

CHINA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Foreword by the Foreign Minister

The year 2011 witnessed new and significant progress in China's peaceful development. We celebrated the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the centenary of the 1911 Revolution. Navigating through various domestic and external risks and challenges, we maintained steady and fast economic growth as well as social harmony and stability, and made a good start in implementing China's 12th Five-Year Plan.

Our diplomatic work also forged ahead in the past year. The profound changes in the international situation and the turbulence unleashed by an unexpected string of major events made China's external environment ever more complex. Under the correct leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, we made it the central goal of our diplomatic work in 2011 to serve and ensure the successful implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan. We worked actively to confront various difficulties, advance diplomacy on all fronts, and properly responded to changes and turbulent situations – all in an effort to foster a sound international environment and enabling external conditions for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. We earnestly handled and steadily strengthened relations with various parties, and consolidated China's favorable position in a changing world. We energetically conducted economic diplomacy, diffused external economic risks and challenges, and effectively served domestic efforts to promote steady growth and development. We firmly safeguarded national interests, upheld the lawful rights and interests of overseas Chinese nationals, and actively advanced our shared interests with all parties. We worked relentlessly to reduce tension and resolve hotspot issues, maintain world peace and promote common development, thus further burnishing China's positive international image.

Under the new situation, China's diplomats have a more glorious mission, heavier responsibilities and a larger stage. We need to stay tuned to both opportunities and challenges, seize the opportunities and rise up to challenges so as to contribute more to meeting China's great goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Like its past editions, the 2012 edition of *China's Foreign Affairs*

is rich in facts and figures. It provides a panoramic view of China's diplomacy in the past year. I hope you will find this volume informative and helpful.

楊潔篪

Yang Jiechi

20 January 2012

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Chapter 1

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2011

1. An Overview

In 2011, the international situation experienced profound and highly complex changes. The world remained peaceful on the whole. Yet many major, thorny and urgent events with far-reaching implications took place, reflecting turbulence, change and adjustment. Shifts in the international landscape and some trends in the world became more evident. Increasingly pushed to a more important place on the world stage, China faced both opportunities and challenges. The main features of the international situation in 2011 were as follows:

(1) The International Financial Crisis Deepened and Spread, Creating Difficulties for Global Economic Recovery

The worsening sovereign debt crisis in some countries affected global recovery and financial stability in multiple ways. Growth slowed in various major economies. Emerging markets faced weakening external demand and rising domestic inflation. There was a marked upswing of various forms of trade and investment protectionism. All of these combined to result in a slowdown of the world economy, deceleration of international trade, major fluctuations in international financial markets and proliferation of various risks. The mechanisms of global economic governance needed urgent reform and improvement.

(2) Regional Turbulence and Hotspot Issues Kept Flaring up, Making the International Security Situation More Complex Than Before

Some countries in west Asia and north Africa experienced change of government and social upheaval, leading to shifts in the balance of power and realignment of countries in the region. As a result, west Asia and north Africa entered a period of instability marked by turbulence and change. New developments regarding the issue of Palestine and Israel, the Iranian nuclear issue and Afghanistan created more destabilizing factors for the region and the world. Terrorism, energy and resource security, cyber security, natural calamities and other non-traditional security issues received intense attention from all sides. Security issues became more unpredictable, contagious and interconnected. All these pointed to the pressing need for adopting integrated measures to improve global security governance.

(3) The Asia-Pacific Region Assumed Greater Importance in the World, Attracting More Attention and Input from Various Parties

The Asia-Pacific enjoyed general stability, robust growth and flourishing regional and sub-regional cooperation, thus becoming the world's most dynamic and promising region in terms of development. The world's major forces converge and coexist in the Asia-Pacific, all of which seek to increase attention and input in the region. New changes to the regional landscape are on the horizon, and relations between countries in the region faced profound adjustment. Despite some disputes over territories and maritime rights and interests, countries in the region invariably pursued peace, stability, development and cooperation, and sought to resolve their disputes through dialogue and consultation.

(4) The International Balance of Power Continued to Move Towards Relative Equilibrium, Accompanied by Gradual Reform of the Global Governance System

Emerging economies and developing countries maintained the momentum of simultaneous rise, and increasingly became an important factor in the international situation. Institutionalized cooperation between emerging countries, notably the BRICS, continued to deepen and gave a