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Sport for development and peace: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Strengthening of the United Nations system

**Security Council
Seventy-seventh year**

Letter dated 10 March 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to forward to you a joint statement dated 4 February 2022 by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on international relations entering a new era and global sustainable development (see annex).*

* Circulated in Chinese, Russian and English only.



We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 15, 35, 74, 85, 95, 98, 100, 107, 111 and 124, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China

(Signed) **Vassily Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

Annex to the letter dated 10 March 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Joint statement by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on international relations entering a new era and global sustainable development

At the invitation of the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, the President of the Russian Federation, V. V. Putin, visited China on 4 February 2022. The Heads of State held talks in Beijing and participated in the opening ceremony of the twenty-fourth Olympic Winter Games.

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties", declare the following.

Today the world is undergoing major changes, and humanity is entering a new era of rapid development and major transformation. Progress is being made in processes and phenomena such as multipolarity, economic globalization, social informatization, cultural diversity and the transformation of the global governance system and the world order; States are becoming increasingly interconnected and interdependent; there is an emerging trend towards the redistribution of the balance of world power; and demand is growing among the global community for leadership to support peaceful and progressive development. At the same time, with the ongoing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic around the world, international and regional security situations are becoming more complicated by the day, and global challenges and threats are multiplying. Some forces, representing a minority on the world stage, continue to champion unilateral approaches to addressing international issues and to resort to power politics, interfering in the internal affairs of other States to the detriment of their legitimate rights and interests, promoting discord, disputes and confrontation, and hindering the development and progress of humanity. Such actions are rejected by the international community.

The Parties call upon all States, for the common good, to strengthen dialogue and mutual trust, to enhance mutual understanding, to uphold such universal values as peace, development, equality, justice, democracy and freedom, to respect the rights of peoples to choose their own development path, State sovereignty and the security and development interests of States, to defend the international architecture with the United Nations at its centre and a world order based on international law, to achieve genuine multilateralism with the United Nations and its Security Council playing a central and coordinating role, to promote more democratic international relations, and to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development across the world.

I

The Parties are united in the understanding that democracy is a universal value, not the privilege of certain States, and that its promotion and protection is a shared responsibility of the entire global community.

The Parties believe that democracy is a means for citizens to participate in governing their own country with a view to improving people's well-being and ensuring the principle of people's power. Democracy is practised in all spheres of public life and in national processes, and reflects the interests and will of all people, guarantees their rights, meets their needs and protects their interests. There is no one-

size-fits-all template for democracy. People have the right to choose the forms and methods of practising democracy that best suit their country, in accordance with that country's specific sociopolitical order, history, traditions and cultural characteristics. Only the people of a State can judge whether that State is democratic.

The Parties note that Russia and China, as world powers with rich cultural and historical heritages, have long-standing traditions of democracy that are based on thousands of years of development experience, broad support and consideration of the needs and interests of citizens. Russia and China guarantee their people the right to participate, by various means and in various forms, in governing the State and public life in accordance with the law. The people of both countries believe in the path that they have chosen and respect the democratic systems and traditions of other States.

The Parties note that democratic principles are applied not only in national governance, but also globally. Attempts by individual States to impose their "democratic standards" on other countries, to monopolize the right to assess compliance with the criteria of democracy and to draw dividing lines on ideological grounds, including by establishing narrow blocs and alliances of convenience, in fact represent an example of flouting democracy and departing from its spirit and true values. Such attempts to act as a hegemon pose a serious threat to global and regional peace and stability and undermine the sustainability of the world order.

The Parties believe that the protection of democracy and human rights should not be used as a tool to exert pressure on other countries. The Parties oppose the abuse of democratic values, interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States under the pretext of protecting democracy and human rights, and attempts to provoke division and confrontation in the world. The Parties call upon the international community to respect the diversity of cultures and civilizations and the right of peoples of different countries to self-determination. The Parties are ready to work together with all interested partners to promote genuine democracy.

