

CIIS Report



Report on the Global Security Situation (2025)

China Institute of International Studies

February 2026

A decorative graphic of a globe is positioned in the bottom right corner of the cover. The globe is rendered in a light blue color and features a network of lines and dots, suggesting a global or digital theme.

At present, the profound changes unseen in a century are unfolding with ever-greater momentum across the globe, entwined with an accumulation of structural and deep-seated challenges in the security domain, rendering the global security situation increasingly tense. The international balance of power is undergoing profound realignments, with contributions to world peace and justice from a myriad of parties exhibiting a trend of polarization. Security challenges are emerging with alarming frequency across various geopolitical blocs. Confronted with a world beset by escalating instability, China provides the world with precious certainty through the sustained stability of its domestic and foreign policies. China firmly pursues the path of peaceful development, remains committed to implementing the Global Security Initiative, and works to build a community with a shared future for humanity. In this context, the China Institute of International Studies and the Center for Global Security Initiative Studies assembled a specialized team to undertake systematic research on the global security situation in 2025 and produced this research report.



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01

Abstract

01 Abstract

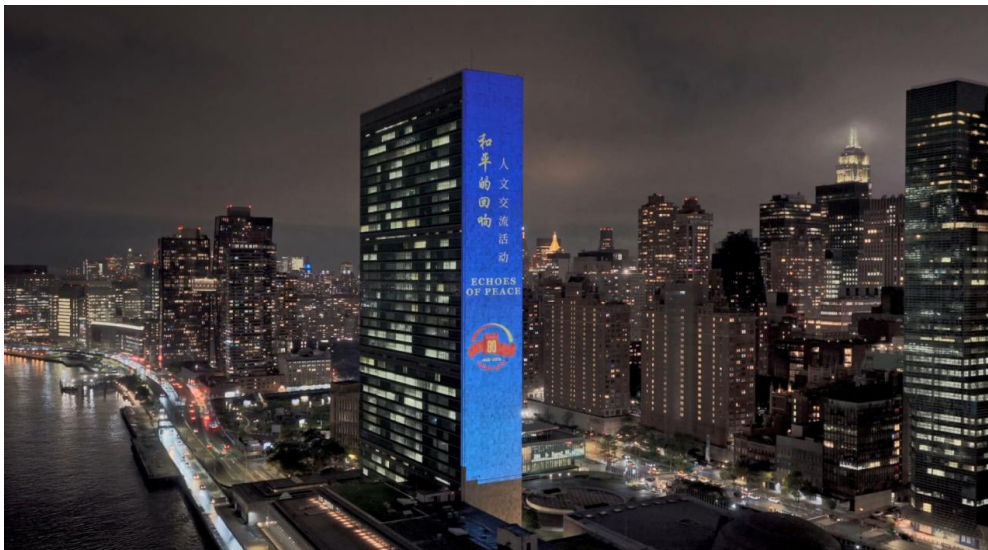
At present, the profound changes unseen in a century are unfolding with ever-greater momentum across the globe, entwined with an accumulation of structural and deep-seated challenges in the security domain. The acuteness and complexity of international contradictions and struggles are becoming increasingly pronounced. Against this backdrop, the global security situation in 2025 exhibits several distinctive characteristics.

Firstly, the global security situation is increasingly fraught with tension. The peace deficit continues to widen, accompanied by a marked escalation in international conflicts and regional turmoil. The arms race is gathering alarming momentum, and global strategic stability is under severe stress. Non-traditional security threats loom ever larger.

Secondly, the international balance of power is undergoing sustained and profound realignments, with contributions to world peace and justice from a myriad of parties exhibiting a trend of polarization. The Global South is actively assuming responsibility, emerging as a key force in safeguarding international peace and justice. Conversely, hegemonism, power politics, and unilateralism are rampant among certain Western countries. These are the same countries that frequently resort to armed intimidation or even military strikes against other countries. Additionally, the internal instability within the Western bloc is increasingly becoming a destabilizing factor for the world.

Thirdly, security challenges are emerging with alarming frequency across various geopolitical blocs. The Asia-Pacific region is subjected to significant security shocks and trials. The Ukraine crisis drags on and continues to ensnare Europe in a persistent security dilemma. The Middle East is engulfed in an intensifying maelstrom of turmoil. South Asia is experiencing a marked escalation of instability. Africa is grappling with mounting security challenges. Latin America is witnessing its peace and stability being undermined.

Fourthly, China's role as an anchor for world peace and security becomes increasingly prominent. Amid a world beset by escalating turbulence, China has demonstrated its responsibility as a major country by answering the question raised by the times through theoretical and practical innovation. By providing the world with precious certainty through the sustained stability of its domestic and foreign policies, China firmly pursues the path of peaceful development, remains committed to implementing the Global Security Initiative, and works to build a community with a shared future for humanity.



UN held a cultural exchange event commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations on August 13, 2025

(Source: website of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN)

02

Global Security Situation Grows Increasingly Tense

- **Global armed conflicts escalate, and the arms race intensifies**
 - **Global strategic stability confronts grave challenges**
 - **Humanitarian crises, terrorism, transnational crimes,
and other non-traditional security threats have
assumed heightened prominence**

02 Global Security Situation Grows Increasingly Tense

The world is descending into a state of heightened instability. Geopolitical conflicts are flaring up across multiple fronts within diverse geopolitical blocs. Global military spending has surged to unprecedented levels. Both nuclear and conventional arms races are intensifying, and arms control mechanisms are on the brink of partial disintegration. Non-traditional security threats are looming ever larger.

(I) Global armed conflicts escalate, and the arms race intensifies

The peace deficit is widening relentlessly, as international conflicts and regional turmoil escalate with alarming frequency. According to the “Global Peace Index 2025” published by the Institute for Economics & Peace, 59 state-based conflicts are currently unfolding—a record high since the end of World War II—pushing global peace to its lowest level since the index’s inception.^①

Major-country relations have been navigating a complex landscape, marked by both turbulence and twists. Certain major countries remain entrenched in the

^① Institute for Economics and Peace, “Global Peace Index 2025,” June 18, 2025, <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/GPI-2025-web.pdf>.



perilous game of power politics, ensnared by the zero-sum mentality and relentlessly pursuing absolute and exclusive security. Consequently, the trajectory of major-country relations, shifting from coordination to confrontation, has not witnessed a fundamental reversal. The 2025 edition of the US National Security Strategy report states that although the United States does not subscribe to the notion of “global dominance,” it will nonetheless seek to ensure a balance of power and prevent other countries from seizing global or regional dominance. The report also makes clear at the outset that the United States must remain the world’s strongest, richest, most powerful, and most successful country for decades to come. Moreover, the report emphasizes in its preface that in the years to come, the United States will strengthen its power across the board, making the country safer, richer, freer, greater, and more powerful than ever before. This suggests that the United States will not abandon its long-standing pursuit of global hegemony, but will adjust its strategy, pace, and so on. The report acknowledges that China-US relations have evolved from an initial relationship between “a mature, affluent country and a poor country” into one between “two near-peers.” Going forward, the United States will rebalance its economic relationship with China by prioritizing reciprocity and fairness in order to safeguard US economic independence.^① Throughout 2025, China-US relations have been subject to severe fluctuations, with the United States initiating multiple rounds of fierce competition across tariffs, trade, industrial capacity, and technological domains. Nevertheless, confronted with the stark realities, the United States has ultimately opted to engage with China on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit. On October 30, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump held a meeting in Busan, steering the bilateral relationship away from the brink and toward a turnaround.^② Meanwhile, the Ukraine crisis persists in its intractability, exacerbating the antagonism between Europe and Russia. Politicians from NATO and various European countries have continued to hype

^① “National security strategy of the United States of America,” the White House website, November 2025, p. ii, p. 1, p. 10, p. 20, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-National-Security-Strategy.pdf>.

^② “Ambassador Xie Feng highlighted major benefits of the meeting between Chinese and American heads of state for the American business community,” website of the Chinese Embassy in the United States, November 4, 2025, https://us.china-embassy.gov.cn/chn/dshd/202511/t20251104_11746370.htm.

up the “Russian threat,” alleging Russia’s purported intentions to “invade” Europe, with some senior NATO officials even threatening to launch “pre-emptive strikes” against Russia. Despite high-level engagements, US-Russia relations remain mired in a trough. Although the new US National Security Strategy refrains from explicitly labeling Russia as a hostile target, the tens of thousands of sanctions imposed by the United States, Europe, and other Western allies on Russia persist unabated, with new measures continuously being added. The military standoff between NATO and Russia has intensified, characterized by an escalation of targeted military exercises on both sides. The United States has committed billions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine, yet it has shifted the financial burden onto NATO.^① Furthermore, the US National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 mandates the provision of USD 400 million in annual military assistance to Ukraine over the ensuing two years.

Longstanding international security hotspots persist in their intricate and intractable nature, while new security hotspots are rapidly emerging. The Ukraine crisis continues to drag on, with fundamental contradictions underlying issues such as the Palestine-Israel conflict, Myanmar’s internal conflict, and the Korean Peninsula situation remaining unaddressed. Security challenges have increased in several African countries, and Afghanistan’s peace and reconstruction endeavors are mired in complexities. In the meantime, India and Pakistan have witnessed the most severe confrontation in over two decades, Israel and Iran have engaged in the “12-Day War,” the United States has launched airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, Thailand and Cambodia have clashed along their border, and Afghanistan and Pakistan have resorted to military hostilities. Additionally, the United States has resorted to military intimidation against countries such as Venezuela, Nigeria, and Colombia.

The relentless surge in military spending has become the new normal. After his resumption of the presidency, Trump has adhered to the strategy of “peace through strength,” championing “rebuilding the US armed forces” and “restoring American deterrence,” thereby precipitating a substantial uptick in defense expenditures. In December 2025, Trump ratified the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

^① “National Security-Achievements,” the White House website, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/national-security/>.



2026, allocating a colossal sum of USD 900.6 billion to the US defense budget for the forthcoming fiscal year. In tandem, NATO has announced that its member states shall elevate their defense spending to 5% of their respective gross domestic products (GDP) by the year 2035. Europe, in response, is expediting its “remilitarization” steps, with the Council of the European Union sanctioning the “ReArm Europe Plan” (subsequently rechristened as the “Readiness 2030” plan), which envisages the mobilization of EUR 800 billion over a four-year span to fortify the continent’s defense. Canada has unveiled a military budget of approximately CAD 62.7 billion for the 2025-2026 fiscal cycle, constituting roughly 2% of its GDP, while the United Kingdom has outlined plans to augment its defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027. Japan, meanwhile, has set its defense budget for fiscal year 2026 at an unprecedented JPY 8.8454 trillion (approximately USD 56.5 billion), marking a 14th consecutive year of growth.

