

The 10th World Peace Forum
**Preserving International Strategic Stability: Commonality,
Comprehensiveness and Cooperation**

Tsinghua University, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs
2-4 July 2022

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen,
Good Afternoon, Da Jia Hao,
Greetings of peace to You All,

- I join other speakers in expressing our profound appreciation to the Tsinghua University and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs for organising the 10th World Peace Forum on the main theme of *Preserving International Strategic Stability: Commonality, Comprehensiveness and Cooperation*.
- For the past couple of days, speakers and panellists before me have deliberated on how to preserve world peace in these turbulent and uncertain times.
- I will try to share my thoughts and experiences on an important component of this global goal i.e., Regional Institutions and Regional Order.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

- We are passing through extraordinary times. We are still to complete the first quarter of 21st century, yet the global community has already faced a number of challenges of unprecedented scale and impact.
- At the turn of the century, 9/11 happened giving rise to waves of terrorism and extremism across the world. We were forced to adjust our security policies. Second Afghan War was launched and our region is still coping with its spill-over effects.
- It was followed by the 2008 financial crisis sending shock waves across the globe. Economic growth was stifled and major economies including that of the U.S. faced recession.
- Now for the last two years, humanity is faced with the gravest health crisis in the form of COVID-19 pandemic, changing our way of

living and working, shattering economies and societies, impacting global trade and travel leading to increase in poverty, unemployment and inequality.

- And the recent challenge is the Russia-Ukraine conflict which is yet again dividing our world. There is a fear of the new Cold War. Prices of oil and essential food grains have risen putting an extra burden on developing and poor countries.
- Despite these setbacks, some positive developments occurred too in the last 20 years:
 - a) Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity of the entire humanity. Implementing SDGs has become a common aspiration and an important part of our domestic policies.
 - b) In 2013, BRI was launched by China which has been embraced by over 130 countries helping them to upgrade their physical infrastructure contributing to their economic growth and promoting regional connectivity and integration.
 - c) And in November-2020, 15 countries joined to launch RCEP, the world's largest trading bloc accounting for 30% of the world's population and 30% of global GDP.
- It is pertinent to ask here as to what is the common thread running across all these developments.
- The answer is simple: our world is an interconnected community where we all share the fruits of progress and prosperity and we all suffer from the perils and predicaments of conflicts and instability. The idea was aptly captured by President Xi Jinping when he commented that,
'Facts have shown that amidst the raging torrents of a global crisis, countries are not riding separately in some 190 small boats, but are rather all in a giant ship on which our shared destiny hinges'.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

- It is therefore evident that humanity's salvation lies in collective action and solidarity. As our world is confronted with new challenges and new opportunities, it is therefore the greater global good and not

narrow national interests which should guide us for devising a common strategy for global recovery and survival.

- Our faith in multilateralism should be stronger more than ever before. We must strive to strengthen mutual confidence and good-neighbourly relations among countries.
- It is the need of the hour to promote effective cooperation in politics, trade and economy, science and technology and people-to-people exchanges to save the fruits of globalization and further enriching it with new ideas and inputs.

Dear Friends,

- Regionalism is an important building block to construct a global future that is shared, safer, equitable and fair. And I say this for good reasons:
- Firstly, regional institutions and organisations provide useful platforms to further strengthen our ties with our regional partners and extended neighbourhood.
- Secondly, it provides us with forums to convey our perspective to other states on important regional issues to find common approaches to security, stability and peace, and;
- Thirdly, it also allows countries to explore greater institutional linkages, economic integration and better connectivity;
- The success of regionalism is proven by the solid achievements that EU, ASEAN and African Union have made in their respective regions. And here I would like to say that SCO is not far behind!

Dear Friends,

- Since last twenty years of its establishment, SCO has become a successful model for regional cooperation and development.
- Beginning as Shanghai Five in 1996, SCO has evolved into an effective international organisation with currently eight member states, three observer countries namely Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia; and six dialogue partners. The application for the membership of Iran has already been approved.
- As an integrated regional organisation in a world increasingly characterised by division, polarisation and isolation, SCO's guiding

spirit, principles and mechanisms shine light on cooperation rather than conflict.

- In the earlier phases, cooperation in the field of security and maintaining regional stability and issues like drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime had remained a priority task. Now there is an increased focus on cooperation in the areas of trade and investment and special attention in the spheres of transport, finance, industry, energy, agriculture and digital economy.
- The wide-ranging regional cooperation mechanism under the SCO framework is gaining more relevance than ever before. Over the years, consistent work has continued to expand cooperation with the SCO Observer States and Dialogue Partners. Last year, three new countries Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia joined as the Dialogue Partners.
- In the current global environment, I am confident that SCO, which represents half of the world population and 20% of global GDP, is poised to play a constructive and stabilising role.
- Its activities are aimed at further ensuring stability and security in the region; developing interaction amongst the Member States in the political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres; intensifying cooperation with Observer states and Dialogue Partners of the SCO, as well as other international organisations.
- SCO is now well poised to reinvigorate our faith in multilateralism and for spearheading efforts for developing a transparent, inclusive and fair regional architecture where all members could pool their resources and wisdom to advance regional peace and prosperity.

Dear Friends,

- As a responsible member of international community with firm faith in multilateralism and collective action, Pakistan has been on the forefront to deepen international cooperation for achieving our common aspirations of peace, development and prosperity.
- Pakistan' vision for international cooperation is based on three pillars: 1) Connectivity; 2) Economic Interdependence through Economic Bases & Investment Hubs; and 3) Peace within Region and beyond.

- Pakistan’s unique strategic location, cultural diversity and progressive outlook has enabled it to spearhead the march of globalization and international cooperation.
- As an ardent supporter of multilateralism, Pakistan is committed to continue working with China and international fraternity for making joint efforts for a shared and prosperous future for all.

Dear Friends,

- Since the beginning of Industrial Revolution in 1750, humankind has left a blazing trail of epochal achievements in all spheres of life extending the frontier of knowledge to new terrains.
- Mankind has tunnelled the mountains, tamed the winds, unravelled the secrets of deepest oceans and explored the mysteries of vast universe. It has deciphered the genetic code and now taking AI and Quantum Computing to unthinkable perfection.
- Despite these achievements, we are still unable to master our insecurities, prejudices and fears lurking in our sub-consciousness. We are plagued by the evils of war, severely affected by curse of poverty, inequality and crime, and ravaged by the horrors of climate change.
- As we step into an unseen future, it is a high time that we, as individuals and societies, should try to make a new connection with our inner goodness for collective peace and progress.
- It is said that *it is easy to ignore our responsibilities, but we cannot ignore the consequences of ignoring our responsibilities*. It is therefore important that drawing inspiration and strength from our ancient civilisations, rich cultures and vibrant economies, we should make a concerted effort to become the masters of our own destinies. No alien support would come from any extra-terrestrial space. We have to do it simply on our own.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Our history is replete with examples of various global crises and the collective cost that we had to pay. There is a saying that “*whenever history repeats itself, there is a price to pay*”.

- Let us therefore learn from these lessons of the past, let us not repeat our mistakes, let us be united and let us be prepared. We owe this to our future generations.

Thank You!