

Imperial Springs Statement

(2022)

The 2022 Imperial Springs International Forum, jointly organized by the Australia China Friendship and Exchange Association, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the World Leadership Alliance - Club de Madrid was held at the Imperial Springs International Conference Center, Guangzhou, China on November 28 and 29, 2022. The theme of the Forum was *Multilateralism, Global Development and Security*.

In their inaugural messages, national and provincial Chinese authorities and foreign dignitaries referred to the significance of the Forum and the importance of the issues to be addressed. Distinguished guests from the political, academic and business circles attended the Forum in hybrid format. They included former heads of state, heads of government, heads of international organizations, eminent scholars, and ambassadors and representatives of international organizations in China.

The two-day Forum comprised an opening ceremony, a closing ceremony, luncheons, six substantive sessions, and in-depth discussions. Forum participants all emphasized the importance of multilateralism and global cooperation.

1. Chinese participants highlighted the success of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the importance of new concepts introduced in the report to the CPC, including "Chinese modernization", emerging from China's unique conditions. They pointed to China's

contribution to safeguarding and promoting world peace through its own development; its advocacy and practice of true multilateralism; its implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative; its proposal of the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative; and China's active advancement of the development of a human community with a shared future. International participants took note of these advances; learned with interest of the policy positions adopted at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC); and expressed appreciation for the concepts outlined in the Global Development and Global Security Initiatives.

2. The world situation is unusually complex and challenging at present, with intertwined traditional and non-traditional security threats, including the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to inflict suffering; international conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, causing destruction and displacing millions of persons; and food, energy and debt crises afflicting the most vulnerable. All countries must work together to address these global challenges and ward off greater instability. The security of each country, and the peace and security of the world, are closely interrelated. Individual, national and global development are all interconnected and should be mutually supportive. All members of the international community must commit to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules defined by international law; promote the development of a balanced, effective, and sustainable international security framework; and work together to build a world of lasting peace and collective security.

3. In line with the *United Nations Charter*, endorsed in the *Global Security Initiative* proposed by President Xi Jinping, participants emphasized the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states. They called for strengthened efforts to end the war in Ukraine within the framework of the United Nations, and encouraged all parties to engage actively in direct dialogue as soon as possible, to demilitarize the conflict and create the conditions necessary for peace. They recognized the need for a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture in Europe, premised on the principle of indivisible security. They endorsed the calls by many parties, including China, on all members of the international community to oppose the threat, and the use, of nuclear weapons. A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.
4. Participants called for a constructive response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Ukraine, first by respecting international humanitarian law, avoiding attacks that target civilians and civilian facilities, minimizing civilian casualties and impacts on livelihoods, and preventing a larger-scale humanitarian crisis. Recognizing the impact this winter will have on the population trapped in this war, humanitarian agencies must scale up relief efforts to alleviate loss of life and ensure that all refugees, displaced persons and others in need, can survive the winter
5. The war in Ukraine should not expose vulnerable populations in other countries to the threat of starvation. Action is essential to sustain commercial food exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports and the MoU on Trade

Facilitation enabling exports of food and fertilizers from Russia. All relevant parties must commit their continued support to the Black Sea Grain Initiative and refrain from any action that would imperil these agreements.

6. The international community should act to avert a new Cold War. The purpose of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security; to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; to achieve international co-operation in addressing international challenges of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. Participants urged the international community to adhere to the fundamental values of peace, sustainable development, democracy, justice, freedom, and the realization of human rights in accordance with international law; and to advance the reform of the global governance system to strengthen our effective multilateral pursuit of these ends. The UN Secretary-General's proposal for a *Summit of the Future* in 2024 will allow all members of the international community to advance proposals to help us achieve these ends.
7. Participants underscored the importance of promoting the steady recovery of the global economy. The benefits of trade liberalization and economic globalization in recent decades were recognized, as were the likely negative effects of "decoupling" recently outlined by IMF Managing Director

Kristalina Georgieva. The focus should be on facilitating a global economic recovery, and especially on enhancing the economic and financial stabilization of developing countries. Participants welcomed and strongly endorsed the *G20 Leaders' Declaration* in Bali calling for tangible, precise, swift and necessary actions to address common challenges, also through macro policy cooperation and coordinated actions to advance a strong, inclusive and resilient global recovery and sustainable development that delivers jobs and growth.

8. Noting that the world has entered a period of deep digital transformation, which is a crucial driver of innovation-driven productivity, participants called for closer cooperation in renewable energy, artificial intelligence and digitalization, deep integration of the real and digital economies, co-creation and development of new technologies wherever possible, and effective collective deployment of science and technology in tackling global crises related to human survival and development, such as health, climate and energy.
9. As UN Secretary-General Guterres has noted, the SDGs have become “further out of reach”. Participants support the Secretary-General’s call for an *SDG Stimulus* to provide affected countries in the Global South with adequate liquidity through reallocation of Special Drawing Rights, concessional financing to Middle Income Countries in distress, and effective mechanisms of debt relief and restructuring. The *SDG Summit* in 2023 will provide a unique opportunity to review the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of the interconnected crises facing the world, and provide guidance on accelerated actions toward 2030.

10. Participants saw the decision at COP27 in Sharm el Shaikh to create a *Loss and Damage Fund* as a step toward rebuilding trust with vulnerable countries, but emphasized that the operational procedures for this vehicle must be clearly defined and funding provided. As UN Secretary-General Guterres noted, moreover, the world needs drastically to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without delay to ensure that emissions peak before 2025, as the science indicates is necessary. Presidents Biden and Xi have reopened the door to cooperation between China and the United States for this purpose, and the opportunity must be seized without delay. Effective scientific and technological collaboration between research institutes in the U.S. and PRC to address urgent climate-related needs could relieve tensions across the technological landscape and reduce geo-economic and geo-political stresses between Washington and Beijing, to the advantage of all. There are many areas where international research programs could be combined to advantage. All countries must strengthen exchanges and mutual learning new energy technology, decarbonization, green growth, biodiversity, and environmental protection.

11. Participants emphasized that international cooperation was essential to improve protection of the *global commons* and the provision of *global public goods*, including public health. They emphasized the need to strengthen the architecture of global health provision, especially to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

12. ISIF participants called on all states and international organizations to foster people-to-people diplomacy to strengthen cooperation between all states, to enable exchanges between all peoples, and to enhance understanding, trust, and cooperation towards a shared future of development and prosperity for all humankind.