Tracking Chinese and Russian Statements on the Iran War

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Brief Analysis

A regularly updated compendium of Beijing and Moscow's reactions to the fighting in Iran, Lebanon, and beyond, including analysis of the similarities and differences in their respective diplomatic approaches to the crisis.

Since the start of U.S.-Israel military operations against Iran in February 2026, Russia and China have released a litany of statements in defense of Tehran, ranging from specific criticisms of allied tactics to well-trod critiques of America and its approach to international affairs. Beyond these shared platitudes, however, is a slight deviation in how each government has approached public messaging during the conflict.

Moscow's messaging has been incandescent since the start. On the day the fighting began, Russia's Foreign Ministry decried the "propaganda preparations that preceded this reckless step" and warned of the potential for a humanitarian, economic, and even "radiological" disaster. Foreign Minister Lavrov called his counterparts in Iran and Qatar that same day and pledged to convene a UN Security Council meeting. At the UN, Russia further criticized the "actions taken by Washington and West Jerusalem." And when Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was killed early in the war, the Kremlin mourned his loss and condemned "the practice of political assassination and manhunt for leaders of sovereign states"—only to then blandly note that "retaliation strikes" at U.S. military bases in the region and "the activation of anti-aircraft defense systems" had caused damage to airports, high-rise buildings, and hotels in the Gulf states.

Beijing's public approach has been a bit more measured. Its initial Foreign Ministry statement noted that China was "highly concerned" about the operation and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. Unlike Moscow, Beijing did not publicly mention any calls with regional officials until three days into the war, when Foreign MinisterWang Yi spoke with his counterparts in Iran and Oman. Although China condemned Khamenei's killing as a violation of international law and warned of a return to "the law of the jungle," the government's statements have generally attempted to strike a balance between criticizing the United States and focusing on Middle East stability—particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for Chinese energy and commerce. Beijing has also put out several messages regarding lessons learned from the conflict, including a March 2 army statement that warned against a "blind faith in peace" and "the enemy within."

Russia and China's public messaging on the war reflects the disparity in their respective stakes in the Middle East. Moscow's current foreign policy focus is overwhelmingly on Ukraine, where it is still bogged down in its war against a Western-backed military. Russia has historical ties to Iran and stands to gain considerably after the war if the regime survives, so it has little to lose by publicly slamming U.S. actions.

Yet China has deep economic and investment ties in the Gulf states, and the Strait of Hormuz is crucial to its energy and trade flows. It has therefore attempted to find a middle ground between supporting Iran and not alienating its Gulf partners. As the conflict wore on, China's statements increasingly touted its mediating role in the conflict, regularly promoting its peace plans and positions. Beijing also began to defend Gulf state positions more prominently—a notable shift that may reflect its overall priorities in the region. In addition, China has regularly condemned and denied accusations that it is providing military support to Iran, calling them "fabricated."

Despite these differences, however, Russia and China share a similar strategic aspiration: to use the Iran crisis as another avenue for criticizing and undermining the United States and, by extension, the U.S.-led international order. The following is a chronological tracker of their notable public remarks, statements, social media posts, and readouts (the text of these entries is unedited; any errors are from the original sources). This tracker will be updated throughout the crisis.

Feb. 28: Chinese Foreign Ministry remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/fyrbt/202602/t20260228_11866531.html)

China is highly concerned over the military strikes against Iran launched by the U.S. and Israel. Iran's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected. China calls for an immediate stop to the military actions, no further escalation of the tense situation, resumption of dialogue and negotiation, and efforts to uphold peace and stability in the Middle East.

Feb. 28: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083284/)

On the morning of February 28, US and Israeli armed forces carried out airstrikes on the territory of Iran. The scope and character of the military, political, and propaganda preparations that preceded this reckless step, including the deployment of substantial US military forces to the region, leave no doubt that this is a deliberate, premeditated, and unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent UN member state, in direct violation of the fundamental principles and norms of international law.

It is particularly reprehensible that these strikes are once again being conducted under the cover of the renewed negotiation process, ostensibly intended to secure long-term normalisation of the situation around the Islamic Republic of Iran. This comes despite assurances conveyed to the Russian side indicating that Israel had no interest in entering into military confrontation with Iran. The international community, including the leadership of the UN and the IAEA, must urgently deliver an objective and unbiased assessment of these irresponsible actions, which are aimed at undermining peace, stability, and security in the Middle East.

Washington and Tel Aviv have once again embarked on a perilous course that is swiftly pushing the region toward a humanitarian, economic, and potentially even radiological disaster. The aggressors' intentions are evident and have been stated openly: to dismantle the constitutional order and remove the leadership of a state they deem undesirable because it has refused to yield to the dictates of force and hegemonic pressure. Responsibility for the impact of this man-made crisis, including the unpredictable chain reaction and the spiral of escalating violence, rests entirely with them.

The grave repercussions of these ill-conceived actions for the global non-proliferation regime, whose cornerstone is the NPT, are being openly disregarded. Meanwhile, the US-Israeli tandem seeks to cover its actions with a purported concern over preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. The bombing of nuclear facilities operating under IAEA safeguards is unacceptable. Essentially, the motives of Washington and Tel Aviv bear no relation to the objectives of the non-proliferation regime. They cannot but recognise that, by plunging the Middle East into the abyss of uncontrolled escalation, they are effectively prompting countries across the globe—and the Middle East in particular—to pursue ever more grave means of countering emerging threats.

The sustained and systematic nature of the destabilising attacks, carried out by the US administration against the fundamental principles of the international legal order in recent months, raises particular concern. Among the violated principles are non-interference in internal affairs, the renunciation of the use or threat of use of force, and the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

We call for an immediate return to a political and diplomatic track. Russia, as always, stands ready to assist in advancing peaceful solutions grounded in international law, mutual respect, and a balanced consideration of interests.

Feb. 28: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2027734264700080394)

On February 28, the US & Israel have embarked on a perilous course, carried out airstrikes on the territory of Iran

It's a deliberate, premeditated, & unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign & independent UN member state

Regarding US & Israel aggression vs Iran:

Aggressors' intentions have been stated openly: to remove the leadership of a state they deem undesirable.

We call for immediate return to a political & diplomatic track.

Russia stands ready to assist in advancing peaceful solutions

Feb. 28: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083290/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

The Iranian minister briefed Sergey Lavrov on IRI leadership's steps to repel the aggression by the United States and Israel, which had once again derailed talks on peaceful settlement of the issues concerning Iran's nuclear programme. He informed Sergey Lavrov about the plans to convene an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

Sergey Lavrov condemned the absolutely unprovoked armed attack by the United States and Israel on Iran in violation of principles and standards of international law while totally ignoring hard repercussions for the regional and global stability and security. He pointed out the need to promptly stop the attacks against the Islamic Republic and to bring back the developments toward political and diplomatic settlement. Sergey Lavrov stressed Russia's readiness to assist in seeking peaceful solution based in international law, mutual respect and balance of interests.

The Iranian side expressed sincere gratitude to the Russian Federation for invariable and solid support.

Feb. 28: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2027783187317813737)

On February 28, Foreign Ministers Sergey #Lavrov & @Araghchi held a telephone conversation.

Sergey Lavrov pointed out the need to promptly stop the attacks against Iran and to bring back the developments toward political and diplomatic settlement.

Feb. 28: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083290/) phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083311/) with Qatari Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Thani

On February 28, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar…The parties discussed the situation around Iran. The ministers unanimously called for ceasing any hostilities that involved the risk of destabilising the entire region. They expressed their common shared opinion on the need for an urgent return to the political and diplomatic process intended to settle all the problems between the United States, Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the same time, it is necessary that all the sides fully take into account the legitimate interests of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. Sergey Lavrov has reaffirmed the well-known Russian initiative on building a collective security architecture of in the Gulf area.

Feb. 28: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083364/) with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

The Russian Foreign Minister stressed that the actions of the United States and Israel in launching an unprovoked aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran were unacceptable.

The foreign ministers of Russia and the UAE stressed the destabilising nature of the military escalation in the region, which creates security threats to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf.

[They] expressed a unanimous opinion that all hostilities must cease and the situation must return to the political and diplomatic track, with due consideration for the legitimate interests of all the countries in the region.

Mar. 1: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2028061647269773386)

The attack and killing of Iran's supreme leader is a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and security. It tramples on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and basic norms in international relations. China firmly opposes and strongly condemns it.

We urge for an immediate stop to the military operations, no further escalation of the tense situation and joint effort to maintain peace and stability in the Middle East and the world at large.

Mar. 1: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2028109325697450181)

Launching large-scale military operations against a sovereign state without authorization from the UN Security Council undermines the very foundations of peace established after World War II. The international community must speak with one clear and unequivocal voice to oppose any return of the world to law the jungle.

Mar. 1: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2028108084623880682)

Chinese FM Wang Yi stated during a phone conversation with Russian FM Sergei Lavrov:

China's position on the situation in #Iran:

1. Immediate cessation of military operations
2. Prompt return to dialogue and negotiations
3. Joint opposition to unilateral actions

Mar. 1: Russian Mission to the UN repost (https://x.com/RussiaUN/status/2027947959413768624)

#Nebenzia: The actions taken by Washington and West Jerusalem are nothing but yet another unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent @UN Member State, in violation of the #UNCharter and of the fundamental principles of international law.

Mar. 1: Russian Mission to the UN repost (https://x.com/RussiaUN/status/2027948687343640771)

#Nebenzia: We demand that the United States and Israel immediately cease their aggressive actions.

There are no and will never be any alternatives to a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the Iranian issue, including its nuclear component.

Mar. 1: Chinese Foreign Ministry remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/fyrbt/202603/t20260301_11866722.html)

Q: It's reported that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in the air strikes launched by the U.S. and Israel. What is China's comment?

A: The attack and killing of Iran's supreme leader is a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and security. It tramples on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and basic norms in international relations. China firmly opposes and strongly condemns it. We urge for an immediate stop to the military operations, no further escalation of the tense situation and joint effort to maintain peace and stability in the Middle East and the world at large.

Mar. 1: Statement (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79238) by Russian President Vladimir Putin

"Please, accept my deepest condolences on the assassination of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed Ali Khamenei and members of his family, committed in cynical violation of all norms of human morality and international law.

In our country, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei will be remembered as an outstanding statesman who made an enormous personal contribution to the development of friendly ties between Russia and Iran and to raising them to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership

Please, convey my most sincere sympathy and support to the family and friends of the Supreme Leader, as well as to the leadership and to the entire people of Iran."

Mar. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028089447279886730)

President Vladimir #Putin expressed deepest condolences to President of Iran @drpezeshkian over the assassination of Supreme

Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei

Please, convey my most sincere sympathy & support to the family & friends of the Supreme Leader

Mar. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083359/)

Moscow has received the news of the killing of the Supreme and Spiritual Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, members of his family, and senior Iranian officials in US and Israeli missile strikes with outrage and deep sorrow. The Russian Federation strongly and consistently condemns the practice of political assassination and manhunt for leaders of sovereign states that goes against the fundamental principles of civilised interstate relations and constitutes a grave violation of international law.

In the course of continuing military operations, the number of casualties among civilians is constantly rising, with serious damage being inflicted on civilian infrastructure as well. Retaliation strikes at the US military bases in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, along with the activation of anti-aircraft defence systems, have caused damage to the international airports in Dubai, Kuwait City, sea ports, high-rises and hotels in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. It has been reported that navigation has been stopped in the Strait of Hormuz. This can lead to the blocking of hydrocarbon exports to the region and create a significant imbalance in the global oil and gas markets.

We call for immediate de-escalation, cessation of hostilities, resumption of political and diplomatic processes, to settle any existing problems on the basis of the UN Charter and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The legitimate interests of all the states in the Persian Gulf must be taken into account.

Mar. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028147632002998495)

We call for immediate de-escalation, cessation of hostilities, resumption of political and diplomatic processes, to settle any existing problems on the basis of the UN Charter and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Mar. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028165131633357200)

On February 28, FMs Sergey #Lavrov & @ABZayed had a telephone conversation.

The Russian Foreign Minister stressed that the actions of the US & Israel in launching an unprovoked aggression against the Iran were unacceptable.

Mar. 1: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/syst/202603/t20260301_11866752.html) with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov

On March 1, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov upon request.

Wang Yi noted that at the request of China and Russia, the U.N. Security Council met in emergency session yesterday on the current situation in Iran. China always upholds the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and opposes the use of force in international relations. It is unacceptable for the U.S. and Israel to launch attacks against Iran in the midst of their ongoing negotiations, still less to blatantly assassinate a leader of a sovereign country and instigate regime change. These actions have violated international law and fundamental norms of international relations. China is highly concerned that the conflict has now spilled over to the entire Persian Gulf region, and that the situation in the Middle East is being pushed to the brink of a dangerous abyss.

Wang Yi stated that China's position is as follows: First, military actions should be immediately ceased. The conflict should be prevented from spreading and spilling over to avoid a situation that is beyond control. China takes seriously the security of Gulf states and supports their efforts to exercise restraint. Second, there should be an earliest possible return to dialogue and negotiation. All sides should spare no efforts to promote peace, discourage war, and urge the parties concerned to return to the track of dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible. Third, we should jointly oppose unilateral acts. Launching military strikes against a sovereign state without authorization of the U.N. Security Council undermines the peace foundation established after World War II. The international community should make clear and unequivocal voice in opposing the regression of the world to the law of the jungle.

Lavrov said that the military strikes launched by the U.S. and Israel against Iran severely undermine the stability in the Middle East region. Russia shares China's position, and stands ready to step up coordination and communication with China to send out clear-

cut messages through such platforms as the U.N. and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and call for immediate ceasefire and return to the process of diplomatic negotiations.

Mar. 1: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083372/) with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

The ministers condemned the large-scale military strikes launched by the United States and Israel against Iranian territory, an operation carried out despite Tehran's stated openness to dialogue. They stressed that such acts of aggression represent a grave violation of international law and the fundamental principles of the UN Charter, destabilising the situation across the entire region. Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that it is unacceptable to pursue policies aimed at overthrowing the legitimately elected authorities of sovereign states.

Sergey Lavrov and Wang Yi called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and underscored the urgent need for a political and diplomatic resolution to all issues related to the Iranian case, including ensuring the legitimate security interests of all the Gulf states.

The ministers highlighted the unity of Moscow's and Beijing's positions during the emergency UN Security Council meeting convened the previous day at the initiative of Russia and China. They expressed their readiness to continue working together to help stabilise the situation, by coordinating their efforts within the UN Security Council, the IAEA, the SCO, and the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations.

The parties agreed to maintain close contact on all pressing international issues.

Mar. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028187755868459294)

On March 1, FMs Sergey Lavrov & Wang Yi held a telephone conversation.

The Ministers condemned the large-scale military strikes launched by the US & Israel against Iran, carried out despite Tehran's stated openness to dialogue

Mar. 2: Post (https://x.com/ChinaMilBugle/status/2028682346992656741) by China Military Bugle (official military press account)

Five Lessons from U.S.-Israel Strikes on Iran

1. Deadliest Threat: The Enemy Within
2. Costliest Miscalculation: Blind Faith in Peace
3. Coldest Reality: The Logic of Superior Firepower
4. Cruelest Paradox: The Illusion of Victory
5. Ultimate Reliance: Self-Reliance

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning press conference (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260302_11867202.html)

Q: Since U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran began on February 28, U.S. military targets in Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan have been under attack, which is condemned by relevant countries. What is China's comment?

A:The U.S.-Israeli strikes have no UN Security Council authorization and violate international law. China is deeply concerned over the regional spillover. China believes that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf states should likewise be fully respected. We urge parties to stop the military operations and prevent further spread of the conflict. China commends the statement by the 50th Extraordinary Meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council that reaffirmed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as the sole path to overcome the current crisis and preserve regional security. In light of the complex and delicate situation, China supports regional countries in valuing good-neighborliness, enhancing communication and coordination and jointly working for peace and stability in the region.

Q: On the strikes against Iran by the U.S. and Israel, China has taken a very strong position. I wanna ask China as a major global power with a veto power in the UN Security Council and a strategic partner of Iran, how can China play a role in preventing the U.S. from carrying out unilateral actions, such as assassinating leaders of sovereign countries?

A: China is deeply concerned over the current situation. China firmly opposes the use of force in international relations or

infringement on other countries' sovereignty and security. The priority now is to immediately stop military operations and prevent the spread and spillover of the conflict. China stands ready to work with the international community to call for peace and stop the conflict, resolve issues through dialogue and negotiations, and maintain peace and stability in the Middle East and the world at large.

Q: It's been reported that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard is blocking the transit of commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf because of the conflict. One-fifth of the world's oil and LNG supplies as well as a large amount of China's oil imports go across this Strait before reaching destinations. How do you think this de facto blockade of the Strait might affect China's imports and energy security in general?

A: The Strait of Hormuz and its adjacent waters are an important international trade route for goods and energy. To keep the region secure and stable serves the common interests of the international community. China urges relevant parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from causing greater damage to global economic growth.

Q: Amid the severe security situation in Iran, Chinese embassies and consulates in relevant countries have issued security alerts and evacuation advisories. What other measures will China take to further protect Chinese citizens in Iran?

A: Since the security situation in Iran turned tense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese diplomatic missions in Iran have issued alerts more than once. They have worked in various ways to call on Chinese citizens to evacuate as soon as possible and offer them assistance. As of March 2, Beijing time, over 3,000 Chinese citizens have been evacuated from Iran. Chinese diplomatic missions in Iran's neighboring countries have sent working groups to receive and assist the evacuated Chinese citizens at border ports.

Given the severe security situation in Iran, we once again advise the Chinese citizens in Iran to take extra safety precautions and leave Iran as soon as possible. If any help is needed, please contact the Chinese embassy and consulate in Iran or dial consular protection hotline 12308.

Q: The Foreign Ministry of China confirmed yesterday that a Chinese national was injured in the attacks. Could you give us more details about this person, including where it happened?

A: China mourns for our fellow citizen who lost his life when caught in the military conflict in Tehran. We extend sympathies to the family of the victim. The Foreign Ministry has directed the Chinese embassy in Iran to provide assistance to those affected and their families.

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2028422188290965963)

The U.S.-Israeli strikes have no UN Security Council authorization and violate international law.

China is deeply concerned over the regional spillover. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf states should likewise be fully respected.

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260303_11867484.html) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On March 2, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi upon request.

Seyed Abbas Araghchi briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments of the situation of Iran, noting that the U.S. has launched war against Iran for the second time during their ongoing negotiations. Though the two sides have made positive progress in the latest round of negotiations, the U.S. action violates all international laws and treads and even crosses the red line of Iran. The Iranian side has no choice but to defend itself at all costs. China has made public its voice for fairness and justice, and Iran hopes that China will continue playing an proactive role in preventing the escalation of tensions in the region.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position on the current situation in Iran. He noted that China values the traditional friendship between China and Iran and supports Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national dignity and in upholding its legitimate and lawful rights and interests.

Wang Yi said that China has urged the U.S. and Israel to immediately cease military actions to avoid further escalation of tensions

and prevent the conflict from expanding and spreading to the entire Middle East region. China believes that under the current grave and complex situation, Iran will maintain its national and social stability, take seriously the legitimate concerns of neighboring countries, and ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in Iran. Seyed Abbas Araghchi noted that the Iranian side will do its utmost to guarantee the safety and security of Chinese personnel and institutions.

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2028479250664407041)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

#China supports #Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity, and national dignity, and supports Iran in upholding its legitimate and lawful rights and interests.

China has urged the U.S. and Israel to immediately cease military operations, prevent further escalation of tensions, and stop the conflict from spreading and engulfing the entire #MiddleEast.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083459/)

We are deeply concerned about the escalating armed confrontation across the Middle East, resulting from US and Israeli aggression against Iran.

It is evident that, beyond pursuing regime change in Iran through the most unscrupulous methods, including the murder of a sovereign state's leadership, Washington and Tel Aviv are also seeking to undermine efforts aimed at normalising relations between Iran and its Arab neighbours.

For our part, we call for the immediate cessation of hostilities by all sides and, as an unconditional priority, the adoption of comprehensive measures to ensure the safety of civilians and civilian infrastructure in all countries of the region. The strike on a girls' school in the Iranian city of Minab, which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent children, warrants the strongest condemnation.

Attacks on civilian targets, whether in Iran or in Arab states, are unacceptable and must be completely ruled out.

We once again strongly urge all parties to renounce the use of force in resolving existing differences and to move towards political and diplomatic settlement of all issues, while respecting the legitimate security interests of all countries in the region.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028455811727642939)

Russia expresses concern over the expansion of the armed confrontation across the entire Middle East as a result of the aggression by the US & Israel against Iran.

Any attacks on civilian facilities are unacceptable & must cease immediately.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083505/)

Q: How many Russian citizens have sought assistance from the Russian Foreign Ministry and consulates for returning home? How many have been supported?

A: As you are aware, the data regarding Russians who have reached out to our foreign missions is in a state of constant flux. The following numbers reflect the scale and intricacy of the situation confronting our citizens. As of the end of the day on March 1, approximately 1,400 Russian nationals had contacted the Russian Embassy in the UAE. The Russian Consulate General in Dubai has received over 6,000 requests from Russian citizens. Comprehensive consular support has been extended to all, within the remit of our foreign missions. The number of new inquiries continues to rise, prompting the introduction of three additional telephone lines for citizen enquiries. Furthermore, Consulate General staff have been arranged on a continuous duty roster.

The Russian Embassy in Iran has received over 50 requests from compatriots. All have been provided with necessary instructions and assistance regarding evacuation to Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkmenistan.

The Russian Embassies in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait continue to receive a steady stream of calls and written requests.

Since February 28, the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv has received more than 300 hotline calls and emails from Russian citizens currently in Israel, seeking consular assistance and general information.

The Russian Embassy in Doha has received around 250 requests. The total number of compatriots awaiting evacuation, including 364 Qatar Airways transit passengers and 150 members of a children's football school, is estimated to be at least 800. Given the circumstances, all those who have approached the Embassy have been provided with detailed instructions and recommendations.

Q: Does the Foreign Ministry advise Russians to refrain from travelling to the Persian Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE)? Does the Ministry recommend that compatriots leave these countries?

A: Detailed updates regarding the current situation have been published on the official social media accounts of our foreign missions. While specific recommendations may vary by country, the overarching advice for all remains the same: maintain calm and vigilance, strictly adhere to the host country's security directives, stay close to safe locations, and, if necessary, remain there until notified otherwise by local authorities.

We would also like to draw your attention to the most comprehensive advisory for Russian citizens regarding the regional situation, available on the official Telegram channel of the Foreign Ministry: https://t.me/MID_Russia/74885. This includes up-to-date contact details for our foreign missions, the 24/7 hotline of the Foreign Ministry's Crisis Management Centre, and potential evacuation routes from the region.

Mar. 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79242) with Emirati President Muhammad bin Zayed

The discussion focused on the unprecedented and tragic events in the Middle East in light of the United States and Israel's aggression against Iran as well as the harsh retaliatory measures by Tehran. Both sides emphasised the necessity to cease hostilities and return to a political and diplomatic process.

Vladimir Putin noted that the Russian side had done much to promote a peaceful settlement of the situation surrounding Iran's nuclear programme and to find mutually acceptable compromises. The Emirati side has played an active role in the process as well. However, this groundwork has been sabotaged by the unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign state that is a member of the United Nations in violation of the fundamental principles of international law. The President of Russia thanked Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his efforts aimed at providing support to the Russian nationals in the UAE, including the numerous tourists, in the midst of the current force majeure situation.

The President of the UAE emphasised that Iran's retaliation had directly affected the Emirates, causing damage to the country and posing a threat to civilians. He said these strikes were carried out despite the fact that the UAE was not being used to mount attacks on Iran and were therefore completely unjustified. For his part, Vladimir Putin expressed his willingness to convey these signals to Tehran and, more broadly, to provide all possible assistance in order to stabilise the situation in the region.

The leaders agreed to remain in close contact.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028474194137354710)

On March 2, Presidents of Russia & the UAE spoke over the phone.

The Leaders discussed the unprecedented tragic developments in the Middle East.

They emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire & a return to the political & diplomatic track.

Mar. 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79243) with Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani

The primary focus was placed on the acute crisis in the Middle East, provoked by the United States and Israel's aggression against Iran. This flagrant violation of international law has led to grave and tragic consequences for the Iranian people.

Both sides expressed concern about the risks of the conflict escalating and the threat of third countries becoming involved. At the same time, they expressed hope that Iran's retaliation would not cause any harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure, including tourism and transportation facilities, of neighbouring countries.

The Emir of Qatar expressed gratitude for the support of the regional states in the current difficult situation. He also emphasised that cooperation with Russia in various sectors remained a priority for them.

Both sides expressed hope for a swift de-escalation of the conflict and a return to resolving differences via political and diplomatic means, based on mutual respect and equality

The leaders agreed to continue Russia-Qatar contacts through various channels.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028497402877899176)

On March 2, President Vladimir #Putin & Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held a telephone conversation

The discussion focused primarily on the crisis in the Middle East triggered by the US-Israeli aggression against #Iran

Mar. 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79244) with Bahrain's King Hamad

There was an exchange of views on the unprecedented escalation of the situation surrounding Iran resulting from the United States and Israel's aggression, bringing the entire region to the brink of a full-scale war with unpredictable consequences. Both sides emphasised the need for ceasing hostilities as soon as possible in order to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control and return it to a political and diplomatic framework.

The current course of events, among its many negative consequences, puts the security of many Arab states with which Russia maintains friendly relations in jeopardy. Taking all this into account, Vladimir Putin confirmed Russia's willingness to actively contribute to stabilising the situation in the region using all available means.

The leaders agreed to maintain contact.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028480683102941467)

On March 2, the Leaders of Russia & Bahrain spoke over the phone.

They exchanged views on the unprecedented escalation around Iran resulting from the US-Israeli aggression.

Both Sides stressed the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire.

Mar. 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin (http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79245) phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79245) with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Both sides expressed serious concern over the real risks of geographical expansion of the conflict, which has already affected several Arab states and is fraught with potentially catastrophic consequences. In this regard, Vladimir Putin emphasised the need to resolve the extremely dangerous situation at hand via political and diplomatic means.

In turn, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud opined that the Russian side could presently play a positive, stabilising role, given the friendly ties it has with both Iran and the Gulf states.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028564270284222551)

President Vladimir #Putin and Crown Prince & PM of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud spoke over a phone

The Leaders had a discussion of the escalation in the Middle East resulting from the US and Israel's armed aggression

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083540/) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

On March 2, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. The two foreign ministers exchanged perspectives on the situation around Iran, which has arisen as a result of the aggression committed by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic. It was observed that the unprecedented escalation of the conflict harbours unpredictable consequences for the entire region. Concern was articulated regarding the risk of third countries, particularly the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, becoming embroiled in the conflict. The ministers emphasised that Russia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia advocate for the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the prioritisation of measures to prevent attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, both within Iran and in the neighbouring states.

Sergey Lavrov and Faisal bin Farhan agreed to maintain continuous communication in the interests of a peaceful resolution to the situation.

Mar. 2: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028548335791968672)

On March 2, Foreign Minister Sergey #Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin

Farhan Al Saud

The Ministers emphasised that Russia and Saudi Arabia advocate for the immediate cessation of all hostilities

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260303_11867532.html) with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi

[Busaidi] noted that under Oman's mediation, Iran-U.S. negotiations made unprecedented progress, yet regrettably, the U.S. and Israel have cast aside the existing outcomes of the talks and launched a war. If the war continues, it will lead to more casualties and property losses. All parties should work together for an early ceasefire. As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China always abides by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and is a positive force to be relied upon. Oman hopes that China will play an important role under the current sensitive and complex circumstances. Oman will do its utmost to safeguard the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in Oman.

Wang Yi said that China appreciates Oman's active mediation in advancing the negotiations between Iran and the U.S. and its tremendous efforts for safeguarding regional peace. Despite progress in the talks, the U.S. and Israel deliberately provoked a war against Iran, which clearly violates the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. China believes that the pressing task now is to immediately cease military actions to prevent further spillover of the conflict and avert an irreversible deterioration. China urges all parties to make joint efforts to this end and support Oman in staying true to its original aspiration and continuing its mediation efforts. China also stands ready to play a constructive role, including upholding fairness and justice at the U.N. Security Council and striving for peace and stopping the war

Wang Yi said that China values the legitimate appeals of Gulf states and supports them in upholding their sovereignty and national security. Spillover of the war does not serve the fundamental and long-term interests of Gulf states. China expects that Gulf states will enhance their independence, oppose external interference, develop good neighborliness, and strengthen solidarity and coordination, so as to truly hold their future firmly in their own hands.

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2028484357401587860)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Omani FM Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi.

Against the backdrop of progress in the negotiations between #Iran and the #US, the deliberate provocation of war against Iran by the U.S. and #Israel constitutes a clear violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

China supports Gulf countries in safeguarding their sovereignty and national security. The spillover of the war does not serve the fundamental and long-term interests of countries in the Gulf region.

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb/wjbz/hd/202603/t20260303_11867533.html) with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot

Barrot shared the French perspective on the current situation in the Middle East, underscoring that France and China, both permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, have special responsibility for upholding international peace and security. The U.S and Israel did not seek the opinions from the U.N. Security Council regarding their military action against Iran, nor did they obtain authorization from the Council. All parties should work together to de-escalate the tensions and resolve such issues as the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiation. China has maintained good relations with both Iran and other Gulf states. France looks forward to joining hands with China to proactively ease the situation in the region.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, stressing that the international community should reject any act that violates international law and refrain from applying double standards. Major countries must not be allowed to attack others at will with their military might, nor should the world revert to the law of the jungle. The Iranian nuclear issue should eventually return to the track of political and diplomatic settlement. China hopes that France will uphold an objective and just position, remain calm and rational, and work with China to de-escalate the situation, jointly safeguarding the basic norms of international relations.

Mar. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2028481749102276922)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with French FM Jean-Noel Barrot.

Major countries must not rely on their military superiority to attack others at will, and the world must not return to the law of the jungle. The Iranian nuclear issue must eventually return to the path of political and diplomatic resolution.

#China hopes that #France will uphold an objective and fair stance, and work with China to promote the de-escalation of the situation and jointly safeguard the basic norms of international relations.

Mar. 2: Statement (https://eng.sectsco.org/20260302/2180947.html) by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) express serious concern over the developments in the Middle East and the military strikes on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The SCO Member States consider the use of force as unacceptable and advocate for the resolution of existing differences exclusively by peaceful means, based on dialogue, mutual respect, and taking into account the legitimate interests of all parties, in accordance with the norms of the international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

The SCO Member States underscore the need to ensure sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Iran, and call on all parties to exercise restraint and to refrain from actions that could aggravate the situation.

The SCO Member States strongly urge the United Nations and the UN Security Council to take immediate measures to counteract the undermining of international peace and security.

The SCO Member States express sincere condolences to the families of those murdered as a result of the attack and declare their solidarity with and support for the Government and the people of Iran.

Mar. 3: Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning press conference (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260303_11867987.html)

Q: After the U.S. and Israel started their military operation on Iran, conflict is now expanding through the Middle East. Israel is reported to target Tehran and Beirut at the same time and several neighboring countries hosting U.S. bases are targeted in retaliatory strikes by Iran as well. What's China's comment?

A: The U.S.-Israeli strikes against Iran have no UN Security Council authorization and violate international law. China is deeply concerned over the regional spillover. China believes that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf states should likewise be fully respected. We urge parties to stop the military operations and prevent further spread of the conflict.

Q: In Israel's attacks against Iran, we saw a girls' school was bombed on Saturday. And more recently, Iran's public broadcaster IRIB's buildings in Tehran were targeted in military attacks. We are now witnessing a similar, dangerous pattern of targeting civilians, civilian facilities, children, journalists, like we have seen before in Gaza. What is China's comment about these acts?

A: China is deeply saddened by the massive civilian casualties caused by U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran. We strongly condemn that. Protection of civilians in armed conflicts is a red line and must not be violated. Indiscriminate use of force cannot be accepted. China calls on all parties to fulfill their obligations under international law, effectively ensure the safety of civilians, and avoid attacks on civilian facilities…

Q: We've reported that China is pressuring Iranian officials to avoid any action that would disrupt Qatari gas exports or other shipments making their way through the Strait of Hormuz. Would the Ministry like to comment on this?

A: "Energy security is very important for the world economy. All parties have the responsibility to ensure stable and unimpeded energy supply. China urges all parties to stop the military operations at once, avoid further escalation, keep the shipping routes in the Strait of Hormuz safe, and prevent further impact on the global economy."

Mar. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2028803587686760616)

FM Wang Yi on China's position regarding Iran situation:

1. Immediate stop to the military operations;

2. Return to dialogue and negotiation ASAP;

3. Joint opposition to unilateral actions.

Mar. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post

(https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2028804511721254981)

China strongly condemns the massive civilian casualties caused by U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran. Protection of civilians in armed conflicts is a red line and must not be violated. Indiscriminate use of force cannot be accepted.

Mar. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2028807396165087439)

China stands for the peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation, and respects Iran's legitimate right to peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mar. 3: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb/wjbz/hd/202603/t20260304_11868246.html) with Israeli Foreign Minister

On March 3, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar upon request.

After listening to Gideon Sa'ar's briefing on Israel's views on the current situation, Wang Yi noted that China consistently advocates the settlement of international and regional hotspot issues through dialogue and consultation. All parties should abide by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and refrain from using or threatening to use force in international relations. This also serves the fundamental interests of all parties, including Israel. Over the years, China has been committed to advancing the political settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue. The recent negotiations between Iran and the U.S. had been making notable progress, which also took into account Israel's security concerns. Regrettably, this process has been disrupted by military strikes. China opposes such strikes launched by Israel and the U.S. against Iran. The use of force cannot truly solve problems. Instead, it will create new ones and leave severe aftereffects. The real value of military might lies not on the battlefield, but in the prevention of war. China calls for immediate cessation of military actions to prevent the conflict from further escalating and spiraling out of control. On the Middle East issue, China always upholds a just position and will continue playing a constructive role in de-escalating the situation. Wang Yi called on Israel to take concrete measures to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and institutions. Sa'ar noted that Israel attaches great importance to this and will do so.

Mar. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2028854621725499401)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Israeli FM Gideon Sa'ar.

China opposes the military strikes against #Iran launched by #Israel and the #US. The use of force cannot truly resolve the issue and will instead bring new problems and grave repercussions.

China calls for an immediate cessation of military operations to prevent the flames of war from spreading further and spiraling out of control.

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083836/) [excerpts]

From introductory remarks:

Undoubtedly, the most prominent conflict—indeed, war—of the current day is the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its repercussions are already being felt across the region, including in Arab states, which are also bearing costs, both economic and human.

We deem it imperative to categorically and resolutely call for an immediate cessation of hostilities from all sides. As an unconditional first step, every effort must be made to halt any actions resulting in civilian casualties, whether in Iran—where more than 150 schoolgirls perished in a strike on their school—or in any other country bordering the Persian Gulf. Civilian infrastructure is also suffering in our friendly Arab states.

As I have emphasised, all such actions must cease—as must the war itself. We regularly hear claims about its objectives, yet we have seen no evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons—the primary, if not sole, justification for this war. Confirmation from the IAEA and American intelligence professionals affirms that Iran neither produced nor attempted to produce nuclear weapons…

From Q&A session:

Q: The US recently stated that in its operation against Iran, it will go as far as American interests require. Since the start of the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, we have already seen hundreds of civilian casualties, including children, as you said. Do you think we can expect any sanctions, and does the UN have the power to stop the Western aggression in the Middle East?

A: On the specific question of Iran, Marco Rubio, in response to a journalist recently, suggested the possibility of the United States effectively running the country. It is reminiscent of what they announced regarding Venezuela. We are now seeing a similar approach being floated in relation to Cuba. And it probably won't stop there. We have President Trump's plan for Palestine, which Arab states have indicated a willingness to support. China and Russia did not oppose that plan in the Security Council. But that plan, too, does not provide for the implementation of the long-standing UN resolution on the establishment of both an Israeli and a Palestinian state. The State of Israel is well-established and, as you can see, highly active. A Palestinian state, however, does not exist. Even the theoretical possibility of its creation is fading by the day, as 90 percent of the land in the West Bank is now occupied by illegal settlements. The Gaza Strip has been devastated. Various plans are being discussed, but the idea that Palestinians should be the masters of their own land is notably absent from those discussions.

Returning to your question about the UN's role. When the aggression against Iran began, we, together with China, called for a Security Council meeting, where we set out our fundamental assessments. Under the current circumstances, I believe that was the maximum we could achieve. The United States, as a permanent member of the Security Council, will simply not allow any decision to be taken that it perceives as contrary to its interests, the way they see them. The other two Western members of the Council—France and Britain—are trying to maintain some distance from Washington's actions. Even so, President Trump has publicly criticised Prime Minister Keir Starmer for not providing military support for the US operations. Neither Paris nor London is going to stand in the way of what the United States is doing now. This isn't really just about this particular crisis. It is a reflection of a much deeper problem that has now come to the surface. It is essentially a clash between international law and a world without international law we saw in the 19th century, before the understandings reached after World War I, and later, after World War II, when the UN Charter was adopted and the United Nations was founded. For the United States, the Charter no longer seems to be a binding framework in these discussions. They are quite open about it. I still believe this dialogue is essential…

Q: You have already mentioned Russia's call to end the hostilities in Iran, and you have stated that sanctions are an unacceptable instrument for resolving the crisis, while international law has proven ineffective in this case. In this context, what diplomatic or other mechanisms could help prevent further escalation and the expansion of the conflict? In other words, what steps could halt the current actions of Israel and the US, and how would you assess the level of danger posed by the developments in the Middle East?

A: I am convinced that the only viable mechanisms are political and diplomatic in nature. We have been actively supporting Oman's mediation efforts. I remain in contact with my good friend, Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi, who took part in the indirect talks between the United States and Iran held in Geneva last Friday. Both he and the Iranian Foreign Minister praised the most recent round of discussions. At least, he spoke with optimism about their outcome, noting that some more time was needed. All parties noted that another meeting would take place, and that it could potentially be the decisive round.

Today, I watched a video recording of remarks by Steve Witkoff, the US negotiator on a wide range of issues, including those related to Ukraine. He was asked why the talks had come to such an abrupt end. He responded—and this is publicly available information—that Iran continued to insist on what it considers its inalienable right to enrich uranium. According to him, he and Jared Kushner concluded that, given this position, the negotiations would not yield results and that it was necessary to end the process and consider alternative approaches.

But no one has ever challenged the fundamental right to uranium enrichment as a principle applicable to all states without exception that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We have consistently played a mediating role, as the President of the Russian Federation has repeatedly noted. Israel has engaged with us on this issue, and our Iranian counterparts have visited us many times.

We have always maintained that any settlement must be achieved through political and diplomatic means, based on respect for the legitimate and inalienable rights of every state, including, of course, Iran, in accordance with international law.

The right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including uranium enrichment for civilian purposes, is inalienable and was not disputed in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) aimed at resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. This right is grounded in the UN Charter, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the IAEA principles. At the same time, the JCPOA

established mutually agreed limitations on the exercise of this right. We are convinced that the same approach should be applied in the current situation. Several possible settlement options have been proposed, and this issue has been personally addressed by President of Russia Vladimir Putin. Our colleagues in Israel, the United States, Iran, and the Gulf states are all aware of the efforts we have undertaken in this regard. However, expecting Iran to be the only country in the world to relinquish a right that belongs to all other states is not a realistic position. It is possible that Steve Witkoff expressed himself imprecisely, but if this was indeed presented as the reason for escalation, it raises a number of serious questions.

As for what mechanisms could be used now, I can recall our initiatives to establish collective security in the Persian Gulf, which envisioned full normalisation of relations between Iran, its neighbours, and the Arab monarchies. This initiative is over 25 years old. We have consistently implemented relevant measures, which allowed Saudi Arabia and Iran to agree to restore relations a couple of years ago. Iran also maintains relations with several other countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Under the previous administration, the United States was reluctant to support this concept, nor were European countries interested in it. If it had somehow taken root and formed real mechanisms and structures, perhaps the risks would not have been as serious as they were before the war.

If we consider the Middle East region more broadly, another mechanism that operated there is the well-known Quartet, which included Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations. It addressed the Palestinian issue, making many sound decisions that only remained on paper: first and foremost, the decision on practical steps toward creating a Palestinian state.

In the end this, too, was blocked. Under US President Joe Biden, the Americans withdrew from it, as did the Europeans. The UN, represented by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, effectively took note of this situation. So there has been no shortage of attempts, but as the saying goes, it is no use crying over spilt milk.

Yesterday, President of Russia Vladimir Putin spoke with a number of his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar. They discussed ways to quickly end the bloodshed, declaring that they were strictly against military action and emphasising that it must cease immediately. Of particular importance is the need to prevent any actions that threaten civilian lives or involve attacks on civilian infrastructure, whether in Iran or in the neighbouring Arab states. Let us recall rumors that the US and Israel would start another war against Iran began spreading long ago. Over the entire period preceding the current crisis, the Gulf Arab countries publicly stated that they would not take part in this gamble, or provide their airspace for strikes against Iran, and or allow foreign military bases on their territory to be used for these purposes. Therefore, we understand their position and will seek to use our capabilities, including our contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran, to prevent further escalation and to help resolve the situation.

As follows from statements made by President Donald Trump, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, and State Secretary Marco Rubio, the United States has declared that it will continue military actions as long as it deems necessary. No one knows its ultimate objective. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had been killed; President Donald Trump made remarks to that effect, while Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth later stated that there had been no intention to assassinate him.

Of course, in order to mediate effectively, there must be clear understanding which direction the parties are moving in. At present, we can see no understanding with respect to the goals of our American counterparts. Nevertheless, we have never interrupted open dialogue with either the United States or Israel. We believe that any concerns expressed by our Israeli partners and by Washington can and should be resolved through political and diplomatic means. Following the most recent round of Geneva talks last Friday, we had the impression that the parties were very close to reaching a political solution.

Q: Yesterday, Israel announced it was calling up 100,000 reservists and declared preparations for a land operation in Lebanon. This morning the Israeli army reported that they took positions in South Lebanon. How does Russia regard these statements and risks of a possible escalation in the Lebanon sector?

A: Actually, you have answered your question yourself.

Of course, it is an escalation, a withdrawal from the agreements reached with respect of Lebanon, the status of South Lebanon, Hezbollah and of what positions the parties should hold on either bank of the Litani River. There are many agreements. They are being violated now.

Israel says that Hezbollah began defending Iran, therefore they delivered many strikes on Lebanon. This is an endless cycle that

can never be broken, unless people get together and consider the entire set of these issues.

A Middle East conference, which we have proposed for years, would be highly appropriate right now. Absent such a forum, where all sides are represented and each has the opportunity to defend, prove and explain to the others its point of view and search for a balance of forces, it turns out that all the problems in the region are being solved by certain states. The way it is happening with the Gaza Strip, with the West Bank of the Jordan River, with Lebanon, and with the Islamic Republic of Iran…

Q: How serious do you think the threat to global nuclear security is today, given the conflict in the Middle East?

A: The threat is not just present; it is escalating. As I mentioned earlier, the stated rationale for the aggressive action against Iran was the belief that Tehran was pursuing nuclear weapons. Yet, following the 12-day war in June 2025, the United States declared that all components and all work on such a weapon had been destroyed.

But, if this war—as Steve Witkoff's remarks, which I quoted, suggested—was truly launched to deprive Iran of its inalienable right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes (a right enjoyed by virtually every other country in the world), then I can assure you that, if that logic prevails, we will see powerful forces and influential movements emerge inside Iran arguing that they should do precisely what the United States claims it wants to prevent—acquire a nuclear bomb. Because the United States does not attack nuclear-armed states.

People often cite the example of Muammar Gaddafi. He voluntarily gave up his nuclear weapons programme. And some of our interlocutors in the Global South are quick to remind us of that fact. They say: Gaddafi abandoned his programme, and look what happened to him. Those who didn't? They aren't being attacked.

This war, which has now been unleashed against Iran, could very well become the catalyst for a movement in favour of developing nuclear weapons, and not just in Iran. Such a movement would almost certainly emerge in the Arab countries neighbouring the Islamic Republic. So, the declared noble goal of preventing nuclear proliferation could, paradoxically, set in motion the very opposite trend…

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/RusEmbPakistan/status/2028779068846493758)

On March 3, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Natalia Shmeleva visited the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad and signed the condolence book opened in tribute to the memory of the assassinated Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, and members of his family.

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083866/) with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi

The foreign ministers discussed Iran-related developments and spoke in favour of an early cessation of hostilities and resuming the efforts leading to political and diplomatic settlement. The parties emphasised the urgent need to bring into the equation the legitimate interests of all Arab states in the Gulf.

The sides noted Russia and Oman's readiness to facilitate, including within the UN, the search for compromise peaceful solutions based on respect for the fundamental provisions of international law.

Sergey Lavrov expressed gratitude to the Sultanate government for helping the Russian citizens stranded in the UAE return home via Oman.

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028855729302405347)

On March 3, Foreign Ministers of Russia & Oman spoke over the phone.

The Ministers discussed the situation around Iran.

They confirmed Russia's & Oman's readiness to facilitate the search for compromise-based peaceful solutions.

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083915/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On March 3, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi. They discussed the situation that followed the US and Israel's unprovoked military aggression in the region. The ministers emphasised that such actions undermine the fundamental norms of international law and carry grave consequences for the entire Middle East. This position was clearly reiterated by Russia's representative at the United Nations Security Council

meeting.

Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's principled position in support of de-escalation, rejection of force, and a transition to a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict, as well as Russia's readiness to fully support such efforts. He also underscored the priority of ensuring the safety of civilians and protecting civilian infrastructure in all the countries of the region.

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028882256446488818)

On March 3, FMs of Russia & Iran spoke over the phone.

The Ministers stressed that the unprovoked armed aggression by the US & Israel undermines the fundamental norms of international law & entails the gravest consequences for the entire Middle East.

Mar. 3: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/RussiaUN/status/2028911737290817741)

Russia & China objected to the adoption of the US-drafted UNSC PoW for March.

We were compelled to take this step because the provisional PoW included a briefing on the work of the 1737 Sanctions Committee concerning #Iran.

Mar. 4: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260304_11868733.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Could you update us on what the Chinese government has done in protecting the Chinese nationals in Iran and neighboring countries as well as what is planned next?

A: Since the security situation in Iran turned tense, the Chinese side has made démarches to relevant parties, urging them to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals in Iran and its neighboring countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese diplomatic missions in relevant countries have issued alerts more than once. They have worked in various ways to call on Chinese citizens in Iran to evacuate as soon as possible and offer them assistance and advise those in neighboring countries to take safety precautions. These Chinese diplomatic missions have been working around the clock to assist with the evacuation. After the strikes began, another 470-plus Chinese citizens have been evacuated by our missions in Iran.

Given the severe security situation in Iran, we once again advise Chinese citizens in Iran to take extra safety precautions and leave as soon as possible while keeping the diplomatic missions informed of their latest condition. At present, they can leave the country via the following border crossings: Astara in Azerbaijan, Agarak in Armenia, Van, Ağrı, and Hakkari in Türkiye, Shalamcheh in Iraq, and Bajgiran in Turkmenistan. Chinese citizens can enter Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Türkiye visa-free with their passports. They may enter Iraq after applying for an e-visa in advance, and enter Turkmenistan after submitting documents required and obtaining a visa in advance. Working groups from Chinese embassies and consulates in relevant countries are already at these border crossings ready to offer assistance. Their contact information can be found in the consular alerts posted by their respective missions.

As some of Iran's neighboring countries affected by the military operations close airspace and suspend international flights, some Chinese citizens' travel plans may have been disrupted. We advise those planning to travel to affected countries and regions near Iran to postpone their trip. For those already there, do take stronger precautions and avoid sensitive zones including military facilities and demonstrations and assemblies. In case of emergency, call the police and contact the Chinese embassies or consulates for assistance...

Q: A question related to Iran also. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said today they control the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route for oil and gas. They say any vessels seeking to pass through the Strait risk damage from missiles or drones. Is China concerned about this new development and are you in contact with the relevant Iranian authorities on this subject?

A: The Strait of Hormuz and its adjacent waters are an important international trade route for goods and energy. To keep the region secure and stable serves the common interests of the international community. China urges relevant parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from causing greater damage to global economic growth.

Mar. 4: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2029179016876573068)

The Strait of Hormuz and its adjacent waters are an important international trade route for goods and energy. To keep the region

secure and stable serves the common interests of the international community.

China urges relevant parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from causing greater damage to global economic growth.

Mar. 4: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson repost (https://x.com/Consular_CHN/status/2029360025706348928)

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson: Since the security situation in Iran turned tense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese diplomatic missions in Iran have issued alerts more than once. They have worked in various ways to call on Chinese citizens to evacuate as soon as possible and offer them assistance. As of March 2, Beijing time, over 3,000 Chinese citizens have been evacuated from Iran. Chinese diplomatic missions in Iran's neighboring countries have sent working groups to receive and assist the evacuated Chinese citizens at border ports.

Given the severe security situation in Iran, we once again advise the Chinese citizens in Iran to take extra safety precautions and leave Iran as soon as possible. If any help is needed, please contact the Chinese embassy and consulate in Iran or dial consular protection hotline 12308.

Mar. 4: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb/wjbz/hd/202603/t20260305_11869213.html) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

[Farhan] briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East, saying that Saudi Arabia does not wish to see the region engulfed in war. However, it is concerning that the conflict continues to spread and shows signs of further escalation. Saudi Arabia has exercised restraint while reserving its right to self-defense, and expresses the hope that the crisis can be steered away from further escalation and move towards de-escalation. Saudi Arabia appreciates China's emphasis on regional security and stability and its active role in this regard. The Saudi side stands ready to step up communication and coordination with China to promote peace, end hostilities, and achieve peace and stability in the Middle East at an early date.

Wang Yi said that the spread of the conflict in the Middle East, affecting Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, is not what China wishes to see. No matter the justification, the indiscriminate use of force is unacceptable, and any attack on innocent civilians and non-military targets should be condemned. China appreciates Saudi Arabia's restraint and adherence to peaceful means in resolving differences. Reconciliation among regional countries is hard-won and deserves to be cherished and advanced. China has always been a steadfast force for peace, stands ready to continue playing a constructive role, and will dispatch its special envoy on the Middle East issue to regional countries for mediation. The Chinese side strongly urges all parties to cease military actions, return to dialogue and negotiation at an early date, and prevent further escalation of tensions.

Mar. 4: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2029388571539587293)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Saudi FM Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

The spreading and escalating conflict in the Middle East, affecting Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, is not what China wishes to see. China appreciates Saudi Arabia's restraint and its commitment to resolving differences through peaceful means.

China strongly urges all parties to cease military operations, return to dialogue and negotiations at an early date, and prevent further escalation of tensions.

Mar. 4: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260306_11869661.html) with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

Nahyan briefed Wang Yi on the regional situation and the UAE's stance, noting that the UAE is not a party to the war, nor has it participated in the conflict, and thus should not be subject to unlawful attacks. The UAE appreciates that China always upholds an objective and just position, and hopes China will continue to play a significant and positive role in preventing the escalation of regional tensions amid the current grave situation. The UAE will continue to take measures to protect the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position on the current situation in Iran, saying the spillover of the war serves no one's

interests and the ultimate victims can only be the people in the region. The red line of protecting civilians in conflicts must not be crossed, non-military targets such as energy, economy and people's livelihood should not be attacked, and the safety of waterways should be upheld. China expressed appreciation for the UAE's efforts to strive for peace even before the war, and the recent Extraordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for its emphasis that dialogue and diplomacy are the only way to overcome the current crisis and maintain regional security. China supports the UAE's legitimate aspiration for upholding national security, and supports regional countries in continuing to resolve differences through diplomatic means. China will not give up hope for peace and will continue to play a constructive role in promoting peace. The Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue will be sent to the region for mediation to help restore peace and stability. China hopes the UAE will continue to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in the UAE.

Mar. 4: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2029391947362865556)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with the Deputy PM and FM of the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The spillover of war is not in the interests of any party, and only the people of the region will suffer. China supports the UAE's legitimate demands for safeguarding its national security and supports regional countries in seeking to resolve disputes through diplomatic means.

China will not give up hope for peace and will continue to play a constructive role.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084035/) with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein

The foreign ministers exchanged views on Iran-related developments, emphasising the urgency of stopping hostilities and returning to the path of political and diplomatic settlement. They called on all parties to the conflict to refrain from attacking civilian infrastructure and causing harm to civilians.

They also discussed a number of important bilateral issues.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029215287703421135)

On March 4, FMs of Russia & Iraq spoke over the phone.

The Ministers emphasised the need for an early cessation of hostilities in the conflict around Iran & for returning the situation to the track of a political & diplomatic settlement.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/RusEmbSriLanka/status/2029083963306983505)

On March 4, 2026, Levan Dzhagaryan, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Sri Lanka, signed the Book of Condolences at Iranian Ambassador's Residence in Colombo following the passing of Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029123373515850017)

#Zakharova: There is no doubt that the alleged Iranian threat was merely a pretext for implementing a plan to violently overthrow the constitutional order in a sovereign UN member state.

Washington does not even try to conceal that it is seeking "regime change" in Iran.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029128805470879948)

#Zakharova: Violence that is leading to a growing number of civilian casualties must be stopped.

In Iran, 165 people have been killed as a result of a barbaric attack on a school in Minab—an atrocity largely ignored in the West.

Most of the victims were schoolgirls.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029130538720870585)

#Zakharova: The legitimate authorities of #Iran are in control of the situation in the country, preventing chaos outbreak.

However, the unleashed military campaign entails the gravest consequences for civilians & civilian infrastructure, for the regional and global economy

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029174849877492081)

#Zakharova: Russia & China maintain the closest coordination—both between Moscow & Beijing and at international venues, including the UN Security Council—amid large-scale military aggression against Iran, carried out despite Tehran's openness to dialogue.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029178797455753475)

#Zakharova: It is clear that the geography of armed confrontation—triggered by the US-Israeli aggression against Iran—continues to spread across the Middle East.

Washington & Tel Aviv bear full responsibility for this latest escalation.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029182572186476878)

#Zakharova: From the very first day of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, Russia has been conducting active diplomatic efforts.

The President of Russia has already held phone calls with several Arab leaders, while our Foreign Minister spoke with his counterparts.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029186346951356830)

#Zakharova: We expect the @iaeaorg leadership to find the resolve to respond clearly to the lawlessness committed by the US & Israel in Iran, providing an impartial assessment of potential radiological risks

Attempts to downplay the scale of this real threat are unacceptable

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029190121925607454)

#Zakharova: @vonderleyen says the people of Iran have gained "new hope for the future", justifying the removal of the legitimate leaders of sovereign states.

How many innocents—including children—must be killed for this "hope"? It's a non-question, they simply don't care.

Mar. 4: Remarks (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084103/) at Russian Foreign Ministry briefing [excerpts]

The events in the Middle East cannot simply be referred to as a situation surrounding Iran. Let us call things by their proper name. This is about an aggression by Washington and Tel Aviv against Iran and, unfortunately, the crisis getting wider.

We are observing with great concern what we have repeatedly talked about earlier, and what Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has spoken about in detail. We see—and everyone is now clear—that we are witnessing an unprecedented escalation of tension in the region which stems from an unprovoked attack on Iran by the United States and Israel. Through their irresponsible and reckless actions, Washington and Tel Aviv are—let me use a phrase that may not be widely used in international law but accurately describes what is happening on the ground—wreaking havoc, blatantly tearing up norms and principles of international and humanitarian law, and plunging the region ever deeper into chaos. The international community must provide its objective and uncompromising assessment of these acts of lawlessness.

Russia has strongly denounced yet another dangerous adventure by the American-Israeli tandem against the Islamic Republic, the cowardly killing of Iran's head of state Ayatollah Khamenei and several members of the country's top military and political leadership.

Our principled position has been set out in relevant Foreign Ministry statements, addresses at the UN Security Council, and during the special session of the IAEA Board of Governors. It is consistently communicated in regular contacts with our foreign partners at all levels, including the top level. We advocate for the immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to the political and diplomatic process aimed at resolving the existing problems based on the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, while ensuring the security interests of all states in the region.

There is no doubt that the perceived (as has been repeatedly stated over many years, entirely fabricated) Iranian threat was merely a pretext to implement a long-conceived plan to forcibly depose the constitutional order in a sovereign UN member state that Washington and Tel Aviv find inconvenient, while the renewed negotiating process served as a cover operation. Is there anything new about this? No, there isn't. For years, we have witnessed negotiating processes being used precisely as a cover for plans to overthrow or change regimes, militarise certain countries, or escalate conflicts.

In fact, Washington is no longer hiding this and openly states that it seeks regime change in Iran. The failed colour revolution scenario triggered the dramatic events. In January, the opponents of the Islamic Republic attempted unsuccessfully to impose it on Iranian society and the Iranian people who have lived for long years under the burden of their sanctions. This burden did not come out of nowhere. It has its architects and implementers: all those who in fact wanted to change the regime in Iran. Previously, they relied on illegal and illegitimate sanctions, the chokehold of economic blockade, and every other method they could come up with. When that failed, they moved on to the next scenario.

The current calls by Western countries for Iranians to "take power into their own hands" are no coincidence. I will say once again what everyone is already aware of: this is an egregious interference in internal affairs of a sovereign state. It is all the more cynical and inhumane to hear appeals for Iranians to take, as the West puts it, power in their own hands at a time when that same West is literally tearing off the Iranians' hands.

Against this backdrop, it should be noted that Iran's legitimate authorities are controlling the situation in the country and preventing chaos, a power vacuum, or a humanitarian crisis.

Nevertheless, the military campaign unleashed against Iran is causing severe consequences for civilians and infrastructure, as well as for regional and global economies. Air travel has been disrupted, logistics chains broken, energy supplies destabilised, and energy prices are skyrocketing. Iranian nuclear facilities are again under threat, which not only harms the global non-proliferation regime but also carries serious radiological risks on the ground rather than just on paper. Thousands of foreigners, civilians, and tourists, including children, are stranded. This also concerns Russian citizens who have been unable to return home in time due to this reckless adventure. Facilities in friendly Arab countries of the Persian Gulf have also been targeted, with seriously injured civilians reported.

We strongly and firmly call for the immediate cessation of hostilities by all parties. As a first step, everything must be done to put an end to violence leading to civilian casualties in Iran where, according to recent data, 165 people died in Minab, Hormozgan Province, in an attack on a school. This fact is deliberately concealed in Western media. Violence leading to casualties must be stopped elsewhere in the region as well. We have never kept a tally of "acceptable or unacceptable victims." We have always shown due sympathy and compassion for all civilians affected by hostilities.

We are deeply concerned by the latest statements coming from the US administration indicating its intention to continue military actions until certain US interests are secured.

Our colleagues at the embassy and trade mission in Tehran, as well as at the consulates general in Isfahan and Rasht, continue to bravely perform their duties despite the difficult wartime circumstances. Missile and bomb strikes landing in close proximity to our diplomatic missions are particularly dangerous. On March 2, missiles exploded within half a kilometre of the embassy and trade mission. We demand that such egregious incidents be prevented and that guarantees be provided for the safety of our diplomatic facilities and other civilian sites where our personnel work. Washington and Tel Aviv have been officially informed of their locations.

We are grateful to the authorities of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkmenistan for assisting in the safe passage of Russian citizens from Iran through the relevant land borders. On March 3, a large group of women and children—family members of embassy staff—was urgently evacuated to Azerbaijan and subsequently flown to Moscow.

Of course, we continue to advise our citizens to refrain from travelling to the Islamic Republic. Those already in the country for various reasons are urged to leave as soon as possible. Those who remain should maintain contact with our diplomats.

We are convinced that the crisis surrounding Iran has no military solution. We strongly call for the abandonment of forceful methods and a return to political and diplomatic resolution of all issues, while ensuring the legitimate security interests of all countries in the region.

On our part, we remain ready to assist in finding peaceful solutions based on international law and with due regard for the security interests of all countries in the region.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029221579217887292)

FM of Russia Sergey #Lavrov:

The conflict of today—essentially a war—is the aggression against Iran.

Its consequences are being felt across the entire region, including Arab states, which are also bearing the costs—both economic & human.

Mar. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/RusEmbNigeria/status/2029263626951901392)

Russian Ambassador to Nigeria A.L.Podelyshev, together with diplomatic mission staff, visited the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran in Abuja and signed the book of condolences over the assassination of the Supreme Leader of Iran, Seyyed Ali Khamenei and members of his family.

Mar. 5: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260305_11869424.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran have ratcheted up regional tensions. What has China done to engage with various parties and deescalate the situation? What else will China do in the future?

A: China is gravely concerned over the tense situation in the Middle East. Over the past few days, China has intensively reached out to various parties. Foreign Minister Wang Yi had phone calls with his counterparts from Russia, Iran, Oman, France, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the UAE for in-depth exchanges of views on regional situation. He stressed that purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be observed and arbitrary use of force in international relations should be rejected. He pointed out that the military operations must stop at once, early return to dialogue and negotiation must be achieved, and further escalation of the tensions and spread of the conflict must be avoided. He called on parties to the conflict to earnestly fulfill their international obligations, ensure civilians' safety, and avoid any attack against civilian facilities.

The protraction and escalation of the conflict serves no one's interest. China believes that war and force cannot solve issues once and for all, dialogue and negotiation are the right solutions, and political and diplomatic settlement of disputes and differences should be upheld. China will continue to work with all parties, including parties to the conflict, to maintain communication, further engage with other parties, and build consensus. China will send Zhai Jun, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue, to the Middle East soon to work actively for the deescalation of the tensions.

Mar. 5: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2029547576664666583)

China is gravely concerned over the tense situation in the Middle East. Over the past few days, FM Wang Yi had phone calls with his counterparts from Russia, #Iran, Oman, France, #Israel, Saudi Arabia and the UAE for in-depth exchanges of views on the regional situation. He stressed:

- The purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be observed, and the arbitrary use of force in international relations should be rejected.
- Military operations must stop at once, early return to dialogue and negotiation must be achieved, and further escalation of tensions and spread of the conflict must be avoided.
- Parties to the conflict should earnestly fulfill their international obligations, ensure civilians' safety, and avoid any attack against civilian facilities.

Mar. 5: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084247/)

Moscow expresses its deep concern with the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. Having launched a military operation for unseating Iran's legitimate government under a far-fetched pretext, the United States and Israel do not show any signs of reason or willingness to stop the bloodshed. On the contrary, we keep hearing belligerent statements from their capitals, while the Israeli army has once again invaded Lebanon.

At the same time, the aggressors are seeking to sow discord within the Islamic world during the holy month of Ramadan. They have intentionally provoked Iran into targeting certain Arab countries with retaliatory strikes which have caused human casualties and physical damage. Russia deeply regrets these developments. These efforts are designed to draw Arabs into a war by promoting an alien agenda. Meanwhile, this also diverts the attention from the catastrophic situation of the Palestinian people.

Russia reiterates its call on all parties to the ongoing confrontation to cease hostilities immediately, including the unacceptable strikes targeting the territory of the Arab states in the Persian Gulf. We believe attacks against civilians or civilian sites to be absolutely unacceptable, be it in Iran or countries within the Gulf Cooperation Council. It is also obvious that stopping the

aggression by the United States and Israel which spreads suffering among Arabs in what can be described as a chain reaction is the only way to prevent the region from sliding further towards instability.

Mar. 5: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029533429298040880)

There are no signs that the US & Israel are ready to show restraint & stop the bloodshed.

The aggressors are also seeking to sow division within the Islamic world during the holy month of #Ramadan.

Russia once again calls to cease all hostilities.

Mar. 5: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084269/) at roundtable [excerpts]

However, there are so many other things happening around the world, including the recent developments in the Middle East following the aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this connection, I cannot fail to mention the crisis which has been in the headlines and across our television screens and social media. It can have dire consequences for the entire world, undermine global stability and economy, upend everything which used to be called globalisation, and viewed as a process for bringing about prosperity for the entire humankind. All this has been destroyed.

Civilians have been suffering in Iran, as well as in neighbouring Arab countries following Iran's retaliatory actions. We express our condolences to all the civilian victims. Civilian infrastructure across all Persian Gulf countries has been damaged, and we can see that.

We do remember that long before the United States and Israel launched their campaign, GCC countries had openly called for refraining from using military force against Iran and resolving all issues through diplomacy and political dialogue. They stated for everyone to hear that they would not open their territory or air space for the sake of unleashing a war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These were official statements saying that they would not allow foreign military bases on their territories to be used for taking part in this aggression. Nevertheless, they were drawn into this war.

I have no doubt that this was one of the objectives for this operation, which has been called either Lion's Roar or Epic Fury. Its goals are currently being debated. There are quite a few political figures, including in the United States, who have been struggling to understand the purpose of this operation.

President of the United States Donald Trump has made a public statement claiming that he eliminated Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, since otherwise Khamenei would have eliminated him. Several hours later Defence Secretary of the United States Pete Hegseth said that the United States did not seek to organise Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's killing. We will leave it up to Congress and the political system in the United States which is designed to handle incidents of this kind to decide what the United States wants to achieve in this operation.

I have no doubt that one of the goals consisted of sowing division among countries within this region, i.e., the Persian Gulf countries, Iran and its Arab neighbours. A positive process for bringing their relations back to normal has been gaining traction until recently. Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran normalised their relations, and everyone paid attention. Russia was proactive in facilitating this outcome.

In truth, we've been promoting a unifying agenda for many years. For over two decades, we've held events aimed at building support for the development of a Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf—one that would include all littoral states and their key neighbours, and, as we originally envisaged, also involve the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, ensuring transparency, promoting confidence-building measures, and taking concrete steps to use the wealth of this region for the prosperity of its peoples.

Unfortunately, that concept never got off the ground. The West has done everything in its power to block any positive agenda in the Gulf. As the aggression against Iran has now made clear, they operate on a simple "either-or" principle—"either you're with us, or you're against us." And the key to all of this is, as ever, "divide and conquer." In this particular case, perhaps one might say "divide, pit against each other, and conquer."

I say this with a deep sense of regret, because we're talking about our close friends. All those suffering from US and Israeli aggression are our strategic partners. We maintain dialogue with them, and we will do everything we can, alongside other peace-loving members of the international community, including in the UN Security Council and the General Assembly, to help create an

atmosphere in which this kind of operation becomes utterly impossible.

But we are talking about the parallels of "friends or foes." It is what happened in Ukraine. Now the same thing is happening in the Middle East. It is indicative that NATO is now becoming gradually engaged in the war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran, just like it has become gradually involved in Ukrainian affairs.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, who produces eloquent testimonies in his statements at every opportunity, said that NATO is ready to enforce the collective defence article in the United States' operation against Iran. It is claimed that they are prepared for this and what they are doing within the bloc right now is ensuring that every inch of the alliance's territory is protected, fully, in a 360-degree format.

There is one more commonality. Russian political scientists are widely discussing this topic—the talks. Judging from concurrent comments, the talks between the United States and Venezuela went rather smoothly, but you know how they ended. The talks between the United States and Iran have been running well for quite some time. According to their participants, the talks were nearing success back in June 2025. At the height of the talks, literally the night before the next round, the 12-day war was unleashed—the first act of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The same happened this time. Last Friday, the parties left Geneva to issue positive and optimistic comments. I spoke to my friend, Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, who acted as an intermediary during the talks. He confirmed that the US and Iranian delegations parted on a positive note. A substantive agreement was quite real. They should have continued, of course, but instead, the talks were cut short. Later, it was announced that the Americans were just "going through the motions" because they had already realised during the previous round, as they claimed, that Iran did not want to fulfill their demands.

Mar. 6: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260306_11870067.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Russia and China are supporting Iran "politically and otherwise." This is according to the Iranian foreign minister. Could you tell us what kind of support that China is providing, politically or otherwise, to Iran? Is there any military or dual use support?

A: China opposes the U.S. and Israel launching military strikes against Iran in violation of international law. We support Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national dignity and in upholding its legitimate and lawful rights and interests. China always advocates resolving issues through political and diplomatic means. We call for an immediate stop to the military actions to prevent the conflict from spreading and spilling over and avoid further escalation of the situation.

Mar. 6: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260306_11870067.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: China is in talks with Iran to allow crude oil and Qatari liquefied natural gas vessels safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, as the U.S.-Israeli war on Tehran intensifies. Diplomatic sources told Reuters. Is the Foreign Ministry able to confirm this?

A: The Strait of Hormuz and its adjacent waters are an important international trade route for goods and energy. To keep the region secure and stable serves the common interests of the international community. China urges relevant parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from causing greater damage to global economic growth.

Mar. 6: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260306_11870067.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Airspace closures in some Middle East countries due to the current situation have caused massive travel disruptions, including among Chinese passengers. What steps has the Chinese government taken to provide assistance?

A: We attach high importance to Chinese passengers being stranded in Middle East countries. Since the strikes began, our Ministry has immediately activated emergency response mechanism, and instructed relevant diplomatic missions to engage with their host countries and do everything they can to provide assistance to stranded Chinese compatriots. The Foreign Ministry also urgently worked with the Civil Aviation Administration and other competent authorities for the early resumption of flights by airlines while ensuring safety.

With the joint effort of various parties, positive progress has been made. On the night of March 4, nearly 300 Chinese nationals

safely arrived in Guangzhou from Dubai via foreign flight. Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Hainan Airlines are gradually resuming round-trip flights to countries including the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia starting from March 5.

We once again caution that the current situation in the Middle East remains complex and severe with high uncertainties. We remind Chinese nationals to avoid traveling to countries and regions affected by the military conflict and those who are already there to closely follow relevant information and depart promptly while flights are available. If any help is needed, please contact Chinese embassies and consulates or dial consular protection hotline 12308.

Mar. 6: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260306_11870067.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Yesterday, Iran carried out a drone attack on an international airport in Azerbaijan, a country that was in no way involved in the U.S. and Israeli strikes. This is an escalation of the conflict beyond the Middle East region. How does the Foreign Ministry comment on this?

A: We are deeply concerned about the continued tense situation in the Middle East. The pressing priority now is to stop the military operations at once, prevent spillover of the conflict, and avoid further escalation.

Mar. 6: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260306_11869829.html)

On March 5, 2026, Vice Foreign Minister Miao Deyu went to the Embassy of Iran in China to offer condolences. On behalf of the Chinese side, he expressed deep condolences on the passing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei.

Mar. 6: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084539/) with Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita

On March 6, [Lavrov] had a telephone conversation with [Bourita] at the initiative of the Moroccan side.

During the conversation, which was held in a constructive and trust-based spirit, the ministers discussed the priorities of the further development of the traditionally friendly Russian-Moroccan relations, as well as current regional issues in the context of strengthening bilateral foreign policy coordination.

Mar. 6: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2029868935626318214)

On March 6, FMs of Russia & Morocco spoke over the phone.

The Sides discussed priority tasks for further developing #RussiaMorocco relations, as well as pressing regional issues in the context of strengthening bilateral foreign policy coordination.

Mar. 6: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084573/)

On March 5, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow to express the condolences of Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the assassination of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, members of his family and officials of the military-political authorities of Iran in the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression.

Andrey Rudenko left a message in the book of condolences for the family and loved ones of the Supreme Leader and the grieving Iranian people. He described the cynical assassination of senior officials of a sovereign state as a challenge to the foundations of international law and universal moral values. The message noted the historical significance of Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, who has made a major contribution to comprehensive strategic partnership between Russia and Iran.

During a brief conversation with Iranian Ambassador Kazem Jalali, Andrey Rudenko expressed solidarity with the Iranian people and wished them fortitude in the courageous struggle for the sovereignty and independence of their homeland.

Mar. 6: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084630/) with Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi

The parties exchanged views on the situation in the region, including the negative destabilising consequences of aggression against Iran. They discussed prospects for reducing military-political tensions in Afghan-Pakistani relations. The Russian Foreign Minister emphasised the need for settling the differences between Kabul and Islamabad by political and diplomatic means.

Mar. 6: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79274) with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian

Vladimir Putin once again expressed his heartfelt condolences on the assassination of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, his family members and the country's military and political leadership, as well as the numerous civilian casualties resulting from the United States and Israel's armed aggression against Iran.

Vladimir Putin reaffirmed Russia's principled stance in favour of an immediate cessation of hostilities, the rejection of force as a method to solve any issues surrounding Iran or arising in the Middle East, and a swift return to the path of diplomatic resolution. In this regard, the President of Russia noted that he was in constant contact with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

Masoud Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for Russia's solidarity with the Iranian people as they defend their sovereignty and independence. He also provided a detailed update on the developments during the latest active phase of the conflict.

It was agreed that contact will be maintained with the Iranian side via various channels.

Mar. 6: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2030033461860323658)

President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian spoke over the phone.

Putin reaffirmed Russia's principled stance for an immediate cessation of hostilities and rejection of force to resolve issues with Iran.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870805.html) to the press

Q: As more Chinese enterprises go global and more citizens travel abroad, Chinese interests overseas are growing, which means greater responsibility of serving the people through diplomacy. How will the Foreign Ministry better protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese people and businesses overseas?

A: Serving the people is the abiding mission of the diplomatic work of the People's Republic of China, and strengthening the system of safety protection for Chinese nationals and interests overseas is the unremitting pursuit of the Chinese foreign service in the new era.

In the past year, we dealt with more than 100 major emergencies involving Chinese nationals and institutions overseas, processed over 79,000 cases in which consular protection and assistance are needed, handled over 600,000 phone calls via the 12308 consular hotline, issued over 3,000 overseas security alerts, secured the release of more than 50 Chinese compatriots kidnapped in Africa, and worked with neighboring countries to crack down on online gambling and telecom fraud, bringing back tens of thousands of individuals.

In the past year, we firmly protected the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies abroad, and urged governments of host countries to protect the safety of Chinese personnel and projects. At the same time, we resolutely countered unwarranted suppression targeting Chinese companies, and helped them strengthen risk preparedness and the ability to defend their interests through legal means. Our diplomats have a strong sense of mission. Some of them are stationed for years in regions affected by conflicts and turmoil; some are exposed to a high risk of diseases everyday; and some work and live in modified shipping containers or high-altitudes, low-oxygen environment. But they fulfill their duties with no complaint or regret. As we speak, our embassies and consulates in Iran and other Gulf states are working hard to ensure the evacuation and safety of Chinese nationals. Let me put it this way: Where there is the Chinese flag flying, there are Chinese diplomats on duty; where there is want or need from Chinese compatriots, there is heart-warming care of the Party and the government.

I want to say this to all fellow Chinese abroad: While you may be facing a world of chaos and turbulence, you have behind you a motherland as firm as a rock. We will, as always, put our people first, further strengthen overseas security protection capabilities, and build a security risk prevention system that covers the entire globe.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870540.html) to the press

On March 8, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated China's position on economic globalization.

Wang Yi said, the world economy is facing headwinds, and globalization is suffering a backlash. A certain country is erecting tariff

barriers and pushing economic and technological decoupling. This is no different from using kindling to put out a fire—you will only get burned. President Xi has reminded everybody that it's impossible to channel the vast ocean of the global economy back into isolated lakes—it runs counter to the tide of history. Pursuing protectionism is akin to locking oneself in a dark room; it may keep out wind and rain, but it also shuts out light and air.

Wang Yi said, the problems facing economic globalization can only be addressed through more sustainable development and more equitable and effective governance. To this end, President Xi has called for promoting an economic globalization that is universally beneficial and inclusive. The goal is to make the pie of economic globalization bigger and, more importantly, divide it more fairly. The principle is to leave no country behind, and halt the widening wealth gap. The pathway is to encourage countries to draw on each other's strengths and share opportunities through economic openness, and pursue common development and mutual success through converging interests.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870483.html) to the press

On March 8, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke of China-U.S. relations.

Wang Yi said, the relationship between China and the United States is one of far-reaching and global implications. Turning our backs on each other would only lead to mutual misperception and miscalculation. Sliding into conflict or confrontation could drag the whole world down. China and the U.S. are both big countries. Neither side can remodel the other, but we can choose how we want to engage, that is, to commit to a spirit of mutual respect, to hold the bottom line of peaceful coexistence, and to strive for the prospect of win-win cooperation. That's what serves the interests of Chinese and American peoples, and that's also the expectation of the international community.

Wang Yi said, it is heartening to see that the presidents of the two countries have led by example. By maintaining good interactions at the top level, they have provided important strategic safeguard for the China-U.S. relationship to improve and move forward, and they have brought the relationship back on an even keel after the ups and downs. This year is a "big year" for China-U.S. relations. The agenda of high-level exchanges is already on the table. What the two sides need to do now is to make thorough preparations accordingly, create a suitable environment, manage the risks that do exist, and remove unnecessary disruptions. China is always committed and open. It is critical that the U.S. side work in the same direction. I believe that when the two sides treat each other with sincerity and good faith, we will be able to lengthen the list of cooperation, and shorten the list of problems; we will be able to, under the strategic guidance of the two presidents, produce results that are satisfactory to both peoples, achieve consensus that is welcomed by the whole world, and make 2026 a landmark year of sound, steady and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2030483040129134893)

FM Wang Yi: China and the U.S. are both big countries. Neither side can remodel the other, but we can choose how we want to engage, that is, to commit to a spirit of mutual respect, to hold the bottom line of peaceful coexistence, and to strive for the prospect of win-win cooperation. That's what serves the interests of Chinese and American peoples, and that's also the expectation of the international community.

This year is a "big year" for China-U.S. relations. The agenda of high-level exchanges is already on the table. China is always committed and open. It is critical that the U.S. side work in the same direction. When the two sides treat each other with sincerity and good faith, we will be able to lengthen the list of cooperation, and shorten the list of problems. The year of 2026 can be a landmark year of sound, steady and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2030486074850713898)

Neither China or the United States can remodel the other, but we can choose how we want to engage.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870441.html) to the press

At the press conference on March 8, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister

Wang Yi spoke of China-Russia relations.

Wang Yi pointed out, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. In a fluid and turbulent world, China-Russia relationship has stood rock-solid against all odds. How is that achieved? I think the main reason is that the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination has been based on equality, respect and mutual benefit since day one. It represents the direction of a new type of major-country relations.

Wang Yi noted, China and Russia are strategically independent. We always respect each other's core interests, do not impose the will or agenda of one on the other, and keep to the principle of non-alliance, non-confrontation and not targeting any third party.

China and Russia share a high degree of political mutual trust. Working back-to-back lies at the heart of this relationship. And the strong strategic resilience enables it to defy any external instigation or pressure.

China and Russia act in close coordination. In major international and regional affairs, China and Russia share the broadest strategic consensus and closest strategic coordination, including defending international rule and order you asked about.

Wang Yi said, the post-World War II international order has once again come to a crucial juncture. Last year, the heads of state of China and Russia attended the commemorations of the victory of the Anti-Fascist War in each other's countries, and issued three important joint statements on deepening comprehensive strategic coordination, cementing global strategic stability and upholding the authority of international law. This has sent a clear message to the world about resolutely upholding the correct view of history on World War II, safeguarding the fruits of the victory of the War and opposing unilateral bullying acts. Eighty years ago, China and Russia together contributed to the building of the postwar order. Today, 80 years on, China and Russia together will add momentum to the advent of a multipolar world.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870524.html) to the press

At the press conference on March 8, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi elaborated on China's proposition on how the international landscape should evolve.

Wang Yi noted, there is no doubt that China and the United States have a significant impact on the world, but we should not forget there are more than 190 countries on our planet. World history has always been written by many countries together, and the future of humanity will be forged through the collective efforts of all nations. Diversity is the inherent nature of human society, and multipolarity is what the international landscape should look like.

Wang Yi said, looking back into history, great-power rivalry and bloc confrontation have invariably inflicted disaster and pain on humanity. Therefore, China will never take the beaten path of seeking hegemony as its strength grows, nor do we subscribe to the logic that the world can be run by major countries. China has inscribed in its Constitution that it follows an independent foreign policy and is committed to pursuing a path of peaceful development. Chinese leaders have often declared to the world that no matter how the international situation evolves and how strong China becomes, it will never seek hegemony or expansion.

Wang Yi pointed out, as for how the international landscape should evolve, China's proposal is to build an equal and orderly multipolar world. "Equal" means every nation, regardless of size or strength, is an equal member of the international community, and can find its place and play its role in a multipolar world. "Orderly" means all countries should uphold the widely recognized international rules, namely the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and the basic norms of international relations.

Wang Yi stressed that building an equal and orderly multipolar world should be the common responsibility of all countries. With more resources and capabilities, major countries should be more generous, shoulder more responsibilities, and set an example of observing rules, honoring commitments and upholding international law. China will continue to play a constructive role in reforming global governance, and work with all countries toward a multipolar world.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870452.html) to the press

At the press conference on March 8, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi elaborated on China's position on the situation in Iran.

Wang Yi noted, the situation in Iran is the focal point in the current international situation. China's attitude on this issue is

objective and impartial. We have stated our principled position on multiple occasions, which can be summarized into one key message, that is, to bring about ceasefire and end hostilities. Ancient Chinese wisdom warns that weapons are ominous tools, and should not be used without discretion. The Middle East is engulfed in flames. This is a war that should not have happened—it is a war that does no one any good. The history of the Middle East tells the world time and again that force provides no solution and armed conflict will only increase hatred and breed new crises. Once again, China calls for an immediate stop to military operations to avoid the spiraling escalation of the situation and prevent the conflict from spilling over and spreading.

Wang Yi pointed out, China is of the view that to find the right and proper solution to the issues relating to Iran and the Middle East, the following fundamental principles must be observed:

First, respecting national sovereignty. Sovereignty is the cornerstone of the current international order. We believe that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Iran and all countries in the Gulf region should be respected and must not be violated.

Second, rejecting the abuse of force. Might does not make right. The law of the jungle must not return and rule the world. Willful use of force does not prove one's strength. Civilians are innocent and should not be victimized.

Third, noninterference in internal affairs. The people in the Middle East are the true master of this region. Middle Eastern affairs should be determined by regional countries independently. Plotting color revolution or seeking regime change will find no popular support.

Fourth, promoting political settlement of hotspot issues. China always believes that peace is the most precious. All sides should return to the negotiating table as quickly as possible, resolve differences through equal dialogue, and make efforts for realizing common security.

Fifth, major countries should play a constructive role and use their strengths in goodwill. Another ancient Chinese adage reads, "When benevolence and justice are not practiced, the position of strength shifts." Major countries should act in the spirit of justice and righteousness, and contribute more positive energy to peace and development of the Middle East.

Wang Yi stressed that as a sincere friend and strategic partner, China stands ready to work with Middle Eastern countries to implement the Global Security Initiative, and restore order to the Middle East, restore tranquility to the people, and restore peace to the world.

Mar. 7: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2030472220104122570)

FM Wang Yi: Regarding the situation in Iran, this is a war that should not have happened—it is a war that does no one any good.

The history of the Middle East tells the world time and again that force provides no solution and armed conflict will only increase hatred and breed new crises. Once again, China calls for an immediate stop to military operations to avoid the spiraling escalation of the situation and prevent the conflict from spilling over and spreading.

"Might does not make right. Civilians should not be victimized."

Mar. 8: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084675/)

Q: May I ask you a global question? What kind of world are we living in now?

A: Pavel, you should probably take that to a political talk show.

We talk extensively about wanting to understand what kind of world we are living in now. This is why I have already addressed this topic several times.

Our understanding is that the United States of America must explicate its plans and how these plans correspond with the rules that essentially existed earlier.

A long time ago, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, President Putin suggested holding a summit of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. I believe it is high time we acted on this idea.

Mar. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2030644708259586267)

Russia's FM Sergey #Lavrov:

President Vladimir #Putin proposed quite some time ago—even before the COVID-19 pandemic—convening a Summit of the permanent UN Security Council members.

It seems to me that now is high time to implement this idea.

Mar. 8: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2084686/) with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

The ministers expressed deep concern over the situation regarding Iran and called for immediate steps to de-escalate military activity. They stressed the urgent need to halt attacks causing civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, both in the Gulf Arab states and in Iran.

The ministers underlined the fundamental importance of returning to political and diplomatic efforts to reach agreements that would ensure reliable long-term security in the region. They agreed to remain in close contact and to work towards advancing shared positions at the United Nations and other international forums.

Mar. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2030742437166043356)

On March 8, FMs of Russia & the UAE spoke over the phone.

The Ministers expressed deep concern over the situation around Iran & spoke in favour of immediate steps to de-escalate the military confrontation.

Mar. 9: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2030970809544851905)

China strongly condemns the attack against the @UNIFIL_. Our hearts go out to the injured Ghanaian peacekeepers. Any deliberate attack against UN peacekeeping personnel amounts to a grave violation of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The attack is unacceptable and must stop at once.

China urges relevant parties to immediately take measures to deescalate the situation and ensure the safety of UN peacekeeping personnel.

Mar. 9: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260309_11871584.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: It's reported the spokesperson for the UN Secretary General said Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemns the incident on March 6 which resulted in three Ghanaian peacekeepers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) being injured. He underscores that the safety and security of UN personnel and property must be respected at all times, and that those responsible must be held accountable. The Ghanaian government said the attack constitutes a grave violation of international law and amounts to war crime, and called for a "full, immediate, impartial and transparent investigation." What's China comment?

A: China strongly condemns the attack against the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Our hearts go out to the injured. Any deliberate attack against UN peacekeeping personnel amounts to a grave violation of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The attack is unacceptable and must stop at once. China urges relevant parties to immediately take measures to deescalate the situation and ensure the safety of UN peacekeeping personnel…

Q: The new leader in Iran was announced over the weekend. President Donald Trump has said that "he might not last long" and Israel vowed to target any of the new leaders in Iran. I wonder if you have any comment on this?

A: China opposes interference in other countries' internal affairs under any pretext. Iran's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected. China calls for an immediate end to the military operations, return to dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible, and no further escalation of tensions…

Q: Iran has named Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his father as supreme leader. Does China have any comment on this selection?

A: We have noted relevant reports. It is a decision made by the Iranian side in accordance with the country's Constitution.

Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260310_11872063.html) with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani

Zayani briefed on the regional situation and Bahrain's position. He noted that Bahrain had always been committed to peace and

shall not be subjected to illegal attacks. Bahrain appreciates and thanks China for its just stance, and stands ready to work with other Gulf countries to step up communication and coordination with China on bilateral and multilateral platforms including the U.N., so as to achieve regional peace and stability as soon as possible. Bahrain will continue to take effective measures to safeguard the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions.

Wang Yi noted that the situation in the Gulf region has escalated sharply recently, and Bahrain's security has also been undermined, which the Chinese side is deeply concerned about. China's position is consistent and clear: the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, and attacks on civilians and non-military targets should be condemned.

Wang Yi stressed that the top priority is to immediately cease military operations and prevent the conflict from further spreading. The way out of the impasse lies in an early return to dialogue and negotiation to strive for the restoration of peace. The fundamental solution is to jointly return to the right track of abiding by international law and the basic norms governing international relations. As a strategic partner of the Gulf countries and a responsible major country, China has been actively promoting peace and stopping wars. The special envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East issue is currently on a shuttle visit in the region and will also visit Bahrain. China will continue to play a constructive role in safeguarding peace and stability in the Gulf region, and hopes that Bahrain will continue to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in Bahrain.

Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2031218863887745377)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Bahraini FM Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

The top priority is to immediately cease military operations to prevent the conflict from spreading further. The path to a breakthrough lies in returning to dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible to restore peace.

China has been actively promoting peace and ceasefire. The Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue is currently shuttling in the region.

Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260310_11872060.html) with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Sheikh Jarrah briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments of the regional situation, stating that Kuwait is not a party to the war but has still been impacted by the flames of war. Gulf countries including Kuwait remain committed to resolving disputes through dialogue while reserving their legitimate right to self-defense. The Kuwaiti side highly appreciates China's position and the efforts China has made, and stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote the early restoration of security and stability in the region. Kuwait attaches great importance to and will continue to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and institutions in the country.

Wang Yi stated that China has always advocated resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means. The ongoing hostilities are a war that should not have happened and serves no one's interests. The United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran while the Iran-US negotiations were still underway and without the authorization of the United Nations, which is a blatant violation of international law. At the same time, the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Gulf countries must also be fully respected, and any attack on innocent civilians and non-military targets deserves condemnation. The pressing priority now is to stop fighting, and end the war as soon as possible. China appreciates the consistent calls of Gulf countries for dialogue and negotiation. China will continue to make efforts for peace, and the special envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East issue has already left for the region to mediate and will strengthen communication and exchanges with the Kuwait and other countries. China hopes and believes that Kuwait will continue to ensure the safety and security of Chinese institutions and personnel in the country.

Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2031217844470628826)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Kuwaiti FM Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The #US and #Israel launched military strikes against #Iran without authorization from the #UN, even while negotiations between

Iran and the US were still ongoing, which constitutes a clear violation of international law.

Meanwhile, the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Gulf countries should be fully respected, and any attack on innocent civilians and non-military targets should be condemned.

Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260309_11871762.html)

On March 8, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi in Riyadh.

Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi said that the escalation of tensions in the Gulf region poses a serious threat to global security and stability, and serves no party's interests. The GCC highly appreciates China's active efforts to promote peace and end the fighting, and stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote the de-escalation of the situation.

Zhai Jun said that the current regional situation is highly complex and sensitive. The Chinese side urges all parties to immediately bring about a ceasefire and end the fighting and prevent further escalation of tensions, and to return to the track of negotiation at an early date. China appreciates the emphasis of the Extraordinary Meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council on dialogue and diplomacy as the only way to overcome the current crisis and maintain regional stability. The Chinese side will further play a constructive role and work with the GCC and Gulf countries to actively promote peace, end the fighting and de-escalate tensions.

Mar. 9: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson repost (https://x.com/ChinaEmbKSA/status/2031022041319506052)

On March 8, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi in Riyadh.

Zhai Jun said that the current regional situation is highly complex and sensitive. The Chinese side urges all parties to immediately bring about a ceasefire and end the fighting and prevent further escalation of tensions, and to return to the track of negotiation at an early date. China appreciates the emphasis of the Extraordinary Meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council on dialogue and diplomacy as the only way to overcome the current crisis and maintain regional stability. The Chinese side will further play a constructive role and work with the GCC and Gulf countries to actively promote peace, end the fighting and de-escalate tensions.

Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260309_11871763.html)

On March 8, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue visited Saudi Arabia and met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said that the Middle East region is experiencing an unprecedented crisis, with the conflict spreading to Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, seriously threatening regional stability and undermining global energy supply and shipping security. The Saudi side is fully aware of the danger of escalation and spillover of the conflict and has exercised maximum restraint. The Saudi side appreciates China's consistent upholding of fairness and justice, and expresses the hope that China will continue to play a positive role in bringing about a ceasefire and ending the fighting, so as to prevent further deterioration of the regional situation.

Zhai Jun said that China is deeply concerned about the current tensions in the region. The Chinese side always believes that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms of international relations must be upheld. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Gulf countries are inviolable, and any attacks on innocent civilians and non-military targets should be condemned. Promoting peace and ending the fighting is the fundamental way out of the current predicament. China urges all parties to immediately cease military actions, prevent further escalation of tensions, and avoid causing greater harm to the people of regional countries. As a major country upholding fairness and justice and a good friend and good partner of Saudi Arabia, China will continue to play a constructive role and stands ready to work with the Saudi side to actively engage with all parties and make unremitting efforts to safeguard peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Mar. 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin statement (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79291)

Today, as Iran is opposing an armed aggression, your work in this high post will certainly require immense courage and selflessness. I am confident that you will continue your father's work with honour and consolidate the Iranian people in the face of harsh ordeals.

On my part, I want to confirm our unwavering support of Tehran and our solidarity with our Iranian friends. Russia has been and

will remain the Islamic Republic's reliable partner.

I wish you success in tackling the challenges in front of you, good health and strong spirit.

Mar. 9: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2030980421580730427)

President Vladimir Putin sent a congratulatory message to the newly elected Supreme Leader of Iran—Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei.

"I am confident that you will unite the Iranian people in the face of the severe trials ahead."

Mar. 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin remarks (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79293) on global oil and gas market

Good afternoon, colleagues.

I asked you to join me today for a meeting to discuss the situation in global energy markets and to compare notes. I would like to hear your views on the ongoing events and to consult with you on how we should coordinate the efforts of the state and private companies in connection with these developments. In this context, we will also discuss Russia's further actions in global energy as a whole, including with a view of the escalation of the situation, as we understand it, in the Middle East.

Russia has repeatedly—I would like to note this right away—made it clear that attempts to destabilise the situation in the Middle East would inevitably put the global fuel and energy complex under threat, drive up oil and gas prices, restrict supplies of these resources worldwide and, of course, disrupt long-term investment plans. It appears that this is exactly what is happening.

Today, we see logistical problems on the hydrocarbons transportation routes used, and we see that this is having an extremely negative impact on global production chains, affecting industry and, essentially—without exaggeration—the entire international economic relations system, because disruptions in supplies are followed by other purely economic problems: inflation rises, and production suffers not only in the oil and gas sector but also in the manufacturing of industrial goods.

Let me remind you that last year around a third of the world's seaborne oil exports—about 14 million barrels per day—went through the Strait of Hormuz. Of these, about 80 percent went to the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. At present this route is effectively closed. Oil production tied to the use of the strait risks coming to a complete halt within the next month. It has already begun to decline, while storage facilities in the region are filling up with oil that cannot be exported, or is extremely difficult or very expensive to export.

Clearly, a complete redirection of Middle Eastern oil supplies without using the Strait of Hormuz is—at least for the time being—unrealistic. Changing logistics would not only take a long time but would also require significant spending on infrastructure, expansion of maritime terminals, and so on. And, of course, it would be associated with high political risks that are still here.

Yet consumers need oil today. As a result, global oil prices are rising, and we can see clearly that they have increased by more than 30 percent over the past week alone. I checked today at about 5:30 am Moscow time and, I think, they had already gone through US$119 per barrel. Then they retraced to US$107, US$106, and now, I think—Mr Sechin told me so—oil was trading at around US$103. But price fluctuations continue, and the trend is upward, not downward.

A similar situation is emerging on the global gas market. Supplies of liquefied natural gas from the Middle East have plummeted. Production capacities have decreased in the region, which will take weeks or even months to recover. The missing volumes are impossible to quickly compensate. As a result, global gas prices are also rising, I think, even faster than oil prices.

I would like to emphasise the following in this regard. In the current conditions, competition between buyers for energy suppliers and for stable and predictable oil and gas supplies is intensifying.

In this regard, of course, I cannot but say and remind not only my colleagues here in this room, but also all our consumers in general, that it has been stability that Russian energy companies have always distinguished themselves by.

Obviously, the global logistics of the fuel and energy complex in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East will be changing towards more profitable and more promising markets. At the same time, we must be aware that the current high commodity prices are definitely temporary. You and I understand this, it is obvious, we have to proceed from this, which is why I asked you to convene so as to consult with you on how we should coordinate our efforts for the near future.

A change in the balance of supply and demand of hydrocarbons will certainly lead to a new stable price reality. This will inevitably

happen, therefore it is important for Russian energy companies to use the current moment, including for directing additional export revenue to reduce their debt to domestic banks. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to this. I ask the Government and the Central Bank to take this process under control.

I would like to stress once again that Russia is a reliable supplier of energy resources. It has always been like this. We will certainly continue to supply oil and gas to those countries that are reliable counterparties themselves. I am referring not only to our partners in the Asia-Pacific region, but also in Eastern European countries such as Slovakia and Hungary. Even now, some colleagues have already informed me before the meeting in such an expanded format that we are increasing supplies to our reliable partners in several regions of the world at once.

At the same time, I would like to remind you that the EU countries plan to introduce additional restrictions on the purchase of Russian hydrocarbons, including liquefied natural gas, effective April 25, up to a complete ban on such supplies in 2027. In this regard, the Government has already been tasked with assessing the possibility and expediency of stopping the supply of our energy resources to the European market without waiting for the door to be defiantly slammed in our face, but doing it now and diverting these volumes from the European market to more promising areas, and gaining a foothold there, which is most important.

The current situation is such that if we immediately refocus on those markets that need increased supplies, we can gain a foothold there now. That is, where there is steady long-term demand and reliable long-term relationships, to those states that are building constructive business relations with Russia.

By the way, I asked you to come so as to ask your advice on all these issues: if European companies, European buyers suddenly decide to reorient themselves and provide us with long-term, sustainable cooperation devoid of political considerations, free from political considerations—we can accommodate them, we have never turned them down, and we are ready to work with the Europeans. But we need some kind of signals from them that they are ready and willing to work with us too and will provide us with this sustainability and stability.

The Government also keeps these issues under control. I hope we will have a substantive conversation with you on all these issues.

Mar. 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79294) with President Trump

Donald Trump telephoned Vladimir Putin to discuss a number of highly important issues related to the current international situation. Naturally, particular attention was given to the situation surrounding the conflict with Iran, as well as to the ongoing trilateral negotiations on the Ukrainian settlement involving representatives of the United States.

I would note at the outset that the conversation was businesslike, frank and constructive, as is typically the case in dialogue between the Russian and American leaders. They had not spoken by telephone for quite some time; their previous conversation took place at the end of December 2025. Today's call, incidentally, lasted about an hour. The US President noted that, as previously agreed, such contacts should take place on a regular basis, and both leaders confirmed that they are ready for this.

The President of Russia set out a number of considerations aimed at achieving a prompt political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian conflict, including in light of the contacts he has recently held with leaders of the Gulf states, with President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian and with the leaders of several other countries.

For his part, the US President shared his assessment of developments in the context of the ongoing US-Israeli operation. I would note that a very substantive—and, I believe, useful—exchange of views took place on this matter.

President Trump once again expressed interest in bringing the conflict in Ukraine to an end as soon as possible by achieving a ceasefire that would open the way to a long-term settlement.

On our side, a positive assessment was given of the mediation efforts undertaken by Donald Trump's team and by him personally.

An assessment was also provided of the current situation along the line of contact, where Russian forces are advancing successfully. As was noted, this is a factor that should compel the Kiev regime to finally move towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

The leaders also touched upon the issue of Venezuela, primarily in the context of the situation on the global oil market.

Overall, I would reiterate that the conversation was highly substantive and will undoubtedly have practical significance for further

cooperation between the two countries across various areas of international policy.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2031286315149631983)

On March 9, Presidents of Russia & the US spoke over the phone.

The Leaders focused the conversation on the conflict around Iran, the trilateral negotiations on the Ukrainian settlement, as well as the situation in Venezuela.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2031344138721910988)

President #Putin:

Russia has repeatedly warned that attempts to destabilize the situation in the Middle East would inevitably put the global fuel & energy sector under pressure.

This is precisely what we are witnessing today.

Mar. 10: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson repost (https://x.com/Consular_CHN/status/2031252508669260071)

Chinese citizens evacuated from Iran: We finally felt relieved and safe, thanks to the Chinese embassies and consulates.

Mar. 10: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260310_11872314.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: We noted that the Foreign Ministry recently released flight information for Chinese passengers stranded in Middle East countries and suggested their prompt return to China. Could you update us about the latest progress?

A: For days running, the Foreign Ministry has been working closely with the Civil Aviation Administration to boost the flight capacity of domestic airlines to bring back Chinese passengers stranded in the Middle East. China's diplomatic and consular missions in the region have reached out to their host countries to obtain facilitation for Chinese carriers and have provided timely updates on security alerts and flight information, while looking after the stranded passengers. Through concerted efforts, over 10,000 Chinese passengers have safely returned to China from countries including the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia. As the fighting continues, some airports in the Middle East have yet to fully resume operation. The Foreign Ministry once again urges Chinese nationals not to travel to Iran's neighboring countries and regions impacted by the military conflict. Our embassies and consulates in the region will do everything possible to provide necessary assistance to Chinese nationals in need…

Q: Amid the ongoing tense situation in the Middle East, there are concerns in the market that the conflict may protract and destabilize energy production and export passage in the Gulf region. China's reliance on energy imports from the Middle East also triggers concerns on China's energy supply security. Some believe that geopolitical rivalry is destabilizing global energy landscape and industrial chains. What's China's take on the impact of current geopolitical conflicts on global energy security? In the face of rising external uncertainties, how will China pursue both development and security and ensure both national energy security and long-term development interests?

A: We are deeply concerned over the continued tensions in the Middle East. Parties need to stop the military operations at once, avoid further escalation, and prevent the regional turmoil from having a greater impact on global economic growth. Energy security is of vital importance to the world economy. All parties have the responsibility to ensure stable and unimpeded energy supply. China will do what is necessary to protect its energy security. For anything specific, I'd refer you to competent authorities…

Q: Foreign Minister Wang Yi, when talking about the recent conflict in the Middle East during the NPC press conference on the weekend, said this conflict should not have happened in the first place. In phone conversations with counterparts from Kuwait and Bahrain yesterday, Minister Wang said that sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Gulf countries should be respected as well as Iran. In this situation, what do you think the next step should be? How can this conflict be stopped? Will China, for example, consider a direct appeal to the U.S., the party that initiated the conflict, and tell them to stop the war and return to negotiation?

A: China is gravely concerned over the ongoing tense situation in the Middle East. Over the past few days, China has carried out intensive mediation efforts. Foreign Minister Wang Yi had phone calls with his counterparts of multiple countries for in-depth exchange of views on the situation in the region. During his press conference at the two sessions, Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed that to find the right and proper solution to the issues relating to Iran and the Middle East, we need to respect national sovereignty, reject the abuse of force, uphold noninterference in internal affairs, and promote political settlement of hotspot

issues, and major countries should play a constructive role and use their strengths in goodwill. These fundamental principles must be observed. As we speak, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue Zhai Jun is in the Middle East to carry out shuttle diplomacy. To prolong or escalate the conflict does not serve any party's interest. China will continue to maintain communication with relevant parties, including parties to the conflict, step up mediation, build consensus, and work for the deescalation of the situation…

Q: Given the ongoing Iranian attacks on Saudi Arabia, which have targeted civilian infrastructure and oil facilities, how might these developments impact the Beijing agreement between Saudi and Iran? Could you please give us an update about the visit of the Chinese special envoy to the Middle East?

A: On your first question, the reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran was truly remarkable. It is the shared strategic asset of all countries in the region, and needs to be doubly cherished. On your second question, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue Zhai Jun is on a visit to the Middle East. Readouts about his visit to Saudi Arabia have been released on the MFA website, and we will continue to share information about the visit in a timely manner. You may check back for updates…

Q: You have mentioned Zhai Jun's visit to Middle Eastern countries as a diplomatic mission to mediate between regional countries for the solution of this crisis. Can you explain the scope of this mission? Will it be a mediation between just Iran and Gulf countries? Or will it also involve the U.S. and Israel? Which countries will he visit after Saudi Arabia? Can you share his itinerary? And lastly, is there a possibility of an arrangement for the safe passage of oil exports from the Strait of Hormuz? In the context of this visit, is energy security in the Strait of Hormuz an item in the Ambassador's agenda?

A: As I just mentioned, the Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue Zhai Jun is visiting the region to play a mediation role. Our focus is to help bring about an immediate stop to the military conflict and to bring parties concerned back to the negotiation table. We will release more information about the visit. Please stay tuned. Regarding issues related to the Strait of Hormuz, the Strait of Hormuz and waters nearby are an important route for international goods and energy trade. Keeping the region safe and stable serves the common interests of the international community. China urges parties to stop the military operations at once, avoid further escalation, and prevent the regional turmoil from having a larger impact on global economic growth.

Mar. 10: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260311_11872837.html) with Qatari Prime Minister Muhammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani

On March 10, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Sheikh Muhammad] upon request.

[Sheikh Muhammad] briefed Wang Yi on the regional situation and Qatar's position. He emphasized that Qatar has to undertake necessary self-defense measures, while intensifying diplomatic efforts to contain the spread and escalation of the crisis. Qatar appreciates China's upholding of an impartial stance and its mediation efforts, and hopes that China will play a greater role in bringing about a ceasefire and ending hostilities.

Wang Yi stated that as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China has always upheld principles and stood for fairness and justice in international affairs. The use of force by the United States and Israel against Iran without Security Council authorization is a clear violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations. At the same time, China does not approve of the expansion of the strike scope, and condemn the indiscriminate attacks on civilians and non-military targets. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf Arab countries should be respected. The continuation of the war brings nothing but harm, and will only cause greater losses to all parties involved. The Chinese side calls for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and a political settlement of the issue, and supports the Gulf countries in taking the future of the region into their own hands. The Chinese side will continue to play a constructive role in easing the situation and restoring peace in its own way.

Mar. 10: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260311_11872832.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On March 10, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Dar] at the latter's request.

[Dar] briefed Wang Yi on Pakistan's position regarding the situation in Iran, urging all parties to exercise restraint and resolve the

current crisis through peaceful negotiations. Pakistan appreciates China's efforts to de-escalate the situation and stands ready to enhance coordination and cooperation with China on platforms such as the United Nations to jointly explore effective ways to achieve peace.

Wang Yi said that as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan share a fine tradition of communication and coordination on major international and regional issues. Both countries have promptly expressed their firm stance on the situation in Iran, demonstrating a responsible attitude and commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The outbreak of this war lacks justification and legitimacy, and its continuation will only result in more unnecessary casualties. The key to preventing further escalation lies in the United States and Israel ceasing military operations. At the same time, China does not approve of attacks on Gulf countries and condemns all attacks on civil facilities and innocent civilians. The Chinese side appreciates Pakistan's mediation efforts to de-escalate regional tensions and stands ready to maintain multilateral and bilateral coordination and cooperation with Pakistan, support Pakistan in continuing to play a constructive role, and jointly work toward the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

The two sides also exchanged views on the border conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Wang Yi said that the special envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China is currently shuttling between Afghanistan and Pakistan to promote peace talks. The pressing priority is to prevent the escalation of the conflict and return to the negotiating table at an early date. The Chinese side firmly supports Pakistan in its counterterrorism efforts and hopes that Pakistan will continue to make the utmost efforts to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan. Mohammad Ishaq Dar expressed appreciation for China's mediation efforts and stressed that Pakistan attaches great importance to and will make every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel.

Mar. 10: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79307) with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian

Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian to continue their discussion of the situation in the Middle East in light of the United States and Israel's armed aggression against Iran.

The President of Russia has reaffirmed his principled stance in favour of de-escalating the conflict as soon as possible and resolving it via political means. Masoud Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for the support provided by Russia, including in particular the humanitarian aid granted to Iran.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2031416305358635099)

On March 10, Presidents of Russia & Iran continued their discussion over the phone.

Vladimir Putin reaffirmed Russia's principled position in favour of the earliest possible de-escalation of the conflict & its settlement through political means.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085061/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

The ministers continued to exchange opinions regarding the current situation in the Middle East that has deteriorated drastically due to the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Sergey Lavrov once again set forth the Russian side's principled position in favour of deescalating the conflict as soon as possible and resuming the process of a political and diplomatic peace settlement. The Russian side is invariably ready to facilitate this process, with due consideration for security interests of Iran and its regional neighbours.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2031370963292754174)

On March 10, FMs Sergey #Lavrov & @araghchi spoke over the phone.

The Ministers continued to exchange views on the situation in the Middle East, which has sharply deteriorated following the unprovoked aggression by the US & Israel against Iran.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085194/) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

The ministers discussed the unprecedented escalation of tensions in the Middle East, resulting from the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Both sides emphasised the importance of an immediate cessation of all hostilities and called for restraint in the use of force to settle the conflict. They noted that the conflict has led to civilian casualties and is seriously damaging civilian infrastructure both in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, which have nothing to do with the illegal actions of the United States and Israel and should not be subjected to strikes.

The ministers highlighted the need for consolidating the efforts of the international community to de-escalate military-political tensions as soon as possible and prevent any further deterioration of the situation in the Middle East.

Mar. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085201/)

The conflict in the Middle East continues to escalate, directly or indirectly affecting the interests of an increasing number of states and their civilian populations. This is evident, in particular, in the fact that foreign diplomatic missions and consular offices located in the region are also coming under attack. Their number is growing.

On March 8, the Russian Consulate General in Isfahan, Iran, sustained damage as a result of an attack on the nearby office of the Governor of Isfahan Province. Windows were blown out in the consulate's office building and residential quarters, and several staff members were knocked down by the blast wave. Fortunately, there were no fatalities or serious injuries.

We regard attacks on diplomatic and consular missions as a flagrant violation of such fundamental instruments of international law as the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. We demand that all parties strictly respect the inviolability of diplomatic premises and refrain from any actions that threaten the safety, life and health of their personnel.

We call on the parties to the conflict to put an immediate end to the military confrontation and return to the negotiating table.

Mar. 11: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79312) with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev

During the phone call, Vladimir Putin thanked Ilham Aliyev for the efficient assistance in organising the evacuation of Russian nationals from Iran and in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Iranian people from Russia via Azerbaijani territory.

While exchanging views on the current situation in the Middle East, both leaders spoke in favour of ceasing hostilities as soon as possible and resolving the active conflict through political and diplomatic means.

Some current aspects of the bilateral agenda were discussed as well. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual commitment to further developing Russia-Azerbaijan cooperation in various sectors based on the principles of strategic partnership and allied relationship.

Mar. 11: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79314) with Emirati President Muhammad bin Zayed

Vladimir Putin gave his warm regards to Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his 65th birthday, wishing him good health, prosperity, and further success, and noting his significant personal contribution to strengthening the strategic partnership between Russia and the UAE. Both sides acknowledged with satisfaction that the friendly Russian-UAE relations are developing rapidly in all areas.

The leaders continued their exchange of views on the dangerously deteriorating situation in the Middle East that is having grave consequences for Iran as well as the Arab countries. The President of Russia emphasised the need to stop the conflict from escalating further and to resolve it via talks.

Vladimir Putin expressed special gratitude to the President of the UAE for the assistance and support extended to the numerous Russian citizens in the UAE.

Mar. 11: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085321/) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

On March 11, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Badr Abdelatty, at the initiative of the Egyptian side.

The ministers expressed profound concern over the increasingly perilous situation in the Middle East, which has sharply deteriorated due to the unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. They called for the immediate cessation of the conflict, which is causing civilian casualties and inflicting damage on civilian infrastructure.

The heads of the foreign ministries of Russia and Egypt underscored the urgent need to resume political and diplomatic efforts to achieve lasting stability and security in the region. They agreed to maintain consultations and diplomatic coordination within the United Nations, as well as at other international platforms.

The discussion also encompassed the further development of Russia-Egypt cooperation, including the schedule of upcoming bilateral engagements.

Mar. 11: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085414/) with Indian Minister of External Relations Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

The ministers exchanged views on the developments surrounding Iran and called for its swift normalisation. They reiterated their support for the contribution of the SCO and BRICS to efforts aimed at de-escalating the situation and creating favourable conditions for achieving a sustained peace settlement based on a balance of the legitimate interests of all parties.

In addition, the ministers discussed a number of bilateral matters, including the timeframe for upcoming political contacts.

Mar. 11: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085454/) with Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi

The ministers conducted a substantive exchange of views on the situation surrounding Iran with an emphasis on finding ways to bring about the swiftest possible end to the military confrontation caused by the United States and Israel's unprovoked aggression. They reiterated their position in favour of preventing escalation and immediately returning to a political and diplomatic settlement. The parties specifically emphasised the unacceptability of involving third countries, first and foremost the Gulf States, in the conflict which is fraught with the risk of wider military operations.

Sergey Lavrov highlighted Russia's willingness to assist in identifying compromise-based peaceful solutions founded on respect for the principle of sovereignty and equality of all states, as well as other foundational norms of international law.

Mar. 11: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085490/) with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani

On March 11, [Lavrov] had a telephone conversation with [Zayani] at the initiative of the Bahraini side.

The conversation focused on the developments in the Persian Gulf area in the context of the large-scale armed conflict resulting from the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

The foreign ministers emphasised the need for an immediate cessation of all hostilities and called for the launch of a negotiating process aimed at finding reasonable compromise solutions. Both sides highlighted the unacceptability of attacks leading to civilian casualties and the destruction of critical civilian infrastructure both in Iran and in neighbouring Arab countries, which are not involved in the conflict.

Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's readiness to use every available opportunity to actively promote stabilisation in the region.

Mar. 11: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2031706921863086571)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy PM & FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

On the situation in #Iran, Wang noted that the key to preventing further escalation lies in the #US and #Israel halting their military operations. China does not condone attacks on Gulf states, and condemns all attacks on civilian facilities and innocent civilians.

On the recent border clashes between #Pakistan and #Afghanistan, Wang noted that China's Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is shuttling between the two countries to promote dialogue and reconciliation. The urgent task is to prevent further escalation and return to negotiations as soon as possible.

Mar. 11: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2031710311552786461)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Qatari PM & FM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

The #US-#Israeli use of force against #Iran, without authorization from the UN Security Council, clearly violated the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations. Meanwhile, China does not approve of

expanding the scope of strikes and condemns indiscriminate attacks against civilians and non-military targets.

China calls for an immediate ceasefire and an end to hostilities, urges the pursuit of a political settlement, and supports the Gulf countries in taking the future of the region into their own hands.

Mar. 11: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260312_11873557.html)

On March 10, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Abdullah briefed on the current regional situation and the UAE's position, stating that the UAE is not a party to the conflict and has consistently committed to maintaining regional peace and stability, and therefore should not be targeted. The UAE appreciates China's impartial stance, highly values China's important role, welcomes the mediation efforts of China's special envoy across the region, and is willing to work with China to promote a de-escalation of the regional situation. The UAE attaches great importance to and will fully ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions in the UAE.

Zhai Jun stated that China is deeply concerned about the ongoing spread of conflict across the entire Gulf region. China has always believed that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of all countries in the Gulf region should be respected, and any attacks on civilians or non-military targets should be condemned. Conflict and instability in the region serve no one's interests, and achieving a ceasefire is the fundamental way out of the current crisis. After the conflict broke out, the UAE responded calmly and responsibly with restraint, which China appreciates. China is willing to enhance communication and coordination with the UAE, work together to engage relevant parties, and promote an early ceasefire. China hopes the UAE will continue to fully ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions in the UAE.

During his visit, Special Envoy Zhai Jun also met with Special Envoy of UAE President to China Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, and exchanged in-depth views on further promoting the development of bilateral relations.

Mar. 11: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2031714851190604109)

Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met separately with Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Saudi FM Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, and UAE Deputy PM & FM Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

#China is deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict spreading across the entire Gulf region. War and turmoil in the region serve no one's interests, and a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities are the fundamental way out of the current predicament.

Mar. 11: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260311_11873028.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: We noted that over the past two days, Foreign Minister Wang Yi had phone calls with his counterparts from Kuwait, Bahrain, Pakistan and Qatar for exchanges of views on the situation in Iran. But meanwhile, tensions in the region ratchet up, and risks of conflict escalation and spillover grow. Could you give us more information on China's position and efforts to promote deescalation? How does China view the future development?

A: On the situation in Iran, Foreign Minister Wang Yi has recently reached out to relevant parties and once again communicated with his counterparts of regional countries through phone calls to call for peace, end to hostilities and deescalation.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi pointed out that this is a war that should not have happened—it is a war that does no one any good. Without the UN's authorization, the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in the process of the ongoing U.S.-Iran negotiation, which clearly violates international law. Countries' sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected. China does not go along with attacks against countries in the Gulf region and condemns nondiscriminatory attacks against civilians or non-military targets. The pressing priority now is to stop military operations at once and prevent the conflict from spreading. The way out of the conflict is to return to dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible and strive for restoration of peace. The fundamental solution is to jointly return to the right track of abiding by international law and basic norms of international relations.

Since the very first day of the conflict, China has unequivocally called for ceasefire, end of hostilities, return to dialogue and negotiation, and political settlement. As we speak, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue is in the Middle East to carry out shuttle diplomacy. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and sincere friend of Middle

Eastern countries, China will stay committed to urging peace and defending justice and fairness. China will continue to strengthen communication with relevant parties, including parties to the conflict, and play a constructive role for deescalation and restoration of peace…

Q: The U.S. said that it struck what it says Iranian boats being used to lay mines in the Strait of Hormuz. I wondered if you have any comment on the potential mining of the Strait? Has China had any talks with Iran or others on keeping the Strait open?

A: We are gravely concerned over the ongoing tense situation in the Middle East. The pressing priority now is that relevant parties should stop the military operations at once, return to the track of dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible, and avoid further escalation and deterioration of the situation…

Q: The Pentagon is moving parts of its THAAD air defense system from South Korea to the Middle East. Does China have a comment on this? Will China oppose the U.S. returning those weapons to South Korea in the future?

A: We noted relevant reports. China's opposition to the U.S. deployment of THAAD anti-missile system in the ROK remains unchanged…

Q: I have a question regarding the shuttle diplomacy. Is this particular diplomacy focused in the Gulf region? Or is it being extended to Israel and the U.S. as well to bring about a kind of ceasefire to halt the war, at least at present? Is the Chinese government also in touch with the U.S. on these particular diplomatic efforts?

A: I just shared China's mediation efforts in answering an earlier question. You may also have noted a recent phone call between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Israeli counterpart. As we speak, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue is visiting the region, as part of China's efforts to help bring about an immediate stop to the military conflict and to bring parties concerned back to the track of dialogue and negotiation to avoid further escalation of the situation. China will continue to maintain communication with all relevant parties, including parties to the conflict.

Mar. 11: Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong remarks (https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/hyyfy/202603/t20260312_11873420.htm) on UN Security Council resolution

President,

The draft resolution proposed by Russia reaffirms the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. It urges all parties to immediately stop military activities, condemns all attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, and encourages all parties concerned to return to the track of diplomatic negotiations. Its content is principled and balanced, which China welcomes and supports. We are disappointed and regret that the draft was not adopted.

This is a war that should not have happened—it is a war that does no one any good. The history of the Middle East tells the world time and again that force provides no solution and armed conflicts will only increase hatred and breed new crises. The pressing priority is to immediately stop military operations, prevent the escalation and spread of hostilities, and return to dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible. China will continue its efforts to strive for peace.

I thank you, President.

Mar. 11: Russian Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia remarks (https://russiaun.ru/en/news/middleeast_110326) on UN Security Council resolution

Remarks before the vote:

Mr. President,

We have already pointed out today the non-constructive nature of the resolution that has been just adopted, which condemned Iran's strikes targeting the territory of the countries in the region. This resolution is one-sided, and no additional explanations by the representative of Bahrain convinced us otherwise.

Right now, the Russian Federation is calling upon the UNSC members to pass an impartial document aimed at urgent de-escalation of the situation. This will enable the Council to discharge its direct responsibilities for maintaining international peace and security.

The draft tabled by our country leaves aside the differences among Council members regarding the causes of the current unprecedented tensions in the Middle East. It is simple, straightforward, and unambiguous, and has four operative paragraphs.

The first one urges all parties to immediately stop their military activities and refrain from any steps that could lead to further escalation in the Middle East and beyond. The second one firmly condemns all attacks against civilians and civilian infrustructure, underscoring the obligations of all parties under international law, including international humanitarian law. The third one underlines the importance of ensuring security of all States in the region without exception. The fourth one strongly encourages all parties concerned to return to the negotiating table without any further delay.

We are convinced that all of the aforementioned elements fully reflect the views of Security Council members regarding current events, including those expressed during the Council meeting on February 28. At the same time, when preparing the draft, we intentionally did not name any of the parties. We are well aware that had we done otherwise, it would have been impossible to reach consensus and, as a result, it would have impeded the Council in promptly sending a fundamentally important message about the need for immediate de-escalation and restraint on the part of all conflicting parties.

When working on the draft, the Russian Federation circulated a document to gather written comments from Council members and conducted in person informal consultations. We note that not a single delegation expressed any objections or concerns regarding the language.

In this context, we count on all our colleagues to demonstrate responsibility and support the Russian proposal, which could become a timely and much-needed step towards a political and diplomatic settlement of the situation in the Middle East.

Thank you.

Remarks after the vote:

Mr. President,

We are deeply disappointed by the fact that the Security Council has failed today to pass such a much-needed resolution that stresses the need to de-escalate the situation in the Middle East and return to searching for negotiated solutions.

We would like to express our gratitude to those colleagues who spoke in favor of the adoption of the document tabled by Russia. We believe that they acted responsibly and in a principled manner, as befits members of the Security Council.

Alas, some colleagues did not manage to summon the strength and wisdom to make the only correct decision. And some of them did so deliberately. After all, the main thing for them is to “march in step” with their big brother, following all his commands. They have just rejected the possibility for the Council to send an unequivocal demand to immediately stop hostilities and settle any disputes by peaceful means. This once again shows, very clearly, that all the loud statements on the part of these countries about how committed they are to international law, the UN Charter, and peace are nothing more than hollow rhetoric. Their position is dictated purely by their parochial political interests and bloc solidarity, as well as by the fear of falling out of favor with their seniors. Moreover, it is precisely for these reasons that they have no qualms about further undermining the authority of the Security Council.

It is quite telling that none of the delegations that spoke against or abstained in the voting were able to explain what exactly they found objectionable in the text we had drafted. Their routine declarations about, for instance, the need to focus on the resolution put forward by Bahrain and the GCC countries hold no water. In no way did the Russian draft contradict the document sponsored by the countries of the region, nor did it contain any elements that were mutually exclusive in relation to it. Therefore, such words are nothing but a clumsy attempt to justify their fear to speak in support of the initiative, however balanced and depoliticized it may be. They acted like this only because this initiative does not benefit those who are truly responsible for the bloody events in the Middle East. And everything can be even more dangerous if they hide other geopolitical goals behind their decision. It is they who will bear all the responsibility for any negative consequences on the ground that may result from the bad faith and recklessness of some members of the Council.

This vote was a litmus test and, forgive me, an invitation to show one’s true colors. We are curious: do those countries which did not support the resolution really fail to comprehend how pathetic they look? We have already mentioned that this is not even “double standards.” It is surreal, it is a mirror world, theater of the absurd, and, quite simply, a disgrace. From now on, we will constantly remind you of this when, in other situations, you will try to portray yourselves as champions of international law.

Regardless of the outcome of the voting today, Russia will continue to make every effort to swiftly end the confrontation in the Middle East and to resolve any differences by peaceful means. We will provide every assistance to the countries in the region and other parties to the conflict. And we expect a similar approach on the part of reasonable and constructively minded member

States.

Mar. 12: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260312_11873712.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: At least 16 ships and fuel oil tankers have been attacked by Iran since the fighting in the region began. Have any China-flagged civilian and commercial vessels at or near the Strait of Hormuz been hit by drones and projectiles? How many China-flagged vessels are there at the moment?

A: The Strait of Hormuz and waters nearby are an important route for international goods and energy trade. Keeping the region safe and stable serves the common interests of the international community. China urges parties to stop the military operations at once, avoid further escalation, and prevent the regional turmoil from having a larger impact on global economic growth...

Q: An Iranian military adviser says that some countries are sharing intel on U.S. military moves. He didn't name those countries. Is China giving Iran information about the U.S. military? Can you provide any more information about this?

A: I am not aware of what you mentioned. China's position is consistent and clear. We urge parties to stop the military operations at once and avoid further escalation.

Mar. 12: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260313_11874703.html) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

Badr Abdelatty briefed Wang Yi on the regional situation and Egypt's position, expressing deep concern over the ongoing hostilities. Following the recent resolution adopted by the UN Security Council, Egypt urges all parties to exercise restraint and avoid further regional turbulence. Egypt highly appreciates China's balanced and just position and the important role it has played, and stands ready to maintain close communication with China to promote de-escalation at an early date.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, saying that China and Egypt, as responsible countries, both advocate resolving regional issues through dialogue and consultation, and both oppose the arbitrary use of force. The continuation of the conflict in the Middle East will only bring more suffering to the local people, have a devastating impact on the regional economy, and further undermine international and regional security and stability. It is the universal consensus of the international community to immediately bring about a ceasefire and end the fighting, and all parties should urge the parties concerned to press the pause button on military actions at an early date, so as to prevent further deterioration. The Chinese side stands ready to maintain communication and coordination with regional countries, including Egypt, and continue to play a constructive role in pursuing peace.

Mar. 12: Russian Foreign Ministry remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085656/)

Let us now move to the situation in the Persian Gulf area, which tops the international agenda.

We have received a large number of questions, and I would like to comment on the UN Security Council session on this matter which was held on March 11. As you are aware, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2817 prepared by Bahrain, which condemns strikes on the territories of the Arab Gulf States and calls on Iran to immediately stop such actions. As you saw, Russia and China abstained, as they disagree with the concept of the document, which is presented in isolation from the underlying cause of the ongoing escalation in the region. One can get an impression that Iran allegedly attacked sites in neighbouring countries entirely of its own accord and out of malicious intent.

Moscow has repeatedly made it clear that the current crisis in the Middle East is rooted in the unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We express our extreme dissatisfaction with the process of agreeing upon the above resolution. Its Bahraini sponsors turned down every Russian or Chinese proposal seeking to "redress" their unbalanced text.

With the support of its Chinese partners, Russia proposed that the Security Council consider a draft alternative document aimed at starting urgent de-escalation and condemning strikes against any civilian targets without assigning blame. It would appear that such an impartial UN Security Council resolution should have been supported by all its responsible members; however, only China, Pakistan, and Somalia voted in favour of our initiative. The United States and Latvia voted against it. Other countries abstained, although they had not come up with any objections to the Russian text during consultations. Does this mean they are not interested in ending the current confrontation in the Middle East?

Regardless of the outcomes of the UN Security Council vote on March 11, we believe it is important to reaffirm the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran—as well as all, I emphasise, other states—to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. We consider strikes targeting civilian sites and infrastructure in Iran, neighbouring Arab countries, or anywhere else for that matter to be unacceptable. We call on the United States and Israel to halt the aggression and return to the negotiating table. It is critically important for all participants in the current confrontation in the Middle East, including our Arab partners, to demonstrate common sense and restraint, say no to double standards, and return to the efforts aimed at early cessation of the confrontation based on the principles of neighbourliness.

Russia will continue to take steps aimed at the earliest possible de-escalation in the Middle East and the settlement of all existing disagreements by peaceful means. We intend to continue promoting Russia's Concept of Collective and Indivisible Security for the Gulf Region, which would ensure that the interests of all countries in the region are respected.

We assess the humanitarian situation in the Middle East as, to put it mildly, extremely challenging. According to the authorities, the number of civilian victims in Iran as a result of Washington and Tel Aviv's unlawful use of force runs into the thousands. Despite awkward attempts to hush it up and the unconvincing justifications of the aggressors, the international community is becoming increasingly aware of what is happening. More and more officially confirmed information is being provided to those monitoring the situation about the barbaric bombardment of a girls' primary school in Minab and the Payame Noor University in Tehran, as well as other sites, including those connected with our country, which I will cover later.

Civilian infrastructure is being destroyed, and foreign diplomatic and consular buildings in Iran are also getting damaged. We reported earlier that a missile strike on an administrative building in Isfahan damaged nearby premises of the Russian Consulate General. In the same city, known for its architectural masterpieces, unique UNESCO World Heritage sites located in its busiest central district have been damaged as well. Historical monuments in the Iranian capital have likewise come under bombing. The indiscriminate nature of these strikes is stunning. We expect competent international organisations to provide an impartial assessment of everything that is taking place. I will provide additional information today on the damage caused to facilities connected with our country.

On March 7, Americans and Israelis shelled and set fire to three oil storage facilities in Tehran and its suburbs. As you are aware, the world has been discussing environmental issues for decades. As a result, a massive amount of harmful hydrocarbon compounds, sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides has been released into the atmosphere. Oil entered the city's sewer system and spread throughout the city. Acid rain has been observed. Millions of residents have found themselves in a toxic environment. The impact of these chemicals on air, water, food, flora and fauna will have lasting destructive consequences.

Is all of that, as they claim in Washington and Tel Aviv, being done in the interests of the Iranian people, their liberation and prosperity?

In connection with the destruction of many hospitals, ambulance stations and the large number of wounded, including women and children, the Iranian side has appealed to friendly states, including Russia, with a request for medical supplies. Upon the instruction of President Putin, our country will deliver relevant humanitarian aid to the Iranian people. We will certainly inform you about this through the competent agencies.

The unchecked expansion of the conflict is causing deep concern. As we predicted, the military adventure of the United States and Israel against Iran has destabilised the entire Middle East region. The hostilities have affected the territories of many Gulf Arab States, which has led to devastating humanitarian consequences for these friendly countries and their civilians.

It is necessary to immediately put an end to the military actions that are fraught with an environmental and radiological disaster, among others, for the entire region and return to the search for diplomatic solutions.

Mar. 12: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2032058270857482523)

#Zakharova: Russia & China abstained in the UN Security Council vote on the draft resolution proposed by Bahrain because we disagree with the document's concept.

The draft ignores the root cause of the current escalation in the region.

Mar. 12: UN Security Council press release (https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16315.doc.htm)

Voting a second time, the Council rejected Moscow's draft resolution by a vote of 4 in favour (China, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Somalia) to 2 against (Latvia, United States), with 9 abstentions (Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark,

France, Greece, Liberia, Panama, United Kingdom).

“We’re deeply disappointed,” said the Russian Federation’s delegate, taking the floor again. Noting that many Council members’ positions are dictated purely by short-term political interests, bloc solidarity and “the fear that they might fall out of favour with their elder friends”, he added: “This is not even double standards […] we are living through the looking glass.”

China’s representative also expressed regret that Moscow’s draft resolution was not adopted, declaring: “This is a war that should not have happened, and a war that benefits no one.”

While welcoming the Russian Federation’s desire to contribute to responding to events in the region, Bahrain’s representative said that his delegation abstained from the vote “because that draft resolution adopts a general tone, which in no way reflects the dangerous military escalation currently besetting the region”.

“This draft resolution says nothing about the overwhelming responsibility borne by Iran in the current escalation, including its indiscriminate and unjustified attacks against its regional neighbors who posed no threat,” said France’s delegate, who also abstained. Despite its good intentions, the Russian text was not a viable basis for bringing the Council together and providing the response the circumstances demand, he said.

The representative of the United States said that “the Russian Federation knew it did not have the votes to adopt its resolution today, yet it insisted on proceeding to a vote”.

Latvia’s delegate, who voted against the Russian Federation’s proposed text, said it was tabled by a permanent member of the Council which has for years been using force against civilians and civilian infrastructure in a sovereign country. “Iran is now attacking [its neighbours] with the same weapons”, she stressed, describing Moscow’s text as a deeply “cynical” one.

“It is impossible to overlook the hypocrisy of Russia presenting itself here as a guardian of international peace and security,” agreed the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mar. 12: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/RussiaUN/status/2031888034216472923)

#Nebenzia: It would be impossible and unfair to talk about attacks on countries in the #MiddleEast region without regard for the root causes of the current escalation, namely the aggression of the US and Israel against #Iran.

Mar. 12: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2032025343612371315)

Russia’s EMERCOM:

An Il-76 aircraft will deliver 13+ tonnes of first aid & medical supplies for the people of Iran.

The humanitarian aid will be first transported to Azerbaijan, where it will be delivered to the authorized representatives of Iran.

Mar 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2032308786036432922)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Egyptian FM Badr Abdelatty.

The prolonged conflict in the Middle East will only bring more suffering to local people, weigh heavily on the regional economy, and further undermine international and regional security and stability.

China stands ready to maintain communication and coordination with regional countries, including Egypt, and continue to play a constructive role in striving for peace.

Mar. 13: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260313_11874728.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. and Israel launched military strikes on Iran on February 28. Media reports say that air strikes on Shajarah Tayyebeh primary school in Iran’s Hormozgan province killed over 160 girls. Is China considering providing humanitarian assistance to Iran?

A: China condemns all indiscriminate attacks against civilians and non-military targets. Attacks on schools and harm to the children in particular seriously violate the international humanitarian law and breach the fundamental principles of human conscience. We deeply mourn for the students from Shajarah Tayyebeh primary school in Iran’s Hormozgan province and extend sincere sympathies to their families. The Red Cross Society of China has decided to provide the Red Crescent Society of Iran with

US$200,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance as special funds to support the bereaved parents. China stands ready to continue providing necessary assistance to Iran in a humanitarian spirit to help the Iranian people get through this difficult time…

Q: Saudi Arabia says several intercepted Iranian drones (more than 70) were targeting the Shaybah oilfield which is known as a supplier to Asian markets. What is your comment on the continued attacks on this facility?

A: China is gravely concerned over the continuous tensions in the Middle East. China believes that all countries' sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected and brook no infringement and condemns any indiscriminate attacks against civilians and non-military targets. All parties should immediately stop the military operations, return to dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible, avoid the ongoing escalation of the situation, and prevent the conflict from spreading and spilling over.

Mar. 13: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2032431253463736750)

China mourns for the 160+ Iranian girl students killed in an air strike #ShajarahTayyebeh and condemns all indiscriminate attacks against civilians and non-military targets. Attacks on schools and children are unacceptable as they defy international humanitarian law and human conscience.

The Red Cross Society of China will provide the @Iran_RCS with US$200,000 in emergency humanitarian aid specifically for helping the bereaved parents.

Mar. 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2032479637750890807)

China condemns all indiscriminate attacks against civilians and non-military targets. We deeply mourn for the students from Shajarah Tayyebeh primary school in Iran's Hormozgan province and extend sincere sympathies to their families.

The Red Cross Society of China has decided to provide the Red Crescent Society of Iran with US$200,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance as special funds to support the bereaved parents. China stands ready to continue providing necessary assistance to Iran in a humanitarian spirit to help the Iranian people get through this difficult time.

Mar. 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/gjhdq_665435/2675_665437/2803_663606/2805_663610/202603/t20260314_11875009.html)

On March 12, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani in Manama.

Al Zayani stated that Bahrain has always loved peace and remained committed to achieving regional peace, stability, development and prosperity through dialogue and reconciliation, and should not be subjected to unwarranted attacks. Iran should respond to the call of the international community by immediately ceasing its attacks on Gulf Arab states and ensuring the safety and smooth flow of international waterways. Bahrain highly appreciates China's just position and welcomes the shuttle mediation efforts of China's special envoy across the region. Bahrain is willing to work with China to promote the early realization of a ceasefire and restore stability and tranquility in the region.

Zhai Jun stated that China always advocates for resolving regional issues through dialogue and consultation and opposes the use of force at every turn. China believes that in military conflicts, the red line of protecting civilians must not be crossed, non-military targets such as energy, economy and people's livelihoods should not be attacked, the safety of waterways should not be disrupted, and the indiscriminate use of force is unacceptable. The current escalation of tensions in the region is not in the interests of any party. The most pressing task now is to immediately cease military operations and prevent the further spread of the flames of war. China attaches importance to the legitimate security concerns of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states including Bahrain, and appreciates Bahrain's responsible attitude of calm and restraint since the outbreak of the conflict. China is willing to continue maintaining close communication and coordination with Bahrain to play a constructive role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

Mar. 13: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/RussiaUN/status/2032193933296509191)

#Nebenzia: Russia's position vis-à-vis the supposed activation of the mechanism for reinstating anti-Iranian UNSC resolutions is unchanged, principled, and consistent.

The United Kingdom, France, and Germany could not trigger this instrument.

Mar. 13: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2032471248278626732)

#RussiaHelps

On March 12, Russia's EMERCOM (@MchsRussia) delivered 13K+ tonnes of medical supplies to Azerbaijan with a further transfer to the recipients—the people of Iran.

Mar. 13: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2085925/)

On March 13, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi.

Their discussion featured a constructive exchange of views on key aspects of Russia's engagement with the Agency. The significant contribution of Russia to the work of the IAEA was acknowledged. Particular attention was given to the attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, as well as to ensuring the safety of the Zaporozhskaya Nuclear Power Plant. Several other topics of mutual international interest were also discussed.

Mar. 13: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2032698241238659437)

On March 13, FM Sergey #Lavrov held a meeting with @rafaelmgrossi.

Particular attention was paid to the attacks by the US & Israel on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, as well as to issues related to ensuring the security of the Zaporozhskaya NPP.

Mar. 14: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2032913082406822104)

Muscovites bring flowers to the Embassy of Iran in Russia, expressing deep condolences to the victims of unprovoked aggression by the US & Israel, including the children of the destroyed school in Minab, and in regards to the assassination of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Mar. 16: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260316_11875580.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump said he is currently in talks with seven countries to form a coalition to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz and will announce it as early as this week. "Hopefully, China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK, and others that are affected by this artificial constraint, will send ships to the area so that the Hormuz Strait will no longer be a threat by a nation," he wrote on his social media. What is China's comment? Is there a request from the U.S.?

A: The recent tense situation in the Strait of Hormuz and waters nearby has impacted the route for international goods and energy trade, disrupting peace and stability in the region and beyond. China once again calls on parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from further impacting the global economy.

Mar. 16: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260318_11876692.html)

On March 15, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Jarrah stated that Kuwait stands as a non-belligerent party and remains steadfastly committed to the pacific settlement of disputes. He urged Iran to immediately cease its attacks against Kuwait and other Gulf neighbors, ensure the safety and unimpeded passage of international shipping lanes, and avert further shocks to the global energy supply. The Kuwaiti side highly appreciates the just position upheld by China and its peace-promoting endeavors. Kuwait welcomes the shuttle diplomacy conducted by the Chinese Special Envoy in the region and stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Zhai Jun remarked that the prevailing regional turbulence, which has inflicted profound suffering upon Kuwait and other Gulf countries, is a scenario China is loath to witness. The military strikes launched by the United States and Israel against Iran, absent authorization from the United Nations Security Council, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and are resolutely opposed by China. Concurrently, China condemns all acts of indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians and non-military targets. It is China's position that the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of the Gulf Cooperation Council states must be fully respected, energy and economic infrastructures should be spared from attacks, and the safety of navigation routes must remain inviolable. Achieving an immediate ceasefire and halting hostilities is a matter of paramount urgency. The international community must urge the parties involved to cease military operations forthwith to prevent a further deterioration of the tense situation. China commends Kuwait for its attitude of restraint and its calm response, and stands ready to work in concert with

Kuwait to play a constructive role in de-escalating the situation.

Mar. 16: Chinese Special Envoy Zhai Jun phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/gjhdq_665435/2675_665437/2873_663736/2875_663740/202603/t20260318_11876699.html) with Qatari Minister Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi

Khulaifi stated that the ongoing crisis has inflicted grave losses upon Qatar and has exerted a profound and deleterious impact on international energy supplies and global economic development, serving the interests of no party whatsoever. The international community must take action to promote the de-escalation of regional tensions. The Qatari side commended the just stance upheld by China and expressed readiness to maintain close coordination with the Chinese side to encourage the relevant parties to return at an early date to the right path of resolving differences through dialogue and negotiation.

Zhai Jun remarked that the Chinese side fully understands the Qatari position regarding the current situation. Achieving a ceasefire and resolving issues through dialogue and negotiation represents a universal consensus within the international community; the critical imperative lies in translating this consensus into action. All responsible nations should exert their respective influences to prevent the escalation of tensions and avert a deterioration of the situation to a point of irreparability. The Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the significant and long-standing mediatory role played by Qatar in international and regional affairs. China stands ready to work in concert with Qatar to leverage respective influence and make concerted efforts to promote a ceasefire, de-escalate the situation, and restore peace and tranquility at the earliest possible date.

Mar. 16: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov address (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086062/) to Moscow Non-Proliferation Conference [excerpt]

Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome the participants of the Moscow Non-Proliferation Conference.

This year, your discussions take place against the backdrop of acute military-political crises in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. The fate of the nuclear non-proliferation regime is a matter of serious concern. During the armed aggression by Israel and the United States that began on February 28, not only Iran's political and military leadership, but also civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, were targeted, resulting in numerous casualties, including children. Nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards were also targeted.

Mar. 16: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086474/) to press [excerpts]

I have held substantive and beneficial talks with my Kenyan counterpart Musalia Mudavadi. We emphasised our commitment to further strengthening the traditions of friendship, mutual understanding and mutual support that date back to the period of decolonisation. We shared our assessments of the state of affairs in the Middle East in connection with the armed aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran, and the deep crisis besetting Palestine. There is no sign of improvement in sight. We plan to draw the attention of the UN Security Council to this matter. We also stressed the importance of an immediate cessation of any actions in the confrontation between the United States and Israel against Iran that harm civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Q: Moscow is ready and willing to act as a mediator to achieve peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Middle East. What risks to global security could hostilities in this region pose if they are not halted? How might they affect the stability of global energy markets?

A: Do I understand correctly that by the conflict in the Middle East you mean the situation surrounding Iran in the Persian Gulf?

Let me comment on it straight away. Previously, when people spoke of the Middle East, they primarily meant the Palestinian issue, the creation of a Palestinian state in accordance with UN resolutions, which has been openly sabotaged for decades. Recently, it has even been openly stated that no Palestinian state will ever be created. Now that the aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran is underway, everyone is talking about a crisis or conflict in the Middle East, but Palestine is no longer what they have in mind. It has been conveniently forgotten.

We believe it would be a major blow to the credibility of the international community, primarily the United Nations. Everyone, above all the countries of the region, the Arab states, must recognise their responsibility. We are ready to actively support an approach where the UN is responsible for its decisions.

Our position regarding the situation surrounding Iran is well known. We have set it out in several statements. We will continue to express our assessments of ongoing developments. The unprovoked aggression, which could not go unanswered, is what matters most in this regard.

The plotters of the strikes on the Islamic Republic of Iran (as was the case in June 2025, the strikes were launched during talks) assumed they would achieve their objective of making that country completely subservient to them within 24 or even fewer hours. They now know how mistaken they were.

Of course, Iran is defending itself. It is responding to aggression by striking military infrastructure in the region that belongs to the countries that attacked it. Unfortunately, the GCC countries are also affected as a result.

We call for an end to hostilities and for a return to the negotiating table, if talks have any credibility left.

Secondly, as an urgent and immediate step, everything must be done to ensure that all parties to this crisis cease actions that damage civilian infrastructure and cause civilian casualties both in the Gulf Arab states and in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These are absolutely urgent matters. I hope we will work together with other sensible states to promote this approach in the international arena.

I'd be hard pressed to say anything definitive about the prospects of this conflict. Recently, US President Donald Trump stated that Iran had been defeated. On the same day, a representative of the Israel Defence Forces said: "We have thousands of targets ahead. We are ready, with plans through at least the Jewish holiday of Passover, about three weeks from now."

So, it's hard to tell what this crisis may end with if the sides don't stop it immediately, do not come to their senses, and do not start working on agreements that, this time, will not be thwarted by anyone.

There's need for guarantees. I fully understand that Iran needs them.

Everyone is talking about the Strait of Hormuz. The President of France, Emmanuel Macron, said he had called the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, demanding that freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz be ensured.

For some reason, no one is concerned about freedom of navigation in the Mediterranean or the Baltic Sea, where unlawful seizures of tankers have become more frequent. In the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, Ukrainian terrorists have attacked tankers. One of them—Arctic Metagas—has almost sunk and is drifting in the Mediterranean. Recently, a Greek tanker came under attack in the Black Sea. The TurkStream and Blue Stream gas pipeline infrastructure has been targeted as well.

All of the above goes hand in hand with the crisis surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and threats by the Ansar Allah movement to block the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. Those engaging in terrorist attacks on energy infrastructure and tankers transporting hydrocarbons are seeking to draw attention to themselves.

As you can see, I began with the situation surrounding Iran, but the consequences are much more ramified. They are no longer regional, but global.

To reiterate, together with our like-minded partners, we will advocate for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for a political settlement. As President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly made clear, we are ready to play a mediating role in this political process, if anyone needs us to play this role.

We believe we are capable of doing it. However, when our US colleagues say their main objective is to take possession of all enriched uranium (over 400 kilogrammes, regardless of enrichment level), then this is no longer about readiness for talks or willingness to make use of Russia's good offices, as was the case in 2015 when the agreement on Iran's nuclear programme was concluded and approved by the UN Security Council.

It turns out the United States is simply after appropriating this energy resource, just as it is seeking to take control of hydrocarbon resources in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Persian Gulf, and elsewhere around the world.

Mar. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2033818646221615176)

FM #Lavrov:

Those who launched strikes on Iran believed it would be subdued within 24 hours.

They now know how seriously they were mistaken.

We call to end the hostilities & return to the negotiating table, if talks have any credibility left.

Mar. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086484/)

Through their treacherous and unprovoked attack on Iran, the United States and Israel have unleashed an unprecedented spiral of violence in the Middle East, with no end in sight. The toll of victims of the American-Israeli aggression runs into the hundreds and thousands, with irreparable damage inflicted upon civilian infrastructure. Neighbouring countries are also suffering from retaliatory Iranian strikes, while shipping along the vital global economic route through the Strait of Hormuz has been paralysed. Once a stable and prosperous region, the Persian Gulf is rapidly descending into a maelstrom of chaos and uncertainty. The economic repercussions of the reckless venture initiated by Washington and Tel Aviv are being felt ever more acutely far beyond the conflict zone—indeed, on a global scale.

Meanwhile, instead of seeking paths to de-escalation and a return to negotiations, there is a further intensification of mutual hostility, with increasingly lethal and destructive strikes being carried out.

We reiterate our resolute call to all parties for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a shift of the situation onto a political and diplomatic track. Above all, attacks on civilian facilities and infrastructure must cease, and the death and suffering of innocent populations—both in the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and in Iran—must be halted.

As before, the Russian Federation stands ready, within the scope of its available capabilities, to contribute to a long-term and sustainable resolution of the conflict.

Mar. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia)

Through their treacherous and unprovoked attack on Iran, the US and Israel have unleashed an unprecedented spiral of violence in the Middle East.

We reiterate our resolute call to all parties for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Mar. 17: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260317_11876423.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: It's reported that Trump said he could delay his visit to China if China doesn't assist with the Strait of Hormuz. What's China's response?

A: We noted that the U.S. has publicly made clarifications on the misguided media reports, calling them completely "false." The U.S. side stressed that the visit is not linked to the issue over the Strait of Hormuz...

Q: The UNHCR recently declared the ongoing crisis in the Middle East a major humanitarian emergency. The affected regions already host 25 million people as refugees, a large number of civilians are killed or injured in Iran, nearly 800,000 people are displaced in Lebanon, and countries such as Jordan and Iraq are affected. Does China consider providing relevant countries with humanitarian assistance?

A: China stays committed to the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, internationalism and a humanitarian spirit. The ongoing conflict inflicted an excruciating humanitarian disaster on people and countries in the region, including Iran. China deeply sympathizes with people in relevant countries and our hearts go out to them.

China has announced the decision to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. We hope this will help ease the difficult humanitarian situation facing the people there. China will continue striving for a ceasefire, an early return of peace and stability to the region, and a stop to the spread of humanitarian crisis.

Mar. 17: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2033860164022141078)

We take note of the U.S. clarification about certain media reports. The U.S. side has made clear that those reports are completely "false" and that President Trump's visit to China is not linked to the issue over the Strait of Hormuz.

The two sides remain in communication on President Trump's visit to China, including the dates.

Mar. 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2033920837909418476)

China has announced the decision to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq. We hope this

will help ease the difficult humanitarian situation facing the people there.

China will continue striving for a ceasefire, an early return of peace and stability to the region, and a stop to the spread of humanitarian crisis.

Mar. 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2033921608394674573)

The recent tense situation in the Strait of Hormuz and waters nearby has impacted the route for international goods and energy trade, disrupting peace and stability in the region and beyond.

China once again calls on parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from further impacting the global economy.

Mar. 18: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260319_11877734.html)

On March 17, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS) Ahmed Aboul Gheit in Cairo.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit stated that the LAS is deeply concerned about the drastic changes in the Middle East situation and the rapid escalation of regional crises. Iran should actively respond to the international community's call by ceasing its attacks on Gulf Arab states, ensuring the safety and smooth flow of the Strait of Hormuz, and avoiding disruption to international trade and regional oil exports. The LAS appreciates China's position of promoting peace talks, and hopes that China will continue to exert its positive influence and role, and to take creative measures to promote an immediate ceasefire by all parties concerned and a return to the correct track of dialogue and negotiation.

Zhai Jun stated that China deeply sympathizes with the involvement of multiple Arab countries in the conflict and the civilian casualties caused. China supports the legitimate demands of Arab countries to safeguard their own security and defend their lawful rights. The most pressing task now is to cease hostilities and halt the conflict. All responsible countries in the international community should urge the parties concerned to immediately cease military operations. The LAS has long been committed to maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East, and plays an important role in regional and international affairs. China is willing to work with the LAS to actively engage with all parties involved, and to make unremitting efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Mar. 18: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/gjhdq_665435/2913_665441/2813_663616/2815_663620/202603/t20260319_11877735.html) on meeting with Egypt

On March 17, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty in Cairo.

Badr Abdelatty stated that the current escalation of tensions in the region has brought severe consequences, which are not in the interests of any party. Iran must cease its attacks on Arab countries. The ongoing conflict should not divert the international community's attention from the Palestinian question. The relevant Gaza ceasefire agreement as well as post-conflict governance and reconstruction arrangements should be implemented effectively and practically. Egypt and China share a high degree of consensus on regional issues. Egypt is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China, and work together to promote the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Zhai Jun stated that the further spread of the flames of war will cause greater losses, and will impact regional economic development and global energy security. The most pressing task now is to immediately cease hostilities and return to the correct track of resolving disputes through diplomatic means. The Palestinian question is at the core of the Middle East issue, bearing on the peace, stability and long-term security of the Middle East region. It must not be overlooked or forgotten again. Post-conflict arrangements in Gaza should be aligned with the implementation of the two-State solution. China is willing to work hand in hand with Egypt to play a constructive role in promoting the early de-escalation of tensions in the region.

Mar. 18: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2034255358747914294)

Continuing his efforts to mediate and de-escalate tensions, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East

Issue met with the foreign ministers of #Bahrain, #Kuwait and #Egypt, as well as the Secretary-General of the #ArabLeague. He also held a phone conversation with the FM of #Qatar.

Mar. 18: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260319_11877548.html) with Emirati envoy

On March 18, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi held talks with Special Envoy of UAE President to China Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak in Beijing.

Wang Yi conveyed warm greetings from President Xi Jinping to President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, stating that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-UAE relations have achieved substantial progress. Amid the accelerating evolution of profound changes unseen in a century and an international landscape marked by turbulence and disorder, the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East are a cause for concern. In this context, the strategic significance of China-UAE relations has become even more prominent. It is all the more important for both sides to maintain timely strategic communication and enhance strategic mutual trust, which will contribute to realizing peace and stability in the Middle East at an early date. China stands ready to work with the UAE to strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen the alignment of development strategies, and promote the China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership to a higher level.

Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak conveyed sincere greetings from President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to President Xi Jinping, stating that UAE-China relations are at an unprecedented high level. The UAE views China as a true friend it can rely on and trust, and expresses full confidence in China's future development. The UAE stands ready to strengthen high-level exchanges with China, deepen cooperation in fields such as education, culture, energy, and the economy, and advance the "century-long vision" for the development of bilateral relations.

Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak briefed on the latest developments in the Middle East situation. Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, expressing gratitude for the UAE's efforts to safeguard the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions. He emphasized that this war should never have happened and there is no need for it to continue; greater casualties and losses must be avoided. China firmly supports the UAE in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, condemns attacks targeting civilians and civilian facilities, and will continue to mediate a ceasefire and an end to hostilities, so as to restore peace and stability to the Middle East at an early date.

Mar. 18: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2034249431181390196)

Wang Yi, Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, held talks with Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, Presidential Special Envoy of the UAE to China, in Beijing.

This is a war that should not have happened, and there is even less justification for it to drag on. Further casualties and losses must be avoided.

#China firmly supports the #UAE in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, and condemns attacks against civilians and civilian facilities. China will continue to actively engage in mediation for a ceasefire, striving to restore peace and stability to the Middle East at an early date.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086801/)

Over the past few days, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas and the leaders of several West European countries have tried to create the impression that they have no relation to the current developments in the Middle East, that it is not their war.

We categorically reject this approach. It is yet another blatant twisting of facts and an attempt to avoid responsibility for the escalation in the region. It is well known that West European authorities have pursued a colonial policy in the region for decades, cloaking their intentions in demagoguery and outright lies.

It was European governments that prevented the search for diplomatic solutions before the US and Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They added fuel to the fire, juggled with legal aspects allegedly for relaunching the snapback mechanism, and fuelled tensions. And now they pretend that it is not their headache. It won't work.

The following are some of the illustrative examples of their actions and statements.

On August 28, 2025, the foreign ministers of Britain, Germany and France appealed to the UN Secretary General and the President of the UN Security Council over the alleged non-performance of Iran's commitments under the JCPOA. They formulated their letter as a notification in accordance with paragraph 11 of Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), which invokes the process of reinstatement of UN sanctions known as the "snapback" mechanism. However, European countries had no legal or procedural grounds for launching the snapback mechanism, including because they themselves regularly violated the JCPOA.

Britain, Germany and France repeatedly submitted anti-Iran resolutions to the IAEA Board of Governors (June 2020, June 2022, November 2022, June 2024, November 2024, June 2025, and November 2025). The resolution that was adopted in June 2025 provided a political cover for the first US-Israeli aggression against Iran, and the November 2025 resolution wiped out the Cairo agreements on the re-introduction of IAEA safeguards in Iran after the US and Israeli strikes in June 2025.

If we dig a little deeper, we will see that the deliberate creation of an enemy image of Iran was the core policy of the European leaders.

December 7, 2016, UK Prime Minister Theresa May: "I am clear-eyed about the threat that Iran poses to the Gulf and the wider Middle East."

January 10, 2020, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian: "Iran could have nuclear weapons in one to two years."

January 21, 2022, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock: "Iran is increasing the nuclear spiral of escalation."

April 15, 2024, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak: "Iran's nuclear programme…threatens international peace and security."

October 2, 2024, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz: "Iran risks setting the entire region on fire—this must be prevented at all costs."

January 6, 2025, President of France Emmanuel Macron: Iran is the "main strategic and security challenge" for Europe in the Middle East. Iran's nuclear programme is fast approaching a "point of no return."

All this has been said contrary to facts and common sense, which is why the European ruling elite is in the same boat with the aggressors.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086785/) with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

Key elements of the bilateral agenda were examined, emphasising the necessity for establishing conditions to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of strategic Russian-Turkish energy projects. In particular, given the Kiev regime's persistent attempts to compromise the infrastructure of the Blue Stream and TurkStream gas pipelines, special attention was accorded to the unequivocal importance of ensuring comprehensive pipeline security.

Multilateral cooperation platforms, including the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, were deliberated upon. Sergey Lavrov underscored the imperative of a measured and objective approach when discussing various matters and aspects of collaboration within this framework.

Views were exchanged regarding the situation concerning Iran. Russia's principled stance was outlined, advocating the urgent de-escalation of the crisis provoked by strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran by Israel and the United States, as well as the prioritisation of non-forceful political and diplomatic methods. The readiness of our country to facilitate settlement efforts in every possible way—including coordination with Türkiye—to reduce regional tensions, was reaffirmed.

Both parties expressed a commitment to maintaining constructive and substantive high-level bilateral contacts.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086884/)

We strongly condemn the reckless and wholly unacceptable missile strike carried out within the inner perimeter of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant just a few short metres away from an operational power unit.

We have repeatedly made it clear to Israel and the United States, which continue the aggressive military campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, that creating threats to the life and safety of the numerous Russian personnel remaining at the site was absolutely unacceptable.

Tel Aviv and Washington must stop their reckless attacks on nuclear infrastructure facilities, which create real risks of a

radiological and environmental disaster on a regional scale.

We expect the International Atomic Energy Agency, under whose safeguards the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant operates, to come up with an unequivocal condemnation of this outrageous incident. We also look forward to hearing an appropriate response from all responsible and sensible members of the international community, above all the Gulf States, which could be the first to suffer the consequences.

We call on the parties involved in the conflict to come to their senses and to make efforts towards an immediate ceasefire and de-escalation of tensions. Continued hostilities are fraught with unprecedented ramifications for all of the Middle East, including in the nuclear sphere.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2034291235188535728)

#Zakharova: Russia strongly condemns the absolutely unacceptable missile strike on the inner perimeter of the Bushehr NPP.

The US & Israel must abandon reckless attacks on Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

We expect a clear & unequivocal condemnation from @iaeaorg.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2034253493427453980)

#Zakharova: On March 12, an @MchsRussia Il-76 delivered the first batch of requested humanitarian aid—over 13 tonnes of medical supplies—to Lankaran Airport in Azerbaijan, near the Iranian border.

We will continue supporting the friendly people of Iran.

#RussiaHelps

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2034245936143319077)

#Zakharova: The escalation in the Persian Gulf

- Causes turbulence in the oil & gas markets.
- Irreparably damages agricultural production.
- May result in a major environmental disaster in the region & beyond.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2034321434919723256)

#Zakharova: We are deeply concerned that Israeli strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon are causing civilian casualties & damage to civilian infrastructure.

We call for a swift return to a political & diplomatic settlement.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086905/#6)

TOPIC: The impact of the Middle East conflict on global energy and food markets and the environment

We now move on to the situation in the Middle East. We comment on developments there on a regular basis, indeed daily, through operational updates, responses to media questions, and official statements by the Foreign Ministry. The situation is also assessed in detail in public remarks by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Today, I would like to focus on key aspects relating to food and energy markets, as well as the environment, drawing on concrete data.

The escalation of the situation, or rather, the tragedy unfolding in the Persian Gulf, has additional negative dimensions.

First, this is the world's largest oil and gas producing region. Middle Eastern states are among the key producers and suppliers of energy resources. According to the International Energy Agency, Persian Gulf countries account for approximately one-third of global oil supplies and 40 percent of natural gas. At the same time, around one-fifth of all global oil exports and more than 30 percent of liquefied natural gas pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Such a concentration of resources and supply routes makes the global market highly vulnerable to destabilisation in the region, posing a direct threat to global energy security. This is something Western "analysts" have long warned about, and now it has become a reality.

The conflict in the Middle East has thrown oil and gas markets into turbulence and inflicted significant damage on the global economy. Analytical studies by leading Western investment companies indicate that consumers are currently facing a daily shortfall of 15 million barrels of crude oil and 4.5 million barrels of refined petroleum products. In addition, around 20 percent of global liquefied natural gas supplies have already been withdrawn from the market. According to available estimates, global LNG exports have declined by 219,000 tonnes per day, equivalent to roughly one-fifth of daily global methane consumption. This could result in a shortfall of approximately 80 million tonnes per year.

Experts estimate that, in the event of a 30-day supply disruption, oil prices could stabilise at around $76 per barrel by the end of the year; a two-month disruption could push prices to $93 per barrel. If the conflict continues to escalate, prices could rise to as much as $150-200 per barrel. An increase of $10 per barrel may reduce global GDP by 0.1 percent. This is now an issue affecting everyone. A rise in oil prices to $125 per barrel would inevitably lead to a recession in European economies.

In simple terms, the scale of the impact of the conflict in the Middle East on the global economy will depend on its duration and intensity.

Global energy markets reacted immediately to developments in the Middle East. Due to damage to energy infrastructure and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Brent crude prices fluctuated sharply during the first two weeks, peaking on March 9 at close to $120 per barrel. At present, prices remain firmly above $100 per barrel (as of March 17, 2026, $104.08 per barrel). Markets have always responded to instability in the Middle East. It is worth recalling that on July 4, 2008, Brent crude reached a historic high of $143,95 per barrel.

Over the first days of the hostilities, the price of April gas futures at European stock markets grew by 24.7 percent. The price remains extremely volatile to this day, ranging around $600-700 per 1,000 cubic metres.

Insurance companies have increased risk fees exponentially and introduced further emergency surcharges. The average cost of vessel chartering for Persian Gulf navigation has grown six times since February 27 and, depending on vessel type, ranges from $200,000 to $500,000 per day.

Seeking measures to prevent further destabilisation of energy markets, 32 countries of the International Energy Agency have adopted a joint decision to release 400 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves. The United States also intends to retrieve 172 million barrels of ‘black gold’ from its reserves. However, according to different estimates, this amount of newly available oil can only cover 20 to 25 days of the traffic blockage in the Strait of Hormuz.

I must mention another problem stemming from the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Since the launch of the military activity in the Middle East, food markets have reacted with surging prices on fertilisers and their components. The cost is rising due to concerns about a potential full blocking of the Strait of Hormuz as the Gulf countries are among the major fertiliser producers and exporters. Experts estimate that some 30 percent of all fertilisers and a considerable share of commodities for fertiliser production pass through this transport artery every year. This situation is further aggravated by seasonal demands and the rising price of the natural gas used in nitrogen fertiliser production. On average, agricultural chemicals have become 20 percent more expensive since the start of the year. For example, carbamide currently costs $700 per tonne in Asia, which is the highest over three and a half years.

What happened to human rights activists and their statements? Food security and rising commodity and fertiliser prices cannot be isolated from basic human needs. These are the human rights that trigger so many debates and concerns. The impression is that the only human right still available in the West is the right to change gender while the other rights have been phased out. Right now, all human rights institutions in the West must be ringing all the bells, to draw the attention of the entire international community to consequences for the poorest countries where people are dying of hunger, disease and simply struggling to even get access to clean water and some sort of nutrition. Where is everybody? Pretty much where they were when they ignored the killings of children in Donbass. But we will return to this later.

Grain prices are growing less uncontrollably at the moment, the growth remaining within 3-5%—in the wealthiest countries. And what about the poorest? Yet, because of the rising energy costs, more expensive logistics and shrinking croplands, we may expect essential food to grow in price quite soon. Experts forecast that, if the conflict persists in the same dynamic all the way to the next autumn, harvests may drop by 50 percent, potentially causing the largest spiral of global food inflation in the past years.

In the long term, some preliminary assessments show that the aggregate losses from persistently high energy prices, logistics difficulties and interrupted supplies of agrochemistry products to global markets may reach 0.5 percent to 2 percent of the global

GDP, which is equivalent to $0.5-2 trillion.

I am compelled to underscore that the aggression perpetrated by the armed forces of Israel and the United States against Iran and their assaults on energy installations are resulting in environmental pollution. Recall, incidentally, how election campaigns over the past 15–20 years have been constructed around the environmental agenda? The munitions deployed contain heavy metals such as lead, chromium, nickel, cadmium, among others, alongside other toxic substances like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen-based compounds, contaminating the soil and adversely impacting human health.

Tonnes of debris from demolished buildings and waste on Iranian soil due to the bombings will, quite evidently, constitute a severe environmental issue for decades to come. The resultant layer of explosion by-products, burning oil, destroyed military equipment and munitions, household waste, construction debris, chemicals, tyres, decomposing biomass, and sewage is set to cause an unprecedented release of additional greenhouse gases and heightened pollution of the soil, groundwater, coastal marine waters, and atmosphere not only in Iran but throughout the entire region.

Regrettably, assaults on energy infrastructure have become a routine and unremarkable feature of military conflicts. However, in Iran's case, the strikes are focusing on oil storage facilities in close proximity to the densely populated capital. This has engendered the largest environmental pollution in and around Tehran. Reports indicate that following fires in fuel storage tanks in the capital, a black rain ensued. Ordinarily, rain washes away pollution, but in this instance—on the contrary—it may exacerbate the situation. Pollutants diluted in water are considerably more toxic. Exposure can have detrimental health effects, including children. Where is UNICEF? Where are the global "defenders" of children's rights, who previously displayed avatars of "Syrian boys," accusing those unconnected with the events?

The World Health Organisation has documented a significant deterioration in the sanitary, epidemiological, and environmental conditions in the region, accompanied by an upsurge in respiratory diseases, eye and skin conditions due to the infiltration of substantial amounts of toxic substances into the soil, water, and food supplies. The situation is exacerbated by diminished access to medical care. According to WHO, since February 28 of this year, strikes have impacted 18 medical facilities in Iran, resulting in the deaths of eight healthcare workers, and 25 in Lebanon. This has severely disrupted the healthcare system. Emergency medical teams are struggling to function, there is an acute shortage of medicines and medical supplies, including life-saving ones, and the risk of infectious disease outbreaks is rising. Additional strain on the healthcare system is driven by increasing migration flows. And now, consider the suffering endured by those in the Gaza Strip. They were being exterminated. How many tens of thousands fell victim then? According to the Organisation, the aforementioned factors are creating an emergency healthcare situation, posing serious risks primarily to the most vulnerable groups.

Thus, the current situation in the Middle East, in the long term, threatens to escalate the cost of the entire production chain due to expensive energy resources and fuel shortages. It is causing irreparable damage to agricultural production as fertiliser prices soar. It poses real risks of acute shortages of agricultural products in energy-dependent countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Consequently, it may lead to the largest environmental disaster in the Persian Gulf region and beyond.

Mar. 18: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2086905/#7)

TOPIC: Humanitarian aid to Iran

Russia not only registers, analyses and makes conclusions regarding this. We reported during the previous briefing that Iran has asked for Russia's emergency assistance in the form of medicines in light of the destruction of many hospitals and ambulance stations, as well as a large number of wounded civilians, including women and children, as a result of the US-Israeli aggression. We have immediately provided this assistance to our neighbour and strategic partner.

As per the instructions of President Putin, on March 12, an Il-76 transport aircraft of the Emergencies Ministry delivered the first batch of humanitarian aid—over 13 tonnes of medicines and pharmaceuticals—to Lankaran on the Azerbaijani-Iranian border. The cargo was immediately turned over to authorised Iranian representatives and forwarded to Iran by an overland route. We would like to express our gratitude to Azerbaijan for this assistance.

We have always promptly responded to such requests from Tehran, including in April 2019 when flash flooding affected the country's north-eastern regions, in February 2023 following a destructive earthquake in the province of West Azerbaijan, in May 2024, when a search and rescue operation was conducted in the area where the helicopter of President Ebrahim Raisi crashed, and in April 2025 when we helped to put out a technogenic fire in the port of Bandar Abbas.

We will continue to provide assistance to the friendly Iranian people, who are going through a terrible ordeal.

Mar. 19: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260319_11877725.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: It's reported that Iranian Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani was killed in Israeli strikes. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and he have authorized the Israel Defense Forces to kill any Iranian official without the need for additional authorization. What's China's comment?

A: China is shocked by that remark. China is always against the use of force in international relations. The killing of Iranian leaders and attacks on civilian targets are by no means acceptable. As the conflict rages on in the Middle East and tensions continue to escalate and spill over, the international community is widely calling for an early ceasefire and end to hostilities. China calls on parties to the conflict to immediately stop military operations and prevent plunging the region into chaos…

Q: We noted that Zhai Jun, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue, recently visited Middle East countries. Could you brief us on his visits?

A: As we speak, the conflict is still raging in the Middle East and tensions continue to escalate and spill over. To help calm the situation and bring about peace, Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue Zhai Jun visited several countries in the region over the past few days. He met with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Egypt, as well as the Secretaries General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the League of Arab States, and had a phone conversation with Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar for in-depth exchanges of views on the regional situation.

During the visit, Special Envoy Zhai Jun elaborated on China's position regarding the current situation, and stressed that a ceasefire and an end to the hostilities provide the fundamental solution, and urged parties to the conflict to immediately cease military operations and prevent the situation from becoming a complete chaos. He called for dialogue and negotiation and resolving differences through political and diplomatic means. He pointed out that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be upheld, the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of GCC countries should be fully respected, non-military targets should not be attacked and the safety of shipping lanes should not be interrupted. All parties have commended China's just position and efforts in promoting peace, and looked to China to play a bigger role.

Special Envoy Zhai Jun's visit to the Middle East is part of China's intensive diplomatic mediation effort. China is a responsible major country and a sincere friend of countries in the region. To work for reconciliation and peace in the region is a cornerstone of China's Middle East policy. Our mediation effort will not cease as long as the conflict continues…

Q: This is about the Philippines. We read the news that the Philippine agriculture secretary said yesterday that China has assured the Philippines that it will not restrict fertilizer exports to the country. We also see news that Chinese ambassador in Manila has also met with the Philippine energy minister to talk about energy security. Could you share with us what was discussed? Was Manila interested in increasing its energy security through China's help? Was oil supply discussed? Would China be able to offer the same kind of reassurance about energy supply the way it did for fertilizers?

A: The situation in the Middle East dealt a heavy blow to global energy security. Relevant countries need to stop military operations at once and prevent regional turmoil from further impacting global growth. China stands ready to strengthen coordination and collaboration with Southeast Asian countries and jointly address energy security issues.

On your question about fertilizers, China is a major producer and consumer of fertilizers and a key participant in global fertilizers trade. While ensuring that domestic demand is met, China exports some of its fertilizers to international markets. For anything specific, I'd refer you to competent authorities.

Mar. 19: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China)

Zhai Jun, China's Special Envoy on the Middle East Issue, has been traveling in the Middle East to urge ceasefire and end to the hostilities. He called for dialogue and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. There should be no attacks on non-military targets or disruption to the safety of shipping lanes.

During his shuttle-diplomacy trip, Zhai Jun met with foreign minsters of #SaudiArabia, #Bahrain, #Kuwait and #Egypt, and secretary generals of the Gulf Cooperation and the League of Arab States. He also had a phone conversation with #Qatar's Minister

of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The countries commended China's position and mediation effort.

China will not cease its effort for peace as long as the conflict continues.

Mar. 19: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2034620364568011256)

China is shocked that the Israeli military is said to have been "authorized to kill any Iranian official."

China is firmly against the use of force in international relations. The killing of Iranian leaders and attacks on civilian targets are by no means acceptable.

Mar. 19: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260320_11878324.html) with UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper

On March 19, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper at the latter's request, and the two sides exchanged views focusing on the current situation in the Middle East.

Yvette Cooper briefed on the UK's perspective regarding the current Middle East situation, stating that in the face of an increasingly turbulent world, the UK hopes to maintain close communication with China to put an end to hostilities at an early date, resume diplomatic negotiations, and seek a long-term solution.

Wang Yi elaborated on China's position, noting that the current conflict in the Middle East is escalating and hostilities are expanding, which not only undermines regional peace and stability but also directly impacts international energy, finance, trade, and shipping, thereby harming the common interests of all countries. A protracted war yields no winners; a ceasefire and an end to hostilities reflect the common aspiration of the international community. China urges all parties to immediately cease military actions, resolve differences through equal dialogue, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. As permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, China and the UK bear the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. Both countries should enhance communication, consistently pursue actions conducive to peace, and jointly commit to upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations, so as to prevent further erosion of the international order and the foundations of world peace.

The two sides also exchanged views on China-UK relations and agreed that both countries should actively implement the consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, enhance exchanges, and continuously advance the long-term, stable comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the UK, so as to inject stability and certainty to a world marked by turbulence and change.

Mar. 19: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2034801505782702110)

China is always against the use of force in international relations. The killing of Iranian leaders and attacks on civilian targets are by no means acceptable.

Mar. 19: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2034803744718872717)

To work for reconciliation and peace in the region is a cornerstone of China's Middle East policy. Our mediation effort will not cease as long as the conflict continues.

Mar. 19: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2087124/)

On March 19, a missile strike by the Israeli Air Force in southern Lebanon wounded RT television crew members who were on an editorial assignment. RT reporter Steve Sweeney and cameraman Ali Rida Sbeity were wounded when a munition exploded in close proximity to the filming location. They received the necessary medical help. We wish them a speedy recovery.

The missile was used by the Israeli military against unarmed civilians, a category which, under international humanitarian law, includes members of the media. The crew's clothing bore clearly visible "press" markings; they carried nothing but cameras and microphones, and the explosive item landed on a site where there were no military targets. These circumstances indicate that the attack on the journalists was deliberate and targeted, which is also confirmed by footage captured by the cameraman showing the detonation of the munition.

We regard such actions by the Israeli side and Israeli military as a gross violation of international law, a deliberate obstruction of the work of media professionals, and an attempt on their safety and lives. We look forward to seeing these actions receive an appropriate assessment from relevant multilateral bodies, primarily the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO, as well as other human rights institutions that defend professional rights and legitimate interests of the global journalistic community. We insist on carrying out a thorough investigation of this incident by the Israeli authorities, holding the culprits accountable and preventing such accidents from happening in the future.

The Russian side will convey its assessment of the incident to the Ambassador of Israel to the Russian Federation who will be summoned to the Foreign Ministry soon.

Mar. 19: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2034727421887250437)

MFA Spox #Zakharova: On March 19, a missile strike by the Israeli Air Force in southern Lebanon wounded RT TV crew members.

The circumstances indicate: the attack was deliberate & targeted.

We insist on carrying out a thorough investigation.

Mar. 19: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2087137/)

Moscow is gravely concerned about the continued armed confrontation in the Persian Gulf and the risks of further escalation. The scale of damage to energy and other critical infrastructure in Iran and neighbouring Arab states is increasing.

We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, which are the result of unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran.

Russia, together with China, Türkiye and other like-minded partners, stands ready to facilitate a settlement of the conflict and to promote the resolution of existing differences through political and diplomatic means, with a view to achieving long-term, sustainable stabilisation in the region, taking into account the interests of all states concerned. We consistently advocate the need to create conditions for peaceful coexistence, security and good-neighbourly relations between our friendly Arab partners and Iran.

We emphasise that the first step in this direction must be the immediate abandonment by the United States and Israel of their ongoing reckless military action.

In this context, we have taken note of the considered and thoughtful article by Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al Busaidi, published in The Economist on March 18, 2026. The proposals set out in the article are broadly in line with our own views on the need to establish a security architecture in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf that ensures a balance of interests among all states in the region. We share the Omani Foreign Minister's view on the importance of launching an inclusive regional dialogue aimed at reaching agreements on confidence-building and transparency measures in the field of nuclear energy, as well as on mutual security guarantees.

For several years, the Russian Federation has been promoting an initiative to develop a concept of collective security in the Persian Gulf, aimed at establishing lasting peace and fostering cooperative relations among all coastal states. We remain ready to continue making a constructive contribution to the settlement of the conflict and the resolution of existing differences in the Middle East through political and diplomatic means, including by creating conditions for joint efforts to achieve a sustainable settlement based on a balance of the legitimate interests of all countries in the region.

Mar. 20: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2034918220143239338)

We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Persian Gulf amid risks of further escalation.

The proposals outlined by Omani FM @badralbusaidi align with our vision of a balanced security architecture in the Middle East & the Persian Gulf.

Mar. 20: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2087229/)

It is with a growing sense of concern that we are witnessing the expanding geography of the missile and bomb strikes by Israel and the United States in Iran. The US-Israeli coalition continues pouring fuel on the flames of the war they have unleashed in the Middle East, which could cause this war to spread even further.

On March 18, a bomb attack was carried out against the Iranian port of Bandar Anzali on the Caspian Sea. That major Caspian port

is an important trade and logistics hub that is actively used in Russian-Iranian trade, including for food deliveries. The strike has affected the economic interests of Russia and the other Caspian states that maintain transport communications with Iran via that port.

The regional countries and the international community have always regarded the Caspian Sea as a safe zone of peace and cooperation. The aggressors' reckless and irresponsible actions pose a threat of dragging Caspian states into an armed conflict.

We once again firmly call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and resuming efforts to achieve a political settlement of the situation in the Middle East, which is increasingly affecting neighbouring regions.

