

25 March 2019

**Joint statement by the French Republic and the People's Republic of China  
on preserving multilateralism and improving global governance**

At the invitation of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, paid a State visit to France from 24 to 26 March 2019. After reviewing the international situation and key regional and international issues, the parties agreed as follows:

1. As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, France and China actively contribute to international peace and security. They will continue to implement independent foreign policy, pursue peaceful development, and promote peace, prosperity, sustainable development and security around the world, in accordance with the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They reiterate their commitment to complying with international law and the fundamental norms governing international relations, and are continuing their efforts to jointly build international relations based on mutual respect, fairness, justice and mutually beneficial cooperation.
2. In the current context, France and China consider that multilateralism is the best way of supporting international cooperation given the growing number of shared risks and challenges, and of preserving peace and prosperity around the world. They undertake to promote multilateralism founded on international law.
3. Both countries resolutely defend the international system built around the United Nations, as well as its authority and status. They support the efforts made by the UN Secretary-General to reform the organization, and wish to work together to make it more effective, responsive and capable of rising to global challenges. They will continue to pool their efforts by stepping up cooperation on UN peacekeeping operations, and supporting the initiative by the African Union (AU) and the UN to provide sustainable and predictable financing to African peace operations.
4. They reiterate their desire to jointly rise to the challenges of climate change, biodiversity erosion and environmental protection. As on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, they will continue to be driving forces, on the basis of the results achieved at the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where implementation rules were adopted for the Paris Agreement.
5. They will work together to ensure the success of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019 by mobilizing stakeholders and steering preparatory work on climate finance, carbon pricing and nature-based solutions.
6. Both countries undertake to implement all aspects of the Paris Agreement, to build capacity for the implementation of commitments, and to publish their long-term mid-century strategies for low-emissions development by 2020. They undertake to work together to encourage the ratification and implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and support improved energy efficiency standards in the cooling sector.
7. They stress the importance of redirecting public and private financial flows towards fighting climate change and protecting biodiversity, by leveraging sustainable climate funds for developing countries, promoting the alignment of development institution practices with the

goals of the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and working to ensure the replenishment and effective governance of the Green Climate Fund.

8. They will work together to trigger a global response to biodiversity erosion as part of preparations for the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in China at the end of 2020. They will work to support the Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People by mobilizing all stakeholders around tangible proposals. They will actively contribute to the comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which was launched at the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
9. Working within the UN framework, they undertake to enhance communication and cooperation on negotiations for an international agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and actively contribute to its conclusion. They agree to continue discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the Antarctic, including by establishing a marine protected area there.
10. Both countries confirm their desire to fight environmental crime, particularly the smuggling and trafficking of endangered plants and animals and derived products, as well as illegal transboundary movements of solid waste, by prohibiting these products from illegally entering and exiting their territories, and underline the importance of sustainably managing tropical forests, which are carbon sinks and global biodiversity hotspots.
11. They strongly support international action to fight plastic pollution, at sea and on land, by strengthening existing mechanisms, particularly the Basel Convention.
12. They will continue their efforts to jointly support the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group in accordance with its mandate as established in the UN General Assembly resolution “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”. They will remain in close contact with a view to improving international environmental law and its implementation.
13. Taking into account the environmental protection cooperation agreements and action plans concluded by the departments concerned, they intend to support political dialogue and technical discussions on improving air quality, enhancing biodiversity protection, managing waste, protecting aquatic environments and remediating polluted soil; encourage the participation of government services, research institutes and relevant businesses; organize bilateral events on the sidelines of international conferences; and actively promote the relevant multilateral processes.
14. Both countries recommend improving global economic governance and moving towards a form of economic globalization that features a more open, more transparent, more inclusive and less discriminatory system, in order to preserve the rules-based multilateral trade system built around the World Trade Organization (WTO). They recommend that all WTO members comply with their membership commitments and obligations, with a view to maintaining the robustness and credibility of the multilateral system.
15. France and China intend to maintain their joint efforts to build an open global economy and fight all forms of protectionism by establishing a framework for fair competition. For this reason, they support a much-needed reform of the WTO with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and authority and ensuring it can better rise to current and future challenges.

Both countries call for progress to be made on discussions on the proposals submitted to WTO members concerning the strengthening of the WTO's three key functions: dispute settlement, monitoring and negotiation. They support the work carried out by the EU-China working group on WTO reform, which should result in progress being made, given the two parties' high expectations in this field.

