

Joint Declaration Between the French Republic and the People's Republic of China on the Preservation of Multilateralism and the Improvement of Global Governance

Official French *Déclaration conjointe entre la République française et la République populaire de Chine sur la préservation du multilatéralisme et l'amélioration de la gouvernance mondiale* available [here](#).

Official Chinese 中华人民共和国和法兰西共和国关于共同维护多边主义、完善全球治理的联合声明 (全文) available [here](#).

March 25, 2019

Upon Mr. Emmanuel Macron's invitation, President of the French Republic, Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, carried out a state visit to France from March 24 to March 26, 2019. Both sides reviewed the international situation and global and regional issues of major importance and agreed on the following:

1. As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, France and China actively contribute to international peace and security. They will continue to pursue a foreign policy of independence, pursue peaceful development, and promote peace, prosperity, sustainable development and security in the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. They reaffirm their commitment to respect for international law and the fundamental norms governing international relations and continue their efforts to build international relations together based on mutual respect, equity, justice and mutually beneficial cooperation.
2. France and China believe that, in the current context, a commitment to multilateralism is the best way to promote international cooperation in the face of increasing common risks and challenges, and to preserve peace and prosperity in the world. They undertake to promote multilateralism based on international law.
3. Both countries strongly defend the international system of which the United Nations (UN) is the central element, as well as its authority and status. They support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to reform the Organization and wish to work together to make it more effective, more responsive and better able to meet global challenges. They will continue to work together by strengthening their cooperation on United Nations peacekeeping operations and by supporting the African Union (AU) and United Nations initiative for sustainable and predictable funding for African peace operations.
4. They reaffirm their commitment to address together the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental protection. They will continue to provide, as they did on the margins of the G20 in Buenos Aires, a leadership and mobilization role, based on the outcomes of the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which successfully provided the Paris Agreement with implementation rules.

5. They will work together to ensure the success of the United Nations Secretary-General's Summit on Climate on September 23, 2019, by mobilizing the various stakeholders and steering the preparatory work on climate finance, carbon pricing, and on nature-based solutions.
6. Both countries commit to implementing the Paris Agreement in all its dimensions, to strengthening the capacity to implement commitments and to communicating their long-term low greenhouse gas development strategy for the middle of the century by 2020. They commit to working together to promote the ratification and implementation of the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol on HFC reduction and to promote the improvement of energy efficiency standards in the cooling sector.
7. They stress the importance of redirecting public and private financial flows towards combating climate change and protecting biodiversity, by mobilizing sustainable climate finance for developing countries, promoting the alignment of development institutions' practices with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and working to ensure that the Green Climate Fund is restored and governed effectively.
8. They will work together to ensure a global response to biodiversity loss in the run-up to COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will be held in China at the end of 2020. They will work to promote the "Sharm El Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People" by mobilizing all stakeholders for concrete proposals. They will actively contribute to the comprehensive and participatory process of developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework launched at COP14 on the Convention on Biological Diversity.
9. They undertake to strengthen, within the framework of the United Nations, communication and cooperation towards the negotiations of an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and to contribute actively to its conclusion. They agree to continue their exchanges on the conservation and sustainable use of Antarctic marine living resources, including the establishment of a marine protected area in Antarctica.
10. Both countries affirm their commitment to combating environmental crime, in particular the poaching and trafficking of endangered species of fauna and flora and their products, as well as the illegal transboundary transfer of solid waste, by prohibiting the illegal entry and exit of such objects across their borders, and highlight the importance of sustainable management of tropical forests as carbon sinks and important places of global biodiversity.
11. They strongly support international action against plastic pollution of the ocean and land through the strengthening of existing mechanisms, including the Basel Convention.
12. They will continue their efforts to jointly support the Ad Hoc Working Group, established pursuant to the resolution Towards a Global Environment Pact, in its work in accordance with the mandates of the UN General Assembly resolution, and to remain in close communication to improve international environmental law and its implementation.
13. Taking into account the cooperation agreements and action plans on environmental protection concluded between the departments concerned, they intend to promote policy dialogue and technical exchanges on improving air quality, strengthening biodiversity protection, waste management, protecting the aquatic environment and rehabilitating polluted

soils, encouraging the participation of government departments, research institutions and companies concerned, organizing bilateral events on the sidelines of international conferences, and actively promoting the multilateral processes concerned.

14. Both countries advocate the improvement of international economic governance, the evolution of economic globalization towards a more open, transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory system to preserve the rules-based multilateral trading system centered on the World Trade Organization (WTO). They call for all WTO members to respect their WTO commitments and obligations in order to maintain the strength and credibility of the multilateral system.

15. France and China intend to continue their joint efforts to build an open global economy and combat all forms of protectionism, by ensuring a fair competitive framework. To this end, they support a necessary reform of the WTO to strengthen its effectiveness and authority and to better meet current and future challenges. Both countries call for progress in discussions on proposals submitted to WTO members on strengthening the three core functions of the WTO: dispute settlement, monitoring, and negotiations. They support the work of the EU-China Working Group on WTO Reform which should lead to progress, as both sides have high expectations in this area.

16. Both countries support the G20's work as the main forum for international economic cooperation and support its work towards an open global economy. They undertake to promote within this framework a modern, sustainable and fair international tax system and encourage dialogue and cooperation, in particular on structural reforms, the digital economy, the fight against corruption, sustainable development, the international financial architecture and investment in infrastructure, in conjunction with the other major international forums.

