

**ENHANCE COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE**  
**MARITIME SECURITY AND COMMON PROSPERITY**

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Distinguished Vice Admiral  
Colleagues and friends, Good morning!

Today, it's my great pleasure to visit Sri Lanka, the country known as "the Pearl of the Indian Ocean"; and to visit the beautiful and famous historic city Galle and exchange views with navy colleagues on maritime security and cooperation. To begin with, I would like to extend, on behalf of Admiral Wu Shengli, the Commander of the Chinese PLA Navy, our warm regards to the participants of this grand conference, and to express our gratitude to the Defense Ministry and the Navy of Sri Lanka, thanks for the warm invitation.

China is one of the first countries that started maritime adventures. In Ming dynasty, Admiral Zhenghe, the well-known explorer in Chinese history commanded his grand fleets and visited Sri Lanka. The "Zhenghe Stone Tablet" at the National Museum of Sri Lanka was set up during his first visit to this country. Since then, the Chinese people have been regarding the sea as a means to broadcast the concept of peace and cooperation. Admiral Zhenghe's expeditionary voyages made great contribution to establishing friendship, building trust and developing trade at each place visited and set excellent example in conducting friendly exchanges and pursuing common prosperity.

Today's China consistently pursues its time-honored tradition of peace-loving and continuously expands the scope of cooperation. With the economic globalization, China is actively proposing "one belt and one road" initiative. The Indian Ocean is, since ancient time, a critical hub and important component of the maritime silk route. We sincerely hope that, this economic belt of strategic cooperation, which is open towards the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, could interconnect China's fast growing economy and the interests of the coastal countries along this route, so as to achieve common prosperity.

While we, the human beings, are benefiting from the seas, we clearly aware that although the maritime situation in general is stable, we are still confronted with global maritime issues, with traditional and non-traditional threats interwoven. In face of the new environment, new situation and new characteristics, China, as a nation with strong sense of responsibility, consistently devotes itself to constructing harmonious seas, establishing and implementing the new concept of maritime security, centered on "common security, comprehensive security, cooperative security and continuous security" (4Cs). This new maritime security concept echoes the trend of peaceful development; represents the common interests of countries all over the world and shall be taken as our common sense and responsibility as well.

The Chinese Navy always devotes itself to maritime security and harmony and fully endeavors to make due contribution to maintaining maritime peace and security. As of now, the Chinese Navy has deployed 21 task groups for the escort missions, involving 62 ships and about 18000 personnel, and performed escort for 6075 merchant vessels in 890 convoys. Of them, vessels flying foreign flags account for 52%. Besides, some of these task groups cooperated with naval ships from Russia, Denmark and Norway in escorting the ships for the action of destruction of Syrian chemical weapons. They also conducted emergent humanitarian tasks, for example, supplying fresh water to Maldives. It is worth mentioning that the 19<sup>th</sup> task group conducted successively evacuation of 897 personnel from Yemen in emergency. Of them, there were 276 foreigners from 15 countries.

Moreover, since its commission, the Ark Peace, Chinese navy's hospital ship, has conducted the series *Mission Harmony* tasks five times; paid port calls to 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Americas and the Oceania, providing medical services to tens of thousands of local people. A few days ago, the Ark Peace just left from Mexico port after completing its medical service mission.

Meanwhile, the Chinese navy plays an active role in participating multilateral joint exercises and drills of various types, competing with many foreign navies in the same fields. Since 2014, the Chinese navy participated in succession Sino-Russia Joint Maritime Exercises, RIMPAC-2014, Sino-Malaysia "Peace and Friendship 2015" exercises, the 4th ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx), Sri Lank "Cormorant Strike-2015" multilateral special force joint exercise, etc. In addition to these exercises, it is also active in paying port calls and engaging personnel exchanges. Currently, the task group led by Destroyer *Jinan* is paying port calls on its return journey, which is also a global voyage.

All colleagues, friends,

Currently, contradictions that might pose negative effect upon maritime security are unprecedented, but we are also facing with unprecedented opportunities for cooperation. A Chinese old saying goes that *if two people are of the same mind, their sharpness can cut through metal*. Therefore, we hold that all navies should strengthen cooperation and join hands in coping with the threats and challenges to maritime security, and maintaining maritime peace and stability. To this end, we would like to make the following proposals:

**Firstly, increasingly expand the scope and lift the level of exchanges.** Specific measures shall be done in the following aspects: Take full advantage of such platforms as International Seapower Symposium, Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) and Galle Dialogue to promote high level mutual visits and exchanges, improve mutual trust and reduce suspicion, and enhance consensus. Expand professional exchanges, and actively expand cooperation in a wide range of fields, including maritime counter-terrorism, maritime peace-keeping, humanitarian evacuation and transfer, marine environment survey, etc., so as to steadily improve the capabilities in coping with maritime security threats.

Encourage exchanges among young officers in a future-oriented vision and organize practical exchanges among young officers on a regular basis and in large size, so as to continuously deepen mutual trust and expand cooperation.

**Secondly, continue to deepen maritime cooperation centered on openness, mutual benefits and pragmatism.** In addition to the attention attached upon the cooperation on escort mission in the Gulf of Aden by means of summarizing and sharing successful experiences and practices, we propose to deepen our cooperation and collaboration in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), marine environment protection, medical service etc.; to conduct in-depth discussion on such topics as force access, information sharing and command coordination in international rescue operations and to have more open attitude towards conducting multi-national exercises and drills and to lay a solid foundation for joint operations.

**Last but not least, explore means to establish interactive mechanism in settling maritime crisis.** Efforts shall be made to establish efficient emergency response mechanism in critical fields for settling frictions and conflicts at sea, emergent maritime disaster relief and rescue, safeguarding the strategic sea lanes of communication, so that collaboration could be realized to cope with maritime security threats and prevent conflict from escalating. In April last years, after the endorsement of *Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES)* at the WPNS Symposium, the CUES has been used by on-duty ships and aircraft of the Chinese navy consciously during their encounters with foreign ships and aircraft. We propose that all countries concerned be encouraged to make necessary amendments to this document based on actual problems in application.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Pursuing peace, development, cooperation and win-win is the theme of the times. In September this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed solemnly the whole world at the commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the world anti-fascist war, that "*no matter how much stronger it may become, China will never seek hegemony or expansion. It will never inflict its past suffering on any other nation. The Chinese people are resolved to pursue friendly relations with all other countries.*" Whatever the time is, the Chinese people will not waver their firm belief in loving peace and defending peace. Meanwhile, the Chinese navy is always an important force in maintaining maritime peace and security. I firmly believe that with our concerted efforts, the lofty goal of keeping maritime security, building harmonious seas and achieving common prosperity could be realized.

Thank you.