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“Seize the Opportunity and Enhance Cooperation for a New Chapter in the China-US Relationship”
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Ambassador Hills, thank you very much for your kind words.

It is a great pleasure for my wife and me to be here tonight.

As someone who has been working on the China-US relations for over twenty years, I know only too well that many of you and the organizations you represent deserve our thanks, because had there not been your strong support and tremendous contribution, the China-US relationship would not be anywhere near where it is today.

So let me start by thanking all of you and especially the National Committee on US-China Relations for what you have done and will continue to do to advance the China-US relationship.

Two weeks ago, I was back in China. As Chinese Ambassador to the US, I had the honor of accompanying President Obama throughout his trip in my country. I am sure you have followed President Obama’s visit with great interest and read many of the reports.

Well, different people might have different perspectives. Tonight, I would like to share with you my perspective, an insider’s story, so to speak. This was President Obama’s very first visit to China and it went very well.

First of all, it was a trip of exchanges.

During the visit, the two sides reached many important agreements on China-US relations and a host of major international and regional issues, including the Korean and Iranian nuclear issues, Darfur, South Asia, climate change, etc.

President Hu made five proposals on further advancing the China-US relationship, namely, to constantly enhance strategic mutual trust, to maintain high-level exchanges and consultation at other levels, to strengthen coordination in macro economic and financial policies, to further advance exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and to jointly address regional and global challenges.

President Obama agreed with President Hu, and said that given the significant changes in international relations in the 21st century, relations between countries are no longer a zero-sum game. And international cooperation is necessary to meet global challenges.

He said the US side is prepared to work together with China to build on the growth of their relations in the past thirty years to make further progress, promote world economic growth and prosperity and jointly address common challenges.

We believe that such face-to-face, sincere and thorough exchange of views between leaders and decision-makers of our two countries is of great significance. It helps to enhance mutual trust and cooperation, and sustain the momentum of bilateral ties in the new era.

Second, it was a trip of discovery.

Obviously, from his earlier remarks, we could see that President Obama was very interested in China. But he had never been to China. So this time, it was a good opportunity for him to discover what China is like.

He started his visit from Shanghai, which is a modern metropolis with rapid development. In Shanghai, President Obama held a wonderful dialogue with over 400 Chinese students from eight universities. He was impressed with the enthusiasm, self-confidence and talent of the young people in China.

He then moved on to Beijing. I accompanied him to the Palace Museum and the Great Wall, and I was glad to see his great admiration for the Chinese civilization.

In the guestbook of the Palace Museum, President Obama wrote that the Museum “is truly majestic” and that it is a “testimony to the greatness and longevity of Chinese civilization.” On the Great Wall, he said that the “spectacular” Wall is a “reminder of the ancient history of the Chinese people”.

Above all, he has discovered a real China, a country not just experiencing dynamic and rapid growth, but also confronted with complicated difficulties and challenges in economic and social development.

For example, he has learned from President Hu that in China, there are still 40 million people living in poverty, 68 million urban residents living on minimum subsistence allowances, 80 million being physically challenged, and an additional 24 million seeking jobs in cities every year.

As a result of such discoveries, President Obama left China with a better understanding of China, both its past and present.

Third, it was a trip of accomplishment.

During the visit, China and the United States issued a Joint Statement, which has defined our relations in five aspects, namely, the China-US relationship, building and deepening bilateral strategic trust, economic cooperation and global recovery, regional and global challenges, and climate change, energy and environment.

Here I want to share with you the concrete outcomes in each aspect.

I. On the China-US Relationship

The two sides agreed that regular exchanges between leaders of the two countries are essential to the long-term, sound and steady growth of China-US relations. President Obama invited President Hu to make a visit to the United States next year, and President Hu accepted the invitation with pleasure. The second round of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue will be held in Beijing in the summer of 2010.

China and the US will take concrete steps to advance sustained and reliable military-to-military relations.

General Chen Bingde, Chief of the General Staff of the PLA will visit the US next year, and Secretary Robert Gates and Admiral Michael Mullen will visit China.

The US reaffirmed its support for Expo 2010 Shanghai.

The two sides also agreed to deepen consultation and cooperation in such areas as counter-terrorism, law-enforcement, space and aviation, health and food safety, and people-to-people exchanges. The US will launch a new initiative to send one hundred thousand students to China over the coming four years.

II. On Building and Deepening Bilateral Strategic Trust

President Hu emphasized that China resolutely follows the path of peaceful development and a win-win strategy of opening-up, and is committed to promoting the building of a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity.

The US welcomes a strong, prosperous and successful China that plays a greater role in world affairs.

The two sides reiterated that they are committed to building a positive, cooperative and comprehensive China-US relationship for the 21st century, and will take concrete actions to steadily build a partnership to address common challenges.

