

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press (II)

中共中央政治局委员、外交部长王毅 回答中外记者提问(下)

Global Times: China's neighborhood diplomacy in 2023 began with the China-Central Asia Summit and concluded on a high note with the agreement between China and Viet Nam to build a community with a shared future that carries strategic significance. Many believe that this shows China's pursuit of neighborhood diplomacy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness has come to fruition. How do you envision China's neighborhood diplomacy this year?

Wang Yi: The Chinese people have a saying that a close neighbor is better than a distant relative. China and its neighboring countries will always be there for each other, and Asia is our common home. Making it a better place is the shared hope of all countries in the region. Since President Xi Jinping initiated our neighborhood diplomacy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, we have worked with our neighbors to open up new prospects for good neighborliness and friendship, and have found the distinctive Asian way for getting along well with each other.

We stay committed to forging friendship with our neighbors. We respect each other's core and major concerns, maintain frequent high-level exchanges, and endeavor to increase mutual understanding and affinity among our peoples. The idea of good neighborliness and friendship has won stronger popular support, and the vision of a community with a shared future has taken root in the hearts of our peoples.

We stay committed to treating each other with sincerity. We believe in seeking common ground while shelving differences, accommodating each other's comfort levels, enhancing understanding and trust through candid communication, and settling differences and frictions through dialogue and consultation. We work together to tackle risks and challenges, and stand side by side as good neighbors in trying times.

We stay committed to mutual benefit. We make good use of our complementary strengths to help each other achieve development and revitalization. A large number of cooperation projects, such as the China-Laos railway, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline, the China-Malaysia twin industrial parks, and the Jakarta-Bandung high speed railway, have boosted growth in the region.

We stay committed to openness and inclusiveness. We practice open regionalism, take an active part in East Asian cooperation, support ASEAN centrality, and promote deeper and more substantive China-Japan-ROK trilateral cooperation. The China-Central Asia Summit and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism have made robust progress. The SCO has become a regional organization that covers the largest area and population in the world.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Although born in Asia, the five principles transcend differences in social system and ideology. They have become basic norms governing international relations and fundamental principles of international law, contributing the wisdom of the East to properly handling state-to-state relations. Seventy years later, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are not outdated. They are even more relevant and vibrant than ever. China stands ready

《环球时报》记者：去年中国周边外交以中国—中亚峰会拉开帷幕，以中越结成具有战略意义的命运共同体圆满收官。外界认为这是中国亲诚惠容周边理念在开花结果。您对今年周边外交有何展望？

王毅：中国人常讲，远亲不如近邻。中国和周边国家是搬不走的邻居，亚洲是我们的共同家园，把这个家园建设好，是地区国家的共同心愿。习近平主席提出亲诚惠容周边外交理念以来，中国同周边国家开创了睦邻友好的新局面，也走出了一条独具特色的亚洲相处之道。

我们坚持与邻为善。尊重彼此核心重大关切，保持密切高层交往，增进人民相知相亲，使睦邻友好深入人心，命运共同体意识落地生根。

我们坚持以诚相待。倡导求同存异，照顾彼此舒适度，通过真诚沟通增进理解信任，通过对话协商解决分歧摩擦，共同应对各种风险挑战，共同书写同甘共苦的邻里佳话。

我们坚持互惠互利。发挥互补优势，助力彼此的发展振兴，中老铁路、中巴经济走廊、中国—中亚天然气管道、中马“两国双园”、中国印尼雅万高铁等一大批合作项目加快了区域增长。

我们坚持开放包容。践行开放的区域主义，积极参与东亚合作，支持东盟中心地位，推动中日韩合作走深走实。中国—中亚峰会、澜沧江—湄公河合作机制蓬勃发展，上海合作组织已发展成为世界上幅员最广、人口最多的区域合作组织。

今年是和平共处五项原则发表70周年。五项原则诞生于亚洲，超越社会制度和意识形态差异，成为国际关系基本准则和国际法基本原则，为正确处理国与国关系贡献了东方智慧。70年过去了，五项原则非但没有过时，反而更加彰显出蓬勃的生命力。我们愿同周边国家一道，从弘扬和平共处五项原则通往构建亚洲和人类命运共同体，为世界和平继续作出亚洲的贡献，为全球增长继续提供亚洲的动力。

to work with our neighbors to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence toward building a community with a shared future for Asia and for mankind, so that Asia can continue to contribute to world peace and provide impetus to global growth.

China Global Television Network: The Ukraine crisis still shows no sign of abating. During last month's Munich Security Conference, you said that all China has done is to promote peace. When do you think the parties will be able to return to the negotiating table?

Wang Yi: On the Ukraine issue, China has all along held an objective and impartial position and promoted peace talks. President Xi Jinping had in-depth exchanges with world leaders including those of Russia and Ukraine. China has also published its position paper, and its special representative has traveled intensively to mediate among different parties. All our efforts point to one goal, that is, to pave the way for ending the conflict and starting peace talks.

One strong impression we got at the recent Munich Security Conference is that, as more and more people begin to worry about a possible lose-lose outcome, they are ready to create conditions to explore a reliable way out of this crisis.