The Parties note that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set forth noble goals relating to universal human rights and establish fundamental principles that all States should follow and put into practice. However, owing to the unique features, histories, cultures, social systems and levels of socioeconomic development of States, the universality of human rights must be seen through the prism of the actual situation in each particular country, and human rights must be protected in accordance with the circumstances in each country and the needs of its people. The promotion and protection of human rights are shared responsibilities of the international community. States should pay equal attention to all categories of human rights and systematically promote them. International human rights cooperation must be carried out on the basis of equitable dialogue involving all countries. All States should have equal access to the right to development. Engagement and cooperation on human rights issues should be based on the equality of all countries and mutual respect in order to strengthen the international human rights architecture.

II

The Parties believe that peace, development and cooperation are key elements of the modern international architecture. Development is a key driver of the prosperity of nations. The ongoing novel COVID-19 pandemic poses a serious challenge to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is essential to improve partnerships for global development and to ensure that the new era of global development is balanced, harmonious and inclusive.

The Parties intend to accelerate efforts to link the development plans of the Eurasian Economic Union with the One Belt, One Road initiative, with the aim of enhancing practical cooperation between the Union and China in various fields, and to promote greater interconnectedness of the Asia-Pacific and Eurasian regions. The Parties reaffirm their focus on the parallel and coordinated establishment of the Greater Eurasian Partnership and the construction of the Belt and Road with a view to developing regional associations and bilateral and multilateral integration processes for the benefit of the peoples of the Eurasian continent.

The Parties have agreed to steadily expand practical cooperation on the sustainable development of the Arctic.

The Parties will strengthen cooperation within multilateral mechanisms, including the United Nations, to encourage the international community to give priority to development issues when coordinating global macropolicy. The Parties call upon developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitments in good faith, to provide more resources to developing countries, to address the uneven development of countries and eliminate such imbalances within nations, and to promote global and international development cooperation. Russia reaffirms its readiness to continue to work on the Global Development Initiative put forward by China, including participating in activities organized by the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative at the United Nations. To accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the Parties call upon the international community to take practical steps in key areas of cooperation such as poverty reduction, food security, efforts to combat epidemics, vaccines, financing for development, climate change, sustainable development, including green development, industrialization, the digital economy and infrastructure connectivity.

The Parties call upon the international community to create open, equal, fair and non-discriminatory conditions for scientific and technological development, and to accelerate the practical implementation of scientific and technological advances in order to create new momentum for economic growth.

The Parties call upon all countries to strengthen cooperation in sustainable transport, to actively develop contacts and share knowledge on the construction of transport facilities, including smart transport, sustainable transport and the development and use of Arctic routes, and to develop other initiatives to support global post-epidemic recovery.

The Parties are taking important steps and making significant contributions to combat climate change. Jointly marking the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Parties reaffirm their commitment to the Convention and to the goals, principles and provisions of the Paris Agreement, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The Parties are working together towards the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, are determined to fulfil their obligations, and hope that developed countries will in fact provide annual financial support of \$100 billion to developing countries to combat climate change. The Parties oppose the creation of new barriers to international trade under the pretext of combating climate change.

The Parties resolutely support international cooperation and exchanges in the field of biodiversity, participate actively in global governance in this field, and intend to jointly promote the harmonious development of humans and nature and a green transformation for global sustainable development.

The Heads of State commend the effective cooperation between Russia and China in bilateral and multilateral frameworks for combating the novel COVID-19

pandemic and protecting the lives and health of the two nations and the peoples of the world. The Parties will continue to step up cooperation in the development and production of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines, and to enhance cooperation in public health and modern medicine. The Parties intend to strengthen coordination on epidemic-related measures with a view to ensuring reliable protection for health, security and order when citizens of the two countries are in contact. The Parties have commended the efforts of the competent authorities and regions of the two countries to implement quarantine measures in border areas and ensure the stable functioning of border checkpoints, and intend to examine the possibility of establishing a joint mechanism for the prevention and monitoring of epidemics in border areas to enable joint planning of epidemic-related measures at border checkpoints, information-sharing and the construction of infrastructure, and to improve the efficiency of customs clearance.

