

# Changing Global Security and China's Response

Chief Editor Qu Xing

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#### Preface

On November 24-25, 2012, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) and China Foundation for International Studies (CFIS) cosponsored the annual seminar on current international situation in Beijing. More than 130 scholars, government officials and media representatives across the country participated in the seminar. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi delivered the keynote speech at the opening ceremony, and Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng made an important speech at the closing session.

The year 2012 saw new developments in the European debt crisis, the political unrests in West Asia and North Africa and changes in Asia-Pacific situation, as well as their significant effects on world economic and political landscape and international relations. 2012 was also the year of elections, with elections held in 58 countries around the world. The change of leadership in many countries may bring forth new uncertainties for the evolution of international political situation. In the past year, China enjoyed continued rise in comprehensive national strength and international status, accompanied by mounting risks and challenges. The report of the 18th CPC National Congress held successfully amidst the profound and complex change in domestic and international situation serves as a guide for China's diplomatic work under the new situation.

The seminar focused on the evolution of international pattern, the development of world economic and security situation, the new change in the geostrategic environment of China's neighborhood and China's response, how to implement the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress, etc. The above topics were closely related to the current international situation and China's diplomatic practice. At present,

the international situation is undergoing profound and complicated changes with increasingly prominent global challenges. Under such circumstances, it is of great significance for us to precisely grasp the characteristics and trend of international situation development, to safeguard, consolidate and prolong the strategic opportunity period, to adhere to the fulfillment of the diplomatic objectives of maintaining world peace, promoting common development, and unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development.

Participants at the seminar were mostly the leading figures of international studies across China, while top officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant ministries also attended the seminar and offered insights on the international situation and China's diplomacy, which ensured the seminar to be a top-level gathering of China's international studies. As a routine practice, the organizers are to publish collection of the papers from the participants in both Chinese and English versions and present them to the readers at home and abroad, in an effort to further promote academic exchanges among experts and scholars. All articles in this collection are the own research achievements by the relevant authors, and the views expressed in the articles are their own findings. For that matter, please indicate the source when reproducing or quoting the articles.

The publication of this collection should be attributed to the generous support of the above authors. The Editorial Department of China Institute of International Studies has undertaken main editorial work of this collection. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to them in the above regard.

#### Qu Xing

President of China Institute of International Studies 3 Taijichang Toutiao, Beijing March 2013

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## Part I Chinese Diplomacy

### Conducting Chinese Diplomacy Under New Circumstances

- Fully Understanding and Implementing the Spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress

Yang Jiechi

I

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its First Plenum were successfully convened recently. The 18th CPC National Congress, which was held against the background of profound and complex changes in both China's domestic and international situations, is a united, victorious, and bravely advancing meeting that held high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Report to the Congress, with overarching and profound significance, is the political declaration and action program by which our Party unites and leads people of all ethnic groups to strive for new successes in the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is also a programmatic Marxist document.

The Report to the Congress made a rich, comprehensive and profound analysis of China's diplomatic work, which has further enriched and developed diplomatic theories with Chinese characteristics. An important component of the system of socialist theories with Chinese characteristics, these theories set the right direction for the sound development of China's diplomatic work under

new circumstances. To do our work well, it is imperative to precisely comprehend the relevant statements in the Report.

On the one hand, we should fully understand the continuity and consistency of our diplomatic policies underlined in the Report. The Report stresses that China will firmly pursue an independent foreign policy of peace, unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development, persistently implement the strategy of opening up for mutual benefits and win-win results, and remain committed to growing friendship and cooperation in all fields with other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in order to build a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity. These guidelines and policies, which have been proved correct in practice and conform to our national conditions and the trend of the times, constitute the unique features of Chinese diplomacy and serve as our spiritual guidance which we should abide by over a long period of time.

The Report also points out in particular that the basic condition that China is still in the primary stage of socialism and will long remain so has not changed, nor has China's international position as the largest developing country in the world. We must bear in mind the paramount reality that China remains in the primary stage of socialism and strive to create favorable external conditions for realizing our objectives — building a moderately prosperous society in all respects when the CPC celebrates its centenary and turning China into a modern socialist country when the People's Republic of China marks its centennial.

On the other hand, we should fully understand the new thoughts, new ideas and new judgments put forward in the Report concerning China's external work while continuously striving to improve diplomatic theories and practices with Chinese characteristics and

doing a better job under new circumstances.

Listing "peaceful development" as one of the eight basic requirements for China to win new victories in advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics under new circumstances, the Report reiterates that the path of peaceful development is the natural and inevitable choice of China in building socialism with Chinese characteristics. In so doing, the significance and inevitability for China to pursue peaceful development and its firm-ness in taking the path has been further expounded, and the concept thus bears more distinct features in social system and theory as well as characteristics of our times. At the same time, the Report points out that China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, which demonstrates that adhering to peaceful development and protecting China's national interests are not contradictory to each other but inherently unified with each other.

The Report has made significantly new summarization of China's diplomatic ideas, stating that China will continue to hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win results. Highlighting the idea of win-win results, this sends out a clear message that China is committed to sharing opportunities and making concerted efforts with other nations to tackle challenges, address global issues and boost the common interests of mankind in the era of globalization. The Report also puts forward the principle of equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness, mutual learning, and winwin cooperation, which has profound meanings. While equality and mutual trust constitute the political foundation for the sound and stable development of international relations in the new times, inclusiveness and mutual learning are the important guarantee and win-win cooperation is the fundamental means to realize the objective. Further enriching the contents of our foreign policy and clarifying

our objectives, the above-mentioned "banner" and "principle" have demonstrated the correct judgment made by the Central leadership on the development of international situation, which has a clear aim and bears the distinctive characteristics of our times.