17. They intend to continue to actively promote the process of reform of the international monetary and financial system and to work towards the completion, by the Spring Meetings and at the latest at the 2019 Annual Meetings, of the 15th General Review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) quotas.

18. Both countries undertake to ensure that international financing, particularly for infrastructure, is compatible with sustainable development objectives and the Paris Climate Agreement. They welcome the adoption of the G20 operational principles on sustainable financing and call for their follow-up.

19. Both countries reaffirm their support to the International Working Group on Export Credits in negotiating a new set of international guidelines for officially supported export credits.

20. They are working to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Program by 2030, the Addis Ababa Program of Action and to make aid more effective and targeted. They will organize the next meeting of the sub-group on development in 2019 as part of the Franco-Chinese Strategic Dialogue.

21. They believe deeply in the importance of education. They support the active efforts of UNESCO and the Global Partnership for Education to achieve the United Nations' sustainable development goals in this field. They continue to strengthen their cooperation and dialogue in the field of education.

22. Both countries are committed to working actively to eliminate AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. China welcomes the important role that France plays in the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and wishes the 6th replenishment conference of the 2019 Fund to be a success.

23. They believe that all countries must pursue the path of peaceful development, consolidate the international security architecture based on respect for international law and a cooperative and sustainable approach, respond together to conventional and non-conventional security risks and challenges of all kinds, and build together a world of lasting peace and universal security. France and China stress that the terrorist threat knows no borders. They reaffirm their commitment to the central coordinating role of the United Nations in international cooperation. They will continue to support international initiatives under the aegis of the United Nations to mobilize all actors in the fight against terrorism in all its forms. They also recall the importance of the fight against terrorist financing. They express their commitment to implement the ten points of the Paris Agenda adopted at the end of the international conference "No money for Terror" on April 26.

24. Both countries emphasize that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and a major component of the international security system, and reaffirm their commitment to the success of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

25. They stress the central role of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the preservation and implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the need to commit all means to ensure that this organization can fulfil its mandate in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and advance in a balanced manner the achievement of the objectives of the Convention by developing strong investigative and verification capabilities in order to preserve international peace and security.

26. They commit to working to strengthen multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the United Nations, in order to preserve peace, security and sustainable development in outer space together.

27. They emphasize that international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, applies in cyberspace. They are working to promote the development, including within the United Nations framework, of universally accepted international standards for responsible behavior in cyberspace. They will strengthen their cooperation against cybercrime, terrorist use of the Internet and other malicious activities in cyberspace, including attacks against key infrastructure and theft of intellectual property, using information and communication technologies, with the aim of providing competitive advantages. They agree to continue to strengthen their exchanges and cooperation through the Franco-Chinese dialogue on cyber issues.

28. They reaffirm the importance of the European Union (EU)'s role as a driving force and indispensable actor of multilateralism. China supports European integration and France's efforts to promote EU reform. Both countries underline the growing interdependence of the EU and China and, in this context, the need to develop the strategic global partnership between the EU and China. The strengthened EU-China partnership will contribute to the reform of global governance in order to achieve a more effective multilateral system that better reflects the principles of equity and justice and is better adapted to the challenges of the 21st century.

29. Both countries support the early conclusion of an ambitious comprehensive EU-China investment agreement, including market access and investment protection, in a spirit of mutual and reciprocal benefit.

30. They call for the conclusion of negotiations on the agreement on cooperation and protection of geographical indications between the EU and China. Both countries have a long tradition of protecting know-how and quality products. They want an ambitious and balanced agreement to be reached quickly, so that all GIs can be afforded effective protection against counterfeiting and usurpation under the terms of the agreement.

31. France and China support the ongoing work between the EU and China to develop synergies between connectivity initiatives, including the EU strategy on Euro-Asian connectivity and the Chinese initiative "The Belt, the Road". They want to accelerate exchanges within the framework of the EU-China Connectivity Platform.

32. Both countries underline the importance, for the development of each country, of the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They reaffirm the importance of continuing the dialogue and exchanges between the European Union and China on human rights on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

33. They emphasize that the JCPoA, unanimously endorsed by the United Nations Security Council through Resolution 2231, is a key element of the non-proliferation regime and an important factor for international and regional security. As such, the agreement is an important achievement of multilateral diplomacy. Both sides reaffirm their commitment to preserve the JCPoA and promote economic benefits for Iran through the maintenance of trade and financial flows in accordance with international law. France and China are committed to fully comply with their international obligations. Without prejudice to the JCPoA, they reiterate their support for a comprehensive approach to address all issues of concern through a balanced dialogue.

34. Both countries reaffirm their commitment to the search for a credible and balanced political solution to the Syrian crisis, under the aegis of the United Nations and in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2254.

35. With regard to North Korea, they reaffirm their commitment to the full and comprehensive implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

36. They agree that only a political settlement of conflicts can lead to lasting stabilisation in the Sahel. They welcome the spirit of cooperation among the Sahel States, embodied in particular by the action of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, supported by France and China. International support to the G5 must also be gradually strengthened in parallel with the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, with the objective of providing it with a Security Council mandate and predictable resources.

37. They underline their strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali and their support for UNMISMA, which, in accordance with its mandate, assists the Malian authorities and people in their efforts to establish lasting peace and stability in their country. They would like UNMISMA to continue to carry out its mandate in a proactive and robust manner, and to ensure that its mandate is properly resourced.