The Parties stress that the origin of the novel COVID-19 pandemic is a scientific matter. Research on this topic should be based on global knowledge, for which cooperation among scientists from all over the world is essential. The Parties oppose the politicization of this issue. Russia welcomes the joint work of China and the World Health Organization (WHO) to identify the source of the novel COVID-19 outbreak and supports the joint China-WHO report on this topic. The Parties call upon the international community to unite in advocating a serious scientific approach to studies of the origins of COVID-19.

Russia supports the successful hosting by China of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing in 2022.

The Parties recognize the value of bilateral cooperation in sport and the Olympic movement, and express their readiness to continue to progressively develop such cooperation.

III

The Parties are gravely concerned about significant international security challenges and believe that the fates of all nations are interconnected. No State can or should ensure its security in isolation from the security of the world or at the expense of the security of other States. The international community should participate actively in global governance with a view to ensuring universal, comprehensive, indivisible and lasting security.

The Parties reaffirm their strong mutual support for the protection of their fundamental interests, State sovereignty and territorial integrity, and oppose interference by external forces in their internal affairs.

Russia reaffirms its commitment to the one-China principle, affirms that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and opposes the independence of Taiwan in any form.

Russia and China oppose the attempts of external forces to undermine security and stability in common border areas, are determined to counter interference by external forces in the internal affairs of sovereign countries under any pretext, oppose “colour revolutions” and will increase cooperation in the aforementioned areas.

The Parties condemn terrorism in all its manifestations, advocate building a united global counter-terrorism front with the United Nations playing a central role, and advocate stronger political coordination and constructive cooperation in multilateral counter-terrorism efforts. The Parties oppose the politicization of counter-terrorism issues and their use as tools for policies of double standards, and condemn the practice of interfering in the internal affairs of other States for geopolitical purposes with the use of terrorist and extremist groups, as well as under the guise of countering international terrorism and extremism.

The Parties believe that certain States and military and political alliances or coalitions are seeking to obtain, directly or indirectly, unilateral military advantages to the detriment of the security of others, including by employing unfair competition, exacerbating geopolitical rivalries, fomenting hostility and confrontation, and seriously undermining the international security order and global strategic stability. The Parties oppose further expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and call upon the North Atlantic alliance to abandon its ideologically driven cold war approaches, to respect the sovereignty, security and interests of other countries and their diverse civilizational, cultural and historical backgrounds, and to adopt an objective and fair attitude to the peaceful development of other States. The Parties oppose the establishment of closed bloc structures and opposing camps in the Asia-Pacific region and remain highly vigilant about the negative impact of the Indo-Pacific strategy of the United States of America on peace and stability in the region. Russia and China have made consistent efforts to build an equitable, open and inclusive security system in the Asia-Pacific region that is not directed against third countries and that ensures peace, stability and prosperity.

The Parties welcome the joint statement of the leaders of the five nuclear-weapon States on preventing nuclear war and avoiding arms races, and believe that all nuclear-weapon States should renounce the mentality of the cold war and zero-sum games, reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their national security policies, withdraw nuclear weapons deployed abroad, stop the unlimited development of global ballistic missile defence, and take effective steps to reduce the risk of nuclear war and other armed conflicts between countries possessing military nuclear capabilities.

The Parties reaffirm that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons forms the cornerstone of the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation system, is an important part of the post-war international security system, and plays an indispensable role in global peace and development. The international community should support the balanced implementation of the three pillars of the Treaty and work together to protect its authority, effectiveness and universality.

The Parties are seriously concerned about the establishment by the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Australia of a trilateral security partnership that provides for enhanced cooperation among its members in areas affecting strategic stability, in particular their decision to begin cooperation on nuclear-powered submarines. Russia and China believe that such actions are contrary to the objectives of security and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, increase the danger of an arms race in the region and pose significant risks of nuclear proliferation. The Parties strongly condemn such steps and call upon the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia to fulfil their nuclear and missile non-proliferation commitments in good faith and to work together to safeguard peace, stability and development in the region.