The Report also raises a set of new requirements for our dip lomatic work, which will guide us to do a better job under new circumstances.

We should unify our thinking and join our efforts in the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress and strive to open up new prospects for China's diplomacy, thus making new contribution to the great cause of advancing peace and development for mankind.

#### II

The year 2012 has witnessed profound and complex changes in international situation and accelerated transformation in regional and international patterns. The impacts of the global financial crisis and the European debt crisis on the world economy and politics as well as international relations become even more salient. The global economy is experiencing greater pressure for a downturn and economic and trade frictions among nations are increasing while reform of international economic and financial systems and global governance are slowing down. Political turmoil in West Asia and North Africa keeps deepening and tends to perpetuate and get more complicated and internationalized. Hotspot issues like Syria, the Iran nuclear crisis and the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation rise one after another, further complicating security situations in regions concerned. The Asia-Pacific region has maintained overall stability and its economy has sustained fairly rapid growth, thus further upgrading its standing in the international system. As a result, all major powers have increased their attention to and involvement in the region.

As both China's comprehensive strength and international status are on the rise, other nations are paying more attention to enlisting help from and seeking cooperation with China. On the other hand, just like "a tall tree catches the wind," China faces more risks and challenges due to its rise through peaceful development. On the whole, China is still in the crucial period of strategic opportunities to achieve more successes in our development.

Under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee and the State Council as well as with the great support from all related government departments, local governments and people of the whole country, our diplomatic work has scored fresh advances over the past year by following the principle of making progress while maintaining stability and by tackling thorny problems and overcoming difficulties, thus creating an overall stable and sound international environment for the successful holding of the 18th CPC National Congress and the all-round implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan.

- 1. Our leaders have participated in major diplomatic events with fruitful achievements. President Hu Jintao and other state and Party leaders have successfully attended a series of major multilateral activities including the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the Meeting of Leaders of BRICS Countries, the G20 Summit, and the Informal Leaders' Meeting of APEC. Meanwhile, they have paid extensive visits to countries in different regions, which have effectively promoted the growth of bilateral ties between China and other countries concerned, steered the process of regional and international cooperation, safeguarded China's national interests, and improved its global image.
- 2. We have firmly maintained our national sovereignty, security and development interests. Responding to the Japanese government's

illegal "purchase" of the Diaoyu Islands, we have taken a range of resolute steps to safeguard our territorial sovereignty and maritime interests. These actions, which fully demonstrate the Chinese government's and people's strong determination and will to defend our territorial sovereignty, have improved the international community's understanding of the facts concerning the Diaoyu Islands and won their support for our position on the issue. We have also properly addressed disputes over the Huangyan Island, with the result of not only upholding China's sovereignty and maritime interests but also promoting China-ASEAN dialogue and cooperation on maritime issues to maintain overall regional security. We have firmly contained the destructive activities of the separatist forces for "Taiwan Independence," "Tibet Independence" and "Eastern Turkistan," thus thwarting the schemes of foreign hostile forces to interfere with and infiltrate China.

Working with other government departments, we have also properly tackled the impacts of the European debt crisis on and economic and trade frictions involving our country. Meanwhile, we have worked actively to promote Chinese enterprises and investors to "go global" and facilitate new developments in energy and resource cooperation between China and foreign countries. We have successfully rescued Chinese citizens kidnapped in countries like Sudan and Chinese sailors hijacked by Somali pirates. Using multiple diplomatic resources and means accumulated over a long time, we have created favorable conditions for the long-term living and development of Chinese nationals and enterprises overseas.

3. We have promoted the development of our relations with all countries by taking the overall situation into consideration. We have made new improvements in relations with other major countries. Chinese leaders and their American counterparts have kept intensive

contacts and exchanges with each other. Both sides have reached important consensus on constructing new-type relations between major powers based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation. China-U.S. relations have maintained an overall momentum of stable development in the American election year. Sino-Russian relations continue to deepen since President Vladimir Putin was re-elected. We have successfully hosted President Putin's visit to China, during which leaders of the two countries reached important consensus on the principles, direction and major cooperation areas for the growth of Sino-Russian comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the future as well as on promoting Sino-Russian cooperation in areas like investment, energy and high technology as well as between local governments. High-level exchanges between China and European countries have been intensive as well. The two sides have successfully held the 14th and 15th China-EU leaders' meetings and the first leaders' meeting between China and Eastern and Central European countries, pushing Sino-European ties to grow in a steady manner and make progress amid changes.

We have continued to deepen friendly relations with our neighbors and further increased investments there, thus pushing our cooperation with neighboring countries in political, economic, trade, security and cultural fields to a new level. We have maintained frequent high-level exchanges with our neighbors and upgraded our relations with Thailand, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to strategic partnerships. Accumulated mutual investments between China and ASEAN nations have reached around US\$100 billion and interconnection projects between the two sides have been moving forward, leading to further integration of interests between them. China has put forward the Phnom Penh Initiative concerning East Asian cooperation and facilitated the adoption of the Phnom Penh