Military spending in South Korea has also witnessed accelerated growth. As early as December 2023, South Korea’s five-year national defense plan for 2024-2028 unveiled an allocation of KRW 348.7 trillion (approximately CNY 1.9 trillion), marking a 5% increase compared to the preceding period (2023-2027). In 2025, South Korea’s defense budget stood at KRW 61.25 trillion (approximately CNY 321.337 billion), accounting for 2.32% of its GDP. In October 2025, South Korea further announced a substantial hike in its defense budget for 2026, with an 8.2% increase from the 2025 level, reaching KRW 66.3 trillion (approximately CNY 335.5 billion or USD 47.7 billion).^① Meanwhile, the budget documents submitted by the Russian government to the State Duma for 2025-2027 revealed that Russia’s defense budget for 2025 would amount to RUB 13.5 trillion (approximately USD 145 billion), representing a roughly 30% increase from 2024 and accounting for 6.3% of its GDP. However, this proportion

^① “South Korea Releases Five-Year National Defense Plan with Military Spending of CNY 1.9 Trillion,” Yonhap News Agency, December 12, 2023, <https://cn.yna.co.kr/view/ACK20231212003100881>; “South Korean Government Responds to New US Military Spending Criteria: South Korea’s Share Already Relatively High,” Yonhap News Agency, June 20, 2025, <https://cn.yna.co.kr/view/ACK20250620000900881>; “Lee Jae-myung: South Korea to Significantly Increase National Defense Budget,” cnr.cn, October 1, 2025, https://military.cnr.cn/gj/20251001/t20251001_527383342.shtml.

is projected to decline to 5.6% and 5.1% in 2026 and 2027, respectively.^①

China has rationally determined the scale of its defense expenditures. Compared with countries such as the United States, China's defense spending remains relatively low, whether measured by its proportion of GDP, its share of national fiscal expenditures, or per capita defense spending for both civilians and military personnel. For instance, in 2025, the national general public budget allocated CNY 1.81 trillion for defense expenditures, marking a 7.2% increase from the previous year's executed amount. This growth rate has remained consistent for three consecutive years since 2023 and has registered single-digit growth for ten consecutive years. The proportion of defense spending in GDP has been maintained below 1.5% for many years, significantly lower than the level exceeding 3% of GDP in the United States. In terms of per capita defense spending for civilians, the United States spends 13 times more than China, while countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and even the three Baltic states spend 4 to 5 times more than China. In the 2025 fiscal year, Japan's per capita defense expenditure and defense personnel costs were three times and more than twice those of China, respectively.^② China maintains transparency in various aspects of its defense budget, including its scale, structure, and fundamental purposes. Since 2007,

^① "Multiple Considerations Behind Russia's Increase in National Defense Budget, *People's Liberation Army Daily*, October 17, 2024, p. 11; "Answers to media question s— Following the EAEU summit in Minsk, Vladimir Putin answered questions from Russian journalists," June 27, 2025, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/77316>.

^② "China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era," website of the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, November 27, 2025, http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/zfbps_2279/202511/t20251127_940277.html; "China's defense expenditure as a percentage of GDP lower than world average," Xinhuanet, March 4, 2025, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/20250304/911105e22445431e9076348a7842bd5e/c.html>; "Wu Qian, Spokesperson for the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force at the Third Session of the 14th National People's Congress, Accepts Media Interview," website of the Ministry of National Defense of China, March 9, 2025, <http://www.mod.gov.cn/gfbw/xwfy/zjtzh/16373832.html>; "GDP Target Highlights 'Proactive and Ambitious' Approach, Defense Spending Growth Remains Flat for Three Consecutive Years: China's 'Two Key Figures' Demonstrate Confidence," *People's Daily Online*, March 6, 2025, <http://lianghui.people.com.cn/2025/n1/2025/0306/c460142-40432029.html>; "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun's Regular Press Conference on December 16, 2025," website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, December 16, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/fyrbt_673021/jzhsl_673025/202512/t20251216_11774310.shtml.



China has annually submitted reports on its military expenditures for the previous fiscal year to the United Nations System for the Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures.^①

(II) Global strategic stability confronts grave challenges

Nuclear-armed states persist in amplifying the significance of nuclear weapons within their national security frameworks, accelerating the pace of nuclear modernization. The United States, in particular, has substantially augmented its nuclear budget, expediting the upgrade of its “nuclear triad” deterrent. For the fiscal year 2026, the US Department of Defense envisages a nuclear budget allocation of USD 60 billion, an increase of USD 10.8 billion from the previous fiscal year, representing a rise of 22%.^② The Trump administration not only proposed but also propelled forward the “Golden Dome” missile defense system, explicitly designed to counter perceived “peer adversaries” or “near-peer adversaries,” while also contemplating the deployment of space-based interceptors in outer space—a move that flagrantly contravenes the principle of peaceful uses enshrined in the *Outer Space Treaty*. Furthermore, the US Department of Energy has proclaimed that the production of the first live unit of the new B61-13 nuclear bomb was completed one year ahead of schedule.^③ Concurrently, the United States is forging ahead with plans to overhaul its nuclear command and control systems, having already initiated testing of the next-generation “doomsday plane” earmarked for nuclear command operations.

Russia has been vigorously propelling forward its research and development of

^① “China’ s Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era,” website of the State Council Information Office of the People’ s Republic of China, November 27, 2025, http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/zfbps_2279/202511/t20251127_940277.html.

^② US Department of War, “Background Briefing on FY 2026 Defense Budget,” June 26, 2025, <https://www.war.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/4228828/background-briefing-on-fy-2026-defense-budget/#:~:text=The%20nuclear%20enterprise%20also%20is%20in%20modernization%2C%20so,and%20modernize%20all%20three%20legs%20of%20our%20triad.>

^③ US Department of Energy, “NNSA completes assembly of the first B61-13 nuclear gravity bomb ahead of schedule,” May 19, 2025, <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/nnsa-completes-assembly-first-b61-13-nuclear-gravity-bomb-ahead-schedule>.

new weapons. Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov revealed that the “Burevestnik” nuclear-powered cruise missile accomplished a 14,000-kilometer test flight on October 21, with its capabilities yet to reach their zenith. President Putin, on October 29, underscored that the “Burevestnik” boasts a short activation time and an unlimited operational range. Furthermore, Russia has undertaken trials of the “Poseidon” unmanned underwater vehicle, outfitted with a nuclear propulsion system, not only launching it from a submarine via a booster engine for the first time but also igniting its nuclear-powered propulsion system.

The United States and Russia have persistently engaged in a reciprocal exchange of nuclear deterrence signals, precipitating a flurry of global nuclear exercises. In October, the United States orchestrated its annual “Global Thunder 2025” nuclear command and control exercise, featuring, for the first time, the execution of “pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Russia” as a core scenario. In the same month, NATO initiated its annual “Steadfast Noon” nuclear exercise, allowing limited media access for the first time to amplify its deterrent message. Russia, in collaboration with Belarus, commenced the “Zapad-2025” military drill in September, publicly conducting a comprehensive rehearsal of nuclear strike procedures for the first time, with hypersonic missiles directed toward NATO’s frontiers. Moreover, Russia conducted a sweeping strategic nuclear forces exercise in October, showcasing the full spectrum of its “nuclear triad” strategic nuclear force system, encompassing land-, sea-, and air-based nuclear strike platforms.

Other nuclear-armed states have also manifested their nuclear deterrence through diverse modalities. On July 10, the United Kingdom and France inked the *Northwood Declaration*, explicitly stating for the first time that the two sides would coordinate their respective independent nuclear deterrent forces. Furthermore, they established the UK-French Nuclear Steering Group to orchestrate collaborative endeavors including nuclear deterrence operations.^① The United Kingdom has procured 12 F-35A fighter aircraft to reconstitute its aerial nuclear strike capability, while concurrently propelling the construction of Dreadnought-class strategic nuclear submarines and allocating

^① The UK Government, “Northwood Declaration, 10 July 2025 (UK-France joint nuclear statement),” July 10, 2025, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/northwood-declaration-10-july-2025-uk-france-joint-nuclear-statement>.



an additional GBP 15 billion to its sovereign nuclear warhead program. France has persisted in modernizing its sea-based nuclear capabilities, expediting the research and development of cutting-edge air-launched hypersonic cruise missiles, and thereby broadening the scope of its air-based nuclear strikes. The risk of nuclear war has unprecedentedly intensified. In June, Israel executed air strikes against multiple targets of Iran's nuclear program, while the US military concurrently deployed B-2 bombers to strike Iran's nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. Amid the India-Pakistan tensions, India launched attacks in proximity to Pakistan's nuclear installations.^①

The international nuclear non-proliferation regime is now grappling with formidable challenges. In July, the US military transported multiple B61-12 thermonuclear gravity bombs to the Royal Air Force Lakenheath in the United Kingdom, marking the United States' first deployment of tactical nuclear warheads on British soil since 2008.^② Poland is actively pursuing a "nuclear umbrella" and even the development of its own "nuclear weapons." Then-President Duda articulated that Poland ought to seek France's "nuclear protection" and endeavor to have US nuclear warheads, currently stationed in Western Europe or on American territory, relocated to Poland. Polish Prime Minister Tusk and other officials underscored the imperative for Poland to acquire the most modern capabilities relating to nuclear and other unconventional weaponry. The DPRK accelerated the development of nuclear delivery systems, conducting test launches of a novel hypersonic intermediate- and long-range ballistic missile, and unveiling its new intercontinental ballistic missile, the "Hwasong-20." South Korea and the United States have engaged in discussions to revise the ROK-US Atomic Energy Agreement, aiming to loosen restrictions on South Korea's uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing activities. During his state visit to South Korea in October, Trump acceded to South Korea's plan to construct nuclear-powered submarines. In September, Japan's Ministry of Defense highlighted that, in developing next-generation powered submarines, nuclear-powered submarines

^① Saeed Shah, Asif Shahzad, Shivam Patel and Gibran Naiyyar Peshimam, "How India and Pakistan pulled back from the brink with US-brokered ceasefire," the Reuters, May 14, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/how-india-pakistan-pulled-back-brink-with-us-brokered-cease-fire-2025-05-13/>.

^② "US nukes deployed to England for first time in over a decade," UK Defence Journal, July 20, 2025, <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/us-nukes-deployed-to-england-for-first-time-in-over-a-decade/>.

should be given priority consideration. In November, when queried in the National Diet about her stance on adhering to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi responded with ambiguity and evasion, hinting at a potential abandonment of these principles. In December, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara declined to provide clarification on this matter, while Japanese Minister of Defense Shinjiro Koizumi stated that no option should be precluded when asked about the possibility of revising the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.

Furthermore, Trump has, on multiple occasions, declared his intention to resume nuclear weapons testing. Russia has formally announced its discontinuation of compliance with the *Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty* (INF Treaty). The *New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty* (New START Treaty), the only bilateral nuclear arms control pact remaining between the United States and Russia, is slated to expire in 2026, with neither party having yet embarked upon negotiations concerning subsequent arrangements for the treaty. The domain of conventional arms control is also mired in crisis, as evidenced by the announcements from Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and other countries of their withdrawal from the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction* (Ottawa Convention), coupled with Lithuania's declaration of its withdrawal from the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*.



The 65th Session of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization was held at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna on November 10, 2025
(Source: website of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna)



(III) Humanitarian crises, terrorism, transnational crimes, and other non-traditional security threats have assumed heightened prominence

Armed conflicts have propelled the global tally of displaced individuals to unprecedented levels, exacerbating the severity of humanitarian crises. According to the *Global Trends* report released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the worldwide count of those forcibly displaced by war, violence, and persecution has soared to 123.2 million, marking a record high over the past decade. Large-scale conflicts stand as the principal impetus behind the enduring surge in global displacement figures. By the end of 2024, the number of individuals displaced within their national borders solely due to conflicts had surged to 73.5 million, a stark uptick of 6.3 million from the preceding year, while the number of refugees fleeing their homelands reached 42.7 million. Sudan has emerged as the locus of the most acute displacement crisis globally, with 14.3 million people compelled to forsake their homes, eclipsing Syria's 13.5 million.^① While the demand for humanitarian assistance has soared, aid has been significantly slashed. Western countries have substantially reduced their foreign aid budgets in 2025, with even steeper cuts projected for 2026.^② This has widened the global aid funding gap and undermined the coordination capacity of international multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations. The funding appeal launched by the United Nations and its partners for 2025 secured only USD 12 billion, the lowest level in a decade, resulting in 25 million fewer people receiving aid than the previous year.^③ The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has a total budget of USD 430 million for the 2025 fiscal year, facing a funding gap of nearly USD 60 million.^④

^① United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Global Trends report 2024," June 12, 2025, <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024>.