The plans of Japan to release radioactive water from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean and the potential environmental effects of such actions are of deep concern to the Parties. The Parties stress that the disposal of radioactive water must be handled responsibly and carried out properly, on the basis of the agreements of Japan with neighbouring States, other interested parties and relevant international bodies, and in a transparent manner supported by scientific reasoning, in accordance with international law.

The Parties believe that, in withdrawing from the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles and accelerating its research into and development of land-based intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, seeking to

deploy them in the Asia-Pacific and European regions, and transferring them to its allies, the United States will cause tensions and distrust to rise, risks to international and regional security to increase, and the international non-proliferation and arms control system to weaken, and will undermine global strategic stability. The Parties call upon the United States to respond positively to the initiative put forward by the Russian Federation and abandon its plans to deploy land-based intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. The Parties will continue to liaise and strengthen coordination on this issue.

China is sympathetic to and supports the proposals put forward by the Russian Federation to establish long-term legally binding security guarantees in Europe.

The Parties note that the denunciation by the United States of a number of important international arms control agreements is extremely detrimental to international and regional security and stability. The Parties express their concern about the advancement of the United States plans to develop a global missile defence system and deploy its elements in various regions of the world, and about the build-up of high-precision non-nuclear weapons for disarming strikes and other strategic objectives. The Parties stress the importance of the peaceful uses of outer space and strongly support the central role of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in promoting international cooperation, maintaining and developing international space law and regulating outer space activities. Russia and China will continue to increase cooperation on matters of mutual interest such as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the development and use of outer space resources. The Parties oppose attempts by certain States to transform outer space into an arena for armed confrontation and reiterate their intention to make all necessary efforts to prevent the weaponization of outer space and an arms race in outer space. They will counteract attempts to achieve military superiority in outer space and use it for combat operations. The Parties reaffirm the need to begin negotiations as soon as possible with the aim of concluding a legally binding multilateral instrument based on the draft treaty of Russia and China on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, which would provide fundamental and reliable guarantees against an arms race and the weaponization of outer space.

Russia and China stress that appropriate transparency and confidence-building measures, including an international initiative on, or political commitment to, no first placement of weapons in outer space, can also contribute to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space. However, such measures should complement and not replace an effective legally binding regime governing outer space activities.

The Parties reaffirm their conviction that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction is an essential pillar of international peace and security. Russia and China emphasize their determination to safeguard the authority and effectiveness of the Convention.

The Parties reiterate the need for full compliance with and further strengthening of the Convention, including through its institutionalization, the strengthening of its mechanisms and the adoption of a legally binding protocol to the Convention with an effective verification mechanism, as well as through regular consultations and cooperation in resolving any issues related to its implementation.

The Parties stress that the military biological activities carried out by the United States and its allies at home and abroad raise serious concerns and questions for the international community regarding their compliance with the Convention. The Parties share the view that such activities pose serious risks for the national security of the Russian Federation and China, and are detrimental to the security of relevant regions.

The Parties call upon the United States and its allies to act openly, transparently and responsibly by duly reporting their military biological activities carried out overseas and on national territory and by supporting the resumption of negotiations on a legally binding protocol to the Convention with an effective verification mechanism.

Reaffirming their commitment to the goal of a world free of chemical weapons, the Parties call upon all parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to work together to uphold its authority and effectiveness. Russia and China are deeply concerned about the politicization of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and call upon all its members to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and to preserve the tradition of consensus-based decision-making. Russia and China urge the United States, as the only State party to the Convention to have not completed the destruction of chemical weapons, to accelerate the elimination of its stockpiles of chemical weapons. The Parties underline the importance of balancing the non-proliferation obligations of States with the interests of legitimate international cooperation in the use of advanced technology and related materials and equipment for peaceful purposes. The Parties take note of the resolution put forward by China and sponsored by Russia on promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses in the context of international security, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly during its seventy-sixth session, and look forward to its consistent implementation in accordance with the goals set therein.