Mar. 20: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260320_11878433.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Today and tomorrow, millions of Muslims are celebrating Eid al-Fitr to mark the end of the month of Ramadan. Does the Ministry have any message for Muslim communities in countries, especially those in the Middle East, who are facing hardship due to the ongoing conflict there?

A: The Middle East conflict continues to escalate and expand. It has not only dealt a blow to regional peace and stability, but also had a direct impact on energy, finance, trade and shipping worldwide. It undermines countries' shared interests. History and reality have shown us time and again that the use of force is not a solution and armed conflicts will only create new hatred. Parties to the conflict need to cease military operations as soon as possible and prevent the situation from worsening. China will continue its mediation effort for an end to the fighting and for the early return of peace and stability to the Middle East…

Q: U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said yesterday that Washington might lift sanctions on Iranian oil that has already been shipped. How does the Foreign Ministry view the current situation in the global oil market, including the potential lifting of U.S. sanctions on Iran?

A: China is always against illicit unilateral sanctions. We are gravely concerned over the ongoing tensions in the Middle East. All parties should immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the situation, and prevent regional turmoil from causing a greater impact on global economy. Energy security is of vital importance to world economy, and all parties have the responsibility to keep energy supply stable and unimpeded.

Mar. 20: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2034999572255379852)

The Middle East conflict continues to escalate and expand. History and reality have shown us time and again that the use of force is not a solution and armed conflicts will only create new hatred.

Parties to the conflict need to cease military operations as soon as possible and prevent the situation from worsening.

China will continue its mediation effort for an end to the fighting and for the early return of peace and stability to the #MiddleEast.

Mar. 20: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260322_11878757.html)

On March 20, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Ambassador of Iran to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli. The two sides exchanged views on the current tense situation in the Middle East.

Mar. 20: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2035002108186173709)

Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Ambassador of Iran to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli. The two sides exchanged views on the current tensions in the Middle East.

Mar. 20: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202603/t20260321_11878671.html) with French official

On March 20, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi had a phone call with Diplomatic Adviser to the French President Emmanuel Bonne at the latter's request to communicate on the situation in the Middle East.

Emmanuel Bonne briefed on France's views regarding the current situation in the Middle East, including in Iran and Lebanon, stating that as major countries, both France and China support the United Nations, abide by international law, and advocate

resolving differences through dialogue. The two sides should work together to de-escalate tensions, seek ways to restart negotiations, and make contributions to this end. France stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China on this issue to promote peace and stability in the Middle East at an early date.

Wang Yi elaborated on China's position, stating that the current situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate, with hostilities persisting and spilling over into wider regions, which not only undermines the stability of global energy supplies but also precipitates a severe humanitarian crisis. The use of force cannot solve problems, and unjust wars must not continue. Faced with this critical situation, China and France, as permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, should strengthen strategic communication and coordination, firmly uphold the UN Charter and international law, and prevent the world from reverting to the law of the jungle. The most urgent tasks are threefold: first, to contain the spread of conflict and prevent further involvement by other countries; second, for the international community to speak with one voice in calling for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, while intensifying efforts to encourage peace talks; and third, for the United Nations and the Security Council to play their due role in promoting the early restoration of peace and stability in the region. Despite the difficulties, the correct path out of the crisis remains dialogue and negotiation. China and France should make joint efforts to this end.

Mar. 21: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2035296834911109351)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Adviser to the French President.

The current situation in the #MiddleEast is still deteriorating, with the conflict continuing to spread. Despite the difficulties, dialogue and negotiation remain the right path out of the crisis. #China and #France should work together toward this end.

Mar. 21: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2087472/)

The US-Israeli tandem continues to carry out massive strikes against Iranian military and civilian targets, including—most alarmingly—nuclear facilities, without regard for civilian casualties or potential radiological or environmental consequences.

Notwithstanding the well-known allegations about obliteration of the Iranian nuclear programme by US air raids last June, the Natanz Nuclear Facility, which is under IAEA safeguards, was subjected to an air attack in the morning of March 21.

This constitutes a high-handed breach of international law, UN and IAEA charters, special resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the IAEA General Conference. The international community, including the UN and the IAEA, must give an unbiased and uncompromising assessment of these irresponsible actions that create risks of a catastrophe for the entire Middle East and are explicitly aimed at further undermining peace, stability, and security in the region.

Mar. 23: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2036093331831472211)

The conflict in the #MiddleEast is still spreading and spilling over. If the conflict continues to expand and the situation once again escalates, the whole region will be plunged into chaos. Force will only lead to a vicious circle.

China strongly calls on parties to the conflict to immediately stop military operations, return to dialogue and negotiation, and not continue the war that should not have happened.

Mar. 23: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260323_11879394.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday gave Iran 48 hours until 11:44 pm GMT today to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, threatening to obliterate Iranian power plants if they do not. What's the Chinese Foreign Ministry's comment on this?

A: The conflict in the Middle East is still spreading and spilling over. If the conflict continues to expand and the situation once again escalates, the whole region will be plunged into chaos. Force will only lead to a vicious circle. China strongly calls on parties to the conflict to immediately stop military operations, return to dialogue and negotiation, and not continue the war that should not have happened…

Q: Is China already in talks with Southeast Asian countries such as the Philippines, Laos and Viet Nam on fertilizer supplies? How does China plan to help them address the fertilizer shortage problems? And has China already started shipping additional fertilizers to those countries?

A: The situation in the Middle East has dealt a blow to global energy and trade security. Relevant countries should immediately stop military operations and prevent the regional turmoil from causing a greater impact on global economic growth. On the specifics that you mentioned, I'd refer you to competent authorities…

Q: China has told Iran to ensure the safety of its assets and people in Iran. So has China specifically told Iran to ensure the safe passage of its ships and oil bound to China?

A: We once again call on parties to immediately stop military operations, avoid further escalation of the tense situation and prevent regional turmoil from causing greater damage to global economic growth. We are in communication with relevant parties to work for the deescalation of the situation.

Mar. 23: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260324_11880153.html) with UK National Security Advisor Jonathan Powell

On March 23, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with UK Prime Minister's National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell in Beijing.

Wang Yi noted that Prime Minister Keir Starmer's historic and successful visit to China this past January was widely commended by various sectors in both countries and the international community. This fully demonstrates that the development of a long-term and stable comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the UK is in line with the trend of the times and the aspiration of the people. It also shows that as long as the two sides work with each other in the same direction and engage in constructive communication, they can properly address challenges and issues and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results. The two sides should implement the common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, carry out exchanges at various levels, deepen cooperation across the board, effectively manage differences, and work for the steady growth of China-UK relations.

Jonathan Powell stated that the UK stands ready to work with China to implement the outcomes of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to China, strengthen communication and cooperation, and jointly develop a long-term and stable comprehensive strategic partnership.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in Iran and the Ukraine crisis. Wang Yi briefed on China's objective and just position, noting that the spillover effects of the situation in Iran are widening, and the protraction of the conflict will only cause more damage and more severe consequences. What all parties need to do now is not to fuel the tensions, but to address the root causes and work together to bring the issue back to the track of political settlement through dialogue and negotiation.

Mar. 23: Chinese Special Envoy Zhai Jun remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260325_11881011.html) to press

On March 23, 2026, at the invitation of the China Public Diplomacy Association, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue attended a special briefing at the Linjia 7 Salon-Press Conference held at the Beijing International Club, where he engaged with Chinese and foreign media on the current Middle East situation and his recent shuttle visits.

Zhai Jun noted that the current situation in the Middle East is highly tense, with the protraction, escalation, and spillover of the conflict, drawing close attention from the international community. China believes that a ceasefire and an end to the hostilities is the most pressing task, dialogue and negotiation is the way out of conflict, and returning to the right track of abiding by international law and the basic norms of international relations is the fundamental solution. The cornerstone of China's Middle East policy is to promote reconciliation and peace in the region. As a responsible major country and a sincere friend to countries in the region, China will maintain close communication with all relevant parties and make unremitting efforts to promote regional peace and stability. China's mediation effort will not cease as long as the conflict continues. Zhai Jun also answered questions from the press on China's Middle East policy, the protection of overseas Chinese citizens, and international energy security.

Mar. 23: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2087626/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On March 23, a telephone conversation took place between Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi at the initiative of the Iranian side.

The ministers discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf, which has sharply deteriorated as a result of US and Israeli aggression.

Sergey Lavrov underscored the categorical unacceptability of strikes targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure, including the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, noting that such actions pose serious risks to the safety of Russian personnel and carry the potential for severe environmental consequences across the region. Mutual concern was raised that the conflict provoked by Washington and Tel Aviv would expand to the Caspian Sea.

The Russian side stressed the urgent need to end hostilities immediately and transit toward a political and diplomatic resolution that would take into account the legitimate interests of all parties involved, with particular emphasis on Iran. Russia intends to maintain this position at the United Nations Security Council.

For his part, Abbas Araghchi expressed his gratitude to the Russian leadership for its substantial diplomatic and other forms of support extended to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including humanitarian assistance.

Mar. 23: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2088069/) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

On March 23, [Lavrov] had a telephone conversation with [Abdelatty] at the request of the Egyptian side.

The foreign ministers discussed the unprecedented escalation of the military-political situation in the Persian Gulf as a result of the United States and Israel's aggression against Iran calling for putting an immediate end to hostilities in the region and stepping up collective political and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions. Sergey Lavrov reiterated Russia's willingness to provide comprehensive assistance in order to overcome existing differences in the Middle East by peaceful means, taking into account the interests of all regional states and avoiding any double standards.

The ministers also touched upon certain aspects of the Russian-Egyptian cooperation, including the schedule of upcoming bilateral engagements.

Mar. 24: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260324_11880206.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump said that he was postponing any strikes against Iran's power plants for five days to allow for talks. Trump said that his administration was speaking with an unidentified Iranian top official. What is China's comment on this? And what is China's position on who the U.S. should negotiate with from Iran?

A: A drawn-out conflict serves no one's interest. Ceasefire and dialogue is the only way out. China is deeply concerned about the continued escalation and spillovers, which have dealt a blow to regional and international peace and stability. We call on relevant parties to end hostilities immediately and return to the track of peace and dialogue as soon as possible.

Mar. 24: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2036418582415126565)

#Iran A drawn-out conflict serves no one's interest. Dialogue and ceasefire are the only way out. The continued escalation and spillovers in the Middle East are exerting a heavy toll on the region and the world. China calls for an immediate end to hostilities and return to peace and dialogue ASAP.

Mar. 24: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260329_11883059.html) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On March 24, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi upon request.

Seyed Abbas Araghchi briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments of the regional situation and thanked China for providing emergency humanitarian assistance. He said the Iranian people are more united than ever in resisting foreign aggression and safeguarding national sovereignty and independence. The Iranian side is committed to achieving a comprehensive cessation of war, not just a temporary ceasefire. The Strait of Hormuz is open to all, and vessels can pass safely, but countries that are at war with Iran are not under consideration. He expressed the hope that measures taken by all parties will help de-escalate the situation rather than escalate the conflict, and looked forward to China continuing to play a positive role in promoting peace and ending the war.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, stressing that all hotspot issues should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation rather than the use of force. Talking is always better than fighting. This serves the interests of Iran and its people, and echoes the common aspiration of the international community. Wang Yi expressed the hope that all parties will seize every

opportunity and window of peace to launch the peace talks process as soon as possible. China will continue to uphold an objective and fair position, oppose infringement on other countries' sovereignty, actively promote peace and cessation of war, and commit itself to regional peace and stability.

Mar. 24: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2088330/) at Gorchakov Fund board meeting [excerpts]

A brutal military aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran has been underway since late February. The situation risks destabilising global trade, global energy security, and international transport and business communications, not just the Persian Gulf area, which it has already done, and the entire Middle East, which is a developing process. We can all clearly see all of that. Iran's top leaders and civilian infrastructure, including nuclear energy facilities under IAEA safeguards, have been declared a legitimate target and are under attack. I would say the IAEA leadership is failing to respond appropriately to direct threats to

nuclear safety as a result of the aggression. Civilians are affected not only in the countries directly involved in the conflict - Iran and Israel - but in other countries in the region and the GCC countries which are Arab monarchies as well. We have excellent and long-standing partnerships with them, as we do with the Islamic Republic of Iran. We do care about to what's happening between Iran and its neighbours.

Not long ago we reminded all our colleagues of a long-standing Russian initiative, namely, a Concept for Collective Security in the Persian Gulf, providing for interaction between the six Arab monarchies and the Islamic Republic of Iran, measures to ensure military transparency, confidence-building, and other, essentially straightforward, steps that have been earlier employed across the world, which would help calm and stabilise this critically important region.

We are convinced that this is the way forward. The path of negotiations, unity, and alignment of interests, rather than the attempts to force any country (especially the Islamic Republic of Iran) into following diktat imposed from abroad, serves the interests of this vital region of the world.

A similar initiative has recently been put forward by the People's Republic of China. Our Turkish colleagues are also ready to step in and join the mediation efforts. We are in the process of discussing these matters and conveying our assessments and the evolution of our views to the Iranians and to the GCC member states. As you may recall, quite recently my colleague, Foreign Minister of Iran Abbas Araghchi spoke in favour of a collective negotiating process which means goodwill is there, and we hope it will be reciprocated.

Mar. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjb/zzjg_663340/xybfs_663590/xwlb_663592/202603/t20260327_11882247.html)

On March 25, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue had a group meeting with the diplomatic envoys of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in China.

Zhai Jun stated that the ongoing hostilities pose a severe threat to security and stability in the Middle East. China attaches great importance to the legitimate security concerns of the GCC side, understands and supports the efforts of GCC countries to safeguard their own sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity. China stands ready to continue maintaining close communication with the GCC side and to make unremitting efforts to contribute to de-escalating the situation.

The diplomatic envoys of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council in China briefed on their views regarding the current situation and expressed their hope that China will play a greater role in promoting the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Mar. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/gjhdq_665435/2913_665441/2848_663686/2850_663690/202603/t20260327_11882246.html)

On March 25, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity of Libya Abdulmajeed Maligata, at the latter's request. The two sides exchanged views on China-Libya relations and issues of mutual interest.

Mar. 25: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260325_11880943.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference [excerpts]

Q: Foreign Minister Wang Yi received a phone call from Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi yesterday, during which the latter said that Iran hopes China will continue to play a positive role in promoting ceasefire and peace talks. What's China's plan to facilitate peace talks?

A: As the reverberating spillover effects of the conflict deal a heavy blow to peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond, people in the region and the international community all hope and call for an immediate ceasefire and end of hostilities. During his phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi yesterday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed that it is China's principled position that all regional hotspot issues should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, not by force. Negotiating is always better than fighting. It is hoped that relevant parties will seize every opportunity and window for peace and start the peace talks as soon as possible.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has been working tirelessly for peace. Our diplomatic mediation efforts will not stop as long as the conflict continues. China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting ceasefire and ending hostilities. Working together with regional countries and the international community, we will contribute our part to restoring peace and tranquility in the Gulf region at an early date.

Q: According to U.S. media, President Donald Trump reportedly sent a peace plan to Iran as he voiced optimism at ending nearly a month of war. Tehran has also announced that it will let non-hostile oil vessels go through the Strait of Hormuz. What is China's response to these latest developments?

A: We are gravely concerned over the ongoing tensions in the Middle East and the impact on regional and global peace and stability. The pressing priority now is to stop fighting. The way out is through dialogue and negotiation. China supports all efforts conducive to easing tensions, deescalating the situation and restoring dialogue.

Q: Is the Foreign Ministry able to confirm that any Chinese ships have successfully passed through the Strait of Hormuz after yesterday's announcement that non-hostile vessels will be allowed to pass?

A: Maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and keeping shipping routes safe serves the common interests of the international community. China has all along been in communication with relevant parties to work for the deescalation of the situation. The pressing priority is for the parties concerned to step up to their responsibilities and immediately stop military operations to avoid further deterioration and escalation of the situation and prevent the turmoil from causing a greater impact on global economy…

Q: Is the Foreign Ministry able to update us on last week's statement that China is willing to "cooperate" with countries struggling with energy shortages in the region? Have any initiatives started already? How does China think it can best assist Southeast Asia at this time, with several countries having to resort to shortened work weeks to deal with the shortage?

A: The situation in the Middle East has dealt a blow to global energy security, industrial and supply chains and international trade order. Relevant countries should immediately stop military operations and prevent the regional turmoil from causing a greater impact on global economic growth. China stands ready to strengthen coordination and collaboration with the international community and jointly address energy security issues.

Mar. 25: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2036784592062153128)

FM Wang Yi stressed in his phone call yesterday with Iranian FM Araghchi @araghchi:

All regional hotspot issues should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, not by force. Negotiating is always better than fighting. Hope parties will seize every opportunity and window for peace and start the peace talks ASAP. #Iran

Mar. 25: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260329_11883060.html) with Egyptian Foreign MinisterBadr Abdelatty

On March 25, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Abdelatty] upon request.

Badr Abdelatty presented his views on the regional situation, stating that Egypt is deeply concerned about the current developments, particularly that attacks on energy and power facilities could plunge the entire region into chaos. To help de-escalate tensions, Egypt is communicating with all parties and actively promoting negotiations. As a comprehensive strategic partner of China, Egypt is willing to maintain close coordination with China, jointly strengthen diplomatic efforts, and prevent the region and the world from falling into instability.

Wang Yi stated that both China and Egypt are responsible major countries, opposing military actions without the authorization of the UN Security Council, attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, and the involvement of Gulf states. The situation in the Middle East is evolving rapidly, with both the United States and Iran sending signals for negotiations, offering a glimmer of hope for peace. Continued fighting will only bring more casualties and unnecessary losses, further spilling over the entire region. The international community should actively push the conflicting parties to start dialogue—so long as talks begin, there is hope for peace. Actions by the Security Council should help de-escalate tensions and promote dialogue, prevent the conflict from expanding, and not serve as a green light for the use of force. China supports Egypt's continued mediation efforts to restore peace talks and stop the war, and China is also willing to continue making constructive contributions toward this end.

Mar. 25: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260326_11881528.html) with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

On March 25, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Fidan] upon request.

Wang Yi stated that the rights and wrongs of the Middle East conflict are clear, and the international community should uphold an objective and impartial stance. The conflict is rapidly spilling over, spreading across the entire region. The top priority is to actively promote peace talks and seize the opportunity for peace to help bring the fighting to an end. China supports regional countries in remaining calm, responding rationally to the current crisis based on their long-term and fundamental interests, and resolving differences through dialogue. China supports Türkiye's constructive role in promoting the resumption of negotiations.

Hakan Fidan stated that Türkiye and China share a highly aligned stance on the current Middle East situation, both opposing military attacks launched without the authorization of the UN Security Council and the further spillover of hostilities. China has consistently been committed to safeguarding regional and global peace, and Türkiye believes China will continue to play an important role. Türkiye is willing to work with China to promote a ceasefire and bring the world back onto the path of peace and development.

The two sides also exchanged views on other regional issues.

Mar. 25: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2088723/) [excerpts]

TOPIC: Media inquiries regarding the situation in the Middle East

We receive a large number of questions regarding the conflict in the Persian Gulf and respond to them regularly. We received general inquiries from Kommersant, Izvestia, Lenta.ru, China Media Corporation, Al-Mayadeen, and Posolskaya Zhizn regarding the evolution of the situation in the Middle East, various speculations surrounding the US-Iranian negotiation process, as mentioned, the risks of further escalation of conflicts, and possible mediation efforts to establish peace in the region. We have prepared a comprehensive response.

As a reminder, the new round of US-Israeli aggression against Iran began precisely against the backdrop of negotiations between Washington and Tehran to resolve the situation surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme. Tehran carried out its part of the work in good faith. But, as it turned out, Washington used the negotiations as a cover. The very fact that diplomatic negotiations were used to conceal preparations for war amounts to a brazen discrediting of diplomacy.

It is now clear that the conflict is not developing as originally planned. It is possible that the latest round of calls for negotiations is aimed at creating more "favourable" conditions for regrouping forces and adjusting military plans.

Our fundamental position has not changed. We believe that negotiations are the only reasonable way out of the grave crisis into which the American-Israeli tandem has plunged the Middle East, and indeed the entire world. This crisis, unfortunately, has a tendency to spread geographically and escalate, potentially leading to nuclear catastrophe.

Russia consistently advocates for a swift end to the violence and the start of dialogue aimed at a long-term and sustainable settlement. We remain committed to facilitating this.

Regarding the future of Iran's stockpiled nuclear materials, neither the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA sets any limits on how much nuclear material non-nuclear-weapon states may possess or produce, or on how they enrich it—provided such nuclear activities remain under IAEA oversight. These are therefore purely voluntary measures on Tehran's part, which in no way call into question Iran's legitimate rights under the NPT. How to exercise those rights is entirely a matter for Iran.

TOPIC: Strikes targeting cultural heritage and historical sites in Iran

There is one more aspect to the Persian Gulf crisis. We regularly release Foreign Ministry statements on this account and promptly address media questions. We post our answers on the ministerial website and social media accounts. Our representatives, ambassadors, and permanent representatives to international organisations issue statements and provide assessments of all aspects of the crisis that is unfolding before our eyes and is, unfortunately, expanding. I will not go over these points again. However, I would like to elaborate on one particular aspect.

During the US and Israeli strikes on Iran in March 2026, a number of sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, such as the Golestan Palace in Tehran, the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, the Chehel Sotoun Palace, as well as components of the Naqshe Jahan Square (the square itself and the Ali Qapu Palace) have been damaged to varying degrees.

On March 2, 2026, an official statement condemning the destruction in Iran was posted on the UNESCO website. The initiators or participants in the conflict were not mentioned, though. The statement included notable calls on all parties to comply with the 1972 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

On March 11, 2026, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Lazare Eloundou Assomo and the UNESCO's Press Officer (Heritage, Culture in Emergencies, Priority Africa) Moez Ajivanu, spoke out against damage to cultural heritage across the Middle East in general and Iran in particular.

The US-Israeli aggression against Iran has led to numerous casualties and immense suffering. Children are dying, and the healthcare system has come under considerable strain. Thousands of people have been left homeless. The region faces the threat of a genuine environmental disaster. Yet, amid these horrific tragedies, we must not forget the very real danger of the destruction of a shared global asset - our common civilisational cultural heritage which is what shapes us as a modern civilisation in all its cultural and historical diversity and serves as the material embodiment of human history.

On December 29, 1947, speaking at the opening of an exhibition of paintings by Nicholas Roerich, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru noted among the achievements of the outstanding Russian artist and philosopher that he had attempted, even before the outbreak of World War II, to initiate a multilateral pact on the protection of cultural property. However, as Nehru acknowledged, the tragedy - he described the destruction of cultural monuments in precisely these terms - is that such agreements are quickly forgotten during wars. Today, we have subject matter conventions and other multilateral instruments. However, as events in Iran demonstrate the threat of permanently losing unique masterpieces of the past - which, I repeat, belong to all humanity - has not disappeared.

Due to the ongoing conflict in the Gulf region, there is a risk of the destruction of ancient monuments passed down to us from previous generations. It is our duty to preserve them for future generations, so that they may have the opportunity to engage with their heritage, study it, and draw inspiration from it, so that no one would ever dare to tell them that their cultures, civilisations, and histories "never existed." They did exist. And it is our shared responsibility to ensure their preservation.

For our part, we will closely monitor the consideration of the situation concerning cultural and historical sites in Iran on relevant international platforms.

Let me emphasise once again, especially for those who might say, "People get killed there, and you are talking about monuments." We issue corresponding statements every day, including today. We speak first and foremost about the tragedy, the deaths of children, women, and civilians as a result of cynical killings and unprovoked aggression. The absolute priority of our information and foreign policy work is to use every possible means to stop this horrific bloodshed. However, it is important to see all aspects of this tragedy in order to demonstrate the full extent of the absurdity and unacceptability of ongoing events.

Mar. 25: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2088741/)

Despite US President Donald Trump's assurances—unsupported by any evidence—that he had ordered a five-day pause in attacks on Iran's energy infrastructure on March 23, a new and highly dangerous air strike was carried out on March 24 in the immediate vicinity of operating Unit 1 of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant.

We are deeply outraged by this reckless and irresponsible manifestation of a destructive course. It appears that the aggressors are deliberately seeking to trigger a large-scale nuclear disaster in the region in order to conceal and justify their criminal actions,

which have already resulted in numerous civilian casualties in Iran.

Washington and West Jerusalem should be under no illusion: any strike on the Bushehr NPP would inevitably lead to irreversible humanitarian and environmental consequences. Only by sheer luck has tragedy been averted so far. However, air strikes are being carried out ever closer to the operating reactor unit. The lives of the NPP's personnel, including Russian specialists, are under constant threat. This is categorically unacceptable to us.

We demand that those who have launched this reckless, irresponsible and unprovoked attack on Iran return to reason and cease their unprovoked aggression, including strikes against Iran's nuclear energy infrastructure covered by the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, as well as facilities located in its immediate vicinity.

We expect a clear and unequivocal position and decisive action from the IAEA, the United Nations and their leadership to prevent any further such attacks.

Mar. 26: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov interview (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089000/) with French public television [excerpts]

QUESTION (retranslated from French): Before we discuss the state of affairs in Ukraine, let us take a look at the developments in the Middle East. The United States and Israel launched a military operation against Iran 20 days ago. You have firmly stood by the Islamic Republic of Iran which is your ally. Why are you doing this?

A: Our primary focus was on upholding the international law, not so much on defending Iran which is more than our ally but is our strategic partner, as set out in the relevant intergovernmental agreement. I do not think that the French, who have historically declared their commitment to international law, fail to see what is happening. In fact, there's no need to see it, because we are witnessing it daily in real time.

We can't really go along with US President Donald Trump saying he doesn't need international law and is guided by his own morality and his own mind. Russia has repeatedly tried to get a message across to the Americans about the advantages of establishing a dialogue to address issues in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East at large. Each time the United States and its allies intervene, the situation there gets worse. Iraq, Syria, and Libya have been destroyed (it's unclear when Libya will be pieced together).

The same is now happening with the Islamic Republic of Iran. For the second time in a row, the aggression against this country has begun at the height of negotiations. Everyone is talking about this. This inevitably raises questions regarding the US negotiators who ran the point on this political and diplomatic process. When senior members of the US administration speak with bravado and pride about the cold-blooded killing of Iran's Supreme Leader and other members of the country's leadership, one can hardly see this as anything other than cynical behaviour.

We advocate ensuring the interests of Iran and all countries in the region, including our close strategic partners from the Gulf Cooperation Council, who are also affected by the aggression unleashed by the United States and Israel. More recently, our Arab friends have been saying two wars were underway. One is the war waged by the United States and Israel against Iran, in which they are not involved in any way. The second is what they describe as Iran's unprovoked attacks on various sites in the Arab monarchies of the Gulf. I find it difficult to accept this logic, because the underlying cause - the US-Israeli aggression - holds the key to settlement. It is no coincidence that yesterday, on March 25, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called first and foremost on the United States and Israel to stop the war, and only then expressed hope that Iran would refrain from attacking facilities in the Arab states.

QUESTION (retranslated from French): I have heard those remarks. However, US intelligence claims you are helping the Iranians identify US bases as targets. Is that true? How far will Russia go in supporting Iran? Is your country supplying weapons to Iran? Do you confirm armaments transfers?

A: You are a remarkably capable journalist, because your first question was whether it's true that we are helping Iran, and then, without waiting for me to answer your question, you went ahead and asked me how far this support would go.

President Vladimir Putin and his Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov have commented on the issue of Russia supplying intelligence to Iran which media is blowing out of proportion. They stated that Russia indeed has close relations with Iran. We have an agreement on military-technical cooperation. We have supplied certain types of military equipment to Iran, but we cannot agree with accusations that we are providing Iran with intelligence.

You mentioned intelligence regarding the location of US military bases. Everyone in the region knows their coordinates. This is not classified information. This information is readily available. I am not surprised to see Iran target them.

We have noted that when it became clear that war preparations were underway, our GCC partners strongly urged the United States not to start this reckless venture once again. They made it clear that they would not provide their airspace or allow US military bases on their territory to be used for attacking Iran. However, anyone with even cursory knowledge of war making understands that the US bases in the region were used for gathering and transmitting intelligence, including satellite data. The fact that these bases are coming under occasional attacks stems from the reckless venture that had been launched without any rationale. The Americans have evacuated most of their personnel from these bases for a reason. This also goes to show that they knew what was about to unfold. By launching this aggression, they have set up their Arab allies.

QUESTION (retranslated from French): Mr Minister, from an economic viewpoint, is this war beneficial for Russia? Are you now able to sell more oil to Asian countries? This trade brings billions of dollars to the Russian budget. Will this help you to cope with the deficit and fund the special military operation in Ukraine?

A: We never do anything in order to take something away from others. We are never happy to see wars unleashed by other people or countries lead to global market gyrations that drive up prices for energy and other commodities exported by the Russian Federation. We will always, regardless of circumstances, trade and maintain economic relations with everyone who is interested in trading with us.

We see the United States' interest which they have stated openly. There are official documents and official statements indicating that they seek to dominate global energy markets.

Venezuela is a stark example. The claim was that the drug traffickers' regime must be taken down. The bottom line is that the United States is taking control of Venezuela's oil industry.

The same is now happening with Iran. The US President Donald Trump has, in effect, stated quite plainly that he wants, in conjunction with Iran, to control the Strait of Hormuz and all hydrocarbon shipments going through it.

No one condemned explosions at Nord Stream pipeline perpetrated by Ukrainian saboteurs with the apparent support of Western intelligence services. Neither France nor Germany denounced them; Germany, in particular. I think it's a disgrace for a country of its standing to swallow this act of sabotage and terrorism directed against its fundamental interests. The United States is now saying it wants to take over Nord Stream as well.

Sanctions have been imposed on Russian companies Lukoil and Rosneft. Their entire foreign-based business is now subject to attempted corporate raiding. So, it is not us who are using our actions in the international arena in an attempt to derive unlawful gain.

To reiterate, we will always honour our obligations under any economic circumstances. We will always maintain relations with our partners who are guided by the same principles, unlike the European Union, which decided to up and tear up all contractual and other arrangements with the Russian Federation because it wished to do so. This was the choice made by Paris and Berlin, and, of course, by your friends in the Baltic republics and in Poland, too, which I cannot fail to mention.

Mar. 26: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2037290791203217744)

FM #Lavrov: No one denies that the US & Israel violated international law.

Iran has not violated any intl obligations, including under the #JCPOA.

Ukraine, on the other hand, has violated everything—starting with the #MinskAgreements.

Mar. 26: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2037019836417474677)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Egyptian FM Badr Abdelatty.

Wang called on the international community to actively promote dialogue among the parties involved in the conflict in the #MiddleEast, stressing that as long as there is dialogue, there is hope for peace.

China supports #Egypt in continuing to play a mediating role in promoting the resumption of peace talks and the cessation of the war. China is also willing to continue to make constructive efforts for this purpose.

Mar. 26: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2037021225025982573)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Turkish FM Hakan Fidan.

China supports countries in the Middle East in remaining calm, and responding rationally to the current situation from a long-term perspective based on fundamental interests.

China also supports #Türkiye in playing a constructive role in promoting the resumption of negotiations.

Mar. 26: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260327_11882249.html)

On March 26, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Russian Ambassador to China Igor Morgulov. The two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East.

Zhai Jun stated that the current regional situation remains tense, with spillover effects increasingly evident, drawing high attention from the international community. As permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, both China and Russia support a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, as well as the initiation of dialogue and negotiations. The two countries should work together to uphold international fairness and justice and jointly promote the de-escalation of regional tensions.

Igor Morgulov stated that Russia is deeply concerned about the continuous escalation of the regional situation. Russia stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China, make every effort to promote a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and safeguard regional peace and stability.

Mar. 26: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260326_11881627.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Iran has denied that it is negotiating with the U.S. despite Donald Trump saying that they want to make a deal. Can you tell us if China is aware of ongoing negotiations between Iran and the U.S.? And is China pushing Iran to engage in talks with the U.S.?

A: China has stressed more than once that a drawn-out conflict serves no one's interests. It will only lead to more casualties, unnecessary loss, and the spillover of the situation. The pressing priority is to actively promote peace talks, seize the opportunity for peace and end the fighting. China supports all efforts conducive to deescalation. All parties should work and create conditions for truly meaningful and sincere talks. China will continue to play a constructive role to that end.

Mar. 26: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260329_11883061.html) with IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi

Wang Yi stated that the world today is turbulent and unstable, with individual countries trampling rules with power and replacing cooperation with bullying. The post-World War II international order is facing unprecedented tests, the United Nations-centered international system is undergoing a crisis of trust, and the world risks reverting to the "law of the jungle".

Wang Yi pointed out that the Middle East conflict is spreading and expanding, with its impacts accelerating spillover. Especially if nuclear facilities are targeted, it will bring incalculable serious consequences and plunge the people in the region into dire suffering. We must prevent the escalation of confrontation, which could undermine global peace and regional stability. History has repeatedly shown that pursuing military expansion is never the right path for humanity. Only an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, followed by the restoration of dialogue and negotiations, can truly address the root causes of conflict.

Wang Yi emphasized that China will firmly uphold and practice multilateralism. China will safeguard the authority and status of the UN Charter, and is committed to revitalizing and strengthening the United Nations to advance the building of a more just and equitable global governance system. The IAEA plays an important role in global nuclear governance, with its international responsibilities becoming increasingly prominent and carrying the expectations of the world's people. China is willing to strengthen cooperation with the IAEA, safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation system, and make efforts to maintain peace.

Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that the world today faces uncertainties and changes so profound that they are difficult to predict and cause concern, and countries must work together to meet challenges. The four global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping fully reflect China's firm support for the United Nations-centered international system, which the IAEA highly appreciates. China is a major nuclear energy country and an important member of the IAEA. The IAEA adheres to the one-China policy, and is willing to deepen communication and cooperation with China on resolving related hotspot issues and promoting the peaceful use of

nuclear energy, so as to jointly safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation system and maintain world peace and stability.

Mar. 26: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260329_11883062.html) with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand

On March 26, 2026 [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Anand] at the latter's request.

Anita Anand briefed on Canada's position on the situation in the Middle East, stating that Canada is committed to protecting civilians in the conflict, promoting deescalation, preventing the spillover of the conflict, and reducing its impact on the global economy and industrial and supply chains. The Iranian nuclear issue bears on the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and that ensuring the safe navigation of the Strait of Hormuz serves the common interests of all parties. Canada stands ready to work with China to promote peace and a ceasefire, and to advance peace and stability in the region.

Wang Yi expounded on China's principled position, stating that the Iranian nuclear issue should be resolved through dialogue and should not serve as a justification for the use of force. The abuse of force would only bring about serious aftereffects, and the spillover of hostilities threatens regional security and stability. Both the United States and Iran have expressed willingness to resume negotiations, and the international community should encourage both sides to return to the negotiating table and seek effective approaches to a political settlement. China and Canada could jointly play a constructive role in this regard.

The two sides also exchanged views on China-Canada relations. Both sides agree to implement the fruitful results of Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to China in a positive and pragmatic manner, to resume dialogues at all levels, to expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and to promote the stable and sound development of the China-Canada new Strategic Partnership.

Mar. 26: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2037506621170160093)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Canadian FM Anita Anand.

The Iranian nuclear issue should be resolved through dialogue, and should not be used as a pretext for the use of force. Both the U.S. and Iran have the willingness to resume negotiations, and the international community should encourage both sides to return to the negotiating table and seek effective ways for a political settlement. China and Canada can jointly play a constructive role in this regard.

Mar. 27: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202603/t20260327_11882665.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Yesterday U.S. officials said that the chipmaker SMIC has been sending chip-making tools to Iran's military. Does the foreign ministry have a comment on this?

A: I'm not aware of what you mentioned. I would just like to say that lately we have seen certain media outlets churning out dubious news, which all turned out to be false upon verification.

Mar. 27: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260329_11883063.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On March 27, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Dar] at the latter's request.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments regarding the situation in Iran and Pakistan's position, and expressed appreciation for China's support for the mediation efforts of Pakistan, stating that a ceasefire, the end of hostilities, and the restoration of peace are the shared desire of all parties. The current juncture is critical for resuming peace talks, and the international community should encourage the United States and Iran to return to the negotiating table to find an effective path towards peace. Pakistan and China share identical goals and positions on this issue, and Pakistan looks forward to working with China to play an active role in promoting peace and ending the conflict.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, stating that China and Pakistan are strategic partners of cooperation who support and trust each other, and that both sides uphold an objective and fair stance on the conflict, sharing a similar overall view. The Chinese side appreciates Pakistan's untiring efforts to cool down the situation and supports its continued role as a mediator. While initiating peace talks is not an easy task, dialogue is the only way to prevent further casualties and losses. It is also conducive to

preventing the conflict from spreading and expanding, and to restoring normal navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. China is ready to strengthen strategic communication and coordination with Pakistan, make joint efforts to promote peace and stop the war, and work together for regional peace and stability.

The two sides agreed to jointly promote a ceasefire, the end of hostilities, and the resumption of peace talks; to ensure the safety of non-military targets and shipping lanes; and to support the United Nations in playing a primary role.

The two sides also exchanged views on the border conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mar. 27: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2037714063476871626)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy PM and FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Wang Yi said that #China appreciates Pakistan's unremitting efforts to de-escalate the Iranian situation and supports #Pakistan in continuing to play its role as a mediator.

The two sides agreed to work together to promote a ceasefire, resume peace talks, ensure the safety of non-military targets and shipping routes, and support the #UN in playing a major role.

Mar. 27: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2037496102182916550)

@embrus_az: On March 27, seven trucks carrying 150 tonnes of Russia's humanitarian aid for Iran crossed the Azerbaijani-Iranian border.

The aid will now be transferred to the Iranian Side for distribution among affected residents.

#RussiaHelps

Mar. 27: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2037590479089639839)

Russia's EMERCOM:

On March 27, acting on the instructions of President Putin, 313 tonnes of medicines were delivered to Iran.

This second major shipment of medical supplies to Iran was successfully carried out with the assistance of the Azerbaijani Side.

#RussiaHelps

Mar. 27: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089283/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On March 27, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi.

The ministers extensively discussed the ongoing devastating military and political crisis in the Middle East triggered by an unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran. They exchanged opinions on the prospects of steering the conflict towards a political and diplomatic settlement, on the basis of international law and with due account of the legitimate interests of all the countries in the region, including Iran and its neighbours, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Sergey Lavrov also informed his Iranian colleague about the latest delivery of Russian humanitarian aid to Iran.

Mar. 28: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089348/)

The aggressors keep raising the stakes in their war in the Middle East—despite all related risks, including a threat of large-scale radioactive contamination. On March 27, the states attacking Iran carried out targeted strikes on the heavy-water production plant in Khondab and the yellow cake production plant in Ardakan. Almost immediately following the strikes, reports began to arrive about new attacks in the Bushehr NPP area.

These attacks deserve unequivocal and strong condemnation by the entire international community. Blatant violations of international law continue, and those responsible for such arbitrariness should be made aware of this.

The IAEA leadership must more clearly speak about the grave threat that Iran's opponents are trying to ignore or even deny. We hope that by promptly receiving objective information from the Iranian authorities about the developments on the ground, the IAEA Director General will be able to clearly and without delay convey to the aggressors the simple thought: "It's time for you to

stop! You have already crossed the line, but you have an opportunity not to commit even greater atrocities, not to multiply the number of innocent victims and not to bring the tragedy to a global disaster dimension."

The dramatic situation is compounded by the fact that the states, which attack peaceful nuclear facilities in Iran, just negate the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the IAEA verification tools, conventions concerning nuclear and physical safety, as well as the Agency's relevant standards. They do not take seriously thoroughly calibrated and internationally agreed decisions and can reject them at any moment for their selfish interests and geopolitical considerations.

We strongly condemn this destructive course. Those who are conducting it must stop immediately.

Mar. 30: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202603/t20260330_11883723.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference [excerpts]

Q: A UN peacekeeper was killed and another critically injured in Israel's artillery strike in southern Lebanon on the weekend. The UN Secretary-General strongly condemned the incident. What is China's comment?

A: China strongly condemns the deadly attack on the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. We express deep condolences over the life lost and heartfelt sympathies to the injured. Any deliberate attack on UN peacekeepers is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and UNSC Resolution 1701. Such attacks are absolutely unacceptable and must stop at once. China urges parties to the conflict to deescalate and take concrete steps to ensure the safety of UN peacekeepers…

Q: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar raised the possibility of hosting talks between the U.S. and Iran to end ongoing conflict in the Middle East after a meeting of top diplomats from Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia in Islamabad on the weekend. He said both Washington and Tehran expressed their confidence in Pakistan to facilitate the talks. What is China's position about this possibility of negotiations between the conflicting parties in the Middle East?

A: China supports all efforts conducive to easing tensions, deescalating the situation and restoring dialogue. We call on parties to start peace talks as soon as possible. We commend Pakistan's mediation effort for deescalation and support Pakistan in continuing to play its role as mediator. We stand ready to enhance communication and coordination with Pakistan and others to jointly work for a ceasefire and peace and stability in the region.

Q: The foreign ministers of G7 nations met last week to discuss the situation in Iran and the region. In their statement they urged an immediate cessation of attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructures. But in that statement they did not mention calling off attacks on all targets. Does the ministry have any comment on this statement?

A: Military means do not address the fundamental issue. To prolong or escalate the conflict does not serve any party's interest. China opposes attacks on civilians and civilian facilities. Once again we call for an immediate end to military operations and start of peace talks as soon as possible to prevent even worse humanitarian disasters…

Q: This is on Donald Trump's claim that a deal with Iran on ending the Middle East conflict could be reached soon while at the same time not ruling out ground operations as well as more strikes, including ones targeting power stations. Would China's Foreign Ministry like to comment on this?

A: The Chinese side has stressed on multiple occasions that a drawn-out conflict serves no one's interest. Starting talks is the only way to avoid more casualties and losses and prevent further spread of the conflict. We once again call on parties to show sincerity, seize every opportunity and window for peace, initiate peace talks as soon as possible, and bring an early end to this war that should not have happened in the first place…

Q: We understand that China has exported cargoes of diesel and other fuels to other energy-starved countries across Southeast Asia over the past week. Was this a sign of support for those economies in the middle of the Middle East crisis? And does China have an update on what it plans to do to support other countries?

A: For your specific question, I have no information and would refer you to relevant authorities and companies. Due to the situation in the Middle East, commodities like energy and fertilizers are in short supply in the global market, which has dealt a blow to many countries. China is ready to maintain communication with all sides to safeguard global energy security. However, to resolve the issue once and for all, what should be done first and foremost is to stop military operations.

Mar. 30: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2038596373353005153)

China commends and supports Pakistan's mediation effort for deescalation and stands ready to enhance communication and coordination with Pakistan and others to jointly work for a ceasefire and peace in the region. @ForeignOfficePk #MiddleEast #Iran

Mar. 30: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089503/)

Moscow is deeply concerned about the continuing armed confrontation in the Persian Gulf region and the growing number of attacks targeting administrative and civilian infrastructure. Reportedly, on March 28, the residence of President of the Kurdistan Region of the Republic of Iraq Nechirvan Barzani in the city of Duhok was struck by an unidentified self-exploding drone.

We strongly condemn this attack designed to further widen the geographical scope of an unprecedented in terms of scale and devastation military and political crisis sparked by the unprovoked aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran.

Russia is firmly in favour of the swift cessation of hostilities and the return to a political and diplomatic settlement. We consistently and persistently call on all parties to the conflict to refrain from attacks on non-military targets.

Mar. 30: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov video call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089740/) with Jordanian and Gulf officials

On March 30, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a videoconference with the foreign ministers from the following Gulf Cooperation Council member states: Bahrain (Abdullatif Al Zayani), Kuwait (Jarrah Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah), Oman (Badr Al Busaidi), and Saudi Arabia (Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud). The participants also included Ministers of State of Qatar (Saad Al Muraikhi) and the United Arab Emirates (Lana Zaki Nusseibeh), as well as GCC Secretary General Jasem Al Budaiwi and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan Daifallah Al Fayez.

The participants used the collective format of the meeting to hold an in-depth exchange of views on the unprecedented escalation of the military and political situation in the Gulf region, which has been ongoing for more than a month now. Sergey Lavrov pointed out that a viable settlement of the conflict that stems from the unprovoked and senseless aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran was possible exclusively through political and diplomatic means, with due regard for the legitimate interests of all states in the region. Russia calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities that are causing destruction and making civilians suffer.

In this context, Russia reiterated its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the friendly Arab monarchies, relations with which are of a strategic nature. The unacceptability of embroiling these countries into a war and attacking their civilian infrastructure, including energy and other vital facilities, was emphasised.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reiterated Russia's firm commitment to maintaining close coordination with the Arab partners, including at the UN, with a view to facilitating an early ceasefire and preventing the widening of the conflict. He emphasised that clear-cut mechanisms must be put in place in order to maintain cooperation among all countries of the region and to ensure lasting stability in the Middle East.

In this regard, Sergey Lavrov drew his colleagues' attention to Russia's concept of collective security in the Gulf region, which it has been promoting for several years now and which is aimed at maintaining peaceful and neighbourly relations among all coastal states in this strategically important region.

Mar. 31: China and Pakistan's five-point initiative (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260331_11884511.html) for Middle East peace and stability

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Wang Yi and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met in Beijing on 31 March 2026 to review the situation in the Gulf and Middle East Region.

The two sides put forward the following:

I. Immediate Cessation of Hostilities: China and Pakistan call for immediate cessation of hostilities and utmost efforts to prevent the conflict from spreading. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to all war-affected areas.

II. Start of peace talks as soon as possible. Sovereignty, territorial integrity, national independence and security of Iran and the Gulf states should be safeguarded. Dialogue and diplomacy is the only viable option to resolve conflicts. China and Pakistan support the relevant parties in initiating talks, with all parties committing to peaceful resolution of disputes, and refraining from the use or the threat of use of force during peace talks.

III. Security of nonmilitary targets. The principle of protecting civilians in military conflict should be observed. China and Pakistan call on parties to the conflict to immediately stop attacks on civilians and nonmilitary targets, and fully adhere to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and stop attacking important infrastructure, including energy, desalination and power facilities, and peaceful nuclear infrastructure, such as nuclear power plants.

IV. Security of shipping lanes. The Strait of Hormuz, together with its adjacent waters, is an important global shipping route for goods and energy. China and Pakistan call on the parties to protect the security of ships and crew members stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, allow the early and safe passage of civilian and commercial ships, and restore normal passage through the Strait as soon as possible.

V. Primacy of the United Nations Charter. China and Pakistan call for efforts to practice true multilateralism, to jointly strengthen the primacy of the U.N., and to support the conclusion of an agreement for establishing a comprehensive peace framework and realizing lasting peace based on the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and international law.

Mar. 31: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260402_11885897.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Wang Yi noted that having just hosted the quadrilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad, the Pakistani side wasted no time in coming to Beijing to hold joint discussions on ways to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East, and China welcomes this visit. Pakistan's active mediation efforts to promote peace and end conflict reflect its firm commitment to safeguarding regional and global peace. Timely strategic communication and enhanced strategic coordination between China and Pakistan on major international and regional issues is exactly an inherent part of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future. China supports and expects Pakistan to play a unique and important role in de-escalating the situation and restoring peace talks. This process is not easy, but Pakistan's mediation efforts serve the common interests of all parties. Only by achieving a ceasefire and stopping the fighting can we prevent the conflict from spreading, avoid more casualties, ensure the security of the Strait of Hormuz, and safeguard international energy security and the stability of production and supply chains. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to overcome difficulties, remove disruptions, quell the flames of war as soon as possible, create opportunities for peace, and open the window for peace talks.

Wang Yi stated that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Both sides should implement the important consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries, strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen strategic mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, and continuously advance the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar extended his congratulations on the successful conclusion of China's national "two sessions" and the approval of the outline of China's 15th Five-Year Plan, expressing confidence that China will achieve even greater success. He stated that the friendship between Pakistan and China is a precious asset deeply cherished by the people. Pakistan wishes to take the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations as an opportunity to carry forward the historical friendship, deepen all-round cooperation, and advance the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic partnership. He thanked China for supporting Pakistan's mediation efforts regarding the situation in Iran, noting both countries are committed to regional peace and stability. Current conflicts are disrupting global energy supplies and severely impacting developing countries. Achieving peace is both a matter of justice and an urgent priority. Solutions can only be found at the negotiating table. Pakistan stands ready to enhance communication and coordination with China to encourage all parties to start peace talks as early as possible and restore regional peace.

The two sides jointly released the Five-Point Initiative of China and Pakistan For Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region.

Mar. 31: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2039161566088810499)

Five-Point Initiative of China and Pakistan for Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region:

- Immediate cessation of hostilities.
- Start of peace talks ASAP.

- Security of non-military targets.
- Security of shipping lanes.
- Primacy of the United Nations Charter.

Mar. 31: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260331_11884372.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference [excerpts]

Q: To follow up on the announcement that Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is coming to China today for the second time in three months. Is the trip related to the recent situation in Iran?

A: China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners of mutual trust and mutual support. The two countries share similar position and maintain close communication on major international and regional issues. It's believed that the two foreign ministers will step up strategic communication and coordination on the situation in Iran and other international and regional issues of mutual interest, jointly call for peace and a just position, and make new effort to help end the conflict and bring about peace and stability in the region.

Q: Your Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will visit China today. The visit comes after a meeting of top diplomats from Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in Islamabad on the weekend to promote talks between the U.S. and Iran to end the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and possible role for Pakistan to mediate between sides. Can you share information about the relevant visit and talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi? What will be the focus of discussion here?

A: Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar will arrive in China today. I shared relevant information just now. It's believed that the two foreign ministers will exchange views on the situation in Iran and other international and regional issues of mutual interest. We will release more details in due course. Please check back for updates…

Q: According to a report by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, since the beginning of the war on February 28, the Israeli regime and the United States have attacked more than 130 historical sites and monuments—many of which are also listed by UNESCO—causing extensive damage. Given the importance of historical heritage to the ancient civilizations of Iran and China, and the contradiction of these actions with the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China, what is China's position regarding these attacks?

A: World cultural heritage is precious treasure for all humanity. It is truly sad and regrettable to see how the war is damaging Iran's cultural relics and historical sites. China urges all parties to the conflict, especially the U.S. and Israel, to immediately and completely stop military operations, start dialogue and negotiations as quickly as possible, and bring an early end to the war that should not have happened.

Q: It is reported that recent military operations by the United States and Israel have struck Iran's Arak heavy water production plant, Khondab heavy water reactor, Ardakan yellowcake production plant and Bushehr nuclear power plant. The U.S. military is also conducting drills to seize and transfer Iran's enriched uranium stockpile by force. In addition, Iran has submitted a working paper on prohibiting attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities and scientists to the upcoming Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) , emphasizing that armed attacks on nuclear facilities violate multiple international legal instruments. What is China's comment?

A: Armed attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities under the safeguards and monitoring of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) violate the purposes of the UN Charter, international law and the Statute of the IAEA. The attacks deal a heavy blow to the authority of the NPT, undermine the international efforts to uphold the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and could bring serious consequences to regional peace, security and stability. China firmly opposes such attacks and advocates the peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through political and diplomatic means, calls on all parties to remain calm and exercise restraint and avoid further escalation of tensions.

The Eleventh Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT is to be held soon. China is concerned about the negative impact of the military strikes by the U.S. and Israel. China stands ready to work with all sides to continue to uphold an objective and impartial position in promoting talks, support the settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation, earnestly safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

Q: Two Indonesian peacekeepers were killed on Monday, and two others were injured in separate attacks over two consecutive

days targeting personnel serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Given China's significant role in UN peacekeeping operations, does this incident raise serious concerns about the safety of peacekeepers, and what measures can be taken to better ensure their protection?

A: We express deep condolences over the death of the Indonesian peacekeepers. Any deliberate attack on UN peacekeepers is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and UNSC Resolution 1701. Such attacks are absolutely unacceptable. Parties to the conflict should stop fighting as soon as possible and take concrete steps to ensure the safety of UN peacekeepers. China stands ready to play a constructive role in facilitating deescalation and maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East.

Q: Tracking data from a monitoring group has shown two container vessels belonging to COSCO have successfully passed through the Strait of Hormuz as they have already exited the Gulf. Has the foreign ministry received any further assurance from Iran guaranteeing ship safety or the status of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz?

A: After coordination with relevant parties, three Chinese ships recently transited the Strait of Hormuz. We express appreciation for the assistance of relevant parties. The Strait of Hormuz and waters nearby are an important route for international goods and energy trade. China calls for an immediate end to hostilities to restore peace and stability in the Gulf.

Mar. 31: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2038963213413613924)

Armed attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities under the safeguards and monitoring of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) violate the purposes of the UN Charter, international law and the Statute of the IAEA.

The attacks deal a heavy blow to the authority of the NPT, undermine the international efforts to uphold the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and could bring serious consequences to regional peace, security and stability.

China firmly opposes such attacks and advocates the peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through political and diplomatic means, calls on all parties to remain calm and exercise restraint and avoid further escalation of tensions.

Mar. 31: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79440) with Egyptian President Sisi

The leaders had a detailed discussion of the situation arising from the unprecedented escalation of the conflict in the Middle East. Both sides emphasised the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the pursuit of political and diplomatic agreements that would fully respect the interests of all the states in the region.

In addition, there was a thorough exchange of views on current matters in bilateral relations, covering in particular the implementation of major investment projects in energy and industry. The leaders acknowledged the overall positive trend in the multifaceted cooperation between Russia and Egypt.

Mar. 31: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089933/) with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi

During the conversation, the ministers continued discussing the crisis around Iran, with an emphasis on finding ways to bring an end to hostilities triggered by unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel. They reaffirmed the need to immediately return to a political and diplomatic settlement process grounded in international law and taking into account the legitimate interests of all states in the region.

Sergey Lavrov underscored Russia's readiness to assist in finding compromise solutions and reiterated his firm commitment to maintaining close coordination with Omani partners, including within the framework of the United Nations, in order to achieve prompt de-escalation and prevent the further spread of the armed conflict.

Mar. 31: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79447) with Emirati President Muhammad bin Zayed

During the phone call, [both leaders] expressed profound concern over the ongoing deterioration of the military and political situation in the Middle East, the loss of civilian lives, and the destruction of energy, industrial, and other civilian infrastructure.

They emphasised the importance of ceasing the hostilities as soon as possible and intensifying political and diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the conflict while respecting the legitimate interests of all states in the region, which Russia traditionally maintains friendly and mutually beneficial relations with.

The leaders acknowledged with satisfaction the high level of Russian-UAE cooperation and engagements, which are successfully developing in many domains.

Mar. 31: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2089964/) at Russian International Affairs Council meeting [excerpts]

Today, international and domestic political analysts point to an entire set of developments illustrating the complex and multi-dimensional nature of the current period. They draw attention to the increasingly blatant undermining of the modern international law system. Fewer and fewer restraining factors remain. These factors have for decades ensured a degree of stability, albeit relative. Put simply, some countries have lost all sense of restraint as they openly claim their "rights" to various territories without bothering to offer any legal justification for their plans.

A most recent example is quite telling. Responding to a question about how to bring the war in the Persian Gulf to an end more quickly, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said everything depended on Iran suggesting that all it needed to do was open the Strait of Hormuz; otherwise it would continue grossly violating international law. The point was that Iran shouldn't have shut down the Strait of Hormuz because it ran counter to international law. Two days earlier, President Donald Trump stated that he didn't need international law and was guided by "his own morality and gut feeling." A one-two strategy of sorts.

Certain elements of international life are taking us back to the distant past. Top military and political leaders of individual countries are abducted or killed with impunity and without any guardrails. You are well aware of this. Entire urban districts and their inhabitants are being annihilated with Old Testament ferocity; children's outpatient clinics and schools are wiped out, and hundreds of schoolgirls die in an instant. Nuclear energy facilities under international safeguards, as well as other civilian life support infrastructure are subjected to bombardment. No one other than us and our like-minded partners is concerned about international law.

We are witnessing an abrupt increase in the role of military force in international affairs which is placing immense pressure on the constant values of international relations which get destabilized in the process. Many experts see the root of the problem in the mechanisms underlying the foreign policy of leading Western countries, whose financial and economic system runs effectively only during external expansion and exploitation of other countries' resources.

Indeed, a situation is emerging where the West, with its insatiable hegemonic ambitions, has entered the clinch with the World Majority's aspiration to overcome existing challenges on the basis of equality and justice, in other words, the principles of the UN Charter agreed upon in the wake of the Second World War, namely, the sovereign equality of states, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, and the right of nations to self-determination, which must be recognised by all legitimate governments.

Clearly, these principles have not always, I would even say rarely been used in real politics, but they served as guiding posts that no one ever questioned. This has always backed our efforts, and those of other states, to draw attention in any given crisis to the fact that there was a consensus on how the world should live in peace after the Second World War. This was a natural basis for diplomatic dialogue.

Europeans, too, have become agitated and are calling on the United States and Israel to adhere to the principles of the UN Charter. However, they themselves have done much to ensure that these principles remained only on paper. It is necessary to return to them and restore at least their role as a form of moral persuasion, but this will not be easy to accomplish.

What we are witnessing now shows signs of potentially escalating into a wider conflict, which some scholars have already termed a new world war. Some of our colleagues have made similar assessments as well. In reality, not only Russia and China, and other BRICS countries, but also all other more or less independent centres of power and growth are becoming targets of aggressive counteraction on behalf of those who are accustomed to living off other nations' backs and are thinking of themselves as hegemonic powers. Actions we are currently observing on the international stage which effectively amount to coups d'état under the banners of combatting drug trafficking or eliminating a "regime that for 47 years has done nothing but engage in global terrorism" are ultimately (and this is stated publicly) dictated by the need to control ever greater amounts of oil and gas resources. At the very least, this logic clearly underlies many of the unfolding initiatives.

All of that is, of course, fully evident in what is taking place in the Gulf region and, more broadly, in the Middle East. As you may be aware, Russia is advocating an immediate cessation of aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. We consider the use of military force against civilians and civilian infrastructure unacceptable wherever it may occur: in Iran or in the GCC member

states, which are also seriously affected by the ongoing developments. We stand ready to provide mediation or other assistance to the parties to the conflict in order to return the situation to a political and diplomatic track.

Yesterday, I held a meeting with foreign ministers of the GCC member states. The GCC Secretary General Jasem Al Budaiwi and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan Daifallah Al Fayez also took part in the meeting. We presented our assessments in detail. The meeting lasted more than two hours. We noted the ongoing relevance of the Concept of Collective Security in the Gulf Region advanced by Russia in the 2010s, which provides for fully normalised relations between Iran and its Arab neighbours. We can infer from the developments in the region that the United States and Israel are the ones that are attempting to prevent normalised relations between Iran and its neighbours, and even to sic GCC members on the Islamic Republic.

We maintain a constructive approach to resolving other conflicts around the world. However, it is troubling to see some of our partners misunderstand the point of diplomacy and the role of talks in international relations. Whenever diplomatic or negotiating contacts are used to cover up preparations for a military invasion - or even to create a pretext for one - this is wrong, unacceptable, and unfair.

We have observed backstabbing of that kind both with regard to Iran and in the context of the Minsk agreements. As you may recall, the signatories to these agreements, namely, then President of Ukraine Petr Poroshenko, then Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, and then President of France François Hollande openly stated several years later (which, I must admit, surprised me) that they had never intended to implement them. In other words, despite the fact that the UN Security Council had endorsed them by consensus, they had no intention of acting on them. They claimed they merely needed to buy time to pump weapons into the Nazi Kiev regime and to better prepare it to serve as the spearhead in the war that the collective West was plotting and ultimately unleashed against the Russian Federation.

Of course, we cannot put up with this. President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly spoken about the lessons we have learned from engagement with the West over the past more than two decades. Undoubtedly, having learned from bitter experience, we will from now on insist more firmly on compliance by all participants in international relations with generally accepted standards of conduct.

It was an engaging discussion. Some of our friends from the Muslim and Arab world were asked whether they truly believed that Iran would have attacked facilities located within the borders of the GCC countries had it not been for the aggression perpetrated by the United States and Israel given that Iran has not historically initiated such wars, whereas wars have been launched against it, including at the beginning of this century and in the previous one.

Indeed, there is talk about “proxies.” However, if we look past this rather unfortunate term, all countries in the region seek to project their influence onto other countries, sometimes neighbouring, sometimes not. This comes naturally with statehood. The Arab Gulf countries are no exception, just as Iran is not.

The response was that Iran was allegedly plotting an attack on them regardless and was merely waiting for the right pretext to go ahead with it. What kind of pretext? The aggression of the United States and Israel - that is the pretext. In other words, Iran was supposedly waiting for this aggression to take place in order to grab the opportunity and to take pleasure in attacking its neighbours.

This is, of course, an extremely simplistic explanation. Iran never planned an attack; on the contrary, it was an energetic participant of discussions on establishing an Arab-Iranian security system. In addition to Russia, China also supported this approach, and Iran itself put forward initiatives to this end. There was every opportunity to go down this road.

A couple of years ago, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia normalised relations with Iran, and they exchanged diplomatic missions. In the autumn of 2004, in Doha, the capital of Qatar, the first in-person conference of the foreign ministers of the Arab monarchies and the Islamic Republic of Iran took place. Clearly, that did not sit well with those who seek to assume control over the vast resources possessed by the countries of the region.

In our work, we are guided by the objective of creating secure and favourable external conditions for our country’s development and for improving the quality of life in our country. This is a key provision and requirement that runs consistently through all versions of Russia’s Foreign Policy Concept, which has guided our diplomatic work since 2000.

Apr. 1: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260401_11885183.html) at Chinese Foreign

Ministry press conference [excerpts]

Q: Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi held talks with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in China yesterday. After the meeting, the two sides issued the five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. Can you share the consideration behind the initiative? What effect does China hope to achieve through the initiative?

A: Yesterday, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi held talks with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. They had in-depth exchanges of views on the situation in the Gulf and Middle East region and reached important common understandings. After the meeting, the two sides issued the five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. The initiative can be summed up in three words: cease, talk, and ensure. More specifically, the two sides put forward the following: immediate cessation of hostilities; start of peace talks as soon as possible; security of nonmilitary targets; security of shipping lanes; and primacy of the United Nations Charter.

One month into the conflict, its spillover effect continues to spread, dealing an increasingly severe blow to regional and global peace and stability, and causing more extensive disruptions to the stability of global energy supply, unimpeded operation of industrial and supply chains, and global economic growth. This is not in the common interest of regional countries and the wider world. China and Pakistan, as important countries in the Global South, voiced a rational and just position in the hope of building up consensus and pooling stronger effort in the international community to contribute to easing the ongoing tense situation, and restoring peace and tranquility in the Gulf and Middle East region at an early date. The initiative is open and we welcome response and participation of all countries and international organizations.

China will continue to stay in close communication with Pakistan and relevant parties and play a constructive role in promoting the end of hostilities…

Q: Just a follow-up question on the peace plan. Although China and Pakistan have proposed this peace plan, obviously it requires those involved to listen and to change their actions. What do you think are the chances of especially the U.S. and Israel ceasing hostilities, given that if the war is to stop, they would have to be the ones to stop?

A: Continued tensions and spillover of the conflict do not serve any party's interest. The pressing priority is to end hostilities and start peace talks. The initiative put forward by China and Pakistan is in the common interest of all parties. We stand ready to work with Pakistan and other parties to overcome difficulties, resist disruptions, bring about a ceasefire as soon as possible, create opportunities for peace and open the window for peace talks.

Apr. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2090405/) [excerpts]

TOPIC: Humanitarian aid to Iran

We continue to provide humanitarian aid to Iran, which is subjected to brutal and indiscriminate US-Israeli air attacks every day. On March 27, 2026, a second large batch of over 300 tonnes of medicines, which the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has requested, was delivered by rail to the Astara checkpoint on the Azerbaijan-Iran border. The delivery was carried out on instructions from President Vladimir Putin.

The same day, March 27, 2026, a convoy of trucks delivered humanitarian aid—approximately 150 tonnes of food and basic necessities collected by the people and charity organisations of the Republic of Dagestan—reached Astara.

We express our gratitude to the Azerbaijani authorities for their assistance.

I can reiterate that we continue to receive numerous messages from caring people across Russia, who are ready to donate their personal funds to charities and provide assistance to Iranian people, whose friendship they cherish.

It is not a question of ethnicity or religion. Our people react in the same manner to tragedies that happen all over the world, both man-made disasters, emergencies, pandemics, and the active phases of conflicts. This is how our people respond to other people's suffering. We can cite numerous examples when our people collected assistance for their brothers and sisters who suffered under the yoke of the Kiev regime in Donbass. Large convoys of trucks with humanitarian aid were send there. They also helped the victims of a series of earthquakes that hit Syria, but also affected Türkiye and many other countries. Our people collected and sent humanitarian aid to them. Remember how they acted when Venezuela and Cuba needed help. They provide assistance to people in any part of the world, especially when the affected country asks for it, not only at the official level but also because our people care.

At this time of trouble for Iran, the whole of our country, both the top political leaders and common people, stand side by side with Iran and its people, helping them mostly in deed but also in word.

Apr. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2039357129807605865)

President #Putin:

Amid the Middle East crisis & turmoil on energy markets, transit is no longer just about speed or cost—the security of trade routes now matters just as much.

Russia has solutions to offer & can help shape a safer, more reliable global logistics system.

Apr. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2039329437335073187)

#Zakharova: Any initiatives on navigation in the Strait of #Hormuz must be based on consensus among littoral states.

Transferring control to third parties or creating supranational mechanisms without the consent of ALL Gulf states will not contribute to de-escalation.

Apr. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2039342028258267193)

#Zakharova: We do not believe the escalation in the Middle East can be kept under control, nor in the effectiveness of a force-based solution to the Iranian issue.

The consequences could be catastrophic.

The only path to settlement is diplomacy.

Apr. 2: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260402_11886048.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference [excerpts]

Q: Donald Trump has said the U.S. would continue extremely hard strikes against Iran for two to three weeks and once again threatened to hit energy infrastructure if Iran does not reach a negotiated settlement with him. Can China comment on Trump's timeline of continued strikes as well as his targeting or vows to target energy plants?

A: Military means do not address the fundamental issue. To escalate the conflict does not serve any party's interest. Once again we urge parties to the conflict to immediately stop military operations and start peace talks as soon as possible to resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation and prevent more serious blows to the world economy and global energy security.

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump in his address to the nation about the war in Iran suggested, "Countries who receive oil through Hormuz Strait should just go to the Strait and take it. Iran is essentially decimated, so use it for yourselves." What's China's comment?

A: The root cause of the disruption at the Strait of Hormuz is the U.S.-Israel illegal military operations against Iran. Only by ending the military actions and restoring peace and stability in the Gulf can the international shipping lane be open and safe. The international community needs to work together for deescalation to prevent regional turmoil from further hitting the global economy and energy security.

Q: According to a report by Iran's Ministry of Science, since the start of the U.S. and Israeli aggression, 20 universities and student dormitories have been attacked, and some professors at Iranian universities have also been targeted for assassination. In this context, Iran's University of Science and Technology, Isfahan University of Technology, and Imam Hossein University have all been directly targeted. My question is, what is your view about this matter?

A: China opposes attacks on civilians and civilian facilities. Attacks on schools in particular are an egregious violation of international humanitarian law. Once again we call for an immediate end to military operations and return to dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible to prevent even worse humanitarian disasters…

Q: Just a follow up on your earlier response to the question about the Strait of Hormuz and Trump's comments on it. This week, Great Britain is set to host talks with dozens of countries on this issue. I wonder if you can share any details about how China plans to be part of the parties that suggest to cooperate on the transit through the Strait?

A: An early ceasefire and restoration of peace and stability in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters is what the international community hopes to see, and all parties should work for this end. China is ready to continue to play a constructive

role.

Q: About the Pakistan-China five-point peace formula, has that been shared with the Iranian side?

A: The Five-Point Initiative is issued to the public and is an open initiative. I think parties have taken note of the initiative.

Q: To follow up on the Iran-U.S. conflict. Regarding the talks that were held between China and Pakistan the other day, there were reports that Iran has sent a message to China seeking security guarantees, if they can be provided for them to agree a ceasefire. Can you confirm any such thing because certain think tanks have already reacted to that. Has any such a request been made by Iran to China to provide security guarantees?

A: The readout on the meeting between the Chinese and Pakistani foreign ministers has been released, which you may refer to. Since the ongoing conflict in Iran broke out, China has been actively working for peace. China supports all efforts for peace. We stand ready to enhance communication and coordination with all sides and work for restoring peace and stability in the Middle East…

Q: One more on the Iran situation and global energy supplies. Is China considering or would China consider any international cooperation efforts to secure the safe passage of oil through the Strait of Hormuz? And would Beijing be willing to act as an interlocutor on behalf of any of its Asian neighbors?

A: The Strait of Hormuz and its adjacent waters form an important international trade route for goods and energy. All eyes are on whether stability can return to the Strait and whether traffic will resume soon. The key lies in the stop of military actions.

Apr. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260403_11886369.html) with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani

On April 2, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [al-Zayani] upon request.

Al Zayani briefed on the latest developments in the Middle East situation and Bahrain's position, stating that Gulf countries are currently facing serious security challenges and navigation through the Strait of Hormuz has been disrupted. Bahrain is willing to play a role through the UN Security Council to address the issue of strait passage. Bahrain hopes to strengthen communication and coordination with China.

Wang Yi expounded China's principled position of opposing aggression and advocating peace. He stated that China and Pakistan recently jointly released the Five-Point Initiative of China and Pakistan For Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region, which includes calling for an end to attacks on civilians and nonmilitary targets, ensuring the security of the Strait of Hormuz, and restoring normal passage. A ceasefire and cessation of hostilities is the shared call of the international community. The actions of the UN Security Council should help de-escalate the situation, stop the fighting and resume talks, rather than endorse illegal acts of war or fuel the flames. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a responsible major country, China stands ready to work with Bahrain to promote the cessation of hostilities, restore peace, achieve lasting regional stability, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of members of the Global South, especially small and medium-sized countries.

Apr. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2039639790258417914)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with the current chair of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Bahraini FM Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

Wang elaborated on China's principled position of opposing aggression and advocating peace. A ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities are the common call of the international community.

Actions by the UN Security Council should help ease tensions and bring about a ceasefire and the resumption of talks, rather than endorse illegal acts of war, still less add fuel to the fire.

#China stands ready to work with #Bahrain to promote a ceasefire, restore peace, achieve lasting regional stability, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the #GlobalSouth, especially small and medium-sized countries.

Apr. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260406_11887263.html) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

On April 2, 2026, [Wang Yi] had a phone call with [Faisal] upon request.

Faisal briefed on the latest developments in the Middle East situation, stating that the conflict involving Iran has severely affected countries both in the region and worldwide. Saudi Arabia values China's important role in international affairs, cherishes the high-level strategic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and China, and hopes to strengthen communication and coordination with China on platforms such as the United Nations to jointly promote de-escalation of the conflict and bring the hostilities to an end.

Wang Yi stated that the conflict involving Iran has lasted for over a month, causing significant casualties and losses and undermining the security and stability of Gulf states including Saudi Arabia, which China views with concern. China and Pakistan recently jointly released the Five-Point Initiative of China and Pakistan for Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region, which includes calling for safeguarding the sovereignty and security of Gulf states, stopping attacks on civilians and nonmilitary targets, and ensuring the security of shipping lanes. The disruption of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz is a spillover effect of this conflict. As long as the fighting continues, the Strait cannot be secure. The priority now is to achieve an early ceasefire. The actions of the UN Security Council should avoid escalating confrontation and must not legitimize unauthorized military operations, as doing so would lead to serious consequences, with small and medium-sized countries bearing the brunt. China appreciates Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote peace and end the conflict, and stands ready to work with Saudi Arabia to contribute to the early restoration of regional peace.

Apr. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260406_11887260.html) with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul

On April 2, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul upon request. The two sides focused on exchanging views on the Middle East situation.

Johann Wadephul stated that the current situation in Iran is severe and complex, seriously impacting global economic, energy and food security. An early end to the conflict serves the common interests of the international community. Germany supports the United Nations in playing its due role, values the Five-Point Initiative of China and Pakistan for Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region, and is willing to continue communication and cooperation with China.

Wang Yi elaborated on China's principled position, stating that the military strikes by the U.S. and Israel against Iran were not authorized by the UN Security Council and clearly violated international law. The sovereignty and security of Gulf states should be respected, civilians and nonmilitary targets must be adequately protected, and the security of shipping lanes as well as energy and infrastructure should be ensured. As responsible major powers, China and Germany should uphold an objective and impartial stance, play a constructive role, and promote the swift de-escalation of hostilities to restore peace and stability in the region.

The two sides also exchanged views on China-Germany relations, agreeing to implement the outcomes of Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to China, strengthen strategic communication, enhance strategic mutual trust, and promote greater development of the China-Germany all-round strategic partnership.

Apr. 2: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260404_11887011.html) with EU High Representative Kaja Kallas

On April 2, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission Kaja Kallas upon request.

Kallas presented her views on the Middle East situation, appreciating China's active diplomatic mediation to de-escalate tensions, including the recent five-point initiative jointly released by China and Pakistan for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. The EU is not involved in the conflict but has been affected by its spillover, and hopes to see an early de-escalation and a return to dialogue and negotiations. The EU supports the United Nations' humanitarian efforts and the protection of civilians and non-military targets, and will fully ensure the open and safe passage of the Strait of Hormuz.

Wang Yi stated that the current international situation is unstable, and it is the shared responsibility of China and Europe to strengthen communication and uphold the international system centered on the United Nations and the international order based on international law. Wang Yi elaborated on China's principled position on the Middle East situation, noting that the China-Pakistan five-point initiative reflects broad international consensus, with the core being cessation of hostilities, an early start to

peace talks, protection of non-military targets, security of maritime passages, and upholding the primacy of the UN Charter. A ceasefire is a strong global demand and the fundamental solution to ensuring safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. All parties should build greater consensus and create necessary conditions toward this end. The actions of the UN Security Council should aim to ease tensions, not legitimize unauthorized military operations, and must not further intensify conflicts or trigger escalation. China stands ready to maintain communication and cooperation with the European side to promote an early end to hostilities and restore regional peace.

The two sides also exchanged views on China-Europe relations. Wang Yi stated that China's development is an opportunity for Europe, and the challenges Europe faces do not stem from China; protectionism cannot enhance competitiveness, and decoupling from China means disconnecting from opportunity. He hoped the European side would establish a comprehensive and objective understanding of China, and safeguard the right direction of China-Europe relations. Kallas stated that the EU regards China as an important partner, does not seek to decouple from China, and looks forward to maintaining dialogue and communication with China.

Apr. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260403_11886350.html)

On April 2, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue had a phone call with Swiss Special Envoy for Middle East and North Africa Wolfgang Amadeus Brülhart at the latter's request. The two sides exchanged views on the current tense situation in the Middle East.

Apr. 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin joint remarks (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79456) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

Putin: Mr Minister, we are delighted to welcome you to Moscow. Just a couple of days ago, I had the pleasure of talking with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to discuss both bilateral cooperation and the broader regional developments. At the same time, maintaining regular dialogue remains very important to us.

I know that you have a busy schedule of meetings with your Russian counterpart, Minister Lavrov, as well as with other senior Russian officials. I am confident that these engagements will contribute positively to the development of our bilateral relations.

We have a number of promising initiatives underway, many of which are already being implemented. I have previously spoken in detail about the construction of a nuclear power plant and an industrial zone, and over ten major Russian companies have expressed interest in participating in this project.

We have many additional matters worth discussing, including a grain and energy hub project in Egypt. There are many appealing opportunities in this regard.

I would also like to note that another Russia-Africa summit is planned for October. I hope that Egypt will be represented by a strong, high-level delegation. Should the Egyptian President's schedule allow, we would, of course, be very pleased to welcome him to Moscow. Please convey our best wishes to him.

Naturally, the situation in the region remains a shared concern. We all hope that the ongoing conflict will be promptly resolved. As you know, President Trump also addressed this issue yesterday. Let me reiterate that we are prepared to make every effort to help stabilise the situation and, as they say in such cases, return it to normal.

In this context, it is particularly important for us to hear your perspective, as well as Egypt's assessment as a key country in the Middle East.

We are very pleased to have you here. Welcome, Mr Minister.

Abdelatty: (retranslated) Thank you, Mr President.

Mr President, first of all, I would like to convey President el-Sisi's warmest regards to you personally, as well as to all our Russian friends. We place great value on all aspects of our bilateral cooperation.

We are grateful for our constructive collaboration on the El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant, which represents a key milestone in our partnership. Despite the challenges, it is evident that, thanks to your support, the project is moving forward. The President deeply appreciates your contribution and continued support during the implementation of the El Dabaa project.

We also have a second project aimed at establishing a Russian industrial zone in Egypt, which we consider highly significant. We rely on your continued support to help bring this project to fruition.

Mr President, you also mentioned the creation of an energy and grain hub in Egypt, initiatives that we value highly. We sincerely hope that Egypt will become both a grain hub and a centre for energy products, and we fully support these efforts.

Once again, Mr President, it is a great honour for us to be here with you today. We deeply appreciate your support in promoting energy and food security in Egypt and across our region. Your assistance is truly valued.

We confirm our participation in the Russia-Africa Summit scheduled for October this year. We sincerely hope that the acute phase of the developments in our region will soon subside, allowing our President to attend the summit in person.

President el-Sisi has asked me to convey to you, Mr President, that he is always very pleased to meet with you. I also have a written message from the President, which he instructed me to deliver to you personally. With your permission, I would like to present it to you now.

Putin: Of course, with pleasure, Mr Minister.

Following my recent telephone conversation with the President of Egypt, I instructed the Government to coordinate with our Egyptian colleagues on food supplies to Egypt, primarily our grain. Egypt is our partner in this area. I would like to note that last year we achieved strong results in agriculture and had a good harvest. We have no issues with supplies, and none are expected.

I understand that the Minister of Agriculture or the Deputy Prime Minister, with whom I discussed this and to whom I issued these instructions, should have already contacted their Egyptian counterpart. I would ask you to inform President el-Sisi about this matter. Thank you.

Apr. 2: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79458) with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

The leaders had a thorough discussion of several issues pertaining to the crisis in the Middle East. They expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the military and political situation in the region, the loss of civilian lives, and the destruction of strategic infrastructure. Both sides emphasised the need for ceasing the hostilities as soon as possible and intensifying political and diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a long-term resolution to the conflict that respects the legitimate interests of all parties.

It was noted that energy production and distribution disruptions resulting from the crisis affect global energy security. In this regard, the leaders emphasised the importance of the joint efforts by OPEC Plus countries, Russia and Saudi Arabia included, to stabilise the global oil market.

In addition, the leaders expressed satisfaction with the high level of Russian-Saudi cooperation, which continues to grow as a friendly and mutually beneficial partnership.

Apr. 2: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2090755/) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

On April 2, Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Saudi Arabian Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud.

The two ministers expressed serious concern over the continuing deterioration of the military and political situation in the Persian Gulf region. They stressed the importance of bringing the armed confrontation to a swift end, given the civilian casualties and significant damage to civilian infrastructure, including in countries not directly involved in the military conflict.

They reaffirmed the need to step up political and diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the violent crisis in the Middle East, based on international law and taking into account the legitimate interests of all states in the region. In this context, both sides expressed a firm commitment to maintaining close foreign policy coordination between Moscow and Riyadh, particularly at the United Nations.

The ministers also discussed specific bilateral issues in the context of the centenary of diplomatic relations, which Russia and Saudi Arabia celebrate this year.

Apr. 2: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2090798/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On April 2, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi at the initiative of the Iranian side.

The ministers discussed in detail the developments related to the current conflict in the Middle East and efforts to de-escalate tensions undertaken by a number of states. They also exchanged views on the ongoing debates at the UN Security Council regarding ways to ensure the safety of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and to overcome other consequences of the unprovoked US and Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Apr. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2040070049134706767)

The root cause of the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz is the U.S.-Israel illegal military operations against Iran. Only by ending the military actions and restoring peace and stability in the Gulf can the international shipping lane be open and safe.

The international community needs to work together for de-escalation to prevent regional turmoil from further hitting the global economy and energy security.

Apr. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2040016688872407389)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with German FM Johann Wadephul.

The military strikes launched by the US and Israel against Iran were not authorized by the UN Security Council and clearly violated international law. The sovereignty and security of the Gulf states should be respected. Civilians and non-military targets must be protected. The safety of shipping lanes, energy and critical infrastructure should be ensured.

As responsible major countries, #China and #Germany should uphold an objective and impartial stance, play a constructive role, and promote the swift de-escalation of the conflict and the restoration of regional peace and stability.

Apr. 3: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2040024417607266400)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas.

Wang elaborated on China's principled position on the Middle East situation. He noted that UN Security Council actions should focus on easing the tension, must not provide legal cover for unauthorized military operations, nor should they heighten tensions or escalate conflict.

China stands ready to maintain communication and cooperation with the European side to promote an early end to hostilities and restore regional peace.

Apr. 3: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202604/t20260403_11886663.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Yesterday U.S. President Donald Trump posted a video on social media claiming that the U.S. air strikes destroyed an Iranian civilian bridge to pressure Iran into negotiations while the Iranian foreign minister says that destroying civilian infrastructure will not force Iran to surrender. What's China comment on this?

A: The U.S.-Israeli military operations against Iran have no authorization of the UN Security Council and violate international law. China opposes attacks against civilian facilities. Relevant parties should stop the military actions at once, return to the track of political and diplomatic settlement, and avoid even worse humanitarian disaster.

Apr. 3: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2090945/)

We have been shocked by reports about the serious damages and material losses sustained by the St Nicholas Cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church in Tehran as the result of the April 1 barbaric missile strikes by the US-Israeli forces.

A unique historical and architectural landmark has been damaged, the only Orthodox cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church on the cultural heritage list of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since its construction in 1945, this religious centre designed by Russian architect Nikolay Markov has united our diaspora in Iran as a place of power and spiritual connection with their home country. The Orthodox community of Tehran, regardless of its members' citizenship, contributed to the maintenance of the church by giving personal time and effort or by providing financial contributions.

It is especially surprising that the main strike was directed at the complex of the former US Embassy located several metres from the church, which the Iranian revolutionary young people took over in 1979. This may indicate the admission of helplessness by

the Americans, who have completely lost faith in the ability of their army to ensure their triumphant return to Tehran.

We strongly condemn any damages to religious sites.

We are convinced that this flagrant violation of the rights of believers calls for an appropriate assessment by the international community.

Apr. 3: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79465) with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

There was a thorough exchange of views on the ongoing escalation of the military and political confrontation in the Persian Gulf. It was noted that the heavy hostilities there are leading to severe consequences for energy, trade, logistics, and other sectors not just regionally, but globally as well. The leaders noted that they shared the stance in favour of achieving a ceasefire as soon as possible and working towards compromise peace agreements that would take into account the legitimate interests of all the regional states.

While discussing the situation surrounding Ukraine, Vladimir Putin thanked Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his unfaltering willingness to facilitate the relevant negotiations. In light of the Kiev regime's attempts to target gas transportation infrastructure linking Russia and Turkiye as well as commercial ships in the Black Sea, the leaders emphasised the importance of taking coordinated measures aimed at ensuring all-around security in and around the Black Sea.

In addition, the leaders discussed further steps aimed at expanding political and economic ties between Russia and Turkiye, including in particular the implementation of joint strategic projects in the energy sector.

Apr. 3: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2091150/) at news conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty [excerpt]

Q: Moscow has consistently called for prioritising political and diplomatic settlement in the Middle East, calling for a ceasefire to prevent a full-scale military conflict in the region. Do you observe any response to Russian initiatives from the parties to the conflict? Or are we on the verge of the conflict entering a more dangerous phase? How is work progressing on Bahrain's proposal for a draft resolution on the protection of commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz? Where does Russia stand on this issue?

Sergey Lavrov: We are not hiding our position and have been stating it regularly since the beginning of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28. The Foreign Ministry comments on and presents assessments of the ongoing events. The Presidential Executive Office and President Putin himself regularly address this topic in contacts with their counterparts.

In recent days, President Putin has held several telephone conversations with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Earlier, he spoke with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the level of foreign ministers, we are working in close contact with our Iranian colleagues as well. Yesterday, April 2, I got on the phone with Foreign Minister of Iran Abbas Araghchi. Of course, we are also maintaining contacts with our friends from the Gulf countries. On Monday, March 30, a videoconference took place during which we discussed in detail for more than two hours the current situation, including how it is being discussed at the UN Security Council.

One can discuss the draft resolution submitted by Bahrain, which has been under consideration by the UN Security Council for several days now. Many do exactly that. They take the text and begin discussing it. This is the professional approach practised by those who are ultimately responsible for the product issued by the UN Security Council. But even from this purely expert point of view, a large number of issues become apparent.

If we look past the description of the difficulties such as calls on Iran not to respond to strikes on its territory, the key objective and central element of this resolution is the paragraph authorising all stakeholder states, whether acting individually or as part of a coalition, to take all necessary measures to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. During the negotiations, the wording "all necessary defensive measures" was added, but immediately qualified by the phrase "proportionate to the circumstances."

Who will determine these circumstances? Naturally, it will be the same countries that are granted the right to take all "necessary defensive measures." We know how, in the past, our Western colleagues have treated what appeared to be purely defensive UN Security Council resolutions. They were immediately turned upside down and used to substantiate their aggressive actions.

The second point is that these measures are authorised for the stakeholder countries, but they will act "proportionately to the circumstances" on the territory of coastal Gulf countries that will not themselves participate in these "defensive measures." This

constitutes direct violation of their sovereignty. Such a Security Council resolution is unlikely to increase the chances of a peaceful settlement, not to mention the credibility of this body.

All this is taking place against the backdrop of rhetoric coming from Washington, including assertions by US President Trump that talks are underway and that the people the Americans are talking with are “much more reasonable” and that they listen and respond. The Iranians do not deny the fact of contacts, although they say these are not talks but an exchange of positions. Nevertheless, it is already some kind of process. The day before yesterday, President Trump said that as soon as they complete military operations (in his words, almost all objectives have been achieved), navigation in the Strait of Hormuz will immediately resume meaning that the problem is not about making demands of Iran. It is imperative to stop military actions and the regime of the strait which is fully based on the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which defines all norms of navigation in times of peace, will be restored. It does not apply in wartime.

In contacts with their Gulf partners, our Chinese colleagues emphasise the same point that it is necessary to stop hostilities in order to resume navigation. When we are urged to adopt this resolution at the height of what the United States calls negotiations (clearly, adopting this resolution, which does not even mention the fact that Iran was the victim of aggression, will antagonise the authorities in Tehran), this suggests that someone wants to undermine the emerging, still very fragile prospects for negotiations if, of course, all those who speak of peaceful talks genuinely want them. Undermining such intentions would be entirely wrong.

If, however, the rhetoric about talks will once again be used as cover for launching another attack on Iran (as was the case in June 2025 and February of this year), then this resolution is designed to legitimise, after the fact, the aggression against Iran.

My final point in this regard concerns legal interpretation. Our friends in the Gulf are telling us that Iran attacked them and that they are, therefore, entitled to defends themselves under Article 51 of the UN Charter. This is true. This article exists. However, in order to invoke it and to take specific steps in order to exercise the right to self-defence, no UN Security Council resolution is required.

When the United States and Israel began attacking Iran, they publicly stated that it was an exercise of the right to self-defence. When asked how so since Iran did not attack them, they said Article 51 also provided for preventive defensive action aimed at decapitating a potential attacker, even if no such plans existed.

