

# 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 Minister Wang 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 war.

**Feb. 28: Chinese Foreign Ministry remarks**

**([https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/fyrbt/202602/t20260228\\_11866531.html](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/](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](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/](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](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/](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2083290/)) phone call ([https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2083311/](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/](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](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](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](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](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](https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2028089447279886730))**

President Vladimir #Putin expressed deepest condolences to President of Iran @drpezeskian 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/](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](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](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](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/](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](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. Cruellest 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](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](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](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 treaties 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 a 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](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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](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/wjzbhd/202603/t20260303\\_11867532.html](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/wjzbhd/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](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](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](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.sectsc.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](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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/](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](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/](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](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](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, Shalamchah 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](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](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/wjw/wjzb/hd/202603/t20260305\\_11869213.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjw/wjzb/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](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/wjwzh/202603/t20260306\\_11869661.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjwzh/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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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](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](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](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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](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/](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/](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](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](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](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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260308\\_11870483.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260308\\_11870441.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260308\\_11870524.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260308\\_11870452.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260310\\_11872060.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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>)**

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**Mar. 9: Chinese Foreign Ministry statement ([https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260309\\_11871763.html](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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](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/](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 \(https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2085201/\)](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 \(http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79312\)](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 \(http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79314\)](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 \(https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2085321/\)](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/](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/](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/](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](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](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) ([https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202603/t20260312\\_11873557.html](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) ([https://x.com/SpoxCHN\\_LinJian/status/2031714851190604109](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) ([https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202603/t20260311\\_11873028.html](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](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](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 infrastructure, 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](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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 Tayyebbeh 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 Tayyebbeh 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](https://x.com/MFA_China/status/2032431253463736750))**

China mourns for the 160+ Iranian girl students killed in an air strike #ShajarahTayyebah 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](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 Tayyebah 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](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260319\\_11877548.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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/](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/](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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 ministers 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](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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260320\\_11878324.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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/](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](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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/](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/](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](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](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](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/](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 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/wjbj/zjzg\\_663340/xybfs\\_663590/xwlb\\_663592/202603/t20260327\\_11882247.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbj/zjzg_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](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](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](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](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbzhd/202603/t20260329_11883060.html)) with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr 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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260326\\_11881528.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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/](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 \(https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2088741/\)](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 \(https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2089000/\)](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](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](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](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](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](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/wjzbhd/202603/t20260329\\_11883061.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbhd/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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260329\\_11883062.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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/wjzbzd/202603/t20260329\\_11883063.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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](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/](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/](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](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](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/](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/](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/wjzbhd/202603/t20260331\\_11884511.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbhd/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/wjzbzd/202604/t20260402\\_11885897.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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](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 Abdul Fattah al-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/](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/](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](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/](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 sent 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](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](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](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](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/wjzbzd/202604/t20260403\\_11886369.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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/wjzbzd/202604/t20260406\\_11887263.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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](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](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 Brühlhart 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 \(http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/79458\)](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 \(https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2090755/\)](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 \(https://mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/2090798/\)](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](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](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](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](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/](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/](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 defend 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/](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/2091358/))**

We are increasingly 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 they do not recognise any rules and restrictions.

We expect the damage inflicted by the US and Israeli strikes to the NPT regime to become 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 Buser 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 Buser NPP, must be immediately stopped.

**Apr. 5: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi phone call**

**([https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/202604/t20260406\\_11887296.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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](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/](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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/](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](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](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 phone 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](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/](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 not 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](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/](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](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/](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 not 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](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](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 tarified 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 lasting 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](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](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/](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/](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](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 overstressing 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](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/](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](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](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](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 CIEE 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](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/wjbjhd/202604/t20260414\\_11891629.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbjhd/202604/t20260414_11891629.html)) with UAE presidential 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](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](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](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](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/wjzbzd/202604/t20260414\\_11891495.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbzd/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/](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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](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 important 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](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](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](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](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/](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/](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/](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](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](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-Neighbourliness 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](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](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](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/wjzbhd/202604/t20260416\\_11893024.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjzbhd/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](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/](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](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/](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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/](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](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/](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](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/](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](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](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](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/](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. ❖

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## RECOMMENDED

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BRIEF ANALYSIS

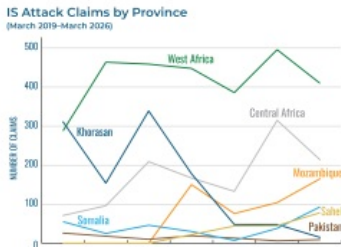
[Back to Bombs or Driving to a Deal? Assessing the U.S.-Iran State of Play](#)

Jun 12, 2026



Dana Stroul,  
Robert Satloff,  
Michael Singh

(/policy-analysis/back-bombs-or-driving-deal-assessing-us-iran-state-play)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## Tracking the Islamic State: Activity Trends, African Shifts, and U.S. Dormancy

Jun 11, 2026



Aaron Y. Zelin

(/policy-analysis/tracking-islamic-state-activity-trends-african-shifts-and-us-dormancy)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

## Syria's Pipeline Dream Meets Hard Realities

Jun 10, 2026



Andrew J. Tabler

(/policy-analysis/syrias-pipeline-dream-meets-hard-realities)

### TOPICS

Great Power Competition (</policy-analysis/great-power-competition>)

### REGIONS & COUNTRIES

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