

The Security Situation in Eurasia and China's Policy Advocacy

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Abstract: Eurasia is undergoing momentous changes not seen in a century. Competition between great powers in Eurasia has led to a reshaping of the geopolitical and security structures as well as international relations established and continued since World War II. China has proposed initiatives, including the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), which support common security, comprehensive measures, cooperative dialogue, and sustainable security in Eurasia. Multilateral dialogue and consultation mechanisms in Eurasian security will help to maintain peace and stability in this region.

Keywords: GDI, GSI, GCI, sustainable security, non-traditional security issues.

Introduction

The post-Cold War era has brought about drastic and profound changes to the world's economic and political order, including international relations within the Eurasian continent. This transformation has led to reshaping the geopolitical and security structures as well as relations between nations that have been established and continued since World War II. The Asia-Pacific region has witnessed competition, tension, and confrontation between China and the US. To counter China, the US has formed the AUKUS security

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alliance with the UK and Australia and established the QUAD mechanism with Japan, Australia, and India. In Europe, Russia has been involved in a year-long “special military action” in Ukraine, resulting in unprecedented comprehensive sanctions by the US and the EU against Russia and military assistance to Ukraine. Finland has become a new NATO member, and Sweden is applying to join NATO, while Ukraine is seeking EU membership. Local conflicts, instability, and crises have also emerged in Central and Western Asia, such as the Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute and the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border conflict. The Ukrainian crisis has led to a global energy and food crisis and created a new refugee problem in Europe, hindering the world’s economic and trade recovery post-COVID-19 and the prospects for stability and peace within the Eurasian continent.

As a major country located on the Eurasian continent, China is closely monitoring the changing geopolitical security structure in the region. With the current momentous changes of a kind not seen in a century taking place, China has proposed several global initiatives, including the Global Development Initiative (GDI, Xinhua 2021), the Global Security Initiative (GSI, Xinhua 2022), the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI, Xinhua 2023), as well as the Chinese Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukrainian Crisis ([MFA] 2023). These initiatives aim to promote globalisation and multilateralism and find solutions to global sustainable development, long-term security, and regional conflicts.

The Security Situation on the Eurasian Continent: Reviewing and Evaluating

The late 1980s and early 1990s saw the breakout of the Gulf War and significant changes in the political landscape of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The resulting events led to the 15 republics of the Soviet Union becoming independent and Eastern European countries regaining their autonomy in politics, economics, military, and diplomacy. These events marked the end of the over 40-year-long Cold War era, which was characterised by ideological opposition between the United States and the Soviet Union as well as economic and military confrontation between the East and the West. The normalisation process of Sino-US relations and Sino-Soviet relations made it possible for the Asia-Pacific region to bid farewell

to long-term instability and conflicts caused by the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the US containment of China.

The world has entered a more open and faster-developing post-Cold War era marked by accelerated economic globalisation. Europe and the Asia-Pacific regions are undergoing economic reconstruction, cooperation, and rapid growth. However, the post-Cold War era has seen regional instability and security issues arise from geopolitical and economic structural changes as well as ethnic, religious, and historical factors. These issues replaced the periodic crises of the Cold War period, which were characterised by tense confrontations between major powers. Examples include the Arab-Israeli problem in the Middle East, the strife between Iran and the Gulf states, tribal conflicts in Central Africa's Great Lakes region, the crises in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, etc.

In the early 21st century, the 9/11 attacks directly challenged the United States' position as the world's only superpower and its security strategy, leading to changes in relationships between major countries and the geopolitical and security situations in the Eurasian region. The US pursued a global anti-terrorism security strategy and launched the Afghan and Iraq wars. Faced with the grave threat of international terrorism, major countries worldwide coordinated and jointly fought against international terrorist activities. Some countries on the Eurasian continent established regional security organisations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, to deal with international terrorism threats from groups such as Al-Qaeda. While the threat of international terrorism became the main security issue on the Eurasian continent, regional conflicts and hotspot issues eased after the Cold War. For some time, countries emphasised economic openness and market-oriented reforms, leading to the rapid development of global trade liberalisation processes. The result was significant growth in the world economy and trade, ultimately promoting stability on the Eurasian continent.

