



INTER ACTION COUNCIL

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**“Promoting Co-existence, Co-Sharing and Win-win
by Greater Unity, Exchange and Cooperation”**

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(Translation)

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my first InterAction Council Meeting. It gives me great pleasure to come to Salzburg, a famous city of music, to discuss with you, my dear colleagues, the international situation in the new century.

Since it was set up over twenty years ago, this Council has convened on a regular basis for the exchange of original views on major international and regional issues. The meetings are of great significance.

The current meeting is held in the hinterland of Europe. Europe was where two World Wars started. These two wars brought untold sufferings to the people of Europe and the rest of the world. It was after the end of the Second World War that the United Nations was founded. But people soon found out that they once again had to endure the Cold War between the East and West. Even the United Nations could not do much about it.

Today, more than ever, people treasure peace and stability, advocate dialogue and cooperation and value development and advancement. The end of the Cold War, the establishment and expansion of the European Union and the birth and circulation of the Euro have set models for international and regional cooperation. EU expanded itself again on May the first this year. The expanded EU is world's number one trade partner. It has the third largest population in the world and its GDP has topped ten trillion dollars. EU's eastward expansion is another epoch-making event in the history of European development, which will exert a significant and far-reaching impact on the future development of Europe and the evolution of the global pattern.

Mr. Chairman,

Mankind has entered twenty-first century. The international situation is undergoing profound and tremendous transformation. Looking around the world, we see that the development of human society has offered us brighter prospect. But in the meantime, we know that our world is far from being tranquil and peaceful. The problems confronting us can be summed up as follows:

1. Peace and development remain the themes of our time but none of them has been perfectly achieved. From Congo to Afghanistan, from Iraq to Haiti, people have suffered wars and conflicts, and many of them lost their lives. In these regions and countries, peace process is a tortuous path and economic reconstruction an uphill journey. Peace and development are fellow travelers, compliment to each other, and we cannot have one without the other.

2. Traditional and non-traditional security threats are intertwined, with the latter becoming more prominent. Bloodshed triggered by racial, religious, territorial and other traditional security factors has not waned. At the same time, security threats posed by non-traditional factors are becoming increasingly obvious. Terrorist activities are hard to prevent; the proliferation of WMD continues despite all efforts of prohibition; transnational crimes are rampant; infectious diseases are spreading; and the situation of poverty and underdevelopment in many countries and regions has not been reversed.

3. Economic globalization is developing, but the gap between the North and the South is widening. Under economic globalization, countries are more closely linked and are blessed with more opportunities for development. However, the rewards brought by globalization have not been evenly distributed, which aggravates the conflict in development. Undulating anti-globalization campaigns have prompted us to reflect: the vast majority of developing countries are still in a disadvantageous position, with shortage of development fund, heavy burden of debt, deteriorating trade conditions, increasing financial risks and low technology level. This situation is unfavourable for the sustained and healthy development of the global economy.

4. While the world is moving towards multi-polarization, unilateralism still exists. The international community is calling in a louder voice for multilateral cooperation. Most countries support the idea of “seeking big common ground while shelving small differences” and achieving common development and prosperity through multilateral cooperation. However, practices of imposing pressure on other countries at will and even resorting to the use of force, which are against the norms governing international relations, have occurred from time to time. The Iraqi war is a worst result of such unilateral action.

5. While there is an increasing desire for the democratization of international relations, the noises of “cultural conflicts” have not decreased. Rule of law is needed in governing a country and, by the same token, democracy is required in handling international relations. Civilizations of various countries are the common asset of mankind and the foundation on which the human race carries

forward the past. In today's civilized society, to tell good or bad about certain civilizations only leads to racial hatred and civilization confrontation.

Mr. Chairman,

A couple of weeks ago, grand activities were organized in various countries on this continent in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the D-day, where opponents and allies of past days gathered together. History and today fit perfectly in one picture and it makes us reflect upon the past and look into the future. We are living in a changing world with complicated relations. We are confronted with choices in handling international relations and dealing with various kinds of threats and challenges: do we go for dialogue or confrontation, cooperation or unilateralism, win-win or lose-lose. These are fundamental choices each country has to make, with no exception. The option left with us is a clear-cut one: we can achieve co-existence, co-sharing and win-win only by promoting unity, exchange and cooperation.

1. Co-existence is the basis for the sustained growth of human society. Respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence are important principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Countries, big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, are all equal members in the international community and are all entitled to participate in and make decisions about international affairs. Global challenges need to be dealt with through global cooperation. A new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation should be established amongst members of the international community.
2. Co-sharing is the highway to realizing common prosperity for human society. World peace is not possible without the stability of developing countries, and global prosperity is not possible without the economic development of developing countries. We need economic globalization that benefits all countries on earth, not the polarization that makes the rich richer, the poor poorer. There are still 1.2 billion people living abject poverty with daily income less than one dollar. The assistance provided by developed countries should not have any political string or harsh terms attached.
3. Win-Win is the goal for comprehensive development of the human society. The United Nations is a universally representative and a most authoritative international organization. It is a major platform for multilateral cooperation and win-win arrangement. A strong and powerful UN is the hope for a peaceful and stable world that enjoys development and prosperity. UN's Millennium Declaration must be translated into action. People from all countries can benefit from globalization only through promoting cooperation and common development. And only in

this way can we make this twenty-first century where everyone enjoys development.

I wish this meeting a complete success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.