^② Sam Huckstep, Laura Granito, Sara Casadevall Bell és and Lee Crawford, "Charting the Fallout of Aid Cuts: Which Countries Will be Hit Hardest, as Multiple Donors Cut Budgets?" June 12, 2025, <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/charting-fallout-aid-cuts>.

^③ "World in Progress: December 12, 2025," United Nations website, December 12, 2025, <https://news.un.org/zh/story/2025/12/1141299>.

^④ Michelle Nichols, "UN aid chief says to cut 20% of staff due to funding shortfall," April 11, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-aid-chief-says-cut-20-staff-due-funding-shortfall-2025-04-11/>.

Terrorism has staged a resurgence on the global stage, marked by a surge in high-profile terrorist attacks. As outlined in the *Global Terrorism Index 2025*, the global footprint of terrorist attacks expanded from 58 to 66 countries in 2024. Security conditions deteriorated in 45 countries, the highest number since 2018. The number of lives lost to global terrorism reached 7,555. The terrorism situation in West Africa and the Sahel region is severe, with terrorist organizations extending their operational reach toward the coastal fringes of West Africa and forging synergistic ties with transnational criminal activities, including armed abduction and smuggling. Notably, the Sahel region has accounted for over half of the worldwide death toll caused by terrorist attacks. According to disclosures by Omar Aliou Touray, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ECOWAS Commission's Early Warning Network documented approximately 450 terrorist incidents between January and November 2025, claiming the lives of more than 1,900 individuals. President Touray and United Nations Secretary-General Guterres have sounded the alarm that the escalating security crisis in West Africa and the Sahel region is evolving into a systemic threat with far-reaching implications for global peace and stability.^a

Terrorist organizations, including the “Islamic State” (IS) and the “East Turkestan Islamic Movement” (ETIM), have exploited the turmoil in Syria to bolster their ranks, recruit operatives, seize armaments, and perpetrate frequent assaults. The cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters entrenched in Syria has emerged as a formidable threat to regional stability. In Afghanistan and South Asia, a nexus of extremist entities, comprising the “Islamic State Khorasan Province” (ISKP), Al-Qaeda, ETIM, the “Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan” (TTP), the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and its “Majeed Brigade,” has forged interconnected networks, perpetuating a spate of severe terrorist attacks. A case in point occurred in November, when a suicide bombing outside the Islamabad District Court in Pakistan claimed at least 12 lives and injured 27 others.

^a “Security Council Focuses on Crisis in West Africa and Sahel Region; Guterres Warns Terrorism Threat Nearing Global Tipping Point,” United Nations website, November 18, 2025, <https://news.un.org/zh/story/2025/11/1141135>.



The transnational scourge of narcotics trafficking and telecommunications fraud continues to expand. The proliferation of narcotics has accelerated, as major narcotics-producing regions sustain record yields, while annual production of methamphetamine, cocaine, and other drugs surges unabated. The narcotics abuse epidemic has engulfed nearly 300 million individuals worldwide, a 20% increase over the past decade, fueling a burgeoning market for illicit substances. Concurrently, narcotics smuggling and trafficking have grown increasingly rampant. Large-scale narcotics smuggling cases—such as narcotics concealed in containers on international cargo vessels and narcotics transported by trucks and ships—have occurred commonly, with frequent seizures of multi-ton consignments.^①

The scourge of global human trafficking has continued to intensify, marked by a pronounced trend toward professionalization, networked criminality, and internationalization in transnational trafficking activities. Human trafficking-fueled scam centers have metamorphosed into a particularly pernicious form of transnational organized crime with far-reaching global implications. In its *Crime Trend Update Report* released in June 2025, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) underscored that such scam centers were initially concentrated in Southeast Asia. Since 2022, however, this criminal model has rapidly expanded its global footprint, with new centers emerging across the Middle East, Central America, and even West Africa. The report specifically cautioned that West Africa may emerge as a new regional hub for such illicit activities, following in the footsteps of Southeast Asia.^②

^① “China Drug Situation in 2024,” website of the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, June 19, 2025, <https://www.mps.gov.cn/n2255079/n6865805/n7355741/n7355780/c10114656/content.html>.

^② INTERPOL, “Crime Trend Update: Human Trafficking-Fueled Scam Centres,” June 30, 2025, <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2025/INTERPOL-releases-new-information-on-global-ization-of-scam-centres>.



China and Myanmar exchanged views on jointly combating online gambling and telecom fraud crimes on February 14, 2025

(Source: website of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar)

Moreover, security risks and challenges in emerging fields have become increasingly pronounced. The rapid development and application of cutting-edge technologies have amplified risks, including loss of technological control, data theft, tech-facilitated crimes, and ethical breaches. Simultaneously, the militarization trend in emerging fields is accelerating,^① while governance for emerging technology security has grown increasingly fragmented. In February 2025, 61 countries, including China, France, and India, signed the outcome document of the Paris AI Action Summit, advocating for strengthened coordination in AI governance. However, the United States and the United Kingdom declined to endorse the document. US Vice President Vance, who attended the summit, criticized Europe for imposing “excessive regulation” and accused other countries of exploiting AI to enhance military intelligence and surveillance capabilities, thereby undermining the collective security of Western countries. This divisive approach drew criticism from the international community.

^① “China’ s Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era,” website of the State Council Information Office of the People’ s Republic of China, November 27, 2025, http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/zfbps_2279/202511/t20251127_940277.html.



Global Security Situation Grows Increasingly Tense

03

Contributions to World Peace and Justice from A Myriad of Parties Exhibiting a Trend of Polarization

- The Global South emerges as a pivotal force in upholding world peace and justice
- The West increasingly emerges as a destabilizing factor for the world

03

Contributions to World Peace and Justice from A Myriad of Parties Exhibiting a Trend of Polarization

In the present era, multipolarity continues its inexorable advance, with the Global South witnessing an accelerated collective rise. Billions of people are marching toward modernization, actively injecting positive energy into world peace and stability. Yet, in stark contrast, certain Western countries believe that might makes right, aggressively championing hegemonism, power politics, and unilateralism. They adopt a “we first” approach, seeking to return the world to the law of the jungle where the strong bully the weak.

(I) The Global South emerges as a pivotal force in upholding world peace and justice

The strength of the Global South keeps growing. The world today is marked by sweeping winds and surging clouds. The dynamism of these changes originates from the South. The hallmark of our era is the prominent, growing strength of the Global South.^① From 1980 to 2024, measured by purchasing power parity (PPP), the G7’s

^① “Wang Yi on the prominent, growing strength of the Global South: The dynamism of the changes originates from the South,” website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/wjbxw_674885/202503/t20250307_11570120.shtml.



share of global GDP plummeted from 51.8% to 28.86%, while the Global South's share soared from 35.4% to 60.1%. Measured by market exchange rates, the G7's share declined from 61.4% to 44.6%, whereas the Global South's rose from 24.6% to 41.5%.^① At present, the Global South contributes as high as 80% of global economic growth.^② These statistics suggest that the global balance of power is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, reflecting historic shifts in both the international political order and the economic landscape. Projections for 2025 and 2026 indicate that advanced economies will grow at a mere 1.6% annually, while emerging markets and developing economies are expected to expand by 4.2% and 4.0%, respectively.^③ The significantly higher growth rate of the latter indicates that the Global South's growth momentum remains robust.

The rise of the Global South has infused new vitality and hope into the preservation of international peace and security. Having endured the scourges of Western colonialism, imperialism, and hegemonism for an extended period, the Global South holds a profound appreciation for the hard-won nature of peace. At this pivotal juncture in its pursuit of national modernization, the Global South is in pressing need of a peaceful and stable international environment. Consequently, it remains acutely vigilant against all forms of hegemonic, high-handed, and bullying acts that disrupt global tranquility, resolutely opposes the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, and firmly stands on the right side of history of upholding world peace. In particular, the BRICS countries, as the forefront of the Global South, assume a paramount role. As Chinese President Xi Jinping has articulated, the BRICS countries account for nearly half of the world's population, around 30% of global economic output and one-fifth

^① Compiled based on data from the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database. See International Monetary Fund, "World Economic Outlook Database: April 2025," <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2025/april/weo-report?a=1&c=001,110,119,200,505,903,205,400,603,&s=NGDPD,PPPGDP,&sy=1980&ey=2024&ssm=0&scsm=1&sc=0&ssd=1&ssc=0&sic=0&sort=country&ds=.&br=1>.

^② Wang Yi, "The Remarkable Rise of the Global South Marks the Most Distinctive Feature of Our Era," People's Daily Online, March 7, 2025, <https://world.people.com.cn/n1/2025/0307/c1002-40433345.html>.

^③ International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook*, October 2025, pp. 13-14. See: <https://www.imf.org/-/media/files/publications/weo/2025/october/chinese/text.pdf>.

of global trade. They are also home to major natural resources, big manufacturers, and vast markets. The more closely they work together, the more resilient, resourceful, and effective they are in addressing external risks and challenges.^①

The Global South has also taken proactive steps to facilitate political resolutions to hotspot issues. In response to the protracted Ukraine crisis, a coalition of Global South countries has established the Group of Friends for Peace on the Ukraine crisis. Over the past year, the Group has maintained an objective and impartial stance, adopted an open and constructive approach, and consistently issued forceful appeals for a ceasefire and political resolution, which is highly commended by the international community. In the face of the latest Palestine-Israel conflict, Qatar, Egypt, and other countries have endeavored to facilitate Gaza ceasefire negotiations, while Turkey has unequivocally condemned Israel's abuse of force against Palestine and urged the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to Gaza. During the General Debate of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and other high-level forums, leaders such as Brazilian President Lula, South African President Ramaphosa, Indonesian President Prabowo, and Iranian President Pezeshkian made a just voice of denouncing hegemonism and unilateralism and seeking peaceful resolution of international disputes.

The role of BRICS countries in upholding world peace and justice has been increasingly prominent. At the BRICS Summit in 2014, political security was, for the first time, put on the agenda. In the wake of this watershed moment, a series of mechanisms were established, including the Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisers and High Representatives on National Security, the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and regular consultations among permanent representatives to multilateral institutions. Moreover, specialized platforms such as consultations among Deputy Foreign Ministers/Special Envoys on the Middle East, the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, the Working Group on Cybersecurity, the Working Group on Counter-Narcotics, and consultations on UN peacekeeping affairs were also established. On a spectrum of pressing issues, such as the Palestine-Israel conflict,

^① Xi Jinping, "Forging Ahead in Solidarity and Cooperation—Statement by Xi Jinping At the Virtual BRICS Summit," *People's Daily*, September 9, 2025, p. 2.



the Ukraine crisis, Syria, the Iranian nuclear issue, Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti, as well as counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, energy and food security, artificial intelligence, the fight against transnational crime and corruption, and the revitalization of the arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation regime, BRICS countries have engaged in sustained dialogue and coordinated their stances with remarkable synergy. In terms of mediation and conciliation, BRICS countries have always been at the forefront of the world. From promoting the historic reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, facilitating the prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine to initiating the Group of Friends for Peace on the Ukraine crisis, BRICS countries have accumulated unique experiences and advantages.^① Indeed, the involvement of BRICS countries has been instrumental in effectively addressing numerous pressing and significant global challenges.



BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers/Special Envoys Consultation on Middle East was held in Brasília on March 28, 2025

(Source: website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China)

^① "Wang Yi on Experiences and Unique Advantages of BRICS Countries in Mediation and Conciliation," website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, May 1, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjzbzd/202505/t20250501_11614764.shtml.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) continues to contribute more positive energy to world peace and stability. Security stands as the cornerstone and priority of the SCO's development. From 2001 to 2025, adhering to the "Shanghai Spirit," the SCO has fortified military trust along border regions, inked long-term pacts on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation, and established the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure. It has also implemented a suite of pivotal documents, including the *Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism*, the *Convention on Combating Terrorism*, and the *Convention on Combating Extremism*. Regular Defense Ministers' meetings have been convened, over 1,400 terrorist and extremist-related criminal cases have been thwarted, and more than 40 joint counter-terrorism exercises and operations have been conducted. The SCO has deepened cooperation across a broad spectrum of domains, including strategic affairs, defense, law enforcement, information security, biosecurity, data security, outer space security, the Afghan issue, and the prevention of "color revolution," thereby bolstering its capacity to tackle both internal and external challenges. It has grown into a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the largest population (accounting for nearly half of the global population) and area (spanning two-thirds of the Eurasian landmass) in the world.^① From August 31 to September 1, 2025, the SCO Summit convened in Tianjin, China, formulating a development strategy for the SCO in the next 10 years and underscoring that member states will make more contributions to building a multipolar world. The summit sent a just voice for defending the achievements of the victory in World War II, calling on the international community to learn from history, uphold the correct historical perspective of World War II, and defend the UN-centered international system. It announced the establishment of the SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats, the Information Security Center, the Center for Combating Transnational Organized Crime, and the Anti-Drug Center, witnessing the inauguration of the "four security centers." This move will comprehensively enhance member states' ability to respond to new threats and challenges, and more effectively safeguard regional peace and stability. Furthermore, the summit decided to merge SCO observer states and dialogue partners into a unified

^① Wang Yi, "Drawing on the Past to Chart the Future and Jointly Promoting High-Quality Development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—Written on the Eve of the Tianjin Summit," *People's Daily*, August 30, 2025, p. 6; Shavkat Mirziyoyev, "Cooperation for Global Peace and Prosperity," *People's Daily*, August 30, 2025, p. 2.



category of “SCO Partners” and accept Laos as a partner, bringing the number of members of the SCO family to 27 and further expanding the team of like-minded partners.^①

(II) The West increasingly emerges as a destabilizing factor for the world

Firstly, the United States still believes that might is right, persistently pursuing hegemonism and power politics while repeatedly signaling intentions of territorial expansion. Since the beginning of 2025, the United States has constantly threatened to employ military or economic coercion as means to seize control over the Panama Canal and Greenland, advocated for making Canada the “51st state” of the United States, arbitrarily renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the “Gulf of America,” and even brazenly proposed the “emptying” and “takeover” of Gaza, coupled with the forced relocation of Palestinian civilians. The Governor of Louisiana was appointed as the US special envoy to Greenland, who claimed that “Greenland must be secured” for the sake of national security. Such remarks and actions by the United States have ignited a firestorm of opposition from relevant countries and the international community. The President of Panama emphasized that the sovereignty over the Panama Canal is, and shall forever remain, an inalienable right of Panama. Denmark has revised its national emblem for the first time since 1972, underscoring its unwavering sovereignty over Greenland. The Danish Prime Minister stressed that Greenland’s status as an integral part of the Kingdom of Denmark remains immutable. The European Union, along with France, Germany, and other countries, has condemned the US remarks and actions regarding Greenland as a flagrant violation of international law and a direct challenge to the “sovereign boundaries of Europe.” Mexico has invoked the United Nations’ recognition of the name “Gulf of Mexico” to oppose the US renaming proposal. Canada’s ruling and opposition parties have united in staunch rejection of the proposal for “merging into the United States.” Arab countries, the League of Arab States, and various other parties have universally denounced the US remarks on the “emptying” and “takeover” of Gaza. Some observers pointed out that the Trump administration may harbor a “grand strategic vision” that, by annexing Greenland and Canada,

^① “Wang Yi Introduces Eight Major Outcomes of the SCO Tianjin Summit,” website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, September 1, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/gjldrhd_674881/202509/t20250901_11699855.shtml.

America's "new isolationism" would evolve into a new North American version of the "Monroe Doctrine." Such a move would enable the United States to effectively seal the "North Atlantic gap" in its geopolitical strategy and substantially increase its homeland security depth.^①

Secondly, through means such as high-intensity pressure, military strikes, and high-profile mediation, the United States has intervened in international hotspots across the globe to maximize its practical interests. It is widely believed that the fundamental motive behind such US interventions is to seize geopolitical and economic advantages. For instance, by acting as a mediator in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, the United States secured exclusive 99-year development rights for the Zangezur Corridor; through mediating between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, it gained a foothold in the DRC's rich reserves of critical minerals such as cobalt, lithium, and tantalum, thereby bolstering the advancement of the "Lobito Corridor" initiative; and by displaying a pronounced bias toward Israel amid the Palestine-Israel conflict while turning a blind eye to the escalating humanitarian crisis, it managed to garner support from relevant domestic interest groups and reap geopolitical benefits. However, such mediation fails to address both the symptoms and root causes of the issues and may lay the groundwork for even greater instability in the future.

Thirdly, internal instability in the West has increasingly become a source of global instability. In the United States, political polarization has reached new heights, giving rise to a surge in political violence and the normalization of hate crimes. In March, the Republican Party headquarters in New Mexico was attacked. In April, the official residence of Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro was targeted in an arson attack. In June, Minnesota Democratic Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband were shot and killed at their home. In September, Charlie Kirk, the co-founder of "Turning Point USA," was fatally shot while giving a speech at Utah Valley University, sending shockwaves throughout the United States. During Elon Musk's tenure at the helm of the "Department of Government Efficiency," Tesla vehicles and charging stations in

^① Zhang Jiadong, "Greenland: A Link in the US Grand Strategy?" huanqiu.com, March 29, 2025, <https://opinion.huanqiu.com/article/4M3EXQB3uQY>.



many parts of the United States were vandalized and set on fire. According to statistics, between 2016 and 2025, there were 25 recorded attacks and attempted attacks targeting elected officials, political candidates, judges, and government employees. Threats against public officials skyrocketed from 3,939 in 2017 to 9,474 in 2024, marking a more than twofold increase over the period.^①

Conflicts surrounding immigration policies have also witnessed a pronounced escalation. Upon his resumption of office in the White House, Trump swiftly declared a state of emergency along the southern border and embarked upon a sweeping campaign to deport illegal immigrants. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was galvanized into action to carry out “the largest mass deportation operation of illegal aliens in history.” According to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), from January 20, 2025 to December 10, 2025, more than 2.5 million illegal immigrants left the United States, including 605,000 who were deported and 1.9 million who opted for voluntary departure.^② Furthermore, Trump ordered the deployment of Marine Corps and National Guard units to cities such as Los Angeles in California, in a bid to quell the protests and unrest that had flared up in response to the federal agencies’ enforcement actions against illegal immigration.

Other Western countries are also embroiled in unrest. Europe has been beset by a relentless wave of strikes and demonstrations. In the United Kingdom, a relentless surge of strikes across multiple sectors has persisted, with employees in transportation, healthcare, and education pressing for enhanced remuneration and improved working conditions. On September 7, London Underground staff launched a five-day strike. Subsequently, in November and December, resident doctors in England staged a five-day strike, voicing their opposition to the exorbitant cost of living and the chronic staffing shortages plaguing the healthcare system. Meanwhile, on September 18, France was engulfed in large-scale strikes and demonstrations across various regions, sparked by widespread discontent with the government’s fiscal austerity plans. According

① Li Zhiwei, “Political Violence Incidents in the US Enter a Period of High Frequency,” *People’s Daily*, July 24, 2025, p. 17.

② “Thanks to President Trump and Secretary Noem, More than 2.5 Million Illegal Aliens Left the US,” December 10, 2025, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/12/10/thanks-president-trump-and-secretary-noem-more-25-million-illegal-aliens-left-us>.

to official French statistics, over 500,000 individuals participated in these strikes nationwide, with Paris alone witnessing the involvement of approximately 55,000 protesters.^①

Attacks directed at political figures have also frequently emerged across Europe. In June, Géza Jeszenszky, former Foreign Minister of Hungary, along with his wife, fell victim to an assault on the streets of Budapest. In September, Andrej Babiš, former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and leader of the opposition party “Action of Dissatisfied Citizens,” was attacked amid an electoral campaign. On October 7, Iris Stalzer, the newly-elected mayor of Herdecke in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, was gravely injured in a knife attack. Jordan Bardella, President of France’s far-right National Rally party, endured two separate incidents of being showered with flour and pelted with eggs in public spaces on November 25 and 29.

The landscape of public security in Europe has witnessed a pronounced decline. Severe thefts from museums have occurred frequently, with the Louvre Museum in France and the National Museum of Natural History in Paris among the targets. Street robberies and thefts in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and other countries have increased sharply, with a particularly high concentration in popular tourist destinations, wealthy residential areas, and major public transport hubs. On February 4, a school shooting in Örebro, Sweden, resulted in the tragic loss of 11 lives, marking it as the most severe shooting incident in the country’s historical records. According to data compiled by the Swedish National Police, the country witnessed over 400 cases that involved shootings and explosions in 2024, leading to casualties exceeding a hundred. In January 2025 alone, Sweden recorded more than 50 such incidents.^②

^① “Over 500,000 in France Strike Against Government Austerity Measures,” Xinhua News Agency, September 19, 2025, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/world/20250919/23f8b4125871456288ed3dd60391b276/c.html>.

^② “Chinese Embassy in Sweden Reminds Citizens to Enhance Safety Precautions,” website of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Sweden, February 6, 2025, https://se.china-embassy.gov.cn/ltzt/202502/t20250206_11550346.htm; “Sweden School Shooting Sparks Societal Reflection,” Guangming Daily, February 10, 2025, p. 12.



**Contributions to World Peace and Justice
from A Myriad of Parties Exhibiting a Trend of Polarization**

04

The Security Situation in Various Regions Across the Globe Remains Complex and Severe

- The security situation in the Asia-Pacific region is subjected to significant shocks and tests
 - The Ukraine crisis drags on and Europe remains mired in a security dilemma
- The Middle East quagmire is in urgent need of resolution
 - The turbulent situation in South Asia intensifies
 - Africa faces mounting security challenges
 - The unrest in Latin America gathers momentum with increasing intensity



The Security Situation in Various Regions Across the Globe Remains Complex and Severe

The security situation in the Asia-Pacific region is subjected to shocks and tests. The Ukraine crisis drags on and continues to ensnare Europe in an enduring security dilemma. The Middle East remains mired in an escalating vortex of chaos. South Asia witnesses intensified volatility, Africa confronts a surge in security challenges, and the Latin American region's peace and stability suffer setbacks.