During the videoconference, I asked our friends from the Gulf whether Iran had attacked them. No such facts were presented. In response, the view was expressed that throughout its existence the Islamic Republic of Iran had always intended to attack its neighbours. A “convenient” opportunity subsequently arose when the country was attacked by the Americans and Israelis, and Iran began targeting Arab countries.

These arguments may enter the media space with the best of intentions, but the end result is the same. This resolution was probably conceived with good intentions, yet it may either be used to derail the still fragile prospects for negotiations or to legitimise aggression against Iran after the fact.

I hope that all our detailed clarifications have been heard by our friends in the Gulf and, more broadly, in the Arab world.

Apr. 4: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2091358/)

We are increasing concerned by the reports of new missile strikes on Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on April 4. We are studying the respective incoming data. We strongly condemn the atrocity that has caused human victims. We express our condolences over the death of one of the station employees who is reported to have been responsible for its physical protection.

We have noted the deep concern expressed by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi regarding the attack. In particular, he has stressed that neither nuclear power plants proper nor the adjacent grounds, where the vital systems of nuclear security may be situated, should ever be targets of military strikes.

It is clear that his words are meant for the aggressors who thoughtlessly and even with some unhealthy excitement continue to directly strike Iran’s nuclear power infrastructure which is subject to the NPT and the Iranian Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. These unlawful and reckless actions are an indelible stain on the international reputation of those who target missiles at Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant and other IAEA-guaranteed Iranian nuclear facilities and issue the attack order. Actually, they have completely ruined their previous reputation in nuclear non-proliferation as well as in nuclear safety and security having acknowledged that that they do not recognise any rules and restrictions.

We expect the damage inflicted by the US and Israeli strikes to the NPT regime to became a subject of an impartial and rigorous

assessment during the NPT Review Conference to be opened on April 27.

The Russian side is making every effort to draw the attention of the international community and the global public to the Busher NPP situation which is getting closer and closer to the dangerous line. The worst can still be avoided although for this to happen, the strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, including on Busher NPP, must be immediately stopped.

Apr. 5: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260406_11887296.html) with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov

On April 5, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov upon request. The two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East.

Lavrov stated that Russia is highly concerned about the continued escalation of the situation in the Middle East. Regarding the current hostilities and the issue of the Strait of Hormuz, Russia maintains that military actions must cease immediately and that a return to the track of politics and diplomacy is essential to address the root causes of the conflict. The UN Security Council should play a constructive role in this regard. Russia stands ready to maintain close communication and coordination with China and continue to make efforts and speak out for a ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities.

Wang Yi stated that as permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and Russia should uphold justice on major issues of right and wrong, adopt an objective and balanced approach, and strive for greater understanding and support from the international community. China has always maintained that international and regional hotspot issues should be resolved politically through dialogue and negotiation. Currently, the situation in the Middle East is still deteriorating and hostilities are escalating. The fundamental solution to the issue of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz lies in an immediate ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities. China is ready to continue cooperation with Russia in the UN Security Council, maintain timely communication on major issues, and make efforts to deescalate the situation, safeguard regional peace and stability, and uphold common security for the world.

Apr. 5: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2041003873557688756)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Russian FM Sergei Lavrov.

The current situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate with ongoing escalation of hostilities. The fundamental way to resolve navigation issues in the Strait of Hormuz is to achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible.

China stands ready to continue working with Russia within the framework of the UN Security Council, maintain timely communication on major issues, and make joint efforts to help de-escalate the situation in the Middle East, safeguard regional peace and stability, and uphold common security for the world.

Apr. 5: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2091394/) with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

On April 5, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Wang Yi.

The ministers discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf, as well as the international efforts to end the confrontation in this important region as soon as possible and launch a political and diplomatic dialogue.

In this context, ways to strengthen Russian-Chinese cooperation across international platforms and, above all, at the United Nations were discussed. The ministers expressed satisfaction with Russia and China's converging approaches on most issues on the global agenda, including the situation around Iran related to the unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against that country.

The parties agreed to continue close coordination on the entire range of issues of mutual interest on the UN Security Council agenda, including through the permanent missions of Russia and China to the United Nations in New York.

Apr. 5: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2091394/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On April 5, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi, at the latter's initiative.

On behalf of Russia, Sergey Lavrov expressed hope that efforts taken by certain countries to de-escalate tensions around Iran would succeed for the sake of a lasting and sustainable normalisation of the situation in the Middle East, whereby the United States' abandoning the language of ultimatums and returning to negotiations would be instrumental.

The ministers spoke out against any actions, including within the UN Security Council, that could undermine the remaining chances for promoting political and diplomatic efforts to settle the crisis.

Both sides stressed the importance of immediately ceasing the reckless and illegal attacks on civilian, industrial, and energy infrastructure, including the Bushehr NPP, which operates under the IAEA safeguards. They also noted that it was unacceptable to create threats to the lives and health of the power plant's workers, or risks of a radioactive disaster for the entire region.

Sergey Lavrov offered his condolences following the death of the plant's Iranian worker.

Apr. 6: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2041003873557688756)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Russian FM Sergei Lavrov.

The current situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate with ongoing escalation of hostilities. The fundamental way to resolve navigation issues in the Strait of Hormuz is to achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible.

China stands ready to continue working with Russia within the framework of the UN Security Council, maintain timely communication on major issues, and make joint efforts to help de-escalate the situation in the Middle East, safeguard regional peace and stability, and uphold common security for the world.

Apr. 6: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2092104/)

The large-scale international crisis caused by the illegal unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran continues to grow and deepen. The strikes that target not only military facilities but also civilian infrastructure, including the increasing number of strikes on nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards, are becoming increasingly violent and destructive. The growing number of reckless attacks on the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has been a matter of special concern. These attacks have resulted in civilian casualties. A shadow of radioactive disaster more destructive than Chernobyl is hanging over the Persian Gulf region and the adjacent part of Eurasia.

That armed confrontation has already claimed thousands of innocent lives, including women and children, and brought suffering to civilians. Schools, hospitals and world cultural heritage sites are being destroyed. Diplomatic and consular offices have come under fire contrary to the fundamental principles of international relations and in flagrant violation of the provisions of the relevant Vienna conventions.

Colossal damage has been done to global energy and food security. Critical logistics routes, which functioned smoothly before the criminal US-Israeli gamble, have been blocked. Markets have been disrupted; many countries have had to start rationing fuel; and experts are making gloomy forecasts about an economic downturn and rampant inflation in vulnerable economies.

The situation resulting from Washington's and Tel Aviv's illegal and irresponsible actions is rapidly deteriorating and threatens to spin out of control.

The Foreign Ministry reiterates its call for the immediate termination of hostilities. We welcome the efforts taken by several states, including Pakistan, Türkiye and China, to de-escalate tensions around Iran in order to launch a dialogue on a lasting and sustainable normalisation in the Middle East. We have taken note of the April 2 statement by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in which he urged the United States and Israel to stop the war that is inflicting immense human suffering and already triggering devastating economic consequences, and called on Iran to stop attacking their neighbours.

We believe that there is still a chance for a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict. The parties to the conflict must abandon the language of threats, unacceptable insults and ultimatums, and avoid actions that could plunge the entire region into irreparable chaos.

It is essential to maintain the remaining chances for negotiations aimed at finding a political and diplomatic solution. We call for taking this into account in the activities of the UN Security Council.

The responsible members of the international community must prevent the Middle East from sliding into the abyss of an all-out

war that would have long-term tragic consequences for the entire world. The Russian Federation and its international partners are ready to do everything possible towards this end.

Apr. 7: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260407_11887704.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: President Donald Trump warned Iran that "the entire country can be taken out in one night" if it does not meet his Tuesday deadline of 8 pm to reach a deal. What's China's comment?

A: The ongoing conflict has caused heavy casualties and damage. It is hitting the security and stability of regional countries and impacting the world economy and energy security. China is deeply concerned over this. To prolong or escalate the conflict does not serve any party's interest. All sides should play a constructive role in deescalating the situation and facilitating peace talks…

Q: Weeks into the Iran conflict, the two sides continue to exchange military strikes. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz drew widespread concern. There is a growing call for a ceasefire and safe passage. The U.S. and Iran have exchanged some tough rhetoric over the past few days. Sources say the two sides might reach a ceasefire deal. How does China view the situation?

A: As we speak, the situation in the Middle East continues to worsen and the military conflict is still escalating, hitting the world economy and energy security and drawing deep concerns from the international community.

Since the conflict began, China has held an objective, just and balanced position and has been working to help bring about a ceasefire and end to the conflict. Foreign Minister Wang Yi made 26 phone calls with parties including Iran, Israel, Russia and the Gulf states. The Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue traveled to the region in a mediation effort. Last week, China and Pakistan issued the five-point initiative, which embodies the international consensus for ceasefire and peace.

The use of force does not bring peace. Political settlement is the right way forward. The root cause of the conflict is the U.S.-Israeli launch of military attacks against Iran in violation of international law. The top priority is to bring an immediate end to the military operations and return to dialogue and negotiation, so as to fundamentally resolve the issues and restore peace and stability in the Gulf region. All parties need to demonstrate sincerity and quickly end this war that should not have happened in the first place.

Q: Also about the Iran war. So Iran has rejected the U.S. proposal, the proposal that was brokered by Pakistan. In that proposal it sought an immediate ceasefire that would lead to a broader agreement later on. In the midst of all this, Tehran has also refused to lift its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. I just wanted to ask, was China in favor of that ceasefire proposal, the one that was brokered by Pakistan? And was China able to reach Tehran directly to talk about the proposal? I know you mentioned Minister Wang Yi has made many calls, 26 phone calls. Just wondering, at this point, will China step up its mediation or diplomatic efforts?

A: Reaching a ceasefire and resuming dialogue as soon as possible is what the international community hopes to see. China welcomes all efforts conducive to peace and supports Pakistan in making active mediation effort. We hope relevant parties will seize the opportunity for peace, bridge differences through dialogue and put an early end to the conflict. China stands ready to play a constructive role for this end…

Q: May I ask you about the UN resolution being piloted by Bahrain at the UN Security Council on the Iran-U.S. conflict? I would like to know what is China's stand on it? Is this going to be voted today?

A: As the conflict regarding Iran continues to spill over, the pressing priority is to actively promote peace talks for the end of the conflict. China believes that any action taken by the UN Security Council should be conducive to easing tensions, stopping the conflict and resuming talks. It should not be used to endorse illegal military moves and still less add fuel to the flame. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a major responsible country, China stands ready to play a constructive role in bringing about a ceasefire, restoring peace, and realizing lasting stability in the region.

Apr. 7: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260408_11888697.html)

On April 7, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with French Ambassador to China Bertrand Lortholary at the latter's request. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the current tense situation in the Middle East.

Bertrand Lortholary stated that France is deeply concerned about the escalating situation in the Middle East and the negative impact of the conflict on the global economy. The five-point initiative of China and Pakistan for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region largely aligns with France's position. France stands ready to maintain coordination with China to

promote the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Zhai Jun stated that the ongoing conflict is escalating and spilling over, endangering regional peace and stability and impacting the global economy and energy security. As permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and France should uphold fairness and justice, work together to promote peace and stop the war, cool down regional tensions, and support the parties concerned in returning to the right track of dialogue and negotiation.

Apr. 7: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2041537295128600660)

The situation in the #MiddleEast continues to worsen and the military conflict is still escalating, hitting the world economy and energy security and drawing deep concerns from the international community. China has been working to help bring about a ceasefire and end to the conflict.

The root cause of the conflict is the U.S.-Israeli launch of military attacks against Iran in violation of international law. The top priority is to bring an immediate end to the military operations and return to dialogue and negotiation, so as to fundamentally resolve the issues and restore peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Apr. 7: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2092371/) with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed

The foreign ministers held the conversation in the spirit of trust and exchanged views on the continuing unprecedented escalation of the military and political situation in the Persian Gulf. They stressed the urgent need to halt hostilities, which are causing human casualties and inflict significant damage on critical civilian infrastructure, including in countries which are not directly involved in the armed confrontation. The interlocutors reaffirmed their shared commitment to close coordination between Moscow and Abu Dhabi in foreign policy, with the aim of bringing about a peaceful resolution to the Middle East crisis in accordance with international law and with full respect for the legitimate interests of regional states.

The conversation's agenda also included several priority matters related to advancing the Russian-UAE strategic partnership in the context of fulfilling agreements resulting from the talks at the highest level.

Apr. 7: UN Security Council veto explanation (https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/hyyfy/202604/t20260408_11887987.htm) by Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong

President,

The month-long conflict in Iran and its spillover effect continue to deal a heavy blow to regional and global peace and stability. It is hitting the global economy, causing increasingly widespread disruptions. This is not in the common interest of regional countries and beyond. The merits of this conflict are crystal clear. The US and Israel, without authorization from the Security Council and while negotiations between Iran and the US were underway, launched military strikes against Iran. This is in clear violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms of international relations.

At the same time, the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Gulf States must be fully respected. Civilians and non-military targets must be given necessary protection. The safety and security of shipping lanes and energy infrastructure must also be safeguarded. China does not go along with Iran's attacks on Gulf States and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Like all parties, China hopes that peace and stability will be restored to the Strait as soon as possible and navigation will resume.

China attaches great importance to the draft resolution submitted by Bahrain on behalf of Gulf States. We fully understand their serious concerns. We are committed to solving the issue properly, and we have participated constructively in the consultations. Under the current circumstances, this draft resolution should clearly identify the root causes of this conflict, seek appropriate solutions to address the root causes and ensure the safety and security of shipping lanes, and strive to promote dialogue and achieve peace. It is regrettable, however, that the draft resolution fails to capture the root causes and full picture of the conflict in a comprehensive and balanced manner. It contains one-sided condemnation and pressure, the characterization of the situation as threat to international peace and security, as well as the use of armed escorts. Such language is highly susceptible to misinterpretation or even abuse. At a time when the United States is openly threatening the very survival of a civilization, when the current hostilities imposed on Iran are very likely to further escalate, the draft resolution, should it have been adopted, would send an extremely wrong message and have very serious consequences. The Security Council has lessons to learn from issues such as Libya and the Red Sea. Such past mistakes must not be repeated. The Security Council's actions should be aimed at deescalating

the situation. They must not provide the legal veneer for unauthorized military operations. The Council's actions must not grant a license to the use of force, let alone further exacerbate tensions and add fuel to the fire, thereby leading to an escalation of the conflict. The Security Council should not rush to vote on the draft resolution where serious concerns among members have been raised. In light of the above, China had no choice but to vote against the draft resolution.

President,

This is a war that should never have happened, and as it continues, it will cause immeasurable harm. At present, the situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate, and hostilities are escalating. The fundamental solution to ensuring safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz is to achieve cessation of hostilities as soon as possible. The US and Israel are the initiators of this conflict. The fundamental reason for the disruption of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz is the illegal military actions taken by the US and Israel against Iran. China strongly calls on the US and Israel to immediately cease their illegal military actions. Having heard what was said by the US representative, we are much more convinced now that China's position is objective and impartial, reflecting the image of a responsible major country that upholds international fairness and justice. Our vote will stand the test of history.

At the same time, China calls on Iran to stop attacking relevant facilities in the Gulf, address the legitimate concerns of Gulf States, focus on the common interest of the Global South, and take corresponding positive measures to restore normal navigation in the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible. China applauds the efforts made by Pakistan, Egypt, Türkiye, and Saudi Arabia to promote dialogue and negotiations and restore regional peace. China commends and supports the work carried out by the United Nations in mediation and alleviating the humanitarian situation, and looks forward to these efforts yielding tangible results at an early date.

Recently, China has made tremendous efforts to restore peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East. China has engaged in intensive consultations and mediation with relevant parties. China and Pakistan have issued a Five-Point Initiative for Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region, calling for immediate cessation of hostilities, start of peace talks as soon as possible, security of non-military targets, security of shipping lanes, and primacy of the UN Charter. This is an open initiative and welcomes the response and participation by countries and international organizations.

Taking into account the needs of all parties to resolve the relevant issues, Russia and China have jointly submitted a draft Security Council resolution. The text of that draft resolution is objective and fair, aiming at easing tensions, calling for dialogue and negotiations, and upholding navigational rights and freedoms. We hope that it will receive the support of Council members. China is ready to work with all parties to make greater contributions to the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Thank you, President.

Apr. 7: Chinese Ambassador to the UN Fu Cong post (https://x.com/ChinaAmbUN/status/2041595739420147755)

China doesn't think the resolution is balanced. It doesn't even touch upon the root cause of the situation, but instead only accuses #Iran in a very unbalanced manner.

In particular, the timing is very bad. We have all heard what the US President has said. Against this background, we think it is extremely dangerous for the Security Council to adopt a resolution like this.

Apr. 7: UN Security Council veto explanation (https://russiaun.ru/en/news/07042026) by Russian Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia

Mr. President,

The Russian Federation voted against the draft resolution tabled by Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia regarding the situation in the Strait of Hormuz and the adjacent waters.

Our country's position on the current crisis in the Middle East is principled, consistent, and objective in nature. We condemn the aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. We respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region—both of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that of other Gulf States. We view attacks targeting their civilians and civilian infrastructure as unacceptable. Russia has always made every effort, including at the highest level, to put an end to such actions, and we will continue in the same vein. We are striving for the prompt establishment of peace in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

However, the Russian Federation was not able to support a text that would set a dangerous precedent for international law and international maritime law, which is liable to undermine any peace efforts and the credibility of the UN Security Council.

Back when negotiating Security Council Resolution 2817, we urged all our Council colleagues to adopt a balanced and objective approach. The UN Secretary-General, too, repeatedly sent similar, equidistant messages, calling on the United States and Israel to halt the war and on Iran to cease attacks targeting its neighbors. It is impossible and unacceptable to overlook the root causes of the crisis in the Middle East, namely the unlawful and reckless actions of the United States and Israel against Iran. Neither Russia nor Mr. Guterres was heeded back then. Nevertheless, we understand the situation of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Jordan, and, therefore, we abstained during the vote on Resolution 2817. That was not an easy decision for us to take.

However, this time our Bahraini partners and their likeminded allies went much further, taking a fundamentally erroneous and dangerous approach to the situation in the region. In essence, virtually every paragraph of the proposed draft abounded with unbalanced, inaccurate, and confrontational elements. I'm going to point only to the main points.

In paragraph 1 of the preamble and paragraph 6 of the operative part, Iran's actions were presented as the sole source of so-called "destabilizing activities and regional tensions." And there was not a single word about the true causes of the current crisis in the Middle East, which are actually the unlawful strikes by the US and Israel targeting Iranian territory. And this despite the fact that in paragraph 3 of the preamble, the sponsors themselves highlighted that threats to navigation in the Strait of Hormuz have been observed precisely since February 28, 2026. This, incidentally, flew in the face of their own assertions that the current initiative was designed as a response to certain "decades of threats" to freedom of navigation allegedly emanating from Iran.

In paragraph 6 of the preamble, attempts to interfere with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz were unequivocally portrayed as a threat to international peace and security. And it was deliberately overlooked that a significant portion of the Strait of Hormuz is within Iran's territorial waters.

In paragraph 7 of the preamble, threats to merchant and commercial vessels and interference with freedom of navigation were identified as the sole reason for disruption of global energy supplies. Once again, without noting the root causes of the crisis, which the US president himself frankly mentioned when publicly acknowledging that the end of hostilities would result in the opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

In paragraph 9 of the preamble, as well as in paragraphs 1 and 4 of the operative part, there were references to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. This international legal instrument does not apply to situations of armed conflict, which we have repeatedly voiced during the negotiation process.

Paragraph 10 of the preamble alleged that it is Iran that constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the context of the current crisis. The decision to delete references to Chapter VII from this paragraph was not a "panacea"—in essence, such language can in any event be interpreted by bad-faith States as legitimizing the use of force.

Paragraph 2 of the operative part speaks for itself. It proposed that the Security Council give the "green light" to the implementation of certain "defensive" measures—the scope of which is unclear to us—under the pretext of ensuring the safety and security of navigation, without any regard for the sovereignty of littoral States. The reservations regarding the purely defensive nature of these efforts do not change the essence of the matter. Especially given that the sponsors themselves indicated that they were referring precisely to the use of force: this was clearly stated in the language of paragraph 3 of the operative part, which emphasized that States acting according to paragraph 2 must fully comply with international humanitarian law.

Paragraph 7 of the operative part specified that the UN Security Council would be prepared to consider "further measures" against those who undermine navigational rights and freedoms. This is an obvious hint at potential sanctions pressure—regardless of whether it was explicitly stated or not.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 concerned not only the Strait of Hormuz but also the Bab al-Mandab Strait. In other words, the sponsors deliberately expanded the geographical scope of their draft, thereby giving more grounds for expansive interpretations thereof.

Let us turn to paragraph 9 of the operative part. Despite sending a correct message—a call for diplomacy—it only referred to the cessation of hostilities in the Persian and Omani Gulf regions, as well as in the Strait of Hormuz. But as for the need to halt the US-Israeli aggression, this was entirely swept under the rug.

Mr. President,

The bottom line here is that, even though the authors tried to cloak the draft in generalized wordings, the gist remained

unchanged: the draft was designed to grant carte blanche for the continued aggressive acts and further escalation. We understand what this would mean from a legal standpoint, as well as in terms of the implications “on the ground.” Even more so when we hear statements from the US President about his readiness to “destroy” Iran if the Strait of Hormuz is not opened.

It behooves us to remind the Council members about the distorted Security Council Resolution 1973 on Libya, adopted in 2011, and about what the loose and expansive interpretation thereof resulted in. The limit of trust in States that advanced the use of force hiding behind noble pretexts and vague language was exhausted back then.

We have already witnessed how the United States attempted to justify its strikes against Iran by invoking the right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, interpreting it as having preemptive implications. For all our solidarity with the Arab countries, who were set up by Washington and victimized by the tragedy in the region, we cannot but stress that any attempt to impose such “rules of the game” in the Strait of Hormuz would only play into the hands of those who wish to further undermine security and stability in the Middle East and beyond.

Measures to protect vessels, like any other property of UN member States, do not require Security Council resolutions; it would suffice to have a reference to Article 51 of the UN Charter, which grants the right to self-defense virtually under any circumstances. The expansion of operations for security purposes without the consent of the littoral States is another reason why we were unable to support the Bahraini draft resolution.

Colleagues,

Adopting such a document disregarding the broader context of the situation would further antagonize Iran, which is already enduring daily strikes by the United States and Israel. A vast number of civilians are being killed on Iranian soil. Nearly two thousand civilians have already died, a quarter of whom are women and children. Among those killed are also the Supreme Leader and many other representatives of the country’s leadership. Civilian infrastructure—schools, hospitals, universities, energy and nuclear facilities, including the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant—is being attacked, which is fraught with catastrophic humanitarian repercussions for Iran and the entire region. We wish to emphasize that not a single passage was produced by the Security Council to assess these violations of international law. And you will hear no excuses from us today, Ambassador Waltz.

I will not dwell in detail on the glaring double standards pertinent to this approach. However, all this is completely illogical even from the standpoint of basic pragmatism. Adopting such a one-sided resolution would jeopardize any prospects for resuming the negotiation process to resolve the crisis, and would also obstruct the important and useful peace initiatives that are currently being undertaken by a number of States, including China, Pakistan, and Turkey. If the Security Council were to adopt the position being imposed on it, there would be absolutely no motivation for Tehran to engage in any form of contact with Washington, which has already twice betrayed diplomacy—in June 2025 and this past February—and began launching massive strikes against Iran at the very height of the negotiation process.

Mr. President,

From the very start of work on this document, we and our Chinese colleagues have conveyed our most serious concerns regarding this initiative to the Bahraini authors and other members. We saw no room for amending the text, so we urged our Arab friends to refrain from advancing it. However, our concerns were not heeded, and the draft was put to a vote. Under these circumstances, we had no choice but to vote against it.

Russia consistently champions ensuring comprehensive security for maritime navigation in all international waterways, opening corridors for Venezuela and Cuba, and ceasing attacks targeting merchant and commercial vessels of any country. Similarly, we advocate unhampered navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. However, this task can only be accomplished with the participation of all littoral States bordering this vital transport corridor. It is not possible to do that without Iran. We call on our Arab and Iranian friends to address the issue of navigation right away. We stand ready to facilitate such contacts.

Mr. President,

We understand the concerns of our Arab partners regarding freedom of navigation; therefore, we, along with China, propose that the Security Council consider an alternative draft resolution on the current situation in the Middle East, including in terms of maritime security. We are confident that providing for genuine freedom of navigation in the Strait, which is of critical importance for the countries of the region and the entire world, can only be achieved through ceasing hostilities and achieving a negotiated solution. Our draft will be concise, impartial and balanced, and in line with the principles of international law and the UN Charter,

specifically when it comes to the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this connection, we are immediately submitting this draft in blue. We will provide further information regarding our voting plans shortly. We count on the support of the entire membership of the Security Council.

Thank you.

Apr. 7: Russian UN Mission post (https://x.com/RussiaUN/status/2041601432592208141)

#Nebenzia: Russia voted against the draft resolution on the situation in the Strait of #Hormuz and the adjacent waters.

In essence, virtually every paragraph of the proposed draft abounded with unbalanced, inaccurate, and confrontational elements.

Apr. 8: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260408_11888565.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: President Donald Trump suggested that he believes it was China that pushed Iran to negotiate the ceasefire deal that we now have. Are you able to confirm that this is true, if China was involved with bringing those parties to the table? And secondly, if China was involved, there already seemed to be quite significant discrepancies and confusion about some of the terms, particularly whether Lebanon is included in the ceasefire and whether the enrichment of uranium is part of the 10-point plan presented to the Americans. Are you able to shed any light on any of those specifics? And crucially, is the deal falling apart before it even really began?

A: Since the fighting began, China has worked actively to help bring about an end to the conflict. Foreign Minister Wang Yi made 26 phones calls with his counterparts from relevant countries. The Special Envoy of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue traveled to the Gulf and Middle East region in a mediation effort. China and Pakistan jointly put forward the five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. As a responsible major country, China will continue playing a constructive role and making positive contribution to restoring peace and tranquility in the Gulf and Middle East region…

Q: It was previously reported that Iran intended to collect shipping fees from each vessel passing through the Strait of Hormuz and split the revenues with Oman. What's China's position on this? And given that China is in touch with all sides, can the foreign ministry confirm if this model applies to the ceasefire arrangement that was just brokered?

A: The Strait of Hormuz is an important international trade route for goods and energy. Keeping the area safe and stable and ensuring unimpeded passage serves the common interest of the international community. We hope that all sides can work together for the early resumption of normal traffic at the Strait…

Q: It's reported that the Security Council yesterday voted on the draft resolution on the Strait of Hormuz submitted by Bahrain. The resolution failed to pass after China and Russia vetoed against it. According to permanent representatives of China and Russia to the UN, the two countries submitted to the Council a new draft resolution on the current Middle East situation and maritime security. Can you share more details?

A: On the draft resolution concerning the Strait of Hormuz voted at the Security Council, China's permanent representative to the UN in the explanation of vote has elaborated on China's stance. China maintains that the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Gulf States should be fully respected, and the safety and security of shipping lanes and energy infrastructure should also be safeguarded. The root cause of the disruption at the Strait of Hormuz is the U.S.-Israel illegal military operations against Iran. The fundamental solution to ensuring safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz is to end the conflict as soon as possible. The Security Council's actions should be aimed at deescalating the situation. They must not provide the legal veneer for unauthorized military operations. The Council's actions must not grant a license to the use of force, let alone add fuel to the fire, thereby leading to an escalation of the conflict. China's position on the vote is objective and impartial, and will stand the test of history.

The draft resolution jointly submitted by China and Russia concerning the Strait of Hormuz has been officially circulated to Council members. The text of that draft resolution is objective and fair, aiming at easing tensions, calling for dialogue and negotiations, and upholding navigational rights and freedoms. It responds to what the international community calls for and we hope that it will receive extensive support. China is ready to work with parties concerned to make relentless effort for an early deescalation and restoration of peace and stability in the Strait and the Middle East region…

Q: I will also ask about the ceasefire deal. I want to learn about what's your comment about it, because there are parallels with your own during the crisis. There is a deal for two weeks and about opening of the Hormuz Strait. So we see some elements that China

also was calling for. So I want to know what's your comment about the deal. Secondly, we know that Pakistan has brokered this deal. But I want to also learn, were you directly involved with any party during this process for the ceasefire, I mean specifically with one party and make recommendations to that party?

A: China welcomes the announcement of the ceasefire arrangement by relevant parties. We support the mediation efforts by countries including Pakistan. We have all along been calling on parties to end hostilities as soon as possible and resolve disputes through political and diplomatic channels to achieve enduring peace and security in the Gulf and Middle East region. China has made active effort to this end.

Q: Another question related to the Middle East. Despite the ceasefire agreements and the agreement to temporarily reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the energy crisis that's been caused by all this and that has hit Asia very very hard is likely to continue for some time. China has been accused throughout of being more insulated from that energy crisis because it continues to import sanctioned Iranian oil and then it obscures the fact it does this via shadow fleet and hard-to-trace transactions. Does China deny that it uses so-called teapot refineries to deal in sanctioned Iranian oil? And what do you say to the accusation that this trade has elongated the conflict?

A: The root cause for the impact on world economy and energy security is the Iran conflict. China always stands firmly against illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or the authorization of the UN Security Council…

Q: A couple of questions. One related to Iran. Can you tell us a little bit more about the behind-the-scenes China is doing to try to solve this crisis? I know that maybe you cannot tell us a lot of details, but if you can talk about why China is privileging behind the scenes than going public in the effort? Second, Pakistan and Afghanistan, have you agreed on a new meeting here in China or not yet for the peace talks?

A: On your first question, we have shared information about China's efforts on multiple occasions. China always advocates resolving disputes through political and diplomatic channels and maintains communication with various parties regarding this. We will continue working for easing tensions and bringing about a full stop of hostilities.

On your second question, I have shared information in detail just now. One of the important common understandings reached at the unofficial talks is that the three sides agreed to maintain communication and believed that the Urumqi process is substantive, so going forward, we can expect meetings at various levels.

Q: Iran's ambassador to China reportedly asked for a security guarantee from China just now. What is China's position? Would you consider security guarantee for Iran?

A: We hope parties can properly settle disputes through dialogue and negotiation. China will maintain communication with all parties and continue to work for deescalation and put an end to the conflict.

Apr. 8: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2041886079234760830)

The root cause of the disruption at the Strait of Hormuz is the U.S.-Israeli illegal military operations against Iran. The fundamental solution to ensuring safe passage of ships through the Strait is to end the conflict as soon as possible.

The Security Council's actions should be aimed at de-escalating the situation. They must not provide the legal veneer for unauthorized military operations, and must not grant a license to the use of force, let alone add fuel to the fire, thereby leading to an escalation of the conflict.

The draft resolution jointly submitted by China and Russia concerning the Strait of Hormuz is objective and fair, aiming at easing tensions, calling for dialogue and negotiations, and upholding navigational rights and freedoms.

Apr. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2092601/)

On April 7, the UN Security Council voted on a draft resolution on maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and the adjacent waters tabled by Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Eleven countries voted in favour of the draft, Colombia and Pakistan abstained, and China and Russia voted against. As a result, the resolution has noted been adopted.

Over the past few days, we have been trying to convince our friends not to rush the adoption of the draft resolution that could hinder peace efforts to settle the situation in the Persian Gulf, doing this in various formats, including through Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's contacts with our Arab colleagues.

Thanks to a reasonable stance taken by the UN Security Council at the insistence of Russia and China, the necessary conditions have been created for reaching an understanding on a ceasefire and the launch of negotiations. We believe that these conditions should be applied to all areas of the confrontation, including Lebanon.

We welcome the creation of an appropriate atmosphere for a political and diplomatic process. We understand that its outcome is not predetermined. Russia and all other reasonable members of the international community will actively work towards practical results in favour of the early restoration of peace in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East as a whole.

During the above mentioned UN Security Council meeting on April 7, Russian representatives announced the intention, supported by our Chinese partners, to submit an alternative draft resolution for the immediate termination of hostilities and support for ongoing diplomatic efforts and peace initiatives. We hope that this balanced document will be supported by all member states of the UN Security Council.

Russia stands for the freedom of maritime navigation everywhere, not only in the Strait of Hormuz and the adjacent waters, but throughout the World Ocean. It is essential to preclude attacks on the commercial fleet of all countries, and to open corridors for Cuba and Venezuela. This problem must be resolved comprehensively and in cooperation with all countries concerned.

We appreciate the position of the Arab countries, which have become hostage to the situation created by the United States and Israel. However, we believe that the problem of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz can only be settled if the unprovoked aggression against Iran is stopped and if Tehran's opinion of is taken into consideration.

Apr. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2041837206835491135)

#Zakharova: On April 7, the UN Security Council considered a draft resolution on security in the Strait of Hormuz.

Russia & China voted against.

Incoming reports of a US-Iran ceasefire understanding only confirm that our decision was the right one.

Apr. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/2092596/) [excerpts]

TOPIC: The UN Security Council's review of the draft resolution on security in the Hormuz Strait

Now, let turn to the current international agenda, namely, the situation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. Our comment on this matter will be multifaceted, considering the dramatic developments that we have witnessed in the past 24 hours, and in view of the questions you have submitted. If you need further details, I will certainly offer them after we finish the opening part of the briefing.

On April 7, the UN Security Council reviewed a draft resolution on security in the Hormuz Strait, submitted by Bahrain. Eleven member states of the Security Council voted for the resolution, two countries—Pakistan and Colombia—abstained. Russia and China voted against it. The document was not adopted.

If passed, the draft resolution proposed by Bahrain could have set a dangerous precedent in the international law of the sea. The draft was misbalanced and contained one-sided anti-Iran wording, without mentioning the initial cause of the situation in the Persian Gulf, which was the aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran.

We were concerned that the anti-Iran resolution could damage the fragile mediated talks on de-escalation that had been taking place discreetly over the past few days. The incoming reports about an understanding reached between the US and Iran regarding a ceasefire confirm that Russia's vote on the Bahraini initiative was appropriate.

Russia is proposing to focus on the calls in support of an immediate ceasefire and starting a full-fledged political and diplomatic process to resolve the confrontation in the Persian Gulf. The Russian delegation has announced submitting an alternative draft on April 7 that aims to achieve these particular goals.

I want to draw your attention once again to the full-length address by Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya, in which he not only clarifies Russia's general approaches but also provides an in-depth analysis of the draft submitted by Bahrain, specifying which provisions are not acceptable to our country and why Russia voted against it.

TOPIC: Cessation of hostilities in the Middle East

We all followed the developments on the ground with bated breath yesterday. We have received a vast number of requests to

comment on this situation.

Russia welcomes the achievement of an agreement on the cessation of hostilities between the United States and Iran.

From the very first days of the destructive war in the Middle East, unleashed by the American–Israeli tandem, Russia has advocated a ceasefire and the resumption of political and diplomatic efforts to settle the conflict. We have worked consistently and persistently in this direction, including on the platform of the UN Security Council, while maintaining close coordination with other responsible members of the international community. Particular recognition is undoubtedly due to the positive mediating role of Islamabad.

Substantial negotiations lie ahead to achieve a final settlement of the conflict based on respect for the legitimate rights and interests of all states in the region. We proceed from the understanding that the outcome must guarantee non-recurrence of such military crises (I emphasise—man-made, entirely unprovoked), and ensure long-term peace and security in the region. We will continue to actively facilitate the attainment of these objectives.

TOPIC: Attacks on peacekeepers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

On March 29 and 30, explosions at the positions of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) resulted in the deaths of three Indonesian military personnel and left five more individuals wounded. It must be stated that these tragic episodes, regrettably, are not isolated but continue a series of deliberate attacks and assaults on the facilities of the peacekeeping mission.

As is known, members of the UN Security Council responded to this incident by adopting a corresponding press statement on April 1, 2026. That statement contains a condemnation of the aforementioned bloody incidents. We, unreservedly, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, fully endorsed this declaration. It conveys condolences to the families and loved ones of the deceased, reaffirms support for the mandate of UNIFIL, and stresses the necessity of respecting the inviolability and security of the peacekeeping contingent and its installations.

Furthermore, the statement issues a call to the UN Secretariat to investigate the circumstances of the incident and to apprise the international community appropriately, first and foremost the troop-contributing countries. It highlights the necessity for the parties to implement in full key UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which regulates the situation on the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon. Separately, a firm commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Lebanon is reiterated.

For our part, we note that the Russian delegation has exerted vigorous efforts to secure the adoption of this UN Security Council press statement. We were guided by the imperative of issuing a signal in defence and support of the blue helmets, who literally found themselves under fire in the context of Israel's military campaign in southern Lebanon, including the area of UNIFIL's deployment.

In general, we consistently highlight the dangerous degradation of the situation in Lebanon, encompassing a severe escalation in the humanitarian needs of the civilian population amid the Israeli campaign, together with the perils of large-scale collapse and destabilisation in the country. We are of the view that the destructive escalation of violence in Lebanon must not remain bracketed out of the overall regional crisis, since, in essence, developments in Lebanon are a direct consequence of the unprovoked armed aggression by the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

TOPIC: FAO report assessing impact of the Middle East conflict on agrifood markets

Let us examine the consequences in detail, which manifest not only within the political dimension but have also impacted the global landscape. This is substantiated by the report from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization of (FAO), which has issued a publication entitled "Global Agrifood Implications of the 2026 Conflict in the Middle East." We have conducted a thorough review of this document. Moreover, thematic assessment reports have been disseminated by the United Nations World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The report reverberates with alarmist undertones that are so pronounced that the term "alarming" seems inadequate. Rather than mere assessments, it presents forecasts concerning the repercussions of the adventures we have witnessed in the region, instigated at the behest of the United States and Israel, which, regrettably, are likely to persist.

The FAO document, notably, highlights the pivotal role of the Persian Gulf states within the global energy system. It underscores that these states form a major hub for the production and supply of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilisers, with urea accounting for 30 percent and ammonia for over 20 percent of global supplies. Additionally, the region's countries hold 44 percent of global

sulphur reserves—a critical component for fertiliser production.

In this context, it is apparent that the conflict in the Middle Eastern region and the obstruction of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted raw material supplies. Markets are reacting adversely to these interruptions. An escalation in costs is anticipated across the entire production and distribution chain, affecting agricultural enterprises, transportation, irrigation, storage, processing, and related activities. The surges in fossil fuel prices may trigger increased demand for bioethanol and biodiesel (derived from grain), rapeseed and soybean oils, and sugar cane.

Emergency measures undertaken, notably by the International Energy Agency (which has released 400 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves), can only offer a short-lived and minimal moderation of energy carrier prices. In light of this, the FAO urges a swift establishment of alternative trade routes, as it was not feasible to promptly normalise the situation amidst military hostilities that persisted until very recently.

The exceptional nature of the situation is further compounded by the absence of strategic fertiliser reserves in countries reliant on imports. Ultimately, this will unavoidably lead to diminished harvests in several regions. The rice planting campaigns in Bangladesh, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, scheduled to commence in late April–early May, are the first to be at risk.

On April 3, FAO published the updated Food Price Index for March, which continued its upward trend, reaching 128.5 points (an increase of 2.4 percent). Growth was observed across all major commodity categories. It is crucial to note, however, that sufficient accumulated global grain reserves are currently containing a sharp rise in their prices. Thus, the Organisation asserts that it is premature to declare the onset of a global food crisis. Although all trends are indeed deeply concerning, the principal risks at present pertain to the physical availability of energy carriers and fertilisers.

From our perspective, considering the analytical reports from various United Nations entities, we wish to highlight another issue. None of the aforementioned organisations address the root causes of the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. This undoubtedly refers to the unprovoked and unwarranted aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran, and Tehran's legitimate right to self-defence by any available means. Within the UN, the same narrative persists. Presumably, this is precisely why the assessments by experts of the world Organisation regarding developments in the food markets remain generally restrained, at least for the time being. Nonetheless, I must reiterate, the trends are clearly articulated, and there is no attempt to obscure the consequences of the actions we have been observing.

Apr. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2041840983524954427)

#Zakharova: We welcome the ceasefire agreement reached between the US & Iran.

Serious negotiations now lie ahead to achieve a final settlement of the conflict.

The outcome must guarantee that such military crises never happen again.

Apr. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2092601/)

On April 7, the UN Security Council voted on a draft resolution on maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and the adjacent waters tabled by Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Eleven countries voted in favour of the draft, Colombia and Pakistan abstained, and China and Russia voted against. As a result, the resolution has noted been adopted.

Over the past few days, we have been trying to convince our friends not to rush the adoption of the draft resolution that could hinder peace efforts to settle the situation in the Persian Gulf, doing this in various formats, including through Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's contacts with our Arab colleagues.

Thanks to a reasonable stance taken by the UN Security Council at the insistence of Russia and China, the necessary conditions have been created for reaching an understanding on a ceasefire and the launch of negotiations. We believe that these conditions should be applied to all areas of the confrontation, including Lebanon.

We welcome the creation of an appropriate atmosphere for a political and diplomatic process. We understand that its outcome is not predetermined. Russia and all other reasonable members of the international community will actively work towards practical results in favour of the early restoration of peace in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East as a whole.

During the above mentioned UN Security Council meeting on April 7, Russian representatives announced the intention, supported by our Chinese partners, to submit an alternative draft resolution for the immediate termination of hostilities and support for ongoing diplomatic efforts and peace initiatives. We hope that this balanced document will be supported by all member states of

the UN Security Council.

Russia stands for the freedom of maritime navigation everywhere, not only in the Strait of Hormuz and the adjacent waters, but throughout the World Ocean. It is essential to preclude attacks on the commercial fleet of all countries, and to open corridors for Cuba and Venezuela. This problem must be resolved comprehensively and in cooperation with all countries concerned.

We appreciate the position of the Arab countries, which have become hostage to the situation created by the United States and Israel. However, we believe that the problem of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz can only be settled if the unprovoked aggression against Iran is stopped and if Tehran's opinion of is taken into consideration.

Apr. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2041986562460635468)

Russia stands for ensuring freedom of maritime navigation everywhere—not just in the Strait of Hormuz & the adjacent waters.

This complex issue must be addressed comprehensively & in coordination with all interested states.

Apr. 9: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260409_11889263.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On April 8 local time, Israel launched large-scale airstrikes against more than 100 targets across Lebanon within 10 minutes, killing at least 254 people and injuring 1,165 others, most of them civilians. Lebanon has declared April 9 a national day of mourning. Iran says the act violates the ceasefire agreement and has closed the Strait of Hormuz. What is China's comment?

A: Lebanon's sovereignty and security should not be violated. Civilians and their property must be protected. We call on relevant parties to stay calm and exercise self-restraint and deescalate the situation in the region…

Q: The White House said yesterday that the U.S. had held talks with China on the Iran war in the last few days. I wonder if you could tell us whether such talks took place and what was discussed? And also a second question, I'm just going back to Lebanon. Does China believe that Lebanon is part of the ceasefire that was agreed?

A: On your first question, since the fighting began, China has worked actively to communicate with relevant parties to help bring about an end to the conflict.

On your second question, we hope relevant parties will take the temporary ceasefire arrangement as an opportunity to resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means and put an end to the conflict.

Q: Iranian Parliament Speaker said yesterday that a ceasefire and negotiations with the United States on ending the war is "unreasonable." He accused the U.S of multiple violations, the Lebanon situation included. Does the Foreign Ministry have a comment on this?

A: We hope relevant parties will seize the opportunity for peace, bridge differences through dialogue and consultation, and work for restoring peace and stability to the Gulf and Middle East region at an early date…

Q: I have two questions. We saw that President Donald Trump has said on Truth Social that countries supplying military weapons to Iran will immediately be tariffed on any and all goods sold to the U.S. at 50 percent, effective immediately. We're wondering if the foreign ministry has a comment on this? The second question is regarding a Guardian report. The Guardian has reported that Pakistani officials said that China helped convince a reluctant Tehran to join the negotiation. While Islamabad acted as the mediator, China functioned as the guarantor, promising that Iranian officials would not be assassinated during future negotiations, according to the report. We're wondering if the foreign ministry could comment on this?

A: On your first question, China's position is very clear. There is no winner in a tariff war.

On your second question, China has been calling for an immediate ceasefire, resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means, and bringing lasing peace and security to the Gulf region and the Middle East. China will continue working for easing tensions and putting an end to the conflict.

Apr. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260411_11890427.html)

On April 8, 2026, Assistant Foreign Minister Cai Wei held consultations on UN and Security Council affairs with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alimov in Beijing. The two sides focused on an in-depth exchange of views on the current international situation, UN and Security Council affairs, and international and regional hotspot issues. The two sides agreed to jointly safeguard multilateralism, uphold the international system with the UN at its core and the international order based on

international law, and make positive efforts to promote the political settlement of hotspot issues.

Apr. 9: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2042207145446531515)

On April 8, Russian-Chinese consultations on bilateral coordination at the UN were held in Beijing.

The talks once again demonstrated the high degree of convergence between our countries' positions on pressing global issues.

Apr. 9: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2093257/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On April 9, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi at the latter's initiative.

The Russian side welcomed the announcement of agreements on a two-week cessation of hostilities between the United States and Iran, as well as Israel's adherence to these agreements, emphasising that Moscow firmly believes these agreements—as announced by Pakistani mediators—have a regional dimension and apply in particular to Lebanon. Sergey Lavrov expressed hope for the success of the negotiating process and reaffirmed Russia's readiness to help find solutions that would overcome the consequences of the unprovoked American-Israeli aggression against Iran, and ensure lasting peace and sustainable security in the region.

Abbas Araghchi thanked the Russian Federation for its principled stance in the UN Security Council during discussions on the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Apr. 9: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2093267/)

On April 8, Israel carried out large-scale airstrikes on Lebanon, including residential areas of Beirut. According to Lebanese authorities, more than 250 people have been killed and over 1,100 injured as a result of the unprecedented strikes on the capital and other populated areas. In response, national mourning was declared in the country on April 9.

We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims and wish a swift recovery to those injured.

We strongly condemn this Israeli strike on Lebanon, which has led to the loss of innocent lives and widespread damage to civilian infrastructure. It is particularly concerning that it occurred almost immediately after the US-Iran agreement on a two-week ceasefire came into effect, at a moment when there was a real opportunity to pursue a diplomatic resolution to the acute military and political crisis in the region. Such actions risk undermining the emerging negotiation process and significantly heighten the danger of a renewed large-scale armed confrontation in the Middle East.

We call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israeli–Lebanese conflict zone and a renewed focus on political and diplomatic efforts, including the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which clearly defines the obligations of all parties.

We reaffirm our principled support for the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the Lebanese Republic. We also remain committed to close cooperation with regional and international partners to promote sustainable stabilisation in Lebanon and across the broader Middle East.

Apr. 10: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202604/t20260410_11890053.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. House select committee on China has recently published a so-called "whistleblower" email account on its website, asking academics, researchers, and university faculty and staff to report research partnerships involving entities tied to China's defense or industrial base. What is China's comment?

A: Apparently, this so-called select committee has no scruples whatsoever in its attempt to suppress and contain China. In recent years, the U.S., by overstretching the concept of national security, has deliberately disrupted normal China-U.S. sci-tech exchanges and cooperation, and wantonly gone after Chinese students and scholars. Such practices will only backfire and dampen the U.S.'s own innovation dynamism…

Q: Israel continues its attacks on Lebanon despite a ceasefire reached between the U.S. and Iran, which the mediator country Pakistan especially said will cover all conflict zones including Lebanon. The violation of the ceasefire also brings an uncertainty on prospective peace talks between the U.S. and Iran as the Iranian side said they will not participate in peace talks until a ceasefire is also established in Lebanon. What's China's comment?

A: The ceasefire arrangement should help put an end to the fighting and restore peace and stability in the region. We call on

relevant sides to resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, remain calm, exercise restraint and work for deescalation in the region.

Apr. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2042496528573661370)

#Zakharova: We strongly condemn the April 8 Israel's attack on Lebanon, which has killed & injured hundreds of innocent civilians & caused major damage to civilian infrastructure.

Such aggression risks derailing the emerging negotiation process.

Apr. 10: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2093819/)

Today, a window of opportunity is emerging to resolve the complex situation in the Persian Gulf region. The majority of countries support this effort, placing their hopes on the success of the negotiations between the United States and Iran, which are set to begin in Islamabad with the mediation of our Pakistani partners.

Regrettably, however, certain forces are impeding progress toward peace, whether intentionally or not, by creating obstacles along the way. In particular, those who initiated aggression against Iran and now hold it responsible for issues related to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz should not obscure the actual sequence of events, including the fact that this vital waterway operated without disruption until February 28.

At this stage, the core objective is to address the root causes of the destructive conflict in the region, namely by bringing a complete end to the war initiated by the United States and Israel. Among its consequences are the damage sustained by the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, as well as military activity in the Lebanese-Israeli border area and missile and air strikes on Lebanon, which must cease immediately.

In this context, we advocate resolving existing disagreements among the countries of the region through political and diplomatic means. We remain committed to close cooperation with our partners in order to advance constructive peace efforts and ensure the stabilisation of the situation in the Middle East.

We call on all participants in the forthcoming talks in Pakistan to act responsibly and refrain from any steps that could jeopardise this opportunity.

We also reaffirm the relevance of Russia's well-known initiative to develop a security framework for the Persian Gulf region through dialogue among all littoral states—the Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran—with the involvement and support of external actors capable of genuinely contributing to a fair and sustainable balance of interests.

Apr. 12: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79539) with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian

The President of Iran shared his assessment of the Iran-US talks that took place in Islamabad on April 11 and expressed gratitude for Russia's principled stance, shown notably in international organisations. In addition, Masoud Pezeshkian thanked Russia for the humanitarian aid provided to the people of Iran.

Vladimir Putin expressed willingness to keep up the efforts to facilitate the search for a political and diplomatic settlement for the conflict and act as a mediator in the name of ensuring a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. To this end, Russia will maintain close contact with all the partners in the region.

When discussing current bilateral matters, the leaders reaffirmed mutual commitment to further strengthening the neighborly relations between Russia and Iran across all fronts.

Masoud Pezeshkian offered Easter greetings to Vladimir Putin and all of Russia's Orthodox Christians.

Apr. 13: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260413_11891047.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On April 12 local time, President Trump ordered the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and announced measures against countries having energy trade with Iran. In an interview he also called on China to buy oil from the United States or Venezuela. What's your comment? How does China view the issue of safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and the related energy issue?

A: The Strait of Hormuz is an important international trade route for goods and energy. Keeping the area safe and stable and ensuring unimpeded passage serves the common interest of the international community. The root cause of the disruption at the

Strait of Hormuz is the military conflict. To solve the issue, the conflict must stop as soon as possible. All parties need to remain calm and exercise restraint. China will continue playing a constructive role.

As to the purchase of oil, China stands ready to work with others to jointly safeguard global energy security and keep supply chains stable. However, to fundamentally resolve the issue, what needs to be done first and foremost is to restore peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. Venezuela is a sovereign state and has full permanent sovereignty over all its natural resources and economic activities. It has the right to choose its own partners of cooperation. Other countries have no right to dictate to it.

Apr. 13: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260413_11891047.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: You have just announced that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit China tomorrow. How does China view its relations with Russia? Could you share the arrangements of this visit?

A: China and Russia are comprehensive strategic partners of coordination for a new era. In recent years, the two countries are committed to deepening lasting good-neighborliness and friendship, expanding comprehensive strategic coordination, and upholding mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. The two sides have maintained close communication and coordination in international and regional affairs, making important contributions to promoting an equal and orderly multipolar world, reforming and improving global governance, and safeguarding international fairness and justice.

During Foreign Minister Lavrov's visit to China, the two foreign ministers will exchange views and coordinate positions on the development of bilateral relations, cooperation among various fields, and international and regional issues of mutual interests. We will continue to share information about the visit in a timely manner. You may check back for updates...

Q: Is the foreign ministry able to tell us more about the visit of Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince? Will new proposals be put forward concerning the situation in the Middle East?

A: This is the Crown Prince's first visit to China. President Xi Jinping will meet with him and Premier Li Qiang will hold talks with him to exchange views on bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

The UAE is China's comprehensive strategic partner. Over the past 42 years since the two countries established diplomatic ties, China-UAE relations have maintained steady and sound development. Over recent years, under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, political mutual trust between the two countries has been consolidated with steady progress in practical cooperation and closer people-to-people and cultural exchanges, delivering benefits for the two peoples. Through this visit, China looks to work with the UAE for new progress in our bilateral relations and greater benefit for the two peoples.

Apr. 13: Chinese Premier Li Qiang meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202604/t20260413_11891032.shtml) with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi [translation]

Li Qiang said that China and the UAE are comprehensive strategic partners, with deep traditional friendship and long-term support for each other on issues involving each other's core interests. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Mohammed, China-Arab relations have continued to deepen and develop, and cooperation in various fields has achieved fruitful results, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples. China is willing to continue to move forward together with the Arab side on the road of common development, strengthen communication and coordination, build political mutual trust, promote China-Arab relations and cooperation to a new level, achieve more practical results, and better achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

Li Qiang pointed out that China is willing to consolidate the foundation of energy cooperation with Argentina, expand cooperation in energy storage, hydrogen energy, new energy vehicles, power batteries and other fields, and promote the green transformation of the two countries. The two sides should create more trade growth points, not only to expand the scale, but also to optimize the structure. China is willing to import more high-quality products from the Arab side, welcomes the Arab side to actively participate in the series of activities of "sharing the big market and exporting to China", and makes good use of platforms such as the China CIIE and the Service Trade Fair to increase product promotion. China welcomes the UAE to increase investment in China in the fields of artificial intelligence, digital economy, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, etc., and supports universities, scientific research institutions and enterprises of the two countries to strengthen joint research and talent training, and jointly cultivate and expand emerging and future industries. The two sides can also strengthen cooperation in areas such as connectivity and finance,

and continuously promote trade and investment facilitation.

Li Qiang said that since the outbreak of the Iranian war, China has been in close communication with relevant parties and is actively committed to promoting peace and stopping the war. China is willing to play a more constructive role and contribute to the restoration of peace and tranquility in the Gulf region. It is hoped that the Afghan side will continue to take effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects in Afghanistan.

Khalid said that China is an important comprehensive strategic partner and trusted friend of the UAE, and that Arab-Chinese relations have a long history and deep roots, based on mutual trust, mutual respect and common interests. Thanks to the foresight and strategic vision of the two heads of state, the relationship between the two countries has developed strongly. The Arab side attaches great importance to and places the development of relations with China as a priority in the Arab foreign policy, and is willing to further strengthen high-level exchanges with China, expand exchanges and cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, energy, scientific and technological innovation, education, culture and other fields, and better serve the development of the two countries and the interests of the two peoples. At present, the situation in the Middle East is grim, and China has always been committed to peacefully resolving disputes through political means and promoting harmonious coexistence among regional countries. The Afghan side expects China to continue to play an important role in promoting regional peace and security, and is willing to take all necessary measures to maintain the safety of Chinese citizens in Afghanistan.

After the talks, Li Qiang and Khalid jointly witnessed the signing of a number of cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, science and technology, investment, and traditional Chinese medicine.

Wu Zhenglong participated in the above activities.

Apr. 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2043706656928973156)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang held talks with HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Beijing.

#China stands ready to join hands with the #UAE and continue to move forward together as partners on the path of common development, scale new heights in bilateral relations and cooperation, deliver more tangible outcomes, and further promote mutual benefit and win-win results.

Since the conflict in Iran broke out, China has been in close communication with relevant parties and actively committed to promoting peace and ending the war. China is ready to further play a constructive role and contribute to the restoration of peace and tranquility in the Gulf region.

Apr. 13: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260414_11891629.html) with Emirati envoy

On April 13, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with Special Envoy of UAE President to China Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak in Beijing. Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak accompanied HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates during his visit to China.

Wang Yi stated that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-UAE relations have maintained a positive momentum. Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit is a major event in bilateral relations. Wang Yi expressed confidence that, through joint efforts, the visit will be a complete success, further enhancing strategic mutual trust and deepening pragmatic cooperation between the two sides, which is particularly important given the current international and regional landscape.

Wang Yi elaborated on China's principled position regarding the current situation in the Middle East, stating that China fully understands the legitimate security concerns of the Gulf Arab states and supports the UAE in safeguarding its national sovereignty, security, and legitimate rights and interests. Blockading the Strait of Hormuz runs counter to the common interests of the international community, and achieving a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire through political and diplomatic means is the fundamental way to resolve the issue. China has always been actively committed to promoting peace and stopping the war, and stands ready to work with the international community, including the UAE, to bring peace and stability back to the Middle East at an early date.

Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak expressed gratitude for the warm and thoughtful arrangements made by the Chinese side for Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit, stating that the UAE side regards China as the second home and a comprehensive strategic partner with special friendly ties. Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak expressed confidence that this visit will powerfully boost cooperation across all sectors and better benefit the people of both nations. The UAE appreciates China's active efforts to deescalate the situation in the Middle East and hopes that China will play a more important role.

Apr. 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2043703871571374364)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Special Envoy of the UAE President to China Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak in Beijing.

Wang elaborated on China's principled position on the current #MiddleEast situation. He stressed that China supports the #UAE in safeguarding its national sovereignty, security, and legitimate rights and interests. A blockade of the Strait of #Hormuz does not serve the common interests of the international community. Achieving a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire through political and diplomatic means is the fundamental way forward.

Apr. 13: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260413_11891047.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Negotiations in Islamabad over the weekend failed to produce a deal. The United States has blamed Iran's refusal to give up its nuclear program, and Iran has blamed what it describes as maximalist demands from the United States. What is China's comment on these talks failing to reach a deal?

A: The U.S.-Iran negotiation in Islamabad was a step towards moving in the direction of deescalation. China hopes the ceasefire will be kept, disputes will be resolved through political and diplomatic means rather than reigniting the flames of war, and conditions will be created for early return of peace to the Gulf…

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the United States will impose an additional 50 percent tariff on China if Beijing is ever caught supplying military equipment to Iran. What's China's comment?

A: China's position is very clear. Tariff wars have no winners.

Q: First, the Philippines' National Security Council said at a briefing that laboratory analysis confirmed that bottles recovered from Chinese boats near the Second Thomas Shoal in February and October 2025 contained cyanide. We are wondering if the foreign ministry has any comment? We are also wondering if China has a position on the U.S. blockade. And in addition, is there any response to reports that China is planning to send weapons to Iran as well as reports that China has already sent dual-use technology and components to Iran?

A: On your first question, Ren'ai Jiao is part of Nansha Qundao and belongs to China. The Philippines illegally grounded its vessel on Ren'ai Jiao and has caused great damage to the eco-environment there, which has been confirmed by relevant reports. The Philippine side illegally harassed the Chinese fishing boats conducting normal fishing, grabbed the fishermen's living supplies, and staged this so-called cyanide stunt. There is no credibility whatsoever to their story.

Regarding your second question, I have just repeated China's position.

On the third question, China always acts prudently and responsibly on the export of military products, and exercises strict control in accordance with China's laws and regulations on export control and due international obligations. China opposes groundless smear and ill-intentioned association.

Apr. 13: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2043619955678339159)

The U.S.-Iran negotiation in #Islamabad was a step towards moving in the direction of deescalation.

China hopes:

- the ceasefire will be kept;
- disputes will be resolved through political and diplomatic means rather than reigniting the flames of war;
- conditions will be created for early return of peace to the Gulf.

Apr. 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2043701092303962440)

The U.S.-Iran negotiation in Islamabad was a step towards de-escalation. China hopes the ceasefire will be kept, disputes will be resolved through political and diplomatic means rather than reigniting the flames of war, and conditions will be created for an early return of peace to the Gulf.

The root cause of disruptions in the Strait of #Hormuz is the military conflict. To solve the issue, the conflict must stop as soon as possible. All parties need to remain calm and exercise restraint.

Apr. 13: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260414_11891495.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Mohammad Ishaq Dar gave a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan's mediation efforts between Iran and the United States, and expressed appreciation for China's endeavors to promote peace. Pakistan stands ready to maintain close communication and coordination with China and jointly play a positive role in realizing peace in the region.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position and commended Pakistan for facilitating a temporary ceasefire between the US and Iran and for hosting the Islamabad talks, noting that Pakistan has played a fair and balanced mediating role. Wang Yi said that the current ceasefire remains highly fragile and the regional situation is at a critical turning point. The pressing priority is to do everything possible to prevent the resumption of hostilities and sustain the hard-won momentum of the ceasefire. The international community should step up efforts to promote peace talks and unequivocally oppose any actions that undermine the ceasefire and escalate confrontation. The Five-Point Initiative of China and Pakistan for Restoring Peace and Stability in the Gulf and Middle East Region reflects the consensus of the international community on promoting peace and can continue to serve as a direction of efforts toward resolving the issue. The Chinese side is pleased to see Pakistan play a greater role and stands ready to work with Pakistan and the rest of the international community to continue making positive contributions to the early restoration of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Apr. 13: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2093876/)

On April 14-15, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will pay an official visit to the People's Republic of China. The visit will include talks with Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi.

The foreign ministers will discuss a broad range of issues related to bilateral cooperation, prospects for contacts at various levels, and coordination on the international stage, with a focus on joint work within the UN, BRICS, the SCO, the G20, APEC and other multilateral mechanisms and forums. A substantial exchange of opinions is also expected on a number of high-priority and regional issues, including the Ukraine crisis and developments in the Middle East.

Apr. 13: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094267/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On April 13, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi.

Abbas Araghchi informed Sergey Lavrov on the details of the Iran–US talks held in Islamabad on April 11.

The Russian side welcomed the continued commitment to pursuing diplomatic efforts and seeking solutions that would address the root causes of the conflict and achieve long-term stabilisation in the region, taking into account the legitimate interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighbours.

Sergey Lavrov stressed the importance of preventing a relapse into armed confrontation and reaffirmed Russia's consistent readiness to facilitate a settlement of the crisis, which has no military solution. He also recalled Russia's initiative to develop the Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf, involving all littoral states and supported by extra-regional countries capable of making a constructive contribution to the negotiation process.

The Russian Foreign Minister also expressed his sincere condolences to Abbas Araghchi over the brutal killing, as a result of an air strike, of the former Iranian Foreign Minister—Chair of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran Kamal Kharrazi.

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2043964681698873780)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy PM & FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Wang Yi commended Pakistan for facilitating a temporary ceasefire between the US and Iran and hosting the Islamabad talks, in which Pakistan played a fair and balanced mediating role. He stressed that the top priority is to make every effort to prevent the conflict from reigniting and maintain the hard-won momentum of the ceasefire.

The five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region jointly proposed by #China and #Pakistan reflects the international consensus on promoting peace and can continue to serve as a direction for efforts to resolve the issue.

Apr. 14: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202604/t20260414_11891573.html) with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

President Xi Jinping noted that the UAE is China's comprehensive strategic partner, and China always attaches high importance to growing this bilateral relationship. With the concerted efforts of both sides, China and the UAE have maintained sound and stable development of bilateral relations, kept deepening mutual political trust, steadily advanced practical cooperation, and enjoyed vibrant people-to-people exchanges. To cement and elevate China-UAE relations is the firm commitment of both sides and meets the aspiration of both peoples. China stands ready to work with the UAE toward a more solid, resilient and dynamic China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership. Our two countries should continue to provide mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns, maintain high-level exchanges and strengthen strategic mutual trust. We should enhance synergy between development strategies, tap into the potential and deepen win-win cooperation in such areas as energy, investment, trade, science and technology. We should strive for greater progress in education, civil aviation and tourism to foster closer people-to-people exchanges and strengthen popular support. We should enhance coordination and cooperation in multilateral platforms such as the U.N. and BRICS, counter international and regional uncertainties with a stable China-UAE relationship, and jointly build a community with a shared future for humanity.

The two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region. President Xi Jinping stressed China's principled position of promoting peace and facilitating talks, and reiterated China's readiness to continue playing a constructive role in this regard.

President Xi Jinping made four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. First, stay committed to the principle of peaceful co-existence. The Gulf states in the Middle East are close neighbors that cannot move away. It's important to support the Gulf states in improving their ties, work to build a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture of the Middle East and the Gulf region, and consolidate the foundation for peaceful co-existence. Second, stay committed to the principle of national sovereignty. Sovereignty serves as a foundation for all countries, especially developing countries, to survive and thrive, and it must not be violated. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf states should be earnestly respected, and the safety of their personnel, facilities and institutions vigorously safeguarded. Third, stay committed to the principle of international rule of law. We should safeguard the authority of international rule of law, reject selective application, and prevent the world from returning to the law of the jungle. It is important to firmly uphold the international system with the U.N. at its core, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. Fourth, stay committed to a balanced approach to development and security. Security is a prerequisite for development, and development serves as a safeguard of security. All sides should work to create a sound environment for and bring positive energy to the development of the Gulf states. China stands ready to share with the Gulf countries the opportunities through Chinese modernization, and work with them to nurture a fertile ground for regional development and security.

Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan noted that the China-UAE relationship is long-standing and built on deep roots. The two countries have always respected and trusted each other, and shared extensive common interests. The UAE attaches great importance to growing its ties with China, and stands ready to work with China to implement the important common understandings reached between the two heads of state and deepen cooperation in various fields, so as to open up a broader prospect for the bilateral relations and deliver tangible benefits to both peoples. The UAE commends China's responsible and constructive role in international affairs, and China's efforts on promoting political settlement of the crisis taking place in the Middle East. The UAE is committed to staying in close communication and coordination with China to facilitate ceasefire between the relevant sides, restore peace and stability in the region as soon as possible, maintain international shipping security, and prevent further impact on the global economy and energy security. The UAE will earnestly protect the safety of Chinese citizens

and institutions in its territory.

Wang Yi was present at the meeting.

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2043943142232338671)

President Xi Jinping met with HH Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi, the UAE.

To cement and elevate China-UAE relations is the firm commitment of both sides and meets the aspiration of both peoples. China stands ready to work with the UAE toward a more solid, resilient and dynamic China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership.

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2043948192140755302)

President Xi Jinping made four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East.

1. **Stay committed to the principle of peaceful co-existence. The Gulf states in the Middle East are close neighbors that cannot move away. It's important to support the Gulf states in improving their ties, work to build a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture of the Middle East and the Gulf region, and consolidate the foundation for peaceful co-existence.**
2. **Stay committed to the principle of national sovereignty. Sovereignty serves as a foundation for all countries, especially developing countries, to survive and thrive, and it must not be violated. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf states should be earnestly respected, and the safety of their personnel, facilities and institutions vigorously safeguarded.**
3. **Stay committed to the principle of international rule of law. It is important to firmly uphold the international system with the U.N. at its core, the international order based on international law, and basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter.**
4. **Stay committed to a balanced approach to development and security. Security is a prerequisite for development, and development serves as a safeguard of security. All sides should work to create a sound environment for and bring positive energy to the development of the Gulf states. China stands ready to share with the Gulf countries the opportunities through Chinese modernization, and work with them to nurture a fertile ground for regional development and security.**

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202604/t20260416_11893219.html) with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov

On April 14, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks in Beijing with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who is visiting China.

Wang Yi stated that the current international situation is experiencing intense turmoil, with unilateral hegemony inflicting increasing harm, global governance system facing profound adjustments, and humanity's cause of peace and development confronting serious challenges. In the face of a complex and volatile external environment, under the personal attention and strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Putin, China-Russia relations remain "unshaken by fleeting clouds", with cooperation across all fields becoming "stronger through repeated trials". The two sides coordinate and echo each other on the international stage, sending a clear message to the world that the right path still exists amid headwinds, and there remains steadfast responsibility amid upheaval.

Wang Yi said that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. It is also the first year of China's 15th Five-Year Plan period. China and Russia should seize this historical opportunity, follow the trend of the times, fully implement the important consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries, and elevate the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields to a higher level. The two sides should strengthen cooperation within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations, take the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an opportunity to implement the consensus of the Tianjin Summit through China-Russia cooperation, and support Kyrgyzstan in hosting a successful summit this year. The two sides should jointly maintain the momentum of unity among BRICS countries and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the Global South. The two sides should continue to maintain strategic coordination on major international and regional issues, jointly practice multilateralism and international morality, and jointly advance the process of world multipolarity.

Lavrov said that Russia and China are comprehensive strategic partners of coordination who respect each other and enjoy a high degree of mutual trust. Russia is willing to work with China to jointly implement the consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries, maintain close high-level exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results. The current international situation faces severe challenges, with some countries attempting to cobble together various "small cliques" to contain Russia and China. The two sides should align the series of global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping with President Putin's visions such as the Greater Eurasian Partnership and the Eurasian security architecture, maintain coordination and cooperation on multilateral platforms and in international and regional affairs, safeguard their respective national interests, and jointly uphold the security and stability of the international system.

The two sides communicated and coordinated on preparations for the meeting between the heads of state of the two countries within the year, and had an in-depth exchange of views on international and regional issues of common concern, such as the US-Iran conflict, the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, and the Ukraine crisis.

After the talks, the two sides jointly signed the consultation plan for 2026 between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2044262702634389990)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held talks with Russian FM Sergei Lavrov in Beijing.

Wang Yi said that #China and #Russia should seize the historic opportunity, keep up with the trend of the times, implement the imptortant consensus reached by the two heads of state, and promote the bilateral strategic partnership of coordination and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields to a higher level.

The two sides coordinated on preparations for the meeting between the two heads of state within the year, and exchanged in-depth views on international and regional issues of common concern, including the U.S.-Iran conflict, the situation in the Asia-Pacific, and the Ukraine crisis.

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260416_11893311.html)

On April 14, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Diplomatic Advisor to the President of Brazil Ibrahim Abdul Hak Neto in Beijing. The two sides had an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East.

Ibrahim Abdul Hak Neto stated that the current situation in the Middle East is highly tense, and every effort should be made to prevent the escalation and spillover of conflict. Brazil and China hold similar positions on issues such as the situation in Iran, both believing that political and diplomatic means are the only correct way to resolve differences. Brazil appreciates the five-point initiative of China and Pakistan for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region, and stands ready to work with China to support diplomatic efforts to ease tensions and jointly safeguard the international order based on international law.

Zhai Jun stated that China is closely following the current situation in the Middle East and believes that the parties to the conflict should seize the opportunity for peace, meet each other halfway, and find solutions through dialogue and negotiation. China has always maintained an objective and impartial stance and actively advocated peace and talks. China stands ready to work closely with Brazil to promote greater international consensus on a ceasefire, an end to hostilities, and a political settlement, so as to contribute to the early restoration of peace and stability in the Middle East.

The two sides also had an exchange of views on regional hot issues including Palestine and Lebanon.

Apr. 14: Remarks (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202604/t20260414_11891740.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: According to reports, U.S. Central Command announced that it would begin implementing a blockade against all vessels entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas from 10 p.m. April 13 Beijing time. Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has said that the country will not bow to any threats. Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has warned military vessels not to approach the Strait of Hormuz. Tracking data by monitoring groups show that commercial shipping through the Strait ground to a halt on the night of April 13. What's China's comment?

A: With the temporary ceasefire agreement still in place, the United States ramped up military deployment and resorted to a targeted blockade. This will only aggravate confrontation, escalate tension, undermine the already fragile ceasefire and further jeopardize safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. It is a dangerous and irresponsible move. China believes that only a

complete ceasefire can fundamentally create conditions for easing the situation. We urge relevant parties to honor the ceasefire agreement, stick to the direction of peace talks and take concrete actions to deescalate the situation so that normal traffic via the Strait will be able to resume as soon as possible…

Q: U.S. Vice President JD Vance said in an interview yesterday that it is now up to Iran to make the next move towards restarting talks. What is China's comment on this? And what does it think should be the next step to resolving the war?

A: The current ceasefire is highly fragile and the regional situation has come to a critical stage. The pressing priority is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting and maintain the momentum for ceasefire that did not come easy. Relevant parties should adhere to the temporary ceasefire and stick to resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means. China will continue working with the international community for peace, bring parties to the table and strive for the early return of peace and stability to the Middle East…

Q: It's reported that China has provided military support to Iran. U.S. President Donald Trump stated that if China is found to be supplying weapons to Iran, the U.S. will impose an additional 50 percent tariff on China. What's your comment on this?

A: China always acts prudently and responsibly on the export of military products, and exercises strict control in accordance with China's laws and regulations on export control and due international obligations. Relevant media reports are purely fabricated. If the U.S. goes ahead with the tariff hikes on China on the basis of these accusations, China will respond with countermeasures.

Apr. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2044051787645342199)

With the temporary ceasefire agreement still in place, the #US ramped up military deployment and resorted to a targeted blockade. This will only aggravate confrontation, escalate tension, undermine the already fragile ceasefire and further jeopardize safe passage through the Strait of #Hormuz. It is a dangerous and irresponsible move.

China believes that only a complete ceasefire can fundamentally create conditions for easing the situation. We urge relevant parties to honor the ceasefire agreement, stick to the direction of peace talks and take concrete actions to de-escalate the situation so that normal traffic via the Strait will be able to resume as soon as possible.

Apr. 14: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2043990787764170929)

China always acts prudently and responsibly on the export of military products, and exercises strict control in accordance with China's laws and regulations and due international obligations.

Media reports accusing China of providing military support to Iran are purely fabricated. If the U.S. goes ahead with the tariff hikes on China on the basis of these accusations, China will respond with countermeasures.

Apr. 14: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094399/) with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed

The parties exchanged views on the developments in the Persian Gulf following the US-Iran talks in Islamabad, and supported the immediate and permanent cessation of all hostilities, accompanied by further political and diplomatic efforts to overcome the crisis resulting from the unprovoked aggression against Iran by the United States and Israel.

The ministers shared the view that inflicting harm on the civilian population and infrastructure in the region is unacceptable.

Sergey Lavrov and Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan agreed to maintain contact to assist with the sustainable resolution of the crisis and the resumption of normal operation of the Strait of Hormuz and other waterways in the region.

Apr. 14: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094406/) with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

The two ministers discussed ways to resolve the crisis triggered by the unprovoked attack by the United States and Israel on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Moscow and Ankara expressed their readiness to support efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Minister Fidan also raised recent developments in Ukraine and the prospect of resuming trilateral negotiations with the United States, reaffirming that Türkiye stands ready to offer Istanbul as a venue for such talks. For his part, Minister Lavrov gave his assessment of the current actions and statements by the Kiev regime.

Apr. 14: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094547/) at meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Mr Minister, my dear friend…this is our first face-to-face meeting this year; we have had several telephone conversations before which are always substantive and detailed. I have no doubt that we will have even more opportunities this year to communicate and to prepare additional decisions for upcoming contacts between our leaders which have already been planned. We will review this matter in detail today.

I fully agree with you that the foundations of international relations are facing the most severe challenges. Just look at what happened in Latin America, Venezuela, at the beginning of the year, and what is happening now in the Middle East. The Ukraine crisis, which the West tried to artificially create in order, as it claimed, to inflict a strategic defeat on the Russian Federation, is now being used, primarily by the Europeans, to begin nurturing plans to create a new aggressive bloc in western Eurasia and to drag the Ukrainian regime into it clearly with the objective of directing this new entity against the Russian Federation.

Highly dangerous games continue unabated in eastern Eurasia as well, including the Taiwan issue and the South China Sea. The situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the space that has for many years remained a place of cooperation and neighbourliness—I'm referring to the ASEAN-centric space - is being escalated as well. Attempts are being made to break it apart by creating small-geometry and bloc-like entities in order to contain both the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, which share borders with this most important region that is part of Eurasia.

Our vast continent needs to be watched over at all times. I am confident that we will be able to substantively discuss joint practical steps today, both in line with the initiatives put forward by the President of the People's Republic of China on global security and other areas, and in line with President Vladimir Putin's initiative to form common Eurasian continental security architecture.

I believe our meeting is taking place at the right time. Thank you for the invitation. I stand committed to engaging in concrete and productive work.

Apr. 14: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2044061827647353170)

FM Sergey Lavrov to FM Wang Yi:

I agree that the foundations of international relations are now being put through the most serious trials.

Today will be a good opportunity to discuss practical #RussiaChina steps to address these challenges.

Apr. 15: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2044270187118244083)

President Xi Jinping met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. The comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries has maintained high-level development, with fruitful cooperation in various fields.

In a fluid and turbulent world, the stability and certainty of China-Russia relations are truly valuable. The two sides should strengthen strategic communication and enhance diplomatic coordination, so that the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination will stand higher, develop more steadily and advance further.

Apr. 15: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2044281030950154658)

Media reports accusing China of providing military support to Iran are purely fabricated.

If the U.S. goes ahead with tariff hikes on China on the basis of these accusations, China will respond with countermeasures.

Apr. 15: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260415_11892477.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov just wrapped up his visit to China. What does the Chinese side think of the visit?

A: You can check the readouts on the visit that we've released. I would just stress that both sides will seize the trend of the times, fully implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, and bring to a new height the China-Russia

comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination and our mutually-beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Q: The U.S. reportedly said that talks with Iran could resume in Pakistan over the next two days. What is China's comment? How do you see the next round of talks? Will China continue to play a mediation role?

A: China welcomes all efforts conducive to ending the conflict, and commends Pakistan for brokering the U.S.-Iran temporary ceasefire and a just and balanced mediation role. The pressing priority is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting, maintain the momentum for ceasefire that did not come easy, and stay committed to political and diplomatic means in resolving disputes.

When meeting with Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi yesterday morning, President Xi Jinping made a four-point proposition on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, that is, stay committed to the principle of peaceful co-existence, the principle of national sovereignty, the principle of international rule of law and a balanced approach to development and security. The proposition reflects China's consistent position and active effort for promoting ceasefire and peace, and advocating dialogue in resolving differences. China stands ready to continue working with the international community to contribute to the early restoration of peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region.

Q: The U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that China was an unreliable partner in the crisis in the Middle East. And yesterday, the Chinese threatened countermeasures against any tariffs against China. Do these statements have any bearing on President Trump's upcoming visit to China?

A: On the Iran situation, China has made its serious position clear more than once.

On President Trump's visit to China, the two sides maintain communication on the matter…

Q: Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said during his visit to Beijing that Russia can compensate for the shortfall in resources that has arisen for China and other countries due to the Strait of Hormuz being blocked. Can you provide more details about this and the ongoing energy cooperation between China and Russia?

A: We have made clear China's position on the Strait of Hormuz. China and Russia engage in practical cooperation in various fields, including energy, on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit…

Q: It's reported that the latest IMF report indicates deeper, longer conflict in the Middle East would push global economy to the brink of recession and decides to cut global growth outlook by 0.2 percentage points. According to UN agencies, the war will push another 45 million people into hunger and 32 million people into poverty. Some Pacific Island countries facing energy crises have declared a state of emergency. Can I have your comment on that?

A: The IMF report again proves that the war has caused not only heavy casualties and losses but also severe spillover, hampering global economic growth and the improvement of people's wellbeing. It is a war that should not have happened. Nor should the international community, the least developed countries in particular, bear the brunt. The pressing priority is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting, resume traffic via the Strait of Hormuz and restore peace and stability to the Gulf as soon as possible so as to prevent the war from causing greater impact on the global economy and energy security or even a humanitarian crisis.

Apr. 15: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2044388623987130573)

The #IMF report throws into sharp relief the tremendous toll of the #Iran war on the global economy and the war's human cost. Nations of the world, least of all the most vulnerable countries, shouldn't have to bear the brunt of a war which shouldn't have happened in the first place.

The ceasefire must hold. The Strait of Hormuz must reopen. Peace must return to the Gulf. The global economy and energy supply must not take any more hit. The world does not need yet another humanitarian crisis.

Apr. 15: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260416_11893024.html) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On April 15, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

Seyed Abbas Araghchi briefed on the latest progress in Iran-US negotiations and Iran's next-step considerations, stating that Iran stands ready to continue seeking a rational and realistic solution through peaceful negotiations. Iran highly appreciates China's consistent efforts to de-escalate tensions and hopes China will play an active role in promoting peace and ending the conflict.

Wang Yi stated that China, as always, supports Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and national dignity. President Xi Jinping solemnly put forward the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, offering a Chinese approach to resolving the crisis. The current situation has reached a critical juncture between war and peace, and a window of opportunity for peace is opening. China supports sustaining the momentum of ceasefire and negotiations, which serves the fundamental interests of the Iranian people and meets the shared aspiration of regional countries and the international community. The sovereignty, security and legitimate rights and interests of Iran as a country bordering the Strait of Hormuz should be respected and upheld. Meanwhile, the freedom and security of navigation in the internationally accessible strait should also be guaranteed, and striving to restore normal navigation in the strait is a shared call of the international community. Guided by the essence of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, China stands ready to continue to facilitate de-escalation, promote the improvement of relations among regional countries, and play a constructive role in ultimately achieving enduring peace and stability in the Middle East.

Apr. 15: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202604/t20260415_11892025.shtml) with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov [translation]

Xi Jinping asked Lavrov to convey his sincere greetings to President Putin. Xi Jinping pointed out that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia Strategic Partnership of Coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation. In the face of the turbulent and intertwined international situation, the stability and certainty of Sino-Russian relations are particularly valuable, and the strong vitality and exemplary significance of the Sino-Russian Treaty of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation have become more prominent. The two sides should make every effort to implement the important consensus reached between us and President Putin, strengthen strategic communication, close diplomatic coordination, and promote the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation to stand higher, go more steadily and go further.

Xi Jinping stressed that in the face of major changes unseen in a century, China and Russia should firmly defend the legitimate interests of the two countries and maintain the unity of countries in the Global South with closer and more powerful strategic cooperation, reflecting the responsibilities of major powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The two sides should maintain strategic focus, trust each other, support each other, develop together, and do their own thing. It is necessary to give full play to the advantages of adjacent and complementary ones, deepen all-round cooperation, and enhance the resilience of their respective developments. It is necessary to strengthen multilateral cooperation, firmly uphold and practice multilateralism, work together to revitalize the authority and vitality of the United Nations, and closely coordinate and cooperate within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS countries to promote the development of the international order in a more just and reasonable direction.

Lavrov conveyed President Putin's sincere greetings and best wishes to President Xi Jinping, saying that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, Russia-China relations have shown high resilience in a complex external environment, trade and investment cooperation has gained good momentum, people-to-people exchanges have become increasingly close, and multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and APEC have been closely coordinated. In the face of the severe and complex international situation, Russia is willing to work with China to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, maintain high-level exchanges, strengthen practical cooperation, promote people-to-people exchanges, safeguard international fairness and justice, promote greater development of Russia-China relations, and make greater contributions to world peace and stability.

Wang Yi attended the meeting.

Apr. 15: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094722/) at meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping

Mr President,

I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your kind words and this meeting. They are evidence of your personal attention to the development of mutually beneficial strategic relations with the Russian Federation, and to the issues that will be discussed at the next summit during the upcoming visit of President of Russia Vladimir Putin to the People's Republic of China. I held a detailed discussion of preparations for the next vital visit with my friend, Wang Yi, yesterday.

Thanks to the diplomacy pursued by our leaders, you and President Putin, our relations have demonstrated high resilience to the

economic and geopolitical shocks that have swept the world, as you have pointed out. Regrettably, these differences are increasingly acquiring a military dimension. In this situation, relations between Russia and China, which are playing a stabilising role in international affairs, are becoming increasingly important for the rest of the world, for the Global Majority, which does not want problems and turbulence but peaceful conditions for sustainable and long-term development. We have held an in-depth discussion in this context and will report to you about its results today.

Our bilateral relations are growing in trade, the economy, investment, humanitarian, cultural and other spheres. We discussed regional and international issues in terms of Russia and China's future bilateral actions, as well as in light of our activities at the UN, the UN Security Council, the SCO, BRICS, G20 and APEC.

As it was noted yesterday, we have very good roadmaps for advancing in all directions which you and President Putin have outlined for the coming period.

Apr. 15: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2044326699668759031)

FM Sergey Lavrov to President of China Xi Jinping:

Thanks to the diplomacy of our Leaders—yourself & Vladimir Putin—#RussiaChina relations continue to demonstrate a high degree of resilience amid the upheavals that have engulfed the modern world.

Apr. 15: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094750/) on visit to China [excerpts]

Ladies and gentlemen,

My visit to the People's Republic of China was held yesterday and today. Yesterday, I held talks with Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, which lasted over four hours. During the talks, we discussed a broad range of issues, mostly our bilateral relations but also international issues, which is understandable. The international situation, which is deteriorating as a result of the actions by our Western colleagues and developments in Ukraine, Latin America, the Strait of Hormuz and other parts of the Eurasian continent we share with China, is directly influencing bilateral relations between various countries, including between Russia. China and our partners in the SCO, BRICS and other multilateral associations.

We discussed the implementation of agreements reached by President Vladimir Putin and President Xi Jinping on developing our trade, economic and investment cooperation in a way that would protect it from the malicious influence of those who do not rely on the ability to compete fairly but on sanctions and other illegal methods of enforcement, blackmail and dictate. We noted that we successfully fulfilling the tasks formulated at the top level.

At the international level, we are interested in foiling the open attempts by the West, including the United States and Europe, to maintain or even renew their hegemony in the hope that the 500-year-long experience of controlling the world, subordinating it to their interests, and creating global control mechanisms that allowed them to live off others, in particular through slave trade, colonialism and other instruments, could be modernised and further used to continue living off others and bend them to their will. Neither China nor Russia, nor the majority of countries throughout the world, can accept this approach.

The Middle East and the Persian Gulf zone, the site of events of concern for all sides, are a crisis knot that will not be easy to untie. I do not think that the ongoing attempt to cut that knot will succeed. Nevertheless, Palestine, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan River must not be overshadowed or pushed to the back burner, as we and the Chinese delegation have clearly stated today.

Q&A:

Q: China is experiencing energy shortages caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Can Russia make up for these shortages? Has this issue been raised during the talks, in particular the implementation of the Power of Siberia-2 Project?

A: Russia can certainly make up for the resource shortages facing the PRC and other countries that are interested in working with us on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. We have discussed this more than once. President Vladimir Putin briefly touched on this issue in connection with the European countries' or rather the European Commission's plans to sever all ties with Russia in the energy sector meaning our hydrocarbon supplies.

It is no coincidence that after this crisis had erupted following the unprovoked aggression of the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran, European officials started calling on the European Commission to have mercy on EU member states'

national sovereignty and postpone its plans to completely shut off the valve. Figuratively speaking, they are beginning to realise that if Europe were to get off, in their words, the Russian oil and gas needle now, it could automatically end up on an energy aspen stake of another great power, which it is busy sharpening for later use on the Europeans. So, we are witnessing a captivating inflection point.

On a broader scale, though, the Power of Siberia 2 Project has been discussed by Moscow and Beijing for quite a while now. They compared its advantages over existing infrastructure and energy routes and how they will harmoniously complement each other, including with the projects being developed in Central Asia as part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

It's a vast continent. As part of what President Vladimir Putin has called the emerging Greater Eurasian Partnership, we would prefer to avoid duplication and create a group of integration participants who, while developing their own subregional programmes, will harmonise and complement each other. The Eurasian Economic Union has such relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The EAEU also has signed an intergovernmental agreement with the People's Republic of China on the harmonious combination of the Eurasian Union's integration plans with the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. The SCO and the EAEU cooperate with ASEAN as well. These are the three most active integration associations striving to coordinate their actions with each other and thus maximise the benefits derived from the advantages provided to us by our geopolitical and geoeconomic position as well as us being part of the vast Eurasian continent.

However, all of that took place when the rules on international markets, including energy markets, were more or less observed. As you may recall, these rules were established by none other than the West primarily as part of their globalisation model, which the United States strongly promoted after World War II bringing its other allies to heel and promoting this globalisation with the dominant role of the US dollar, ensuring in practice, as they believed, respect by all for the principles of free competition, the presumption of innocence, inviolability of property, and much more that has now been thrown onto the scrap heap.