Past experience shows that a conflict, when prolonged, tends to deteriorate and escalate, even to the extent unthinkable for parties concerned. In the absence of peace talks, misperception and miscalculation will accumulate and may lead to an even bigger crisis. Lessons in this regard should not be forgotten.

All conflicts have to end at the negotiating table. The earlier the talks start, the sooner peace will arrive. As long as all parties abide by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and their legitimate concerns are properly addressed, a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture can and will be established in Europe.

President Xi Jinping has put forward four points about what must be done. They are China's fundamental guide in seeking a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. China supports the holding in due course of an international peace conference that is recognized by both Russia and Ukraine and ensures the equal participation of all parties and fair discussions on all peace plans. China looks forward to the early restoration of peace and stability on the European continent and will continue to play a constructive role to this end.

China News Service: How will China's diplomacy better serve Chinese modernization? Some have expressed concerns over China's development prospect, what is your response?

Wang Yi: China's economy grew by 5.2 percent last year, contributing to one-third of global growth. It shows that China remains strong as an engine for growth. The next China is still China. I also wish to draw your attention to a number of new trends.

First, China's development is driven not only by a reasonable growth in quantity but also an effective upgrade in quality. Emerging industries are booming. Green transition has yielded impressive outcomes. Social expectation is improving steadily. And new quality productive forces are taking shape at a faster pace.

Second, China's super-sized market, with over 1.4 billion people, is unleashing opportunities for the world. The explosive growth of new demands and new business forms is rapidly expanding the room for China's own development and for its cooperation with the world.

Third, China is opening its door wider, as more substantive steps are taken in its high-standard, institutional opening up. China's overall tariff has been reduced to a level similar to developed country members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Negative list for foreign investment is shortened to less than 31 items. All restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector have been lifted. Opening up in the service sector is being advanced at a faster pace. Return on investment for foreign businesses is still one of the highest in the world.

China prospers through interaction with the world, and the world be-

CGTN记者: 乌克兰危机至今还没有平息迹象。上月您出席慕尼黑安全会议时曾表示, 中方所做的一切就是劝和促谈, 您认为何时才能回到谈判桌前?

王毅: 在乌克兰问题上, 中方始终秉持客观公正立场, 坚持劝和促谈。习近平主席亲自同包括俄罗斯、乌克兰在内各国领导人深入沟通, 中方专门就此发布立场文件, 多次派出特使穿梭斡旋, 我们所做的一切都指向一个目标, 就是为止战和谈铺路架桥。

前不久出席慕尼黑安全会议期间, 我们强烈感受到, 越来越多的人开始担心乌克兰危机可能带来“多输”后果, 愿意创造条件探索可靠的解决出路。

历史经验证明, 冲突如果延宕不止, 往往会恶化升级, 甚至超出当事方的设想。和谈如果无法开启, 误解误判就会积累叠加, 进而酿成更大的危机。这方面的教训值得汲取。

任何冲突的终点都是谈判桌。早一点谈起来, 和平就早一天到来。只要各方都遵守联合国宪章的宗旨和原则, 妥善解决各方的合理关切, 欧洲就能真正建立起均衡、有效、可持续的安全框架。

习近平主席提出的“四个应该”是中方推动政治解决乌克兰危机的根本遵循。中方支持适时召开俄乌双方认可、各方平等参与、对所有和平方案进行公平讨论的国际和会。中方期待欧洲大陆早日恢复和平稳定, 愿继续为此发挥建设性作用。

中新社记者: 中国外交将如何更好服务中国式现代化? 对于外界一些担忧中国发展前景的声音有何回应?

王毅: 大家都知道, 去年中国经济以5.2%的增速, 贡献了全球三分之一的增长。中国发动机仍然强劲, 下一个“中国”还是中国。这里, 我还想请大家注意几个新的趋势:

首先, 中国的发展不仅有量的合理增长, 而且有质的有效提升。新兴产业蓬勃发展, 绿色转型成果斐然, 社会预期稳步改善, 新质生产力加速形成。其次, 中国14亿多人口的超大规模市场正在向全球展开, 新需求、新业态爆发式出现, 自身发展和对外合作的空间都在迅速拓展。第三, 中国开放的大门越开越大, 高水平、制度型开放的含金量越来越高, 关税总水平已经降至同世贸组织发达成员相当水平, 外资准入负面清单缩减到31项以下, 制造业准入全面放开, 服务业开放加速推进, 外商投资收益率仍名列世界前茅。

中国的发展离不开世界, 世界的发展更离不开中国。唱衰中国必将反噬自身, 误判中国就将错失机遇。

经济外交也是对外工作的重要内容, 我们将持续

comes better off when China does well. Spreading pessimistic views on China will end up harming oneself, and misjudging China will result in missed opportunities.

Economic diplomacy is an important part of our external work. We will continue to take steps to facilitate visits to and from China, including more convenient payment. I wish to share with you that starting from March 14, China will further extend, on a pilot basis, visa exemption to six countries including Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg. We hope more countries will offer Chinese citizens visa facilitation, and work with us to build fast-track networks for cross-border travels and encourage speedy resumption of international passenger flights. This will make it more convenient for Chinese citizens to travel abroad, and make foreign friends feel at home in China.