The Parties attach great importance to the governance of artificial intelligence. The Parties are ready to strengthen dialogue and liaison on artificial intelligence.

The Parties reiterate their readiness to enhance cooperation in international information security and to contribute to building an open, secure, sustainable and accessible information and communications technology environment. The Parties stress that the principles of the non-use of force, respect for State sovereignty and fundamental human rights and freedoms, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, are applicable to the information space. Russia and China reaffirm the key role of the United Nations in responding to threats to international information security and express support for the Organization's development of new standards of conduct for States in this area.

Welcoming the holding of global negotiations on international information security under a single mechanism, the Parties support the work of the United Nations open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 and express their willingness to speak with it in one voice. The Parties believe that the international community must consolidate efforts to develop new standards of responsible conduct for States, including legal standards, and a universal international legal instrument regulating the activities of States in the field of information and communications technology. The Parties believe that the global data security initiative put forward by China and supported in principle by Russia provides a basis for the working group to discuss and develop responses to data security threats and other threats to international information security.

The Parties reaffirm their support for United Nations General Assembly resolutions [74/247](#) and [75/282](#), support the work of the ad hoc committee of intergovernmental experts and advocate negotiations within the United Nations on the elaboration of an international convention on combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. The Parties encourage the constructive participation of all parties in the negotiations to enable the prompt agreement of a credible, universal and comprehensive convention, to be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, in strict

compliance with resolution [75/282](#). For these purposes, Russia and China have submitted a joint draft of such a convention to form the basis for the negotiations.

The Parties support the internationalization of, and advocate equal rights in, Internet governance, reject any attempts to limit their sovereign right to regulate and ensure the security of national Internet infrastructure, and would like the International Telecommunication Union to take a more active role in addressing these issues.

The Parties intend to enhance bilateral cooperation in international information security on the basis of the relevant intergovernmental agreement of 2015. To this end, the Parties have agreed to adopt, in the near future, a plan for cooperation between Russia and China in this area.

IV

The Parties stress that Russia and China, as world powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, intend to adhere strictly to moral principles and responsibilities, to vigorously defend an international system in which the United Nations has a central coordinating role in international affairs, to uphold a world order based on international law, including the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to promote multipolarity and more democratic international relations, to jointly build an even more prosperous, stable and just world, and to work together to create a new type of international relations.

Russia welcomes the vision of China to build a “community with a shared future for humankind” with a view to strengthening the solidarity of the international community and uniting efforts to respond to common challenges. China welcomes the efforts of Russia to build an equitable multipolar system of international relations.

The Parties intend to firmly uphold the inviolability of the outcome of the Second World War and the post-war world order, to defend the authority of the United Nations and justice in international relations, and to resist attempts to deny, distort and falsify the history of the Second World War.

To prevent a repeat of the tragedy of the world war, the Parties will strongly condemn attempts to absolve Nazi aggressors, warmongering invaders and their accomplices of atrocities, and to taint and tarnish the reputation of the victorious countries.

The Parties advocate the creation of a new type of relations between world powers that is based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation. They reaffirm that the new type of inter-State relations between Russia and China are superior to the military and political alliances of the cold war era. The friendship between the two States has no limits; no areas of cooperation are off the table; and the strengthening of bilateral strategic engagement is not directed against third countries or affected by the volatile international environment or changes to the situation in third countries.

The Parties reiterate the need for consolidation rather than fragmentation of the international community, and for cooperation rather than confrontation. The Parties oppose the return of international relations to a state of confrontation between major powers, with the weak falling prey to the strong. The Parties intend to oppose attempts to replace universally accepted frameworks and mechanisms that are consistent with international law with rules of some kind developed by a narrow circle of individual countries or blocs of countries, are against international problems being solved through underhand schemes rather than by consensus, oppose power politics, bullying, unilateral sanctions, the extraterritorial application of jurisdiction and the abuse of export control policies, and support trade facilitation in accordance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

The Parties have reaffirmed their intention to enhance foreign policy coordination, to put genuine multilateralism into practice, to strengthen cooperation at multilateral forums, to defend common interests, to maintain the international and regional balance of power, and to improve global governance.