The 2008 US subprime mortgage crisis sparked the first global financial and economic crisis of the 21st century, which spread from the US to Europe and developing economies worldwide. Due to the impact of the crisis, coupled with the US's Iraq War, the democratic transformation in Iraq, and the US's greater Middle East democratisation plan, the "Jasmine Revolution" broke out in many Arab countries from 2011 onwards. Syria

fell into chaos, Libya's Gaddafi regime was overthrown, and Yemen suffered from the civil war between the government army and an armed faction supported by Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively. Relations between Israel and Iran became increasingly tense. Amid turmoil in the Middle East, the extremist group "Islamic State" emerged and carried out a string of terrorist attacks. The wars in Syria, Libya, and Yemen brought serious refugee problems to the European Union, which was in an economic crisis. The serious threat of Islamic extremism and international terrorism also catalysed the rise of far-right nationalist political groups within some European countries, such as Germany, Italy, and Austria, and allowed populism, racism, and xenophobia to reassert themselves. At the same time, the nuclear development issues of Iran and North Korea also increasingly attracted the attention of surrounding countries and generated pressure and sanctions from the US and Europe on the two countries.

In the second decade of the 21st century, the slow recovery of the world economy and major differences between Atlantic countries on global and regional issues such as climate change, trade tariffs, and NATO's role, as well as internal crises within the European Union, further aggravated disorder in Eurasian politics, economy, and international relations. In 2014, the Crimean crisis and Russia's exclusion from the G8 group led to trade and financial sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Russia, resulting in the deterioration of relations between the US, Europe, and Russia, which directly affected the political, economic, and security relations between the Central and Eastern European countries and the US, Russia, and the European Union. The relationship between Russia and Ukraine continued to deteriorate.

In 2017, the Trump administration assumed power and introduced the goals and principles of "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) and "America First," reshaping the United States' economic, military, and international trade relations. The US ended its global counter-terrorism strategy and turned to promoting the great power competition strategy and the Indo-Pacific strategy. China was perceived as a primary "strategic competitor" by the US, which led to increased pressure on China in politics, trade, science and technology, diplomacy, the military, and public opinion. This change marked a departure from the "engagement policy" with China pursued by eight US presidents since the 1970s and has resulted in a reversal

in the relatively stable relationship between China and the United States over the past 40 years.

After the Crimea crisis, which led to both US-Russia relations and Europe-Russia relations worsening, there has been a gradual reversal of geopolitical and security relations established after the Cold War in the Asia-Pacific region. The Biden administration in 2021 continued the great power competition strategy and Indo-Pacific strategy of the Trump administration, viewing China as the primary threat to the US economy and security and the “main challenger” to the US-led international order. The administration strengthened and updated security and military alliances in the Asia-Pacific region, issued the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and utilised the Taiwan and South China Sea questions to contain China in the Indo-Pacific region.

The global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2019 to 2022 has caused negative impacts and partial disorder to economic recovery and social life in many countries, and each country has taken different measures of “self-protection”. There has been a significant reduction in people-to-people communication, trade logistics, government-level communication, and exchanges at all levels between countries and regions, leading to disagreement and contradictions in policy-making due to mutual misunderstanding. Globalisation and the world’s economic recovery have further hindrances. The military conflict between Russia and Ukraine broke out in February 2022. It is the first time a large-scale and long-term armed conflict has occurred on the European continent since World War II. The structures and frameworks of the geopolitical, economic, and security situation in Eurasia have shifted since the post-Cold War era. International relations and security defence in Central and Eastern European countries, as well as Nordic countries, were reshuffled as well. It also caused, directly and indirectly, changes in the geopolitical and security relations of the Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, and Middle East regions.

Looking back on the evolution of Eurasian geopolitics and security issues over the past 30 years since the end of the Cold War and analysing the current crises and conflicts, we can draw the following conclusions:

Firstly, Eurasia is undergoing momentous changes not seen in a century. The various security issues and crises faced by Eurasia are a continuation of the geopolitical, economic, military, and international relations changes

that took place during WWI, WWII, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War globalisation period. On the one hand, these issues involve deep-seated factors such as ethnicity, religion, history, culture, and territorial boundaries. On the other hand, it was influenced by the disintegration of old empires over the past century, changes in the balance of power of traditional great powers, and changes in the domestic political systems of various countries (This includes the political system changes within the countries of Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Union, as well as the transitions from the Russian Empire to the Soviet Union and then to Russia). It also encompasses the political system changes in Germany and Japan after World Wars I and II, respectively, as well as the alliance-balancing and confrontational methods of traditional European diplomacy and security.

