



Security Council

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Letter dated 3 February 2025 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of February, China intends to organize an open debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: practicing multilateralism, reforming and improving global governance”, to be held on 18 February 2025.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, China has prepared a concept note (see annex).

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

(Signed) **Fu Cong**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 3 February 2025 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 high-level open debate on the theme “Practicing multilateralism, reforming and improving global governance”, 18 February 2025

In its capacity as President of the Security Council for February 2025, China intends to organize an open debate on 18 February on the theme “Practicing multilateralism, reforming and improving global governance” under the item “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The debate will be chaired by Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China. It will provide an opportunity for Member States to review the history of the United Nations, reaffirm the commitment to multilateralism, strengthen cooperation on multilateral platforms, such as the Security Council, and jointly build a just and equitable global governance system.

The year 2025 marks the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. After the catastrophe of the two World Wars, the then world leaders, upholding the mission of “saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war and untold sorrow”, built an international system with the United Nations at its core, marking an important first step towards modern multilateralism. Since then, the United Nations has always stood for multilateralism and taken peace as its mission amid decades of evolving international landscape. Thanks to its efforts, the world has witnessed overall peace and stability and no new world war has happened.

However, in recent years, our world has entered a new period of turbulence and changes. The number of conflicts has hit a new high. Almost 100 countries are now involved, to varying degrees, in conflicts, leading to over 95 million people displaced.¹ The military use of emerging technologies is radically changing the form of war. Means of warfare once deemed unthinkable are now becoming options on the table. The risk of military confrontation keeps growing.

Amid these complex and severe challenges, we need to draw inspirations and lessons from the United Nations’ journey over the past 80 years, uphold multilateralism, settle disputes by peaceful means, and work together to reform and improve global governance.

As the core of the international collective security mechanism, the Security Council has a responsibility to stay united, perform its duties as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations and stand up to the expectation of the international community. Regrettably, long-established and effective practices are constantly discarded. Divisions and confrontation are replacing unity and cooperation. The Council’s inaction in the face of major crises draws increasing criticism from Member States. This situation should not continue. The Security Council must return to the right course of settling hotspot issues through multilateral cooperation and live up to its due responsibilities.

¹ Institute for Economics and Peace, *Global Peace Index 2024: Measuring Peace in a Complex World* (Sydney, 2024).

International law serves as the foundation of the modern international system. A sound global governance architecture must be undergirded by respect for law and rules. Unfortunately, it also happens that some Security Council resolutions fail to be implemented effectively, and international agreements are not respected or observed as they should be. Double standard and arbitrary application are severely eroding the authority of the international rule of law. To ensure an equal and uniform application of international law by all countries and international judicial institutions is a daunting task before us.

Currently, non-traditional security issues such as artificial intelligence, climate change, cybersecurity, food security and terrorism keep emerging. Most developing countries, in short of good knowledge of and strong capacity to deal with these challenges, are placed in a disadvantaged position. Facing global challenges, no country can stand aloof. The international community must uphold the spirit of multilateralism, jointly tackle security challenges and share development opportunities.

For a long time, developing countries have not had enough voice in the United Nations system. They are underrepresented in the international financial architecture and at disadvantage in global trade and supply chains. As times evolve, the call for improving global governance system grows even louder. The global South has become the key force of transformation. The international community should take concrete actions to address the governance deficit, and make the global governance system more just, equitable and beneficial to all.

The General Assembly established the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace in 2018, emphasizing that multilateralism is an essential tool to deal with multifaceted and complex global challenges through collective actions. In September 2024, Member States adopted the Pact for the Future at the Summit of the Future, putting forward a number of ambitious actions and initiatives to revitalize multilateralism and reform global governance. Facing the challenges of our times, the international community needs to conduct inclusive, results-oriented and effective cooperation at the multilateral level, strengthen the role of the United Nations and the Security Council, and promote a more just and equitable global governance system.

Guiding questions

- What can we learn from the history of the United Nations over the past 80 years? What can be done to put multilateralism into action?
- What can be done to deliver on the Pact for the Future to bring forward the reform and improvement of the global governance system, so as to ensure that humanity can effectively tackle current and future risks and challenges?
- What can be done to strengthen the role of the Security Council and enhance its solidarity, to better fulfil its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security?
- How to uphold the authority of the international rule of law, enhance the importance of international law in global governance and ensure its equal and uniform application?
- How to help developing countries narrow the development divide, especially the digital divide, enhance the capacity for dealing with various global challenges, and realize common development and lasting peace?

Format of the meeting

The meeting will take the form of an open debate and will be presided over by Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Member States are encouraged to send senior officials to the event. The Secretary-General will be invited to brief the Council.

Member States that wish to participate under rule 37 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council should register their speakers through e-deleGATE, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on 13 February 2025, and upload a letter from their Permanent Representatives or Chargé d'affaires a.i. to the President of the Security Council. Participating Member States are not required to submit written statements through e-deleGATE. The statements made will be included in the provisional verbatim record of the meeting.
