U.S. bilateral relations as well as major international and regional issues of mutual interest, including DPRK and Iran nuclear issues.

China and the United States have identical or similar interests on many major issues affecting international and regional peace and stability. We have had good coordination and consultation on the DPRK and Iranian nuclear issues. We share important interests in the fields of counter-terrorism and non-proliferation and have established mid- and long-term mechanisms on counter-terrorism exchanges and cooperation. We are also increasing our cooperation on public health, environmental protection, climate change, disaster relief and reduction, and other issues bearing on the safety and welfare of mankind. In the fields of education, science and technology, culture and law enforcement, the exchanges and cooperation between our countries have also been fruitful.

China-U.S. trade and economic cooperation is bringing benefits to both countries and peoples, and it is growing continuously and rapidly. China has already become the third biggest trading partner and the fastest growing export market for the United States. The United States is China's second biggest trading partner and number one export market. From 2001 to 2005, two-way trade grew by an average of 27.4 percent annually. U.S. export to China grew by an average of 21.5 percent annually in the same period. By 2005, U.S. exports to China had grown by 118 percent over 2001. This was 4.9 times the growth rate of total U.S. export in the same period and much higher than the growth rate of U.S. export to any other major market. According to an AmCham survey conducted in 2006, nearly 70 percent of the U.S. companies in China are making money, 73 percent of them believe that China is ready to honor its WTO commitments and 75 percent of the U.S. companies exporting products to China are making money.

In mid December, Vice Premier Wu Yi and Secretary Paulson will co-chair the Strategic Economic Dialogue as special representatives of our presidents, and hold the first round of the Strategic Economic Dialogue in mid December. The two sides will make full use of this mechanism to have candid dialogues and consultations on an equal footing. They will explore in greater depth such questions as the economic situation and development strategy of both countries and global strategic economic issues of mutual interest or concern, and make policy proposals to their respective leadership in the process of decision-making.

There is no denying the questions remaining in our relations, and these questions should not be overlooked. The Taiwan question is one of them. This question bears on China's core interests and is our biggest concern. We hope that the United States will honor its commitment to the one China policy, the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués and opposition to "Taiwan independence." We also hope that the United States will work with us to firmly oppose and curb "Taiwan independence," have no official contact with the Taiwan authorities, stop selling advanced weapons to Taiwan, and refrain from sending any wrong signals to the secessionist forces for "Taiwan independence." This serves the common strategic interests of both China and the United States. As for other questions, given our different national conditions, it is only natural for us to have different views. The right approach is to seek common ground while reserving differences and have dialogue on an equal footing.

Looking into the future, I believe that both China and the United States should always approach and handle the relationship from a strategic height and long-term perspective, and work together to further strengthen our dialogue, enhance mutual trust and widen our horizon, and open our minds to expand the areas of our cooperation and our shared interests. We should also appropriately handle our differences and the sensitive questions in order to safeguard the overall interest of our relationship, namely, stability, cooperation and development. As long as we both act in this way, we will surely be able to further advance our constructive and cooperative relationship. As long as we both act in this way, tomorrow will surely be an even better day for China-U.S. relations.

Thank you.

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