16. Both countries support the G20 as the leading international economic cooperation forum, and its activities to encourage an open global economy. Within this framework, they undertake to promote a modern, sustainable and fair international tax system and encourage dialogue and cooperation, particularly with respect to structural reforms, the digital economy, the fight against corruption, sustainable development, the international financial architecture and infrastructural investment, in connection with other major international forums.
17. They intend to continue to actively promote the international financial and monetary system reform process and work towards completing the 15<sup>th</sup> general review of International Monetary Fund (IMF) quotas before the spring meetings and, at the latest, at the 2019 annual meeting.
18. Both countries undertake to ensure that international financing, particularly in the infrastructure field, is compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. They welcome the adoption of the G20 Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing, and call for these to be monitored.
19. Both countries reiterate their support for the negotiations being carried out by the International Working Group on Export Credits with a view to developing a new set of international guidelines for export credits that receive public support.
20. They are committed to speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Plan, and ensuring that aid is more effective and targeted. In 2019, they are organizing the next meeting of the sub-group on development within the framework of Franco-Chinese strategic dialogue.
21. They firmly believe in the importance of education. They support the active efforts made by UNESCO and the Global Partnership for Education to achieve the UN SDGs in this field. They are continuing to strengthen their cooperation and dialogue concerning education.
22. Both countries are actively working to eliminate AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. China welcomes the important role played by France in work carried out by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and hopes that the Fund's sixth replenishment conference in 2019 is a success.
23. France and China consider that all countries should pursue the goal of peaceful development, strengthen the international security architecture through compliance with international law and a cooperative and sustainable approach, jointly respond to all conventional and non-conventional security threats, and jointly build a world characterized by lasting peace and universal security. They underline that terrorist threats have no borders. They reiterate their support for the key coordination role played by the UN in international cooperation. They will continue to uphold international initiatives which, under UN leadership, seek to mobilize stakeholders to fight all forms of terrorism. They also emphasize the importance of fighting terrorist financing. They underline their commitment to implementing the 10 measures listed in the Paris Agenda, which was adopted at the international No Money for Terror conference on 26 April 2018.

24. Both countries stress that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and a key component of the international security system. They are committed to ensuring that the 2020 Review Conference is a success.
25. They highlight the key role played by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in preserving and implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as the importance of taking all necessary steps towards ensuring that the organization can fulfil its mandate under the Convention and work towards achieving the Convention's goals in a balanced way, by ensuring that it has robust investigation and verification capabilities with a view to preserving international peace and security.
26. They undertake to work on strengthening multilateral cooperation, particularly within the UN framework, to jointly preserve peace, security and sustainable development in outer space.
27. They underline that international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations, applies to cyber space. They support the development, especially within the UN framework, of international and universally accepted norms on responsible behaviour in cyber space. They will step up cooperation efforts to fight cyber crime, the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and other malicious activities in cyber space, including attacks against critical infrastructure and intellectual property theft, that involve using information and communication technologies with a view to obtaining a competitive advantage. They agree to step up discussions and cooperation through Franco-Chinese dialogue on cyber issues.
28. They reiterate the importance of the role played by the European Union as an essential driver 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 two. Once the EU-China partnership has been strengthened, it will help reform global governance, paving the way for a more effective multilateral system that better reflects the principles of equity and justice, and better addresses 21<sup>st</sup>-century issues.
29. Both countries support the rapid conclusion of an ambitious global EU-China investment agreement which covers market access and investment protection, and is concluded in a reciprocal and mutually beneficial manner.
30. They call for the conclusion of negotiations on the EU-China Agreement on Geographical Indications. Both countries have a long tradition of protecting expertise and high-quality products. They would like to see the rapid conclusion of an ambitious and balanced agreement, the terms of which ensure that geographical indications are effectively protected against potential counterfeiting and usurpation.
31. France and China support work being carried out by the EU and China to develop synergies between connectivity initiatives, particularly the EU's Eurasian connectivity initiative and China's Belt and Road Initiative. They would like to step up discussions within the framework of the EU-China Connectivity Platform.
32. Concerning development in both countries, France and China underline the importance of supporting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, pursuant to the goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They reiterate the need for EU-China human rights dialogue to continue on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

33. They emphasize that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA), unanimously endorsed by the UN Security Council in resolution 2231, is central to the non-proliferation regime and an important factor in regional and international security. As such, the Plan is an important acquis in the field of multilateral diplomacy. Both parties reaffirm their commitment to preserving the JCPoA and supporting economic benefits for Iran, by maintaining trade and financial flows in accordance with international law. France and China undertake to fully comply with their international obligations. Without prejudice to the JCPoA, they reiterate their support for a comprehensive approach that addresses all issues of concern through balanced dialogue.
34. Both countries reaffirm their commitment to finding a credible and balanced political solution to the Syrian crisis, under the leadership of the UN and pursuant to resolution 2254 of the Security Council.
35. Concerning North Korea, they reiterate their support for the comprehensive and integral implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.
36. They agree that only a political resolution to the conflict will result in the long-term stabilization of the Sahel region. They welcome the cooperative spirit between Sahel States, which is particularly visible in the G5 Sahel Joint Force, supported by France and China. International support for the G5 Sahel must be gradually stepped up as the G5 Sahel Joint Force becomes operational, with a view to obtaining a Security Council mandate and predictable resources.
37. They again emphasize their strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali, as well as their support for MINUSMA which, pursuant to its mandate, assists the Malian authorities and people in their efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in the country. They would like to see MINUSMA continue to carry out its mandate as part of a proactive and robust approach, and for it to be given resources appropriate to this mandate.