(I) The security situation in the Asia-Pacific region is subjected to significant shocks and tests

Although the new US administration has refrained from explicitly mentioning the “Indo-Pacific Strategy,” its aggressive posture in the region persists unabated, marked by the deployment of offensive weaponry and the orchestration of alliances to stir up further incidents. In late March, US Secretary of Defense Hegseth embarked on his first Asia-Pacific tour, visiting Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, and Japan, deliberately showing the Trump administration's emphasis on military deployments in the “Indo-Pacific” region. In addition to maintaining the deployment of the Typhon land-based intermediate-range missile system in the Philippines, the United States took further steps in April and May. During the 2025 Balikatan joint exercises with the Philippines, it deployed for the first time the Navy Marine Expeditionary



Ship Interdiction System, which is capable of launching anti-ship missiles. On May 31, Hegseth delivered a speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue, peddling the Cold War mentality of bloc confrontation, hyping the “China threat,” and attempting to incite antagonism and confrontation among regional countries. The United States has also repeatedly pressured its allies, such as Japan and South Korea, to increase their military spending. At the Shangri-La Dialogue, Hegseth urged “Indo-Pacific” allies to emulate their European counterparts by elevating their military spending to 5% of GDP.

The United States has expedited the deployment and testing of offensive armaments in the region. During Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 held in Australia in July, the US military operated the Typhon land-based intermediate-range missile system beyond its continental borders for the first time, and made the first deployment of Dark Eagle hypersonic missile to Australia. Also for the first time, the United States displayed the Typhon land-based intermediate-range missile system at its Iwakuni base in Japan in September. Concurrently, fortifying defense industrial collaboration with allies has served as a critical leverage of US strategy. Hegseth announced the establishment of the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR), a platform designed to catalyze cooperation in defense industrial production, maintenance and supply chains across the “Indo-Pacific” region. Initial projects include the development of P-8 radar system maintenance capabilities and facilities in Australia, as well as the formulation of standardized protocols for small unmanned aerial vehicle systems within the region.^①

Furthermore, the United States has continued to bolster the so-called “resilience” of its alliance system by constructing a networked security architecture. It encouraged Japan, Australia, and other countries to enhance their security cooperation with the Philippines “in support of the Philippines’ defense priorities” and to advance the trilateral relationship among the United States, Japan, and South Korea. The United States gave consent to South Korea’s construction of nuclear-powered submarines, with both sides accelerating relevant collaborative efforts. The US Department of Defense completed its review of the Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS)

^① US Department of War, “Remarks by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth at the 2025 Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore,” May 31, 2025, <https://www.war.gov/News/Speeches/Speech/Article/4202494/remarks-by-secretary-of-defense-pete-hegseth-at-the-2025-shangri-la-dialogue-in/>.

Security Partnership, confirming the continuation of relevant projects. Australia remitted payments of USD 500 million and USD 525 million to the United States in January and June, respectively, with an additional USD 1 billion payment forthcoming. In July, US Secretary of State Rubio presided over the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Washington. Although a QUAD summit has yet to convene, the United States and India have not ceased deepening their military cooperation. On October 31, the two countries unveiled a decade-long defense framework agreement aimed at enhancing collaboration in military operations, technology sharing, and strategic coordination, thereby reinforcing their presence and influence in the "Indo-Pacific" region. US Secretary of Defense Hegseth reiterated that India remains Washington's partner of choice in defense cooperation.^①

After assuming office, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has acted recklessly and attempted to disrupt peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, becoming a "source of disaster in Asia." Within a mere month after taking office, Sanae Takaichi has orchestrated a series of provocations against China. During the APEC meeting in Busan, Sanae Takaichi met with the personnel of the authorities of China's Taiwan region and made a high-profile hype, referring to the person as "Senior Advisor to the Presidential Office of Taiwan," which triggered strong protests from the Chinese side. On November 3, Japan announced the decision to confer the Order of the Rising Sun on Hsieh Chang-ting, a long-time "Taiwan independence" separatist, which provoked solemn opposition from the Chinese side. On November 7, Sanae Takaichi claimed in the Diet that the Chinese Mainland's "use of force on Taiwan" could constitute a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan, seeking to intervene militarily in the Taiwan Strait and issuing a military threat against China, which thoroughly enraged the Chinese people. On November 26, during a party leaders' debate in the Diet, Sanae Takaichi once again put forward the "undetermined status of Taiwan" argument, causing a public outcry and criticism from the Chinese side. On December 6, when China's naval aircraft carrier formation was conducting exercises on the high seas, Japanese military aircraft repeatedly approached and harassed the formation

^① "US and India Sign 10-Year Defense Framework Agreement," Xinhuanet, November 4, 2025 <http://www3.xinhuanet.com/milpro/20251104/2287d4c0b68e4656a765f87cb5315264/c.html>.



despite repeated warnings from the Chinese side, seriously affecting the Chinese side's normal training and endangering flight safety. However, the Japanese side made false accusations and released information that was completely inconsistent with the facts, hyping up the "radar illumination" incident.

Among this wave of intensive provocations, the most serious ones undoubtedly include Sanae Takaichi's linking the so-called "Taiwan contingency" with Japan's "survival-threatening situation," as well as the hyping of the "undetermined status of Taiwan" argument. On November 13, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, as instructed, summoned Japanese Ambassador to China Kanasugi Kenji to make serious *démarches* over Sanae Takaichi's wrongful remarks regarding China. China then initiated countermeasures across multiple domains. When summoning Japanese Ambassador to China as instructed, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister pointed out the errors in Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan with "one blatancy and five severities," namely, blatantly interfering in China's internal affairs, severely violating international law and the basic norms governing international relations, severely undermining the post-war international order, severely running counter to the one-China principle and the guiding principles set forth in the four China-Japan political documents, seriously undermining the political foundation of China-Japan relations, and severely hurting the sentiments of the Chinese people. Furthermore, in correspondence addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the Chinese side encapsulated the erroneous and perilous nature of Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan in "three first times since 1945." Specifically, this marked the first time since Japan's defeat in 1945 that a Japanese leader had advocated in an official setting the notion that "a contingency for Taiwan is a contingency for Japan" and linked it to the exercise of the right of collective self-defense; the first time Japan had expressed ambitions to intervene militarily in the Taiwan question; and the first time Japan had issued a threat of force against China, openly challenging China's core interests.

This provocation by Sanae Takaichi is no mere isolated incident. Instead, it serves as a signal of the Japanese right-wing forces' strategic gamble to reshape the post-war international order. In recent years, China's path of peaceful development has worked well, which is marked by an unprecedented surge in its economic vitality, scientific and technological innovation, military prowess, cultural resonance, international influence, and moral appeal. Notably, China's GDP surpassed that of Japan in 2010 and now stands at nearly five times the size of Japan's, with the chasm between the

two countries poised to widen even further in the foreseeable future. Concurrently, Japan has languished in a protracted state of developmental stagnation over the past three decades, with scant signs of revitalization. Its former lofty standing in the global GDP rankings has been replaced by Germany and is on the cusp of being overtaken by India, ASEAN, and other countries or economies. In the midst of the new wave of technological revolution and industrial transformation, encompassing the Internet era of the last century to the current age of artificial intelligence, Japan has found itself relegated to the ranks of the laggards, steadily eroding its core competitiveness in both the economic and technological spheres. Indeed, Japan's descent has been both precipitous and all-encompassing. Amid this maelstrom of anxiety and perplexity, Japan's right-wing forces have been left floundering, bereft of a coherent strategy to navigate the country's historic decline through self-reliance and mutually beneficial cooperation. They have opted for the perilous path of militarism, seeking to bolster their military might and expand their armaments, just as they did over a century ago.

Thus, in recent years, Japan's right-wing forces have persistently sought to deny and even glorify their history of aggression, paying homage at the Yasukuni Shrine, overhauling security legislation, hollowing out Japan's pacifist Constitution, transgressing the principle of "exclusive defense," and accelerating the pace of rearmament. Japan's military expenditures have ballooned at an alarming rate for 14 consecutive years, with its share of GDP surging to 2% ahead of schedule. The Three Principles on Arms Exports, which Japan had long adhered to after the war, have been revised. Since 2025, Japan has exported lethal weaponry for the first time and has pushed for the deployment of offensive weapons in Southwest Islands close to China's Taiwan region. Sanae Takaichi has further planned to revise the principle of not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons within the framework of the Three Non-Nuclear Principles^① during the intended revision of the "three security documents," including the *National Security Strategy*. On December 18, Special

^① The Three Non-Nuclear Principles refer to not possessing, not producing, and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons. In 1967, then-Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato proposed these principles in a speech to the Diet. They were adopted as Japan's basic policy on nuclear weapons by the full session of the House of Representatives in 1971. In 2022, the basic policy of adhering to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles was also explicitly included in the "three security documents" adopted by the Japanese government.



Advisor to the Prime Minister Oue Sadamasa publicly advocated for nuclear armament, albeit under the guise of a “personal viewpoint.” This, in essence, constitutes a calculated move by Sanae Takaichi to gauge international and domestic reactions and is the inevitable outcome of Japan’s right-wing forces’ relentless pursuit of breaking free from the shackles of the post-war order and seeking military expansion.

The Philippines has persistently engaged in provocative actions against China, stirring up a series of incidents in the South China Sea. In concert with so-called “like-minded countries,” it has conducted joint military exercises codenamed “Multilateral Maritime Cooperation Activity (MMCA)” at least eight times in 2025 alone, severely undermining peace and stability in the South China Sea region. The Philippines has also escalated its orchestrated “staged collisions” in these waters. Since the onset of 2025, without China’s consent and in blatant disregard of multiple solemn warnings from the Chinese side, the Philippines has dispatched aircraft to frequently and illegally approach the maritime and aerial domains adjacent to China’s Huangyan Island, engaging in harassment and provocations. It has also sent vessels to dangerously approach China Coast Guard ships conducting routine law enforcement and rights protection operations, illegally intruded on multiple occasions into the waters surrounding Zhubi Reef, Tiexian Reef, and Xianbin Reef in the Nansha Islands, and organized illegal landings on Tiexian Reef. Furthermore, the Philippine side has continued to maliciously sensationalize the normal law enforcement activities of Chinese official vessels patrolling around Ren’ai Reef and Xianbin Reef, seeking to tarnish China’s image. The United States has continued to “embolden” the Philippine side in its maritime infringements and provocations against China, conducting so-called “freedom of navigation” operations in the South China Sea on numerous occasions, undertaking joint patrols either independently or in collaboration with allies and partners, and repeatedly colluding with Japan and the Philippines to smear and vilify China on maritime issues.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula remains complex and sensitive. Since the commencement of Trump’s second presidential term, the United States and the DPRK have sent signals of engagement to each other and expressed a desire to improve bilateral relations. Yet, on the other hand, the military standoff between the two sides has persisted unabated. The United States and the ROK have orchestrated a series of deterrence-oriented military maneuvers, including two joint exercises known as Freedom Shield and one joint aerial exercise known as Freedom Flag, while the USS

George Washington, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier of the United States Navy, docked at the Busan Naval Base in the ROK for logistical resupply and rest. Over the past year, the DPRK has conducted 17 test launches of important weapons. In June, Lee Jae-myung assumed the presidency of the ROK, adhering to the left-wing's policy orientation toward the DPRK and championing the resumption of military hotlines and the facilitation of inter-Korean dialogue. Historical precedents demonstrate that military intimidation and sanctions serve only to inflame tensions and deepen mutual mistrust, whereas dialogue and engagement constitute viable pathways to easing tensions and rebuilding trust.