Secondly, the main factors that led to the increase and complexity of geopolitical and security issues in Eurasia after the Cold War were the competition, intervention, and struggle of the major powers in the region. While inherent conflicts and disputes in the different Eurasia regions also play a role, the United States is the primary driving force influencing and shifting the geopolitical and security landscape in the region. Following the Soviet Union's demise and the transition of Central and Eastern European countries, the US shifted from a defensive stance during the Cold War to a more proactive and aggressive posture, aiming to strategically reshape Europe, Central Asia, and the Indo-Pacific. The US targets countries such as Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea and tries to change their political regimes by exerting pressure on these countries in order to create a new Eurasian order and advance its political, economic, and security interests in Eurasia. The US wants to maintain its status as the world's sole superpower after the Cold War and its dominance over Eurasia and global affairs.

Thirdly, in this context, "national security" has become more vital in major power competitions and confrontations, with expanding means to maintain it. Military competition and defence expenditures are rising globally, particularly in Eurasia. In December 2017, the Trump administration raised the status of economic security in its National Security Strategy, redefining international economic, trade, and investment relations and calling for restructuring the global supply chain to reduce dependence on China. The administration also pursued a decoupling strategy and excluded Chinese high-tech companies from the US, citing national security

concerns. The Ukrainian crisis led the EU to seek energy and economic security, reducing its dependence on Russia for oil and gas.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has recently released its annual report on world military expenditure for 2022. The report indicates that world military expenditure has increased for the eighth consecutive year, reaching a new record of US\$2.24 trillion. The European countries reported the largest military expenditure increase in the past 30 years, with Central and Western European countries' military expenditure totalling \$345 billion, exceeding the early post-Cold War period for the first time. In the Asia-Pacific region, India and Saudi Arabia's military expenditures ranked fourth and fifth globally, respectively, with \$81.4 billion and \$75 billion. Japan's military expenditure reached \$46 billion (SIPRI 2023). The generalisation of national security means and the rise in the level of military competition have intensified mutual distrust and confrontation among major powers, increasing the risk of military conflicts.

Fourthly, there is a lack of dialogue and negotiation mechanisms that cover a wide range of security issues in both Europe and Asia. Since the end of the Cold War, economic and trade investments between Europe and Asia have continuously increased, resulting in the establishment of more frequent dialogues, exchanges, and cooperation organisations and mechanisms such as the China-EU High-Level Dialogue (2007), Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CCCEEC, 2012), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB, 2015), the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRFIC, 2017), the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU, 2015), the EU-ASEAN Dialogue (1994), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM, 1996), the United States-ASEAN Summit (UAS, 2016), the Central Asia-EU Summit (CES, 2022), and the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS, 2009). Three international forums and organisations have been established to address security issues in Eurasia: the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO, 2001), which focuses on anti-terrorism and security cooperation; the Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD, 2002), which addresses Asian security issues; and the Munich Security Conference (MSC, 1963), established during the Cold War but updated for the modern era. Given the increasing security issues and regional instability in Eurasia, the major powers, relevant countries, and regional organisations must engage in multilateral security dialogues and consultations to seek ways to ease and resolve conflicts. However, given the

significant differences in geopolitical and security issues between Europe and Asia (Yu Xiaoqiu 1999), it is not easy to form a comprehensive, inclusive, and consultative mechanism for multilateral security dialogue and cooperation.

China's Basic Policies on Security and Development in the Eurasian Region

As a large country located in the Eurasian region, China recognises that its stability and development are directly impacted by a secure international environment, particularly in the Eurasian region. This region includes China's partner ASEAN countries, Central Asia, East Asia, West Asia, and major European countries such as Germany, France, and Russia, which China values highly, as well as regional organisations like the European Union and many other developing countries that China always supports. China aims to promote economic cooperation with countries in the Eurasian region and maintain a peaceful environment in the region.

Globally, the world is currently undergoing accelerated momentous changes not seen in a century due to a new round of deepening technological revolution and industrial transformation, as well as a significant adjustment in the international balance of power. In Eurasia, the double impact of the ongoing pandemic and geopolitical conflicts has made economic recovery much more difficult. The development gap between countries continues to widen. Trends of change and turmoil show no signs of abating, with unity and division interactions intensifying. However, at the same time, crises also contain hope. Eurasian countries should be more conscious of strengthening unity, fostering more active cooperation, and firmly maintaining peace and security.