This process began well before the special military operation during the first administration of US President Donald Trump, and under Joe Biden as well. It continues now with renewed vigour as part of the sanctions imposed by the previous administration which remain in place and which the new administration maintains, reinforces, and expands, as well as the discrimination of Russian companies on global energy markets, and the direct consequences of the aggressive US military policy and military actions.

That brings me to Venezuelan oil. First, they made an argument that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro needed to be brought to reason because he was supposedly the chief drug lord. No one remembers the drug narrative anymore. They say drugs are coming from Mexico, but, they claim, we made a deal and took Maduro away, and now we own the petroleum. They planned to do the same with regard to Iran. US President Donald Trump said more than once that he was ready to take Iranian oil, or at least to agree on managing it jointly with Iran.

The Strait of Hormuz has been blocked. It was never blocked before the attack on Iran, nor did it create any inconveniences for the movement of goods be it energy, oil, LNG, or food and fertilisers as well as many other things that, by the way, ensure, ensured, and I hope will continue to ensure to a large extent the socioeconomic development and trouble-free life of our close partners from the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf. All of that has come under great risk.

Not far away, on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula, runs a water artery that begins in the Mediterranean Sea, goes through the Suez Canal, then reaches the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, which washes the part of Yemen that it now controlled by the Ansar Allah movement, or the Houthis, who are allies of Iran. They have been put on notice that they too will be bombed if they try to interfere with shipping in this artery that is vital for world trade. However, the question is not who will do what and who will punish whom. The question, as always, lies in the root causes.

I have regularly and frequently spoken with almost all of my friends from the Arab countries of the Gulf over the past few weeks, and they cannot refute a very simple-sounding talking point. Would Iran have taken any steps to block the Strait of Hormuz and to strike US assets on the Arabian Peninsula, if not for the aggression of Washington and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran? Everyone recognises that this would have never happened.

So, as in any other conflict, the core cause is precisely this aggressive policy with two things standing behind it. For Israel, it is an absolutely unshakable conviction that Iran must be wiped off the face of the Earth. How can one believe in this? I have no idea, I don't understand.

US President Donald Trump also said (he was unable to hold it back) that he would, quote, destroy that civilisation. You are aware

of what kind of reaction that caused. Beyond this ideological charge to overthrow a regime that embodies a culture and civilisation that has existed for many millennia, such a goal in itself can command neither respect from a universal human perspective, nor respect in terms of anyone's belief in its feasibility. The second task is again about the petroleum markets, which the United States, above all, set for itself, in addition to backing up Israel.

We could discuss these topics at length but thankfully the People's Republic of China and Russia have everything they need such as the already operational capacities, reserve capacities, and planned capabilities so as not to depend on such aggressive adventures that undermine the global economy and energy sector.

Q: We note that you maintain constant contact with your Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi. Ahead of your departure for Beijing, you also held a telephone conversation. Do you regard the United States' demand for the complete transfer of Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles as objective?

A: I would reframe this question. All the more so, as we have long addressed this matter in engagements with both the American and Israeli sides, as well as with representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and equally within multilateral frameworks, including the UN Security Council.

This began over ten years ago, during the elaboration of an arrangement concerning the Iranian nuclear programme.

Ultimately, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to settle this issue was agreed, wherein Russia likewise played a leading role, including in addressing the Iranian dimension of this understanding. A specific volume of uranium for energy needs was agreed upon, which Iran retained for use in research activities and electricity production. The remaining enriched uranium was transported to the Russian Federation, where it underwent dilution and conversion into fuel for the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. Consequently, Russia, within this equation, has consistently played a constructive role, which was both accounted for and acknowledged by the JCPOA in the settlement of the Iranian nuclear programme. After the administration of Donald Trump withdrew from this plan—and it had been among the most significant achievements of multilateral diplomacy in modern times—during his first term in the White House, the Europeans did not accuse Washington of violating such a sound multilateral arrangement. Instead, they began demanding that Iran continue to observe all the restrictions imposed by this programme. We all participated in these negotiations and elucidated to our Western counterparts that an arrangement is precisely that—its durability is underpinned by reciprocity. If one state, moreover a state such as the United States, which played a pivotal role in the talks, merely declares that it now considers itself unbound, then how can one demand that Iran adhere to limitations it assumed over and above those stipulated by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the universal safeguards administered by the IAEA.

It was the European Union that played the most detrimental role in twisting the substance of the UN Security Council resolution concerning the Iranian nuclear programme, "engineering" nothing short of a disgraceful swindle against diplomacy. Now it asserts, on the basis of these adventurist actions, that UN sanctions against Iran have been reinstated. Neither Russia nor China recognises this, nor do the majority of other normal states. We continue our relations with Iran in full accordance with international law, which currently makes no provision for any international sanctions.

Negotiations are due to resume any day now. As we are informed, the problem that currently remains unresolved at the talks held in Islamabad is "what to do with enriched uranium." I have communicated with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi. We are in contact, as I have already indicated, with the American side as well. This topic has surfaced repeatedly over the past two to three months, including in contacts between President Vladimir Putin and American, Israeli, and Iranian representatives. We will accept any decision that satisfies the Iranian side within the framework of its legitimate rights.

International law presumes that every country possesses the right to enrich uranium exclusively for peaceful purposes. Never, anywhere, not once has Iran attempted to expand these peaceful purposes into any ambiguous interpretations or thereby sought to employ its technologies for military ends. There exists no evidence whatsoever.

In Iran, as you know, before the brutal killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the onset of the aggression, there existed his fatwa categorically prohibiting the production of nuclear weapons. The IAEA has never—despite Iran being the most inspected country under the Agency's purview—recorded any suspicions that enriched uranium could have been diverted towards military objectives.

The right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes is an inalienable right of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the Islamic Republic itself disposes of this right in the course of negotiations—whether it takes a pause or insists on preserving this right—any

approach grounded in this principle of the universality of the right to enrichment will be accepted by the Russian side.

I very much hope that those who directly participate in the negotiations—the American side in this instance—will be realists and take into account the interests of the entire region, and will not persist with the unprovoked aggression from which, first and foremost and most of all, let us call things by their proper names, the allies of the United States suffer—I refer to the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf countries, our good friends. We are not indifferent to how such adventures impinge upon their economy, well-being, prosperity, and population.

Q: You've confirmed Russia's readiness to help with the Iranian settlement. Does that mean Moscow is prepared to take on the role of formal guarantor of any future agreements, like the Normandy format, or is this more of an advisory role? Could Russia initiate an emergency inspection to confirm that Iran has no nuclear weapons, or offer other security guarantees?

A: Historically speaking, across modern history, Russia has always been part of the process that ultimately led to the agreement on safeguards for resolving Iran's nuclear programme. To that end, we have the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was agreed by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Iran and Germany, and endorsed by a Security Council resolution. That comprehensive plan and the resolution backing it contain everything needed to address any concerns that Iran might one day start producing nuclear weapons. They contain everything needed for reliable verification that Iran's peaceful nuclear programme is not being diverted into a military one. The United States destroyed that programme. That's what Israel always wanted. It happened in 2019. It's a sad fact of modern world history.

Now the only hope is to rebuild something similar from the ruins left by that major multilateral diplomatic agreement. Russia, just as it was when that programme was agreed back in 2015, is ready to play its part in resolving the enriched uranium issue. That could take various forms, including converting highly enriched uranium into fuel-grade uranium and transferring a certain amount to Russia for storage. Anything acceptable to Iran, as long as it doesn't violate Iran's inalienable right (like any other state's) to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes.

Negotiations are currently underway in Islamabad. The first round has taken place. The parties have commented on it in different ways, but they haven't walked away from the idea of continuing. We'll see. That should become clearer in the coming days. At the same time, there's a group of countries that want to organise external diplomatic support for settlement efforts: Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. They have already met in that format.

We are in touch with all of those states and their representatives who are working on resolving issues around shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and, more broadly, the Iranian problem. We discussed this with our Chinese friends today. We are willing to help these efforts if our help—and China's—is needed.

In that context, let me remind you that many years ago, our country proposed developing a Security Concept for the Persian Gulf. That would have brought together the six Arab monarchies of the GCC, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and their immediate neighbours—Iraq and Jordan. At the time, we envisaged the five permanent members of the UN Security Council forming an "external perimeter", supporting negotiations that, following the principles of those "good old days" of the pan-European process, would focus on developing security guarantees, confidence-building measures, and transparency around military exercises. That initiative never got off the ground, even though several meetings of political scientists from all the countries I mentioned found it quite promising.

But there were also those who were dead set against any steps towards normalisation between the Arabs and Iran, in particular in the Gulf region. Later, before these military actions began, before the hostilities were unleashed, before the aggression of June 2025, and two or three years before that, we tried to revive interest in this idea.

Our Chinese colleagues put forward a similar initiative. They have done a great deal to kick-start a practical process of reconciliation and normalisation between the Arabs and Iran. In particular, the PRC leadership quietly facilitated agreements between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran to normalise relations and exchange embassies. That, too, wasn't to everyone's taste.

You can see what's happening now. Beyond the stated existential desire to wipe out Persian civilisation, to take control of or get hold of the oil, there is a hidden desire to prevent rapprochement and normalisation between the Arabs and Iran. That's also achieved by stoking the intra-Islamic tribal tensions between Sunnis and Shiites.

We, like China, are trying to push in the opposite direction. Yesterday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and I discussed how we

can help facilitate normalisation at this stage. I won't go into details, but we sense growing interest in achieving that kind of normalisation. We'll see how things go—but the position of the GCC itself will be crucial.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has stated publicly that it is ready for this kind of interaction between the littoral states, so that both the Gulf and the straits become zones of peace, cooperation, and mutual benefit.

Q: With the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz announced by President Trump effectively in place, another key strait - the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is also used to ship energy - may be shut down as well. Does Moscow think that, in the absence of a peaceful settlement and due to mounting economic pressure, the Gulf countries might join the conflict? In your assessment, how high is the probability of the conflict widening, and what are Moscow and Beijing doing to prevent this scenario from playing out?

A: I have touched on this topic several times in my previous remarks.

They want to drag the Gulf countries into the war. To reiterate, those who started this strongly want to prevent the normalisation of relations between the Arabs and Iran, and to advance the two-war concept. According to them, the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran was attacked by the United States and Israel doesn't mean much when it comes to Iran's right to respond. Why? Because, they claim, Iran begins its response on the territory of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. The Arabs did not attack and stated from the very beginning that they would not provide airspace or allow the use of US bases on their territory to attack Iran. That much is true.

We strongly supported this approach in our contacts with the Arab nations, including at the top level. President Vladimir Putin spoke with the President of the UAE and other leaders. We pointed out that we not only deeply respect this position but also stand in solidarity with them that they should not be affected by that war.

Let's be frank about it. I have conversations with all my counterparts. It was impossible not to understand that US military assets on the territory of Iran's Arab neighbours would become legitimate targets that Iran would attack in response to the aggression against itself. Everyone was clear about that. The Arabs have tried, primarily with the help of the Americans, to push a resolution at the UN Security Council that would simply condemn Iran for an unprovoked attack on its neighbours and for blocking the Strait of Hormuz, without saying a single word about what happened before that. In conjunction with the People's Republic of China, we made an honest effort to explain that this resolution does not reflect the objective process, but was once again used to promote cancel culture.

The West is fond of cancelling the historical period which inconvenienced it when it tried to justify its actions in a particular crisis. This is how it began the modern history of the Ukraine crisis as well. We were accused of annexing Crimea. We say that the people of Crimea refused to recognise the coup d'état. They say the coup was one way democracy works, while Russia allegedly up and annexed Crimea. The same thing happens whenever the West finds earlier developments or root causes inconvenient; it goes ahead and cancels them, end of story.

This resolution, which the People's Republic of China and Russia did not support and prevented from being adopted, had the root cause blotted out from it as well. Future generations would have been left with a record that Iran supposedly attacked its neighbours for no particular reason.

History has proven that this resolution would have changed nothing, because just a few hours after that UN Security Council meeting, it was announced that peace talks would take place in Islamabad. Had this resolution been adopted, Iran, which was unjustly condemned in it, would have been antagonised, and the talks might not have taken place. We would all have understood the reason behind Iran's position. Or, if those talks had not taken place and the war had continued, those who attacked Iran could have said that the UN Security Council approves their actions and that they were acting in accordance with it. Neither we, nor our Chinese colleagues, nor the Arab countries themselves need any part of that. No one needs to see the UN Security Council steamrolled that way as it undermines the authority of the UN and its Security Council.

We insist on these talks continuing and on an agreement on returning to freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz be reached. This would remove the risks of a recurrence of this situation in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The leaders of Ansar Allah, the Houthis, have already made clear that if this aggression were to continue, they would be forced to resort to such measures.

There is no need to provoke the developments which cripple most of the global economy. Throughout the entire existence of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Strait of Hormuz has never been mentioned among the problems concerning freedom of navigation and maritime trade. Never. The problems arose only following the February 28 attack, which took place in the midst of

negotiations.

Russia and China are strongly in favour of seeing these talks continue so that the parties pursue realistic and fair goals, fully taking into account the legitimate rights of every country in accordance with international law. We and China stand ready to support various formats for external facilitation of these negotiations. We discussed this matter in detail yesterday as well.

Apr. 15: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094730/)

On April 14-15, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China. He was received by President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and held extensive talks with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The head of the Chinese state welcomed the Russian Minister's visit and spoke of the unprecedented level of development in bilateral relations, noting the significant results achieved over 30 years of strategic cooperation, underpinned by the Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation of July 16, 2001, which has been implemented successfully for a quarter of a century.

Sergey Lavrov conveyed to Xi Jinping friendly greetings and best wishes from the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, who is preparing to pay an official visit to China in the first half of 2026. The Russian Foreign Minister emphasised the guiding role of leader-level diplomacy in advancing Russian-Chinese ties across the board.

During the talks, Sergey Lavrov and Wang Yi held an in-depth exchange of views on a wide range of bilateral and international issues of mutual interest.

The officials focused on pressing issues, including the situation around Iran, the Ukraine crisis and developments in Latin American region. They stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between Moscow and Beijing on the international stage, including at the UN and the UN Security Council, the SCO, BRICS, APEC, the G20 and other multilateral frameworks. The ministers also addressed issues related to maintaining peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region and discussed collaboration in the post-Soviet space.

The talks were held in the friendly, trust-based and constructive atmosphere characteristic of Russian-Chinese relations.

Apr. 15: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2044445054949789703)

On April 14-15, FM Sergey #Lavrov paid an official visit to China.

During his talks with President Xi Jinping & FM Wang Yi, Minister Lavrov held an in-depth exchange of views on a broad range of bilateral & international issues of mutual interest.

Apr. 15: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2095353/) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

The ministers exchanged views on the situation in the Strait of Hormuz after the US-Israeli attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tehran's response actions.

They reaffirmed the importance of an immediate termination of the hostilities, which are having a negative impact on the Persian Gulf countries, primarily their civilian infrastructure. They also expressed a shared opinion that the United States and Iran should continue their political and diplomatic efforts with Pakistan's mediation.

Sergey Lavrov and Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud also called for a dialogue involving all interested parties to coordinate conditions that would guarantee long-term stability and security in the region based on a balance of interests of all regional countries. Russia and Saudi Arabia are ready to contribute to the organisation of this dialogue.

Apr. 16: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2044637281974386854)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

The current situation has reached a critical stage between war and peace, and a window for peace is opening. China supports maintaining the momentum of ceasefire and peace talks. Iran's sovereignty, security and legitimate rights as a country along the Strait of Hormuz should be respected and safeguarded, and the freedom and safety of navigation through the Strait should be guaranteed.

China stands ready to act in the spirit of President Xi's four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East,

continue to promote de-escalation of the situation, facilitate the improvement of relations among regional countries, and play a constructive role in ultimately achieving lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

Apr. 16: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260416_11893255.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Two questions regarding recent remarks by Donald Trump. First in an interview, he said that he and the Chinese side communicated on the situation in Iran. Can you confirm that? Second, Mr. Trump said his planned visit to China would not be affected by the war in Iran. But at the same time, the United States is imposing a naval blockade on Iranian ports, including vessels bound for China. So does China view this as a potential risk to the high-level meeting between Donald Trump and President Xi?

A: On the Iran situation, China has made its serious position clear more than once. As to the specifics you asked about, I have no information to provide.

On President Trump's visit to China, the two sides maintain communication on the matter.

Q: Another question about U.S. The U.S. yesterday said it believed China would not stop purchasing Iranian oil, and it also said it would sanction buyers of Iranian oil. Do you have any comment regarding that issue?

A: China opposes unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or authorization of the UN Security Council.

Apr. 16: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260417_11894192.html) with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani

Wang Yi said that China and Italy are comprehensive strategic partners, with complementary strengths and broad prospects for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation. Last October, the Joint Meeting of the China-Italy Government Committee was successfully convened, comprehensively reviewing and planning bilateral cooperation across various fields. China is ready to work with Italy to implement the important consensuses reached by the leaders of the two countries, maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and interactions at all levels, enhance mutual understanding, strengthen mutual trust, and promote cooperation, so as to sustain the sound and steady growth of China-Italy relations. Since the start of this year, geopolitical conflicts have been dragging on and hotspot issues have intensified, posing severe challenges to the international order and world security. Both China and Italy are ancient civilizations that cherish peace and important forces upholding multilateralism. China stands ready to enhance communication and coordination with Italy in international and multilateral affairs, demonstrating the contemporary significance of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership.

Antonio Tajani said that Italy-China relations are currently enjoying sound and smooth development. Italy highly values its relations with China and firmly adheres to the one-China policy. Italy stands ready to work with China to intensify exchanges and dialogue, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and promote the effective implementation of the action plan for strengthening the Italy-China comprehensive strategic partnership. Given the complexity and volatility of the current international situation, Italy highly recognizes China's important influence in international affairs and multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, agrees with the propositions and initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping for promoting the settlement of international and regional hotspot issues, and is ready to strengthen multilateral communication and coordination with China to jointly safeguard world peace, stability, and development.

The two sides exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East. Wang Yi said that China consistently advocates for the political settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation and opposes the use of force. The war waged by the U.S. and Israel against Iran should never have taken place, and the prolonged conflict has had a serious impact on international energy security and the safety of shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz. The pressing priority is to bring the U.S. and Iran back to the negotiating table for a political solution. China has all along upheld an objective and impartial position, actively committed to promoting peace and ending the fighting, and supports the active mediation efforts of Pakistan. China is ready to maintain communication with all parties and continue to play a constructive role in this regard.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and other issues.

Apr. 16: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260417_11894094.html)

On April 16, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Ambassador of the UK to China Peter Wilson at the latter's request. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the situation in Iran.

Peter Wilson briefed on the UK's position on the current tensions in the Middle East, with a particular focus on navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. He noted that as permanent members of the UN Security Council, both the UK and China hold aligned positions on restoring regional peace and stability. The UK is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China on easing the crisis and restoring navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Zhai Jun stated that China has been closely following the latest developments on Iran and hopes the parties concerned would heed international calls for peace and ceasefire, seeking a way out through dialogue and negotiation. President Xi Jinping put forward a four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, offering a Chinese solution to the crisis. China stands ready to work with all parties, including the UK, in the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal, to actively promote peace talks and contribute to the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Apr. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2044702349634261442)

FM Sergey #Lavrov:

I would advise the US, in every case where it dislikes a particular government, to begin by engaging it in dialogue.

No country has ever refused dialogue with the US.

It was the US, however, that first made agreements & then walked away from them.

Apr. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2044848297500885468)

#Zakharova: US moves to impose a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz must be seen as unilateral and illegitimate.

This is yet another arbitrary reinterpretation by Washington of international legal norms—one that only fuels further escalation.

Apr. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2044853333500776705)

#Zakharova: Maritime shipping has been brought to a near halt by US & Israeli aggression against Iran.

Those least affected are primarily the #CIS countries cooperating with Russia in the energy sector.

Apr. 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2045118596473598327)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Italian Deputy PM and FM Antonio Tajani in Beijing.

Wang Yi said, since the start of this year, geopolitical conflicts have been dragging on and hotspot issues have intensified, posing severe challenges to the international order and global security. Both #China and #Italy are ancient civilizations that cherish peace and important forces in upholding multilateralism. China stands ready to enhance communication and coordination with Italy in international and multilateral affairs.

On the situation in the #MiddleEast, Wang said, the pressing priority is to bring the US and Iran back to the negotiating table and seek a political settlement. China stands ready to maintain communication with all parties and will continue to play a constructive role in this regard.

Apr. 17: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260417_11894293.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: In light of the global fuel supply shock, has China sent out any relief shipments to Pacific Island nations, or does China plan to? Have any of the Pacific Island nations reached out to China for such help, considering they are some of the most dependent on energy imports?

A: The situation in the Middle East has caused a crisis in global fuel supply, because of a war that should not have happened. The pressing priority now is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting and prevent any further turmoil that could hit global energy security more badly. China stands ready to maintain communication with all sides to jointly safeguard global energy security.

Q: A 10-day ceasefire deal struck between Lebanon and Israel has taken effect today. It's part of Washington's efforts to reach a deal to end its war with Iran. The Lebanese army has warned of a number of violations to the ceasefire. How does China view this truce today?

A: China welcomes all efforts conducive to ending the conflict. We hope parties will maintain the momentum of ceasefire and negotiation and resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, which is the responsible thing to do.

Apr. 17: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2045088795415248980)

MFA Spokesperson on the 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon:

China welcomes all efforts conducive to ending the conflict. Hope parties will maintain the momentum of ceasefire and negotiation and resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, which is the responsible thing to do.

Apr. 17: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2094750/) after council meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) [excerpt]

We discussed pressing international issues focusing on various aspects of the unprecedented escalation in the Persian Gulf caused by the military aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran. Seven CIS foreign ministers adopted a statement on this matter, which will be circulated.

It was noted that the Gulf region crisis, which has effectively spread across the entire Middle East, is fundamentally altering overall trends in Eurasia, including in terms of approaches to ensuring the security of countries in various Eurasian subregions, as well as the reliability and security of routes for energy, food, and fertiliser supplies.

Apr. 17: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2045144426360545485)

FM Sergey #Lavrov:

My #CIS colleagues & I had an in-depth exchange on pressing international issues, with particular attention focused on the unprecedented escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf.

We adopted a special statement on this matter.

Apr. 17: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2096317/)

On April 16, a ten-day cessation of hostilities was announced in the Lebanese Republic.

We welcome the ceasefire agreement, which has helped bring an end to the bloodshed. We hope it will be strictly observed, creating conditions for sustainable de-escalation in Lebanon and improving the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation there.

From the very beginning of the large-scale escalation in the Middle East, which further aggravated the already difficult situation in Lebanon, we have consistently called for an end to armed confrontation and a transition to a political and diplomatic settlement.

In this context, we view the direct contact between representatives of Lebanon and Israel on April 14, held for the first time in 33 years, as a step in the right direction. Russia unequivocally and unconditionally supports the parties' desire for peace, provided it is genuine and sustained. We hope that Tel Aviv and Beirut will be able to find common ground and move toward improving bilateral relations.

We believe that a complete renunciation of the use of force and a return to political and diplomatic efforts to ensure the comprehensive implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 can pave the way for sustainable, long-term normalisation in the Lebanese Republic.

Apr 17: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2045224115645165786)

Russian MFA Spox Maria #Zakharova:

On April 16, a ten-day cessation of hostilities was announced in the Lebanese Republic.

Russia unequivocally and unconditionally supports the parties' desire for peace, provided it is genuine and sustained.

Apr. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2096463/) with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

During a bilateral meeting with Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the [5th Antalya Diplomacy Forum], the ministers extensively reviewed the key aspects of the international and regional agendas, including the latest developments in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. The parties reaffirmed the mutual intention of Russia and Türkiye to cooperate constructively for the purpose of finding effective solutions to the ongoing crises.

The ministers compared notes on the topical political issues of the Russian-Turkish dialogue and discussed the main objectives of

the trade, economic and energy cooperation between the two countries.

They also outlined a schedule of upcoming contacts.

Apr. 20: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260420_11895636.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. has seized an Iranian cargo ship that was traveling from China. Today, Iran is about to retaliate to what it says, to quote them, "armed piracy" by the U.S. Iran has also said it would not participate in the second round of negotiations as the ceasefire between Tehran and Washington expires tomorrow. The question is, does China have any remarks on the seized ship? What was it carrying? Also, does China have any comment about the ceasefire that seems to be breaking down?

A: On your first question, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz is fragile and complex. We are concerned over the U.S.'s forcible interception of the vessel and hope that relevant parties will honor the ceasefire agreement in a responsible manner, avoid aggravating disputes and escalating tensions, and provide necessary conditions for the restoration of normal passage through the Strait.

On your second question, the current regional situation is at a critical stage of whether the conflict could end or not. Now that the window for peace has been opened, favorable conditions need to be created to end the conflict at an early date. China supports relevant sides to maintain the momentum of ceasefire and negotiation, act on the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four-point proposition, continue to promote deescalation and play a constructive role for bringing lasting peace and stability to the Middle East.

Q: Recently, the Iranian forces fired on Indian-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, raising concerns about maritime security. How does China view this escalation? What measures is China considering to safeguard its shipping and energy interest in the Strait?

A: I just stated China's position on the Strait of Hormuz. Let me stress that the Strait of Hormuz is a strait for international passage. Ensuring unimpeded passage through the Strait serves the common interest of regional countries and the international community. China hopes that all sides will jointly prevent the situation from worsening. China stands ready to work with the international community to continue making its due contributions for deescalation...

Q: You've already expressed your concern about U.S. forces' shooting at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz. But again, there was a question about the Iranian guards fired at the Indian ships, transiting the same route. There is also a wider issue that the top Iranian commander told reporters that Iran would like to retain its what you call the hold over the Strait of Hormuz and they will not give up. So they will keep the control. How China looks at it because it being an international waterway. So it causes not simply for China, the issues, but for the rest of the world. How do you comment especially also on the Iranian fighting on the Indian ships?

A: I just answered a related question. The Strait of Hormuz is a strait for international passage. Keeping the area safe and stable and ensuring unimpeded passage serves the common interest of regional countries and the international community. We hope relevant parties will act responsibly and adhere to the ceasefire agreement, avoid exacerbating confrontation or worsening tensions, and create the necessary conditions for the resumption of normal traffic at the Strait.

Apr. 20: Chinese President Xi Jinping phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202604/t20260420_11895715.html) with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

President Xi noted that China attaches great importance to growing its relations with Saudi Arabia, and always upholds the principle of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership. Taking it as an opportunity, China stands ready to work with Saudi Arabia to deepen mutual strategic trust, enhance practical cooperation, expand exchanges at all levels, continuously increase the scope and depth of our bilateral relations, and set a fine example for the relations between China and Arab states.

On the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region, President Xi emphasized that China calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, supports all efforts conducive to restoring peace, and stands for resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means. The Strait of Hormuz should maintain normal passage, as this serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community. China supports regional countries in building a common home of good-neighborliness, development, security and cooperation, holding their future in their own hands, and promoting lasting peace and

security in the region.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman noted that the relationship between Saudi Arabia and China is strategic in nature, and growing ties with China is of vital importance to Saudi Arabia. The current warfare in the Middle East undermines the security of the Gulf states and severely disrupts global energy supplies and economic performance. Saudi Arabia is committed to resolving disputes and differences through dialogue and hopes to prevent further escalation. China is a responsible major country that consistently upholds a just position and supports Middle Eastern countries in pursuing good-neighborliness, dialogue and cooperation. Saudi Arabia is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China to maintain the ceasefire, prevent the resumption of hostilities, ensure the safety and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, and work together to find a pathway to lasting peace and stability in the region.

Apr. 20: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2046213272937079200)

President Xi Jinping took a phone call from Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud @KSAmofaEN.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership. Taking it as an opportunity, China stands ready to work with Saudi Arabia to continuously increase the scope and depth of our bilateral relations, and set a fine example for the relations between China and Arab states.

On the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region, China calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, supports all efforts conducive to restoring peace, and stands for resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means. The Strait of Hormuz should maintain normal passage, as this serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community. China supports regional countries in building a common home of good-neighborliness, development, security, and cooperation, holding their future in their own hands, and promoting lasting peace and security in the region.

Apr. 20: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2097492/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

Abbas Araghchi informed Sergey Lavrov of the Islamic Republic's position regarding ceasefire violations committed by the United States, including an illegal naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and a seizure of an Iranian container ship.

The Russian side reiterated the need to maintain the ceasefire which must be observed within the parameters initially agreed upon and announced by Pakistani mediators. The importance of continuing diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing the situation from escalating uncontrollably and avoiding a relapse into armed confrontation was emphasised.

Russia also reaffirmed its readiness to facilitate the achievement of mutually acceptable agreements between Iran and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian side, for its part, reaffirmed its readiness to take all necessary steps to ensure unimpeded passage of Russian vessels and cargo through the aforementioned waterway.

Apr. 21: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260421_11896628.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: We noted that yesterday President Xi Jinping spoke on the phone with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the two exchanged views on the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Some commentators see this as part of China's increasing diplomatic efforts to bring about an end to the conflict. My question is, how do you think the situation will evolve and how will China continue its role in promoting peace talks and deescalation?

A: The Iran conflict is one of the most pressing challenges facing the international community. Recently, President Xi Jinping made a four-point proposition on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. First, stay committed to the principle of peaceful co-existence. China supports regional states in improving their ties. It's important to work to build a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture of the Middle East and the Gulf region. Second, stay committed to the principle of national sovereignty. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Gulf states should be earnestly respected. Third, stay committed to the principle of international rule of law. It is important to firmly uphold the international system with the UN at its core, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. We should prevent the world from

returning to the law of the jungle. Fourth, stay committed to a balanced approach to development and security. China stands ready to share with regional countries the opportunities through Chinese modernization. All sides should work to create a sound environment for the development of the Gulf states. The proposition fully embodies China's consistent position and active efforts to promote peace, end hostilities, and advocate resolving disputes through dialogue. As a Chinese solution to end the conflict and realize peace, the proposition has received growing recognition and support from regional countries and the international community.

The current situation is at a critical stage of whether the conflict could end or not. In times like this, it is more imperative than ever that all sides show utmost sincerity, stick to the direction of political settlement, keep up the momentum for ceasefire and negotiation, and work for the early restoration of normal passage through the Strait of Hormuz and peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region. Guided by the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four-point proposition, China will work together with the international community to play an active and constructive role in this process…

Q: Former U.S. ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, said on Twitter that the Iranian-flagged ship that the U.S. intercepted over the weekend had been traveling from China and had been used to carry chemicals for missiles. Does the Foreign Ministry have any comment to her statement?

A: As far as I know, the vessel seized by the U.S. is a foreign container ship. China rejects any false association and speculation.

Apr. 21: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2046547509200453920)

The vessel seized by the U.S. is a foreign container ship. China rejects any false association and speculation.

Apr. 21: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202605/t20260520_11914691.html) [excerpt]

Recently, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping announced the appointment of the following new Ambassadors in line with decisions adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress:

1. Zeng Jixin was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the United Arab Emirates, replacing Zhang Yiming.

Apr. 21: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202604/t20260421_11896770.html) with President Daniel Chapo of Mozambique [excerpt]

President Xi Jinping noted that in the past 70 years of China-Africa diplomatic relations, no matter how the international landscape evolved, the two sides have always forged ahead shoulder to shoulder, through thick and thin. China and Africa, together with other Global South countries, represent a just force in this turbulent and transforming world. The conflicts in the Middle East are spilling over into African countries. China is ready to work with Africa to navigate these challenging times, and jointly promote peace and seek common development. First, upholding principles to promote peace. Together, the two sides call for cessation of hostilities and settlement of differences through equal-footed dialogue, and call on the international community to practice true multilateralism, and to firmly safeguard the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and basic norms governing international relations.

Apr. 21: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2097833/) on meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Taher al-Baour [excerpts]

We share common assessments of developments unfolding in the Middle East and North Africa and focus in particular on the crisis in the Persian Gulf, which broke out as a result of unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Russia and Libya advocate the earliest possible cessation of any further use of force and the establishment of a sustainable political and diplomatic process. We hope that the news coming in as I speak will be positive in terms of resuming diplomatic efforts. This is the way forward if we aim to overcome existing differences while ensuring the interests of all countries in the region without exception, including the friendly Arab countries of the Gulf, as well as Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and, of course, taking into account the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We reiterate Russia's readiness to help normalise relations between the Arab monarchies of the Gulf and Iran. For several years now, work has been underway to mobilise academic and expert communities to formulate a security concept for the Persian Gulf

region. We believe that recent events, including the assault on Iran and the impact on Arab littoral states, underscore the relevance and even the urgency of supplemental efforts to normalise relations among the Gulf littoral states.

We briefly discussed the situation in other Middle Eastern flashpoints. We have no doubt that the underlying cause of many of the region's troubles lies in the decades-long failure to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Attempts to push this conflict down the global agenda, along with statements that UN resolutions on the establishment of a Palestinian state will not be acted upon or are not binding on some, are effectively about a disaster waiting to happen sooner or later. We believe that all responsible stakeholders, primarily Israel, the Palestinians, their Arab neighbours, and the United States, must act responsibly and remain committed to UN resolutions. Russia stands ready to continue being fully involved in this work.

We continue to operate on the premise that approaches to overcoming Middle Eastern issues should rely on a balance of interests of all countries of the region with the assistance of external actors…

Q: Yesterday, following a telephone conversation with your Iranian counterpart, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi, it was noted that the ceasefire between the United States and Iran must be observed within the parameters originally agreed upon and announced by Pakistani mediators. Given that US President Trump is keeping the naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in place, has Russia's position changed regarding how sincere the United States is in its desire to negotiate with Iran?

Does Russia believe that the round of talks, which has not yet started, could lead to a final settlement, or is that just another attempt by Washington to buy time in order to gear up for a military operation?

A: As President Putin has repeatedly stated, we are always in favour of talks. We prefer diplomatic means of achieving our legitimate - let me stress this once again - objectives, and we consistently advocate that agreements reached during such talks must be honoured.

At the same time, President Putin has often noted that such honest commitment to agreements is not characteristic of all parties. In our modern history since 1991, as well as many times before, we have encountered situations where agreements were not merely disregarded but were concluded with the sole purpose of misleading us.

We have faced such situations long before the situation in Iran became an issue. Just think about the Minsk agreements. A year before that, an agreement mediated by the EU between the opposition and then President Viktor Yanukovych was signed in Kiev. That agreement was a bag of lies, and the Minsk agreements were purposely used to buy time in order to transform Ukraine into a meaningful military force that could be used to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, with Europe throwing its weight behind Ukraine's Nazi policies.

We have learned our lesson, yet we remain optimistic to this day. Diplomats can't do without optimism. We hope, in particular, that the agreements reached in Alaska will be respected and implemented. The same applies to any other agreements that may emerge in contacts on other crises.

There were negotiations on Iran in June 2025 and in February of this year. Both times, after each round, all participants made positive comments. Immediately thereafter, aggression followed. Unprovoked and treacherous aggression, since it occurred in the midst of talks.

Our attitude towards the talks that may resume, mainly in Islamabad, is rather analytical. We will be analysing unfolding developments even though the events unfold quickly. The situation can change dramatically multiple times in a matter of 24 hours. As former German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock once put it, things can make a 360-degree turn, or they may not.

It's hard to understand how confident each side is in the stability of the principles being discussed as a way out of the crisis. Experience teaches us to rely on facts, but so far we haven't seen any. What we are seeing is threats, promises, and assurances that prosperity will follow if they do as they are told. We are also witnessing the position of Iran, which has every reason to say that they have fallen into a trap of false promises before, including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action approved by the UN Security Council in 2015, which addressed all the questions now being raised by the United States and which the United States withdrew from.

The key issue now raised by President Trump is that Iran must not possess nuclear weapons. That issue was resolved by the comprehensive agreement signed in 2015. In addition to confirming that Iran had no military nuclear developments, it established the world's toughest monitoring regime for Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, far stricter than the standard safeguards applied

by the IAEA.

History should teach us lessons. If the current efforts by Iranian and US negotiators which we support manage to produce something close to the 2015 agreement, that in itself would be a significant accomplishment.

Apr. 22: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260422_11897589.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday extended the ceasefire with Iran. First, what's your reaction? And second, did Chinese diplomacy play a role in extending the ceasefire?

A: The current situation in the region is at a critical stage of whether the conflict can end. The pressing priority is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting. China supports relevant parties in continuing the political and diplomatic effort to resolve disputes with the aim of realizing a full and lasting ceasefire and keeping the Middle East and Gulf region peaceful and stable. China stands ready to act in the spirit of the four-point proposition put forward by President Xi Jinping and work with the international community to play an active and constructive role to this end…

Q: U.S. President Trump said in an interview that the Iranian ship the U.S. intercepted might have had a "gift from China." And he said that he thought he "had an understanding" with China. What is China's comment to this? What was on the Iranian-flagged vessel that was traveling from China?

A: China has made clear its position more than once. Let me reiterate that as a responsible major country, China has always been a role model in performing its due international obligations.

Apr. 22: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2047021850866143264)

Russian MFA Spox Maria #Zakharova on @netanyahu's statement:

To invoke Auschwitz, Majdanek and Sobibor in the context of an alleged Iranian "nuclear Holocaust" against Israel is an insult to the memory of all victims of the Second World War.

Apr. 22: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2047043239266390073)

Maria #Zakharova following @netanyahu's statement:

Israel, of all countries, should know perfectly well that Bushehr NPP is an exclusively civilian nuclear facility—a fact repeatedly confirmed by @iaeaorg.

Apr. 24: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260424_11899448.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: President Trump said the Iranian cargo ship intercepted by the U.S. might have carried a "gift" from China. Do you have further response to that? Can you give us any information about what's on the ship?

A: China rejects any assertion and speculation that lack factual evidence. Normal trade between countries should not be disrupted or harmed.

Apr. 24: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2047624352360026191)

MFA Spokesperson's response to President Trump's remarks that the Iranian cargo ship intercepted by the U.S. might have carried a "gift" from China:

China rejects any assertion and speculation that lack factual evidence. Normal trade between countries should not be disrupted.

Apr. 24: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260426_11900113.html)

On April 23, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue met with Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Neena Malhotra in New Delhi. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening cooperation under the BRICS mechanism. Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong attended the meeting.

Zhai Jun stated that as major developing countries, China and India have always maintained communication on major international and regional issues. China values the important role played by India as the rotating BRICS presidency and hopes that this BRICS consultation on the Middle East will send a strong voice on the regional situation and play a constructive role in achieving regional peace and stability.

Neena Malhotra stated that India values the important role played by China within the BRICS mechanism and appreciates China's support for India in hosting relevant activities under the mechanism. India is willing to work with BRICS countries, including China, to jointly promote the early deescalation of regional tensions.

The two sides also exchanged views on the war in Iran, the Palestinian question, and other issues.

Apr. 24: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2099039/) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

During the conversation, the two sides discussed current aspects of Russian-Pakistani cooperation and exchanged views on the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Sergey Lavrov praised Islamabad's mediation role in reaching sustainable agreements between Iran and the United States, and confirmed Russia's readiness to support these efforts.

Apr. 24: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2099143/) with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

The ministers reviewed key areas for expanding bilateral cooperation in line with the agreements reached by the presidents of Russia and the UAE, highlighting the importance of enhancing humanitarian connections and fostering broader people-to-people engagement.

They welcomed the forthcoming entry into force of the free trade agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and the UAE.

The two sides also addressed a range of international issues, including the developments in the Strait of Hormuz, expressing a shared position on the need to resume negotiations in order to reach prompt agreements on a lasting and sustainable resolution to the crisis, with due regard to the legitimate interests of all countries in the region.

The timeline of upcoming engagements between their foreign policy departments was also reviewed.

Apr. 24: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov interview (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2099121/) on state television [excerpts]

Q: People are extremely curious about the fact that negotiations take place behind closed doors. How does this process work? What is the art of getting into the mind of your negotiating counterpart and figure them out? What should you expect from them? Perhaps you could reveal a few little secrets.

A: There is no universal formula. Each negotiation is unique and depends heavily on the individuals involved—their knowledge, experience, and personal qualities that are particularly valued in our Russian diplomatic service, such as excellent foreign language skills and a thorough understanding of history, as well as of the regions and countries that you are engaged in and negotiating with in this context.

American negotiators, as a rule, do not necessarily need these qualities. We had regional studies, where diplomats were trained through deep immersion in the country, history, culture, and region they would be serving in as a diplomat. A Russian diplomat goes abroad to serve for five years, on average; this allows them to settle in, gain an understanding of the situation, and deliver sustainable results in the form of recommendations and ideas. It is different with Americans: two or three years, and they move on. They might go from Indonesia to Congo, then to Guatemala, and so on. This is their tradition—a hallmark of their diplomatic service. We treat them with respect. But successful negotiations require not only technical knowledge but also an understanding of the matter, especially in regions with complex issues that have persisted for decades and even for a century, such as in the Middle East. Simplistic or rushed approaches will never succeed there.

Now everyone wants to simply consign UN decisions on Palestine to oblivion and to forget about the creation of a Palestinian state. This could be achieved through force, as we are now seeing in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. That would temporarily push the problem deeper, but it won't go away. It will explode anyway. Once again, it will be a 'time bomb.' This is an injustice to the Palestinians and to the numerous UN decisions calling for a two-state solution. Only half of these decisions have been implemented. This injustice is widely felt in the Arab world, especially on the "Arab street."

Likewise, the problems that arise in relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be addressed without delving into the history of this ancient civilisation, one of the world's oldest—and without understanding that many nations share a sense of national pride that they will not trade for any promised material benefits.

Ultimately, many factors shape negotiation outcomes. Beyond the awareness of the historical root causes of a particular conflict, personal rapport—or chemistry—between participants also plays a decisive role.

Q: A very interesting story. Let me ask one last question, which is clearly on the minds of our viewers. What is happening in the world now—do you think we have seen this before? Are we moving in a spiral, as Karl Marx suggested, periodically encountering such turbulence, or has something fundamentally new emerged?

A: History does indeed develop in a spiral. There is also the well-known notion that it repeats itself as a farce. One may interpret that idea in different ways, but what we are witnessing today is anything but farcical. Despite certain outward appearances (I believe many understand that it may indeed look like a farce), the consequences of the actions taken by our American colleagues—in this case together with Israel—are profound and will be felt for a long time.

Overall, what we are seeing is a phase in global development that, while following a spiral, is returning us to a world devoid of anything: no international law, Treaty of Versailles system or the Yalta Conference arrangements. Instead, we are moving toward a reality where "might is right," where force is treated as truth. However, as a line from a well-known Russian movie goes, God is not found in power but in truth. Look at what is happening. The United States has openly declared that it will not listen to anyone and will act solely in pursuit of its own welfare. This welfare is to be defended by all available means, be it political coups, kidnappings, or assassinations of the leaders of countries that have the natural resources they need. In Venezuela and Iran, this is openly linked to oil. They are actively pursuing a doctrine of dominance in global energy markets. Sanctions against companies like Lukoil and Rosneft are among the first major steps taken by the current administration led by Donald Trump, not Joe Biden.

They have cut off Europe completely. Back when the Nord Stream pipelines were under construction, the Americans wanted Europe to abandon them. Now, Europe was denied Nord Stream. Germany was humiliated. Everyone can see that. What is the outcome? Hungary and Slovakia now have to fight to protect their interests and their right to maintain cheap, accessible energy as a driver of their economies. Instead, they are being told that they have to buy it at twice the price because Russia needs to be "punished." This is not a good approach to international relations but an attempt to return to the era of colonialism. This is what Europe is doing now by forcing Hungary, Slovakia and other "dissidents" to obey those in charge in Brussels, who were not elected, unlike their national governments.

Europe, which dominated much of the world for 500 years, through both colonial expansion and systems of slavery, is now seeking to entrench a form of neocolonialism. It still desires to benefit at others' expense and to dictate terms globally. The tone of contemporary European political rhetoric is basically drenched in superiority and disregard for everyone else when they start lecturing others. The United States has consistently supported the marginalisation of Russia in European energy markets. Russian energy presence is being reduced in Serbia. The US contributes to this, from Joe Biden to Donald Trump. These actions amount to an explicit bid for global energy dominance, in all regions.

When our American partners say let us settle the Ukrainian crisis—which we have been ready for back since the meeting in Alaska, but they are now starting to waver—they also ask to look where concessions can be made, so that enormous economic prospects will open in the future. This is happening against the backdrop that I have just described. We are being pushed out of all global energy markets. The Americans will come saying they are all for cooperation with Russia. However, if we are ready to develop mutually beneficial projects on our territory, giving the Americans what they are interested in, then our interests must be considered, too. We cannot see this so far. Russia must be respected beyond its riches. What emerges is a highly unusual situation: a regression to a period lacking clear frameworks for international relations, where it is openly asserted that the interests of the US take precedence over international agreements.

Apr. 24: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2047626604625412297)

#Zakharova: On April 21, a special flight by @MchsRussia delivered Russian humanitarian aid (28 tonnes) to Beirut.

On the return flight, 67 Russian & 6 Belarusian citizens were evacuated to Moscow.

We hope that the agreed ceasefire will be strictly observed.

#RussiaHelps

Apr. 24: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2047676946184642739)

#Zakharova: We have taken note of @realDonaldTrump latest statements on readiness to extend the ceasefire regime.

This creates an opportunity to continue dialogue between American & Iranian representatives.

We expect that they will be able to reach final agreements.

Apr. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202604/t20260427_11900928.html)

From April 23 to 24, 2026, the Consultations of Deputy Foreign Ministers/Special Envoys of BRICS Countries on the Middle East Affairs were held in New Delhi. Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue led the Chinese delegation to the meeting.

Zhai Jun stated that the situation in the Middle East is at a critical juncture, with a fragile ceasefire, deteriorating regional security, and a grave humanitarian situation. Not long ago, President Xi Jinping put forward a four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, offering a Chinese solution to bringing the war to an end and resolving the current crisis. BRICS countries should adhere to independence, uphold justice and morality, further build consensus and pool efforts to inject positive, stable and constructive BRICS momentum into peace in the Middle East and the world.

Participants had in-depth exchanges on key issues in the Middle East, expressed concern over regional tensions, emphasized respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries, called for differences to be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and agreed to continue consultations on Middle East issues during China's BRICS chairmanship next year. After the meeting, India, as the host, issued the Chair's Statement.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Zhai Jun met separately with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Borisenko Georgy Evgenievich and Assistant to the Iranian foreign minister Mehdi Shoushtari, exchanging views on the regional situation.

Apr. 27: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Last Friday, the U.S. sanctioned one of China's largest private oil refiners over its links to Iran. Does the Foreign Ministry have any comment on this?

A: China opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law. We urge the U.S. to stop willfully slapping sanctions and using long-arm jurisdiction. China will firmly defend the lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies.

Apr. 27: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2048739974892384728)

MFA Spokesperson on OFAC sanction on Chinese oil refinery:

China opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law. We urge the U.S. to stop willfully slapping sanctions and using long-arm jurisdiction.

China will firmly defend the lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies.

Apr. 27: UN Security Council Open Debate remarks (https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/hyyfy/202604/t20260428_11901374.htm) by Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong [excerpt]

The Strait of Hormuz is a vital corridor for the international trade of goods and energy. Maintaining the security, stability, and unimpeded passage in this region is in the common interest of the international community. The root cause of the blockade of the Strait is the illegal military actions launched by the US and Israel against Iran. Despite the recently concluded ceasefire arrangement, the US has stepped up its military deployment and imposed targeted blockades. This is dangerous and irresponsible behavior. The solution to ending the blockade of the Strait is to achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire as soon as possible, so as to restore peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East. China commends Pakistan and others for their role as mediators, and urges relevant parties to resolve disputes and conflicts by political and diplomatic means. China opposes any moves that could undermine the ceasefire and lead to escalation and confrontation. China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability, guided by the spirit of the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East proposed by President Xi Jinping, namely, staying committed to the principle of peaceful coexistence, staying committed to the principle of national sovereignty, staying committed to the principle of international rule of law, and staying committed to a balanced approach to development and security.

Apr. 27: Russia President Vladimir Putin meeting (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79633) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

Putin: Mr Minister, friends, allow me to warmly welcome you, this time to St Petersburg.

At the beginning of our conversation, I would like to note that last week I received a message from the Supreme Leader of Iran. I would ask you to convey my sincere gratitude for it and to confirm that Russia, just like Iran, intends to maintain our strategic relations. Please convey to the Supreme Leader my appreciation for his message and my best wishes for his good health and well-being.

We see how courageously and heroically the Iranian people are fighting for their independence and sovereignty. And, of course, we very much hope that, relying on this courage and determination for independence, the Iranian people, under the leadership of their new leader, will go through this difficult period of trials and that peace will come.

For our part, we will do everything that meets your interests and the interests of all peoples in the region in order to ensure that this peace is achieved as quickly as possible. You are well aware of our position.

Welcome.

Araghchi (retranslated): Mr President, I am very glad to be meeting with you in the beautiful city of St Petersburg.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the condolences you conveyed regarding the martyrdom of our late Supreme Leader, and also for the fact that you immediately sent congratulations on the election of the new leader.

The Supreme Leader, as well as Mr Pezeshkian, our President, asked me to convey to you their best and warmest wishes.

I have been asked, during this visit, to confirm that Iran-Russia relations are regarded by us as a strategic partnership at the highest level, and that we will continue along this path. Regardless of everything that is happening, Iran-Russia relations will continue to grow stronger.

As you rightly noted, it has been proven to the whole world that the Iranian people, through their resistance and courage, were able to withstand American attacks and aggression, and will endure and stand firm during this period. It has also been proven to everyone that Iran has friends and allies such as the Russian Federation, who stand by Iran in difficult times. We are grateful to you for your firm and strong positions in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I decided, during my first foreign visit after these events, to come to the Russian Federation and to brief you on all the developments that have taken place.

I am sincerely grateful to you for taking time to meet with me.

Apr. 27: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2048801919364137148)

On April 27 in St Petersburg, President #Putin met with Iran's FM

@araghchi. Russia will do everything in the interests of Iran—our strategic partner—& other countries of the region to help ensure lasting peace as soon as possible.

Apr. 28: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2049079886413791490)

@mod_russia:

On April 27, Russia's Defence Minister Andrei Belousov held talks with Deputy Minister of Defence for Strategic Planning of Iran Reza Talaei-Nik.

I wish the fraternal Iranian people & its military fortitude in overcoming all threats facing the nation.

Apr. 29: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202604/t20260429_11902761.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Reuters reported today that China is approving more fuel exports in May, although they remain well below the average levels from last year. Has the foreign ministry received requests from countries in Asia and elsewhere for fuel? Does China intend to release more fuel exports to trading partners?

A: The Middle East conflict is straining global fuel supplies. Many countries are feeling the impact. The key to resolving this issue fundamentally is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting, achieve a full and lasting ceasefire and stem any new turmoil that could further hit the global economy. China stands ready to maintain communication with all sides to jointly safeguard global energy security and keep industrial and supply chains stable.

Apr. 29: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2049496094271578284)

The Middle East conflict is straining global fuel supplies. To ease energy shortage, the fundamental solution lies in a full and lasting ceasefire and stemming any new turmoil that could further hit the global economy.

China will continue working with all sides to safeguard global energy security and keep industrial and supply chains stable.

Apr. 29: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202604/t20260429_11902623.html) in Beijing with UN General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock

Wang Yi stated that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the core platform for practicing multilateralism and advancing global governance. Assuming the presidency of the UNGA on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations is a glorious mission and a great responsibility. He expressed the hope and belief that Annalena Baerbock will unite all members, uphold sovereign equality, defend international rule of law, promote dialogue and consultation, and consolidate the foundation of multilateralism. China stands ready to continue supporting her in performing her duties.

Wang Yi pointed out that it is high time to support, revitalize and strengthen the United Nations. Today, the world is experiencing escalating turmoil and intensified hotspot issues. Individual countries pursue the supremacy of power and openly challenge the status and role of the United Nations, putting the organization and multilateralism under severe strain. Faced with headwinds and countercurrents, we must adhere to the right path of unity and cooperation, and not allow the law of the jungle to prevail. In the face of hegemonism and bullying, we must uphold justice and fairness, and not let those with stronger fists have the final say. China always keeps the overall situation in mind and takes a long-term perspective, earnestly fulfills its important responsibility of safeguarding world peace and security, and resolutely defends the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, making China's contributions that stand the test of history and time.

Wang Yi noted that President Xi Jinping, responding to the widespread aspirations of the international community, has promptly put forward the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), sending a clear signal of upholding multilateralism, reforming and improving the global governance system, and strengthening the role of the United Nations. This year marks the 55th anniversary of China's restoration of its legitimate seat in the United Nations. China will firmly safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core, drive common development of all countries through China's development, and empower global governance with China's sound governance.

Wang Yi emphasized that UNGA Resolution 2758 resolved once and for all the issue of the representation of the whole of China, including Taiwan, in the United Nations. This resolution has been universally observed by the UN system, which China commends. China opposes any words or actions that challenge the authoritativeness of this resolution.

Annalena Baerbock thanked China for its long-term and firm support for the work of the United Nations and the UNGA. She stated that as a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council, China plays an important leading role in upholding multilateralism, safeguarding international law, and advancing the three pillars of peace, development and human rights. At present, multilateralism is under increasing pressure, and the UN Charter has come under direct attack. Countries need to unite and support the United Nations more than ever before. President Xi Jinping once said that history is the best textbook. The 80-year journey of the United Nations has shown that in the face of emerging global challenges, no country, including major powers, can tackle them alone. Only through joint efforts can all parties address them and make common progress. She expressed the expectation to take the implementation of the "UN80 Initiative" as an opportunity to continue strengthening cooperation with China, promote the improvement of global governance, and jointly advance the cause of world peace and development. The current session of the UNGA will continue to abide by Resolution 2758.

Apr. 29: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2049409065585621350)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Annalena Baerbock in Beijing.

Amid growing turbulence, certain countries pursue might-is-right and blatantly challenge the status and role of the UN. The UN and multilateralism are facing severe tests. In the face of headwinds and countercurrents, we should uphold the right path of unity and cooperation, and not allow the law of the jungle to prevail.

#China will firmly uphold the international system with the #UN at its core, drive common development of all countries through

its own development, and contribute its sound governance to global governance.

Apr. 29: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202604/t20260430_11903597.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: China will take the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for May. How will China perform its duty and play its role?

A: Starting from May 1, China will hold the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council. As the world is fraught with transformations and turbulence and regional conflicts keep cropping up, the role of the Security Council, which shoulders primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, has drawn great attention. China attaches great importance to the rotating presidency. We will act in a responsible and constructive spirit and galvanize efforts to enable the Security Council to enhance solidarity and cooperation, remain fair and open, take practical actions, promote political settlement, and earnestly perform its duty mandated by the UN Charter. We look forward to support from the international community and collaboration in advancing the Security Council's agenda for May, jointly practicing true multilateralism, and make greater contribution to peace and development.

Apr. 29: Russian readout of phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79660) between President Putin and President Trump

Aide to the President of Russia Yury Ushakov: Colleagues, good evening. President Vladimir Putin held another telephone conversation with President of the United States Donald Trump. The call lasted for more than an hour and a half. The exchange between the two presidents was conducted in a friendly manner and was frank and businesslike.

Understandably, Vladimir Putin began by expressing his sympathy and support for the President of the United States in connection with the assassination attempt against him on April 25 at the Washington Hilton hotel. Fortunately, neither Donald Trump himself, nor his spouse, nor any members of his entourage were harmed. The secret service was quick to neutralise the assailant. The Russian leader strongly condemned this crime and stressed, in particular, that politically motivated violence was unacceptable in any forms and manifestations.

It was also mentioned during the conversation that this dangerous incident occurred on the eve of the US First Lady's birthday on April 26. President Vladimir Putin asked to convey his best wishes and noted her contribution to efforts aimed at facilitating the reunification of Russian and Ukrainian children with their families.

When discussing the international agenda, the presidents focused on the developments surrounding Iran and the Persian Gulf.

Vladimir Putin believes that Donald Trump was right to extend the ceasefire for Iran. This, he believes, will give negotiations a further chance and help stabilise the overall situation.

At the same time, the President of Russia pointed out that if the United States and Israel resume military action, this would inevitably lead to extremely adverse consequences not only for Iran and its neighbours, but for the entire international community. He stressed that a ground operation on Iranian territory would be particularly unacceptable and dangerous.

Russia remains firmly committed to facilitating diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful resolution of this crisis, and has put forward several proposals to help address differences over the Iranian nuclear programme. To this end, active contacts with Iranian representatives, leaders of the Gulf countries, as well as with Israel, and, naturally, the negotiating team of the United States will continue.

Donald Trump outlined his assessment of the outcome of the concluded phase of the armed confrontation, as well as his views on the current difficult situation facing Iran and its leadership.

Regarding a settlement in Ukraine, the US President emphasised the importance of an early cessation of hostilities and his readiness to do everything in his power to facilitate this. His authorised representatives will continue contacts with both Moscow and Kiev. Donald Trump said he believes that an agreement that would bring the conflict in Ukraine to an end is close.

Replying to a question from Trump, Vladimir Putin described the current situation along the line of contact, where Russian forces retain the strategic initiative and are pushing back the opposing side. It was also noted that since the beginning of 2025, Russia has handed over more than 20,000 bodies of fallen Ukrainian servicemen, while Ukraine has returned just over 500 bodies of Russian servicemen.

Both Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump expressed broadly similar views on the behaviour of the Kiev regime led by Zelensky,

which, incited and supported by Europeans, is pursuing a course aimed at prolonging the conflict.

The Russian leader stated plainly that Kiev is resorting to overtly terrorist methods, targeting exclusively civilian facilities on Russian territory.

The President of Russia reaffirmed that the goals of the special military operation will be achieved in any event. At the same time, he noted that this outcome would preferably be reached through negotiations, for which Zelensky must respond constructively to the proposals that have been put forward repeatedly, including by the US side.

It is notable that Donald Trump expressed a positive view on the Easter ceasefire recently declared by Russia. In this connection, Vladimir Putin informed his American counterpart of Russia's readiness to declare a ceasefire for the period of the Victory Day celebrations. President Trump actively supported this initiative, noting that the holiday marks the shared victory over Nazism in World War II.

When discussing Russian-US relations, both leaders pointed to the great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic and energy spheres. The presidents stated that their representatives are already engaged in substantive discussions on a number of large-scale economic projects.

The presidents agreed to maintain contacts going forward, both directly and at the level of their aides and representatives.

They concluded the conversation on a warm note, wishing each other all the best.

Question: On whose initiative was the telephone conversation held?

Yury Ushakov: I would like to note that it was initiated by the Russian side, by the President of Russia.

Thank you.

Apr. 30: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2049813639520288803)

On May 1, China will assume @UN Security Council Presidency for the month. We look forward to support from the international community and collaboration in advancing the Security Council's agenda, jointly practicing true multilateralism and making the world more peaceful and prosperous.

Apr. 30: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260502_11904259.html) with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio

Wang Yi stated that head-of-state diplomacy has always been the "stabilizing anchor" for China-U.S. relations. Under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump, China-U.S. relations have generally remained stable, which serves the fundamental interests of both peoples and meets the common expectations of the international community. Both sides should maintain the hard-won stability, make good preparations for the important agenda for high-level interactions, expand cooperation and manage differences, and explore the building of a strategic, constructive, and stable China-U.S. relationship, so as to achieve mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

Wang Yi underscored that the Taiwan question bears on China's core interests and is the biggest risk in China-U.S. relations. The U.S. side should honor its commitments and make the right choice, to open up new space for China-U.S. cooperation and make due efforts for world peace.

Marco Rubio stated that the U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and that head-of-state diplomacy lies at the core of this relationship. Both sides should maintain communication and coordination, respect each other, and properly manage differences to accumulate results for high-level interactions and seek strategic stability in U.S.-China relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and other issues.

Apr. 30: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2049875205686997332)

Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the phone.

Wang Yi noted that head-of-state diplomacy has always been the anchor of the China-U.S. relationship. Under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Trump, the relationship has remained stable on the whole. This serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples and is in line with the expectation of the international community.

The two sides should maintain the hard-earned stability, make good preparations for the important agenda for high-level interactions, expand cooperation and manage differences, and explore the building of a strategic, constructive, and stable China-U.S. relationship, so as to achieve mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation.

Wang Yi underscored that the Taiwan question bears on China's core interests and is the biggest risk in China-U.S. relations. The U.S. side should honor its commitments and make the right choice, to open up new space for China-U.S. cooperation and make due efforts for world peace.

Apr. 30: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2050041517306482841) responding to Mao Ning

China and the U.S. should maintain the hard-earned stability, make good preparations for the important agenda for high-level interactions, expand cooperation and manage differences, and explore the building of a strategic, constructive, and stable China-U.S. relationship, so as to achieve mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation.

Apr. 30: Russian Ambassador Andrey Belousov remarks (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2101481/) at Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty conference [excerpt]

The current state of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime gives cause for concern. The Treaty is under severe strain. The trend to instrumentalise the NPT for self-serving political purposes unrelated to the subject matter of the Treaty has once again found expression in the unprovoked, unjustified and unlawful aggression by Israel and the United States against Iran, in which civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards have been subjected to multiple attacks. The tragedy of the current situation in Iran for the NPT lies in the fact that under the pretext of false allegations of a military nuclear programme a State blatantly disregarding the Treaty and a depositary State acting in its interests have jointly attacked a good-faith Party to the Treaty.

May 1: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2101543/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

Building on the meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mr Araghchi in St Petersburg on April 27, 2026, the two ministers continued a detailed exchange of views on the prospects for a complete cessation of hostilities and the stabilisation of the military and political situation in the Middle East. Their discussions covered issues including the freedom of navigation and a resolution of the situation surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme.

Russia expressed its support for ongoing mediation efforts. The sides reaffirmed their readiness to make every effort to facilitate a political and diplomatic process in order to reach lasting agreements aimed at establishing long-term peace in the region.

Special attention was given to the safe passage of Russian ships and cargo through the Strait of Hormuz.

May 4: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2102185/) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

On May 4, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration, and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt Badr Abdelatty at the Egyptian side's initiative.

The foreign ministers held detailed discussions on the current situation in the Middle East, which has developed due to the aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran. They emphasised the importance of resuming negotiations aimed at achieving a prompt and sustainable long-term settlement in the Persian Gulf, taking into account the legitimate interests of all countries in the region.

The ministers also addressed issues of coordination between Moscow and Cairo within the United Nations framework, preparations for the upcoming BRICS foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for May 14-15 in New Delhi, and various aspects of further developing bilateral cooperation.

May 5: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2051620982000161079)

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi will visit China upon invitation on May 6.

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi will hold talks with him.

May 5: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2103167/)

We note with regret that recent developments concerning Iran point to a slowdown in the negotiation process aimed at resolving the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Against this backdrop, we urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint. It is essential to prevent any escalation of violence and avoid damage to civilian infrastructure resulting from strikes on Iran and neighbouring Arab states.

Given the ongoing tensions in the region, even isolated actions could trigger a renewed large-scale armed confrontation. It is therefore essential to remain vigilant against possible provocations by forces seeking to undermine peace efforts and hinder overall stabilisation.

We consistently support resolving existing disagreements in this strategically important region through political and diplomatic means, with due regard for the interests of all regional states.

We reaffirm Russia's readiness to provide the necessary support to advance this objective, including through the principles and practical measures set out in our well-known Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf.

May 5: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2103185/) with Qatari Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Thani

The ministers discussed the situation in and around the Strait of Hormuz. They agreed on the necessity to refrain from military solutions to the crisis and to rally the efforts of all interested sides towards promoting the achievement of a durable and sustainable settlement, including agreements to guarantee the legitimate security interests of all Persian Gulf countries and the principles of the freedom of navigation.

May 6: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260507_11905849.html) in Beijing with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

Seyyed Abbas Araghchi briefed on the latest developments in the Iran-US negotiations and Iran's next steps, stating that facts have proven that political crises cannot be resolved through military means. Iran will resolutely safeguard its national sovereignty and national dignity while continuously building consensus through peaceful negotiations to seek a comprehensive and permanent solution. Currently, the issue of opening the Strait of Hormuz could be promptly addressed. Iran highly appreciates and agrees with the four propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the region. Iran commends China for always standing on the right side of history and making unremitting efforts with a constructive attitude to prevent the situation from deteriorating and spilling over. Iran trusts China and looks forward to China continuing to play an active role in promoting peace and ending the conflict, and supports the establishment of a new post-war regional framework that can coordinate development and security.

Seyyed Abbas Araghchi said that China is Iran's comprehensive strategic partner. Iran has always adhered to the one-China principle, and supports China in safeguarding its core interests. Iran is willing to take the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year as an opportunity to strengthen exchanges at all levels, tap into cooperation potential, provide firm mutual support, and deepen all-round cooperation. Iran is also willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China in multilateral affairs, and continuously deepen the Iran-China comprehensive strategic partnership.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position on the situation in Iran, emphasizing that China has been actively promoting peace and facilitating talks since the outbreak of hostilities. President Xi Jinping solemnly put forward four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, which has received a positive response from the international community. The current regional situation is at a critical juncture between war and peace. China believes that a comprehensive ceasefire is of utmost urgency, that resuming hostilities is even less acceptable, and that adhering to negotiations is particularly important. China supports Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty and security, and appreciates Iran's willingness to seek a political solution through diplomatic channels. Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, the international community shares a common concern about restoring normal and safe passage through the strait, and China hopes that the parties involved will promptly respond to the strong call from the international community. Regarding the nuclear issue, China appreciates Iran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons and, at the same time, believes that Iran has a legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. China advocates that countries in the Gulf and Middle East should take their destiny into their own hands, encourages Iran and more Gulf countries to engage in dialogue to achieve good-neighborliness and friendship, and supports the establishment of a regional peace

and security framework by regional countries that ensures joint participation, safeguards common interests, and achieves common development.

Wang Yi said that China is willing to uphold the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, aim at supporting countries in the Middle East to build "four shared homelands", further commit to easing tensions and ending hostilities, continue to provide assistance for initiating peace talks, and play a greater role in restoring peace and tranquility in the Middle East.

Wang Yi pointed out that China is a trustworthy strategic partner of Iran. China is willing to consolidate and deepen political mutual trust with Iran, maintain and strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and continue to advance the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional hotspot issues of common concern.

May 6: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2051991193337377121)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held talks with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Beijing.

The current regional situation is at a critical stage of whether the conflict could end. A comprehensive cessation of hostilities brooks no delay, restarting the conflict would be even more ill-advised, and upholding the commitment to negotiation is of paramount importance.

#China supports #Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty and security, and appreciates Iran's readiness to seek political solutions through diplomatic means.

China stands ready to further step up its efforts to de-escalate the situation and end the fighting, continue to facilitate the launch of peace talks, and play a greater role in restoring peace and tranquility in the Middle East.

May 6: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260506_11905648.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: In the talks between Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Iran's Foreign Minister in Beijing today, what issues were discussed? Did Minister Wang Yi push Iran to resume allowing the safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz? I wonder if the Chinese foreign ministry can introduce anything about the talks today?

A: Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi held talks with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi today. They exchanged views on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of mutual interest. More information on this will be released soon. Please stay tuned…

Q: Two questions. Donald Trump recently called Xi Jinping very respectful, adding that Washington hasn't been challenged by Beijing. The U.S. president also said he had offered China the option to send the ships to the United States, essentially suggesting that China buy American oil instead of Iranian oil. How does Beijing respond to these remarks? Would China ever consider such an offer? The second question is U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent recently lectured China, demanding that Beijing support the U.S.-led military operation in the Strait of Hormuz and also accusing China of obstructing UN initiatives. Given Washington's long history of unilateral military interventions and bypassing the UN when convenient, how does the ministry respond to this call from Washington?

A: On your first question, China and the U.S. are in communication on President Trump's visit to China. On the Iran situation, China has made clear its position more than once. As for specifics about China's energy policy, I'd refer you to competent authorities. On your second question, China's position on the situation regarding the Strait of Hormuz is clear. We hope relevant parties will act prudently, avoid further escalation, resolve disputes through dialogue, and restore peace and tranquility in the Strait soon. China will continue working for deescalation of the situation there and making utmost effort to protect the safety and security of Chinese ships and crew…

Q: It's a follow-up question about the Iran situation. The U.S. government has also been asking China to put more pressure on Iran to not only end the war but open the Strait of Hormuz. What would you say about that?

A: The situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains tense. Only through early and full ceasefire can there be necessary conditions for a deescalation. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the coastal countries should be respected, the reasonable concerns of regional countries should be taken seriously, and the legitimate interests of the international community should be

protected…

Q: Did China coordinate with the United States the American decision overnight to pause escorts of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, so as to give today's talks between China and Iran a chance of making progress?

A: I just shared China's position. Our position on the situation regarding the Strait of Hormuz is clear. We hope relevant parties will act prudently, avoid further escalation, resolve disputes through dialogue, and restore peace and tranquility in the Strait soon. China will continue working for deescalation of the situation there…

Q: Has China asked Iran to stop attacking ships carrying the exports of other Persian Gulf nations?

A: As I just said, only through early and full ceasefire can there be necessary conditions for a deescalation in the Strait of Hormuz. Our position is clear. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the coastal countries should be respected, the reasonable concerns of regional countries should be taken seriously, and the legitimate interests of the international community should be protected.

Q: The foreign ministry statement on Wang Yi's meeting with the Iranian foreign minister says that China seeks a bigger role in restoring Middle Eastern peace. Can you give us any details on what that bigger role would look like?

A: In the talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi, Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed that since the fighting began, China has been actively promoting talks for peace. President Xi Jinping solemnly made the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East which has been positively echoed by the international community. The current regional situation is at a critical stage of whether the conflict could end or not. China believes that bringing about a full stop of hostilities is of utmost urgency, a relapse in fighting must be avoided and sticking to negotiations is highly important. China supports Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty and security and commends Iran's willingness of seeking political settlement through diplomatic means. On issues regarding the Strait, resuming normal and safe passage at the Strait is a shared concern of the international community. China hopes that parties concerned will respond to the strong call of the international community as soon as possible. China advocates that the Gulf and Middle East countries need to take their fate into their own hands. We encourage Iran to have dialogue with more Gulf states to realize good-neighborliness and friendship, and support a regional architecture for peace and security established by regional countries with common participation for common interests and common development.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi also noted that China stands ready to uphold the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, support countries in the Middle East to work for building a common home of good-neighborliness, development, security and cooperation, stay committed to deescalation and ending the conflict, assist the resumption of peace talks and play a bigger role in restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East. For more about the talks, please refer to the readout…

Q: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio commented on China's Ministry of Commerce order to block U.S. sanctions against five Chinese refiners over alleged Iran oil ties yesterday, and I quote: "If you don't comply with sanctions, you will face secondary sanctions." What's China's reaction on these remarks?

A: China's competent authorities have stated their position. I want to stress that Chinese government opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or authorization of the UN Security Council. Relevant measures are concrete steps to implement the Rules on Counteracting Unjustified Extra-territorial Application of Foreign Legislation and Other Measures in line with the law. China will keep a close eye on the unjustified extra-territorial application of foreign legislation and measures by relevant countries, and China will firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and companies in accordance with the law.

May 6: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2051999388202065922)

China will continue to work for deescalation in the Strait of Hormuz, and keep Chinese vessels and crew members there safe. Hope parties will avoid further escalation, resolve disputes through dialogue and restore peace to the Strait soon.

May 6: Russian statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2103719/) at Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference [excerpt]

The nuclear non-proliferation regime established by the NPT plays a key role in maintaining international peace and security.

Nuclear non-proliferation regime has suffered a severe blow as a result of the unprovoked, unjustified and unlawful aggression by

the United States and Israel against Iran, in which nuclear facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran under IAEA safeguards and the country's civilian and military infrastructure were bombed, and numerous civilians died. What is particularly cynical is the fact that these strikes have been carried out under the pretext of nuclear non-proliferation by Israel, which flagrantly disregards the Treaty, and by the United States, a depositary of the NPT. This stands as a flagrant example of the Treaty being used as a pretext for the unauthorised use of military force against sovereign states. We call upon the NPT community to give an objective and impartial assessment of the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran at this Conference.

May 7: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260507_11906405.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: It is reported that the UAE's Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone and other facilities as well as oil tankers trying to pass the Strait of Hormuz were attacked by Iran. How does China view this?

A: China is deeply concerned over the attacks on the UAE and firmly opposes moves that escalate tensions in the region. China has all along believed that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Middle East and Gulf countries should be earnestly respected, and civilians and non-military assets should be protected. The pressing priority is to realize an immediate and full ceasefire and prevent further spread of the conflict.

May 7: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2104313/)

Q: China recently blocked the implementation of US sanctions against five Chinese companies allegedly linked to the Iranian oil trade. The Chinese government consistently opposes unilateral sanctions imposed without UN approval and lacking any basis in international law. How does Russia view these steps by China?

A: We fully agree with our Chinese friends on this issue. We believe there is no alternative to building a fairer and more sustainable multipolar world order, and we reject the aggressive policies of certain states that still think in terms of hegemony and neocolonialism. We categorically reject any attempt to protect their privileges by limiting the sovereignty of free and independent states, countries, and peoples.

The rules of global trade were written in Washington, not in Beijing. But when Washington started losing to other countries by its own rules, the United States decided to "change its tune," as the saying goes. In other words, to change course—or indeed the rules of the game. Such discriminatory measures and unlawful trade restrictions don't just harm trade between specific countries; they disrupt global trade and economic partnerships, damage supply chains, and lead to the fragmentation of global trade. They also hurt ordinary consumers and companies. This whole situation is perfectly summed up by the proverb—and I'm sure you'll find a Chinese equivalent if you look—"he that mischief hatches, mischief catches."

We welcome the Chinese government's decision to block these illegitimate sanctions and consider it entirely justified. Like China—which, incidentally, has been our largest trading partner since 2010—we condemn such illegitimate unilateral trade restrictions. They amount to blatant interference in the vital interests of sovereign countries. Let me stress again: they are illegitimate and unlawful.

We intend to continue coordinating our actions and approaches closely with our Chinese friends on the international stage, both to minimise the impact of economic restrictions imposed by our mutual ill-wishers and to find the best ways to maintain high-quality, mutually beneficial cooperation in practical areas…

Q: What are the prospects and obstacles for Russia's proposed initiative to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East? What steps does Russia intend to take to promote it?

A: The creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East has consistently remained one of the foreign policy priorities of the Russian Federation. The implementation of this initiative would significantly enhance security both for the states of the Middle East and beyond it. Progress in this direction would help reduce deep-rooted mistrust and create effective mechanisms enabling states in the region to address mutual concerns and suspicions in a timely, convincing manner, based on the international law, thereby preventing further escalation of tensions.

Historically, at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Russia, together with the other depository states—the United States and the United Kingdom—co-sponsored a resolution calling for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Building upon

that decision, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 73/546 on December 23, 2018, convening a UN Conference dedicated to establishing such a zone. Six sessions of this conference have already taken place, including the most recent one in November 2025, with Russia participating in the capacity of observer.

We reaffirm our support for the 1995 resolution and remain committed to its implementation. In line with our observer role, we continue contributing to the substantive work of the Conference, whose goals and objectives remain both relevant and necessary.

We welcome the consistent dialogue within the Conference framework, despite the fact that Israel and the United States continue to refrain from participating. It is evident that there is a lack of interest from their side in achieving collective regional agreements or building constructive cooperation on issues related to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Instead, Washington and Jerusalem have chosen a different approach, one based on amplifying perceived threats and provoking confrontation among Middle Eastern states, using such tensions to pursue their own malicious and selfish objectives.

Despite the unprecedented tensions currently affecting the region, the states participating in the Conference have not abandoned the process and continue leaving the door open for broader participation and other countries' efforts.

We hope that the 11th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which began in New York City on April 27, will make a tangible contribution to the common cause, as well as to advancing the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

May 7: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2052381118205476963)

Chinese FM Wang Yi: China hopes that the U.S. will view China objectively, foster a rational perception of China, earnestly respect China's core interests, properly manage differences, and work together to deliver more major, tangible, and beneficial outcomes for both countries and the world, so as to send more positive and constructive signals to the world.

May 7: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2104318/) with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi

During the conversation, the ministers discussed current aspects of the Middle Eastern agenda, highlighting the situation in the Persian Gulf. Both sides emphasised the importance of preventing the resumption of violence and damage to civilian infrastructure as the result of strikes on Iran and neighbouring Arab countries. They pointed out the need to prevent the deliberate escalation of tensions in the UN Security Council, and to promote an immediate return of the situation to the track of a political and diplomatic settlement based on international law and respect for the legitimate interests of all regional countries.

Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's readiness to provide assistance towards achieving these goals, in particular, on the basis of the principles and practical actions enshrined in Russia's Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf Region.

The ministers also talked about the further development of multifaceted Russian-Omani cooperation.

May 8: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260508_11907266.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: What does China think of the significance of Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi's visit to Beijing, coming at a time when the U.S. is keeping up pressure amid tensions in the Middle East, and with President Trump's upcoming visit to China just around the corner?

A: The situation in the Gulf and Middle East is at a crucial juncture of whether peace will get a chance. China maintains communication with all parties, including Iran. Our aim is clear, that is, to deescalate tensions and promote the end of the conflict and realization of peace. China will continue to act in the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, support countries in the Middle East to work for building a common home of good-neighborliness, development, security and cooperation, assist the resumption of peace talks and play a bigger role in restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East…

Q: According to a report by Caixin, a large Chinese-owned refined oil tanker was attacked near the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz on Monday reportedly with China owner and crew marked on the vessel and with the fire breaking out on deck. What information can the Chinese side share about the incident and what actions is China taking in response to ensure the safety of its ships and crew operating in the region?

A: Based on the information we have at this moment, the tanker in question is sailing under the flag of the Marshall Islands with

Chinese crew onboard. The vessel has not reported any crew casualties. The Strait of Hormuz is a strait for international navigation. China is deeply concerned that a large number of vessels along with their crew have been caught in the conflict and stranded in the strait. We believe it is in the common interest of regional countries and the international community to resume unimpeded passage through the strait as soon as possible and ensure the safety of civilian vessels and crew members. We call for concrete steps from relevant parties to prevent deterioration of the situation. China stands ready to work together with the international community and make sustained efforts to promote peace talks and deescalation…

Q: Since the fighting between the U.S., Israel and Iran began, China has been in close communication with Iran, the U.S. and other countries concerned in and outside the region. Iranian foreign minister visited China this week. Are there any high-level communication and exchanges between China and Israel? If so, can you give us more details?

A: The current situation in the Middle East is at a critical stage of whether peace will get a chance. China maintains communication and exchanges at various levels with all parties concerned including Israel, which also includes high-level communication and exchanges you mentioned. China supports parties in resolving differences and disputes through political and diplomatic means, realizing a full and lasting ceasefire and upholding peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region. China stands ready to follow President Xi Jinping's four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and work with the international community to continue playing a positive and constructive role to this end…

Q: A follow-up on my earlier question about the tanker that was attacked. Does this incident concern China? Do you have any more details about how this incident took place? Has China raised this with Iran? If so, what has been the outcomes of these deliberations?

A: As I just said, China is deeply concerned that a large number of vessels along with their crew have been caught in the conflict and stranded in the strait. We believe it is in the common interest of regional countries and the international community to resume unimpeded passage through the strait as soon as possible and ensure the safety of civilian vessels and crew members. China will continue working with the international community to promote peace talks and deescalation.

May 8: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2052923188221497450)

The Middle East situation is at a critical moment of whether peace will get a chance. China maintains contact at various levels, including at the high level, with relevant parties, including Israel. We support efforts to resolve disagreements through political and diplomatic means and achieve a full and lasting ceasefire, which is in the interest of peace and stability of the Gulf and rest of the Middle East. #Iran #theMiddleEast

May 8: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2105629/) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

The discussion focused on the situation in and around the Strait of Hormuz. Both sides spoke in favour of preventing a return to escalation and stressed the need to continue ongoing diplomatic contacts aimed at reaching a sustainable long-term agreement on all aspects of resolving the crisis as soon as possible.

Particular emphasis was placed on the need to restore freedom of navigation to the state in which it existed prior to the end of February. The sides also noted the importance of resuming efforts towards the comprehensive long-term normalisation of relations between Iran and the Arab monarchies.

The Russian side reaffirmed its readiness to facilitate progress on these tracks while taking into account the interests of all parties involved.

May 8: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2105641/) with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

The main focus of the discussion was the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, including discussions on this topic within the United Nations. The Russian side stressed the importance of supporting the ongoing negotiation efforts between Iran and the United States. Moscow's position was reaffirmed that the prospects for stabilisation must not be jeopardised by a resumption of hostilities, which would result in civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure both in Iran and in neighbouring Arab states.

The foreign ministers agreed to remain in contact and to work towards coordinating the approaches of all parties involved in the search for a sustainable long-term settlement.

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan congratulated Sergey Lavrov on the upcoming Victory Day. The ministers expressed a shared view on the need to strengthen the multilateral system established on the basis of the UN Charter following the Second World War.

The ministers also exchanged views on certain bilateral issues, including the schedule of upcoming contacts.

May 11: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2053841318192034184)

At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President Donald Trump is set to pay a state visit to China later this week. The two presidents will meet each other in person again since their Busan meeting last October. This will be the first visit to China by a U.S. president in almost nine years.

President Xi will have in-depth exchanges of views with President Trump on major issues concerning China-U.S. relations and on world peace and development.

Head-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance for China-U.S. relations. China stands ready to work with the U.S. to expand cooperation and manage differences in the spirit of equality, respect and mutual benefit, and provide more stability and certainty for a transforming and volatile world.

May 11: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260511_11908438.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: My question is about President Trump's state visit to China. Can you share more details about its program? What does China hope to achieve through the visit?

A: At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President Donald Trump is set to pay a state visit to China later this week. The two presidents will yet again meet each other in person since their Busan meeting last October. This will be the first visit to China by a U.S. president in almost nine years. President Xi will have in-depth exchanges of views with President Trump on major issues concerning China-U.S. relations and world peace and development.

Heads-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance for China-U.S. relations. China stands ready to work with the U.S. to expand cooperation and manage differences in the spirit of equality, respect and mutual benefit, and provide more stability and certainty for a transforming and volatile world…

Q: On Friday, the U.S. State Department sanctioned three China-based satellite companies for enabling Iran's military operations, including providing imagery assisting Iran strikes against the U.S. What is China's comment on this, especially in the context of Donald Trump's visit here this week?

A: China firmly opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or the authorization of the UN Security Council. The Chinese government always asks Chinese companies to operate in accordance with laws and regulations. We will firmly protect Chinese businesses' legitimate rights and interests.

As to the Iran situation, we have made clear our position on many occasions. The pressing priority now is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting, rather than exploit the situation to throw mud at other countries…

Q: We've reported that President Donald Trump is expected to press China over Beijing's approach to Iran. Would the ministry like to comment on this?

A: China's position on the Iran situation is consistent. We will continue playing a positive role in promoting peace talks and bringing about an end to the conflict.

May 12: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260512_11909099.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On Monday, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned 12 Iran-linked individuals and entities, including four Hong Kong-based firms, over oil sales to China by Iran's military. What is China's response to this?

A: We stand firmly against unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or the authorization of the UN Security Council. We will firmly protect Chinese businesses' legitimate and lawful rights and interests…

Q: In addition to the U.S. sanctions announced last Friday against companies accused of aiding Iran's weapons sector, the U.S. Treasury yesterday also sanctioned companies it said helped ship Iranian oil to China. The sanctions announced on Friday and

yesterday affect Chinese and Hong Kong entities. What is China's response to these coming so close to the Trump visit? Would China take retaliatory measures?

A: I just answered a related question. We stand firmly against illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or the authorization of the UN Security Council. We will take resolute measures to protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese businesses and citizens. On the Iran conflict, the pressing priority now is to prevent by all means a relapse in fighting, rather than to throw mud at China…

Q: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an interview that "he didn't like it" that "China gave certain amount of support and particular components of missile manufacturing" to Iran. What's your comment?

A: We have made clear China's position on multiple occasions. As a responsible major country, China always fulfills faithfully its due international obligations. We are committed to promoting deescalation and peace talks to bring about an end to the conflict. We oppose accusations that are not grounded on facts.

May 13: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260514_11910195.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Mohammad Ishaq Dar briefed Wang Yi on the recent situation of Pakistan's mediation between Iran and the United States for talks, expressed appreciation for China's support for Pakistan's efforts in facilitating the talks, and looked forward to strengthening coordination and cooperation with China to jointly play a positive role in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Wang Yi reaffirmed China's principled position, commended Pakistan for facilitating the US-Iran talks and helping extend the temporary ceasefire, and expressed the hope that Pakistan would maintain confidence, step up its mediation efforts, and contribute to the proper resolution of the issue of opening the Strait of Hormuz and the early restoration of regional peace, which is also the common aspiration of the international community. China will continue to support Pakistan's mediation efforts and make its own contributions to this end.

Wang Yi stated that in a few days, China and Pakistan will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. The two sides should jointly host commemorative events, maintain close high-level exchanges, strengthen strategic communication, consolidate ironclad friendship, advance practical cooperation, better safeguard our respective core interests and the common interests of China and Pakistan, and bring the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new level. In a world of change and instability, the two sides should work together to make the voice of China and Pakistan heard in multilateral forums such as the United Nations and jointly uphold multilateralism.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar stated that Pakistan is ready to take the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries as an opportunity to deepen all-round cooperation with China, maintain close multilateral coordination, and achieve new progress in the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

May 13: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2054479303199596962)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy PM & FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, commended #Pakistan for facilitating US-Iran talks and helping extend the temporary ceasefire. He expressed hope that Pakistan will maintain confidence, step up mediation efforts and contribute to properly resolving the issue of opening the Strait of Hormuz and the early restoration of regional peace, which is also the common aspiration of the international community.

China will continue to support Pakistan's mediation efforts and make its own contribution toward this end.

May 13: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov interview (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2107824/) with RT India [excerpt]

Q: The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has driven up global oil prices. Does this reflect a larger pattern where Western countries start conflicts and the Global South pays the price?

A: This point is certainly valid, but the main factor was the US push to control as many sources and shipping routes as possible which was exploited by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. At one point he admitted that he had been waiting for long

decades for Washington to become convinced of the need to attack, defeat, and destroy Iran. Ultimately, though, consumers are on the receiving end of it, that's true.

One of the principles of globalisation promoted for many years by the US-led West has been destroyed. That principle concerned dialogue between energy producers and consumers. Such dialogue unfolded, among other places, within the G20. OPEC+ has always been mindful of the buyers' interests and maintained a trust-based conversation with them. Now all of that is being dismantled so that one actor alone can dominate these markets. At least the Trump administration is open about it. All countries should learn the lesson.

With regard to how the global economy will take it, experts are already arguing that even if the conflict ended now, it would hardly be possible to bring things to pre-war levels before the end of 2026. If it continues for several more weeks or months, the horizon for recovery from the crisis will move even further away.

May 13: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2054494358255067343)

FM Sergey #Lavrov:

The US-led West spent years promoting dialogue between energy producers & consumers, including within the #G20.

Now this principle is being dismantled so that one actor alone can dominate global energy markets.

All countries should learn the lesson.