Multiple rounds of border conflicts between Cambodia and Thailand have erupted. The border between Cambodia and Thailand has not been fully delimited. In particular, the area surrounding the Preah Vihear Temple has long been a focal point of dispute. The two sides have seen constant frictions in the disputed border areas. From May to July, exchanges of fire between Cambodian and Thai forces erupted several times and escalated in both frequency and intensity. Under multilateral mediation, a ceasefire was reached on July 28, followed by the signing of a joint declaration on border peace on October 26. However, fierce conflicts broke out again on December 7, inflicting casualties on both sides and compelling a large number of border residents to flee their homes.^①

(II) The Ukraine crisis drags on and Europe remains mired in a security dilemma

The confrontation between Russia and Ukraine persists, with the battlefield locked in a stalemate. In April, Russian forces recaptured the occupied territories in the Kursk region, intensifying their frontal offensives against Ukraine while advancing operations along multiple fronts in the east. Combat has bogged down in directions such as Donetsk and Kharkiv, where the Russian advance is slow. Ukrainian forces, relying on urban fortifications and drone warfare, have launched counterattacks and infiltration tactics to retard the Russian momentum. Ukraine has also launched long-range stealth

^① "Thai Defense Ministry Says 400,000 Evacuated amid Thailand-Cambodia Clashes," Xinhua News Agency, December 10, 2025, https://content-static.cctvnews.cctv.com/snow-book/index.html?item_id=4674237949349017441.



operations. Notably, its Operation Spider Web in June employed sophisticated, coordinated tactics to deploy first-person view (FPV) drones against five major Russian military bases, including Irkutsk, Murmansk, Ryazan, Ivanovo, and Amur, sneakily destroying or incapacitating multiple Russian long-range bombers. Furthermore, in April and December, two Russian lieutenant generals were successively killed by car bombs in the Moscow area carried out by Ukrainian intelligence services. However, such operations have proven insufficient to reverse Ukraine's precarious wartime predicament. In December, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced that its forces had seized control of Krasnoarmeysk (known in Ukraine as Pokrovsk) in the Donetsk region. In his 2025 annual year-end press conference, President Putin asserted that since Russian forces drove the enemy from the Kursk region, the strategic initiative has been firmly in the hands of the Russian military. He declared that Russian forces are advancing along the entire line of contact, maintaining an offensive posture in all directions and continuously pushing back enemy troops.^①

The United States has repeatedly “sought peace through pressure” in the Ukraine crisis, albeit with scant results. Upon his ascension to power, Trump swiftly advocated an expeditious resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conundrum, repeatedly questioned the imperative of US military assistance to Ukraine, and explicitly or implicitly urged Ukraine to cede part of its territory. Moreover, the United States has launched a political offensive against Russia, with its representatives repeatedly engaging with their Russian counterparts while bypassing the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine in the process. In August, the Trump-Putin Summit was held in Alaska, marking the first meeting between US and Russian leaders since 2021. It was also the first encounter between Trump and Putin since 2019 and the first time in nearly a decade that a Russian president had set foot on American soil.^②

Nevertheless, the chasm between Russia's and Ukraine's positions remains vast, rendering substantive compromises hard to achieve during negotiations. From May to

^① “Results of the Year with Vladimir Putin,” the Russian President's official website, December 19, 2025, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/78815>.

^② “Lasting Over Two and a Half Hours, Trump and Putin Hold Historic Meeting,” People's Daily Online, August 16, 2025, <https://www.peopleapp.com/column/30049990774-500007036152>.

July, after three rounds of direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, no other tangible outcomes were achieved beyond a prisoner exchange agreement. Since July, Trump has redirected his coercive efforts from Ukraine to Russia, threatening to levy “secondary tariffs,” asserting that “NATO reserves the right to shoot down Russian aircraft encroaching upon its airspace, contingent upon the specifics of the situation,” and even contemplating the provision of “Tomahawk” missiles to Ukraine. On October 22, Trump called off a newly scheduled summit with Putin. Concurrently, the US Department of the Treasury announced sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil, along with their Russian subsidiaries, marking the first direct sanctions imposed on Russia during Trump’s second term. In November, the United States unveiled a “28-Point Peace Plan” that encompassed ceasefire arrangements, territorial demarcation, security guarantees, lifting of sanctions, and economic cooperation, with the overarching goal of comprehensively resolving the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Subsequently, all parties engaged in intense strategic maneuvering over the draft proposal.

While the protracted Ukraine crisis has exacerbated Europe’s sense of insecurity, Donald Trump’s return to power has further deepened Europe’s strategic anxiety.

As evidenced by a report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), arms imports by NATO’s European members skyrocketed by 105% between 2020 and 2024 compared to the 2015–2019 period. Crucially, the share of American weaponry within these imports swelled from 52% to 64%, with Europe supplanting the Middle East as the largest destination of US arms exports for the first time in two decades.^①

The commitments of the United States and NATO to provide security guarantees for European allies were already shaken during Trump’s first term, and his return to the White House has deepened European apprehensions.^② After Trump started his second

^① Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, “Ukraine the world’s biggest arms importer; United States’ dominance of global arms exports grows as Russian exports continue to fall,” March 10, 2025, <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2025/ukraine-worlds-biggest-arms-importer-united-states-dominance-global-arms-exports-grows-russian>.

^② “Feng Zhongping: Europe Strives to Cope with Declining Competitiveness and Changes in Transatlantic Relations,” website of the Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, December 22, 2025, http://ies.cass.cn/cn/work/comment/202512/t20251222_5962104.shtml.



term, contradictions between the United States and Europe over trade, security, and values have intensified significantly. In particular, the United States has ceased to actively back Ukraine in its confrontation with Russia and has attempted to sideline Europe by exploring solutions to the Ukraine crisis directly with Russia, which has deeply alarmed Europe. In response, European countries have marshaled all resources to strengthen their voice on the trajectory of the Ukraine crisis. Leaders from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, the European Union, Finland, and NATO have visited the United States either individually or in groups, demonstrating Europe's united stance in support of Ukraine and preventing the United States and Russia from directly deciding Ukraine's fate. Furthermore, leaders of Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Poland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and EU institutions have expressed the intention to create a "multinational force." This move aims to assist in the reconstruction of Ukraine's armed forces, safeguard its airspace, potentially conduct military operations within Ukraine, and establish a "ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanism led by the United States with international participation."^①

Furthermore, Europe has accelerated the development of its defense capabilities, substantially increasing military expenditure and expediting the development and procurement of sophisticated armaments. Europe has proclaimed an intensified commitment to advancing the R&D of sophisticated armaments, with a particular emphasis on upgrading existing collaborative European defense assets, such as the Eurofighter Typhoon, the Eurocopter Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH), and the Airbus A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT). Leveraging these advancements, Europe aspires to attain autonomous capabilities in the research, development, and production of future weaponry and equipment. On May 15, during the first Trinity House Defense Ministerial Meeting in Berlin, the German Defense Minister and the U.K. Secretary of Defense discussed how to strengthen European security and stimulate economic growth through defense collaboration. They also announced that the United Kingdom and Germany would collaborate to develop long-range Precision Strike Missiles (PrSM) with a range surpassing 2,000 kilometers. On May 22, German Chancellor Merz paid a visit to Lithuania and participated in the

① "Europe Proposes Forming a 'Multinational Force' to Support Ukraine," cctv.com, December 16, 2025, <https://news.cctv.com/2025/12/16/ARTIMyKWEIGg6w5aJxkbzK4B251216.shtml>.

inauguration ceremony of the German 45th Armored Brigade “Lietuva” in Vilnius. This event signifies the first permanent overseas stationing of German military forces since the end of World War II. Russian Defense Minister Belousov articulated that NATO has expedited its preparations for countering Russia in the 2030s. This is because NATO’s current annual military budget stands at USD 1.6 trillion; if raised to 5% of each member’s GDP, it would reach USD 2.7 trillion. Concurrently, NATO is actively enhancing the operational capabilities of its joint forces, advancing the deployment of intermediate-range missile systems, updating its nuclear weapons inventory, and modernizing its air and missile defense systems. From Russia’s perspective, all of these indicate that NATO is preparing for a military conflict with Russia, which delays political and diplomatic efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis. Hostility between Russia and Europe and Ukraine will persist until 2026.^①

(III) The Middle East quagmire is in urgent need of resolution

A first-phase ceasefire agreement has been reached between Palestine and Israel, yet peace remains precariously fragile. Since the outbreak of the latest round of the Palestine-Israel conflict in 2023, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has deteriorated dramatically. As of November 29, 2025, the death toll from Israeli military operations in Gaza has soared to 70,100, with more than 170,000 people injured.^② The infrastructure lies in tatters, exacerbated by an acute shortage of food and medical supplies. In response to the escalating humanitarian crisis, the United Nations and the overwhelming majority of countries worldwide have condemned Israel’s actions, exerting immense political pressure on Israel. Countries including France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Portugal have announced their recognition of the State of Palestine, bringing the total number of countries recognizing Palestine to 158 globally.

^① “Russian Defense Minister Says NATO Is Stepping Up War Preparations Against Russia,” Sputnik News Agency, December 17, 2025, <https://sputniknews.cn/20251217/1068955625.html>; “Expanded meeting of the Defence Ministry Board,” the Russian President’s official website, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/78801>.

^② “Israeli Military Operations in Gaza Strip Have Caused Over 70,000 Deaths,” Xinhuanet, November 29, 2025, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/world/20251129/b9114cbc31e24c5ea72d05dfb86f-1c0a/c.html>.



On October 9, Israel and Hamas forged a first-phase ceasefire and prisoner swap agreement, momentarily pausing the two-year-long spiral of violence in the Palestine-Israel conflict. Nevertheless, mutual recriminations persist between the two sides, with intermittent skirmishes flaring up in proximity to the Israeli withdrawal line. Since the ceasefire agreement was reached, the local death toll has risen by 354, with 906 injuries reported.^① The outlook for a second-phase ceasefire agreement is now shrouded in uncertainty. Pivotal issues, such as the disarmament of Hamas, Israel's subsequent troop withdrawal, the governance framework for Gaza's reconstruction, and the mobilization of reconstruction funds, still hang in the balance. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted on November 10 that this round of conflict "has not yet drawn to a close."^② The biased mediation of the United States has also raised the likelihood of renewed conflict, as the "20-Point Plan" sidesteps the "two-state solution" and is devoid of equity.



The League of Arab States hosted the event of the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" in Egypt on November 30, 2025

(Source: website of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Egypt)

^① ABC News, "Gaza death toll rises to 69,185, health officials say," November 12, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/israel-gaza-live-updates-4-hostage-bodies-believed/?id=127369032>.

^② "Israeli Military Operations in Gaza Strip Have Caused Over 70,000 Deaths," Xinhuanet, November 29, 2025, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/world/20251129/b9114cbc31e24c5ea72d05dfb86f1c0a/c.html>.