The US side stated that it follows its one China policy and abides by the principles of the three Sino-US joint communiqués. The US side welcomes the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Straits and looks forward to efforts by both sides to increase dialogues and interactions in economic, political and other fields and develop more positive and stable cross-Straits relations.

The two sides agreed that respecting each other's core interests is extremely important to ensure steady progress in China-US relations. They will discuss issues of strategic importance through such channels as the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue and the military-to-military exchanges.

III. On Economic Cooperation and Global Recovery

The two sides agreed to sustain measures to ensure a strong and durable global economic recovery and financial system. They will continue to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on macro-economic policies, and pledge to honor all commitments made at the first round of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, the G20 summits, and APEC in Singapore.

The two sides will work together to pursue policies of adjusting domestic demand and relative prices to lead to more sustainable and balanced trade and growth. They will also pursue forward-looking monetary policies with due regard for the ramifications of those policies for the international economy.

The two sides recognize the importance of open trade and investment to their domestic economies and to the global economy, and are committed to jointly fight protectionism in all its manifestations.

IV. On Regional and Global Challenges

China and the United States share a responsibility to address cooperatively regional and global security challenges. They share broad common interests in the Asia-Pacific region and support the development

and improvement of an open and inclusive regional cooperation framework.

The two sides agreed that respect for the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, IAEA mandates, and implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions is essential for the success of our joint efforts to stem the spread of nuclear weapons.

The two sides will work together with other parties concerned to comprehensively achieve the purpose and overall goal of the Six-party Talks through consultations and dialogues. They hope that the multilateral mechanism of the Six Party Talks would convene at an early date.

The two sides reaffirmed their strong support for a comprehensive and long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiations, and called on Iran to engage constructively with the P5+1 and to cooperate fully with the IAEA to facilitate a satisfactory outcome.

China attaches importance to the US initiative to hold a nuclear security summit in April 2010 and will actively participate in the preparations for the summit.

V. On Climate Change, Energy and Environment

The two sides agreed that the transition to a green and low-carbon economy is essential and that the clean energy industry will provide vast opportunities for citizens of both countries in the years ahead.

The two sides committed to strengthen cooperation in promoting clean air, water, transportation, electricity, and resource conservation. They will work together to achieve cost-effective energy efficiency improvements in industry, buildings and consumer products through technical cooperation, demonstration and policy exchanges.

The two sides also agreed to mobilize at least 150 million US dollars in the next five years to support the joint Clean Energy Research Center. The Electric Vehicles initiative and the China-US Renewable Energy Partnership will be launched. And cooperation will be promoted on large-scale carbon capture and sequestration.

So this has been my perspective on President Obama's visit to China: It was a trip of exchanges, a trip of discovery and a trip of accomplishment.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic ties. Our relationship has made historic progress in the past three decades. It is now one of the most dynamic and important bilateral relationships in the world.

We are happy to see that through joint efforts, our relationship has enjoyed smooth progress since President Obama took office.

Precisely as President Hu said to President Obama, China and the US share more extensive common interests and shoulder important common responsibility in a series of major issues that bear on peace and development for all mankind. Hence it is imperative and also entirely possible for China and the US to go beyond their differences and work together for a better future for all people in the 21st century.

We hope that following President Obama's successful visit to China, the two sides will work together to seize the important opportunity to advance their relationship and implement in good faith what is agreed in the Joint Statement.

To be specific, it is important to maintain the positive momentum of high-level exchanges and dialogue. The two sides should work together to ensure the success of President Hu's visit to the US next year, and to make the second round of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue productive so as to enhance strategic mutual trust and cooperation. It is also important to improve and enhance military-to-military relations through more high-level exchanges.

Second, it is important to further expand cooperation. We should continue to deepen our dialogue and cooperation in economic, financial and trade areas and step up policy coordination regarding macro-economic policy, transformation of economic growth mode, Doha round negotiation and fight against protectionism.

We should maintain communication, consultation and coordination on such major issues as the Korean and Iranian nuclear issues, Darfur, South Asia, climate change and energy security so as to work together for world peace and stability.

Third, it is important to properly handle disagreement and sensitive issues. Given the differences in cultural tradition, social system and level of development, it is only natural that we have certain disagreement and frictions. Nevertheless, they should be handled through dialogue and consultation on the basis of equality and in a constructive and cooperative spirit.

Fourth, it is important to increase legislative, party, local, think tank, media, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, especially to promote more exchanges between the young people of the two countries. We expect the US initiative to send one hundred thousand students to China to be carried out successfully.

I truly believe that in the new situation, the interests of China and the US are interconnected to such a degree that one could hardly do without the other. There may be bumps lying ahead, but I do hope and believe that our two countries will be able to work together in seizing the opportunity and enhancing cooperation to bring about a new chapter in the China-US relationship.

The continued support and efforts by the National Committee and other friends would be much appreciated.

Thank you.