May 14: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260514_11910614.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Regarding the situation in the Middle East, did the leaders discuss it? Has there been any specific progress on the conflict in Iran or on the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz? (Similar question from The New York Times)

A: President Xi Jinping held talks with President Trump this morning. The two heads of state exchanged views on the Middle East situation and other major international and regional issues. You may refer to the readout released by the Chinese side. On the Strait of Hormuz, China's position is consistent and clear.

May 14: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202605/t20260514_11910330.html) in Beijing with President Trump

President Xi noted that transformation not seen in a century is accelerating across the globe, and the international situation is fluid and turbulent. Can China and the United States overcome the Thucydides Trap and create a new paradigm of major-country relations? Can we meet global challenges together and provide greater stability for the world? Can we build a bright future together for our bilateral relations in the interest of the well-being of the two peoples and the future of humanity? These are the questions vital to history, to the world, and to the people. They are the questions of our times that the leaders of major countries need to answer together. I stand ready to work together with President Trump to set the course and steer the giant ship of China-U.S. relations, so as to make 2026 a historic, landmark year that opens up a new chapter in China-U.S. relations.

President Xi stressed that China is committed to a steady, sound and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations. I have agreed with President Trump on a new vision of building a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability. This will provide strategic guidance for China-U.S. relations over the next three years and beyond, and will be well received by the people of both countries and the international community. "Constructive strategic stability" means positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay, healthy stability with competition within proper limits, constant stability with manageable differences, and lasting stability with expectable peace. Building a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability is not a slogan. It means actions in the same direction.

President Xi noted that China-U.S. economic and trade ties are mutually beneficial and win-win in nature. Where disagreements and frictions exist, equal-footed consultation is the only right choice. Yesterday, our economic and trade teams produced generally balanced and positive outcomes. This is good news for the people of the two countries and the world. The two sides should jointly sustain the good momentum that we have worked hard to create. China will only open its door wider. U.S. businesses are deeply involved in China's reform and opening up. China welcomes more mutually beneficial cooperation from the U.S.

President Xi pointed out that the two sides should implement the important common understandings we have reached, and make better use of communication channels in the political and diplomatic and military-to-military fields. The two countries should

expand exchanges and cooperation in areas such as the economy and trade, health, agriculture, tourism, people-to-people ties and law enforcement.

President Xi stressed that the Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-U.S. relations. If it is handled properly, the bilateral relationship will enjoy overall stability. Otherwise, the two countries will have clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy. "Taiwan independence" and cross-Strait peace are as irreconcilable as fire and water. Safeguarding peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the biggest common denominator between China and the U.S. The U.S. side must exercise extra caution in handling the Taiwan question.

President Trump said that it was a great honor to pay a state visit to China. The United States and China have a very good relationship. President Xi and I have had the longest and greatest relationship the presidents of the two countries have ever had. We have enjoyed friendly communication and worked out many important issues. President Xi is a great leader, and China is a great country. I have tremendous respect for President Xi and the Chinese people. Our meeting today is the biggest summit the world is watching. I will work together with President Xi to strengthen communication and cooperation, properly handle differences, make bilateral relations better than ever before and embrace a fantastic future. The United States and China are the most important and most powerful countries in the world. Together, we can do a lot of big and good things for the two countries and the world. I have brought with me the best representatives of American businesses. They all respect and value China. I strongly encourage them to expand their cooperation with China.

The two presidents exchanged views on major international and regional issues, such as the Middle East situation, the Ukraine crisis, and the Korean Peninsula.

The two presidents agreed to support each other in hosting a successful APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and G20 Summit this year.

During the meeting, President Trump asked each of the business leaders who were traveling with him to present themselves to President Xi.

Prior to the talks, President Xi held a welcome ceremony for President Trump on the square outside the eastern entrance of the Great Hall of the People.

As President Trump arrived, honor guards lined up in salutation. After the two presidents stepped onto the reviewing stand, the military band played the national anthems of China and the United States. A 21-gun salute was performed on the Tian'anmen Square. President Trump reviewed the guard of honor of the People's Liberation Army and watched the march-past in President Xi's company.

Cai Qi, Wang Yi, and He Lifeng attended the talks.

May 14: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2109080/) at BRICS conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

The ministers discussed the current situation in the Middle East, including the situation around Iran. The sides emphasised the need for attaining a peaceful settlement of the crisis and building up efforts of the world community to achieve a sustainable long-term settlement with due account of the legitimate interests of the countries in the region.

Sergey Lavrov and Badr Abdelatty also touched on some topical aspects of developing the multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia and Egypt.

May 14: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2109096/) at BRICS conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On May 14, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araqchi on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi.

In a detailed and trustworthy manner, the ministers discussed the course of the negotiations to settle the armed conflict unleashed by the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

The Russian side emphasised the importance of preserving the ceasefire regime and the fragile armistice as well as preventing disruption of the political and diplomatic efforts to achieve a comprehensive Iranian-US understanding which opens the way to a lasting and stable normalisation in the region. Sergey Lavrov has indicated again Russia's readiness to render good services to the

parties in their search for and in carrying out mutually acceptable compromises.

While also considering the current issues of bilateral cooperation, the parties reaffirmed their mutual desire to consistently strengthen an all-round strategic partnership between the two friendly nations.

May 14: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2109224/) at BRICS conference with Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira

During the conversation, which took place in a traditionally friendly and trust-based atmosphere, the parties exchanged views on the most pressing issues on the international agenda, including the situation in the Persian Gulf region and developments in the Latin American region.

The foreign ministers outlined steps for the consistent strengthening of the strategic partnership between the two countries. They also discussed the schedule of further Russian-Brazilian contacts.

May 15: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202605/t20260515_11911380.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: During the talks between Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping, did China agree to purchase American oil in the future?

A: China stands ready to work with all sides to ensure global energy security and keep global industrial and supply chains stable. The pressing task is to restore peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region...

Q: The White House has also said that, during talks between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping, China has agreed to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Can China confirm that it has agreed to do so?

A: China's position on the Iran situation is very clear. The conflict has inflicted severe losses on the people in Iran and other regional countries. With the spillover still expanding, the conflict has put a heavy strain on global economic growth, supply chains, international trade order and the stability of global energy supply, which hurts the common interests of the international community. There is no point in continuing this conflict which should not have happened in the first place. To find an early way to resolve the situation is in the interest of not only the U.S. and Iran, but also regional countries and the rest of the world.

The recent U.S.-Iran ceasefire and effort to explore resolving issues through negotiation is welcomed by regional countries and the international community. China always believes that dialogue and negotiation is the right way forward, and the use of force is a dead end. Now that the door of dialogue has been opened, it should not be shut again. It is important to steady the momentum in easing the situation, keep to the direction of political settlement, engage in dialogue and consultation, and reach a settlement on the Iranian nuclear issue and other issues that accommodates the concerns of all parties. It is important to reopen the shipping lanes as soon as possible to respond to the call of the international community and jointly keep the global supply chains stable and unimpeded. It is important to reach a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire as soon as possible, enable peace and stability to return to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date, and lay the foundation for building a sustainable security architecture for the region.

Since the conflict began, China has been working for an end to the conflict and peace. President Xi Jinping put forward the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. China and Pakistan issued the five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. China will continue to act in line with President Xi Jinping's four propositions, and work with the international community to provide stronger support for peace talks and play a constructive role in achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

May 15: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260516_11911719.html)

Wang Yi: President Xi and President Trump have maintained close communication on international and regional issues. During this summit, they again had in-depth exchanges on various issues of mutual interest.

On the Middle East situation, President Xi set forth China's consistent position. He emphasized that the use of force cannot solve problems, and dialogue is the only right choice. Negotiation may not produce immediate results, but now that the door of dialogue has been opened, it should not be closed again. China encourages the U.S. and Iran to continue settling their differences and disputes through negotiation, including on the nuclear issue. China calls for reopening the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible on the basis of continued ceasefire, and believes that the fundamental solution to the stalemate in the Strait lies in achieving a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire. China has been working to promote peace talks, and will continue to play its role for an

early end to the conflict and restoration of peace in the Middle East.

May 16: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79765) with Emirati President Muhammad bin Zayed

The two leaders discussed issues pertaining to the crisis in the Middle East and surrounding Iran. Both sides emphasised the importance of continuing the political and diplomatic process aimed at reaching a compromise for peace that would take into account the legitimate interests of all the regional states.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the successful progress of the Russian-Emirati cooperation in politics as well as trade and economy. They agreed to maintain frequent contact.

Vladimir Putin thanked the Emirati side for their regular assistance in resolving humanitarian issues arising in light of the Ukraine conflict.

May 19: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260519_11913636.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On May 17, a drone attack targeted the infrastructure linked to the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, striking a substation outside the main premises. What is China's position on attacks against peaceful nuclear energy facilities, especially from the perspective of international law, the protection of civilian infrastructure and obligations on nuclear security under international conventions? (Similar question from RT TV)

A: China is deeply concerned over the attack on the relevant facilities of the nuclear power plant in the UAE and opposes armed attacks on nuclear facilities for peaceful purposes. China always believes that the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of Gulf States should be earnestly respected, and civilians and non-military assets should be protected. The pressing priority is to realize an immediate and full ceasefire and prevent further spread of the conflict.

May 19: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2110689/)

Threats to nuclear safety continue to multiply rapidly around the world. For several years now, deliberate and increasingly serious attacks by the Kiev regime on Russian nuclear energy infrastructure, including the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant and its satellite town of Energodar, have not ceased. Such provocations would have been impossible were it not for the unbridled support of Western handlers, who instil in the current Ukrainian authorities a false hope of impunity and goad them into new adventures.

The American-Israeli bombings of nuclear facilities in Iran, which are under IAEA safeguards, nearly resulted in a global tragedy with irreversible consequences. It is monstrous that those who committed this atrocity not only feel no responsibility whatsoever but continue to intimidate Tehran by threatening to resume bombings in order to finish what they started. As is known, matters reached the point where the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant—at whose site Russian specialists, among others, are present—came within the strike zone.

Alarming news arrived recently from the United Arab Emirates, where on May 17, a drone strike caused a fire at an electrical generator located outside the inner perimeter of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant. The fact that this attack did not result in a change in radiation levels or any loss of life in no way diminishes the danger that was deliberately created.

We resolutely condemn the reckless and unlawful actions of those who, as in the case of Russian and Iranian nuclear energy infrastructure facilities, have taken aim at a nuclear power plant in the UAE and consciously opted for escalation, risking further erosion of regional and global security. Let us recall that the UN Security Council previously unequivocally classified such actions as unacceptable.

In this context, we note the unprecedented alacrity of IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, who promptly expressed concern over what happened at the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant and emphasised the unacceptability of military activity that creates threats to nuclear safety.

While substantially sharing these assessments, we are compelled to note that the Agency did not issue a similar reaction regarding the fall of a Ukrainian kamikaze drone with explosives near the first power unit of the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant on May 16. This sluggishness is justified by an alleged need to study the circumstances of the incident. Evidently, the IAEA representatives stationed on site at that plant have once again suddenly gone blind and deaf. If so, perhaps it is time to add them to the list of victims of the Ukrainian military machine, and for the Agency to pose the relevant questions to Kiev?

Nor have harsh warnings from the IAEA been addressed to those countries that continue to stoke military tensions around Iran and openly prepare further raids on Iranian cities and peaceful nuclear facilities. The Agency prefers to remain silent about the fact that conducting verification activities in Iran under conditions of bombing, as well as under the threat of renewed bombing, is simply impossible. It appears that the Agency's principled stance on nuclear safety and physical nuclear security is also subject to fluctuation depending on political circumstances. Indicative in this regard is how selectively the "seven indispensable pillars" for ensuring nuclear safety and physical nuclear security during an armed conflict, proclaimed by the IAEA Director General, are applied—principles that are immediately forgotten when it comes to American-Israeli strikes on Iran or attacks on the Barakah NPP.

We are convinced that today what is required from the Agency's leadership is not verbal gymnastics and false political correctness, but clear assessments and concrete steps aimed at preventing the proliferation of threats to nuclear safety and physical nuclear security.

May 20: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2057051292569342216)

On the situation in the Middle East, President Xi Jinping pointed out that the situation of the Gulf region in the Middle East is at a critical juncture between war and peace.

All hostilities must end immediately. Renewed fighting should be avoided. And most importantly, negotiation should continue. An early end of the conflict will ease disruptions to the stability of energy supply, the functioning of industrial and supply chains and the international trade order.

May 21: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202605/t20260521_11915471.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The foreign ministry has just released information that the Pakistani prime minister is visiting China. Can the foreign ministry tell us if the topic of Iran will be discussed during the visit?

A: During Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, Chinese and Pakistani leaders will have in-depth exchanges of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest. On the Iran situation, China has made clear its position more than once. China supports Pakistan in playing a just and balanced mediating role for ending the conflict and bringing about peace. According to the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East proposed by President Xi Jinping, China will work with Pakistan and the wider international community to make positive contributions to restoring peace and stability in the Middle East at an early date.

May 21: China-Russia joint statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202605/t20260521_11914932.shtml) during Vladimir Putin's visit to Beijing [excerpt]

The two sides agreed that the military strike by the United States and Israel on Iran violated international law and basic norms governing international relations and seriously undermined the stability of the situation in the Middle East. It is emphasized that the parties to the conflict should return to dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible to prevent the spread and spillover of war. We call on the international community to uphold an objective and impartial position, promote the development of the situation in the direction of de-escalation, and jointly defend the basic norms of international relations.

May 22: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202605/t20260522_11916315.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Can you share China's thoughts on holding a high-level meeting at the UN Security Council? What message does Foreign Minister Wang Yi hope the meeting to send?

A: Today's world is witnessing accelerating transformations unseen in a century, interwoven reforms and turbulence, and incessant wars and conflicts. The international system with the UN at its core faces unprecedented blows and challenges. As the rotating chair of the Security Council for May, China proposed to hold a high-level meeting at the Security Council. It will focus on issues of extensive interest in the international community, including the relevance of the UN Charter in our times, observing and practicing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and enhancing the authority and efficacy of the UN and its Security Council. The meeting will be chaired by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and open to all member states of the UN. Foreign ministers and high-level representatives of multiple countries have confirmed their attendance, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres will

brief the event.

We hope that through the meeting, parties will renew the loft goals enshrined in the UN Charter, reiterate their firm commitment to multilateralism, and unite closer together and step up to their responsibility to revitalize the status and role of the UN and pool greater synergy for reforming and improving global governance.

Q: On May 20, China and Russia issued a joint statement on advocating a multipolar world and a new type of international relations, systemically clarifying the four propositions on advocating an equal and multipolar world and building a new type of international relations. The statement clearly answers the question of the times regarding the future of international relations. A CGTN poll shows that the concept of mutual respect, fairness and justice and win-win cooperation advocated in the new type of international relations has become a prevailing international consensus. The interviewees refused to divide the world into various regions and blocs engaging in confrontation, and emphasized that an international community with greater solidarity must be built, in which members respect each other's core interests, treat each other as equals and conduct mutually beneficial cooperation. What's your comment?

A: Transformation not seen in a century is accelerating across the globe, and the international situation is fluid and turbulent. As resurgent unilateralism and hegemonism deals a heavy blow to the international system with the UN at its core and the international order based on international law, the world risks regressing to the law of the jungle. As permanent members of the UN Security Council and responsible major countries, China and Russia must step up to their bound duty and jointly safeguard the authority of the UN and international fairness and justice. The statement elaborates on the positions and propositions shared by China and Russia on the current international situation and makes it clear that the two sides will further deepen strategic coordination on building a multipolar world and improving global governance, make a strong call of the times, and be a source of stability and strength for the cause of world peace and development.

May 22: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2057831806700044473)

The theme of this meeting is "Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter and Strengthening the UN-centered International System."

May 22: Russian Foreign Ministry repost (https://x.com/Amb_Ulyanov/status/2057829814409593114)

Met today with the #IAEA Director General Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi. We discussed a wide range of issues with special emphasis on the situation in the Persian Gulf.

May 23: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2111583/) [excerpt]

The 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) completed its work on May 22. Held in New York, it lasted for four weeks and was chaired by Ambassador Do Hung Viet, Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the United Nations.

The conference took place against the dramatic deterioration of the regional and global security environment, which is marked by a significant escalation of threats and the growing importance of strong-arm politics in international affairs. The gathering demonstrated the existence of stark differences between many state parties to the NPT, which defined the way the debates unfolded and their substance, as well as the conference's overall outcome.

The aggression by Israel and the United States against Iran in June 2025 and February and March 2026 under the far-fetched pretext of defending the nuclear non-proliferation regime became a major stumbling block in terms of achieving the forum's objectives. This was not the first time the NPT was used as a means of settling political scores and justifying the use of force. However, the latest developments demonstrated that these unprovoked, unjustified and unlawful actions can have disastrous consequences for the NPT. The conference was ill equipped to offer an accurate assessment of the Iran situation.

The delegations of the so-called collective West contributed to creating an unfavourable environment at the conference. They came to New York in the pursuit of their vested political interests which have nothing to do with the NPT or its subject matter. These countries, primarily European Union and NATO members, as well as the EU bureaucrats, did everything to undermine productive dialogue by promoting a destructive agenda with a primary focus on criticising Russia, China, Iran and the DPRK.

May 25: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202605/t20260525_11917325.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. and Iran appear to be close to an agreement to end war in the Middle East. Is China playing a diplomatic role to achieve this agreement and what does China hope to see as the outcome of this agreement?

A: China's position on the Iran situation is very clear. It is a conflict that should not have happened in the first place and there is no point in prolonging it any more. To find an early way to resolve the situation is in the interest of not only the U.S. and Iran, but also regional countries and the rest of the world.

The recent U.S.-Iran ceasefire and effort to explore resolving issues through negotiation is welcomed by regional countries and the international community. China always believes that dialogue and negotiation is the right way forward, and the use of force is a dead end. It is important to steady the momentum in easing the situation, keep to the direction of political settlement, engage in dialogue and consultation, and reach a settlement that accommodates the concerns of all parties. It is important to reopen the shipping lanes as soon as possible to respond to the call of the international community and jointly keep the global supply chains stable and unimpeded. It is important to reach a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire as soon as possible and enable peace and stability to return to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

Since the conflict began, China has been working for peace and an end to the conflict. President Xi Jinping put forward the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. China will continue to act in line with these propositions, and work with the international community to provide stronger support for peace talks and play a constructive role in achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

Q: The 11th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) concluded at the UN headquarters in New York on May 22. It is reported that the review conference ends without consensus outcome due to the divisions between the U.S. and Iran. What's China's comment?

A: The 11th Review Conference was convened at a time when the global strategic balance and stability was severely disrupted and the multilateral arms control process has become increasingly politicized, bloc-based and fragmented. China regrets the conference's failure to reach a final document.

China believes that the NPT is still the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. It is an indispensable pillar of the international security architecture after WWII. It serves the interests of all states parties to continue to firmly support the purposes and goals of the NPT.

China attaches great importance to the treaty, and supports the universality, effectiveness, and authority of the treaty. Chinese delegation has intensively and constructively participated in the review conference in the spirit of solidarity and coordination. China calls on all states parties to uphold true multilateralism and the concept of common security, improve the international and regional security environment, earnestly safeguard global strategic stability, eliminate the root causes of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, create more favorable conditions for orderly advancing the process of nuclear disarmament, peacefully resolve the hotspot issues related to nuclear non-proliferation through dialogue and negotiation, earnestly defend the legitimate rights and interests of all countries to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and fully leverage the important role of the NPT for peace and development in this era.

May 25: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202605/t20260525_11917392.html) with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

President Xi noted that over the past 75 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Pakistan have enjoyed mutual understanding, trust and support, and forged an unbreakable traditional friendship. Their strategic mutual trust and practical cooperation have strongly promoted the development of both nations. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China will always place priority on the development of China-Pakistan relations in its diplomacy with neighboring countries. President Xi shared his pleasure in receiving a letter from Pakistani students studying at Tianjin University, in which they expressed their aspiration to become builders of cooperation, promoters of exchanges, and guardians of friendship between China and Pakistan. President Xi said he was truly heartened to see that the cause of China-Pakistan friendship has dedicated young successors. The two sides should accelerate the development of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era and deliver more outcomes from their all-weather cooperation to better benefit the two peoples, contribute to regional peace and stability, and set a fine example for building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries.

President Xi stressed that China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. China is ready to maintain high-level exchanges with Pakistan, strengthen strategic communication, and steer the bilateral

relationship forward in the right direction. The two sides should make solid progress in implementing the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era, advance both major signature projects and "small and beautiful" livelihood programs, and deepen all-round cooperation in areas such as agriculture, industry, artificial intelligence, and talent cultivation. The two sides should conduct security cooperation even better and in broader areas and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. China appreciates Pakistan for demonstrating a proactive spirit and mediating for peace to return to the Middle East. The two sides should maintain close communication and coordination, jointly oppose unilateralism and the Cold War mentality, and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and an economic globalization that is universally beneficial and inclusive.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that President Xi is a great friend of the Pakistani people and also a great friend of all peace-loving humanity. Under President Xi's strong leadership, China has achieved remarkable economic progress and provided strength for maintaining world peace and building a multipolar world. The ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China was forged personally by the elder generation of leaders. It is growing ever stronger and next to none. Pakistan firmly upholds the one-China principle and stands resolutely with China on all issues concerning China's core interests. Pakistan will always be China's good friend and good partner. Pakistan will celebrate with China the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, learn from China's governance experience, deepen Belt and Road cooperation, and advance the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, so that the Pakistan-China relationship will continuously grow and benefit the people of both nations. Pakistan appreciates China for supporting its mediation of the negotiations between the United States and Iran. The four propositions put forward by President Xi on the Middle East situation provide a guiding framework for peace in the region. Pakistan stands ready to coordinate closely with China to jointly contribute to world peace and stability.

Wang Yi attended the meeting.

May 25: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260527_11918613.html) with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir

Wang Yi welcomed Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's joint visit to China with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. As the old Chinese saying goes, "Sturdy grass withstands high winds; pure gold stands the test of fire." No matter how the international and regional landscape evolves, the China-Pakistan friendship remains rock-solid and unbreakable. The two countries have maintained a high level of mutual political trust, practical cooperation, and international coordination, setting an example for state-to-state relations. The Pakistani military has always been an important force in promoting China-Pakistan cooperation, and the Chinese side is confident that it will continue to make new contributions to deepening the traditional bilateral friendship and advancing the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Syed Asim Munir stated that the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China has stood the test of time and has grown even stronger, a fact of which Pakistan is deeply proud. In recent years, China's international status and influence have been rising steadily. The four major Global Initiatives and the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping have played a pivotal role in promoting world peace and development, earning broad welcome from the international community. Pakistan firmly supports and actively participates in these endeavors. The Pakistani military will continue to fully support the building of a Pakistan-China community with a shared future and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Syed Asim Munir briefed Wang on the latest developments in mediating the U.S.-Iran conflict, stating that an agreement is close to being reached. Pakistan is willing to continue making every effort and hopes that China will continue to play its role in the process. Wang Yi stated that Pakistan is a qualified mediator trusted by all parties, and China appreciates and supports the efforts made by Pakistan. Despite the difficulties, peace will eventually arrive.

May 25: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79839) with King Hamad of Bahrain

Both sides confirmed their commitment to further strengthening the cooperation between Russia and Bahrain in trade and economy, finance and investment, and cultural and humanitarian affairs.

While discussing the situation in the Middle East, the two leaders emphasised the need to quickly achieve a political and diplomatic resolution to the crisis surrounding Iran, while fully respecting the interests of all states in the region.

May 26: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202605/t20260526_11918267.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry

press conference

Q: Iran is seeking guarantees from China before proceeding with a deal with the U.S. in order to end the war. This is according to Al Arabiya media outlet which reported this in a post on X, citing sources that it didn't identify. So my question is, did Iran ask China for help in transferring the highly enriched uranium to China? If the report is accurate, is China willing to accept Iranian uranium?

A: Since the outbreak of the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran, China has maintained close communication with all relevant parties, including Iran, and has been making active efforts to promote ceasefire and peace. Guided by the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, we will continue playing an active role in restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

On the Iranian nuclear issue, China always supports a peaceful resolution through dialogue and negotiation. We hope relevant parties will seize the opportunity and find a solution that accommodates the legitimate concerns of all sides through negotiation. China will continue playing a constructive role in the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and promote peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond…

Q: We noted that Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has just concluded his visit to China. Could you further elaborate on the visit? What are the major outcomes and highlights?

A: Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid an official visit to China from May 23 to 26, 2026. As we mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, this visit is an important high-level exchange that consolidates and elevates the special friendship between the two countries. There are three major highlights:

First, head of state diplomacy steers the course, underscoring the strategic significance of China-Pakistan relations. Over the 75 years since diplomatic ties were forged, the two countries have embraced mutual understanding, trust and support, forging an unbreakable traditional friendship. During the visit, President Xi Jinping held in-depth discussions with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The two leaders agreed to deepen the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, and firmly support each other in safeguarding core interests, providing political guidance and strong impetus for bilateral relations.

Second, pragmatic cooperation underpins the bond, demonstrating the mutually beneficial nature of China-Pakistan relations. The two leaders agreed to steadily advance the Action Plan to Foster an Even Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era, accelerate the development of the CPEC 2.0, forge an upgraded bilateral free trade agreement, and explore cooperation in artificial intelligence, digital economy, agriculture and other fields. These efforts will deliver more fruits of all-weather cooperation, better benefit the two peoples, and set an example for building a community with a shared future with neighboring countries. The two sides signed multiple cooperation documents covering economy and trade, science and technology, agriculture and food, human resources and other areas.

Third, international coordination enriches the ties, showcasing the leading role of China-Pakistan relations. During the visit, the two sides had in-depth exchanges of views on international and regional issues of mutual interest. The Pakistani side expressed support for President Xi Jinping' four propositions on the situation in the Middle East. The Chinese side commended Pakistan for demonstrating a proactive spirit and mediating for peace in the Middle East. The two sides agreed to firmly defend the outcomes of WWII victory, oppose any attempt to revitalize fascism and militarism, and jointly uphold the postwar international order, world peace and security, as well as historical truth and international justice.

The world is experiencing accelerating transformations unseen in a century. China and Pakistan have come to new junctures and face important opportunities for their respective modernization and bilateral cooperation in various fields. As the two countries mark 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties, China stands ready to work with Pakistan to deepen high-level political mutual trust, practical cooperation, security cooperation and international coordination to write a new chapter for China-Pakistan relations…

Q: Just a general question on the Middle East. The U.S. military says it has launched new strikes on Iran targeting this time Iranian missile sites and boats it says were attempting to place mines. What is China's take on that?

A: We urge relevant parties to honor the commitments to ceasefire, solve disputes in peaceful ways, and continue to work for solutions that accommodate the legitimate concerns of all parties through dialogue and negotiation so as to enable peace to return to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

May 26: China-Pakistan joint statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202605/t20260526_11917901.shtml) during Prime

Minister Sharif's visit (excerpt)

Pakistan supports President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. China appreciates Pakistan's efforts in facilitating the temporary ceasefire between the US and Iran and hosting the Islamabad talks. Both sides reaffirmed their five-point initiative on restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East, and expressed their willingness to continue making positive contributions to the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

May 27: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260527_11918969.html) with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani

On May 26, 2026…Wang Yi met with [Zayani] in New York while chairing the UN Security Council High-Level Meeting.

Wang Yi stated that Bahrain, as a member of the Security Council and the rotating presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), confirmed its attendance at this high-level meeting at the earliest opportunity. This demonstrates the importance it attaches to China-Bahrain relations and its support for China's tenure as the rotating Presidency of the UN Security Council. China appreciates this and stands ready to work with Bahrain to promote the steady and sound development of bilateral relations, as well as China-Arab and China-GCC relations.

Wang Yi said that as a good friend and partner of Bahrain and other Gulf countries, China sincerely hopes for an early restoration of peace and tranquility in the Middle East and Gulf region. President Xi Jinping has solemnly made four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, which embodies a responsible attitude and an impartial position. This conflict should never have happened, let alone continued. The top priority is to promote a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire. The international community should intensify efforts to promote peace, work together to de-escalate the situation, and in particular, oppose actions that stoke tensions and exacerbate conflicts. China supports Pakistan and other countries in continuing to actively mediate, and stands ready to maintain close coordination with Bahrain and other Security Council members to ensure the Council's work advances in the right direction of political settlement, and jointly strive for long-term peace and stability in the Middle East

Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani congratulated China on successfully convening this high-level meeting as the rotating Presidency of the Security Council. He noted that in the current international landscape, China's leadership and wisdom are exactly what the world needs. Since the turbulence in the Middle East, China has upheld fairness and justice, maintained close communication with Gulf countries, and made active efforts to achieve a ceasefire and end the conflict. Bahrain appreciates these efforts and looks forward to China playing an even greater role. Bahrain highly values its relations with China and stands ready to further strengthen cooperation across all fields, and continuously advance Bahrain-China and GCC-China relations to new heights.

May 27: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260528_11919550.html) with Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow (excerpt)

Sihasak Phuangketkeow said that China's initiative to hold this high-level meeting comes at the right time. The situation in Iran not only affects the Middle East region but has also spilled over to ASEAN countries. The world needs rules rather than unilateralism, and it is particularly urgent to jointly safeguard the authority of the United Nations at present. Thailand has always pursued the one-China policy, and stands ready to maintain close high-level exchanges and deepen cooperation in all fields with China, and add more substance to the building of a Thailand-China community with a shared future. Thailand appreciates China's efforts in mediating the Thailand-Cambodia dispute and will continue to maintain dialogue and communication with Cambodia to achieve peace and stability in border areas.

May 27: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2059608385063141701)

Chinese FM Wang Yi: The international situation is undergoing the most complex and profound changes since the end of World War II. The giant ship of human civilization is sailing into dangerous waters, and world peace and development is at a crossroads.

We must stand united and act together to defend, revitalize and strengthen the U.N.

We need to reinvigorate

- The U.N. Charter for stronger leadership

- The authority of the Security Council for greater ability to act
- Global development cooperation for stronger mobilization
- The global governance platform for stronger execution capacity
- The effectiveness of the U.N. system for stronger vitality

May 27: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260528_11919605.html) after UN Security Council meeting

On May 26, 2026 local time, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi answered questions from the media on the spot after presiding over the United Nations Security Council High-Level Meeting "Upholding the Purposes and Principles of the U.N. Charter and Strengthening the U.N.-centered International System".

When asked about China's views and suggestions for resolving the current deadlock over the Iran situation, Wang Yi said China has been working to resolve the current conflict. President Xi Jinping has put forward a four-point proposal, pointing the way for safeguarding and promoting peace in the Middle East. China has maintained communication and coordination with the main parties involved as well as key regional and international partners. China believes that the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of regional countries must be respected, civilians and non-military targets must be protected, shipping lane safety and energy infrastructure must be secured, and rules of the nuclear non-proliferation regime must be followed.

The key to the current situation is US-Iran negotiations. China supports the active mediation efforts by Pakistan and other countries, as well as the efforts made by both the U.S. and Iran. It takes more than one cold day to freeze a river three feet deep, and resolving long-standing grievances cannot be done overnight. But every step forward in negotiations brings more hope for peace, and ending the conflict one day earlier means fewer civilian casualties. We hope the parties involved will firmly commit to a ceasefire and an end to the fighting, continue moving toward each other, and bring peace back to the Middle East as soon as possible.

May 27: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2059614360709075403)

Chinese FM Wang Yi on the current Iran situation:

The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of countries in the Middle East must be respected, civilians and non-military targets must be protected, shipping lane safety and energy infrastructure must be secured, and rules of the nuclear non-proliferation regime must be followed.

The key to the current situation is US-Iran negotiations. China supports the active mediation efforts by Pakistan and other countries, as well as the efforts made by both the US and Iran. We hope the parties involved will firmly commit to a ceasefire and an end to the fighting, continue moving toward each other, and bring peace back to the Middle East as soon as possible.

May 28: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2112888/)

Q: President of the United States Donald Trump said that Iran had to hand over its enriched uranium to the United States for destroying it or destroy it on the spot under international supervision. What is Russia's position regarding this statement by the President of the United States Donald Trump? In your opinion, what were the motives behind the proposals of the United States?

A: Once again, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that these stockpiles of highly enriched uranium belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this connection, it is only up to Tehran to decide what happens to this material. Only Iranians can dispose of these stockpiles, which includes the ability to choose whether to transport them outside of the Islamic Republic and if so, where they should go. This matter falls within Iran's purview, and Iran has the right to act accordingly

At the same time, this is one of the central topics in the continuing indirect dialogue between the United States and Iran. Russia calls on all sides to refrain from once again sliding towards an armed confrontation which could potentially evolve into a full-scale humanitarian crisis in the region and affect the entire world.

Everyone knows our position on this topic. It has not changed. Moreover, we have never imposed and do not intend to impose on anyone our initiative to transfer Iran's highly enriched uranium to the territory of the Russian Federation. It is up to Iran to decide whether to ask us to assist these efforts or not…

Q: How does Russia assess Pakistan's mediating role in contacts between Iran and the United States amid the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel?

A: First of all, I would like to clarify: this is not a conflict between Iran and the United States or Israel. This is an unprovoked attack on Iran by the United States and Israel. We welcome and support any international efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions and resolving the situation while taking into account the legitimate interests of countries in the region. We highly value Islamabad's active mediation efforts and have repeatedly emphasised this…

Q: Will Russia veto any UN Security Council resolutions against Iran and its nuclear programme?

A: You are referring to a specific draft resolution—one that has already been practically agreed and put to a vote.

Generally speaking, Russia takes its responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council very seriously. Let me stress again: the veto is not a privilege in itself. It is a tool to prevent the Security Council from adopting decisions that are unfair, that are inconsistent, that are incompatible with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and that do not serve the goal of maintaining international peace and security.

Let me remind you that in the case of the situation around Iran, we—together with our Chinese partners—vetoed a draft resolution on ensuring security in the Strait of Hormuz on April 7 this year. All the statements on that matter have been made, and the clarifications given. Our country was guided by the fact that that document, if adopted, could have undermined the fragile negotiation process and delayed the prospect of establishing peace in the region. And the correctness of our logic was confirmed literally hours after the veto, when a ceasefire agreement was reached between Iran and the United States.

Since May 4, another draft resolution on the Strait of Hormuz, submitted by the United States and Bahrain, has been under consideration by the UN Security Council. A date for the vote has not yet been set. Our position is as follows: now that progress has been made in efforts to align the positions of Tehran and Washington on the framework for a peace agreement, we must focus all our efforts on supporting that progress, not on pushing unilateral initiatives that prejudge the outcome of the negotiation process.

May 29: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202605/t20260530_11921771.html) in New York with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Wang Yi stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's successful visit to China has seen the leaders of the two countries reach new important consensus, pushing the construction of the China-Pakistan community with a shared future to a new level. Pakistan has actively participated in Security Council high-level meeting and the meeting of the Group of Friends of Global Governance, and joined other parties in sending out the common voice of revitalizing the authority and core position of the United Nations, as well as reforming and improving global governance. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Pakistan has undertaken the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, which China appreciates.

Wang Yi noted that China-Pakistan friendly cooperation is all-dimensional, all-weather and all-field. The two countries have always trusted each other, united with each other and supported each other at the bilateral, regional and international levels, which is the background of the iron-clad China-Pakistan friendship and the value of the strategic partnership between the two countries. China is willing to work with Pakistan, guided by the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, to maintain high-level exchanges, deepen political mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, enhance Pakistan's capacity for independent development, and accelerate the building of a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China was a great success, which demonstrates the friendship and solidarity between Pakistan and China, and thanked China for the warm and friendly reception. The current multilateral system is weakened, and the task of reform is more urgent. China's initiative to convene the Security Council high-level meeting is timely, which has won support from all parties and achieved positive results. Pakistan is willing to work with China to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen the docking of development strategies, promote the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, deepen cooperation in various fields, and push the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to continuous development. The International Organization for Mediation has been established and operates in Hong Kong, advocating mediation instead of litigation, which reflects the advantages of Eastern practice. Pakistan will continue to fully support China's series of initiatives and jointly practice multilateralism.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in Iran. Wang Yi said that Pakistan has actively mediated the U.S.-Iran

negotiations, and is a reliable and qualified mediator. China will continue to support Pakistan's efforts for peace, jointly push all parties to adhere to dialogue and negotiation, promote a comprehensive ceasefire, and restore peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region as soon as possible. Mohammad Ishaq Dar thanked China for its support to Pakistan's mediation efforts, and said that Pakistan and China put forward a five-point initiative for peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region, which has won extensive support. Pakistan will continue to play a constructive role in cooling down the situation.

May 29: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2060358169243926729)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Pakistani Deputy PM and FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar in New York.

China-Pakistan friendly cooperation is all-round, all-weather and across all fields. The two countries always trust, unite and support each other at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

Pakistan has actively mediated in the US-Iran negotiations and is a trustworthy and qualified mediator. China will continue to support Pakistan's peace efforts, jointly promote dialogue and negotiation among all parties, push for a comprehensive ceasefire, so as to restore peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region as soon as possible.

June 1: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260601_11922642.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: China successfully wrapped up its work as the rotating chair of the UN Security Council for May. Over the past month, under the coordination and promotion of China, multiple events were held at the Security Council. Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the high-level open debate. China's effort and work are recognized by the international community. Can you share more information about this? How does China view the role of the UN, especially the Security Council, under the current situation?

A: With the active support of various parties, the work of China as the rotating chair of the Security Council for May drew a successful conclusion. Over the past month, acting in a responsible and constructive manner, we've worked with Security Council members and the broader UN membership to focus on key issues, pursue practical actions, and actively fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to us under the UN Charter.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired the high-level open debate at the UN headquarters in New York, during which he made five propositions on defending, revitalizing and strengthening the UN, voicing a strong call for reinvigorating the authority of the UN Charter and the role of the UN. Foreign Minister Wang Yi also attended the meeting of the Group of Friends of Global Governance, during which he proposed nine major directions for reforming global governance. Under China's presidency, the Security Council also held deliberations on hotspot issues related to Palestine and Israel, Iran and Ukraine, as well as thematic issues including the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. It worked to respond to the concerns of the international community, play its due role, and has successfully completed all agenda items.

As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, China stands ready to work with all parties, including the Security Council members, to strengthen solidarity and coordination in the UN, practice true multilateralism, uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and continue fulfilling our duties for world peace and development.

June 3: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202606/t20260603_11936890.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: In the early morning today, the U.S. army attacked Iran's Qeshm Island. Iran said it had attacked the U.S. bases in the Middle East in retaliation. Warning sirens went off across several Gulf countries. What's China's comment on the escalating Middle East tensions?

A: China is gravely concerned over the current situation. More fighting serves no one's interests. We hope relevant parties will cherish the chance for peace, implement the ceasefire, keep the negotiation going, resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire at an early date and create necessary conditions for restoring peace and tranquility in the Middle East and Gulf region.

June 3: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2114599/)

Q: There are reports of yet another exchange of strikes between the United States and Iran in the Persian Gulf region. In this

regard, concerns have been voiced that such incidents could lead to a dangerous further escalation of the military and political situation in the region. How would you comment on this?

A: Indeed, according to the information at our disposal, on June 2, US troops stationed in the Persian Gulf region launched strikes against Iranian radar stations and UAV command and control facilities located on Qeshm Island. A tanker carrying Iranian oil, which was attempting to break the blockade imposed by the Americans and proceed to Kharg Island, also came under attack. In response to these aggressive actions, during the night of June 3, Iranian forces launched a retaliatory missile strike on the command centre of the United States Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, as well as on the Ali Al Salem and Arifjan military bases in Kuwait.

Furthermore, the passenger terminal at Kuwait International Airport also came under attack. According to a statement issued by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one person was killed and several others sustained injuries as a result. Damage has been inflicted upon critical infrastructure facilities and the premises of foreign diplomatic missions.

We are deeply concerned by this turn of events, which risks precipitating the resumption of a large-scale military and political conflict in the Persian Gulf region, provoked by the military aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran.

We strongly urge all parties concerned to refrain from actions that could further escalate tensions and undermine diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating the situation. It is imperative that the region not be drawn further into a devastating conflict. We regard strikes on purely civilian infrastructure as categorically unacceptable. We consistently and resolutely support the Arab states of the Persian Gulf in upholding their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We remain hopeful that the ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran will bring about a sustainable and lasting stabilisation of the situation in the Middle East. We proceed on the assumption that the existing differences in the region can and must be resolved through political and diplomatic means, through the formulation of compromise solutions that take into account the legitimate interests of all nations involved, in accordance with the fundamental norms of international law. We stand ready to continue contributing actively to this end.

June 4: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov interview (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2114914/) with RT Arabic

Q: Away from Western hegemony, as you say, who is primarily present here? We see Arab countries; Saudi Arabia is a guest. What does this indicate? A commitment to strengthening ties with the Arab region and the Gulf states?

A: Arab countries actively participate in the St Petersburg International Economic Forum every year. Other GCC members are also here, including the United Arab Emirates, which is very well represented and takes part in the discussions—as do our other partners from the region.

I believe our relations with this Arab “six,” and with the Arab world as a whole through the Arab League, are very close, constructive and comradely. In fact, they are exactly the kind of relations we want to build with all countries.

As for the Persian Gulf, of course we cannot ignore what is happening there as a result of US and Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the aims of this reckless move, I have no doubt, was to derail the emerging process of rapprochement and normalisation between the Arabs and Iran, through discussions on the future of the Gulf and surrounding territories.

There is a Russian Security Concept for the Persian Gulf. We have just updated it, sent it to our GCC colleagues, and to Tehran as well. Now we await their response. All of this happened literally in the last few days. But the process of polycentricity and multipolarity will not be easy, of course.

I can also mention BRICS, which includes both Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Q: Given the ongoing conflicts, you mentioned BRICS—what role does this association play in maintaining the balance of power in the region and ensuring stability?

A: The platform itself is always important. We held a BRICS Foreign Ministers’ meeting on May 14-15 this year, attended by representatives of Iran and the UAE. There was quite a serious spat between them. Nevertheless, India as the current chair, and the other BRICS countries at that meeting, certainly tried to find ways to initiate a dialogue between the Emirates and Iran. That dialogue has to happen eventually.

We see a readiness for such a dialogue on the part of a number of other Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. Of course, those who stirred up this mess and launched this reckless move hate to see rapprochement between the Arabs and Iran—or even just

normalisation of relations.

Our concept calls first and foremost for non-aggression. Incidentally, Saudi Arabia is now talking about non-aggression too. A non-aggression pact would probably be a good first step, but additional steps could follow, including an agreement on transparency in military activities, limits on military operations, notification of manoeuvres, and confidence-building measures more broadly.

I sincerely hope that common sense will prevail, and that this region will begin to agree on how all participants can coexist peacefully, without fear of military risks. We advocate for that and continue to work with our Arab colleagues.

Q: What, in your opinion, is currently standing in the way?

A: I've already mentioned that Israel certainly does not want rapprochement between the Arabs and Iran. The United States is taking an ambivalent position: one day they say an agreement is about to be reached and the Strait of Hormuz will be opened; the next, they say if Iran hesitates for two more days, we'll start bombing again. Why even talk about Iran opening the Strait of Hormuz? It was already open, without any problems, until February 28 of this year. I don't know what Washington means when they say they want to end the "47-year period in which Iran terrorised everyone". That is a propaganda slogan, unburdened by any serious historical analysis of what actually happened there.

But demanding the opening of the Strait of Hormuz? It was open. And all that talk about Iran and Muscat (the Omanis) now planning to impose a toll on passage, and them not allowing it to happen? There never was such a toll until this aggression began.

The second point, which US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reiterated in his recent testimony to Congress, is that Iran must accept that it will never have nuclear weapons. Until the attack on Iran in June 2025, the entire leadership was united around the fatwa of the recently assassinated leader of Iran, Ali Hosseini Khamenei. That was essentially a political assassination. And if anything could change the mood among Iran's elite, and in Iran as a whole, regarding its commitment to the principle of non-nuclear weapons, it would be this aggression: the actions that the US and Israel have carried out and continue to carry out, absolutely without any justification.

And everyone is watching what happened to those countries that once pursued nuclear weapons. The first technical steps in this area have already been made, as was the case in Libya. As soon as that "problem" was closed, as soon as Libya renounced its nuclear weapons, Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and mockingly killed live on television, to the delight of Hillary Clinton, who sat in front of the screen practically applauding. Meanwhile, those who have nuclear weapons… This is the logic that many developing countries have already explained to us.

Take the DPRK. That country is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It simply concluded that without nuclear weapons, it would be wiped off the face of the earth. The North Koreans have acted on that choice, and no one bothers them.

I am not suggesting that everyone should follow this path. But there has never been any suspicion regarding Iran. The IAEA has regularly stated in its reports that there are no signs of Iran diverting any aspect of its nuclear or energy programme to military purposes. And so far, no one has produced any evidence to the contrary. Yet Washington has made an unfounded accusation.

The Americans made an utterly unimaginable move in Venezuela. Even I cannot recall anything like it. Under the pretext that President Nicolás Maduro was allegedly running a drug cartel, they kidnapped him—but immediately announced that they had interests in the oil sector, and that they would "take over" Venezuela's oil industry and explain to their Venezuelan colleagues what to do, who to sell to, and who not to sell to.

It started with Iran, too. They said Iran had been promoting international terrorism for 47 years. It quickly became clear that the real reason was oil. At one point, the Americans proposed a 50-50 split between them and Iran in the Strait of Hormuz. It is all about oil again—about global energy markets. But this is also causing inconvenience and heavy losses for Arab countries. We know that well.

Yes, they will now look for alternative routes and build new pipelines. But that requires capital investments, all those costs—and the natural routes that have suited everyone for decades are now under enormous risk. Now the Bab el-Mandeb Strait could become another flashpoint. So the consequences of this aggression are obvious to everyone. I sincerely hope that lessons will be learned.

June 5: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202606/t20260610_11941176.html)

On June 5, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East met with Norwegian Ambassador to China

Vebjoern Dysvik upon invitation. The two sides exchanged views focusing on the hot spot issues in the Middle East region and the upcoming Oslo Forum.

June 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin remarks (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79956) at plenary session of St. Petersburg International Forum [excerpt]

Q: Now I'll go back to the war question—the Iran-US war, the Strait of Hormuz blockade. There is a real cause of concern and worry. How is Russia looking at it? What's your assessment and reading on the global impact it is having apart from the fact that yes Russia maybe has had a bit of an advantage what's the assessment of the blockade and the attack on Iran? Would you consider it provoked or unprovoked?

A: I cannot see any provocations on the part of Iran. It seems to me that we once came to terms and adopted a relevant agreement on Iran's nuclear programme and everything was under the IAEA's control.

Yet, regretfully the situation unfolded following a different scenario, in a different vein. Everything resulted in today's tragedy, to put it bluntly. The strike at Iran, losses, including among the civilian population, we know it well enough, relations between the neighboring countries worsened, which is undoubtedly of great concern for us because we have very good, friendly relations with the Arab world and with the Gulf countries. And all the time we (I also spoke about it yesterday, I remind you), in conversations with our Iranian friends, are talking them into abstaining from strikes against the neighboring states. However, their answer is simple, they say: "We were attacked, they kill our children, they have assassinated all the country's leadership. What shall we do? We have to respond this way."

You see, the situation is not easy for us in this regard. Our relations with Iran are very amicable, we are neighbours, as well as with the Arab countries. Frankly speaking, it puts us in a complicated situation. Still, we proceed from the idea that President Trump's decision to suspend hostilities is the only correct one. We sincerely hope that this ceasefire, that is taking place now, will lead to a lasting peace.

I have already spoken about it on many occasions; there is no need to repeat it and waste time. In 2015, Russia played a noticeable role in settling the crisis. If we can do anything today, we are ready for this joint work. If no, we will just hope that all the countries involved in the conflict will eventually manage to resolve this issue peacefully… (Applause.)

Q: Does the offer for, uh, the uranium enrichment to be taken to Russia still stand? Are you engaged with Washington DC on this? Because I suppose DC is very clear that they want to have the uranium, and Iran is insistent that it stays in Iran.

A: We are in contact with Washington, Tehran, and Tel Aviv. (Applause.)

Q: Because you mentioned Tel Aviv. Do you think Prime Minister Netanyahu's plans as they stand are one of the main reasons why America is in a position where it needs to look at how to get out of this, how to exit this? And do you think that President Trump was misled?

A: I have no reason to say that Mr Trump has been misled in any way. He is an experienced, mature politician, and it is unlikely that anyone from the outside could exert any significant influence over him.

Israel's concerns are well known. They stem from Israel's belief that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. But Iran has repeatedly stated, both in the past and continues to state now, that it has no such plans. And we have no reason to doubt that, because we also have no evidence that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

That said, Israel's concerns exist. And the main problem here is the lack of trust between the two sides. In this situation, it is crucial to place all these materials under the control of the IAEA, the international organisation whose director general, as I mentioned, joined us via videoconference yesterday for the launch of the nuclear power plant project in Uzbekistan. If this is under IAEA control, then, frankly, I do not see any major problems.

Agreeing on enrichment levels in Iran is a different matter—no less pressing, in my view. Iran has the right to peaceful nuclear programmes, and we are cooperating with Iran in this area. We have already built one unit at the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and it is operational. We are continuing construction on two more units. Our specialists are present there. We have withdrawn most of our personnel because Bushehr is located practically on the shore of the Strait of Hormuz—almost in the combat zone. We were forced to withdraw some of the women and children, but some remain.

On that point, I want to note that we are in contact with both the Americans and the Israelis. Everyone assures us that the shell

impacts near the plant were accidental. Everyone assures us that it was an accident and will not happen again. And I have no reason to believe we are being misled. We have spoken with the Israelis about this many times, and we see their concern and their willingness to ensure the safety of the Bushehr plant.

The situation is quite different elsewhere—at the Zaporozhskaya Nuclear Power Plant, for example. There, Ukrainian forces are constantly launching strikes near the plant. Or, recently, they seem to have completely lost their minds and struck the reactor directly. Thank God, there were no significant consequences and the reactor was not damaged, but it has, of course, been shut down. That said, the situation there is very dangerous, given the spent fuel and so on.

If those storage tanks are damaged, it becomes a very serious question: which way will the wind blow? And it is not at all certain that it will blow towards the Russian Federation. It could just as easily blow towards Europe. So, Europeans who encourage any actions by the current Kiev regime should think carefully about that and consider their own security—something that, by the way, Mr Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, has clearly, if very carefully, alluded to.

Returning to your original question: we generally intend, once the situation calms down, to continue working with our Iranian friends on the construction of these nuclear facilities. But here too, I think that allaying Iran's concerns about restrictions on its peaceful nuclear projects could play a certain role. We are working with them and are ready to provide everything they need, including enriched uranium for nuclear energy.

Q: Beyond economic friendship or economic partnership, there are reports in western media where they say that Russia has supported Iran uh not just not just symbolically, not just in words but in satellite images and data sharing, in information sharing. What do you have to say to those reports?

A: The information is always on the table. Some modern means of control have dual designation. I think that Iranians, I do not know it for sure, could well obtain information not only from our satellites, but also from other, commercial satellites, which easily sell it as a product on a commercial basis.

As for weapons, Iran did not ask us for this and we did not supply any armaments to Iran. (Applause.)

Q: But these wars today have shown a different side of modern warfare—drone technology. Whether it is Ukraine or, for that matter, Iran, we are head in drone technology, in the use of artificial intelligence. How does Russia fare? And what is your assessment on what you want to do, and reading on, Ukraine's drone technology, Iran's drone technology?

A: As regards Ukrainian UAVs, they must be downed and it should be done more effectively.

Now regarding the use of artificial intelligence. Yes, the United States and Europe are active in developing this area, we are doing this too. (Applause.) By the way, UAVs and their components come mostly from there—mostly from Europe, partially from the United States if we talk about their components. We are making all this using own resources.

Q: Is AI an enabler or a disruptor?

A: These are new means of an armed struggle, there is nothing unusual in this, as a matter of principle it was known long before. Still, all parties, as usual, all, I insist, begin to get ready for this when it appears in real life, in the course of real struggle.

But these means are not the only ones. The result is achieved through a synergy of forces, means, and most importantly, motivation of the very armed forces and stability, domestic political stability in society.

Here are UAV operations, among other things. They delivered a strike at a coal harbour; achieved, by all appearance, what they wanted, some noise, smoke, when the coal caught fire. That's the goal. Have they achieved anything in this regard? Yes, they have archived something. Is it decisive for achieving the goal? No, it is not. We need stronger internal unity in the society, our own resources for developing modern weapons, hardware, our own scientific basis, a resource basis. Russia has all of this. We are working on this and will continue to do so. The sooner those who are fighting us realize this, the better it will be for them. (Applause.)

Well, I am sorry, you spoke about Iran. We should give credit to the Iranian leadership; Iran still provides for the stability of its society; this is an obvious fact. And after the beginning of hostilities some in the West believed that Iran will collapse from within—no, that analysis was erroneous. Because we can see that the situation is quite opposite—the Iranian society gets consolidated.

You should know, you have seen or probably heard that, I do not know, a month ago or more, when the conflict just started, and the first strikes were delivered, the Iranian leadership spread the word "Life for Iran." Within a week, five million people, and more

than 10 million to date, have voluntarily expressed the wish to give their lives for Iran. This fact speaks volumes and should always be kept in mind. In this case it concerns the conflict in Iran.

June 8: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202606/t20260608_11939792.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: I just wondered if the foreign ministry had a comment on Iran and Israel who have both launched strikes against each other over the weekend. Any comments?

A: China is deeply concerned over the current situation. Return of war serves no one's interests. We hope relevant parties will continue to implement the ceasefire, keep the negotiation going, resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire at an early date and create necessary conditions for restoring peace and tranquility in the Middle East and Gulf region.

June 8: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2063912564145451263)

China is deeply concerned over renewed attacks between #Iran and #Israel.

China calls for recommitting to the ceasefire and the negotiation process. A full and lasting ceasefire is badly needed for peace to return to the Gulf region and the Middle East.

June 9: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260609_11940743.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The United States through its sea blockade and Israel through its continued attacks on Lebanon are violating ceasefire agreements with Iran and undermining ongoing negotiations and diplomatic efforts. As we saw yesterday, such actions can force Iran to respond, and the situation can escalate very quickly. It seems Israel is trying to draw Washington into another unjust illegal war in West Asia. What is China's position on these violations and actions that undermine diplomatic efforts as a global power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council? What can China do practically and not just verbal condemnation to help prevent another U.S.-Israeli war against Iran and promote a peaceful resolution?

A: The three-months-long U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict has hit hard countries in the Gulf and wider Middle East region. Facts have proven that military means provide no solution, and arbitrary use of force will only complicate the issue. At this critical juncture of Iran-U.S. negotiation, no one shall reignite military conflict. Regional countries' sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should also be respected and upheld. China calls on relevant parties to remain calm, exercise restraint, stop any confrontational action that may escalate the conflict, take concrete actions to cool down the situation, resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, and work for an early realization of a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire. China stands ready to act on the spirit of the four propositions of President Xi Jinping, make further effort for ceasefire and peace, and continue playing a positive role for restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

June 9: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2064304102314827939)

The months-long U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict has hit hard countries in the Gulf and wider Middle East region. Military action provides no solution and will only complicate the issue. At this critical juncture of Iran-U.S. negotiation, no one shall reignite the conflict. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of countries in the region should be respected and upheld.

June 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2064312616546443525)

The three-month-long U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict has hit countries in the Gulf and the wider Middle East region hard. Facts have proven that military means provide no solution, and arbitrary use of force will only complicate the issue.

At this critical juncture of Iran-U.S. negotiations, no one should reignite military conflict. Regional countries' sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected and upheld.

China calls on relevant parties to remain calm, exercise restraint, stop any confrontational action that may escalate the conflict, take concrete actions to cool down the situation, resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, and work for the early realization of a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire.

June 10: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260610_11941665.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On the morning of June 10, Beijing time, the United States launched three rounds of strikes against Iran. Iran then responded by launching attacks against U.S. military bases in Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain. What is your comment on the latest escalation of the situation in the Middle East?

A: China is deeply concerned over the latest developments regarding Iran. Relevant parties need to remain calm, exercise restraint, stop exacerbating confrontation and escalating tensions, take concrete actions to ease the situation, stick to political and diplomatic means for resolving disputes, and work for an early realization of a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire.

June 10: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2116586/) [excerpt]

The new cycle of the armed confrontation between the United States and Iran has been a matter of grave concern for us. It started with the unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic. We call on the parties to exercise restraint and to immediately cease military attacks. The Foreign Ministry stresses once again that attacks targeting civilian infrastructure are unacceptable.

We still believe that there is no alternative to a political and diplomatic resolution to the conflict based on international law and taking into account the security interests of all the countries in the region.

The latest outbreak of violence demonstrates the need to find a solution for alleviating tension. Of course, the urgent need to focus on regional security as a whole has become even more apparent. We hope that the political and diplomatic efforts will resume as quickly as possible. Just as before, Russia stands ready to facilitate efforts to find mutually acceptable negotiated solutions and ensure that they materialise.

June 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2064618575948657126)

#Zakharova: We are deeply concerned by the new spiral of US-Iran armed confrontation.

We urge the parties to exercise restraint & immediately halt military attacks.

Russia stands ready to help find & implement mutually acceptable negotiated solutions.

June 10: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2064668900424560883)

#Zakharova: Russia consistently and firmly maintains—the current crisis surrounding #Iran must be resolved only by diplomatic means.

Any boots on the ground would lead to further escalation of tensions and could entail irreversible ramifications.

#MiddleEast

June 11: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260611_11942754.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: China's four-point proposal on Iran emphasizes the sovereignty of the region. Yet U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf are used to attack Iran. Does China see these bases as a violation of and contradiction to West Asian sovereignty? What practical steps can China take to stop Persian Gulf states from enabling U.S. aggression against Iran?

A: China is deeply concerned over the current situation. The use of force will only aggravate the situation. Military means cannot solve the fundamental issue. The sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of countries in the region should be respected and upheld. We urge the parties concerned to halt military actions at once, return to dialogue and negotiation, and respond to relevant countries' mediation efforts so that a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire could be realized as soon as possible.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has maintained close communication with all relevant parties, including Iran, and has been making active efforts to promote ceasefire and peace. Guided by the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, we will continue playing an active role in promoting ceasefire and ending hostilities and restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

June 11: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2117300/) in Moscow with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani

The foreign ministers discussed in detail a broad range of current issues related to advancing friendly Russia-Bahrain relations

and expressed support for maintaining regular political dialogue and intensifying the exchange of delegations. They underscored the importance of strengthening multifaceted trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian interaction. In this context, they noted the important coordinating role of the Russia-Bahrain Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

A comprehensive exchange of views took place on key international issues with positions of Moscow and Manama largely overlapping or close. A mutual commitment was reaffirmed to continue close coordination on multilateral platforms, primarily within the UN, including in light of the Kingdom of Bahrain's election in January as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. The importance of further joint work within the framework of the Russia-GCC Council Strategic Dialogue was emphasised, as it has proven to be an effective mechanism for exchanging views on key global and regional issues.

Special attention was paid to the situation in the Middle East, with a focus on the escalation surrounding Iran. The ministers stressed that there is no alternative to launching a full-fledged political and diplomatic process aimed at resolving the crisis, with unconditional respect for the interests of all countries in the region.

Sergey Lavrov noted that Russia consistently calls on the parties involved to refrain from steps that could lead to the resumption of a large-scale war and undermine ongoing efforts to overcome differences. He reaffirmed Russia's firm support for Bahrain and other Arab states in defending their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and denounced strikes on civilian infrastructure located in these countries as outright unacceptable.

The foreign ministers also underlined the importance of the early restoration of stable, unhindered, and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, which is of critical importance for the global economy. They exchanged views on the updated Russian Concept for Ensuring Collective Security in the Gulf Region.

Discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they placed emphasis on the importance of achieving a sustainable ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, ensuring large-scale humanitarian deliveries, and rebuilding the Palestinian enclave devastated by hostilities. They reaffirmed the urgency of the earliest normalisation of the situation on the West Bank of the Jordan River and noted convergence of Russian and Bahraini approaches in favour of achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue on the well-known international legal basis providing for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine coexisting in peace and security with Israel.

Sergey Lavrov provided his Bahraini counterpart with a detailed briefing on Russia's principled approaches to settling the Ukraine-related conflict.

June 12: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202606/t20260614_11944371.html)

From June 10 to 11, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue attended the 23rd Oslo Forum in Norway upon invitation.

Zhai Jun delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the forum, stating that the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region has drawn intense concern from all parties and profoundly impacts the global order. President Xi Jinping has put forward a four-point proposition on upholding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, contributing China's approach to the international community's collective efforts to resolve the current turmoil in the region. China will continue to act in the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four-point proposition and work with all parties to play a constructive role in de-escalating regional tensions, achieving a lasting ceasefire and promoting long-term peace and stability. As a good friend of Middle Eastern countries, China will work with the international community to build bridges of understanding and trust in the region, cement the foundations of peace and stability, help the region realize genuine security and lasting peace on the basis of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and inject greater stability and certainty into the world.

The participating parties held discussions on issues including the US-Israel-Iran conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the situation in Lebanon and the passage through international straits. During the forum, Zhai Jun met respectively with State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, Yemeni Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Mustapha Ahmed Mohamed Noman and others at their request, and exchanged views on the Middle East situation and hotspot issues.

June 12: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260612_11943755.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Treasury announced sanctions against nine China-based and Hong Kong-based individuals and entities for supporting weapons procurement by Iranian military. I wonder what's China's comment on this?

A: China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or authorization of the UN Security Council, and will take necessary measures to firmly defend the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese businesses and citizens.

June 15: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260615_11945847.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced early Monday that the U.S. and Iran had reached an agreement following negotiations, with both sides declaring an immediate and permanent end to military operations across all fronts, including in Lebanon. The U.S. and Iran later confirmed the agreement. What's China's comment?

A: China welcomes the U.S. and Iran reaching agreement on the text of the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations and commends Pakistan's mediation efforts. We hope the document will be signed according to the agreed timetable and all relevant parties will stay committed to peaceful solutions and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation. China stands ready to join the international community in playing an active role in restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump criticized Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his attempts to sabotage the negotiation process with Iran. He said the deal with Iran was reached despite objections from Netanyahu. Now that peace has been achieved, do you have any message for the Israeli side regarding the potential attempts to sabotage the deal or general peace in the region?

A: As I have just said, we hope the U.S. and Iran will sign the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations according to the agreed timetable and all relevant parties will stay committed to peaceful solutions and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation. China will act on President Xi Jinping's four propositions and play an active role in the early restoration of peace and tranquility in the Middle East and Gulf region.

Q: Back on the deal reached between the U.S. and Iran, specifically on the part of the agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, what is China's comment on this?

A: The Strait of Hormuz is an important strait for international navigation. Restoring stability in the Strait serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community. We have noted that the text of the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations between Iran and the United States includes the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. We hope the Strait will become safe again for free passage at an early date. China stands ready to maintain communication with regional countries and the international community on relevant issues.

Q: Did China have any involvement during this, especially in the opening of Strait of Hormuz? Do you have any contributions to finding a middle way or a solution to the unblocking of the strait during the negotiations?

A: Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has been working tirelessly for the end of fighting and peace. President Xi Jinping made four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, which embody China's consistent position and active efforts to promote peace, end hostilities, and advocate resolving disputes through dialogue. As a Chinese solution to end the conflict and realize peace, the proposition has played an important role in building global consensus and received broad recognition from regional countries and the international community. Guided by the spirit of the proposition and upholding fairness and justice, China, as a responsible major country, will continue to make our contribution to enabling lasting peace in the Middle East.

June 15: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2066475396322001313)

China welcomes the memorandum of understanding to be signed between the U.S. and Iran and commends Pakistan for the mediation effort. We hope the MOU will be signed according to the agreed timetable and that all parties will uphold peace. #US #Iran

China hopes the Strait of Hormuz will become safe again for free passage, which serves the common interests of regional countries and the wider world.

China will continue to act in the spirit of the four propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping for peace and stability in the

Middle East, and make our contribution to enabling lasting peace in the region.

June 15: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202606/t20260617_11947206.html)

From June 13 to 14, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue paid a visit to Oman. He held separate meetings with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi and Undersecretary for Political Affairs of the Omani Foreign Ministry Sheikh Khalifa Alharthy, and exchanged views on China-Oman bilateral relations and the current situation in the Middle East.

Zhai Jun said that China and Oman enjoy profound traditional friendship. In recent years, the China-Oman strategic partnership has continued to make fresh progress under the guidance of the two heads of state. China attaches great importance to its relations with Oman and stands ready to work with the Omani side to elevate bilateral relations to new heights. Following the outbreak of the military conflict among the United States, Israel and Iran, China has maintained close communication with Oman and other Gulf countries in the Middle East to promote de-escalation and end hostilities. Guided by the spirit of the four-point proposal put forward by President Xi Jinping for safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, China aims to support regional countries in building a community of good-neighborliness, development, security and cooperation. China will work with Oman and all other relevant parties to contribute to the early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi noted that Oman cherishes its strategic partnership with China, and is ready to work with China to deliver more fruitful outcomes from practical cooperation across all fields. Oman highly appreciates China's efforts to ease tensions in the Middle East. It will stay in communication and coordination with China on international and regional hot spot issues, and work together to play a constructive role in safeguarding peace and stability across the world and the region.

June 15: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2118738/)

Q: Do you share Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's view that the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine could be resolved this year? What would be required to achieve that? Will the G7 summit contribute to advancing negotiations on Ukraine?

A: Any conflict can be resolved quickly. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly stated that all that is required is political will. However, life is often more complex than forecasts or expectations, so I would not speculate on specific timelines.

As Russian President Vladimir Putin has noted, developments are unfolding in a situation where the West is failing to honour its commitments and where agreements reached in Alaska are being undermined by the policies pursued by the European Union and the United Kingdom. Under these circumstances, President Putin emphasised that the outcome is being determined on the frontlines by our servicemen, in whom the entire country places its hopes.

As for the conflict involving Iran, we hope that the announcements made today, and reaffirmed just an hour ago, will be translated into practical dimension. We also hope that the agreement referred to in statements from Washington, Tehran, and Pakistan will be formally concluded this week. Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif is serving as a mediator in this process.

June 15: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2066542017811792371)

FM Sergey #Lavrov:

Russia hopes that everything announced today between the US & Iran will materialise.

We hope that this agreement—as stated in Washington, Tehran & Pakistan, with @CMShehbaz acting as mediator—will be signed this week.

June 16: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260616_11946864.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Despite the very first item of the U.S.-Iran agreement calling for an end to the war on all fronts, we are still witnessing continued attacks against Lebanon. What is China's position on this?

A: China is deeply concerned over the current situation between Lebanon and Israel. Lebanon's sovereignty and security should not be violated. We hope relevant parties will exercise prudence on their words and deeds, stick to peace, and earnestly implement the ceasefire to make a full and permanent end to hostilities possible and create conditions for safeguarding peace and tranquility in the Middle East...

Q: Both the U.S. and Iran have said that some ships have begun transiting through the Hormuz Strait. But yesterday you said that China hopes for the early resumption of safe passage. So my question is, have any Chinese ships begun transiting through the strait since the announcement of the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding?

A: We have noted that the text of the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations between Iran and the United States includes the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz is a strait for international navigation. Early resumption of safe and free passage through the strait serves the interests of all parties. China stands ready to maintain communication with relevant countries and the international community on this matter.

Regarding the issue of Chinese ships you mentioned, China has been in communication with all parties and will continue to make every effort to protect the safety and security of Chinese ships and crew.

June 16: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2066839579853046126)

China is deeply concerned over the situation between Lebanon and Israel. Lebanon's sovereignty and security should not be violated.

China hopes relevant parties will let better sense prevail, stick to peace and implement the ceasefire, so that a full and permanent end to hostilities and eventually peace will become possible in the Middle East. #Lebanon #Israel

June 16: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260617_11947636.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Mohammad Ishaq Dar briefed Wang Yi on the first-phase memorandum of understanding (MoU) reached between Iran and the United States, and thanked China for maintaining close communication with Pakistan over the past few months and for its valuable support for Pakistan's mediation efforts. Pakistan looks forward to continuing communication and coordination with China, sustaining the current momentum of peace talks, and jointly playing an active role in achieving lasting peace and stability in the region.

Wang Yi congratulated Pakistan on facilitating the first-phase MoU between Iran and the United States, and stressed that working for peace is the international responsibility of all countries, including China and Pakistan. As long as there is hope for peace, it is worth the effort. Since the outbreak of hostilities, China has engaged with various parties and actively worked to stop the fighting and promote peace. From the very beginning, China has firmly supported Pakistan, stressing to all parties that Pakistan is a trustworthy mediator, and has also engaged Iran and the United States respectively in its own way.

Wang Yi noted that the last leg of a journey marks the halfway point. The current consensus is far from an endpoint; it is a new starting point. Lasting peace in the Middle East and Gulf region still requires unremitting efforts from all parties. It is foreseeable that the second-phase negotiations will be even more difficult than the first phase. However, China believes that there should be no turning back, still less a resort to force again. The international community should provide further impetus to the Iran-U.S. negotiations, and multilateral institutions such as the UN Security Council should also play a greater role. China has always maintained that regional countries should take their future and destiny into their own hands, and hopes to explore, through dialogue and consultation, a peace and security architecture with the participation of all countries in the region. Since the door to peace has been opened, it should not be closed again. The Middle East has suffered greatly from the scourge of war, and its people deserve peace. China is ready to work with Pakistan to tirelessly promote peace and facilitate talks, and to make sustained efforts for the early restoration of peace, stability and development in the Middle East.

June 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2067242851885576585)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy PM & FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Wang Yi congratulated Pakistan on facilitating the conclusion of the memorandum of understanding for the first phase of negotiations between Iran and the US. From the very beginning, #China has firmly supported #Pakistan, stressing to all sides that Pakistan is a trustworthy mediator, while also engaging separately with Iran and the US.

Lasting peace in the Middle East and the Gulf region still requires unremitting efforts from all parties. The second-phase negotiations are expected to be more challenging than the first phase. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to continuously

promote peace and dialogue, and to make sustained efforts for the early restoration of peace, stability and development in the Middle East.

June 17: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2067184289658306800)

China will provide humanitarian aid to #Iran and #Lebanon to help their people recover and rebuild. China will continue to do what it can to support Middle East countries as a good friend and a responsible major country.

June 17: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260617_11947701.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict and the spillover have caused heavy civilian casualties and extensive damage to infrastructure in the Middle East. People's livelihoods are under heavy strain. China has already provided humanitarian aid to some countries in the region. Does China plan to offer more assistance?

A: China is deeply saddened by the humanitarian disaster in the Middle East caused by the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict and the spillover. In March this year, China has provided Iran and other countries with emergency humanitarian aid. In light of the real situations of relevant countries, China has recently decided to provide humanitarian aid to Iran and Lebanon as the latest step to help their people recover and rebuild and improve the economy and livelihoods there. As a good friend of Middle East countries and a responsible major country, China will continue to do what it can to provide support and assistance. China will also make further effort for peace talks, and continue playing a positive role for restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East at an early date.

June 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2067250280140578963)

China is deeply saddened by the humanitarian disaster in the Middle East caused by the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict and its spillover effects. In March this year, China provided Iran and other countries with emergency humanitarian assistance.

In light of the actual conditions, China has decided to provide further humanitarian assistance to Iran and Lebanon in the near future to help their people recover, rebuild, and improve economic conditions and livelihoods.

June 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202606/t20260619_11949039.html)

From June 15 to 16, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue visited Qatar and met with Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi. The two sides exchanged views on China-Qatar bilateral relations and the current situation in the Middle East.

Zhai Jun noted that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Qatar relations have continued to make progress. China has always approached and advanced China-Qatar relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, and stands ready to work with Qatar to follow up on the important common understandings reached between the two heads of state and deepen and substantiate bilateral relations. China welcomes the agreement reached between the United States and Iran on the content of the first-phase memorandum of understanding (MoU), and appreciates the contribution made by Qatar and other countries to quelling the fighting and striving for peace. China hopes that all parties concerned will stay on the path of peace and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation. China will continue to uphold the spirit of the four-point proposal put forward by President Xi Jinping on upholding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, enhance communication and coordination with regional countries including Qatar, and play a positive role in the early restoration of peace and tranquility in the Middle East and Gulf region.

Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi said that Qatar highly values its friendly relations with China, stands ready to deepen political mutual trust with China, enhance the alignment of development strategies, and maintain communication on major international and regional affairs. Qatar will continue to actively engage in mediation and encourage the parties concerned in the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict to consolidate the momentum of negotiations on the basis of the first-phase MoU to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace. Qatar appreciates China's efforts in cooling down the regional situation and stands ready to work with China to uphold and promote security and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region.

June 17: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call

(https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260618_11948298.html) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On June 17, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi upon request.

Seyyed Abbas Araghchi briefed Wang Yi on the first-phase memorandum of understanding (MoU) reached between Iran and the United States, and expressed sincere gratitude to China for its positive role in advancing the negotiations and concluding the agreement. He stated that the MoU should be implemented practically, including Israel's halt to military operations against Lebanon. Iran consistently views its relations with China from a strategic perspective and looks forward to deepening mutual trust, expanding cooperation across all sectors, and jointly advancing the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Wang Yi said China welcomes the conclusion of the first-phase MoU between Iran and the United States. Facts have proven that force and power politics cannot resolve disputes, and dialogue and negotiation represent the right path forward. As comprehensive strategic partners, China has always stood by Iran's reasonable and legitimate propositions, supported Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty and security, backed mediation efforts by Pakistan and the international community, and consistently worked in China's own way to end hostilities and promote peace. The dawn of peace has emerged. The priority going forward is for all parties to deliver earnestly on their commitments and fend off disturbances from all sides. The issue of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz needs to be properly addressed to respond appropriately to the widespread concerns of the international community. China supports Iran's efforts to improve relations with regional countries and explore the joint development of a regional security architecture. China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Iran, consolidate and deepen China-Iran relations, and continue contributing to safeguarding and advancing peace and stability in the region.

June 17: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2119641/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On June 17, Sergey Lavrov held a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, at the Iranian side's initiative.

Iran's Foreign Minister briefed Minister Lavrov on progress in preparing a memorandum of understanding, which is intended to formalise an end to the conflict in the Middle East and pave the way for negotiations on a comprehensive agreement between Iran and the United States.

Minister Lavrov expressed support for the understandings reached through the effective mediation efforts of Pakistan and Qatar aimed at de-escalating tensions in the region. He underscored the importance of compliance by all parties to the armed conflict, including Israel. Russia's continued readiness to assist in efforts to resolve the Iranian crisis, drawing on its unique experience and expertise, was also reaffirmed.

June 18: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2067619446404034579)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

#China welcomes the conclusion of the MoU for the first phase of negotiations between #Iran and the #US. Facts have shown that force and power politics cannot solve problems, and that dialogue and negotiation are the right choice.

With the prospect of peace emerging, the priority now is for all parties to translate their commitments into concrete actions and resist interference from all sides. The issue of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be properly addressed in response to widespread international concerns.

June 18: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202606/t20260618_11948720.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: According to reports, a White House official said on Wednesday that President Trump had signed the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations with Iran. Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said Tehran and Washington had finalized and signed the agreement. What's China's comment?

A: The signing of the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations between the United States and Iran is of positive significance for easing tensions and consolidating the momentum for ceasefire. China welcomes it and hopes that all

relevant parties including the United States and Iran will uphold the spirit of contract and implement it in good faith. Force is no solution. Negotiation on an equal footing is the right choice. It is hoped that the United States and Iran will both approach the second stage of negotiations with a rational and practical attitude, work in the same direction, and strive for positive outcomes.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has been working tirelessly for the end of fighting and for peace. President Xi Jinping made four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and said China supports regional countries in building a common home of good-neighborliness, development, security and cooperation. Foreign Minister Wang Yi held in-depth communication and coordination with senior officials including foreign ministers of relevant countries through more than 30 phone calls and meetings. China and Pakistan jointly issued the five-point initiative for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East region. Going forward, China will be guided by President Xi's four propositions and continue playing an active and constructive role in bringing about lasting peace and security in the Middle East and Gulf region.t

Q: With Iran securing a decisive victory, and with today's MOU and the ceasefire being sealed, Speaker of Parliament Mr. Qalibaf said yesterday that Iran must be a true partner in every sense with China. How will China translate this momentum into a full strategic upgrade with Iran?

A: China always supports realizing peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region, and welcomes the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Iran. As a comprehensive strategic partner of Iran, China stands ready to consolidate and deepen political mutual trust with Iran, enhance mutually-beneficial cooperation in various fields, and bring the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership forward…

Q: Regarding the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding and the next phase of peace talks, will China mediate in peace negotiations going forward? And what will that look like?

A: Since the conflict began, China has been working for an end to the conflict and for peace. President Xi Jinping put forward the four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, reflecting China's consistent position and active effort for promoting ceasefire and peace, and advocating dialogue in resolving differences. This has provided a Chinese approach for resolving the Middle East crisis and played an important role in building international consensus. China will continue to act in line with President Xi Jinping's four propositions, never cease its efforts to promote peace and facilitate dialogue, and make sustained contributions to restoring peace, stability and development in the Middle East at an early date…

Q: Iran and the U.S. have reached the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations. Meanwhile, we noted that Israel has not yet ceased its military operations in Lebanon. Iran publicly said that it may dampen the implementation of the deal. What's China's comment?

A: Iran and the U.S. have reached the memorandum of understanding for the first stage of negotiations, which provides favorable conditions for easing tensions in the Middle East. The international community is following the implementation of the Iran-U.S. deal for the first stage of negotiations and the upcoming stage two negotiations. At this critical stage, relevant parties including Israel need to follow the overwhelming trend of peace and stability in the region and do more to help Iran and the U.S. implement the deal and promote stage two negotiations, rather than the other way around. China stands ready to continue to leverage its influence and work relentlessly with the rest of the world for the early realization of lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

June 18: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2067567805818683488)

China welcomes the signing of MOU between Iran and the U.S. Hope it will be implemented by both sides in good faith.

For peace to prevail, the actions of parties concerned, including Israel, should be conducive to the MOU's implementation and the next phase of negotiations.

China has been working tirelessly since day one to help bring peace. Guided by President Xi Jinping's four propositions, China will continue playing a constructive role for lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

June 18: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202606/t20260619_11949040.html)

On June 18, 2026, Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue had a phone call with State Secretary of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik at the latter's request. The two sides exchanged views with a focus on the current situation in the Middle East.

June 18: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2119908/)

We welcome the memorandum of understanding to end the hostilities reached between the United States and Iran and signed remotely by US President Donald Trump and President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian. We note the mutual commitment of Washington and Tehran to strictly comply with the conditions of the MoU. We commend the vigorous and effective efforts taken by the Pakistani and Qatari intermediaries to settle difference between the sides through negotiation.

In the upcoming sensitive and crucial period of formulating a comprehensive agreement, it is extremely important for all sides involved in the military conflict to strictly comply with the understandings reached by Iran and the United States and refrain from a new dangerous escalation of tensions in the region, including in Lebanon.

We hope that the establishment of peace will help restore trust in relations between states on both sides of the Persian Gulf, and that the resumption of safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz in proportion to the pre-February 28 traffic will help reduce volatility in the global energy and food markets, which primarily affected the interests of the most vulnerable countries. Iran's confirmation of its unwavering commitment to obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the best answer to the groundless allegations and attacks on Tehran by those who tried to put in question Iran's legitimate right to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The Russian Federation made public its objective and unambiguous position at the very beginning of the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran and maintained that responsible and principled stand at the UN and other international platforms, doing everything in its power to scale down confrontation and promote a settlement through political means. We express our readiness to continue to provide substantial diplomatic assistance to efforts towards a sustainable and durable stabilisation in the Middle East.

On May 30, 2026, we forwarded to our Arab and Iranian partners an updated version of Russia's Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf Region, which stipulates gradually unblocking conflict situations, respecting the principle of equal and indivisible security, drafting confidence-building measures, and ensuring the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz based on international law. We hope that this initiative will encourage a substantive discussion of ideas and proposals aimed at creating a new post-conflict architecture of international relations in that strategically important part of the world.

June 18: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2067550172058386629)

Russia welcomes the agreement reached on ending the military conflict between the US & Iran.

Now it's extremely important that all parties involved clearly follow the understandings reached & avoid any new dangerous escalation, including in Lebanon.

June 19: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2067924157778845795)

On June 17, 2026, FM Wang Yi took a phone call from Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

Wang Yi said that China welcomes the signing of the first-phase MoU between Iran and the US. Facts have proved that force and power cannot solve problems, and dialogue and negotiation are the correct choices. The dawn of peace has emerged, and the key to the next step is for all parties to truly implement their commitments and eliminate various distractions.

The issue of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be properly addressed and the common concerns of the international community should be appropriately responded to.

China supports Iran in improving relations with regional countries and exploring the joint building of a regional security framework. China is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Iran, and while consolidating and deepening China-Iran relations, will continue to contribute to maintaining and promoting regional peace and stability.

June 22: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260622_11949994.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Iran and the United States agreed Monday to set up communication lines to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and end fighting in Lebanon, according to mediators, Pakistan and Qatar, after the first round of talks in Switzerland. What is China's comment on this?

A: China supports the mediation efforts by parties including Pakistan and Qatar. We hope Iran and the U.S. will keep the talks

going, further narrow differences and strive for good progress in their negotiation.

June 22: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260623_11950616.html) with Iranian Supreme National Security Council official Qadir Nizamipour

On June 22, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Qadir Nizamipour in New Delhi.

Wang Yi stated that China welcomes the launch of follow-up consultations—with the assistance of Pakistan and Qatar—between Iran and the United States based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries, as well as the consensus reached on the mechanism for the next phase of negotiation. The core provisions of the 14-point MoU are hard-won. These provisions clearly call for an immediate and permanent cessation of hostilities, refraining from the use or threat of force, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. These elements embody the spirit of equality, align with the purposes of the UN Charter, and conform to the norms governing international relations. Effectively maintaining and implementing the MoU will help consolidate the hard-won ceasefire situation, open up new prospects for Iran-U.S. relations, and help bring peace back to the Middle East region. This not only serves the fundamental interests of Iran's state and people but also meets the shared expectations of the international community. China, as a comprehensive strategic partner of Iran, has always maintained a fair position and supported all efforts conducive to peace, supported Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and national dignity, and supported Iran in improving relations with the Gulf countries and regional countries. China is willing to continue to provide assistance in its own way and play a constructive role in restoring regional peace and tranquility at an early date.

Wang Yi said that Iran is China's comprehensive strategic partner and that the two sides share a traditional friendship. China has always viewed and advanced China-Iran relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, and is willing to work with Iran to enhance high-level exchanges, consolidate political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation and promote the steady and long-term development of bilateral relations.

Qadir Nizamipour briefed on the latest situation in the Middle East and the negotiations between Iran and the United States. He sincerely thanked the Chinese side for its persistent efforts to promote peace and halt the war, and highly commended President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. He expressed the hope that China can continue to play an important role in facilitating the effective implementation of the first-phase MoU between Iran and the United States. Qadir Nizamipour stated that China-Iran relations are of great importance. Iran has always attached great importance to its relations with China and highly appreciates the positive role China has played in international and regional affairs. Deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries is the consensus of all sectors in Iran. Iran firmly adheres to the one-China principle and is willing to further enhance exchanges at all levels with China, strengthen mutual support, tap cooperation potential, and enhance collaboration under multilateral frameworks such as BRICS to jointly address common challenges.

June 22: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202606/t20260622_11950100.html)

On June 22, 2026, Ambassador of Iran to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli signed the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation in Beijing on behalf of the Government of Iran.

June 22: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2069068322826801220)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Qadir Nizamipour in New Delhi.

#China welcomes the launch of follow-up consultations between #Iran and the #US, with the assistance of Pakistan and Qatar, after the MoU signed between the two sides, and welcomes the consensus reached on the mechanism for the next phase of negotiations.

China has always maintained a fair position and supported all efforts conducive to peace, supported Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and national dignity, and supported Iran in improving relations with the Gulf countries and regional countries. China is willing to continue to provide assistance in its own way and play a constructive role in restoring regional peace

and tranquility at an early date.

June 23: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260623_11950789.html) with Egyptian National Security Council chief Youssef Alaa El-Deen

On June 22, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with Secretary General of the Egyptian National Security Council Youssef Alaa El-Deen in New Delhi.

Wang Yi noted that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Egypt, an important milestone for the bilateral relationship to carry forward past achievements and forge ahead into the future. China stands ready to take this opportunity to intensify high-level exchanges with Egypt, deepen political mutual trust, advance practical cooperation, strengthen multilateral coordination, and continuously enrich the connotations of the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership.

Wang Yi stated that the international landscape is undergoing profound and complex shifts. As important members of the Global South, China and Egypt share extensive common ground on international and regional affairs and shoulder important responsibilities for safeguarding global and regional stability. China is willing to step up coordination and collaboration with Egypt on multilateral platforms including the BRICS and the United Nations, jointly uphold the independence and self-reliance of the Global South and promote its unity and self-strengthening, actively advance the multipolarization process, and work together to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Youssef Alaa El-Deen said China is Egypt's genuine friend and partner, and the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries rests on a solid foundation and has yielded fruitful outcomes. He thanked China for its long-standing support and assistance. Egypt firmly adheres to the one-China principle, resolutely opposes interference in China's internal affairs by other countries, and stands ready to act under the guidance of the consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries. Centering on the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Egypt will boost high-level exchanges and deepen practical cooperation under frameworks such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the BRICS mechanism and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to deliver greater progress to bilateral ties.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Middle East situation. Youssef Alaa El-Deen briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments and mediation efforts by the Quartet including Egypt, and spoke highly of China's vital role in stopping the fighting and promoting peace. Wang Yi reaffirmed China's principled position, stressing that China has always maintained regional hotspots and divergences between all parties should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, and opposed the use or threat of force. The memorandum of understanding signed between the United States and Iran, which commits both sides to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, refrain from launching any military operations and avoid interfering in each other's internal affairs, sends a positive signal to the world and should be jointly upheld and implemented. The negotiation process can hardly be smooth and may face various disruptions and even setbacks. Yet now that the door to peace has been opened, it must not be closed again. No matter what difficulties and challenges arise, all parties must stay committed to peace and dialogue and consultation. China will maintain communication with Egypt, continue to promote peace talks through respective channels, and jointly contribute to regional peace and stability.

June 23: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2069422611503980640)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Secretary-General of Egypt's National Security Council Youssef Alaa El-Deen in New Delhi.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Egypt. China is ready to work with Egypt to take this opportunity to maintain close high-level exchanges, enhance political mutual trust, advance practical cooperation, strengthen multilateral coordination, and continuously enrich the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership.

On the situation in the Middle East, China is ready to maintain communication with Egypt, continue to promote peace talks through respective channels, and jointly contribute to regional peace and stability.

June 23: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260624_11951555.html)

On June 23, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central

Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi stated at Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors and High Representatives on National Security held in New Delhi that the United States and Iran have recently reached a first-phase memorandum of understanding. The conflict, which lasted over a hundred days, has sharply affected the regional and international situation and offers us profound lessons:

First, the importance of upholding international rules. The settlement of any international and regional hotspot issues should be based on abiding by international rules. The law of the jungle may succeed for a while, but it is not sustainable.

The second is the importance of respecting national sovereignty. Territorial integrity shall not be violated and a country's internal affairs shall not be interfered with. This is the most basic bottom line of international justice.

