



Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 2 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that as, President of the Security Council for March, China will convene an open debate in the Security Council Chamber on 19 March 2020, on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: upholding multilateralism and promoting the political settlement of disputes”. A concept note is attached for the benefit of Member States wishing to participate in the debate (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 2 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: upholding multilateralism and promoting the political settlement of disputes”, 19 March 2020

I. Introduction

1. The year 2020 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. As President of the Security Council in March, China intends to convene an open debate in the Security Council Chamber on 19 March 2020, on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: upholding multilateralism and promoting the political settlement of disputes”. In view of major challenges facing international peace and security, the meeting provides an opportunity for States Members of the United Nations to reaffirm their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and multilateralism, show support for the central role of the United Nations in the international system and call for the peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means.

II. Background

2. We live in a global village, where countries are interdependent and interconnected. No country can meet the challenges facing humankind alone, and no country can retreat to an isolated island. It is the general consensus of the international community to pursue multilateralism and solve global problems through international cooperation.

3. The United Nations embodies people’s pursuit of peace, development, harmony and prosperity. Since its founding 75 years ago, the collective security mechanism with the United Nations as its core has become the cornerstone of international peace, stability and human development and progress. The purposes and principles of the Charter have become the basic norms governing international relations. Multilateralism, including its philosophy and practice, has brought real benefits to people around the world. On 31 January 1992, at the Security Council’s first meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and the collective security mechanism established under the Charter. On 14 September 2005, at the Security Council summit held on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, the parties agreed on the need to strengthen multilateral mechanisms to ensure that the United Nations effectively responds to global challenges. In November 2018, at the Security Council’s open debate on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations”, representatives from more than 70 countries and international organizations made statements and agreed that multilateralism is an inevitable choice in order to meet global challenges.

4. The theme of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations – “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism” – reflects the expectation of the international community. In his report on the work of the Organization, submitted to the General Assembly at its

seventy-fourth session, the Secretary-General pointed out that: “Global challenges require global solutions. It is not enough to proclaim the virtue of multilateralism. We must prove its added value.”

5. The world today is not yet peaceful. Regional security situation, hotspot issues, wars and armed conflicts, terrorism and transnational organized crime continue to pose challenges for maintaining world peace and stability. Regional impasses, old problems that are evolving and worsening, and the intertwining of old problems and new ones and of traditional and non-traditional security threats are complex to resolve. The recent spike of the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region and spillovers and regionalization of hotspot issues have resulted from not only the evolution of existing tensions, but also unilateralism, military intervention and violations of international fairness and justice. This means that the international community must respect the purposes and principles of the Charter, practice multilateralism, adhere to political solutions, build a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture, achieve sustained peace and stability in the countries and regions concerned, and promote a community of shared future for humankind.

III. Focus for deliberation

How to better promote multilateralism and strengthen the role of the United Nations?

6. Multilateralism essentially means that international affairs should be discussed and decided by all parties involved, following the rules agreed by all, respecting the merits of the matters, upholding fairness and justice, and accommodating the interests and concerns of all the parties. History has shown that the international system centred on the United Nations, which is the cornerstone of multilateralism, and the international order based on international law have played an indispensable role in maintaining international stability after the Second World War.

7. With the significant rise of instability and uncertainty in the international situation, multilateralism is at a critical juncture. How countries should strengthen solidarity and cooperation and increase understanding and trust as required by our time deserves in-depth discussion.

8. Approaching the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, it is upon the Member States to thoroughly consider how to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter, support the central role of the United Nations in international affairs, maintain world peace and promote common development through coordination and cooperation.

How to effectively resolve hotspot issues and differences through political and diplomatic means?

9. The Security Council is the core of the international collective security mechanism and has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. The Council members should take the initiative to play a constructive role in seeking political solutions to regional and hotspot issues.

10. In the current complex situation, we should consider how to enhance the mutual trust among the Council members and maintain the collective security mechanism with the Council as the core; how to promote peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiation politically and diplomatically; and how to make better use

of United Nations peacekeeping operations to achieve sustaining peace and development in conflict areas.

IV. Meeting arrangements

11. The meeting will proceed as an open debate and be chaired by Ambassador Zhang Jun, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. Member States are encouraged to attend and make statements. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, and the President of the International Court of Justice will give briefings. No outcome document is planned to be adopted.