The Parties support and defend the multilateral trading system with WTO at its centre, are actively involved in WTO reform, and oppose unilateralism and protectionism. The Parties are ready to strengthen partnership dialogue and coordinate positions on trade and economic issues of common concern, to contribute to the sustainable and stable operation of global and regional supply chains, and to facilitate the establishment of a more open, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminatory system of international trade and economic rules.

The Parties support the Group of 20 as an important forum for discussing international economic cooperation issues and crisis response measures, are working together to strengthen the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Group, support the Group's leading role in areas such as international efforts to combat epidemics, global economic recovery, support for inclusive sustainable development, and initiatives to improve global economic governance in a fair and rational manner to support collective efforts to address global challenges.

The Parties support the enhanced strategic partnership within the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) group and advocate the expansion of cooperation in three main areas: politics and security; the economy and finance; and humanitarian exchanges. Russia and China intend, inter alia, to facilitate cooperation in public health, the digital economy, science, innovation and technology, including artificial intelligence, and increased coordination among the BRICS countries at international forums. The Parties seek to further strengthen the BRICS Plus outreach format as an effective dialogue mechanism involving regional integration associations and organizations of developing countries and countries with emerging markets.

Russia will provide comprehensive support to China as Chair of the group in 2022, and will help to ensure a productive fourteenth BRICS summit.

Russia and China aim to comprehensively strengthen the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and to further enhance its role in creating a polycentric world order based on the universally recognized principles of international law, multilateralism and equal, joint, indivisible, comprehensive and sustainable security.

The Parties consider it important to consistently implement agreements on improving mechanisms for countering challenges and threats to the security of SCO member States and, in this context, advocate expanding the capabilities of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.

The Parties will enhance the quality and momentum of economic cooperation between SCO member States in trade, manufacturing, transport, energy, finance, investment, agriculture, customs, telecommunications, innovation and other areas of mutual interest, including through the use of advanced, resource-saving, energy-efficient and green technologies.

The Parties note the fruitful cooperation within SCO on the basis of the 2009 Agreement between the Governments of the SCO member States on cooperation in international information security, and within the relevant group of experts. In this context, the Parties welcome the adoption by the SCO Heads of State Council in Dushanbe on 17 September 2021 of the plan for cooperation among SCO member States in ensuring international information security for 2022–2023.

Russia and China recognize the ever-increasing importance of cultural and humanitarian cooperation for the progressive development of SCO. To strengthen mutual understanding among the people of the SCO member States, the Parties will continue to effectively promote enhanced engagement in areas such as cultural ties, education, science and technology, health care, environmental protection, tourism, people-to-people contacts and sport.

Russia and China will continue to work to strengthen the role of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum as the leading multilateral economic dialogue platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Parties intend to step up coordination to successfully implement the Putrajaya guidelines for the development of the forum until 2040, with a focus on creating a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment in the region. Particular emphasis will be placed on efforts to combat the novel COVID-19 pandemic and promote economic recovery, the digitalization of a wide range of different areas of life, economic growth in remote territories, and the establishment of cooperation between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and other regional multilateral associations with similar agendas.

The Parties intend to develop cooperation within the Russia-India-China format and to strengthen engagement in platforms such as the East Asia Summit, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum on security and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus. Russia and China support the central role of ASEAN in promoting cooperation in East Asia, are continuing to enhance coordination on deeper engagement with ASEAN, and are jointly promoting cooperation in public health, sustainable development and efforts to counter terrorism and transnational crime. The Parties intend to continue work to strengthen the role of ASEAN as a key element of the regional architecture.

4 February 2022