The third point is the importance of establishing a new vision of security. Countries are increasingly becoming a community of a shared future and the practice of seeking absolute security of oneself at the expense of others will only backfire.

The fourth is the importance of understanding the new forms of warfare. Unconventional warfare, such as information warfare and cyber warfare, has become more visible in recent conflicts. Facing interwoven traditional and non-traditional security threats, it is the right time for BRICS countries to enhance dialogue and cooperation on security affairs.

June 23: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260625_11951976.html) with Emirati National Security Council chief Mohammed Hammad Al Shamsi

On June 23, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with Secretary-General of the Supreme National Security Council of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ali Mohammed Hammad Al Shamsi in New Delhi.

Wang Yi noted that China and the UAE are comprehensive strategic partners. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, China-UAE relations have continued to move forward despite a changing international landscape. China is ready to work with the UAE to strengthen confidence, join efforts, maintain high-level exchanges, tap the potential for cooperation, enhance people-to-people connectivity, and elevate China-UAE relations to a higher level.

Wang Yi said that since the outbreak of the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict, China and the UAE have maintained close communication. This war should never have happened and should be brought to an end as soon as possible. Recently the conflict has finally turned toward dialogue, but whether genuine peace can be achieved still requires the joint efforts of all parties. At the current stage, priority should be given to three things. First, uphold a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire and effectively implement the memorandum of understanding just signed. Despite the difficulties and disruptions that may still lie ahead, peace is within sight. It must be firmly seized and made to take hold in the Middle East. Second, resume normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible and keep this lifeline of regional development unimpeded, which is the shared aspiration of the international community. Third, draw lessons from the repeated turmoil in the Middle East, rebuild mutual trust among regional countries, and explore a new regional security architecture suited to the evolving situation. The Middle East should not become an arena for great power rivalry or a victim of geopolitical maneuvering. China is ready to continue supporting the UAE in playing a constructive role for lasting peace and security in the region.

Ali Mohammed Hammad Al Shamsi said that UAE-China relations are time-honored and of historic and strategic significance. The UAE views China as its most important partner and a true friend, and is ready to strengthen high-level exchanges with China, expand cooperation across various fields, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win outcomes. The UAE highly appreciates China's image as a responsible major country and sincerely thanks China for its active role in advancing the political settlement of the war in the Middle East. The UAE is ready to maintain coordination and collaboration with China, support the achievement of lasting peace in the region through diplomatic channels, and safeguard the security of international shipping and industrial and supply chains.

June 24: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2069772580329079272)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Secretary-General of the UAE Supreme National Security Council Ali Mohammed Hamad Al Shamsi in New Delhi.

#China stands ready to work with the #UAE to maintain high-level exchanges, fully unlock the potential of bilateral cooperation, promote people-to-people exchanges, and advance bilateral relations to a higher level.

As the US-Israel-Iran conflict moves toward dialogue, whether genuine peace can be achieved still depends on joint efforts by all parties. At present, three priorities should be focused on:

1. **Relevant parties should commit to a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire, and effectively implement the recently signed MoU.**
2. **Normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be restored as soon as possible, keeping this "lifeline" for regional development open.**
3. **Countries in the region should draw lessons from repeated turmoil in the Middle East, rebuild mutual trust, and explore a new regional security architecture suited to the evolving situation.**

June 24: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202606/t20260624_11951696.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: As Iran's comprehensive strategic partner, how will China use its influence to hold the American side accountable, ensure full implementation of the memorandum, and help Iran achieve lasting peace in the entire region?

A: China believes in dialogue and negotiation as the way to address regional hotspot issues and differences among parties, and opposes the threat or use of force. The U.S. and Iran signed the memorandum, in which they undertake to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, not to initiate any military operation against each other and refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs. The document has sent a positive signal to the world and should be jointly safeguarded and implemented. China always upholds a just position, supports all efforts conducive to peace, supports the Iranian side in defending its sovereignty, security and national dignity, and supports Iran in improving its relations with Gulf states and regional countries. China stands ready to follow the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four propositions, continue to provide assistance in its own way and play a constructive role for the early restoration of regional peace and tranquility.

Q: Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi has just attended the 16th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors and High Representatives on National Security in India. Can you share more details?

A: From June 22 to 23, Director Wang Yi attended the 16th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors and High Representatives on National Security in New Delhi. He had a friendly exchange of views with Prime Minister Modi and had bilateral meetings with heads of delegation from multiple countries.

With the conflict between the U.S., Israel and Iran giving way to dialogue, Director Wang Yi said in the meeting that the hundred-day-long conflict has dealt a serious blow to the region and beyond, from which four lessons can be drawn: the importance of safeguarding international rules, respecting national sovereignty, establishing a new vision of security, and understanding the new forms of war. He added that facing interwoven conventional and non-conventional security threats, it is the right time for BRICS countries to enhance dialogue and cooperation on security affairs.

He said that BRICS cooperation over the past 20 years has turned the grouping into a staunch force for global peace, development and justice. Amid complex and profound changes in the international landscape, BRICS countries need to step up to their responsibilities to defend the international order, build consensus on tackling difficulties on security, take stronger actions to respond to global challenges, and pool collective wisdom to improve the governance in emerging sectors.

He also noted that through this meeting, BRICS countries have reached consensus on safeguarding multilateralism, voiced support for independence, self-reliance, solidarity and mutual assistance among the BRICS and the Global South, and charted a clear course to better leverage this meeting mechanism and maintain communication and coordination on major international and regional hotspot issues, adding new meanings to greater BRICS cooperation.

Next year, China will be the rotating chair of BRICS. China looks forward to working with all BRICS partners to actively act on the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity and the four global initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping, and promote development for prosperity, strengthen security for stability, foster civilizational exchanges for mutual trust, and improve global governance for justice, so that we can open up a future of peace and prosperity together.

June 24: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call

(https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202606/t20260626_11953013.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On the evening of June 24, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar upon invitation.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar extended warm congratulations on the upcoming 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and expressed Pakistan's admiration for the extraordinary achievements China has made under the leadership of the CPC. He expressed hope to strengthen exchanges with China on Party and state governance. Wang Yi stated that General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC Xi Jinping has emphasized that the CPC is committed to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and that the Party remains as vibrant as ever after a hundred years of endeavor. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping's thought on Party building, the CPC has led the Chinese people to successfully blaze a development path suited to China's national conditions. China is ready to strengthen inter-party exchanges with Pakistan and share governance experience.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments in the new round of negotiations between Iran and the United States, and expressed appreciation for China's firm support for Pakistan's peace mediation efforts. Mohammad Ishaq Dar noted that the four-point proposition put forward by President Xi Jinping on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, and the five-point initiative jointly proposed by Pakistan and China on peace and stability in the Middle East and the Gulf region, have played an important role in de-escalating the situation. Pakistan looks forward to continued close coordination and cooperation with China in jointly playing a constructive role in achieving lasting peace and stability in the region.

Wang Yi thanked Pakistan for promptly briefing China on the new round of Iran-US negotiations, and noted that the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the US is the result of the joint efforts of the international community, with Pakistan playing a key and unique role. The peace process has just begun, and there is still a long and possibly tortuous and difficult road ahead. However, China will continue to support Pakistan and other like-minded countries in playing a constructive role, and stands ready to maintain close communication and coordination with Pakistan.

Wang Yi pointed out that the next phase should focus on three priorities. First, consolidate the comprehensive ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and by no means allow the flames of war to reignite. The Iran-US MoU serves the fundamental and long-term interests of Iran and meets the common expectations of the international community. China is ready to work with all parties to firmly support the negotiations moving forward without interference. Second, restore normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains. The arrangement for the Strait should respect the sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests of the littoral states while conforming to international practices and the common aspirations of all countries. Third, support Middle Eastern countries in improving relations with each other as soon as possible and exploring a new regional security architecture. The Middle East, including the Gulf region, should no longer become an arena for major power rivalry or a victim of geopolitical maneuvering. Countries in the region should uphold genuine strategic autonomy and take their destiny firmly into their own hands. The crux of the Middle East issue remains the Palestinian question. China calls on regional countries to form a more united voice and take more coordinated actions on the Palestinian question, so as to implement the two-State solution at an early date and achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

June 24: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2122065/) at 12th Primakov Readings International Forum [excerpt]

Russia supports the agreement to end hostilities between the United States and Iran. We support the ongoing negotiations and are ready to assist, if our good offices are needed, in developing a comprehensive long-term agreement between the two countries—and, more broadly, a settlement involving their neighbours.

We hope that the restoration of free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz will benefit the energy and food security of the Global South, and that the stabilisation of the military-political situation in the Persian Gulf could well serve as a basis for launching a broad dialogue on a new security and cooperation architecture for this strategic region and the Middle East as a whole.

As recently as late May this year, Russia continued its long-standing efforts to promote this process by updating its Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf. We have circulated the document among the Gulf states. We understand that its practical relevance and viability depend, first and foremost, on those countries themselves. At the same time, as was the case when we first advanced this initiative many years ago, we envisage the possible participation of neighbouring states, as well as non-regional

actors, provided that the countries of the region are interested in such involvement. I also hope that the academic and expert community will contribute to refining the parameters of this Collective Security Concept for the Gulf.

In brief, the Concept envisages a stage-by-stage progress towards diffusing the conflicts that are still lingering in the region, the development of confidence-building measures among the Gulf states, and alignment of interests of regional countries with those of international actors involved in promoting stability and cooperation in the Gulf and the Middle East as a whole. Achieving these objectives will undoubtedly require considerable diplomatic skill and, I would add, sustained effort from all interested parties.

June 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2070078785857155093)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held a phone conversation with Pakistani Deputy PM & FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Wang thanked the Pakistani side for promptly informing #China of the new phase of negotiations between Iran and the US. He said that the signing of the MoU between the two countries was the result of the joint efforts of the international community, and Pakistan had played a key and unique role in it. China will, as always, support #Pakistan and other like-minded countries in continuing to play a constructive role.

Wang pointed out three key priorities in the next stage:

1. **It is essential to consolidate the comprehensive ceasefire and cessation of the war, and under no circumstances should the war be reignited.**
2. **Normal navigation through the Strait of Hormuz should be restored as soon as possible to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains.**
3. **Efforts should be made to support Middle East countries in improving their relations and exploring a new regional security architecture.;**

June 26: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202606/t20260626_11953253.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: It is reported that, on June 22, the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level appointed Nabil Fahmy, former foreign minister of Egypt, as the new secretary-general of the Arab League. What's your comment on that? What's your expectation for China-Arab relations going forward?

A: The Arab League is a symbol of strength through unity among Arab states. China congratulates Mr. Nabil Fahmy on being appointed as the new secretary-general of the Arab League, and hopes that he will promote China-Arab relations for further advancement during his term. As a good friend and partner of Arab countries, China is committed to strengthening solidarity and cooperation, meeting challenges together with the Arab side and adding new meaning to China-Arab strategic partnership to build a higher-level China-Arab community with a shared future.

June 30: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202607/t20260705_11975390.html) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

Wang Yi stated that Saudi Arabia is an important member of the Arab and Islamic community and an indispensable force in the process of world multipolarization. China has always regarded Saudi Arabia as a strategic partner based on equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, and win-win cooperation. Developing China-Saudi Arabia relations was a strategic choice made by President Xi Jinping, King Salman, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, with a view to the fundamental and long-term interests of both peoples. Over the past decade since the establishment of the China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership, it has continuously deepened and yielded fruitful results, becoming a model of mutually beneficial cooperation among the Global South. China is willing to deepen strategic mutual trust with Saudi Arabia, strengthen communication and cooperation, and promote the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries to continuously advance to higher standards, higher quality, and higher levels, bringing more benefits to the people of both countries.

Wang Yi emphasized that China is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with Saudi Arabia and give full play to the strategic guiding role of the leaders of the two countries in the development of China-Saudi Arabia relations. China will continue to support Saudi Arabia in forging a successful development path suited to its national conditions. Both sides should make full use of the platform of the high-level joint committee between the two countries to coordinate and promote pragmatic cooperation in various fields. They should leverage their complementary advantages, optimize trade structures, increase two-way investment, promote

green development, and contribute to their respective modernization efforts.

Wang Yi stated that China welcomes the start of negotiations between the US and Iran. Facts have repeatedly proven that peace and tranquility cannot be achieved through force, but only through morality can lasting stability be maintained. The current ceasefire remains fragile, but talks are always better than fighting, and dialogue is always stronger than confrontation. The key is to uphold and implement the memorandum of understanding, maintain the momentum of negotiations, overcome difficulties and interference, and strive to reach a comprehensive agreement that is agreed upon by both the US and Iran, accepted by regional countries, and welcomed by the international community as soon as possible. China is willing to work with Saudi Arabia to continue its efforts to de-escalate tensions, ease tensions, and ensure lasting peace and stability in the region. China is also willing to support Saudi Arabia in playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, jointly upholding the authority of the United Nations, and promoting the building of a more just and equitable global governance system.

Faisal stated that Saudi Arabia-China relations are built on the foundation of mutual respect, mutual trust, equality, and mutual benefit. Saudi Arabia highly values its relations with China, firmly adheres to the one-China principle, and is willing to take the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Saudi-China comprehensive strategic partnership as an opportunity to strengthen high-level exchanges, enhance people-to-people exchanges, and deepen practical cooperation in areas such as investment, finance, energy, and artificial intelligence, continuously enriching the connotation of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. Saudi Arabia supports the series of global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping and is willing to work closely with China on multilateral cooperation to safeguard the common interests of developing countries. Saudi Arabia appreciates China's constructive role in promoting the easing of tensions in the Middle East and looks forward to working hand in hand with China to promote peace and tranquility in the region as soon as possible.

The two sides also exchanged views on other international and regional issues of common concern.

June 30: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202606/t20260630_11954679.shtml) [translation]

On June 30, 2026, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng met with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal in Beijing.

Han Zheng stated that in recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two countries' top leaders, China-Saudi Arabia relations have maintained a good momentum of development. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership. In April, President Xi Jinping spoke with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, reaching important consensus on deepening China-Saudi Arabia relations and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. China is willing to work with Saudi Arabia to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, deepen political mutual trust, strengthen high-level exchanges, expand pragmatic cooperation, and promote new progress in China-Saudi Arabia relations. As important members of the Global South, China and Saudi Arabia should strengthen communication and coordination to make efforts to maintain regional and global peace and stability.

Faisal stated that the comprehensive strategic partnership between Saudi Arabia and China has reached an unprecedented level. Saudi Arabia firmly adheres to the one-China principle and is willing to continue to work with China to deepen bilateral relations. Both sides should strengthen cooperation in multilateral areas and jointly promote regional and global peace and stability.

June 30: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2123082/) with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani

On June 30, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani upon the initiative of the Bahraini side.

The discussion focused on current developments in the Persian Gulf zone, with the two foreign ministers stressing the need for all the parties involved in the armed confrontation to strictly abide by the June 17 memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran on ending the military conflict. They agreed to continue working closely together when discussing the Middle East agenda at the UN Security Council.

The ministers went on to reaffirm their countries’ shared commitment to further strengthen Russian-Bahraini cooperation in trade, the economy, culture, and humanitarian affairs.

June 30: Russian Permanent Representative to International Organizations Mikhail Ulyanov post

(https://x.com/Amb_Ulyanov/status/2071848224323780750)

Met with the IAEA Director General Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi. We discussed the prospects of settlement of conflict between the US and Iran and the role of the Agency in this process.

July 1: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2072328253931466981)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Saudi FM Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Beijing.

Since its establishment a decade ago, the China-Saudi Arabia comprehensive strategic partnership has continued to grow in depth and substance with fruitful results, and has become a model of win-win cooperation among Global South countries.

China welcomes the launch of US-Iran negotiations. The priority is to safeguard and implement the MoU, maintain the momentum of negotiations, overcome difficulties and disruptions, and work for an early comprehensive agreement agreed by both the US and Iran, accepted by regional countries, and welcomed by the international community.

China stands ready to work with Saudi Arabia to contribute to easing tensions and lasting peace and stability in the region.

July 1: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202607/t20260701_11955939.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: I have two questions. The first one is, how China is viewing the U.S. lifting of sanctions against Iran? And if Beijing is actively supporting the process to end these restrictions against Iran? The second question is, as the 60-day oil sanctions waiver period unfolds, what actions are the Chinese government and companies, state-owned and private, taking to adjust to the shifting landscape under the current situation?

A: China always believes that the unilateral sanctions on Iran should be removed at an early date. We hope the U.S. and Iran will jointly implement the memorandum of understanding, which has already been signed, and move the negotiations forward to promote a comprehensive political solution of the Iran situation at an early date.

July 2: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260702_11963957.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

On behalf of China, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress He Wei will attend the funeral of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran on July 3.

July 2: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2072660984532209903)

Mr. He Wei, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress will represent China at the funeral of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

July 3: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260703_11974685.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Bloomberg has reported that some leading European powers now accept that ships transiting through the Strait of Hormuz will have to pay fees to Iran and Oman, citing people familiar with the matter. We are wondering if China would consider acceptable when it comes to fees? Are there concerns that this would be setting a precedent?

A: The Strait of Hormuz is a strait for international navigation. Resuming safe and free passage in the Strait at an early date serves the interests of all sides. A proper settlement is needed to address issues concerning the passage through the Strait of Hormuz and the shared concerns in the international community need a proper response. China stands ready to maintain communication on this with relevant countries and the international community.

July 4: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202607/t20260704_11975020.shtml) [translation]

On July 2-3, 2026, local time, He Wei, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, represented China at the funeral of the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran. Iranian President Pezechzian and Speaker of Parliament Ghalibaf met with He Wei separately.

He Wei expressed China's deep condolences for the tragic death of Supreme Leader Khamenei and extended sincere sympathies to the Iranian government and people, as well as Khamenei's family. He hoped that under the leadership of Supreme Leader Mojtaba,

Iran could restore security, stability, and development as soon as possible. Over the 55 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-Iran relations have maintained steady and healthy development. China's determination to develop relations with Iran is unwavering, and the direction of China-Iran relations will not change. China is willing to work with Iran to promote the steady and long-term development of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership.

He Wei stated that China welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and the United States, and hopes that both sides will implement the existing achievements, maintain the ceasefire, remain rational and pragmatic, and consolidate the momentum of negotiations. China also hopes that the Strait of Hormuz issue can be properly resolved and that countries in the region can live in harmony.

The Iranian leader congratulated the Communist Party of China on its 105th anniversary, thanked China for sending a high-level representative to Khamenei's funeral, and stated that Iran will remember China's long-term valuable support. Iran appreciates and supports the four global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China to elevate Iran-China relations to a new level. Iran is willing to continue to ease tensions through political and diplomatic means, properly handle the Strait of Hormuz issue in accordance with international law, and achieve good neighborly relations with neighboring countries.

July 4: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/80225) with President Trump [excerpt]

Regarding the situation around Iran, Vladimir Putin has expressed hope that the negotiation process based on the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran will help find mutually acceptable long-term solutions to the key aspects of the settlement. We have confirmed our readiness to provide practical assistance with the de-escalation and stabilisation efforts in the region. On his part, Donald Trump thanked the Russian side for our balanced stance and constructive proposals.

July 8: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202607/t20260708_11977794.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. and Iran have exchanged strikes today again. I just wonder if you have any comments on the situation in the Middle East and the risk of the war restarting?

A: China is closely following the latest developments in the Middle East. Reigniting the conflict does not serve any party’s interests. Military means cannot solve the fundamental issue. We call on the U.S. and Iran to follow through on their memorandum of understanding, resolve disputes through dialogue and negotiation, and avoid resorting to force.

July 10: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbxw_new/202607/t20260710_11979398.shtml) [translation]

On July 9, 2026, Vice Foreign Minister Miao Deyu held a telephone conversation with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Hulaiji at the latter's request.

Miao Deyu stated that China is highly concerned about the situation in the Middle East Gulf region and deeply concerned about the recent developments in the Strait of Hormuz. China hopes that all relevant parties will cherish the hard-won results of the peace talks, maintain the ceasefire, and prevent the region from descending into war again. China appreciates Saudi Arabia's calm and restraint, supports upholding the spirit of the Beijing Agreement, and is willing to work with Saudi Arabia to make positive efforts to restore regional peace and tranquility as soon as possible.

Hulaiji briefed Saudi Arabia on the latest developments in the region, praised China for its important role in maintaining regional and global peace and stability, and expressed Saudi Arabia's willingness to strengthen communication and coordination with China to promote the early restoration of normal and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

July 13: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260713_11980985.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On Sunday, Iran stated the closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid another wave of exchanges of strikes with the U.S. The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) said earlier that Iran will review requests for vessel transit through the Strait once the situation in the region stabilizes. What’s your comment on the latest development?

A: The Strait of Hormuz is a strait for international navigation. Resuming safe and free passage in the Strait at an early date serves

the interests of all sides. A proper settlement is needed to address issues concerning the passage through the Strait of Hormuz. The shared concerns in the international community need a proper response. China stands ready to maintain communication on this with relevant countries and the international community.

July 14: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202607/t20260714_11982116.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The United States has announced a naval blockade targeting Iran despite China's repeated opposition to such measures by the United States. Is Beijing prepared to take any concrete steps to mitigate the impact of these measures against Iran and deepen its economic and military cooperation with Iran? If so, what specific actions can be expected?

A: China is deeply concerned over resumed military conflict in the Gulf region. China calls on relevant parties to heed the strong call for peace and stability from the region and beyond, remain calm and exercise restraint, safeguard the hard-won ceasefire, avoid the return of war and more importantly, prevent the fighting from spreading and hurting more innocent people. Respect for the lawful rights and interest of the coastal countries of the Strait of Hormuz and an early resumption of normal and safe passage at the Strait is what the international community want to see. Relevant parties need to work in the same direction and seek a proper settlement. China will continue to act in line with the four propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping and make relentless efforts to deescalate and stabilize the situation in the Middle East and Gulf region.

July 14: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2076954211766669429)

China is deeply concerned over resumed military conflict in the #Gulf region. Parties need to heed the strong call for peace and stability, exercise restraint, safeguard the hard-won ceasefire, avoid the return of war and more importantly, prevent the fighting from spreading and hurting more innocent people.

The world hopes to see the lawful rights and interest of the coastal countries respected and normal and safe passage resumed.

China will continue to act in line with the four propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping and work for deescalation and stability in the region.

July 15: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2126922/)

In light of recent developments in the Persian Gulf, we have received a significant number of enquiries from Russian and international media outlets ahead of this briefing, seeking commentary on the situation in the region. Accordingly, we wish to set out a consolidated response to all questions submitted.

We are profoundly concerned by the renewed outbreak of military hostilities in the area of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. The unpredictable trajectory of events threatens the prospects of a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It is particularly regrettable that the resumption of confrontation occurred at a time when, following the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum, prospects for a diplomatic settlement were beginning to materialise. It should be underscored that the initiated political process was the result of the tireless efforts of Pakistani and Arab mediators who genuinely sought a tangible outcome.

These efforts must not be permitted to unravel. We call upon all parties to abandon the logic of confrontation and return to the negotiating table. It is imperative to acknowledge the unsustainability of the "escalation in response to escalation" approach, which inflicts severe harm upon the civilian populations of all states involved, damages their national economies, disrupts the uninterrupted functioning of strategic waterways and, consequently, jeopardises the stability of the global economy. The principal victims remain the most vulnerable states and peoples.

The adverse scenario unfolding in the Persian Gulf undermines the paramount task facing the Middle East—the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. There now exists a genuine threat of the regional crisis expanding—on land, at sea, and in the airspace—with extremely negative geopolitical ramifications.

The alarming deterioration of the situation, which affects all countries of the region, further reinforces our conviction regarding the futility of forceful methods and the absence of any viable alternative to a political settlement, wherein the countries of the Middle East, above all the littoral states of the Persian Gulf—specifically the Arab states and Iran—must play a decisive role. The ultimate responsibility for establishing a reliable and inclusive security architecture in this area rests with these nations.

The role of external actors is not to exacerbate contradictions among regional participants, but to foster their movement towards

peace. This is precisely Russia's approach: maintaining friendly relations with all the aforementioned countries and remaining open to cooperation with any constructively minded partners in pursuit of sustainable stability.

We wish to reiterate that our Collective Security Concept for the Persian Gulf, updated in May 2026, is directed towards fulfilling this priority task.

We urge an immediate cessation of mutual military strikes and the resumption of dialogue, with a view to identifying pathways to lasting peace in the region. We intend to actively facilitate this through our engagements with all parties concerned...

Q: Does Moscow intend to initiate discussions at the UN Security Council on the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, given the risks it poses to global energy supplies?

A: The situation in the Strait of Hormuz, the US strikes on Iran, and Tehran's retaliatory attacks, including those targeting the US military presence in the region, remain under the close attention of the UN Security Council. Most recently, these issues were discussed during Security Council meetings on July 13 and 14 devoted to the situation in Yemen and the Red Sea.

The Russian side stressed that there is no alternative to a political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis and expressed hope that negotiations would continue based on the understandings reached between the United States and Iran through the mediation of regional countries under the Islamabad Memorandum. We believe that the UN Security Council should focus on creating favourable conditions for diplomacy and refrain from hasty actions or one-sided assessments of developments. Russia stands ready to contribute to such efforts. I addressed this issue in my opening remarks at today's briefing...

Q: Earlier today, we discussed the Strait of Hormuz. Do the tolls and tariffs that some parties propose to impose on passage through the strait apply to the Russian merchant fleet, and how will the safety of Russian vessels be ensured?

A: At present, I have seen a variety of statements and media reports on this issue. Many of them are contradictory and effectively cancel one another out. Different claims have been attributed both to regional countries (including Iran, Oman, and Saudi Arabia) and to non-regional states such as the United States and Western European countries. These reports mention demands for free transit and the establishment of special funds that would collect payments for services related to navigation safety, and search and rescue operations. A wide range of ideas has been discussed, with statements being attributed to various parties.

I am not prepared to assess the relevance, accuracy, or reliability of all these statements, particularly given that many of them contradict one another. Our position remains that the introduction of tariffs for transit passage through international straits would be contrary to international maritime law.

As regards the protection of the Russian merchant fleet, this issue is treated as a matter of the highest priority and raised regularly during contacts with the relevant countries and within respective international organisations.

July 15: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2077422940849869033)

#Zakharova: We are deeply concerned over the resumption of hostilities in the #Gulf region.

We call for abandoning the logic of confrontation, returning to the negotiating table & recognizing the futility of the "escalation in response to escalation" approach.

July 16: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202607/t20260719_11985880.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On the evening of July 16, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in Shanghai with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who was in China to attend the World Artificial Intelligence Conference.

Wang Yi welcomed Mohammad Ishaq Dar for making a special trip to China to attend the Conference and for signing, on behalf of the Pakistani government, the Agreement on the Establishment of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization. He noted that Pakistan's joining the Organization serves the long-term interests of the country and its people and adds new dimensions to the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership in the new era. Artificial intelligence (AI) represents a new frontier in scientific and technological development. As a responsible major country, China is working with like-minded countries to establish the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization with the aim of building international consensus, advancing practical cooperation and strengthening capacity building, so as to enable all countries, especially those of

the Global South, to benefit equally amid the wave of intelligent transformation and prevent an AI divide from emerging in the world. China is ready to enhance coordination and cooperation with Pakistan to promote the sound and inclusive development of AI for the common good, help boost the economic growth of developing countries, and drive scientific and technological innovation and progress worldwide.

Wang Yi noted that China and Pakistan enjoy mutual trust and mutual support. The bilateral relations serve the common interests of both sides and have always been at the forefront of the times. The two sides need to work together to deliver on the important common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, maintain high-level exchanges, strengthen political mutual trust, advance cooperation in key areas, strengthen counter-terrorism safeguards, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar wished the World Artificial Intelligence Conference a complete success. He noted that the establishment of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization is a great initiative proposed by China, which holds great significance for the future of humanity and the Global South, has won widespread acclaim from the international community, and fully demonstrates China's sense of responsibility as a major country. Pakistan is honored to be a founding member of the Organization, looks forward to strengthening cooperation with China in areas such as AI, and will make every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan and advance the building of the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor. Pakistan cherishes its ironclad friendship with China, stands ready to enhance cooperation with China in various fields, and will work to continuously advance the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

July 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202607/t20260719_11985883.html)

On the evening of July 16, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Shanghai, during which they exchanged views on the situation in Iran and coordinated their positions.

The two sides expressed concern over the deteriorating situation and called on the parties concerned to immediately cease hostilities, overcome difficulties, remove disruptions, restart contacts, resume dialogue, and strive to reach a comprehensive peace agreement through negotiations. The international community should also continue to provide support to this end.

Wang Yi stressed that the first-phase memorandum of understanding reached between the U.S. and Iran is hard-won. It is an outcome of negotiations between the two sides and also a result of the joint efforts of the international community, with Pakistan having played an indispensable coordinating and mediating role in particular. The core provisions of the memorandum not only serve the fundamental and long-term interests of the parties concerned but also meet the shared aspirations of the international community. They should be all the more cherished and carefully safeguarded. Peace is within reach. The efforts must not fall short at the final stage, still less should peace be won only to be lost again. All parties should honor their commitments and abide by the provisions of the memorandum. China will, as always, support Pakistan's mediation efforts and continue to play a constructive role in its own way in promoting the de-escalation of the situation.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar briefed Wang Yi on Pakistan's recent efforts, thanked China for its understanding and support, and said that Pakistan will rise to the challenges and continue to actively promote peace and facilitate talks.

July 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2078071772562207062)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Pakistan's Deputy PM and FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Shanghai.

The two sides expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the situation in #Iran, calling on parties concerned to immediately cease hostilities, surmount difficulties, remove disruptions, resume contacts and dialogue, and strive to reach a comprehensive peace agreement through negotiations. They also urged the international community to continue lending support to such efforts.

July 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2078067643589046573)

FM Wang Yi met with Pakistan's Deputy PM FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Shanghai.

The two sides expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the situation in Iran, calling on the parties concerned to immediately cease hostilities, surmount difficulties, remove disruptions, resume contacts and dialogue, and strive to reach a comprehensive peace agreement through negotiation. They also urged the international community to continue lending support

to such efforts.

July 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2127506/) with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

The parties coordinated their approaches toward the situation in the Persian Gulf zone amid ongoing exchanges of strikes between the United States and Iran. Both sides stressed the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and an early resumption of the negotiation process. They also emphasised the need for maintaining stable, unhindered and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, which is of key importance to the global economy.

The ministers also considered further strengthening of the Russian-Emirati strategic partnership, including an expansion of trade, economic, educational and sports ties. They reaffirmed their mutual interest in continuing close foreign policy coordination both bilaterally and on various international platforms.

July 19: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2127533/)

Q: Media reports have emerged about a strike carried out overnight on July 19 against the Darkhovin Nuclear Power Plant, which is under construction in the Islamic Republic of Iran. How could you comment on this?

A: We have indeed taken note of reports to this effect appearing in the media. They are a matter of serious concern, both from the perspective of nuclear safety at this NPP, which, as you know, is under IAEA safeguards, and in view of the increasingly alarming overall situation around Iran, which has effectively brought to nought the multilateral efforts previously undertaken to resolve the crisis triggered by the US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The cynical ease with which nuclear facilities are being placed on the list of targets for military strikes by those carrying out attacks, in defiance of international law, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions that have unequivocally deemed such actions unacceptable, and contrary to IAEA standards and guidelines, deserves the strongest condemnation.

It is obvious that the repeated statements by the aggressors claiming their commitment to the relevant obligations, their intention to uphold internationally agreed approaches to nuclear non-proliferation, as well as nuclear and physical safety and security, and to provide due support for the IAEA in carrying out its statutory functions, are nothing more than empty words. Their actions demonstrate the opposite.

We proceed from the assumption that the IAEA leadership has recorded this incident and will provide an impartial assessment, including with regard to the direct damage caused to the IAEA's verification activities, which have once again been undermined in the most blatant and unjustifiable manner.

Against this backdrop, any attempts to exaggerate imaginary threats allegedly associated with Iran's peaceful nuclear programme are nothing more than a crude pretext for pursuing unacceptable plans to unleash yet another round of bloodshed in Iran—one that would inevitably have negative consequences not only for the already destabilised Middle East, but for the entire world.

The exercise of the legitimate right of non-nuclear states, including Iran, as enshrined in the NPT, to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must not be called into question or subjected to attacks from outside.

We hope that the IAEA, whose authority and reputation have effectively been put at stake by those who target and shell nuclear facilities in Iran, will take immediate concrete steps to put an end to such lawlessness.

July 20: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260720_11986625.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Saudi Arabia's Defense Ministry said its forces intercepted missiles attacking the Abha International Airport a few days ago. Does China have any comment on that?

A: China opposes attacks on civilian facilities. Saudi Arabia and other countries' sovereignty and security should be respected. China advocates that relevant parties resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means to create conditions for an early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

July 20: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2079145459235659861)

MFA Spokesperson on the missiles attack on Abha International Airport intercepted by Saudi Arabia:

China opposes attacks on civilian facilities. Saudi Arabia and other countries' sovereignty and security should be respected. China advocates resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means for an early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

July 22: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2128333/) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

On July 22, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt Badr Abdelatty on the sidelines of ASEAN ministerial meetings in Manila.

The ministers of Russia and Egypt discussed the situation in the Middle East, which has become volatile as the result of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Both sides emphasised the imperative of redoubling political and diplomatic efforts to settle differences with due regard for the legitimate interests of all regional countries.

They also talked about several current issues of the multifaceted Russian-Egyptian cooperation, including the schedule of upcoming contacts. The ministers noted mutual commitment to the further strengthening of strategic partnership, expansion of trade and economic cooperation, and the continued implementation of major infrastructure projects.

July 23: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260723_11990875.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Lately the U.S. has been deploying additional aircraft carrier, fighter jets and other military assets to the Middle East. A renewed full-scale conflict with Iran could erupt in the coming days. Multiple countries have issued travel advisories urging caution for travel to the region. What's China's comment on the escalating tensions in the Middle East? Is China in contact with parties in the region?

A: China is deeply concerned over the latest round of escalation in the Middle East and Gulf region. The negotiation outcomes did not come easy, more fighting serves no one's interests, and the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of regional countries should be respected and upheld. Parties concerned need to remain calm, exercise restraint, stop hostilities, resume contact and dialogue, resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means, and strive for a full and lasting ceasefire at an early date. China stands ready to continue acting in the spirit of the four propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping, make further efforts to facilitate the end of fighting, and work relentlessly to cool down the situation and restore peace to the region.

July 23: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2128479/)

We regret to state that escalation in the Persian Gulf is gaining momentum. The conflicting sides continue to exchange strikes, which are doing large-scale damage to the civilian infrastructure of Iran and Arab countries. The risk of shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea has increased. This situation poses additional difficulties for regional mediation efforts aimed at relaunching the process of negotiations on the basis of the June 17 Islamabad Memorandum between the United States and Iran.

In this connection, we urge all sides in the conflict to demonstrate a responsible approach and restraint and to refrain from any actions that could expand the geography of military confrontation and lead to the further deterioration of the military-political situation in the Middle East. A negative scenario is fraught with critical consequences for international energy and food security.

We are firmly committed to the settlement of differences in that strategic part of the world through political and diplomatic means based on respect for the interests of all regional states. Russia is ready to provide the necessary assistance towards this end.

July 23: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202607/t20260724_11991328.html) in Manila with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

Wang Yi noted that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Egypt. Over the past seven decades, China and Egypt have braved rain and wind together and traversed an extraordinary journey, setting a fine example of solidarity and cooperation between major developing countries. This highlights the historic, special and important nature of bilateral relations and has also played a significant role in promoting world peace and development. In recent years, President Xi Jinping and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi have maintained close communication and built deep mutual trust, providing strategic underpinning for the growth of bilateral relations. China stands ready to work with Egypt to maintain close high-level exchanges, deepen cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, military affairs and artificial intelligence, enhance coordination on multilateral affairs, and jointly build a China-Egypt community with a shared future in the new era. With Egypt's support, a monument commemorating the Cairo Declaration has been erected at the Mena House Hotel. This carries important

commemorative significance and also reflects Egypt's positive attitude of respecting history, championing justice, and valuing its relations with China.

Badr Abdelatty stated that Egypt was the first Arab and African country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. After 70 years of development, the bilateral relationship enjoys a solid foundation, fruitful outcomes and strong momentum. Egypt firmly adheres to the one-China principle and is ready to serve as a gateway for China's engagement with Africa. Taking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations as an opportunity, Egypt looks forward to strengthening exchanges at all levels with China, consolidating political mutual trust, deepening practical cooperation in such areas as electric vehicles, solar energy and industrial parks, and elevating the Egypt-China comprehensive strategic partnership to a new level.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues, including the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf. Wang Yi reiterated China's principled position, stating that the memorandum of understanding reached between the U.S. and Iran is hard-won and should be cherished by all parties. China supports Egypt in playing a mediating role and actively promoting peace and facilitating talks. The Palestinian question is at the core of the Middle East issue and should not be ignored or marginalized. The pressing priority is to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

July 24: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260724_11991873.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: A few days ago, Yemen's Houthis announced a maritime embargo of Saudi Arabia and claimed attack on two Saudi oil tankers. What's your comment?

A: China is closely following the Red Sea situation. All regional countries' sovereignty and security must be respected. Keeping international shipping lanes open and safe is a joint responsibility. We call on relevant parties to exercise restraint, resolve differences through continued dialogue and consultation, avoid moves that may aggravate tensions and help restore peace and stability to the Gulf region at an early date.

July 24: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2080629638695649376)

China is closely following the Red Sea situation. All regional countries' sovereignty and security must be respected. Keeping international shipping lanes open and safe is a joint responsibility. We call on relevant parties to exercise restraint, resolve differences through continued dialogue, avoid moves that may aggravate tensions and help restore peace and stability to the Gulf region.

July 24: ASEAN-China joint statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202607/t20260724_11991219.html)

We, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China, gathered on the occasion of ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) with China in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines, on 22 July 2026;

RECALLING the commitment of ASEAN and China to advancing practical cooperation in the areas of common interest, including the four priority areas identified in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which contributes to the building of an open, inclusive and sustainable region that enjoys peace, security, prosperity and sustainable development, reaffirming our support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and all ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora, and recalling ASEAN's acknowledgment of China's active efforts to promote closer ASEAN-China cooperation, including China's vision to build a closer ASEAN-China community with a shared future, and taking note of China's initiative to build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home in the region, as outlined in the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026–2030), and the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Mutually Beneficial Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP);

REAFFIRMING the principles, shared values and norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as well as international law;

ACKNOWLEDGING the continued communication and cooperation between ASEAN and China on international and regional issues of common interest and responses;

RECOGNISING that the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East and its spillover effects pose a grave threat to the lives and

safety of civilians, as well as to regional and global peace, stability, and economic activities including regional trade, investment, energy, and food security;

EMPHASISING the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts in accordance with international law;

NOTING ASEAN's commitment to undertaking priority actions for regional resilience as outlined in the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Response to the Middle East Crisis, adopted during the 48th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, on 8 May 2026, as a key reference of ASEAN's collective response; and

NOTING China's effort in putting forth the four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in the Middle East.

Hereby agree on the following:

1. Welcome the ongoing diplomatic engagements, including the negotiations between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, mediated by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the State of Qatar with the support of other concerned parties, and call upon the parties involved to stay committed to multilateralism as well as genuine dialogue and diplomacy towards a peaceful and lasting resolution to the conflict, based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We underscore the importance of maintaining regional peace, stability and prosperity, upholding international law, and urge all parties to live in peace and maintain conducive conditions for the full and effective implementation of the ceasefire, by adhering strictly to its terms, exercising utmost restraint, completely and immediately ceasing hostilities across all fronts in the Middle East, respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, protecting civilians and civilian infrastructure in armed conflicts, ensuring unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance, and refraining from taking any action that may escalate tensions;

2. Reaffirm the importance of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, maintaining maritime safety and security, and upholding freedom of navigation in and overflight above straits used for international navigation, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and relevant standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In this regard, we call for the safe, unimpeded, and continuous transit passage of vessels and aircraft in straits used for international navigation, in line with the 1982 UNCLOS, as well as for all parties to ensure the safety of seafarers and ships in accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS); and

3. Agree to carry out exchange of information on energy policy and practical cooperation between ASEAN and China, and explore the possible establishment of cooperation mechanisms for this purpose as mutually agreed to enhance regional energy security and resilience to contribute to the sustainable development in the region. We will further strengthen cooperation in regional power interconnectivity, energy supply chains, clean low-carbon and renewable energy, energy technology innovation, civilian nuclear energy, and other relevant areas, in support of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (2026–2030) and by exploring opportunities for cooperation under China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). We will also make appropriate use, where mutually agreed, of relevant cooperation initiatives, such as the partnership between ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Cooperation Center, and mobilise available public and private financing resources, including relevant ASEAN institutions, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, and partner-supported financing mechanisms such as the China-ASEAN Investment Cooperation Fund.

July 24: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2128845/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On July 24, on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member states in Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan), Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a meeting with Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi.

The heads of the foreign policy agencies discussed the current escalation in the Persian Gulf and the precarious prospects for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Russian side emphasised the importance of the swift conclusion of sustainable agreements on a cessation of hostilities in the interests of restoring stability, security, and unimpeded navigation in the region.

The ministers also addressed a number of key issues on the bilateral agenda.

July 25: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202607/t20260726_11992241.html) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On July 24, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States in Kyrgyzstan.

Wang Yi stated that China-Pakistan relations have always remained at the forefront of the times. The two sides should jointly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, actively advance exchanges at all levels and cooperation across various fields, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future. China highly appreciates Pakistan's key role in facilitating the memorandum of understanding reached between the United States and Iran. China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in its efforts to mediate, promote the return of all parties to dialogue and negotiations, and achieve a lasting ceasefire. China is ready to strengthen coordination with Pakistan in multilateral platforms such as the SCO and the United Nations to safeguard the common interests of the two countries and the legitimate rights and interests of the Global South.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar stated that it is essential for Pakistan and China to maintain communication and coordination on all occasions. The sudden escalation of the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf serves the interests of no party. Pakistan is willing to continue its efforts in peace mediation and appreciates China's consistent support and assistance. Pakistan is ready to strengthen coordination with China under multilateral frameworks such as the SCO and the China-Pakistan-Bangladesh trilateral cooperation, and make due contributions to safeguarding regional peace, stability and development.

July 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2080967756829307199)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Pakistan's Deputy PM FM Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Kyrgyzstan.

#China and #Pakistan should actively advance exchanges at all levels and cooperation across various fields, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

China highly appreciates Pakistan's key role in facilitating the memorandum of understanding reached between the US and Iran. China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in its efforts to mediate, promote the return of all parties to dialogue and negotiations, and achieve a lasting ceasefire.

July 25: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202607/t20260725_11991990.shtml) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On July 24, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States in Kyrgyzstan.

Wang Yi stated that the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region has recently experienced renewed tensions and escalation, which is a matter of deep concern to China. The MoU signed more than a month ago was a valuable outcome of mediation efforts by multiple parties and reflected the aspirations of the Iranian people and other peoples in the region for peace and stability. The progress achieved through dialogue should not be abandoned. The door to negotiations, once opened, should not be closed, and as long as there is hope for peace, it should not be given up. The immediate priority is to resolve differences through dialogue and negotiations and resume implementation of the consensus reached in the MoU. As a comprehensive strategic partner of Iran, China firmly supports Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and national dignity. China will continue to act in line with President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, support mediation efforts by Pakistan and other parties, facilitate the early resumption of dialogue and negotiations, properly address issues related to the Strait of Hormuz, improve relations among neighboring countries, advance collective security among Gulf states, and help restore peace and stability in the Middle East at an early date.

Seyed Abbas Araghchi briefed Wang Yi on the latest developments in the Middle East and the Gulf region, stating that the United States' violation of the MoU reached by both parties has led to heightened tensions. Iran's willingness to negotiate remains unchanged and Iran does not wish to see the conflict continue. He urged the United States to honor its commitments, exercise

restraint, work with Iran toward the same goal, and seek a reasonable solution. It is crucial for Iran and China, as comprehensive strategic partners, to strengthen communication and coordination at the current critical moment. Iran thanks China for consistently maintaining an objective and impartial position, promoting peace and urging an end to hostilities, and expresses hope that China will continue to play an important role in helping ease regional tensions.

July 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2080968678192152685)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Kyrgyzstan.

China is deeply concerned about the renewed escalation of tensions in the Middle East and the Gulf region. The door to negotiations, once opened, should not be closed, and as long as there is hope for peace, it should not be given up.

The immediate priority is to resolve differences through dialogue and negotiations and resume implementation of the consensus reached in the memorandum of understanding.

July 26: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2129047/) with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

On July 26, Iran initiated a telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Abbas Araghchi.

Sergey Lavrov presented his sincere condolences in connection with the death of an Iranian sailor following the July 25 attack by Ukrainian drones on the Iran-flagged dry-cargo ship Ana when it was sailing out of Astrakhan with civilian cargo. The Russian Minister went on to ask his counterpart to convey words of sympathy and support to the family and friends of the victim, and wished those who suffered in this incident speedy recovery. Abbas Araghchi thanked the Astrakhan authorities for helping and assisting the crew of the targeted vessel, while stressing the need to prevent the Kiev regime from engaging in careless undertakings of this kind.

The Iranian Foreign Minister informed Sergey Lavrov about the ongoing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tension in the Middle East following the attacks by the United States against the Islamic Republic.

July 29: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260729_11994715.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Sources told Reuters that Beijing has asked the Houthis directly to promise safe passage for its tankers through the southern Red Sea. One source said Chinese officials have cleared each vessel individually with the Houthis and that both sides have informed Iran of their actions. Could we confirm this? Have the Houthis granted safe passage for all the vessels China requested for? What other details can you share?

A: China is closely following the developments in the Red Sea. We believe that regional countries' sovereignty and security should be respected, and safe and unimpeded passage through international shipping lanes should be jointly safeguarded. China calls on relevant parties to continue to resolve differences and disputes properly through dialogue and consultation and promote deescalation in the Red Sea.

July 30: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260730_11995604.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: There's a Reuters report that China plans to supply 400 SAMs (surface-to-air missiles) to Iran. Can you respond to the report?

A: China has made its position clear on relevant issues on multiple occasions. The report is not true and has no factual ground at all. China always works for peace and the end of the conflict.

July 31: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202607/t20260731_11996482.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The Middle Eastern country of Kuwait said yesterday that an Iranian strike hit a Chinese company building in Kuwait, killing one person. Do you have any more information on that incident and is this person a Chinese citizen? (Similar question from Bloomberg)

A: According to verified information, no Chinese citizen was affected by the attack. Right after the incident, Chinese embassy in

Kuwait advised the Chinese citizens and institutions in Kuwait to strengthen risk-awareness and take extra safety cautions. The Chinese embassy there also asked relevant authorities in Kuwait to take effective measures to keep Chinese nationals and institutions there safe.

China believes that any attack on innocent civilians and non-military targets is unacceptable. We call on relevant parties to exercise restraint and continue properly resolving differences through dialogue and consultation so as to restore peace and stability in the Gulf region at an early date.

Aug. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202608/t20260803_11997137.shtml) [translation]

On August 2, 2026, Ambassador Yang Xin of Kuwait met with Nawaf, Assistant Minister of Asian Affairs at the Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to exchange views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Ambassador Yang Xin stated that the Chinese government attaches great importance to the safety of the lives and property of overseas personnel and institutions. The recent regional situation remains tense, and it is hoped that the Kobay side will further strengthen security guarantees for Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Koroko.

Nawaf stated that the Kozuka side attaches great importance to the safety of people from all countries, including China, in Koro, and will take further measures to protect the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in Koro.

Aug. 4: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202608/t20260805_11998709.shtml) [translation]

On August 4, 2026, Shao Zheng, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen, met with Zuba, the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs in Riyadh, engaging in in-depth exchanges on China-Yemen relations, Yemen, and regional situations.

Chargé d'Affaires Shao Zheng congratulated Foreign Minister Zuba on his new appointment, reiterated China's firm support for Yemen's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity, and expressed willingness to work with the international community to make unremitting efforts for a prompt political resolution of the Yemen issue and the restoration of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Zuba expressed the long-standing friendship between China and expressed gratitude for the substantial and selfless assistance provided by China. We are also willing to work together with China to promote the sustained and in-depth development of bilateral relations and benefit the peoples of both countries.

Aug. 4: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2131012/) with Qatari Prime Minister Muhammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani

During their conversation, the two officials discussed key avenues for further stepping up relations in all their aspects between Russia and Qatar in keeping with the tradition of maintaining friendly ties. They reaffirmed their commitment to regular trust-based political dialogue, while also expanding trade, economic, investment, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The agenda of the conversation also included an exchange of views on the developments in the Middle East with a focus on the escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf. Both sides emphasised the importance of achieving an immediate cessation of hostilities and resuming the negotiating process based on the June 17 Islamabad Memorandum.

Aug. 7: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/80491) with Emirati President Muhammad bin Zayed

During the phone call, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and President of the United Arab Emirates Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had a thorough discussion of the current situation in the Persian Gulf region. They emphasised the importance of reaching agreements to normalise the situation as soon as possible while taking into account the legitimate interests of the regional states.

While exchanging views on the situation surrounding Ukraine, Vladimir Putin informed his counterpart on the status of the special military operation. Particular emphasis was placed on the Kiev regime's decision to intensify acts of terrorism against civilians and civilian infrastructure. The President of Russia expressed gratitude to the United Arab Emirates leadership for their assistance in conducting exchanges of prisoners of war and detained persons between Russia and Ukraine.

Friendly and constructive in tone, the conversation confirmed mutual interest in developing the multifaceted cooperation between Russia and the UAE further.

Aug. 11: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2087177054189912235)

On August 10, Russian-Iranian interministerial consultations on arms control, disarmament & non-proliferation were held in Moscow.

Considerable attention was paid to prospects for overcoming the crisis triggered by US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Aug. 15: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202608/t20260817_12005188.shtml) with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar

On August 13, 2026, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dar met with Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to Pakistan to exchange views on China-Pakistan relations and the international and regional situation.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong congratulated Pakistan on its 79th Independence Day, stating that over the 75 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Pakistan have always respected and supported each other. The traditional friendship between the two countries has been tested and unbreakable, and he expressed willingness to work with Pakistan to steadily advance all-weather strategic cooperation between the two countries to benefit the peoples of both countries. China appreciates Pakistan's mediation efforts and will continue to support Pakistan in playing a constructive role in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Dar highly praised China-Pakistan relations, thanked China for supporting Pakistan's recent efforts to restore peace in the Middle East, and expressed willingness to maintain close communication with China on international and regional affairs. During the meeting, Dahl once again expressed his condolences for the recent casualties of Chinese citizens in Baden Mountain due to avalanches.

Aug. 19: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202608/t20260819_12006725.shtml) [translation]

On August 18, 2026, Shao Zheng, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen, met with Saqqaf, Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, in Riyadh. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on China-Yemen relations, the situation in Yemen and the region.

Charge d'Affaires Shao Zheng stated that China firmly supports Yemen's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity, and is willing to contribute positively to promoting peace and stability in Yemen and the Middle East.

Sahel expressed his high regard for party-to-party exchanges and cooperation with China and looked forward to the continuous development of Yemen-China relations.

Aug. 20: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202608/t20260820_12007498.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. President Donald Trump has announced plans to inflict what he calls an “economic D-Day” against Iran, including threats to Iran’s trading partners. Given that China buys a large amount of Iran’s oil, for example, does the foreign ministry have comment on this economic warfare approach that Trump is threatening and how it might impact China? Even though China hasn’t been directly mentioned, I think the implication is a safe one to draw. What’s the foreign ministry’s comment on President Trump’s economic warfare?

A: Sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution. China calls on parties to act responsibly and stick to the political and diplomatic approach.

Aug. 21: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202608/t20260821_12008335.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Donald Trump has threatened to wage a full-fledged economic war on Iran. Many say the economic threat is aimed at making up for the failure of the war, in the military domain, that the U.S. and Israel waged against Iran. What’s your take on that?

A: Sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution. China calls on parties to act responsibly and stick to the political and

diplomatic approach…

Q: Iran has endured years of sanctions imposed by the U.S. The Islamic Republic has either managed to bypass or find alternatives. And now it is said that Trump has no tangible card to enforce what he claims as “toughest sanctions.” What’s your viewpoint?

A: China believes that military means, sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution. On the contrary, they will only lead to escalation that serves no one’s interests. We call for efforts to solve disputes through dialogue and negotiation.

Q: A follow-up on Iran, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent urged China to join Washington in putting strong economic pressure on Iran. This was in an interview yesterday. Bessent noted that China has historically imported much of its energy from the Gulf. Does the foreign ministry have a response to these comments by Bessent?

A: I answered a similar question yesterday. Let me reiterate, China opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that lack basis in international law and UN Security Council mandate. We call on parties to act responsibly and stick to the political and diplomatic approach.

Aug. 21: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2090764849047626029)

China opposes unilateral sanctions that lack basis in international law and UN Security Council mandate. Military force and pressure tactics will only lead to escalation that serves no one’s interests. We call on parties to act responsibly and solve disputes through dialogue and negotiation. #Iran

Aug. 21: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2090421163159933389)

MFA Spokesperson’s response to President Trump’s planned “Economic D-Day” against Iran:

Sanctions and pressure tactics are not the solution. China calls on parties to act responsibly and stick to the political and diplomatic approach.

Aug. 23: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202608/t20260825_12010202.html) with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi

On August 23, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in Beijing with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan Ayman Safadi, who was accompanying King Abdullah II on his visit to China.

Wang Yi noted that President Xi Jinping cherishes the friendship and mutual trust established with King Abdullah II. This is King Abdullah II’s first visit to China in 11 years. China believes that this visit will be a full success, further strengthen strategic mutual trust between the two countries, consolidate the political foundation of bilateral relations, promote all-round mutually beneficial cooperation, and become a new milestone in the development of bilateral relations. China appreciates Jordan’s firm commitment to a friendly policy toward China and its adherence to the one-China principle, and will continue to support Jordan in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. China is ready to work with Jordan to implement the important common understandings reached by the two heads of state, and lay the foundation and inject impetus for the next 50 years of China-Jordan relations.

Wang Yi noted that the current situation in the Middle East remains complex and severe. Jordan is an important country in the Middle East with unique influence on the development of the regional situation. The Palestinian question is at the core of the Middle East issue and should not be marginalized or instrumentalized. China calls on all parties to maintain communication and dialogue, work to achieve a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, and ease the humanitarian situation on the ground. China will continue to support Jordan in playing a positive role on the Palestinian question and other issues. China is a sincere partner that Jordan can trust and rely on. China will firmly stand on the right side of history and on the side of the just position of Arab countries, and work for the early realization of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Ayman Safadi thanked the Chinese side for the warm and thoughtful arrangements for King Abdullah II’s visit to China. He noted that Jordan attaches great importance to its relations with China, and this visit will give a strong boost to the strategic partnership between the two countries. Jordan firmly adheres to the one-China principle and recognizes the Government of the People’s Republic of China as the sole legal government representing the whole of China. This position remains unchanged. Jordan is ready to work with China to translate the common understandings of the two heads of state and the positioning of the strategic partnership into practical actions, and deepen cooperation in various fields. Jordan highly appreciates the active and responsible

role China has played on Middle East issues, particularly its firm support for the “two-state solution” on the Palestinian question. Jordan is ready to maintain close communication and coordination with China to promote lasting peace and stability in the region.

Aug. 23: Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Miao Deyu meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbxw_new/202608/t20260823_12008663.shtml) in Beijing with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Gharibabadi [translation]

Gharibabadi briefed China on the latest developments in the Gulf situation and Iran's position, stating that since the establishment of diplomatic relations 55 years ago, and especially in the 10 years since the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership, Iran and China have maintained close communication and coordination on important international and regional issues. Iran looks forward to deepening cooperation with China in various fields and advancing bilateral relations. Faced with changes in the Gulf situation, Iran firmly defends its sovereignty and security while remaining willing to continue resolving issues through diplomatic negotiations. Iran appreciates China's upholding of justice and fairness and looks forward to China playing a greater role in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Miao Deyu stated that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Iran. For over half a century, bilateral relations have developed steadily and healthily. In 2016, the two countries announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership, and cooperation in various fields has made steady progress. China is willing to work with Iran to promote the steady and long-term development of China-Iran relations. China is closely monitoring the situation in the Middle East Gulf and is actively committed to promoting peace talks. China is willing to uphold the spirit of President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and continue to make efforts to restore peace and tranquility to the region as soon as possible.

Aug. 24: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202608/t20260824_12009284.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: King Abdullah II of Jordan is visiting China. We notice that an increasing number of leaders of Arab nations have visited China. China’s influence is on the rise, and China is playing an increasingly important role in the Arab world. What are the outcomes of King Abdullah II’s visit to China? What’s China’s expectation for China-Arab cooperation in the next couple of years?

A: China and Jordan enjoy traditional friendship. Under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and King Abdullah II, China-Jordan relations have sustained the momentum of growth, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples. China will work with Jordan to take the visit as an opportunity to help China-Jordan strategic partnership produce more fruits, and open up new prospects and inject new impetus into growing the bilateral ties. We will release more information on this visit in due course. You are welcome to stay tuned.

In recent years, China-Arab relations enjoy robust development, setting a stellar example of solidarity and cooperation between developing countries. China will work with Arab countries to carry forward traditional friendship, deepen strategic mutual trust, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and foster closer people-to-people exchanges so as to bring China-Arab relations and cooperation to a new height…

Q: The U.S. Treasury Secretary has threatened secondary sanctions against countries that trade or deal with Iran. China has historically been a major buyer of Iranian oil. If the U.S. does impose secondary sanctions tomorrow, what will be the response from China? (Similar question from Bloomberg)

A: Sanctions and pressure tactics do no help in resolving issues. They will only lead to escalation that serves no one’s interest. China calls on parties to act rationally and with restraint, and avoid taking any measure that may further escalate tensions or deal a blow to global economic growth and financial stability. They need to return to the right track of political settlement through dialogue and negotiation at an early date. China will closely watch relevant developments and do what is necessary to protect our legitimate rights and interests…

Q: I would like to ask about the meeting that Vice Foreign Minister Miao Deyu had with Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi in Beijing. Does the ministry have any more details on that meeting?

A: China has shared details about the meeting in a readout, which you may refer to. I have nothing to add. China is closely following the situation in the Middle East and Gulf region and has been actively committed to promoting talks for peace. We stand ready to act in the spirit of the four propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in

the Middle East and make continued effort to help restore peace and tranquility to the Middle East at an early date.

Aug. 24: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202608/t20260824_12009388.html) in Beijing with King Abdullah II of Jordan

President Xi Jinping pointed out that since the establishment of their diplomatic relations, China and Jordan have all along respected each other, treated each other as equals, and pursued mutually beneficial cooperation, providing a living example of win-win cooperation and mutual learning between countries with different social systems and of different sizes. In 2015, we jointly announced the establishment of a China-Jordan strategic partnership, opening a new chapter in the bilateral relationship. Facing the fluid and turbulent global and regional situation, developing a China-Jordan relationship with greater substance and vitality meets the common aspiration of the two peoples, and aligns with the prevailing trend of Global South countries seeking strength through unity. The two countries should carry forward their long-standing friendship, enhance strategic mutual trust, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and intensify multilateral coordination to further advance the China-Jordan strategic partnership, and make positive contributions to peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

President Xi Jinping stressed that China attaches great importance to Jordan's unique and important role in the region. China firmly supports Jordan in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, and stands ready to strengthen exchanges with Jordan at all levels, including between their governments, political parties and legislative bodies and at the subnational level, and enhance experience sharing on governance. China-Jordan cooperation is essentially mutually beneficial and win-win. The two sides should further strengthen alignment of development strategies, step up cooperation in the traditional fields of economy and trade, infrastructure, transport and mining, expand new growth drivers in the digital economy, artificial intelligence, green energy and other sectors, comprehensively deepen exchanges in education, culture, science and technology and tourism, and increase people-to-people exchange to strengthen the bond between the two peoples. China stands ready to work with Jordan to implement the four global initiatives, strengthen coordination and collaboration in the U.N. and other multilateral institutions, jointly safeguard the U.N.-centered international system and international order underpinned by international law, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

King Abdullah II noted that China is a great country and he respects the enormous achievements China has made under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. Jordan and China have forged a strong strategic partnership, and the two sides have always respected each other and maintained close coordination with productive cooperation across various sectors. Jordan is firmly committed to the one-China policy, and believes that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. Jordan highly values its relations with China. It seeks to deepen cooperation and exchanges with China across sectors including economy and trade, manufacturing, agriculture, technology, pharmaceuticals, culture and education, and welcomes Chinese enterprises to invest in Jordan, for the shared development and prosperity of the two countries. Jordan applauds the four global initiatives put forth by President Xi Jinping, and looks forward to China's greater leading role on the global stage.

The two heads of state exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East. President Xi Jinping stressed that China all along advocates a comprehensive ceasefire and end of hostilities, and resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means. China believes that the sovereignty and security of Jordan and all other countries in the region should be respected. The Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East issue, and efforts to resolve it should be guided by four principles. First, we must uphold political settlement, adhere to the two-State solution as the right direction, work for the resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, and realize the early establishment of an independent State of Palestine. Second, we must uphold the principle of Palestinians governing Palestine. Palestine is the homeland of all Palestinians. The principle of Palestinians governing Palestine should be followed in advancing the governance of the West Bank and postwar reconstruction of Gaza. Third, we must uphold humanitarianism. The international community, particularly the U.N. Security Council, should truly take up the responsibility to keep civilians safe, ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and put an end to humanitarian disasters. Fourth, we must uphold fairness and justice. We should act on the basis of international rule of law, aim at addressing both the symptoms and root causes, and take practical actions to realize a comprehensive, just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian question at an early date.

King Abdullah II said that Jordan highly commends China for upholding justice on Middle East affairs and supporting the just cause of Arab countries. China's just position is very important to countries in the region. Jordan will maintain close communication with China, continue to work actively for de-escalation, and bring peace and prosperity to all people in the Middle East.

Following the talks, the two heads of state jointly witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents in areas including foreign affairs, economy and trade, industrial and supply chains and judicial cooperation.

The two sides issued the Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Deepening the China-Jordan Strategic Partnership.

Prior to the talks, President Xi Jinping held a welcoming ceremony for His Majesty King Abdullah II at the Northern Hall of the Great Hall of the People.

As His Majesty King Abdullah II arrived, honor guards lined up in salutation. After the two heads of state stepped onto the reviewing stand, the military band played the national anthems of China and Jordan. A 21-gun salute was performed on the Tiananmen Square. His Majesty King Abdullah II reviewed the guard of honor of the People's Liberation Army and watched the march-past in President Xi's company.

On the same evening, President Xi Jinping held a welcoming banquet for King Abdullah II at the Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Wang Yi was present at the above events.

Aug. 24: Chinese Vice President Han Zheng meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202608/t20260824_12009076.shtml) in Beijing with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah [translation]

Han Zheng stated that China and Kuwait enjoy a profound traditional friendship. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and Emir Mishal, China-Kuwait relations have maintained a good momentum of development, with continuous progress in exchanges and cooperation across various fields. This year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait. China is willing to work with Kuwait to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, consolidate political mutual trust, expand pragmatic cooperation, strengthen multilateral collaboration, and elevate the China-Kuwait strategic partnership to a higher level. China is willing to continue to promote peace talks and make efforts to restore peace and tranquility to the Middle East as soon as possible.

Jarrah stated that the relationship between China and Kuwait has a long history, and expressed gratitude for China's long-term and valuable support to the country. Kuwait firmly adheres to the one-China principle, highly appreciates the important role played by China in international and regional affairs, and is willing to take the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries as an opportunity to deepen cooperation in various fields and continuously open up new prospects for the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Aug. 24: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202608/t20260824_12009168.shtml) in Beijing with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Wang Yi noted that the traditional friendship between China and Kuwait runs deep and has a long history. Kuwait was the first Gulf Arab country to establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China, and His Excellency the Minister's father was the first leader from a Gulf Arab country to visit China after the founding of New China. Over the past half-century and more, the two countries have stood together through thick and thin, forging ahead hand in hand. The political mutual trust has grown ever stronger, the foundation of mutually beneficial cooperation has been firmly laid, and the path of friendship has continued to broaden, setting a shining example of state-to-state relations based on mutual respect, equality, and win-win cooperation. The Chinese side has always attached great importance to its relations with Kuwait. China stands ready to work with Kuwait to seize the opportunity of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and build a China-Kuwait strategic partnership that is more solidly grounded, higher in quality, and richer in substance.

Wang Yi stated that China supports the people of Kuwait, under the leadership of Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in pursuing a successful path of development that aligns with the country's national conditions. He expressed confidence that Kuwait will continue to support China's just position on issues concerning China's core interests. Both sides should continuously expand exchanges and cooperation across various fields, deliver more tangible outcomes, and better benefit the people of both countries. China hopes that the Kuwaiti side will ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, institutions, and projects in Kuwait. Efforts should be made to further facilitate people-to-people exchanges, thereby consolidating the popular foundation for bilateral friendship. Furthermore, China stands ready to maintain close coordination with Kuwait on multilateral platforms to jointly defend multilateralism and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the Global South.

Wang Yi stressed that the current situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region has once again reached a critical juncture. The old script of recurring conflict must not be replayed, and a new chapter of stability and prosperity should be opened as soon as possible. China has always maintained that, no matter how serious the differences, a way forward should be found at the negotiating table rather than through the force of arms. Since steps have already been taken toward a ceasefire and an end to hostilities, there should be no turning back. China hopes that the parties concerned should respond positively to the international community's desire for peace, prioritize the well-being of people across the region and return to dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible. The top priority is to de-escalate the situation. China is willing to strengthen coordination with Kuwait and continue contributing to the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stated that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and China. The Kuwaiti side highly cherishes the deep and traditional friendship between the two countries, profoundly appreciates the great development achievements the Chinese people have made under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and extends heartfelt gratitude to China for its long-standing, selfless assistance to Kuwait, as well as its support for Kuwait in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Kuwait firmly adheres to the one-China principle and stands ready to work with China to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, safeguard the shared interests, and accelerate the advancement of major bilateral cooperation projects. Furthermore, Kuwait hopes to deepen practical cooperation in areas such as investment and energy, strengthen coordination and collaboration on multilateral affairs, and further enrich the substance of the Kuwait-China strategic partnership. Kuwait attaches great importance to the safety of Chinese nationals, institutions and projects within the country and will continue providing them with protection. Kuwait appreciates China's constructive role regarding the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict, and is determined to strengthen communication and coordination with China, help restore regional security and stability at an early date, and safeguard the freedom and security of international shipping lanes.

Aug. 24: Chinese Premier Li Qiang meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202608/t20260824_12009383.shtml) in Beijing with King Abdullah II of Jordan [translation]

Li Qiang stated that in recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Jordan relations have maintained healthy and stable development, yielding fruitful results in pragmatic cooperation. President Xi Jinping will hold talks with His Majesty the King to jointly chart a new blueprint for the development of China-Jordan relations. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Jordan. China is willing to work with Jordan to carry forward traditional friendship, enhance political mutual trust, firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, continuously deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and jointly move forward on the road to modernization.

Li Qiang pointed out that China is willing to strengthen development alignment with Jordan, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, expand and upgrade bilateral trade, and broaden cooperation in science and technology and industrial innovation, such as green energy, electric vehicles, and the digital economy, to achieve more tangible results and better benefit the people of both countries. China and Jordan both have long histories and rich cultures. Both sides should strengthen exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, deepen cooperation in tourism, youth, media, and local areas, and continuously enhance mutual understanding and friendship between their peoples. The situation in the Middle East has been volatile recently. China is willing to work with Jordan and other relevant parties to make unremitting efforts to de-escalate tensions and achieve lasting peace and stability in the Middle East. He hoped that Jordan would continue to play an important role in the development of relations between China and Arab countries, promote China-Arab collective cooperation to a new level, and build a higher-level China-Arab community with a shared future.

King Abdullah II stated that China is an important strategic partner of Jordan. The current bilateral relations are developing well, with cooperation in various fields continuing to deepen. I will exchange in-depth views with President Xi Jinping on the development of bilateral relations and jointly open a new chapter in Jordan-China relations. Jordan firmly adheres to the one-China policy and considers Taiwan an inseparable part of China's territory. Jordan is willing to take the opportunity of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries next year to strengthen exchanges with China at all levels, promote mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, mining, tourism and other fields, and explore cooperation in emerging fields such as renewable energy, technological innovation, and artificial intelligence. Jordan firmly supports the four global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping and looks forward to working with China to elevate Jordan-China relations to a new level.

Wu Zhenglong attended the meeting.

Aug. 24: China-Jordan joint statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202608/t20260824_12009381.shtml) during King Abdullah II visit [translation]

At the invitation of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, King Abdullah II bin Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan paid a state visit to the People's Republic of China from August 18 to 24, 2026.

During his visit, President Xi Jinping held fruitful talks with King Abdullah II, emphasizing continued efforts to transform the friendly strategic partnership between the two countries into more comprehensive and pragmatic cooperation in various fields, and to strengthen coordination on international and regional issues of common concern. Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji met separately with King Abdullah II, exchanging in-depth views on further consolidating the traditional friendship between China and Jordan and deepening strategic cooperation.

Both parties hereby declare as follows:

1. Both sides emphasized that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Jordan in 1977, and especially since the elevation of bilateral relations to the level of a strategic partnership in 2015, both sides have made continuous joint efforts, resulting in strengthened political mutual trust, tangible achievements in pragmatic cooperation, sustained development of cultural exchanges, and increasingly close multilateral collaboration. These efforts serve the interests of both friendly nations and their peoples, and are in line with the respective positions and priorities of both sides. Both sides agreed to take the preparations for the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2027 as an opportunity to further deepen the China-Jordan strategic partnership.

2. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the positive atmosphere of the visit, appreciated the high level of the strategic partnership between the two countries in various fields, and expressed their willingness to continue strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation to realize the interests of both friendly countries and their people. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, education, culture, health, media, human resources, and social welfare, and agreed to explore expanding cooperation in emerging economic fields such as the green economy, digital economy, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing, strengthening industrial and development cooperation to achieve common prosperity. Both sides agreed that the digital economy is an important direction for global economic development and are willing to strengthen cooperation in this field. Both sides emphasized the need to strengthen tourism cooperation and take concrete measures to achieve this goal, including the early establishment of direct flights between the two countries. Both sides emphasized the need to open up broader prospects for cooperation in the field of environmental protection. The Jordanian side attaches importance to the application to locate the Secretariat of the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity in Xiamen, China.

3. Both sides agreed to further strengthen law enforcement and judicial cooperation to jointly combat transnational crime and organized crime.

4. Both sides are willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation in the field of counterterrorism, jointly combat all terrorist organizations listed by the UN Security Council, and firmly support each other's counterterrorism efforts.

5. Jordan appreciates President Xi Jinping's concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, as well as major initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative. China appreciates the important role King Abdullah II has played in achieving security, stability, and a just and peaceful Middle East, and in promoting regional economic cooperation, believing that this is conducive to promoting comprehensive regional economic development and international economic cooperation.

6. Both sides emphasized their willingness to maintain regular coordination on issues of common concern and continuously consolidate political mutual trust. The Jordanian side reiterated its adherence to the one-China principle, its support for China's national reunification, and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China's territory, while the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China.

7. Jordan appreciates President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, put forward in April 2026.

8. Both sides emphasized the need to consolidate the ceasefire in Gaza and ensure the immediate, adequate, and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. China appreciates Jordan's important role in delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza and

stresses the crucial importance of Jordan's land routes for delivering aid to the Palestinian people in Gaza. Jordan appreciates China's constructive role in alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Both sides stressed that any arrangements concerning Gaza should ensure the principle of "Palestinian governance," maintain the unity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and prepare for the resumption of the Palestinian National Authority's functions. Both sides emphasized the need to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) so that it can fulfill its responsibilities in accordance with its UN mandate.

9. Both sides expressed deep concern over Israel's dangerous escalation of actions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including high levels of settler violence, land seizures, settlement construction and expansion, and attempts to alter the existing historical and legal status of Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. Both sides emphasized that all illegal attempts to annex part or all of the occupied West Bank territory are invalid and violate international law and UN resolutions. Both sides stressed that the two-state solution is the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace and called for concrete measures and a clear timetable for establishing a sovereign, independent Palestinian state based on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, so that the Palestinian state and Israel can live peacefully together in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. Both sides stressed the need to support Palestine's membership in the United Nations. The Jordanian side appreciated China's firm support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and its tremendous efforts in promoting the peace process.

10. China supports King Abdullah II's exercise of the Hashemite family's historical guardianship over the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, and supports its role in maintaining the existing historical and legal status of these holy sites.

11. Both sides emphasized that the ceasefire between the United States and Iran should be maintained, and a comprehensive solution capable of eliminating the root causes of tensions should be reached through dialogue and negotiation, ensuring respect for the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of regional countries. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital passage for international trade in goods and energy, and normal navigation should be restored to the strait.

12. Both sides emphasized the need to firmly uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Both sides stressed that national sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected, the principle of good-neighborliness and friendship should be upheld, and interference in other countries' internal affairs should be avoided; disputes between states should be resolved through dialogue and diplomatic means.

13. Both sides emphasized that international humanitarian law should be respected and human rights issues should not be politicized. China supports Jordan in hosting a high-level meeting on the International Humanitarian Law Initiative to strengthen joint efforts to ensure the compliance with and application of international humanitarian law.

14. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the successful visit and the positive results achieved that contributed to strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries.

15. King Abdullah II expressed his heartfelt gratitude and high appreciation for the warm and friendly reception extended by President Xi Jinping and the Chinese government and people, and invited President Xi Jinping to visit Jordan at a time agreed upon by both sides at the conclusion of his visit.

The two heads of state jointly witnessed the signing of several agreements and memorandums of understanding that would help strengthen friendly cooperation between the two countries.

Aug. 24: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2091859176763101560)

China calls for reason and restraint on the #Iran situation. No action that could further escalate the conflict or deal another blow to global growth and financial stability. A political solution is the only right way forward. China will closely watch the developments and do what is necessary to protect its legitimate rights and interests.

Aug. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2092124122344296957)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held talks with Kuwaiti FM Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in Beijing.

The current situation in the #MiddleEast and the Gulf region is once again at a critical juncture. The old script of recurring conflict must not be repeated, and a new chapter of stability and prosperity should be opened as soon as possible.

China has always held that no matter how deep the differences, a way forward should be sought at the negotiating table, rather than be settled amid the roar of gunfire and artillery. It is hoped that the parties concerned will return to the track of dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible.

Aug. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2092116453952741553)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein in Beijing.

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between #China and #Jordan. China stands ready to work with Jordan to carry forward the traditional friendship, enhance political mutual trust, firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, continuously deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and forge ahead together on the path to modernization.

The situation in the #MiddleEast has been turbulent recently. China is ready to work with Jordan and other relevant parties to make unremitting efforts to help de-escalate the situation in the Middle East and realize lasting peace and stability.

Aug. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2092115560062718072)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Jordanian Deputy PM FM Ayman Safadi in Beijing.

The current situation in the #MiddleEast remains complex and grave. The Palestinian question is at the core of the Middle East issue and must not be marginalized or instrumentalized. China will firmly stand on the right side of history and on the side of justice with Arab states, and work for early peace and stability in the Middle East.

Aug. 25: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202608/t20260825_12010141.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday laid out plans for the economic asphyxiation of Iran, expanding Washington's secondary sanction threats and warning of dire consequences for countries that do not join the campaign. I wonder if China has a comment on this? (Similar question from CNBC)

A: China has made clear on many occasions its firm opposition to illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or the authorization of the UN Security Council. Economic warfare and maximum pressure provide no solution. On the contrary, they only serve to fuel tensions and lead to risk spillover, which will disrupt the global economic and financial order, and harm the legitimate rights and interests of other countries. The pressing task is to facilitate the deescalation of the situation and return to dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible. China will do everything necessary to firmly safeguard its rights and interests…

Q: Following on the developments with the U.S. sanctions relating to Iran, we saw that there have been new sanctions on entities, individuals and vessels, including on some Chinese firms. Is China willing to change some of its behaviors and interactions with Iran to comply with U.S. demands? If so, what kind of actions is China considering to take?

A: China's cooperation with Iran is conducted within the framework of international law, thus should not be disrupted. China is closely following the developments, and will do everything necessary to firmly safeguard its rights and interests.

Q: The U.S. said that it would give countries a timeline on when to shut down the actions that it has identified. We're wondering if China has received any sort of timeline or has any plans to address the China-based entities and individuals named in the Treasury announcement?

A: We are closely following the developments, and will do everything necessary to firmly safeguard our rights and interests.

Aug. 25: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2092249779829141891)

MFA Spokesperson on U.S. "economic D-Day" against #Iran:

China is firmly against sanctions that have no basis in international law or UN Security Council mandate. Economic warfare and maximum pressure provide no solution. They only serve to fuel tensions, disrupt global economic and financial order, and hurt everyone else's interests. Dialogue and negotiation is the only right way forward.

China's cooperation with Iran complies with international law. We are closely following the situation and will do everything necessary to protect China's rights and interests.

Aug. 26: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2136210/) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty

On August 26, at the initiative of the Egyptian side, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt Badr Abdelatty.

The heads of the foreign ministries of Russia and Egypt discussed the current situation in the Middle East. They addressed issues related to the unprecedented escalation of the military and political situation in the Persian Gulf region as a result of US-Israeli aggression against Iran. They underscored the need to intensify collective political and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions and establishing reliable foundations for regional security.

Both sides reaffirmed their shared position on the need to resolve the Palestinian issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

Sergey Lavrov informed his Egyptian counterpart of the latest developments in the context of the Ukraine crisis, including the sharply deteriorating situation in the Black Sea region arising from the criminal actions of the Kiev regime aimed at destroying civilian vessels and energy infrastructure.

The ministers held substantive discussions on current issues of bilateral cooperation, emphasising the importance of continued close coordination with a view to strengthening trade and economic ties between Russia and Egypt.

They also exchanged views on ways to further develop Russia's partnership with the African Union and the League of Arab States.

Aug. 27: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2136439/)

Q: How would you comment on the secondary sanctions against Iran and the Islamic Republic's natural economic partners, which have been announced and already partly imposed by the US authorities?

A: As is well known, Russia unequivocally rejects the practice of imposing unilateral coercive measures that are in flagrant contravention of the UN Charter. We will coordinate efforts with our Iranian partners and other interested states to resist yet another unlawful initiative in this domain. Together with like-minded countries, we will persist in seeking the lifting of sanctions pressure from international relations—a tool which, for quite some time now, has become a genuine instrument for settling scores and punishing those states deemed undesirable by the collective West…

Q: Iran has threatened to halt oil transit through the Strait of Hormuz should the economic war persist. What risks does such an escalation pose for the global energy market? In Moscow's assessment, how vulnerable are the alternative routes—namely, the pipelines of Saudi Arabia, the ports of the United Arab Emirates, and the routes traversing Türkiye and Syria?

A: I anticipated this question, and I intend to present a considerable volume of statistical data, so do prepare yourselves.

As has been reiterated on numerous occasions, the resources of the Persian Gulf states have traditionally constituted a substantial share of the global energy balance, with the Strait of Hormuz remaining the principal artery for the export of all categories of goods. The unprovoked armed aggression initiated by the United States and Israel against Iran, coupled with Tehran's compelled retaliatory measures, deprived the world market of one fifth of all oil, over 30 percent of liquefied natural gas, and 40 percent of helium at the initial stage of the conflict.

Among the principal consequences are tangible shortages and surging energy prices, disruption of transport and logistics chains, long-term damage to the industrial and agricultural sectors of numerous countries, primarily in the developing world, and heightened burdens on state budgets and ordinary consumers alike. Responsibility for this rests squarely with those who embarked upon a perilous military adventure that was, in no way, provoked by Iran.

According to estimates by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), shipping through the Strait of Hormuz fell by 95 percent, triggering a sharp rise in energy prices: at certain points, the price of Brent crude oil soared to $120 per barrel. Upon the cessation of the hot phase of the confrontation, prices retreated to $83–86 by mid-June 2026. As of August 26, 2026, Brent is trading at $86 per barrel.

According to OPEC's monthly oil market reports, oil production by member states fell from 28.7 million barrels per day in February 2026 to 20.8 million barrels per day in March 2026. By May 2026, this figure had dropped to 18.8 million barrels per day. Thereafter, a moderate recovery commenced. According to the Organisation's latest data, production stood at 23.6 million barrels per day in July 2026. It is important to underscore that the situation in Russia and other OPEC+ states outside OPEC remained

stable.

The current crisis may also precipitate a significant reduction in LNG deliveries to global markets. Let me remind you that, in 2025, gas supplies traversing the Strait of Hormuz amounted to 110 billion cubic metres—that is, one fifth of global gas trade, 93 percent of Qatar's LNG exports, and 96 percent of the UAE's.

Should another spiral of escalation or economic war erupt in the Persian Gulf region, both global and regional energy security will face an even more acute threat, particularly in light of the approaching heating season. The capacity for arranging alternative supplies from the region remains limited.

In this context, we wish to underscore Russia's endeavours to uphold global energy security. We proceed from the premise that collaboration in the energy sphere must be based on equality and non-discrimination, taking into account the interests of both consumers and producers of energy resources. We affirm the sovereign right of states to their own energy resources, and reject any external interference in the affairs of other countries, the application of anti-market methods to undermine competitors in energy markets, and demands for states to restrict the range of their trading partners.

We continue our dialogue and cooperation with partners in the OPEC+ framework to sustain stability in the oil market. Stable and reliable deliveries of Russian energy resources enable our partners to ensure sustainable economic development, to fulfil social obligations, to combat energy poverty, and to strengthen food security.

Sep. 1: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202609/t20260901_12014104.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: On President Xi Jinping's visit to Egypt, can the foreign ministry share any more details about the topics leaders will discuss when they meet for talks? How will China present its position on the Iran war as well as recent promises by the United States to expand sanctions targeting Iran's economy, which may impact Chinese and Egyptian interests?

A: As we previously stated following the announcement of President Xi Jinping's upcoming state visit to Egypt, Egypt is the first Arab and African country to establish diplomatic relations with New China. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President El-Sisi, the two countries have deepened political mutual trust, achieved fruitful outcomes in cooperation across various fields, and engaged in increasingly frequent people-to-people exchanges and close and effective coordination on multilateral occasions. China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership has grown by leaps and bounds, and been at its best in history, setting a stellar example of solidarity, coordination, and mutual benefit among developing countries. This visit marks President Xi Jinping's first state visit to Egypt in 10 years. As we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Egypt diplomatic relations, this visit carries great significance in building on the past achievements and charting the future. During the visit, President Xi Jinping will hold talks with President El-Sisi. They will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Egypt relations and international and regional issues of mutual interest. Through the visit, China looks forward to working with Egypt to carry forward traditional friendship, render each other firm support, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and bolster each other's modernization, so that we can jointly draw a new chapter of China-Egypt relations and make positive contributions to peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Sep. 1: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2094785359208956283)

President #Putin to President @drpezeshkian:

As I have said on many occasions, Russia stands in solidarity with the people of Iran.

We admire your courage & resilience in defending your national interests.

#RussiaIran

Sep. 2: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202609/t20260902_12015070.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Iranian media reported that the Chinese and Iranian leaders had a brief conversation during the SCO Bishkek summit. Can you confirm that? What topics did they discuss?

A: We have released information on President Xi Jinping's participation in the SCO Bishkek summit, during which he had cordial exchanges with leaders of various countries.

Sep. 2: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202609/t20260902_12015163.html)

in Cairo with Egyptian President Sisi

Under the clear, sunny skies of Cairo, President Xi Jinping and his wife Madame Peng Liyuan arrived at the Al-Ittihadiya Palace by limousine. Mounted cavalry and honor guards lined up in salutation, the military band played welcoming music, and a 21-gun salute was performed. The couple was warmly welcomed by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and First Lady Mrs. Entissar El-Sisi.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi held a welcome ceremony for President Xi Jinping. The two presidents stepped onto the reviewing stand together, and the military band played the national anthems of China and Egypt. The two presidents shook hands with each other's accompanying officials. Then the two couples walked into the hall of the Al-Ittihadiya Palace and posed for photos in front of the two countries' national flags.

The two presidents held talks following the welcome ceremony.

President Xi Jinping noted that Egypt established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1956, becoming the first Arab and African country to do so. The older generation of leaders of the two countries led the two peoples in fighting side by side to achieve national independence and oppose imperialism and colonialism. A bond of unbreakable, deep friendship was forged. The past seven decades of shared journey through wind and rain has fostered and witnessed the salient features of China-Egypt relations: equality and mutual trust, friendship and mutual learning, solidarity and mutual support, and cooperation for win-win outcomes. In recent years, under our joint guidance, the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership has realized leapfrog development. The two sides share similar visions and converging strategies in the cause of achieving development and revitalization, enhancing people's well-being, and defending international fairness and justice. Faced with the changing and turbulent international and regional situation, the two countries should support each other, deepen cooperation, and continue to build a China-Egypt community with a shared future.

President Xi Jinping emphasized that the two sides should do the following: First, firmly support each other, maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, intensify exchanges and cooperation across different areas and levels, and strengthen the exchange and mutual learning of governance experience; second, advance mutually beneficial cooperation, enhance synergy between development strategies, unleash cooperation potential in traditional areas such as infrastructure building, electricity, agriculture, and communication technology, and foster new cooperation highlights in green energy, electric vehicle, aerospace, the digital economy, modern agricultural technology, etc; third, promote people-to-people exchanges by expanding exchanges and cooperation across the board in areas including culture, education, science and technology, health, and sports, and increasing the flow of personnel, in order to boost connectivity between the peoples of the two countries; fourth, strengthen security cooperation by jointly combating transnational crime, deepening international cooperation against corruption, and firmly supporting each other's counterterrorism efforts, so as to safeguard the two countries' common security; fifth, enhance international and multilateral collaboration by coordinating and cooperating more closely at multilateral platforms such as the United Nations and BRICS, and jointly advancing the building of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, to oppose unilateralism and bullying acts together, and promote a more just and equitable global governance system.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi warmly welcomed President Xi Jinping to Egypt for a historic state visit as the two countries mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the bilateral relations have maintained sound and steady development, and the cooperation in various areas have produced fruitful outcomes. The Egyptian side firmly adheres to the one-China principle and is committed to promoting greater development of the two countries' comprehensive strategic partnership. The Egyptian side stands ready to work with the Chinese side to deepen cooperation in such areas as trade and investment, manufacturing, infrastructure building, finance, science and technology, and new energy, strengthen military and security exchanges, and enhance the flow of personnel, to deliver benefits to the two peoples and contribute to regional development and prosperity. As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China plays an important, constructive role in international affairs. The Egyptian side is prepared to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Chinese side at multilateral platforms to jointly tackle global challenges and safeguard international fairness and justice.