To realise the vision of replacing conflict with peace, confrontation with development, containment with cooperation, and decoupling with win-win cooperation globally, including in Eurasia, China proposed ten years ago the concept of building a human community with a shared future and the initiative of jointly pursuing the Belt and Road. Over the past two years, China has also proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), striving to provide more international public goods. These initiatives contain unique worldviews, values, development concepts, security concepts, and cultural perspectives

that China has formed during its modernization process, reflecting the classic wisdom of Chinese traditional culture. Analysing China's initiatives and practices to maintain international security highlights some of China's basic ideas and positions regarding the security and development of Eurasia.

Common Security, Comprehensive Measures, Cooperative Dialogue, and Sustainable Security in Eurasia

Security issues have significant implications for world peace and the well-being of people across all countries. Currently, the security situation in the Eurasian region is quite severe. The Ukrainian crisis has caused the local conflict to drag on for more than a year. Non-traditional security issues such as energy, food, and refugee crises caused by the spillover of the conflict have become increasingly serious. Their negative impact spread to most countries on the Eurasian continent. Under the shock of the Ukraine crisis, the security situation in the Eurasian region faces some prominent problems.

In response to these challenges, Eurasian countries must consider common issues, such as which kinds of security ideas are beneficial to the whole region and how countries can accomplish common security.

To address these issues, China has proposed the Global Security Initiative, first announced by President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference on April 21, 2022, and later reiterated during the 17th Group of 20 Heads of State and Government Summit on November 15, 2022. The Chinese government released the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper in February 2023, presenting a comprehensive explanation of China's security concept, its long-term goals, implementation paths, and fundamental methods for achieving common security.

The foundation of China's security concept is the new common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security approach. It comprises four fundamental elements: common security, comprehensive measures, cooperative dialogue, and sustainability.

Joint Efforts to seek Eurasian Security

China firmly believes that humanity forms an inseparable security community, and countries must jointly maintain regional security while

respecting and safeguarding the reasonable security concerns of others. China's approach to Eurasian security is based on the following principles:

Firstly, the security of each country and the common security of humanity are interdependent and indivisible. The security rights enjoyed by countries and their security obligations are complementary and indivisible.

Secondly, the security interests of all countries are equal. Regardless of their size, strength, or wealth, every country should enjoy equal rights to pursue their own security while respecting the legitimate security concerns of others.

Thirdly, any country's legitimate and reasonable security concerns should be identified and respected. Security differences between countries should be adequately addressed and resolved.

Comprehensive Measures to address Traditional and Non-traditional Security Issues

In today's era, security issues have an expanded and nuanced connotation with an extension that incorporates traditional and non-traditional security factors, which are interwoven and inseparable. In traditional military warfare, non-military means are increasingly used as important auxiliary tools in war and sometimes even play a critical role in influencing the outcome of the war. In this context, maintaining Eurasian security necessitates comprehensive planning and measures, which means that countries need to address traditional military security and strategic stability but also meet non-traditional security challenges and threats, including economic, financial, technological, energy, food, and terrorism.

On the one hand, as previously mentioned, traditional security issues have long been present in the Eurasian region, and hotspot-sensitive issues have arisen from time to time. The ongoing military conflict between Russia and Ukraine represents a significant security challenge to peace and stability in this region. China's position on this issue has remained resolute, advocating for a political solution to the crisis. In February 2023, China proposed a 12-point basic proposal for a political solution (MFA 2023b), providing specific suggestions for resolving the crisis on five levels.

At first, regarding international consensus, China advocates for respect for every country's sovereignty without double standards. China calls for the removal of Cold War mentalities and the prevention of the formation of

opposing camps. Secondly, with respect to the conflicting countries, China supports Russia and Ukraine in restoring direct dialogue as soon as possible to reduce the escalation of tension and ultimately reach a comprehensive peace agreement, and it emphasises the importance of peace talks as dialogue and negotiations are the only viable way to resolve the conflict. Thirdly, China encourages and intensifies humanitarian aid to the people of both countries, supporting civilian safety, conflict victims, women, and children, and creating favourable conditions for the exchange of prisoners of war. Fourthly, to avoid a nuclear crisis, China insists that nuclear weapons must not be used or fought in nuclear wars, maintains the security of nuclear power plants, reduces the risks of nuclear wars, and opposes the use of biochemical weapons. Finally, in terms of non-traditional security, China proposes the cooperation initiative on global food security, calls for stopping unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction against other countries, works to ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains, and assists in postwar reconstruction. Strategic stability on the Eurasian continent relies on the collective efforts of all Eurasian countries. All countries must work together to prevent conflicts from escalating.