The “12-Day War” erupted between Israel and Iran. In June, Israel initiated an air offensive codenamed Operation Rising Lion, targeting Iran’s military installations, commanders, nuclear scientists, and other strategic assets. Iran swiftly responded with Operation True Promise-3, launching a barrage of missiles at Israeli Defense Forces headquarters, nuclear research facilities, and other critical infrastructure. On June 21, the United States directly intervened, deploying B-2 strategic bombers to strike three key Iranian nuclear sites — Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. This indicated that the United States, as a permanent Security Council member, a signatory to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT), and a nuclear-armed state, had initiated a military attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, even though Iran is a non-nuclear weapon state party to the NPT. Such an action constituted a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and international law, exacerbating the volatile situation in the Middle East. It also dealt a severe blow to and exerted a negative impact on the NPT and the IAEA, while severely undermining the political and diplomatic process of the Iranian nuclear issue.^① In December, Iranian President Pezeshkian declared in an interview that Iran was embroiled in an all-out war with the United States, Israel, and Europe, facing not only traditional military coercion but also economic, political, and media oppression from those sides.^② Later that month, large-scale street demonstrations erupted in Iran, fueled in part by the cumulative impact of prolonged Western sanctions. Meanwhile, the United States repeatedly issued threats of further military action against Iran.

The Israel-Syria conflict continues unabated, while the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire agreement remains to be fully implemented. In July, Israel launched a series of attacks on southern Syria, areas close to the “presidential palace,” and the “general staff headquarters” building. The longstanding disputes between Israel and Syria over the

^① “Statement by Ambassador Li Song at the Emergency Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Situation in Iran,” website of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, June 23, 2025, https://vienna.china-mission.gov.cn/hyyfy/202506/t20250623_11655554.htm.

^② “Iran will overcome sanctions and foreign pressure, says President Pezeshkian,” Official Website of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, December 27, 2025, <https://president.ir/en/163120>.



sovereignty of the Golan Heights and the stationing of Israeli troops in southern Syria remain unresolved. Furthermore, pursuant to the Lebanon-Israel ceasefire agreement that came into effect on November 27, 2024, Israeli forces were mandated to withdraw incrementally from southern Lebanon by January 26, 2025. However, on the excuse that Lebanon failed to fully implement the ceasefire agreement, Israel unilaterally extended the withdrawal deadline to February 18. Upon the expiration of this revised timeline, Israeli forces further asserted their intention to maintain an “indefinite” presence at five strategic positions in southern Lebanon to safeguard residents in northern Israel. On October 23, Israeli forces struck Hezbollah strongholds in the Beqaa Valley of eastern and northern Lebanon.

In September, Israel executed a “precision strike” against senior Hamas operatives in Doha, the capital of Qatar. This constituted a flagrant violation of Qatar’s sovereignty and marked the first time that Israel had extended its strikes to Qatar since the new round of the Palestine-Israel conflict erupted in 2023. The international community responded with strong condemnation. Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed denounced Israel’s actions as “state terrorism” and called for “a firm regional response to such barbaric acts.”^① Concurrently, Israeli forces conducted multiple air raids targeting the leaders of Yemen’s Houthi group as well as critical military and civilian infrastructure.

(IV) The turbulent situation in South Asia intensifies

India and Pakistan have found themselves ensnared in the most intense military clash in over two decades. On April 22, an assault was perpetrated by armed militants against tourists in Pahalgam town, situated within Indian-controlled Kashmir. India unilaterally linked the incident to Pakistan and adopted a series of measures including the suspension of the *Indus Waters Treaty* (IWT) and the revocation of visas for Pakistani citizens. Pakistan denied the allegations and took reciprocal countermeasures, leading to an escalation of military confrontation between the two countries. On May 7, India initiated a military attack dubbed Operation Sindoor, which was met with an

^① “Israeli Forces Launch Surprise Attack on Qatar; Middle East Sees Through the ‘US Protection’ Facade,” Xinhuanet, September 10, 2025, <https://www.news.cn/20250910/6c48d08e-6f074a9bbd7ca706e5d71d93/c.html>.

immediate retaliation from Pakistan. By the evening of May 10, a ceasefire agreement was reached, with both countries consenting to an immediate cessation of hostilities. As both India and Pakistan possess nuclear weapons, the risk of their military conflict escalating into a nuclear confrontation has sparked concerns from the international community.

The peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan have been beset by challenges, with the security spillovers looming large. The Afghan economy, infrastructure, and social service systems have become increasingly fragile. As delineated in a report by the United Nations Security Council, as of December 2025, only 37.1% of the requisite USD 2.42 billion for the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan had been pledged, severely threatening the survival of millions of Afghans.^① The United States' decision to freeze Afghan central bank's assets and maintain sanctions has crippled the Afghan economy for a long time.^② Coupled with the ravages of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, the living conditions of the Afghan people have further deteriorated. The Trump administration has repeatedly exerted pressure on the Afghan side, claiming that the US forces would return to Bagram Air Base. Concurrently, the activities of organizations such as the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) within Afghanistan have intensified, forming links with radical entities such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), thereby arousing persistent vigilance among neighboring countries.

The outward spread of terrorists from Afghanistan has significantly exacerbated regional insecurity. Afghanistan and Pakistan have found themselves ensnared in a series of border conflicts. From October to December, a spate of cross-border armed conflicts broke out between the two countries, centered around contentious issues such as border control, the provision of armed sanctuaries, and refugee management. Exchanges of fire erupted at multiple border points, leaving a number of civilians killed

^① "Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan Update," United Nations Security Council Report, 2025, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2025-12/afghanistan-quarterly-meeting-4.php>.

^② "Suspension of USAID puts Afghan population at risk," Le Monde/Reuters, February 11, 2025, https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2025/02/11/suspension-of-us-aid-puts-afghan-population-at-risk_6738012_4.html.



or injured. Since the outbreak of these conflicts, the implementation of measures such as border closures and visa suspensions by both sides has further heightened tensions, thereby increasing the likelihood of fresh confrontations.^① Concurrently, security pressures have continued to mount along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border, prompting Central Asian countries to elevate their border alert levels as a precautionary measure against the potential infiltration of armed groups and the spread of cross-border instability.

In South Asia, a wave of sudden political turmoil has swept across several countries, laying bare the inherent fragility of their governance systems. In September 2025, large-scale demonstrations broke out in many parts of Nepal, leaving 77 people dead and 2,429 injured; 2,671 buildings, including the National Parliament and the Prime Minister's Office, were damaged, and 12,659 vehicles were destroyed.^② The Prime Minister was compelled to resign, the House of Representatives was dissolved, and a provisional government was established, with general elections slated for March 5, 2026. In Bangladesh, widespread demonstrations have been ignited by soaring prices and employment woes, significantly eroding the government's governance efficacy. Since the "July Incident" in 2024, the domestic situation in Bangladesh has been put to the test. In December 2025, the assassination of Hadi, a 32-year-old spokesperson and candidate for the radical group "Revolutionary Front," triggered large-scale protests and demonstrations, also casting a shadow over relations between Bangladesh and India. Sri Lanka's post-debt crisis recovery has been sluggish, with fiscal austerity and energy shortages persisting as pressing challenges. Meanwhile, political divisions within the Maldives have deepened. Furthermore, the strategic pressure exerted by certain major countries on small and medium-sized regional countries has intensified. Notably, the dominant countries in the region have continued to narrow the policy options available

^① "Clashes Erupt Again on Afghanistan-Pakistan Border, Border Residents Begin Evacuation," Xinhuanet, December 6, 2025, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/world/20251206/7194fc-192da641c1a87a2841315c7088/c.html>; "Roundup: Renewed Conflict Between Afghanistan and Pakistan," Xinhuanet, December 7, 2025, <http://www3.xinhuanet.com/world/20251207/72eb9a832e-ab488391057d033ff8728e/c.html>.

^② "Nepal Releases Report on Protest-Related Losses: 77 Dead, Property Damage Nearing USD 600 Million," chinanews.com.cn, December 12, 2025, <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/gj/2025/12-12/10531950.shtml>.

to their neighboring countries, placing these countries under heightened pressure to navigate economic transformation and diplomatic balancing acts. This dynamic has, in turn, exacerbated the overall fragility of the region.^①

(V) Africa faces mounting security challenges

The risk of coups remains high. Since September 25, 2025, a wave of mass demonstrations has swept across multiple cities in Madagascar, rapidly escalating into a protest movement targeting President Rajoelina. Colonel Randrianirina, the director of the Army Corps of Personnel and Administrative and Technical Services (CAPSAT), announced the seizure of state power on October 14 and was sworn in as interim president three days later.^② On November 26, the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau issued a formal declaration, asserting their “complete control” over national authority and announcing the detention of President Embaló, the dissolution of all public institutions, the suspension of electoral processes, the closure of land, sea and air borders, and the imposition of a curfew. In response, the African Union (AU) promptly suspended Guinea-Bissau from all AU activities and its affiliated bodies. This coup represents the ninth instance of military usurpation of power in West Africa since 2020, further entrenching the Sahel region’s reputation as a “coup belt.”^③ On December 7, a faction of Beninese soldiers announced the removal of President Talon on national television. This coup was swiftly quelled within a day. Nevertheless, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) declared a state of emergency across West Africa and convened an emergency meeting to deliberate on strategies to counter the escalating trend of coups and military insurrections in the region.^④

^① Nilanthi Samaranayake, “The outside-in story that helps explain turmoil in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka,” Lowy Institute, September 23, 2025, <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/outside-story-helps-explain-turmoil-nepal-bangladesh-sri-lanka>.

^② “Madagascar’s New President Calls for a ‘Complete Break’ with the Past,” Sputnik News Agency, October 21, 2025, <https://sputniknews.cn/20251021/1067985059.html>.

^③ Li Yincui, “Viewing the Complexity of Africa’s Political Ecology from the Coup in Guinea-Bissau,” *Wenhui Daily*, December 8, 2025.

^④ “ECOWAS Declares State of Emergency in West Africa,” CCTV News App, December 9, 2025, https://ysxw.cctv.cn/article.html?toc_style_id=feeds_default&item_id=5702612951913312328&channelId=1119.



Protracted armed conflicts continue to plague the region. The armed conflict in Sudan has now entered its third year, marked by a relentless escalation in hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). In March, the SAF succeeded in largely repelling RSF forces from Khartoum and its environs, gradually extending its control over vast swathes of eastern and southeastern Sudan. Concurrently, the RSF has concentrated its efforts on eradicating SAF strongholds in the Darfur and Kordofan regions, which stand as isolated enclaves within or adjacent to RSF-dominated territories, culminating in the capture of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State, on October 26. This conflict has taken a heavy toll, with over 150,000 people dead and 14.3 million people displaced to date.^① Since June, countries including the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt have endeavored to mediate a ceasefire and facilitate negotiations toward a resolution between the warring factions in Sudan, though their efforts have yielded limited progress.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains mired in protracted instability. In 2025, the anti-government armed faction known as the “March 23 Movement” (M23) unleashed a fresh offensive, seizing control of multiple strategic strongholds in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, thereby precipitating a grave humanitarian catastrophe. Through the mediation of Qatar, the DRC government and the M23 inked a framework agreement in Doha in November, pledging to advance the stabilization process in phases and tackle the underlying causes of the conflict. Subsequently, in December, the United States facilitated the signing of a peace agreement between the DRC and Rwanda. Nevertheless, these agreements have fallen short of achieving their intended outcomes. Since the beginning of December, fierce clashes have once again flared up between the DRC military and the M23 across various locations in South Kivu. Beyond the M23, illicit armed entities such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO), the Mai-Mai militias, and the Zairean militias have also been sowing discord in provinces including North Kivu, Ituri, and Haut-Uele.

^① Carlos Mureithi, “Deaths, disappearances and forced recruitment: refugees recount horrors of relentless war in Sudan,” *The Guardian*, Oct 2, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/02/refugees-recall-horrors-of-sudan-civil-war>.