The two presidents had an in-depth discussion on the situation in the Middle East. President Xi Jinping noted that the Chinese side supports regional countries in developing good-neighborly and friendly relations, upholding the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, and building a new security architecture for the Middle East. To this end, President Xi Jinping made four proposals. First, unleash the internal momentum of regional common security. The people in the Middle East should be the masters of their own affairs. Interference by external forces should be opposed. Regional countries should be supported in strengthening dialogue on peace and security, discussing the reshaping of the security architecture in the

region, and holding their future in their own hands. Second, advance the comprehensive governance of regional common security. The many highly interrelated hotspot issues in the Middle East require comprehensive solutions. The Palestinian question remains at the core of the Middle East issue, and should not be neglected or marginalized at any time. Third, cement the development foundation of regional common security. Lasting stability and security in the Middle East relies fundamentally on development. The Chinese side stands ready to work with all regional countries to safeguard the security of international shipping lanes, advance development cooperation, promote the convergence of interests of regional countries, and gradually enhance mutual trust and eliminate the breeding ground for conflict. Fourth, enhance international coordination on regional common security. The U.N. Charter and international law serve as the basic guidelines for handling Middle East affairs. The international community, especially major countries outside the region, should reject double standards, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of regional countries, and safeguard the security and stability of the region. The U.N. should be supported in playing a tangible role in regional affairs.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said that the Egyptian side highly commends the Chinese side for all along taking an objective and impartial position on the Middle East issue. The Egyptian side is committed to promoting deescalation of the situation, resolving disagreements and conflicts through political means, and achieving security and development in the region. Egypt is ready to continue to strengthen coordination with China to ease the situation and safeguard stability in the Middle East and explore a security architecture for the region.

After the talks, the two presidents jointly witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents in areas including Belt and Road cooperation, artificial intelligence, economy and trade, and industrial and supply chain cooperation. The two sides issued the Joint Statement Between the People’s Republic of China and the Arab Republic of Egypt on Deepening the China-Egypt Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. During the visit, the two sides also signed more than 20 cooperation documents in areas such as the digital economy, science and technology, education, and transport.

At noon, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Mrs. Entissar El-Sisi held a welcome banquet for President Xi Jinping and Madame Peng Liyuan at the Al-Ittihadiya Palace.

Cai Qi and Wang Yi, among others, were present at the above events.

Sep. 2: China-Egypt joint statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202609/t20260902_12015037.shtml) during President Xi’s visit to Cairo [translated excerpt]

(15) The two heads of state reaffirmed that the Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East issue and that a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question should be achieved on the basis of the "two-state solution," establishing a sovereign and independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the borders of June 4, 1967. The two heads of state reiterated their firm opposition to any plan to relocate the Palestinian people under any pretext or name. Both sides called for consolidation of the ceasefire in Gaza, facilitating unimpeded access for humanitarian aid, and the Palestinian National Authority's prompt return to Gaza. They expressed concern over Israel's dangerous escalation of actions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including high levels of settler violence, land seizures, and settlement construction, emphasizing the need to safeguard Palestinian territorial integrity and support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) without compromising its responsibilities.

(16) The two heads of state emphasized that promoting stability in the Horn of Africa requires respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the countries in the region. The governance and security of the Red Sea are primarily the responsibility of the Red Sea littoral states. The wishes of these countries should be fully respected. The Red Sea littoral states should strengthen regional cooperation, jointly address challenges, and ensure freedom of navigation and unimpeded international trade.

(17) Both sides emphasized that Sudan's sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected, Sudanese state institutions should be upheld, and interference in its internal affairs should be avoided. Both sides stressed their willingness to work together to achieve a ceasefire in Sudan and initiate a Sudanese-led inclusive political process.

(18) China appreciates Egypt's key role in promoting regional security and stability, and its continued efforts to promote a comprehensive political solution to the Middle East geopolitical crisis, uphold the principles of good-neighborliness, respect for national sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs. Egypt appreciates President Xi Jinping's propositions on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. Both sides welcome the efforts made by regional countries and the international community to ease tensions, enhance dialogue, and promote the reaching of political understandings that

address the concerns of all parties and promote peace and stability in the Gulf and the Middle East.

Sep. 2: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2095154340269093279)

On the situation in the Middle East, President Xi Jinping noted that China supports regional countries in developing good-neighborly and friendly relations, upholding the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, and building a new security architecture for the Middle East.

President Xi made four proposals:

- Unleash the internal momentum of regional common security.
- Advance the comprehensive governance of regional common security.
- Cement the development foundation of regional common security.
- Enhance international coordination on regional common security.

Sep. 3: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202609/t20260903_12015595.shtml) on President Xi's trip to Kyrgyzstan and Egypt [translated excerpt]

Wang Yi stated that the current international situation is increasingly volatile, with the Gaza conflict dragging on and the US-Israel-Iran war reigniting. From the heart of Central Asia to the African continent, the most striking impression from his journey is that the international community places greater emphasis on China's voice and solutions, and expects China to shoulder its responsibilities, uphold fairness and justice, and play a greater role amidst the chaos.

During his visit, President Xi Jinping engaged in in-depth discussions with leaders of various countries on the international situation and hot-button issues, advocating for peace and justice.

During his talks with President Sisi, President Xi Jinping proposed four initiatives to promote common security in the Middle East. These initiatives support regional countries in exploring the construction of a new Middle East security architecture from four dimensions: stimulating endogenous growth, advancing comprehensive governance, consolidating the foundation for development, and enhancing international cooperation. He emphasized the need to uphold the principle of the people of the Middle East being masters of their own destiny, promote the integration of interests among regional countries, and eliminate the breeding ground for conflict. The international community, especially major powers outside the region, should abandon double standards and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of regional countries. China is willing to work with all countries in the region to safeguard the safety of international shipping lanes. This is another Chinese solution contributed by President Xi Jinping to achieving long-term peace and stability in the Middle East, following his four-point proposal on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and his four-point principles for resolving the Palestinian issue. International public opinion has paid close attention to President Xi Jinping's series of important policy pronouncements, believing that China does not pursue geopolitical self-interest or engage in bloc confrontation, but rather places the fundamental interests of the people of the region at its core, balancing security and development, and taking into account the legitimate security concerns of all countries. This provides a feasible path and clarifies the direction of efforts to break the security deadlock in the Middle East.

Guided by Xi Jinping's diplomatic thought, China is continuously exploring solutions to hotspot issues with Chinese characteristics: grounded in mutual respect, emphasizing respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries involved and adhering to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs; driven by political solutions, focusing on dialogue and consultation to find the greatest common ground that accommodates the reasonable demands of all parties; guided by objectivity and fairness, prioritizing the clarification of right and wrong, avoiding double standards, and refraining from geopolitical involvement; and aiming for both short-term and long-term solutions, employing comprehensive measures to resolve conflicts, both easing the current situation and addressing the root causes. No matter how complex the conflicts or how intense the clashes, China will always stand firmly on the side of peace, on the side of dialogue, and on the right side of history.

Sep. 3: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202609/t20260903_12015816.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Yesterday, President Xi Jinping successfully concluded his state visit to Egypt. Can you share more information about this visit?

A: This is President Xi Jinping's first state visit to Egypt in 10 years. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment

of China-Egypt diplomatic relations, the visit carries great significance in building on the past achievements and charting the future of our bilateral ties. During the visit, President Xi Jinping held talks with President El-Sisi and had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Egypt relations, bilateral cooperation across the board, and international and regional issues of mutual interest.

President Xi pointed out that in recent years, the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership has realized leapfrog development. Faced with the changing and turbulent international and regional situation, the two countries should support each other, deepen cooperation, and continue to build a China-Egypt community with a shared future. He emphasized that the two sides should firmly support each other, maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, intensify exchanges and cooperation across different areas and levels, and strengthen the exchange and mutual learning of governance experience; the two sides should advance mutually beneficial cooperation, enhance synergy between development strategies, unleash cooperation potential in traditional areas, and foster new cooperation highlights in areas such as green energy; the two sides should promote people-to-people exchanges by expanding exchanges and cooperation across the board in areas such as culture and education, and increasing the flow of personnel, in order to boost connectivity between the two peoples; the two sides should strengthen security cooperation by jointly combating transnational crime, deepening international cooperation against corruption, and firmly supporting each other's counter-terrorism efforts, so as to safeguard the two countries' common security; and the two sides should enhance international and multilateral collaboration by coordinating and cooperating more closely at multilateral platforms such as the United Nations and BRICS, and jointly advancing the building of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, to oppose unilateralism and bullying acts together, and promote a more just and equitable global governance system.

President Xi made a four-point proposal on improving the common security of the Middle East. First, unleashing the internal momentum of regional common security. The people in the Middle East should be the masters of their own affairs. Regional countries should be supported in strengthening dialogue on peace and security. Second, advancing the comprehensive governance of regional common security. The many highly interrelated hotspot issues in the Middle East require comprehensive solutions. Third, cementing the development foundation of regional common security. Lasting stability and security in the Middle East relies fundamentally on development. Fourth, enhancing international coordination on regional common security. The UN Charter and international law serve as the basic guidelines for handling Middle East affairs. The UN should be supported in playing a tangible role in regional affairs.

After the talks, the two presidents jointly witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents in areas including Belt and Road cooperation, artificial intelligence, economy and trade, and industrial and supply chain cooperation. The two sides issued the Joint Statement on Deepening the China-Egypt Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. During the visit, the two sides also signed more than 20 cooperation documents in areas such as digital economy, science and technology, education, and transport.

Sep. 7: Chinese Premier Li Qiang meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202609/t20260907_12017711.shtml) in Beijing with Qatari Prime Minister Muhammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani [translation]

Li Qiang stated that Qatar is an important strategic partner of China in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and Emir Tamim, the China-Qatar strategic partnership has maintained steady development, political mutual trust has been continuously consolidated, and mutually beneficial cooperation has yielded fruitful results. China is willing to work with Qatar to further strengthen communication and cooperation, firmly support each other on issues involving each other's core interests, and promote the deepening and solidifying of bilateral relations to better benefit the people of both countries.

Li Qiang pointed out that China is willing to strengthen the alignment of development strategies with Qatar, jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative with high quality, and deepen cooperation in traditional energy, new energy, infrastructure, artificial intelligence, finance, and other fields to achieve a higher level of mutual benefit and win-win results. China welcomes Qatari investment in China and supports more Chinese enterprises investing in Qatar, promoting higher quality and efficiency in two-way investment. China hopes Qatar will continue to provide a favorable development environment for Chinese enterprises and ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions, and projects in Qatar. Both sides should also strengthen cultural, educational, and giant panda conservation and research exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. In the current complex and volatile international situation, China and Qatar, as developing countries, should strengthen multilateral coordination and cooperation to promote the building of a more just and equitable global governance system. China supports Qatar's role in mediating the situation in the Middle East and is willing to work tirelessly with Qatar and

other regional countries, as well as the international community, to promote the early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

Mohammed stated that Qatar cherishes its relationship with China, and the two countries have always adhered to mutual trust and respect, achieving mutual benefit and win-win results. In 2014, Emir Tamim and President Xi Jinping jointly announced the establishment of a strategic partnership between Qatar and China. Political mutual trust between the two countries has been continuously strengthened, and fruitful results have been achieved in cooperation in energy, investment, industry, infrastructure, and cultural exchanges, ushering in a "golden era" for bilateral relations. Qatar is willing to work with China to strengthen exchanges at all levels, deepen pragmatic cooperation in areas such as trade, high technology, and advanced manufacturing, and jointly usher in the next "golden decade" of bilateral relations. He thanked and appreciated China's efforts in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East. Qatar is committed to resolving conflicts and restoring regional peace through dialogue.

Sep. 8: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2097322527517503609)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with PM and FM of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Beijing.

#China stands ready to work with #Qatar to strengthen alignment of development strategies, advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and deepen collaboration in traditional energy, new-energy, infrastructure, AI, and finance to pursue win-win outcomes at a higher level.

China supports Qatar’s mediation efforts on Middle East issues and is ready to work with Qatar and other regional countries as well as the international community to work for an early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

Sep. 8: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202609/t20260908_12018458.shtml) in Beijing with Qatari Prime Minister Muhammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani [translation]

Wang Yi conveyed President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to Emir Tamim, noting the traditional friendship between China and Qatar and the fact that China has always placed the development of relations with Qatar at the forefront of its Middle East diplomacy. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, political mutual trust has been increasingly solidified, mutually beneficial cooperation has deepened, traditional friendship has continued to grow, and good coordination has been maintained in regional and international affairs, resulting in significant progress in the China-Qatar strategic partnership.

Wang Yi stated that strong mutual trust is a crucial foundation of the China-Qatar strategic partnership. China firmly supports Qatar in safeguarding its national sovereignty, independence, security, and stability, and believes that Qatar will continue to provide firm support on issues concerning China's core interests. China is Qatar's most reliable and longest-term partner in its development process. Both sides should consolidate and expand cooperation in traditional and new energy, and strengthen cooperation in areas such as investment, high technology, and people-to-people exchanges. China appreciates Qatar's long-term commitment to mediating hotspot issues and its significant efforts to resolve disputes and achieve peace, and is willing to maintain communication and cooperation with Qatar on international and regional affairs.

Mohammed conveyed Emir Tamim's sincere greetings to President Xi Jinping, stating that Qatar-China relations are based on mutual respect, mutual trust, and win-win cooperation, and are becoming increasingly close and robust. The Qatar-China strategic partnership has yielded fruitful results. Qatar firmly stands with China, adheres to the one-China principle, and opposes external interference in China's internal affairs. China is Qatar's largest trading and energy partner. Qatar will overcome difficulties, prioritize China's energy supply, and work hand in hand with China to create a more brilliant next "golden decade" for bilateral relations. The current international and regional situation is complex and sensitive. Qatar supports the series of global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China within the framework of the United Nations and other organizations, uphold multilateralism, and promote international peace and common development.

The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region. Wang Yi briefed the Qatari side on President Xi Jinping's important propositions and initiatives for maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and for promoting common security in the region. He emphasized that the current tense situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region is seriously impacting the security of countries in the region and continuing to affect the stability of energy, shipping, and supply chains. Military pressure is not the solution; dialogue and negotiation are the right path. The sovereignty and security of all countries in the region should be fully respected, the legitimate concerns of all parties should be properly addressed, and the basic

principles of international law and the basic norms of international relations should be earnestly observed. China is willing to follow the direction pointed out by President Xi Jinping, strengthen communication and coordination with Qatar and other parties in the region, support countries in taking their future and destiny into their own hands, restore regional peace and stability as soon as possible, and establish a just and reasonable new regional security architecture.

Mohammed stated that since the outbreak of the Iraq War, Qatar has been committed to promoting a ceasefire and ending the conflict, actively engaging in diplomatic mediation, and encouraging all parties to resolve their differences through dialogue and reach a political solution. Qatar appreciates China's objective and impartial stance, supports China's initiatives to promote security in the Middle East, and is willing to strengthen coordination with China to safeguard the security of global energy routes, restore regional peace and stability as soon as possible, and explore a security architecture that reflects the independent spirit of regional countries.

Sep. 8: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202609/t20260908_12018081.shtml) [translation]

From August 30 to September 5, 2026, Yue Xiaoyong, Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Afghanistan Affairs, visited Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for consultations and exchanged in-depth views with officials from both countries on issues of common concern.

Sep. 8: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2139421/) in Moscow with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

The foreign ministers of Russia and Saudi Arabia expressed support for maintaining regular political dialogue and increasing delegation exchanges. They emphasised the need to deepen business ties in order to ensure sustained growth in bilateral trade. The ministers noted the important coordinating role of the Joint Russian-Saudi Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. They also reaffirmed the importance of continuing effective cooperation between Moscow and Riyadh within the OPEC+ framework.

The ministers held a detailed exchange of views on key international and regional issues. Particular attention was paid to the escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. They emphasised that the existing differences can only be resolved through political and diplomatic means, with full respect for the interests of all the states in the region involved in the conflict. They also stressed the importance of ensuring freedom and safety of navigation and the unimpeded passage of vessels through all international waterways.

Sergey Lavrov briefed his Saudi counterpart in detail on Russia’s updated Concept for Collective Security in the Persian Gulf. He reaffirmed Russia’s readiness to engage constructively with all interested parties in developing a comprehensive security architecture and promoting interstate cooperation in this strategically important region.

During an exchange of views on the Middle East peace process, the foreign ministers emphasised the need for the swift implementation of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the immediate provision of humanitarian assistance to the enclave’s civilian population. They noted that only a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue, based on the established international legal framework, could guarantee lasting peace for all peoples of the region.

The ministers expressed mutual concern over rising tensions in the southern Arabian Peninsula and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. They stressed that lasting stabilisation in Yemen could only be achieved through strict adherence to the ceasefire and the prompt launch of a national dialogue under UN auspices involving all of the country’s political forces.

They also expressed their shared support for preserving Syria’s unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty, and reaffirmed the need to consolidate international efforts to support the country’s post-conflict recovery.

Sergey Lavrov outlined Russia’s assessment of the evolving geopolitical situation, including developments in Ukraine. He reaffirmed Russia’s commitment to achieving a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, which he said could only be achieved by fully and irreversibly eliminating its root causes.

Sep. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2097702525365264484)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held talks with PM and FM of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Beijing.

The ongoing tensions in the #MiddleEast and the Gulf region are severely undermining the security of regional countries and continuously impacting energy, shipping and supply-chain stability. Military pressure is not the way out; dialogue and negotiation are the right approach.

#China stands ready to step up communication and coordination with #Qatar and other parties in the region, and supports regional countries in holding their own future and destiny firmly in their hands, restoring regional peace and stability at an early date, and establishing a just and equitable new regional security architecture.

Sep. 10: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202609/t20260911_12020560.shtml)

On September 10, 2026, Shao Zheng, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen, met with Yemeni Minister of Public Works and Roads, Akrabi, in Riyadh. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on China-Yemen relations and the situation in Yemen.

Charge d'Affaires Shao Zheng stated that China has assisted in the construction of numerous landmark projects in Yemen, including roads, bridges, and hospitals, witnessing the deepening friendship between the two countries. China hopes for an early return to peace and stability in Yemen and is willing to continue providing humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Yemen to the best of its ability.

Akrabi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to China for its long-term and selfless assistance to Yemen, and said he was willing to strengthen practical cooperation with China in various fields to benefit the people of both countries.

Sep. 11: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202609/t20260911_12020788.shtml)

On September 9, 2026, Zhai Jun, China's Special Envoy for Middle East Issues, attended and delivered a speech at the Global Public Security Cooperation Forum (Lianyungang) 2026 in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province.

Zhai Jun stated that President Xi Jinping's global security initiative provides important guidance for solving security challenges and maintaining global stability, demonstrating practical significance and contemporary value. First, it builds consensus, with over 130 countries and international and regional organizations expressing support and appreciation for the initiative. Second, it promotes peace and stability, practicing China's unique approach to resolving hotspot issues and injecting stability and positive energy into the world. Third, it upholds international order and supports the United Nations' core role in international security affairs. Fourth, it provides public goods by training security governance personnel for developing countries.

Zhai Jun stated that China is willing to work with all parties to continue to uphold the spirit of the initiative and advance global security governance. First, we must build peace; the international community should unequivocally support all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of crises. Second, we must uphold the rule of law, ensuring the equal and unified application of international law and rules, and avoiding double standards, exceptionalism, and selective application. Third, we must expand cooperation, guaranteeing that all countries participate in global security governance and share its benefits. Fourth, we must strengthen overall coordination to prevent new frontiers from becoming "lawless zones" of zero-sum games.

Sep. 12: Chinese President Xi Jinping statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202609/t20260913_12021267.html) at the 18th BRICS Summit [excerpt]

Second, BRICS should be a pioneer in upholding peace and stability. Far from being tranquil, the world today is increasingly fluid and turbulent. This is fundamentally because the postwar international order is being undermined, and the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter are not effectively observed. BRICS should stand firm, uphold justice, and strive to put an end to conflicts and defend peace. We should act on the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, oppose the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, and oppose violation of other countries' sovereignty or interference in other countries' internal affairs. We should participate constructively in the settlement of hotspot issues, and make BRICS' unique contribution to addressing both the symptoms and root causes.

The situation in the Middle East remains complex and fluid. This war has inflicted serious losses on the people of all countries in the region, and it is against the common interests of the international community. I have set out four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, which are aimed at de-escalation, ending hostilities and promoting peace. The relevant parties should keep to the direction of political settlement, and work for a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire.

Attention should be paid to addressing the problems at the source, rebuilding trust between regional countries, and establishing a new security architecture. The Palestinian question is always at the core of the Middle East issue, and the fundamental way forward is to implement the two-state solution and realize peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel. China will work with fellow BRICS members to play a due role in bringing peace and tranquility to the Middle East.

Sep. 12: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_MaoNing/status/2098750804656283807)

On the situation in the Middle East, President Xi Jinping pointed out that this war has inflicted serious losses on the people of all countries in the region, and it is against the common interests of the international community.

The relevant parties should keep to the direction of political settlement, and work for a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire. China will work with fellow BRICS members to play a due role in bringing peace and tranquility to the Middle East.

Sep. 14: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202609/t20260914_12021997.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The Wall Street Journal reported over the weekend that Iran acquired satellite images of the U.S. base in Jordan from Chinese entities before an attack that killed three U.S. troops there in July. Does the foreign ministry have any comment on The Wall Street Journal's report?

A: China always strictly fulfills its due international obligations. We oppose exploiting the situation to throw mud at China.

Q: It is reported that Yemen's Houthis recently attacked four cities in southern Saudi Arabia, injuring more than 70 civilians and damaging multiple energy facilities and other civilian infrastructure. The Houthis said that they had also come under attack and suffered casualties. What's China's comment?

A: China is deeply concerned about the casualties of innocent civilians and the damage to energy facilities and other civilian infrastructure caused by recent escalation in Yemen and the Red Sea. Attacks against civilian infrastructure that bears on people's livelihoods are unacceptable. Increasing turmoil in the region serves no one's interest. The sovereignty and security of all countries should be respected, and the only viable way forward is to resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means. China calls on the relevant parties to exercise restraint, ease tensions through communication and dialogue and work toward deescalation as soon as possible.

Sep. 14: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2099442650395165144)

China is concerned over the escalation in #Yemen and the #RedSea and calls for dialogue and deescalation. Attacks on critical civilian infrastructure are unacceptable. Resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means is the only viable way forward.

Sep. 14: New Delhi Declaration (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202609/t20260914_12022184.shtml) issued by leaders at the 18th BRICS Summit [translated excerpts]

25. We express our concern about the growing nuclear dangers and risks of nuclear conflict. We reiterate the need to revitalize the disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation system, maintain its integrity and effectiveness, and strive for global stability and world peace and security. We emphasize the important contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, reaffirm our support for and respect for all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and their assurances not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, and recognize the crucial importance of accelerating the implementation of resolutions on establishing nuclear-weapon-free and other weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zones in the Middle East, including the meeting convened pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 73/546. We call on all invited parties to participate in this meeting in good faith and constructively. We note the adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/241, "A comprehensive study of all aspects of the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones," and the successful completion of the study in this area, which was unanimously adopted by the relevant expert panels...

28. We express our deep concern over the continued escalation of tensions in the Middle East and West Asia, and reiterate our respective national positions, calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from any actions that could further escalate the situation. We urge all parties to fully and completely comply with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region. We encourage all parties to strengthen dialogue and diplomatic efforts to reach a long-term consensus conducive to lasting peace, security, and stability in the region. We emphasize that all parties should ensure the smooth flow of global trade, supply chains,

and energy in accordance with relevant international law.

Sep. 15: Remarks (https://sb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/fyrth_17/202609/t20260915_12022885.htm) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: An official from the U.S. military said yesterday that the U.S. is facing a shortfall in ammunition as a result of its war in Iran. Does China have any comment on this?

A: China is following the situation in the Middle East and Gulf region. We hope that relevant parties will resolve disputes through political and diplomatic means.

Q: The U.S. Space Force said yesterday that the United States has weapons deployed in space. What is China's reaction? Does China also have weapons deployed in space?

A: China stands for peaceful use of outer space and keeping it safe, and opposes any arms race in outer space or any attempt to weaponize it and turn it into a warzone. We urge the U.S. to stop expanding military build-up in outer space, and uphold global strategic stability with concrete actions.

Sep. 16: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202609/t20260918_12025171.html) in Beijing with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

Wang Yi stated that the current situation in the Middle East remains turbulent, seriously affecting international peace and development. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China is ready to play a constructive role in resolving international disputes. China and Iran are comprehensive strategic partners, and China is also ready to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Iran to safeguard Iran's legitimate rights and interests. The continuation of the US-Iran conflict does not serve the common interests of the parties concerned or the international community. We encourage Iran and the United States to stay rational and restrained, return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding as soon as possible, and, on the basis of the consensus reached so far, rebuild the negotiating mechanism and conduct substantive consultations on issues of respective concern. We support Iran in conducting dialogue with Gulf countries, respecting each other's territorial sovereignty and national security, and upholding the common interests of the region in a constructive manner. We urge all parties to take effective measures to open the Strait of Hormuz at an early date, safeguard the unimpeded and safe passage of international waterways, and maintain the stability of international energy transportation and the production and supply chain. We do not want to see regional tensions further spill over toward Yemen and the Red Sea. We call on all parties to stop further complicating the situation and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation.

Wang Yi noted that the current situation once again proves that the existing security architecture in the Middle East is imperfect and needs reform and strengthening. During his visit to Egypt, President Xi Jinping put forward a four-point proposal in this regard, supporting regional countries in upholding a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and building a new security architecture for the Middle East. We welcome the useful exploration by regional countries in this regard. On the Middle East issue, China, as a responsible major country, will, as always, contribute to peace and stability, to the promotion of talks for peace, and to fairness and justice.

Wang Yi stated that China's policy toward Iran maintains continuity and stability. China has always upheld fairness and justice on the Security Council and multilateral platforms, opposed the use of force, and safeguarded the norms governing international relations. China is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Iran and promote new progress in China-Iran relations.

Seyyed Abbas Araghchi briefed on the latest situation in the Gulf and Middle East region and Iran's considerations for the next step. He stated that Iran does not want the conflict to continue and hopes to return to the channel of diplomatic settlement, while firmly safeguarding its own rights and interests. Iran believes that the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding remains valid. Iran has reached a plan with Oman to open the Strait of Hormuz, and the United States should earnestly fulfill the commitments it has made. Iran is also ready to engage in dialogue and consultation with regional countries, establish and develop good-neighborly and friendly relations, and promote the early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region. Iran welcomes and supports the four-point proposition on maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and the four-point proposal on promoting common security in the region put forward by President Xi Jinping, and is ready to strengthen cooperation with China within this framework, and looks forward to China playing a greater role in regional peace and stability.

Seyyed Abbas Araghchi stated that Iran attaches great importance to its relations with China and stands ready to continue firmly supporting each other with the Chinese side, maintain close exchanges at all levels, deepen practical cooperation, jointly address challenges, and promote the sustained and in-depth development of bilateral relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional hotspot issues of mutual concern.

Sep. 17: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2100488491847323976)

Chinese FM Wang Yi held talks with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Beijing.

Wang said that the continued prolongation of the US-Iran conflict is not in the common interest of the parties concerned and the international community. #China encourages #Iran and the #US to stay rational and exercise restraint, return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at an early date, rebuild the negotiation mechanism on the basis of the consensus reached so far, and conduct substantive consultations on issues of their respective concern.

China urges all parties to take effective measures to reopen the Strait of #Hormuz at an early date, keep international waterways open and secure, and safeguard the stability of international energy transportation as well as production and supply chains. China does not wish to see regional tensions further spill over into Yemen and the Red Sea. We call on all parties to refrain from actions that further complicate the situation and resolve issues through dialogue and negotiation.

Sep. 21: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202609/t20260921_12027763.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: CNN reported at the end of last week that the U.S. military had been falsely responding to an AI report that a Chinese vessel was moving military components to the Middle East. Do you have any comment on this?

A: I am not aware of what you mentioned.

Sep. 21: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202609/t20260921_12027733.shtml)

On September 21, 2026, Zhai Jun, China's Special Envoy for Middle East Affairs, met with Kiergetz, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to exchange views on key issues in the Middle East.

Sep. 22: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202609/t20260922_12028767.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned on Monday that Iranian airlines will have trouble functioning globally under the weight of American sanctions. He said in an interview that tomorrow, all the Iranian airlines will be shut down around the world, and that countries that provide these airlines with landing services or fuel would be knocked out of the dollar system. Can the foreign ministry comment on this since there seems to be Iranian airlines flights landing in Guangzhou and Shanghai tomorrow morning? Will China accommodate these Iranian flights?

A: China opposes illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law and lack UN Security Council mandate.

Sep. 22: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/80819) with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Vladimir Putin extended his greetings to the Crown Prince on the upcoming national holiday—Founding Day—noting that 100 years ago, the USSR was the first foreign state to recognise the Saudi Kingdom. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the current level of cooperation in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian spheres.

A detailed exchange of views took place on the situation in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf region, with both sides underscoring that there is no alternative to political and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the current crisis, while duly taking into account the interests of all parties.

In light of the deteriorating military and political situation in Yemen, the parties reaffirmed the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the creation of conditions for launching a constructive intra-Yemeni dialogue under UN auspices. They also noted the importance of ensuring the safe and unimpeded passage of vessels through international waterways in the region, including the Bab-el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz.

Agreement was reached to continue contacts at various levels.

Sep. 23: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202609/t20260923_12029735.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The U.S. has threatened to punish countries that allow Iranian flights to land on their territory from today. Can I ask if China will keep receiving and accommodating flights from Tehran?

A: China's position has been consistent. We firmly oppose illicit unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law and lack UN Security Council mandate.

Sep. 23: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2147108/) at UN with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy

Lavrov congratulated Nabil Fahmy on his appointment as Secretary-General of the prominent pan-Arab organisation and wished him every success in his new role. The two officials discussed practical steps related to further strengthening cooperation between Russia and the Arab League, with particular emphasis on revitalising existing bilateral mechanisms, including the Russian-Arab Cooperation Forum.

They also held a substantive exchange of views on current developments in the Middle East, focusing on the volatile situation in the Gulf region resulting from US-Israeli aggression against Iran. The discussion also covered the crises surrounding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as the developments in Lebanon and Syria.

Sep. 23: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2147129/) at UN with Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan

The discussion focused on current issues relating to the further advancement of the multifaceted Russian-UAE strategic partnership. The sides reaffirmed the mutual intention of Moscow and Abu Dhabi to strengthen the full range of bilateral ties, including maintaining close foreign policy coordination at the UN.

They also exchanged views on key aspects of the international and regional agenda, with particular emphasis on the situation in the Gulf and the Palestinian territories.

Sep. 24: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202609/t20260924_12030731.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The Iranian president said during a UN address that his country won't allow freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz while sanctions and a U.S. blockade remain in place. We're wondering if the foreign ministry has any comment on his remarks.

A: Protraction of the U.S.-Iran conflict does not serve the common interests of the parties concerned or the international community. It is vital for parties to choose peace, resolve disputes through dialogue and negotiation, and restore peace and tranquility to the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

Sep. 24: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2103099631995674940)

On Sept 23, FM #Lavrov met with Arab League SG Nabil #Fahmy at #UNGA81.

They discussed #RussiaLAS cooperation, as well as Middle Eastern issues, focusing on the volatile situation in the Persian Gulf caused by US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Sep. 25: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2148967/) at UN with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah

The foreign ministers discussed the further development of Russian-Kuwaiti cooperation. They reaffirmed Moscow and Kuwait's mutual commitment to strengthening their traditionally friendly ties, including maintaining close coordination at the UN.

They compared notes on key international and regional issues, including the escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf.

Sep. 25: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2149569/) at UN with Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein

The foreign ministers discussed practical aspects of further developing traditionally friendly Russian-Iraqi relations. They reaffirmed their mutual interest in strengthening trust-based political dialogue and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in

trade and the economy, humanitarian affairs and other areas.

The parties also exchanged views on current global and regional issues, with a focus on the situation in the Persian Gulf. The ministers emphasised the importance of intensifying international efforts to achieve the earliest possible de-escalation of the situation and a political and diplomatic settlement of the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

Sep. 26: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202609/t20260926_12031645.shtml) on President Xi's visit to the United States [translated excerpt]

The ongoing tensions in the Gulf and the Middle East are impacting global energy security, geopolitical landscape, and the international order. As a responsible major power, China has always been a steadfast builder of peace, a promoter of stability, and a supporter of development in the Middle East. President Xi Jinping has put forward a series of initiatives and proposals aimed at peace and stability in the Middle East, which have received widespread recognition and positive responses from the international community. During this visit, President Xi emphasized that the sovereignty and security of all countries should be respected, encouraged all parties to adhere to peaceful choices, supported the return of the US-Iran memorandum of understanding in Islamabad, and called for the early resumption of dialogue and negotiations to ultimately reach a comprehensive agreement, including on the nuclear issue. International public opinion highly praised China's objective and impartial stance, believing that China focuses on the root causes of the problems, emphasizes both short-term and long-term solutions, respects the sovereignty of all countries, promotes dialogue and consultation, and plays a constructive role in de-escalating the situation in the Middle East. They expect China to provide Chinese solutions and wisdom for resolving more hot-spot issues.

Sep. 28: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202609/t20260928_12031984.shtml)

From September 24 to 25, 2026, Zhai Jun, China's Special Envoy for Middle East Issues, attended the 2026 Vision China Global Forum in Singapore at the invitation of the Chinese government.

In his keynote speech at the forum's opening ceremony, Zhai Jun stated that the theme of this year's forum is "Reshaping Consensus and Enhancing Resilience." He noted that the unprecedented changes of the past century are accelerating, with Middle East geopolitical conflicts impacting the global economy and society, including Southeast Asia. He emphasized the need for countries to pursue security through consensus and enhance resilience through security. President Xi Jinping's four-point initiative on promoting common security in the Middle East provides a feasible path and clarifies the direction for efforts to resolve the Middle East security impasse. China will continue to uphold the spirit of President Xi's four-point initiative, working with the international community to support the development of good-neighborly and friendly relations among Middle Eastern countries, adhering to a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security concept, building a new Middle East security architecture, and fostering bridges of understanding and trust among regions, injecting more stability and certainty into the world.

During the forum, Zhai Jun exchanged views with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong and the forum's organizer, Business China Chairman Lee Yi Shyan. He also attended the forum on "The New World Order and New Prospects for China-Singapore Modernization Cooperation" and exchanged views with other participants on the Middle East situation and China-Singapore relations.

Sep. 30: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/themes/id/2150800/) following Valdai Discussion Club meeting [excerpt]

Q: You said the circumstances will make the United States think in terms of multilateralism. So far, what we've seen is that the key players—the United States, Iran, Israel, and the Gulf monarchies—are stuck in a zero-sum game approach in Eurasia and the Middle East. Do you see any prospects at all for creating a new security system in these regions? Is Russia willing to guarantee the balance of interests, if everyone else continues to stick to an all-or-nothing approach?

A: I argued that the circumstances will force them to do so. But circumstances are only just beginning to unfold. Be patient. President Vladimir Putin and I have repeatedly set out our proposals on how to build international relations. We advocate a candid and equal dialogue and taking everyone's interests into account.

The US policy is marked by an effort to advance its unilateral interests. However, the United States is compelled to engage with countries such as the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. In the course of these contacts, the sides discuss

steps that will serve the interests of both sides. This is precisely what I meant when I said “the circumstances will force them to do so.”

Sep. 30: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202609/t20260930_12034352.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: During Mr. Araghchi’s recent visit to Beijing, Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi said that China supports dialogue, opposes the use of force and supports international law. Araghchi also presented new ideas for re-starting diplomacy during his recent visit to New York. What is China’s view of these new developments?

A: China supports resolving disputes through political and diplomatic means. It is hoped that Iran and the U.S. will choose peace, recommit themselves to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, and resume dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible. Since day one of the conflict, China has been making active efforts to promote the end of the fighting and talks for peace. We stand ready to uphold the series of initiatives and propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping for peace and stability in the Middle East, and continue working for restoring peace and tranquility in the Middle East and Gulf region at an early date.

Oct. 6: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202610/t20261006_12035790.html) by Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun

Q: U.S. officials told Reuters that they believe Iran has obtained satellite-based positioning intelligence and possibly other positioning data from China. What’s China’s response?

A: China strictly fulfills its due international obligations. We oppose using the conflict as a pretext to frame and smear China.

Oct. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2153200/) [excerpt]

Q: What is Russia’s assessment of the current situation in the Strait of Hormuz which some experts believe is bringing the world closer to a food crisis? What could Moscow do to help normalise the situation?

A: As you may recall, we warned of the severe consequences of these terrorist actions for the food security of the world’s most vulnerable countries from day one of the unprovoked armed aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. We backed up our warnings with figures and facts. Russia has a stake in free, uninterrupted, and safe navigation along international sea routes. However, we do not believe it is right to discuss the current situation, or the regional security crisis as a whole, in isolation from the escalation provoked by the actions of the Americans, who have effectively imposed a naval blockade on Iran. Getting back to normal is unlikely to happen without first addressing the root causes of the current crisis.

As you are aware, the Strait of Hormuz is a critical transport route for fertiliser supplies to the global market. According to experts, around 30 percent of all fertilisers and a significant share of the raw materials used to produce them pass through this route each year. Supply disruptions have reduced available production and export capacity by nearly 40 percent, leaving the global market short of about 2.7 million tonnes of products that are critical to agriculture.

Fertiliser shortages on the global markets and the pace of price increases have prompted the World Trade Organisation experts revise their forecast for global trade growth in 2026 from the previously projected 4.6 percent down to 1.9 percent. The main reason is the destabilisation of commodity markets, including agrochemicals. According to the WTO, the crisis in the Middle East puts global food security at risk, as fertiliser shortages could lead to lower crop yields.

The International Chamber of Commerce has warned that transport disruptions and the blockade of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz could trigger a global food security crisis. If the Strait is not fully reopened soon, grain prices, which approached their 2022-2023 highs in September, will continue to rise.

Urgent efforts are needed to normalise the situation in the Middle East and to restore maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz in full. The Russian Federation remains ready to help find compromise solutions based on international law and with due regard for the legitimate rights and interests of all parties involved. Our relationship of trust with every country in the region, without exception, is our key asset in this regard.

Oct. 8: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2108190676773130535)

Zakharova: We have warned about the grave consequences of the US-Israeli aggression against #Iran since its beginning

Urgent efforts are needed to normalise the situation in the #MiddleEast & restore shipping through Strait of #Hormuz

Moscow is ready to help find solutions

Oct. 8: Russian President Vladimir Putin meeting (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2108318393111605371) with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian

President #Putin to @drpezeshkian during their meeting in Turkmenistan:

We know that Iran is making concrete efforts to end the conflict that broke out in the region through no fault of its own.

Russia is ready to help you resolve this situation.

Oct. 11: Russian Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2153712/)

According to incoming information, on October 10 the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh was subject to a massive missile strike. The attack resulted in the death of 12 people, including citizens of Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Sudan and the United States. More than 300 people sustained injuries of varying severity.

According to preliminary reports from the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Saudi Arabia there are [none of] our compatriots among the victims.

Moscow expresses its deep condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wishes speedy recovery to the wounded.

Russia condemns this attack and calls on the parties to the conflict on the Arabian Peninsula to completely give up strikes against civilian infrastructure facilities. Russia's position remains unchanged: there is no alternative to settling any crises in the region by political and diplomatic means while ensuring the interests of all the states in this region without exception.

Oct. 12: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202610/t20261012_12038810.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: A fresh Houthis strike hit Riyadh's international airport on Sunday, killing one person and wounding 11 others. This comes a day after another deadly attack claimed by the Yemeni group. Can the Chinese foreign ministry comment on this?

A: China condemns the attacks, which caused significant casualties, and expresses grave concern over the escalating conflict. China opposes attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. We urge the parties concerned to refrain from actions that could further escalate regional tensions, resolve differences and disputes through dialogue and negotiations, and work toward peace and stability in the region at an early date.

Oct. 12: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2153970/) with Lebanese Foreign Minister Youssef Rajji

The ministers had an extensive discussion of the developments in Lebanon. The Russian side expressed serious concern regarding the continuing hostilities in southern Lebanon. It is crucial to cease fire as soon as possible, withdraw the Israeli forces, and create conditions for a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict according to UN Security Council Resolution 1701. Sergey Lavrov confirmed Russia's consistent support of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity.

The parties specifically covered the completion of the current mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and possible preservation of international presence in a different form.

When discussing the prospects of strengthening bilateral Russian-Lebanese cooperation, the ministers noted the importance of maintaining regular trusted political dialogue and increasing delegation exchanges. They stressed the importance of developing business partnerships to ensure steady positive dynamic of mutual trade and reaffirmed mutual interest in expanding cultural and humanitarian links.

The ministers had a substantive exchange of opinions on the regional agenda with focus on the crisis in the Gulf region caused by the US and Israeli aggression against Iran. The parties stressed that the only acceptable option is to resolve the disagreements by political and diplomatic means while considering the legitimate interests of the states involved in the conflict.

As concerns the Middle East settlement, Sergey Lavrov and Youssef Rajji confirmed the importance of swift and full implementation of the agreement between Israel and Hamas on Gaza ceasefire and immediate humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of the Palestinian enclave, as well as normalisation of the situation in the West Bank.

The ministers expressed support for Syria's unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty. They stressed the importance of

consolidating international efforts in the interests of the country's post-conflict recovery.

Sergey Lavrov informed his Lebanese counterpart about the latest developments with respect to the Ukraine crisis.

Oct. 13: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202610/t20261013_12039583.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: President Donald Trump said that he does not believe Russia and China are helping Iran. Could you comment on that?

A: China has made clear its position on this issue more than once. We will continue working with relevant countries and the international community to make constructive efforts for restoring peace, stability and development in the Middle East.

Oct. 13: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202610/t20261014_12039866.html) with Emirati envoy

On October 13, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with Special Envoy of UAE President to China Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak in Beijing.

Wang Yi asked Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak to convey President Xi Jinping's cordial greetings to President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, stating that China and the UAE are good friends who trust each other. Under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, China-UAE political mutual trust is strong and cooperation has yielded substantive results. Bilateral relations have gone beyond the bilateral scope and become a model of Global South countries working together for development and revitalization. In April this year, His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, paid a successful visit to China. President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang met with His Highness Crown Prince respectively, sustaining the close high-level exchanges between the two countries and demonstrating the strategic nature of China-UAE relations. No matter how the international and regional situation changes, China is ready to continue working with the UAE, under the guidance of the two heads of state, to bring bilateral relations to new heights.

Wang Yi stated that the Middle East is undergoing profound changes, with conflicts dragging on at multiple levels, and their spillover effects continuously impacting regional security and development. The desire for peace rather than war, dialogue rather than confrontation, and fairness rather than hegemony is increasingly becoming the common pursuit and shared aspiration of the people of all countries in the region. The path to peace is never smooth, and promoting peace and halting hostilities requires pooling efforts. We believe that as long as all parties adhere to the choice of peace and maintain their resolve for peace, a bright future for the Middle East will surely be achieved. China has always been a builder of peace, a promoter of stability and a contributor to development in the Middle East. We will uphold the series of initiatives and propositions for peace and stability put forward by President Xi Jinping, and continue to make China's contributions and play China's constructive role in achieving a comprehensive ceasefire in the Middle East, advancing a political settlement, restarting negotiations at an early date and bringing about lasting peace.

Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak asked Wang Yi to convey President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's sincere greetings to President Xi Jinping, congratulated on the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, thanked China for the warm hospitality extended to Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to China, and expressed the expectation of conducting head-of-state diplomacy within the year. Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak briefed on the current situation in the Gulf and the Middle East and the efforts made by the UAE, stating that the UAE is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote regional peace and stability. China has always been a trustworthy and reliable partner for the UAE, and the UAE hopes to bring the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries to a new level.

The two sides also had an in-depth exchange of views on issues of mutual concern.

Oct. 13: Russian President Vladimir Putin phone call (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/80981) with Emirati President Muhammad bin Zayed

In light of this year marking the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and the UAE, the leaders discussed the further development of bilateral cooperation, which is strategic and mutually beneficial.

When discussing current international matters, the topics addressed included the agreements reached as a result of the telephone conversation between Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump regarding supplies of Russian diesel fuel as well as prospects for settling the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

The leaders agreed to maintain personal contacts.

Oct. 13: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov phone call (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2154124/) with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi

The ministers discussed practical issues related to the further development of Russian-Omani relations, as well as the schedule of upcoming contacts.

They also reviewed current issues on the Middle Eastern agenda.

Oct. 14: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2110390114086187058)

Chinese FM Wang Yi met with Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, Special Envoy of the President of the UAE to China, in Beijing.

Wang said that as the Middle East undergoes profound changes, conflicts are dragging on at multiple levels, and their spillover effects continue to weigh on regional security and development. The path to peace has never been smooth, and promoting peace and ending conflicts requires pooling efforts. We believe that as long as all parties remain committed to the choice of peace and maintain the resolve for peace, a bright future for the Middle East will surely be realized.

China has always been a builder of peace, a promoter of stability, and a contributor to development in the Middle East. We will uphold the series of initiatives and propositions put forward by President Xi dedicated to peace and stability, and continue to make China's contribution and play China's constructive role in realizing a comprehensive ceasefire in the Middle East, advancing political settlement, resuming negotiations at an early date, and achieving lasting peace.

Oct. 15: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202610/t20261018_12042360.html) with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani

On October 15, 2026 local time, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani on the sidelines of the Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

Wang Yi noted that under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, China-Bahrain relations have made significant progress with a steady momentum of development, bringing benefits to the two peoples. In 2024, the two countries became comprehensive strategic partners, opening a new chapter in bilateral relations. China is ready to work with Bahrain on the basis of mutual respect and mutual support to enhance political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and advance coordination on multilateral platforms, so as to promote the continuous development of China-Bahrain relations.

Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani said that Bahrain attaches great importance to its relations with China, and is ready to further enhance high-level exchanges with China, strengthen cooperation in energy, tourism, finance, logistics and other fields, and further consolidate and elevate the friendly and cooperative relations between Bahrain and China.

The two sides focused on exchanging views on the situation in the Middle East. Wang Yi stated that the protracted conflicts in the Middle East have exerted a severe impact on regional peace and stability. This does not serve any party's interest. President Xi Jinping has put forward a series of initiatives and proposals dedicated to peace in the Middle East, which represent the insight and solutions contributed by China to addressing the security dilemma in the Middle East. China has always believed that conflicts should not be escalated and fighting should not spread. Confrontation worsens tensions, while dialogue is the right path. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, and the legitimate concerns of all parties should be valued. It is necessary to remove interference and continue to adhere to the direction of political settlement. China is ready, based on the series of initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping, to strengthen communication and coordination with regional countries including Bahrain to help the region achieve lasting peace and stability.

Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani said that the current security situation in the Gulf countries is very grave. Bahrain welcomes the Chinese initiatives and solutions put forward by President Xi Jinping, which are all important ideas that benefit regional countries. Bahrain appreciates China's consistent commitment to fairness and justice, its communication with regional countries, and its active efforts to bring an end to military operations. The regional tensions threaten the energy supply chain and the free passage of shipping lanes. Bahrain hopes to resolve the relevant issues as soon as possible under multilateral mechanisms such as the U.N.

and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and also hopes to strengthen cooperation with China in the U.N. Security Council to jointly address the current challenges.

Oct. 15: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202610/t20261016_12041733.html) with Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Varsen Aghabekian [excerpt]

Wang Yi said that the Palestinian question is the most prolonged hotspot issue and the biggest historical injustice in the world since World War II. Unless this issue is resolved fairly, lasting peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East. The current situation in the Middle East remains tense, posing new difficulties to the settlement of the Palestinian question.

Oct. 15: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202610/t20261015_12041115.shtml) [translated excerpt]

On October 15, 2026, local time, Wang Yi, Special Representative of President Xi Jinping, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister, attended the 7th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Baku and put forward four initiatives to promote cooperation among CICA member states.

First, we must jointly safeguard peace and stability. Asia does not need Cold War thinking, nor does it welcome bloc confrontation. Ultimately, Asia's problems must be addressed through the unity and cooperation of the Asian people, and Asia's security must be resolved by adhering to a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security concept.

The complex and evolving situation in the Middle East has profoundly impacted the world. China encourages the United States and Iran to return to the political and diplomatic track to resolve their disputes and calls on all parties involved in the Yemen issue to exercise restraint. The sovereignty and security of regional countries should be respected, the stability of international industrial and supply chains should be guaranteed, important waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea should remain unobstructed, and the Palestinian issue should return to the correct track of the "two-state solution" as soon as possible.

Afghanistan is an indispensable part of Asian security. China looks forward to strengthening regional coordination on the Afghan issue and providing humanitarian and development assistance to the Afghan people. The Afghan government is taking concrete measures to eliminate terrorist forces within its borders and achieve lasting peace and stability as soon as possible.

Oct. 16: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202610/t20261019_12042661.html) with Israeli President Isaac Herzog

On October 15, 2026 local time, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the latter's request on the sidelines of the CICA Summit in Baku.

Isaac Herzog said that the Jewish and Chinese nations have a long history of exchanges. The two sides helped each other during the anti-fascist war and forged a friendship between their peoples, creating a remarkable historical story. Israel firmly adheres to the one-China policy, is committed to advancing Israel-China friendly relations, and is ready to seize the opportunity of the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and China next year to advance exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in science and technology, investment, people-to-people exchanges, and other fields.

Isaac Herzog shared Israel's views and positions on the situation in the Middle East, saying Israel wants peace, not war, but faces threats and challenges to its national security that need to be responded to effectively. China has always been an important constructive force for regional and world peace. Israel values the relevant initiatives and proposals put forward by China, appreciates China's efforts to advance regional peace and stability, and is ready to maintain communication with China.

Wang Yi noted that during World War II, the Chinese and Israeli peoples both suffered greatly from the scourge of war and extended a helping hand to each other in times of distress, with many touching stories emerging. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries more than 30 years ago, bilateral relations have maintained steady development and practical cooperation has achieved positive results, with the core lying in adhering to mutual respect, equal treatment and mutually beneficial cooperation. Next year marks the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the innovative comprehensive partnership between China and Israel. China is ready to take this as an opportunity to work with Israel to summarize experience, promote cooperation and consolidate the foundation of public support for bilateral relations.

Wang Yi stated that promoting the achievement of peace and reconciliation in the region is the cornerstone of China's Middle East policy. China has always believed that the Palestinian question is the biggest historical injustice of this century, and that the two-State solution is the right way out of the Palestinian question. The current regional situation remains tense, and peace and tranquility are far from being realized. The most pressing task is to comprehensively open the channels into Gaza. The two million civilians should not continue to struggle on the brink of death, and humanitarian disasters should not be allowed to spread. At the same time, Israel should also stop and revoke the act of forcibly establishing settlements in the West Bank.

Wang Yi stressed that since the beginning of this year, President Xi Jinping has put forward a series of initiatives and proposals on promoting peace and security in the Middle East, which are public goods provided by China for the Middle East and the world. China is ready to work with the international community to uphold and practice the common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable approach to security, and encourage all parties to return to the track of dialogue and consultation as soon as possible and to seek a political settlement of conflicts.

Wang Yi said that Isaac Herzog's father, when serving as President, promoted the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Israel, and was also the first Israeli president to visit China. He wrote in his memoirs: compromise and negotiation do not always lead to loss; they often bring important gains and long-term trust. Under the current circumstances, this statement still has practical significance and inspiration. The Palestinian question is the root of the Middle East issue. Both the Jewish and Palestinian peoples enjoy the right to live in peace and the right to independent statehood. China believes that as long as all parties remain committed to and maintain their resolve to pursue peace, explore the path of peace in the same direction, and stay on the right course of the two-State solution, the peace yearned for by the people will eventually come.

Oct. 16: Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova press conference (https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155173/) [excerpt]

TOPIC: Sergey Lavrov's working visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran

On October 19, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will pay a working visit to Tehran and hold talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The parties plan to have a detailed discussion of the current international and regional agendas, focusing on the developments around Iran and Russia's steps to de-escalate the tensions in which the friendly states of the Middle East have been pulled by the United States and Israel.

The parties will devote significant attention to the fulfilment of the agreements reached following the recent highest- and high-level contacts, and the practical steps for strengthening the overarching bilateral strategic partnership.

Oct. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155415/) with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan

On October 18, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Russia-Gulf Arab Cooperation Council (GCC) Strategic Dialogue in Manama.

During the conversation, the ministers discussed priority issues of multifaceted Russian-Saudi relations. They expressed their mutual commitment to continuing a regular trust-based political dialogue and building up interaction in the trade, economic, investment, cultural and humanitarian areas. The parties have reaffirmed the demand for continued effective cooperation between Russia and Saudi Arabia in the OPEC+ format.

The ministers considered current topics on the international and Middle East agendas, including the situation in the Persian Gulf area. They expressed their concern over the tension in the south of the Arabian Peninsula and in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. Both sides stated the importance of ensuring the safety of navigation and unhindered passage of ships through all international waterways.

Oct. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meeting (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155423/) with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah

On October 18, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait Jarrah Al Sabah on the sidelines of the ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Russia—Gulf Arab Cooperation Council (GCC) Strategic Dialogue in Manama.

During the conversation, the foreign ministers discussed the further development of traditionally friendly Russian-Kuwaiti relations and reaffirmed the mutual commitment of Moscow and Kuwait to maintaining an intensive political dialogue and strengthening advantageous trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

The parties exchanged views on the current topics on the international and regional agendas with an emphasis on the situation in the Persian Gulf area. They also underscored the need for searching ways of a speedy de-escalation of tension in that strategically important region. They stated that the persisting differences cannot be resolved other than through political and diplomatic efforts with unconditional respect for the interests of all countries of the region involved in the conflict.

Oct. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov opening remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155432/) at Russia-GCC Strategic Dialogue [excerpts]

Mr Chairman, Mr Secretary-General, colleagues, friends, I'm pleased to join you all at the 9th Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Russia-GCC Strategic Dialogue, which is being held for the first time in the hospitable Kingdom of Bahrain. We are grateful to our Bahraini friends and the GCC Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the meeting.

I would like to start by offering my best wishes to everyone on the occasion of the 45th GCC anniversary. Strengthening multifaceted and mutually beneficial ties with GCC member states is on the list of top priorities of Russian foreign policy and diplomacy. The strategic dialogue with the Arab states of the Gulf was established in Abu Dhabi almost 15 years ago and has since consistently demonstrated its enduring value and effectiveness. It provides an opportunity to exchange views in a constructive and trusting manner on the most sensitive global and regional issues and to outline further practical steps to expand trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian ties between our countries. The value of direct communication amid a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape cannot be overestimated…

The effectiveness of our economic cooperation depends in good part on stability in the region. I look forward to discussing in detail the most pressing issues in the Middle East, above all the situation in the Gulf region, where a serious military and political crisis continues in the wake of the unprovoked aggression by the United States and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran which triggered a chain reaction across numerous other Middle Eastern flashpoints. Russia supports the ongoing peace efforts, including by the countries represented here, to prevent the region from being engulfed in a full-scale war…

In closing, I would like to emphasise that we sincerely value our friendly relations with all GCC member states and are firmly committed to steadily advancing our strategic dialogue for the benefit of our countries and peoples.

Oct. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155481/) after Russia-GCC Strategic Dialogue [excerpts]

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to our Bahraini friends for their traditional hospitality and the excellent organisation of our work. I would also like to extend special thanks for arranging the meeting with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which took place just a short while ago and lasted about an hour. We reaffirmed our firm commitment to continuing close and trust-based partnership across all areas. The foundations of this partnership were laid during the five previous meetings at the top level, as well as meetings between ministers and representatives of the governing bodies of our two countries…

The 9th Ministerial Meeting of the Russia-GCC Strategic Dialogue, which took place earlier today, was a special occasion because this year marks its 15th anniversary. The first dialogue in this format was held in Abu Dhabi 15 years ago.

We paid special attention to reviewing our relations and their prospects. We discussed our trade and economic ties and expressed support for realising the considerable potential for cooperation in areas such as the manufacturing industry, agriculture, transport, education, and tourism. Tourism contacts got a boost from four of the six GCC member states signing visa-free travel agreements with the Russian Federation covering holders of all types of passports. We hope that the two remaining members of the council will join these arrangements as well…

Our cooperation extends to universal international organisations, such as the UN. Bahrain currently holds a position of a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. We work closely together on what are, frankly, challenging issues arising from the developments unfolding in various regions of the world, particularly the Gulf region, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Red Sea. We approach these discussions from a common standpoint that includes respect for international law and for the principles of the UN Charter, not selectively, as some do, but understood as an indivisible and interdependent whole. We advocate approaches that give

priority to addressing underlying causes of every conflict.

We used this perspective to review the situation in the region. We advocate unconditional respect for existing agreements. Unfortunately, I can't say our Western colleagues do. Nevertheless, it is essential to remove the underlying causes of the developments in and around the Strait of Hormuz, including by implementing the agreements between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran under what is known as the Islamabad Memorandum, which we all welcomed. We believe this memorandum contains everything that is necessary to take the situation away from where it is now and is teetering on the brink of a renewed full-scale war, and return it to a political and diplomatic track.

We welcome the efforts of international and regional mediators from the Gulf countries, among others, who are seeking to help make this process sustainable and prevent a slide into yet another open confrontation.

We also discussed the deteriorating situation in the southern Arabian Peninsula. My colleague has mentioned the situation in the Republic of Yemen earlier. Alongside our GCC partners, we advocate a political and diplomatic solution to this crisis. We believe that all the necessary conditions are in place, including the 2023 roadmap developed at the initiative of Saudi Arabia.

We spoke in favour of taking a broader approach to addressing security issues in the region. We believe it is important to work towards establishing inclusive security architecture that would encompass all the Gulf countries—the Arab states and the Islamic Republic of Iran—as well as their immediate neighbours, particularly Iraq and Jordan. External actors that are guided not by their own unilateral geopolitical designs, but above all by the interests of the countries of the region should support this process.

Russia has been promoting this kind of regional peace and security architecture for decades. I am referring to our Concept of Collective Security in the Persian Gulf Region. We are ready to harmonise it with other existing initiatives, including those put forward by the GCC in 2023, the People's Republic of China, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. At some point, it would make sense, following preliminary expert-level consultations, to consider convening a forum to launch the development of what we firmly believe is much-needed security architecture for all the countries concerned…

In accordance with the rotation principle, the next meeting of the Strategic Dialogue will be held in the Russian Federation. Next year, Saudi Arabia will assume chairmanship to replace Bahrain in this position.

In conjunction with our friends, we will get busy with preparations for the next ministerial meeting and do our best to extend hospitality no less warm than the kind we received here.

Q: Bahrain has declined to take part in joint GCC events with Iran. Is it possible that, if the attendant circumstances were to change or evolve, this meeting could still be held? This could include the participation of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation. What role could Russia play in light of the attacks to which the Gulf countries are being subjected and the navigation problems in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Strait of Hormuz?

A: That is absolutely the right approach, and I subscribe to it fully and without reservations: if the situation is to return to normal, freedom of navigation must be fully ensured, as it was before February 28 of this year. Until February 28, that freedom was absolute, without any demand for payment, and the situation was entirely normal. Naturally, one cannot fail to take into account how all this came about.

My friend spoke of the need "for an end to attacks, for mutual respect based on the recognition of each other's sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, and for the settlement of all disputes by peaceful means rather than through the use of armed force." After all, is this not precisely what the US and Israel have done? If I have misconstrued the situation and someone can tell me that the actions listed are not connected with those states, then it is very hard to argue the point.

The final principle is settlement by peaceful means, not through the use of force, and without interference in internal affairs. US President Donald Trump has openly stated that they have eliminated the entire leadership of Iran. A second leadership, he claims, was appointed in Iran—and that one, too, he alleges, the US eliminated. Now there is a third leadership in place. The Americans do not really seem to understand who is doing what over there, or who decides what. This is probably not the approach that can help a distant region seek agreements based on mutual respect and international law. We are fully in favour of such agreements.

This convinces us yet again of the need, in any conflict, to focus on the root causes and not to allow certain manipulators to do what they do best—seize on some single topic or outward manifestation and, without delving into the reasons for its emergence, artificially direct all the attention of the international community, through the media or UN resolutions, to this one aspect alone of a deep and serious crisis. The aspect chosen is the one that makes it possible to channel all the attention of the international

community towards the country that did not unleash the war. We discussed this in detail today.

I believe there was a very useful discussion during the GCC meeting. Let me remind you that the Council itself, a few years ago, outlined a vision for the security architecture in this region. We have our own concept. China has its own. Iran has the Hormuz Initiative, which was formulated several years ago but received no attention. It would have been highly beneficial to start such a dialogue then, taking all these ideas into account, so that we could sit down together at a table and exchange assessments without any prior commitments, predetermined conclusions or agreements.

We have held such a dialogue in Moscow several times at the level of political scientists, experts and academics. It was very useful. I think that, as one of the conclusions to be drawn from the present regrettable situation, we will propose resuming such a dialogue. At the very least, it was in high demand within the academic community of the countries of the region.

Oct. 18: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov working visit (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155469/) to Bahrain

On October 18, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov went on a working visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain to participate in the ninth GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue.

During the visit, Sergey Lavrov was received by King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and held separate talks with Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

The meetings focused on implementing agreements reached at the highest level to further develop the full range of traditionally friendly relations between Russia and Bahrain. Both sides expressed mutual interest in expanding cooperation in the economic sphere, including investment, as well as in culture, education and other areas. Particular emphasis was placed on the important role of the Russian–Bahraini Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Considerable attention was also devoted to key issues on the Middle East agenda, primarily the crisis in the Gulf region. Both sides stressed the importance of preventing a resumption of hostilities in this strategically vital part of the world and ensuring the freedom and safety of international maritime navigation. The prospects for resolving the Palestinian–Israeli conflict were also discussed.

Moscow and Manama reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining regular political dialogue and close coordination, both bilaterally and through established cooperation mechanisms, including those between Russia and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and between Russia and the League of Arab States.

Oct. 19: Chinese Premier Li Qiang meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202610/t20261019_12043085.shtml) with Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref [translation]

On the afternoon of October 19, 2026, local time, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council met with Iranian First Vice President Aref in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the 25th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

Li Qiang stated that China and Iran are both ancient civilizations with a long-standing traditional friendship. Over the 55 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-Iran relations have maintained steady and healthy development, withstanding the test of changing international circumstances. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Iran, and China is willing to work with Iran to seize this opportunity to promote new progress in exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

Li Qiang pointed out that the situation in the Middle East has been turbulent since the beginning of this year. President Xi Jinping put forward four proposals on maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, and four initiatives on promoting common security in the region, which have resonated widely among countries in the region and the international community. China believes that the sovereignty and security of all countries should be respected, and all relevant parties should adhere to the peaceful choice, restart dialogue and negotiations as soon as possible, resolve differences through political and diplomatic means, and promote the early restoration of peace and tranquility in the region. China has been making every effort to promote peace talks and will continue to make efforts to promote regional peace, stability, and development, upholding the spirit of the series of major initiatives and proposals put forward by President Xi Jinping.

Aref stated that Iran highly values its relations with China and is willing to maintain close exchanges at all levels, strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and enhance collaboration within multilateral frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS to promote the continuous and in-depth development of the Iran-China comprehensive

strategic partnership. As a responsible major power, Iran appreciates China's consistent support for multilateralism and its commitment to safeguarding the common interests of the Global South. Iran thanks China for its commitment to promoting peace and ending conflict, welcomes and supports President Xi Jinping's important initiatives and propositions on promoting peace and security in the Middle East, and is willing to resolve conflicts and differences through dialogue and consultation. Iran hopes for an early return to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding and the restoration of regional peace and tranquility as soon as possible.

Wu Zhenglong attended the meeting.

Oct. 19: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202610/t20261020_12043515.shtml)

On October 19, 2026, Shao Zheng, Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen, met with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Yemen, Mutari, in Riyadh. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on the current situation in Yemen and the region.

Charge d'Affaires Shao Zheng introduced China's principled position, stating that China is closely following the developments in Yemen and the region, and emphasizing that the sovereignty and security of all countries should be respected, and the safe and unobstructed flow of international waterways should be jointly safeguarded by all parties. China calls on all parties to exercise restraint, continue to properly resolve conflicts and differences through dialogue and consultation, and promote the early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Mutari shared Kuwait's views on the current situation, praised China's efforts to promote regional peace and development, and expressed his willingness to strengthen communication and coordination with China on Yemen and regional issues.

Oct. 19: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov meetings (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155782/) with senior Iranian officials

On October 19, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov paid a working visit to Tehran. He was received by President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian and held substantive talks with Foreign Minister of Iran Abbas Araghchi, as well as a meeting with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei.

Held in the usual constructive manner, discussions focused on the latest bilateral developments with an emphasis on strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership in the context of agreements resulting from meetings between the presidents of Russia and Iran in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on September 1, and Avaza, Turkmenistan, on October 8. The sides expressed their satisfaction with the proactive political dialogue, close cooperation at government and sectoral levels, between parliaments, regions and businesses. The agenda also covered efforts to expand trade, economic and investment cooperation, including the implementation of joint projects in transport, logistics and energy.

The sides emphasised the importance of close coordination regarding the situation in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the South Caucasus and the Caspian Sea. Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's readiness to help bring about a solution regarding the situation around Iran. In this context, he informed his partners about his contacts with representatives of the Arabian Peninsula's countries in Manama, Bahrain, the other day. The sides noted their mutual interest in stepping up their joint efforts at multilateral venues, including the United Nations, BRICS, SCO and EAEU.

Building on the meaningful political dialogue between the two countries, the visit made it possible to chart practical steps for further expanding bilateral relations and foreign policy cooperation between Russia and Iran.

Oct. 19: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov remarks (https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2155766/) following Iran meeting [excerpts]

Ladies and gentlemen, I share the assessment provided by my colleague and friend, Foreign Minister of Iran Abbas Araghchi, who noted that our talks were useful, productive, and held in a spirit of trust.

We noted the dynamic nature of Russian-Iranian cooperation despite the prevailing circumstances. We have a solid foundation on which to build which includes the updated basic interstate treaty, which entered into force on October 2, 2025, and which, for the first time, enshrined our relations as a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Russia is demonstrating its commitment to this fundamental document through concrete action. At the UN, we thwarted attempts to justify the unlawful acts of aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran. We provided humanitarian aid to the friendly

Iranian people as quickly as possible, delivering the medicines and medical supplies they needed. Food supplies are also being delivered regularly.

We share the view that regular meetings between our leaders are indispensable to the steady advancement of our partnership. They remain in constant contact and met twice over the past month and a half. We look forward to President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian attending the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow in late October.

The heads of government of our two countries are meeting in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, at the same time as we are holding our talks here…

Despite the challenging circumstances that I mentioned several times, Russia has no intention of abandoning the implementation of economic and investment agreements with Iran. Our specialists are gradually returning to the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. We see considerable potential for cooperation in hydrocarbon production and transport. The Russian contractor continues engineering surveys along the route of the future Rasht-Astara Railway and will begin construction as soon as the Iranian side completes the necessary paperwork…

We exchanged views on pressing regional and international issues. In most cases, our positions either overlap or are close. We advocate the establishment of a just, multipolar world order based on the principles of the UN Charter, including the sovereign equality of states and the non-use or threat of force in bilateral relations. Like many other countries, we consider the practice of imposing politically motivated unilateral coercive measures unacceptable and destructive, as it runs counter to the principles and norms of international law.

We agreed to step up cooperation at multilateral venues, such as the UN, the SCO, BRICS, the EAEU, and the OIC. We noted that the 2026-2028 Plan of Ministerial Consultations signed in Moscow in December 2025 during the visit of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is being implemented smoothly and in accordance with the agreed parameters.

We analysed the aftermath of the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran. I reiterated our country’s readiness to help find mutually acceptable negotiated solutions to resolve this artificially created crisis. We welcomed Tehran’s commitment to using diplomacy to establish lasting peace and stability in the region.

We believe it is important to restore the pre-crisis situation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, including by restoring freedom of navigation and securing guarantees that such aggression will not recur. We appreciate the efforts of international mediators to facilitate the achievement of a reliable agreement to this end.

It is important to resume dialogue on the situation in and around Yemen. The best course of action would be to return to the road map developed in Saudi Arabia in 2023, which was acceptable to both the internationally recognised authorities in Aden and the Ansar Allah movement.

With regard to a Middle East settlement, the key priority is to step up efforts on the Palestinian issue, which is now not only being pushed to the very bottom of the international agenda, but is also being stripped of all substance, with UN resolutions on the establishment of a Palestinian state being hollowed out. Russia and Iran firmly support the implementation of the relevant resolutions, as well as the UN Security Council resolution on Lebanon.

We discussed cooperation in the Caspian region. My counterpart mentioned attempts to undermine security in this critically important shared body of water. We also see considerable potential for Russia and Iran to work together to advance the 3+3 format in the South Caucasus. This would bring Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia together with their neighbours, Iran, Russia, and the Republic of Türkiye, to discuss matters of mutual interest in ways that would benefit both cooperation and regional security.

I thanked our friends for their objective stance on the Ukraine crisis. I briefed them on the latest developments and the efforts being made in this area to ensure the unconditional fulfilment of the objectives of the special military operation, preferably through talks. Clearly, neither the Kiev regime nor its patrons in Europe are ready for talks.

We appreciate the willingness of our Iranian friends to support the initiatives aimed at advancing the principles of cooperation across Greater Eurasia. Tehran has joined the core group of the original participants in the process of drafting the Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the 21st Century. We agreed to launch this work at a meeting in New York on September 25 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

We reaffirmed our interest in having Iranian officials participate in the next International Conference on Eurasian Security, which will take place in Minsk on November 3-4.

I would like to once again express my sincere satisfaction with the outcome of our talks and my gratitude to our colleagues for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality…

Q: In Bahrain, you once again mentioned Russia's proposal for a Concept of Collective Security in the Persian Gulf. Could the Mecca Pact, which was established in August, be regarded as a prototype for such a concept? Or would Iran, which has reportedly been invited to join, necessarily have to be included for it to serve that purpose?

A: Since it is called the Concept of Collective Security in the Persian Gulf, it concerns the littoral states, including six Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have been working on this idea for years, indeed decades, and have held meetings involving political analysts and experts. Many interesting ideas have been put forward on how to move towards peace and stability in this one of the world's most important regions. The goal is to build trust, rely primarily on the principles and arrangements agreed upon by the littoral states—including transparency in military affairs and the exchange of information on matters that are relevant to each country's security—and gradually expand joint activities that will further strengthen trust which is critical in this region.

Our concept allows for and envisages the participation in a supporting and facilitating capacity, alongside the littoral states, of permanent members of the UN Security Council and senior officials from the League of Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Their role would be to help create the conditions for the littoral states to reach agreement among themselves.

The Mecca Pact involves a different configuration that involves Pakistan, Türkiye, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We welcomed the announcement about the formation of this entity. We operate on the premise that its underlying objectives include the achievement of stability and the promotion of peace and cooperation. We are aware of the fact that some other countries in the region, including the Arab countries, have expressed interest in joining this troika. If, at some point, the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers that engagement with this entity could help advance the cause of peace and free development, we will respect our friends' choice.

Oct. 20: Russian Foreign Ministry post (https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2112463414924623947)

FM #Lavrov at a joint presser with @araghchi:

We reviewed the situation resulting from the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

I reiterated Russia's readiness to help find acceptable negotiated solutions to this man-made crisis.

Oct. 20: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wjzs/202610/t20261021_12044264.shtml)

On October 19, 2026, Ambassador Cong Peiwu attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the China-Iran Relations Seminar at the University of Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian government. Nearly 200 people from various sectors of Iranian politics, economics, and academia attended. The full text of Ambassador Cong's speech is as follows:

Your Excellency Assistant to President Rabiei, distinguished experts and scholars, ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon, everyone! It is a great pleasure to be invited to attend the opening ceremony of this seminar. The University of Tehran is Iran's oldest and most prestigious comprehensive university, and the fact that it has specifically hosted this seminar fully demonstrates the importance that the Iranian academic community attaches to China-Iran relations. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Iran, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the seminar and to all the experts and scholars dedicated to China-Iran friendship, and I appreciate the enthusiastic remarks made by our Iranian friends on China-Iran relations.

Looking to the future of China-Iran relations, we must first review history. This year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Iran. Over the past 55 years, China-Iran relations have withstood the test of changing international circumstances and achieved steady and healthy development. China and Iran have firmly supported each other on issues involving their core interests and major concerns, and have actively carried out exchanges and cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, and other fields. Both countries are developing countries and Global South countries, and are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS, jointly committed to promoting a more just and equitable international order. China maintains continuity and stability in its policy toward Iran and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Iran to ensure the steady and long-term development of China-Iran relations.

Looking ahead to the future of China-Iran relations, an understanding of China's foreign policy is indispensable. This year marks

the 5th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's Global Development Initiative. Over the past five years, the initiative has garnered support and participation from more than 130 countries and international organizations. China has mobilized over US$20 billion to promote the implementation of more than 2,000 projects. Recently, President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the High-Level Dialogue on the 5th Anniversary of the Global Development Initiative, emphasizing that development is an eternal theme for human society and a key to achieving people's well-being. This important statement further demonstrates China's firm stance on upholding development and improving the well-being of people in all countries. Within the framework of the Global Development Initiative, a series of "small but beautiful, people-benefiting" projects have been implemented in Iran. From providing 500,000 HIV test kits free of charge to providing medical care equipment to disabled and elderly people in Iran, the total number of beneficiaries has reached over 600,000.

Currently, the world is undergoing a period of accelerated change, a phenomenon unseen in a century. Simultaneously, unilateralism and power politics are on the rise, multilateralism and the international order are under attack, and deficits in peace, development, security, and governance are widening. Following the global development initiative, President Xi Jinping successively proposed the global security initiative, the global civilization initiative, and the global governance initiative. These four global initiatives form an organic whole, aiming to address these deficits, enrich the theoretical connotation of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and promote the building of a better world. These important initiatives have received positive support from a wide range of countries, including Iran.

Looking ahead to the future of China-Iran relations, we must fully understand China's development trajectory. This year marks the start of China's 15th Five-Year Plan. Faced with a complex and volatile international environment, the Chinese economy has withstood pressure and moved steadily forward, demonstrating strong resilience and vitality. In the first three quarters of this year, the added value of industrial enterprises above designated size nationwide increased by 5.3% year-on-year. Meanwhile, China's economic restructuring and upgrading continue, with new technologies, products, and business models emerging in fields such as artificial intelligence, green energy, and biomedicine. In the first half of the year, industries related to artificial intelligence, such as intelligent vehicle equipment manufacturing, maintained high growth rates of over 30%, adding new impetus to the global economy. We have the firm determination to advance Chinese-style modernization and the vision to share development opportunities with the world through high-level opening-up. We will continuously inject confidence and momentum into global economic growth through our own development.

Friends, since the beginning of this year, in response to the turbulent situation in the Middle East, President Xi Jinping has put forward a series of initiatives and proposals dedicated to peace and stability in the region, providing a systematic solution for promoting a political settlement of the Middle East issue and achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. The Middle East belongs to the people of the Middle East, and the initiative in Middle East security affairs should be exercised independently by the Middle Eastern countries. We believe that as long as all parties adhere to the choice of peace and maintain their resolve for peace, a bright future for the Middle East will surely be achieved.

Friends, academic exchanges are an important component of China-Iran relations. Those present here are Iranian experts and scholars who have a deep understanding of China, and the development of China-Iran relations cannot be separated from your joint efforts. We hope you will continue to pay attention to China's development and the deepening of China-Iran relations. The Chinese Embassy in Iran is also willing to fully play its bridging role and contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Finally, I wish this seminar a complete success.

Oct. 21: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian post (https://x.com/SpoxCHN_LinJian/status/2112928185243587030)

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with Iran's First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref on the sidelines of the 25th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of Member States of SCO in Dushanbe.

Li Qiang said that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership. China stands ready to take this opportunity to work with Iran to achieve new progress in exchanges and cooperation across various fields.

The situation in the Middle East has been turbulent since the beginning of this year. President Xi Jinping has made four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and put forward a four-point proposal on promoting regional common security in the Middle East, which have resonated widely with countries in the region and the

international community. China has been making every effort to promote peace talks. Guided by the spirit of the series of major initiatives and propositions put forward by President Xi, China will continue its efforts to promote peace, stability, and development in the region.

Oct. 21: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202610/t20261022_12045256.html) in Beijing with Djiboutian Foreign Minister Abdoulkader Houssein Omar

Wang Yi noted that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Djibouti relations have maintained the momentum of sound and steady development. The two sides have deepened political mutual trust, and cooperation in various fields has benefited the Djiboutian people. An important experience of China-Djibouti relations is equal treatment, mutual trust, and mutual support. China appreciates Djibouti's adherence to the one-China principle and hopes that Djibouti will continue to give firm support on issues concerning China's core interests.

Wang Yi said that China attaches importance to the China-Djibouti comprehensive strategic partnership and is ready to further deepen practical cooperation with Djibouti. The two sides should give full play to two aspects: first, giving full play to the favorable role of the zero-tariff policy; and second, giving full play to Djibouti's geographical advantages. China encourages Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in Djibouti, and is ready to take the building of the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway prosperity belt as an opportunity to help Djibouti leverage its comprehensive infrastructure advantages to support the country in building itself into a regional hub for trade, logistics, and connectivity.

Wang Yi stated that China and Djibouti hold the same position on major international and regional issues, both champion the concept of multilateralism, adhere to non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, and support the Global South countries in seeking strength through unity and accelerating development and revitalization. At present, the conflict in the Middle East continues to spill over and transmit to the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region, and new and old problems have broken out successively, posing new threats to the safety of the shipping lanes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Since the beginning of this year, President Xi Jinping has put forward four principles on the constructive participation of relevant parties in the resolution of African hotspot issues, and made a series of initiatives on improving the peace and security in the Middle East, demonstrating China's sense of responsibility as a major country and responding to the aspiration for peace of the people in the region. China is ready to work with Djibouti and other countries to strengthen communication and cooperation, remain committed to deescalation and fully safeguarding peace and stability in the region.

Abdoulkader Houssein Omar conveyed President Ismail Omar Guelleh's warm greetings to President Xi Jinping, noting that since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Djibouti has developed relations with China on the principles of mutual trust and mutual respect for each other's core interests, and is ready to work with China to further enrich the comprehensive strategic partnership. Djibouti remains steadfast in its adherence to the one-China principle, and highly appreciates the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity put forward by President Xi Jinping, as well as his series of initiatives on resolving regional issues, especially such propositions as upholding the principle of African people resolving African issues. Djibouti appreciates China's contribution to promoting lasting world peace, and is glad to be a founding member of the International Organization for Mediation. Djibouti and China share broad consensus on abiding by the purposes of the U.N. Charter and peacefully settling disputes, and Djibouti is ready to strengthen communication and dialogue with China on international issues.

After the meeting, the two foreign ministers issued the Joint Press Communique on Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Safety of Shipping Lanes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti on Jointly Advancing Cooperation under the Global Security Initiative.

Oct. 21: Russian President Vladimir Putin meeting (http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/81046) with U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff [excerpt]

There was also an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East—primarily, of course, regarding Iran.

Vladimir Putin emphasised that the potential for diplomacy is far from being exhausted and that it is both possible and necessary to reach agreements with Tehran, which is our strategic partner. Russia reaffirmed its readiness to continue helping to find political and diplomatic solutions to the Iranian issue.

Oct. 22: China and Djibouti joint communique (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202610/t20261022_12044861.shtml)

[translation]

On October 21, 2026, Wang Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, held talks in Beijing with Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti and spokesperson for the government.

Both sides recalled the fruitful achievements in China-[Djibouti] relations over the 47 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and emphasized that, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, both sides will continue to firmly support each other on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns, and comprehensively expand and deepen practical cooperation within the frameworks of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum.

The [Djibouti] side appreciates President Xi Jinping's concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, believing that these concepts and initiatives help address global challenges, promote world peace, development, and common prosperity. China appreciates President Guelle for leading the people of Djibouti in achieving political and social stability and sustainable development, building a "Red Sea Lighthouse," and appreciates Djibouti's active efforts and important contributions as the rotating chair of the Intergovernmental Development Organization (IGAT) to maintaining peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region. Both sides are willing to practice genuine multilateralism, safeguard the common interests of the Global South, and promote the international order toward a more just and reasonable direction.

Both sides exchanged in-depth views on the situation in the Horn of Africa and the security of the Red Sea shipping route, reaching the following consensus:

1. Both sides believe that easing the Middle East situation is key to addressing security challenges in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. [Djibouti] appreciates President Xi Jinping's series of initiatives to promote peace and security in the Middle East and supports China's constructive role in Middle Eastern issues. Both sides reiterate their support for the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate national rights, call for the effective implementation of the ceasefire agreement, promote genuine and lasting peace in Gaza, implement the "two-state solution" outlined in relevant UN resolutions, and advance a peaceful and lasting resolution of the conflict through diplomatic channels.

2. Both sides believe that the recent escalation of the Red Sea situation poses a serious threat to the global economy, especially economic activities such as trade, investment, energy, and food security in countries in the Horn of Africa region, and exacerbates security issues such as piracy and terrorism. China appreciates Djibouti's humanitarian approach to accepting Yemeni refugees and its willingness to provide assistance within its capacity. Both sides do not want regional tensions to further spill over into the Red Sea, and call on all parties to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, adhere to the basic norms of international law, and, through dialogue and diplomacy, take concrete actions to address the severe challenges facing the Middle East, Red Sea, and Horn of Africa, and to avoid escalation or further complication of regional tensions. The international community, especially major powers outside the region, must abandon double standards, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of regional countries, and avoid resorting to force and unilateral sanctions at the slightest provocation. Humanitarian issues should not be instrumentalized; all parties should strictly abide by international humanitarian law and effectively ensure safe and smooth access to humanitarian aid.

3. The [Djibouti] side appreciates President Xi Jinping's four principles for upholding African leadership, safeguarding fairness and justice, promoting peace through ending conflict, and implementing both symptomatic and root cause remedies, among other principles for constructive participation in solving Africa's hot issues. Both sides believe that the Horn of Africa is the common home of the peoples of countries in the region, and that maintaining regional peace and stability serves the fundamental interests of all countries and the common expectations of their peoples. On the basis of respecting international law, regional states' sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity, as well as the principles and purposes of the African Union's law, relevant countries should be encouraged and supported to uphold a common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security concept, resolve regional conflicts and differences through dialogue and consultation, develop good-neighborly and friendly relations, and achieve peaceful coexistence. The Horn of Africa must never be used as a geopolitical battleground, nor should the flames of war in the Middle East be spread to the Horn of Africa. China will continue to focus on security, development, and governance within the framework of the "Horn of Africa Peaceful Development Concept," and, while respecting the wishes of regional parties, will

continue to play a constructive role in mediating regional hot issues, contribute to regional connectivity and cooperation, and African integration, jointly advancing the construction of the Horn of Peace, Development, and Prosperity.

4. Both sides firmly support Somalia's defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, oppose Somaliland's attempts to obtain "diplomatic recognition," and oppose any form of collusion between Somaliland and the Taiwan authorities. Both sides oppose recognizing Somaliland as an independent entity and reiterate that Somaliland is an inseparable part of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

5. Both sides expressed serious concern over the resurgence of piracy issues in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. Both sides reaffirmed that ensuring the navigation security of key waterways and maritime areas is in the common global interest, and called on coastal states and their partners to strengthen international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and take proactive measures to effectively address the threat of piracy.

6. Both sides emphasized the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, and stressed that the exercise of navigation rights by merchant ships of all countries in accordance with international law should be respected. Both sides agree that regarding Red Sea governance and security issues, the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and wishes of the Red Sea coastal states should be earnestly respected, and the overall regional security risks should be avoided. China supports Red Sea coastal countries in constructively maintaining the smooth and secure international shipping lanes and safeguarding regional common interests.

Oct. 22: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202610/t20261022_12045376.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: Yesterday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti Abdoulkader Houssein Omar issued the Joint Press Communique on Safeguarding Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Safety of Shipping Lanes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Could you elaborate on that?

A: Yesterday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti Abdoulkader Houssein Omar in Beijing. They had an in-depth exchange of views on the Horn of Africa situation and the safety of shipping lanes across the Red Sea.

Both sides agreed that the recent escalation of tensions in the Red Sea has posed a serious threat to the global economy, especially the economic activities of regional countries in the Horn of Africa, and exacerbated security challenges such as piracy and terrorism. The two sides did not wish to see tensions in the region spill over into the Red Sea and called on relevant parties to observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, abide by the basic norms of international relations, and avoid escalating tensions in the region through dialogue and other diplomatic means. Both sides agreed that the Horn of Africa shall never become an arena for geopolitics, and the Middle East conflict should not spread to the Horn of Africa. Both sides underlined the importance of the freedom of navigation across the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and stressed that the right of navigation that commercial ships from all countries are entitled to under international law should be respected.

Both sides believed that easing the Middle East situation is the key to settling security challenges in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, and reaffirmed the support for restoring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The ceasefire agreement should be upheld, continued efforts should be made for lasting peace in Gaza, the two-State solution outlined in relevant UN resolutions should be implemented, and a peaceful and lasting settlement of the conflicts should be achieved through diplomatic means. Djibouti commended President Xi Jinping's initiatives and proposals on promoting peace and security in the Middle East and the four principles on the constructive participation of relevant parties in the resolution of African hotspot issues, and expressed support for China playing a constructive role in the Middle East issue.

Oct. 25: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202610/t20261025_12046429.shtml) [translation]

On October 21, 2026, Zhai Jun, China's special envoy for Middle East issues, met with Prince Khalid, advisor to the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Beijing and exchanged views on China-Saudi relations and the situation in the Middle East.

Zhai Jun stated that in recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two countries' top leaders, China-Saudi Arabia relations have developed rapidly. China is concerned about the current situation in the Middle East, supports safeguarding the sovereignty and security of all countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia, supports resolving differences through dialogue and

negotiation, and hopes to restore regional peace and tranquility as soon as possible.

Khalid stated that Saudi Arabia highly values its relations with China and is willing to work with China to open up new prospects for bilateral relations. Saudi Arabia appreciates China's commitment to fairness and justice and its important and positive role in regional affairs, and is willing to strengthen communication with China and continue to make efforts to maintain and promote regional peace and stability.

Oct. 26: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zwbd_673032/wshd_673034/202610/t20261026_12046791.shtml) [translation]

On October 25, 2026, Shao Zheng, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen, met with British Ambassador to Yemen, Sharif, in Riyadh. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on the situation in Yemen and the region.

Chargé d'Affaires Shao Zheng stated that China has consistently called for a comprehensive solution to the Yemen issue through political and diplomatic means, and for playing a positive and constructive role in restoring peace and stability to Yemen as soon as possible.

Sharif outlined the UK's principled position on the issue and expressed its willingness to maintain communication with China on Yemen and other regional hotspots.

Oct. 27: Remarks (https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202610/t20261027_12047821.html) at Chinese Foreign Ministry press conference

Q: The situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region has been evolving rapidly. The conflict in Yemen and the Red Sea remains highly intense. And there are reports suggesting that the United States and Israel might resume military operations against Iran. What is China's comment?

A: China closely follows the developments in the Middle East, the Gulf region, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa, and expresses deep concerns over the protracted conflicts and their spillover effects. We call on relevant parties to resolve their disputes through dialogue and negotiation and realize lasting ceasefire and cessation of hostilities at an early date. China is committed to promoting peace talks. Our special envoys will soon travel to regional countries to strengthen communication with the relevant parties and promote engagement, dialogue and deescalation to prevent the worsening of the situation. Guided by the initiatives and propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping on promoting peace and security in the Middle East, China will work together with the international community to make unremitting efforts for the early realization of peace and stability in relevant regions.

Oct. 27: Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson post (https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2115012814167326755)

China is closely following the developments in the Middle East, the Gulf region, the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa, and is deeply concerned over the protracted conflicts and their spillover effects.

China will send special envoys to countries in those regions to promote dialogue and deescalation. ❖

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