On the other hand, the impact of non-traditional security factors and issues on the security situation in Eurasia is becoming increasingly apparent. With globalisation since the beginning of the 21st century, various factors from fields such as economics, finance, biology, and data have spread globally. Non-traditional factors increasingly affect international security, with threats in areas such as ethnic and religious conflicts, terrorism, transnational crime, environmental security, network security, energy and resource security, food security, major epidemics, and natural disasters. These threats affect domestic security but can also spill over from one country to neighbouring countries or entire regions, sometimes even challenging global security. All countries need to prioritise counter-terrorism cooperation, jointly safeguard data security, biosafety, supply chain stability, and technological chain stability, and maintain non-traditional security such as food and energy security.

Seeking Security through Cooperation and Consultation

Dialogue and consultation are effective ways to resolve differences and conflicts, and all countries could use political dialogue and peace

negotiations to achieve security. Seeking peace through cooperation represents the most advantageous solution for all parties, instead of zero-sum games. The Cold War mentality is not feasible. Eurasian countries need to strengthen strategic communication, enhance security and mutual trust, resolve conflicts, and manage differences. Major powers need to adhere to fairness and justice, assume their due responsibilities, support equal consultation, and strive to promote peace talks and mediation. The international community needs to support any efforts conducive to a peaceful resolution of crises and create favourable conditions for dialogue and consultation between conflicting parties.

Promoting Sustainable Security

“Stability brings a country prosperity, while instability may well plunge it into poverty.” (This is classical wisdom from China’s fine traditional culture.) Security and development are interconnected. They mutually influence and restrict each other. Economic development serves as the foundation of national security, and national and international security lend their basic support to safeguarding development. Some experts even argue that sustainable security and sustainable development will become the two major issues in the world in the next 30 years or beyond (Liu Jianguo 2019, 4).

China’s concept of sustainable security provides a uniquely Chinese approach to maintaining global security. In the process of globalisation, polarisation and acute social conflicts caused by imbalanced development often become the root causes of the deterioration of the social security situation in certain countries in the Eurasian region and further affect the security and stability of neighbouring countries and regions. At the national level, prioritising development efforts that focus on improving people’s lives, narrowing economic inequalities, and reducing social conflict are effective ways to strengthen the foundations of security. Promoting sustainable development is a key factor in addressing non-traditional security issues. At the international level, if a group of countries become wealthier while others remain in long-term poverty and backwardness, this will become a challenge in achieving peace and stability in Eurasia. A common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security strategy can help reduce suspicion and hostility among countries, mitigate security costs resulting from mutual

contention and arms races, and ensure that high-quality security remains accessible to all nations. Countries could strive to pursue security through development and seek development through security.

In September 2021, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative during his keynote speech at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The initiative called on the international community to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, pursue more robust, greener, and more balanced global development, and create a global community of shared development. The Global Development Initiative is committed to development as a priority, a people-centred approach that benefits all, innovation-driven development, harmony between humanity and nature, and results-oriented actions. It prioritises cooperation in eight areas: poverty reduction, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, climate change, green development, industrialization, the digital economy, and connectivity (Xinhua 2021). Since the proposal of the Global Development Initiative, it has received positive responses from the international community, with over 100 countries expressing their support. In January 2022, the United Nations established the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, with more than 50 countries joining (Wang Yi 2022).

China's efforts have demonstrated that its development has promoted economic growth in many Eurasian countries and also made crucial contributions to security and stability in the region. China puts forth a balanced and inclusive development model and proposes the establishment of an Eurasian development partnership with equality, balance, benefits for all, and inclusiveness, aiming to resolve conflicts through development, eliminate insecurity, promote security through development, achieve sustainable security, and build lasting peace.

