

## **Building Cooperation and Collaboration to Achieve Common Maritime Goals**

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Distinguished Vice Admiral Jayantha Perera, colleagues and friends,

Good morning!

Today, it is my great pleasure to come to Galle, a famous historical city of Sri Lanka, and discuss with all the friends here on “synergizing the efforts of cooperation and collaboration to achieve maritime prosperity”. First of all, I would like to, on behalf of Admiral Wu Shengli, Commander of the Chinese PLA Navy, extend our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Defense and the Navy of Sri Lanka for your invitation and my cordial greetings to all the participants at the conference.

Starting from 2010, Galle Dialogue Maritime Conference has attracted more and more participating countries, with increasingly broader topics and greater influences, and become an important platform for the world navies to discuss issues on maritime security and cooperation. This time, I am invited to share my thoughts on “Building Cooperation and Collaboration to Achieve Common Maritime Goals”. According to my understanding, the common goal can be summarized as “Maritime Security and Prosperity”. Security is the basic goal and prosperity is the long-term goal. Ocean is shared by human beings and is indispensable to human development. Safeguarding maritime security demands our common efforts, accords with our common interests and should be our common pursuit. Now, I would like to elaborate in three points on how to achieve the goals.

### **I. China proposes a 4C Maritime Security Concept – Common Security, Comprehensive Security, Cooperative Security and Continuous Security**

With the common efforts from all the countries around the world, the

overall maritime security situation is stable in general. Meanwhile, traditional and nontraditional security threats remain. Problems left over by history and conflicts of realistic interests are interwoven. Contradictions between sustainable development and maritime environment deterioration become more obvious. Issues on maritime security are increasingly diversified, complicated and comprehensive. Faced with new situations, circumstances and features, Admiral Wu Shengli, Commander of Chinese PLA Navy, put forward a new maritime security concept centered on “Common Security, Comprehensive Security, Cooperative Security and Continuous Security (4Cs) at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Seapower Symposium this September, from a perspective of jointly addressing global maritime security challenges. We wish all of us can jointly open up a path of maritime security that conforms to the developmental requirement of the era and accords with the common interests of every country.

*Common security means security is maintained and enjoyed by all.* As we share this blue planet, the ocean sustains the common development and destiny of human beings. Every country takes the responsibility of safeguarding maritime security and enjoys the well-being brought by it. There is an old saying in China which goes “the fire burns high when everybody adds wood to it”. We propose that all countries, big or small, strong or weak, should make common efforts to maintain maritime security.

*Comprehensive security means giving overall consideration of security issues in all areas.* Today’s maritime security issues have gone beyond the traditional security issues and expanded to the non-traditional security field, covering a variety of areas including military security, resources security, passage security and environmental security. To safeguard maritime security, we should make all-round and multi-angled arrangements and take extensive measures to effectively cope with

various maritime security risks and challenges.

*Cooperative security means seeking security through coordinated actions.* Today, there is no country or maritime force that can address the global maritime security threats by itself. Instead, it is necessary for all the navies to form common idea, take common action, help one another, innovate the way and expand the scope of cooperation for mutual benefit and a win-win situation.

*Continuous security means laying equal stress on security and development.* Security is the basis for development, while development is the support for security. Security and development, as the wheels of vehicle and wings of bird, can forge ahead or soar high only if the wheels rotate to the same direction and the wings spread together. We should promote interest convergence through common development and facilitate continuous development through lasting security, so as to realize the benign interaction between security and development.

This new maritime security concept advocated by China inherits the basic idea on maritime security concept, while adjusts to the new conditions, characteristics and development of maritime situation. It reflects the time trends of peaceful development, and at the same time represents the common interests of countries all over the world. It is our common concept and pursuit to maintain maritime security and promote maritime prosperity.

## **II. China is committed to enhancing multi-field cooperation and promoting maritime prosperity.**

Common concept calls for common action that is down-to-earth. While devoted to making self-development and building itself into a maritime power, China is endeavoring to work jointly with neighboring countries and the world as a whole for peace and prosperity. Not long ago, the 22<sup>nd</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Beijing approved two outcome documents: *the Beijing Agenda for an Integrated, Innovative*

*and Interconnected Asia-Pacific (the 22<sup>nd</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration), and the Statement on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of APEC: Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership*, which makes it clearer the development direction, goal, and measures for the economic cooperation in Asia-Pacific region.

With a long coastline, China finds the ocean indispensable to its development while the prosperity of the ocean also in need of China. Presently, China advocates actively the building of “One Belt and One Road”, of which the building of “One Road”, or the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road, is nothing else than developing an economic belt of strategic cooperation that connects the South China Sea, the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, so as to interconnect China’s fast growing economy with the interests of countries along the belt, and promote maritime prosperity with joint efforts. During his visits to Sri Lanka, India, and Maldives in September 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized in his remarks that China is willing to link up in depth the building of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road with national development strategies of South Asian countries, with the hope to make the “One Belt and One Road” as two wings to carry South Asian economies to soar high. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, President Xi declared at a dialogue meeting on strengthening connectivity partnership with neighboring countries that China will contribute 40 billion U.S. dollars to set up a Silk Road Fund, to provide investment and financial support for infrastructure construction, resources exploitation, industrial cooperation, financial cooperation and other projects related to connectivity for countries along the “Belt and Road”. The fund will be open to active participation by investors from both within and outside of Asia. Along with the development of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road, it will inevitably benefit countries in South Asia and of Indian Ocean.

