The Script of the Presentations

by the Chinese Delegation

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1. On Regional and International Security Situation

It is indeed a pleasure for the Chinese delegation to come to the beautiful city of Yangon for this year's ASEAN Regional Forum Security and Policy Conference (ASPC). First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the hospitality of the host, and also take this opportunity to share our perspectives on regional security issues with all the delegates present here.

Peace, development, cooperation and win-win constitute the main theme of our time as well as the consensus of our world. The last two decades witnessed the growth of Asia into the most dynamic region in the world, as a result of enduring peace and security in the region.

In today' Asia Pacific, the integration of the interests of all countries is the ballast of regional peace and stability, which serves as the foundation for regional security dialogue and cooperation to flourish with an active role in maintaining regional security. At the same time, regional peace and security also face severe challenges and potential risks.

The regional security environment has become even more complex. On the one hand, such non-traditional security issues as relating to terrorism, national disasters, piracy, information network and even sea and air accidents erupt frequently; and on the other, disputes over territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interest are heating up.

Addicted to the cold-war mentality, some extra-regional powers strengthen their military alliances and forward military deployment, interfere in regional hot-spot issues and attempt to intensify and complicate disputes in the region in pursuit of selfish interest, making it more difficult for regional countries to settle those disputes. And a certain regional country demonstrates a strong feature of political rightism, adopts an erroneous attitude towards historical issues, attempts to get rid of the restrictions of the post-war system and strengthens military arrangements against third parties, thus adding tension to the region.

The disputes over maritime rights and interests are increasingly prominent. The recent incidents related to maritime issues have resulted in some suspicion on China. But in fact, all those incidents were triggered by the provocations of some other countries, while China was only forced to respond.

What I want to stress here is that China will not abandon its policy of seeking resolution of the disputes through peaceful means, and will actively

participate in maritime cooperation under the regional multilateral framework.

However, China is also entitled to making necessary responses to wanton provocations.

We advocate that relevant sovereign states should settle disputes through negotiations under the DOC framework, so as to jointly safeguard maritime peace and stability. We urge all the other regional countries, including ASEAN countries, to join hands with China in adhering to relevant agreements and norms of conduct and fulfilling due obligations.

No settlement for the hot-spot issues in the region is in sight yet. The tension on the Korean Peninsula eased off for a while, but the future development of the situation on the Peninsular remains unclear. We advocate that the relevant parties should exercise restraint and caution with both words and deeds, and balance and address the concerns of all parties through dialogue and negotiation, rather than doing anything that may harm the peace and stability on the Peninsula.

Given the complex domestic social contradictions, intensifying political wrangling and street politics fanned by external forces, some countries in the region face risks of losing control of their political situation in the transitional period. The width and depth of the interactions within the region have raised higher demand on regional

governance, with transnational criminal activities such as drugs, weapons and human traffiking, smuggling as well as telecom fraud being even more rampant, and issues such as the utilization of transboundary water resources, natural disasters and infectious diseases posing severe chanllange to the relations among regional countries as well as to their domestic security.

Common threats call for common responsibility. At the recent Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that a security concept for Asia be adopted with common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security as the core content; and joint efforts are needed to promote regional peace and stability through closer security cooperation. The Chinese armed forces stand ready to work with the other armed forces in the region to pursue Asian security that is established, shared by and win-win to all.

We are committed to deepening exchanges with foreign armed forces to enhance mutual trust in the security area. In the past few years, we established bilateral defense consultation mechanisms with 13 neighboring countries and held more than 50 joint exercises/training events with our Asia-Pacific partners, forming an all-dimension, wide-range and multi-level military exchange pattern in the region.

We will continue to deepen our bilateral and multilateral security dialogue with regional countries and enhance defense and security cooperation with ASEAN countries. The defense establishments and armed forces of all countries should strengthen communication, address the reasonable concerns of each other, accumulate mutual trust in the security area through exchanges and enhance mutual benefit through cooperation, so as to jointly play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace.

We spare no efforts to properly handle disputes and maintain common security. In the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, we have successfully settled most land territorial disputes, signed border cooperation agreement with India, held several rounds of dialogues on maritime issues with relevant countries and signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. China will resolutely safeguard its own sovereignty rights and interests, while seeking a peaceful solution of disputes with utmost sincerity and patience.

China is willing to work with the ASEAN countries to abide by relevant agreements keep sober-minded and restrained, establish mechanisms such as direct defense telephone links and emergency liaison mechanisms, so as to reduce and avoid misunderstanding and misjudgment. We will properly manage disputes and narrow differences

to prevent any escalation of tension that may compromise regional peace and stability.

We actively push forward practical security cooperation in order to promote peace and development for all. The Chinese armed forces stand ready to work with regional countries to strengthen defense and security cooperation under the mechanisms of SCO, ACIA, ADMM+, ARF, China-ASEAN defense minister's consultative meetings, in a joint struggle against terrorism, extremism and separatism. We will carry out international HADR operations and promote the establishment of an early warning and information sharing mechanism for disasters and emergencies in the region, as well as a security architecture in line with common interest of all, to ensure common prosperity of countries along the Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road.

As pointed out by President Xi Jinping, peace is like air and sunshine, which is easy to neglect while benefiting from, but difficult to survive without. The next year marks the 70th anniversary of the world's victory over Fascism. China is willing to work with the other Asia-Pacific countries to actively implement the security concept for Asia, strengthen exchange and cooperation, properly handle disputes and lay the foundation for the bright future of peace and development in the region.

Than you.