Exchange and Mutual Learning with Civilizations instead of Estrangement and Conflicts between Them

Various cultural trends are surging worldwide, leading to frequent ideological conflicts that can easily escalate into security threats. In March 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilization Initiative during his keynote speech at the CPC in Dialogue with World

Political Parties High-Level Meeting. The initiative advocates respect for the diversity of world civilizations, insisting on equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness between them. The initiative calls for replacing estrangement with exchange, clashes with mutual learning, and superiority with inclusiveness in relationships among civilizations.

In the development history of world civilization, there is no universal standard of civilization that applies everywhere in the world. Samuel Huntington, a famous American scholar who raised the concept of the clash of civilizations, also pointed out clearly that “In the world of multiple civilizations, the constructive road is to abandon universalism, accept diversity, and seek commonality” (Samuel Huntington 1996, 304). A civilization should not measure others with its own standards or impose values on others. Each civilization is an indispensable member of the global family, and different civilizations should respect each other’s equality and diversity while promoting civilised exchanges that are different but harmonious, inclusive, and accommodating, and avoid using differences in social systems, ideologies, and development models as an excuse or inducement for conflict.

Conclusion

Since the Ukrainian crisis persists and geopolitical crises and conflicts on the Eurasian continent continue to grow, regional security and stability face severe challenges. Urgent attention is needed to ease the situation, and in the meantime, these hotspot issues of Eurasian security need to be resolved. From China’s perspective, efforts can be made to maintain regional security in Eurasia at the following three levels:

Firstly, at the overall level of the Eurasian continent, it is crucial to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, adhere to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, take the reasonable security concerns of each country seriously, and support efforts conducive to resolving crises peacefully. (During the video summit between Chinese, French, and German leaders on March 8, 2022, Xi Jinping proposed the “four shoulds” approach for addressing global challenges.) All countries should strengthen their unity and actively engage in dialogue and consultations

based on equality, rationality, and practical attitudes. This approach can lead to a reasonable path to resolving crises through political means.

The stability of the Eurasian continent relies critically on major-country relations. In order to maintain Eurasian security, it is necessary for major powers and international organisations, such as China, Russia, France, Germany, and the European Union, located on the Eurasian continent, to actively shoulder this crucial responsibility. Central and Eastern European Countries located in hotspots, such as Ukraine, Poland, and Serbia, need to strive for rationality and calmness. They should not give up efforts at dialogue but leave room for peace.

Secondly, in terms of Eurasian security mechanisms, existing regional multilateral security organisations and their dialogue and consultation mechanisms should promote true multilateralism and address regional security, development, and stability issues more effectively. These mechanisms should facilitate peace talks, mediate conflicts, and prevent crises and conflicts from spreading to neighbouring territories. It is necessary to initiate multilateral security dialogue and consultations between the major powers, relevant countries, and regional organisations. In response to security challenges and changing situations in Eurasia, efforts should be made to explore new methods and mechanisms for resolving conflicts and establishing an effective governance mechanism for Eurasian security.

Thirdly, from China's own perspective, as a major country at the eastern end of the Eurasian continent, China has always acted as a fair, just, trustworthy, and responsible major state. China is willing to play a greater role in resolving hotspot issues in Eurasia. Since the onset of the crisis in Ukraine, China has maintained objectivity and impartiality while actively promoting peace talks. China is willing to make efforts to push for peace talks as long as they are conducive to restarting the process.

In addition, as China embarks on its new journey towards a great country and national rejuvenation, it is committed to playing a significant role in maintaining peace, common development, and security order in Eurasia, as well as contributing to international public goods. Upholding the concept of building a human community with a shared future, China will further promote the joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative to make significant contributions to peace and security in the Eurasian region.

To achieve this, China advocates collaborating on critical areas to maintain overall security on the Eurasian continent, as follows:

Upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, supporting the UN's efforts to prevent conflicts, and supporting post-conflict countries in developing peacebuilding work;

Promoting coordination and benign interaction between major Eurasian countries and creating a pattern of major-country relations that features peace, stability, and balance;

Adhering to the "nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought" consensus to reduce the risk of nuclear war;

Encouraging dialogue and negotiation to achieve political resolution of regional hotspot issues, such as the Ukrainian crisis;

Supporting and enhancing regional security cooperation mechanisms and architectures centred around the ASEAN and striving to create a global security initiative experimental zone;

Building more platforms and mechanisms for exchange and cooperation among Eurasian countries to enhance non-traditional security governance capabilities concerning anti-terrorism, cyberspace, biology, and emerging technologies.

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