We will organize more tours outside the capital city for foreign diplomats in China, and build more bridges for local governments and businesses to engage in international cooperation.

We will cooperate with competent departments to work on the negotiation and signing of more high-standard free trade agreements, expanding a global-oriented network of free trade areas, and safeguarding the steady and smooth functioning of global industrial, supply and data chains.

We will join efforts to strengthen the various platforms for international cooperation, including the China International Import Expo (CIIE), the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), the China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE), and the China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE). We will continue to make the business environment more market-oriented, law-based and up to international standards in an effort to stabilize expectations and provide longer-term benefits to global investors and partners.

ANTARA News Agency: China and ASEAN member countries agreed to accelerate negotiations for a binding Code of Conduct (COC) for the South China Sea. What does China offer for a more harmonious and peaceful environment in the South China Sea?

Wang Yi: The Chinese people have lived by and worked in the South China Sea for generations. Since early days, the South China Sea Islands have been territories under the jurisdiction of the Chinese government in accordance with the law. Nowadays, the South China Sea is the busiest, safest and freest waterway in the world. For decades, fifty percent of the world's merchant vessels have sailed through this waterway, accounting for one-third of maritime trade, and this has never been disrupted or hampered. Despite the turbulence in the world, peace and stability in the South China Sea have been maintained thanks to the collective efforts of China and ASEAN countries. This does not come by easily and should be dearly cherished.

The most important experience we have drawn is that we must adhere to two principles. First, differences should be properly managed and resolved through dialogue, consultation, or negotiation between states directly involved. Second, peace at the sea should be upheld by China and ASEAN countries working together. These are also the core principles in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) signed in 2002.

On maritime disputes, China has been exercising a high degree of restraint. We maintain that parties should find solutions that are acceptable to each and all by working in the spirit of good-neighborliness and friendship, and on the basis of respecting historical and legal facts. But abusing such good faith should not be allowed. Distorting maritime laws cannot be accepted. In face of deliberate infringements, we will take justified actions to defend our rights in accordance with the law. In face of unwarranted provocation, we will respond with prompt and legitimate countermeasures. We also urge certain countries outside this region not to make provocations, pick sides, or stir up troubles and problems in the South China Sea.

On upholding peace and stability in the South China Sea, it is important that China and ASEAN countries continue implementing the DOC, and at

推出便利中外人员往来举措，包括更多支付便利。我愿告诉大家，从3月14日起，中方将进一步对瑞士、爱尔兰、匈牙利、奥地利、比利时、卢森堡6国试行免签政策，我们希望更多国家给予中国公民签证便利，共同打造跨境人员往来的快捷网络，推动国际客运航班加快恢复，让中国公民说走就走，让外国朋友宾至如归。我们还将组织更多的“驻华使节地方行”，为地方、企业开放合作搭建更多的桥梁。我们愿配合主管部门，推动商签更多的高标准自贸协定，扩大面向全球的自由贸易区网络，维护全球产业链供应链数据链稳定畅通。我们将合力办好进博会、服贸会、消博会、链博会等国际合作平台，优化市场化、法治化、国际化营商环境，为各国投资者和合作伙伴带来更稳定预期、更长远利好。

印尼安塔拉通讯社记者：中国与东盟国家一致同意加快谈判，推进达成具有约束力的“南海行为准则”。为营造南海和平和谐环境，中方将提出什么方案？

王毅：中国人民在南海世代生活劳作，南海诸岛早已是中国政府依法管辖的领土。今天的南海，又是世界上最繁忙、最安全、最自由的航道。几十年来，全球50%的商船、三分之一的海上贸易航经于此，从未受到任何干扰阻碍。环顾动荡的世界，南海能保持和平稳定，离不开中国和东盟国家共同作出的努力，殊为不易，弥足珍惜。

其中最重要的经验，就是两个坚持：存在的争议坚持由直接当事国通过对话协商谈判加以妥善管控解决，海上和平坚持由中国和东盟国家共同努力加以维护。这也是2002年签署的《南海各方行为宣言》的核心要义。

关于海上争端，中方一直保持高度克制，主张本着睦邻友好精神，尊重历史和法理事实，寻求各自均可接受的解决方案。但我们不允许善意被滥用，不接受海洋法被歪曲。对蓄意侵权，我们将依法正当维权；对无理挑衅，我们将及时据理反制。我们也奉劝某些域外国家不要挑事生非、选边站队，不要成为南海的搅局者和肇事方。

关于维护南海和平稳定，中国和东盟国家都要继续落实好《南海各方行为宣言》，同时加快推进“南海行为准则”的商谈，设立更加富有效力和实质内容、符合包括海洋法在内国际法的地区规则。在中方大力推动下，“准则”已成功完成二读，启动了案文三读程序，我们愿同东盟国家一起努力，争取早日达成“准则”，切实把南海建成和平之海、合作之海。

凤凰卫视记者：国际社会竞相提出人工智能全球治理方案，中方对大国间就人工智能开展合作持何立场？