The Chinese PLA Navy, actively practicing the new maritime

security concept, embraces a more proactive and open approach to involve in maritime cooperation in all fields, and performs more frequently international responsibilities and duties, to make unremitting effort to maintaining maritime security and promoting maritime prosperity.

**Maintains actively the security of strategic maritime channels.** As of date, the PLA navy has dispatched 56 vessels and over 15,000 officers and sailors in 18 escort task groups, which have performed escort for more than 5,800 merchant vessels in almost 800 convoys, among which over 50% were foreign vessels. The Chinese PLA Navy Task Groups have also rescued vessels which were chased or embarked by pirates, and performed delivery of those released from pirate captivity, in a total number of more than 50. During their deployments, the Chinese PLA Navy task groups have also conducted eight times of escort for vessels carrying food chartered by WFP, and proceeded to the Mediterranean to perform 20 escorts for the UN action of destruction of Syrian chemical weapons.

**Carries out actively medical assistance service.** Since her commission in 2010, the PLA Navy Hospital Ship Ark Peace has performed “Mission Harmony” for 4 times, visiting 22 countries in Asia, Africa, and the Americas, and providing diagnosis and treatment for over 10,000 people in these countries. During her deployment in the GOA, Ark Peace provided medical service for escort task forces including CTF508, CTF151, CTF465, and the ROK task force. In early 2014, after the outbreak of Ebola in some West African countries, the Chinese government has provided emergency assistance of 0.75 billion RMB and sent over 220 medical staff to the epidemic areas. There is also plan to send another 800 staff to provide help. And this is the largest operation of foreign aid efforts in China’s health field.

**Participates actively in HADR.** In November 2013, the Philippines

were hit by typhoon “Haiyan”. The PLA Navy immediately dispatched Ark Peace to the Philippines for HADR operations. From November 21 to December 15, we have received 2,208 outpatients and 113 inpatients, and successfully conducted 44 operations. Besides that, we have also donated large quantities of medicine, medical consumables, food, tents, and other supplies.

**Organize and participate in actively multi-lateral maritime joint exercise and training.** On April 23 this year, in conjunction with the 65<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary, the PLA Navy hosted “Maritime Cooperation 2014” exercise. Nineteen warships from 8 countries participated in this exercise. From June to August, the PLA Navy dispatched CTF171, composed of 4 modern warships and over 1,100 officers and crew, to Hawaii for the RIMPAC 2014 exercise. Besides, the PLA Navy also actively participated in multi-lateral maritime exercises under the framework of WPNS and ADMM Plus.

**Carrie out actively port visits and personnel exchange.** As of date, the PLA Navy has received more than 260 visiting ships from 34 countries, and has sent more than 100 ships to visit over 60 countries. In the past few years, we have invited more than 60 midshipmen from 20 countries to sail with the PLA Navy training ship, and have sent nearly 100 midshipmen to sail with ships of 18 countries.

The exchange and cooperation between the PLA Navy and foreign navies is a guarantee of peaceful development of the ocean, and has played an important role in maintaining maritime security and promoting maritime prosperity.

### **III. China looks forward to new development in maritime security cooperation**

The 21 century is called the century of the ocean. People all over the world wish for a peaceful and stable maritime environment. Following the spirit of “open, pragmatic and cooperative” and adhering to the idea

of common security, comprehensive security, cooperative security and continuous security, the Chinese PLA Navy sincerely hopes to work together with other navies to advance maritime security cooperation.

**First, expand areas of naval professional exchanges.** While deepening exchanges in the fields of naval academies, maritime search and rescue (SAR), diving and mine countermeasures operations, we should proactively expand exchanges and cooperation in such areas as maritime counterterrorism, maritime peacekeeping, maritime environment protection and survey, and continuously improve the capability to jointly cope with maritime security challenges.

**Second, enhance counter-piracy cooperation.** Currently, with the deepening of counter-piracy cooperation in Gulf of Aden and Somali waters, we should further summarize and popularize successful experience in counter-piracy and escort cooperation. Meanwhile, we should closely follow new trends and features of pirates' activities, enhance escort cooperation and jointly maintain safe and unimpeded shipping.

**Third, advance cooperation in HRDA.** Faced with frequent typhoons, tsunamis and other natural disasters at sea, all the navies need to attach great importance on how to effectively carry out HRDA operations in future cooperation, make in-depth discussions on forces access, information exchange, command coordination and medical assistance, actively carry out multi-national military exercises to lay a solid foundation for conducting joint operations.

**Fourth, deepen multi-lateral joint exercises and training.** With a more open mind, we need to include more subjects and increase difficulty level of exercises and drills, and make multi-lateral exercises more integrated and diversified, so that all the navies can fully participate, benefit and enhance their overall capacity through these exercises and drills.

**Fifth, strengthen exchanges among young naval officers.** The future of our navies lies in young officers who constitute fresh troops to safeguard maritime security. It is our shared responsibility to cultivate open-minded and cooperative young naval officers who own international vision and trust each other. We should expand and deepen exchanges among young naval officers through such measures as regularly exchange of students and ship riders, thus enabling the friendly cooperation between navies passed from generation after generation.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, to seek peace and development, promote cooperation and pursue mutual benefit is the theme of today's era, which accords with the common interests of people all over the world. Since ocean is the homeland for all human beings to survive and develop, let us make joint efforts to strengthen cooperation, maintain maritime security and promote maritime prosperity.

Wish this dialogue a complete success. Thank you.