In northern Mozambique, violence has surged, intensifying the humanitarian crisis. Since 2017, the northern province of Cabo Delgado has endured relentless assaults from extremist factions. In 2025, local non-governmental armed groups with ties to the “Islamic State Central Africa Province” launched frequent attacks on villages, abducted and slain civilians, pillaged, and razed homes and infrastructure to the ground. For the first time, all 17 districts within Cabo Delgado province have been directly affected, with the violence encroaching southward into Nampula province, resulting in the displacement of over 1.3 million people.^①

Terrorist organizations have exploited the turbulent landscapes in certain regions of Africa to infiltrate and proliferate across the continent, with the Sahel region emerging as the principal source of terrorist activities.^② “The Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM),” a branch of Al-Qaeda operating in the West African Sahel, has now evolved into one of the most intractable security quandaries in the region. Since the autumn of 2025, the terrorist group’s offensive operations have escalated to unprecedented levels. On one front, the group has initiated an “economic war” in its core operational theater of Mali, imposing a fuel embargo on Bamako, the capital, thereby subjecting the Malian military junta to formidable crises and challenges. On another front, capitalizing on its advantages secured in Mali, the group has redirected its resources toward large-scale regional expansion, opening new fronts in Niger and Nigeria concurrently in October 2025.

(VI) The unrest in Latin America gathers momentum with increasing intensity

The United States has unleashed a wave of military intimidation against Venezuela and Colombia. Since Trump returned to the White House, he has placed the fight against drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and transnational crime at the

^① “UNHCR: Violence Spreads in Northern Mozambique, Nearly 100,000 People Displaced,” United Nations website, December 2, 2025, <https://news.un.org/zh/story/2025/12/1141214>.

^② Institute for Economics and Peace, “Global Terrorism Index 2025,” March 10, 2025, <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Global-Terrorism-Index-2025.pdf>.



very heart of the regional agenda^① and introduced the Trump Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine in a bid to tighten the United States' grip on the Western Hemisphere. In early August, citing "alleged involvement in funneling drugs to the United States through criminal syndicates," the US raised the bounty for the apprehension of Venezuelan President Maduro to USD 50 million. By the end of the month, under the guise of "combating transnational drug cartels," it significantly ramped up its military presence off Venezuela's coast. In November, it marshaled the largest military force in three decades, with aircraft carriers, nuclear-powered submarines, and an array of warplanes conducting high-frequency operations in the Caribbean Sea. US military strikes on so-called "drug-trafficking vessels" claimed over a hundred lives. Within the Trump administration, military options against Venezuela were debated on multiple occasions, with President Trump leaving open the possibility of "ground operations."^② Concurrently, US-Colombia relations took a nosedive. Since Trump's second term, the United States has exerted pressure on Colombia through a combination of tariffs, visa restrictions, and sanctions. In December, it publicly singled out Colombian President Petro as the "next target in anti-drug military operations,"^c thrusting this traditional alliance into the throes of confrontation.

Across Latin America, the tug-of-war between leftist and rightist factions rages on unabated. In Colombia, political rivalry surrounding the 2026 general election has reached a fever pitch, with the left and right deeply divided over public security governance, peace accords, and economic reforms. In June, a right-wing presidential candidate in Colombia fell victim to assassination. Thereafter, a spate of

^① "The Strategic Game Triggered by US Military Deployment in the Southern Caribbean," website of *Globe* magazine, September 25, 2025, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/globe/20250925/a975fc1ca8ed4f849a9c1c1f4ee6bae7/c.html>.

^② Jeff Mason, Doina Chiacu, Ryan Patrick Jones and Kylie Madry, "Trump says any country trafficking drugs into US could be attacked," Reuters, December 2, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-says-any-country-trafficking-drugs-into-us-could-be-attacked-2025-12-02/>; "The Geopolitical Maneuvering Triggered by US Military Intervention in the Southern Caribbean," website of *Globe* magazine, September 25, 2025, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/globe/20250925/a975fc1ca8ed4f849a9c1c1f4ee6bae7/c.html>.

^③ Politico, " 'He' ll be next' : Donald Trump threatens Colombian president," December 10, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/12/10/trump-threatens-colombian-president-00685742>.

election-related attacks, abductions, and threats occurred repeatedly. Other countries, such as Peru, have also been embroiled in persistent political friction stemming from policy disputes and economic woes, eroding the government's capacity for public service delivery and fueling an upsurge in street politics and violent clashes.

Violent crime continues to plague the region. Since Haiti descended into a fresh cycle of intense internal violent conflict in February 2024, its security situation has deteriorated sharply, with violence spreading like wildfire across the country. Statistics reveal that from January 1 to May 30, 2025, at least 2,680 people lost their lives, while no fewer than 957 were injured and 316 were abducted for ransom. To flee gang violence, nearly 1.3 million Haitians have been uprooted from their homes, marking the highest-ever recorded number of internally displaced persons due to violent conflict in the country's history.^① Following Trinidad and Tobago's declaration of a three-month "state of emergency" in December 2024 in response to rampant criminality, the "state of emergency" was extended multiple times in 2025.

^① "Gang Expansion and Spreading Violence in Haiti: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Expresses Shock," United Nations website, June 13, 2025, <https://news.un.org/zh/story/2025/06/1139521>; "Gang violence displaces a record 1.3 million Haitians," United Nations website, June 11, 2025, <https://news.un.org/zh/story/2025/06/1139456>.



The Security Situation in Various Regions Across the Globe Remains Complex and Severe

China's Role as an Anchor for World Peace and Stability Becomes Increasingly Prominent

- Upholding the path of peaceful development and continuously promoting global modernization featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation, and common prosperity through Chinese modernization
- Firmly supporting the United Nations in playing a central role in international affairs
 - Promoting coordination and sound interactions among major countries
 - Practicing the Chinese way to address hotspot issues
 - Providing coordinated responses to traditional and non-traditional security threats
- Improving the platforms and mechanisms for advancing the Global Security Initiative



China's Role as an Anchor for World Peace and Stability Becomes Increasingly Prominent

In a world beset by escalating unrest and turbulence, China has remained unwavering in its commitment to the path of peaceful development. By providing stability through its consistent domestic and foreign policies, China offers certainty for a volatile world. In concert with countries that uphold peace and justice, China has been actively advancing the implementation of the Global Security Initiative and fostering the building of the security community of mankind. As of the end of 2025, the Global Security Initiative has garnered endorsement and acclaim from over 130 countries and regional and international organizations. It has also been explicitly written into more than 140 bilateral and multilateral documents between China and other countries or international organizations. China's role as an anchor for world peace and stability becomes increasingly prominent.

(I) Upholding the path of peaceful development and continuously promoting global modernization featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation, and common prosperity through Chinese modernization

Chinese modernization has created a miracle of rapid economic growth. By 2025, China's GDP had surpassed CNY 140 trillion (approximately USD 19.7 trillion),



raising its share of the global economy from a mere 1.7% in 1978 to roughly 17%.^① Yet, in stark contradistinction to the Western modernization that was historically accompanied by colonial expansion, belligerent aggression, and sanguinary carnage and inflicted profound catastrophes upon Asia, Africa, and Latin America, Chinese modernization explores a new path of peaceful development, emphasizes self-reliance and self-strengthening, embraces openness and cooperation, and delivers win-win cooperation and equitable opportunities. Chinese modernization is set to continuously unleash opportunities arising from its super-sized market, institutional opening-up, and the green, digital, and intelligent transformation. Between 2024 and 2028, China's total trade in goods and services is expected to exceed USD 32 trillion and USD 5 trillion respectively.^② China has taken the initiative to unilaterally expand market openness. Since December 2024, it has given all the least developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines, becoming the first major developing country and the first major economy to take such a measure.^③ Furthermore, China is jointly advancing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with over 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations, with over three-quarters of

^① "Seventy-Five Years of Resounding Progress: Continuing the Journey to Compose a New Splendid Chapter—One of a Series of Reports on China's Economic and Social Development Achievements over 75 Years since the Founding of New China," website of the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China, September 9, 2024, https://www.stats.gov.cn/zt_18555/ztfx/xzg75njshfzcyj/202409/t20240911_1956384.html; Lin Yifu, *Interpreting China's Economy: The Path to National Rejuvenation amid Accelerating Changes in a Century* (Peking University Press, 2025), p. 2; "Statistical Communiqué of the People's Republic of China on the 2024 National Economic and Social Development," website of the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China, February 28, 2025, https://www.stats.gov.cn/sj/zxfb/202502/t20250228_1958817.html; "Press Conference Series on 'High-Quality Completion of the 14th Five-Year Plan' Introduces Economic and Social Development Achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period," Xinhuanet, July 9, 2025, <http://www.news.cn/zt/gxbsswfbh/gjzggw/index.htm>.

^② Xi Jinping, "Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World for Common Development—Keynote Speech by Xi Jinping at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation," *People's Daily*, October 19, 2023, p. 2.

^③ "The Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council Issues Announcement Granting Zero-Tariff Treatment for 100% of Tariff Lines of Products from the Least Developed Countries," website of Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China, September 12, 2024, http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcejiedu/202409/t20240912_3943679.htm

countries across the world joining the family of BRI cooperation.^①

China has achieved the miracle of long-term social stability, thereby contributing to world stability through its own stability. Pursuing a holistic approach to national security, China has underpinned its new development paradigm with a new security architecture and ensured high-quality development through high-standard security, thereby making remarkable strides in the implementation of the Peaceful China initiative. Notably, China is one of the countries with the lowest rates of homicide and criminal crimes and the lowest number of gun- and explosive-related cases, firmly establishing itself as one of the safest countries in the world.^②

Embarking on a new journey in a new era, China's commitment to the path of peaceful development aligns with its intrinsic strategic imperatives and resonates with the shared interests of the international community. At this pivotal juncture, China is propelling forward the grand endeavor of building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. The *Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development*, adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on October 23, 2025, underscore high-quality development as the main focus. It advocates focusing on managing China's own affairs, striving to open up new horizons for Chinese modernization, and laying firmer foundations for basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035.

Ushering in a new chapter in the endeavor of Chinese modernization requires

^① "Press Conference Series on 'High-Quality Completion of the 14th Five-Year Plan' Introduces Economic and Social Development Achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period," Xinhuanet, July 9, 2025, <http://www.news.cn/zt/gxbsswfbh/gjfggw/index.htm>; "Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Answers Questions from Chinese and Foreign Journalists on China's Foreign Policy and External Relations," gov.cn, March 8, 2025, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202503/content_7011719.htm.

^② "Press Conference Series on 'High-Quality Completion of the 14th Five-Year Plan' Introduces Efforts to Safeguard High-Quality Completion of the Plan with High-Level Security," Xinhuanet, July 23, 2025, <https://www.news.cn/zt/gxbsswfbh/gab/index.html>.



considering both domestic and external situations in a coordinated way, ensuring both development and security, strengthening the domestic economy while boosting the domestic and international dual circulations, and expanding high-standard opening up, all of which hinge on a peaceful and stable external environment. Building a world that enjoys lasting peace and universal security will undoubtedly furnish a sound external environment for the advancement of Chinese modernization. China is committed to pursuing its own development in parallel with the promotion of global peace and development, and utilizing its own development as a means to further uphold and advance global peace and development. The emergence of a novel paradigm in Chinese modernization will, in turn, make a more substantial contribution to the preservation of global peace, thereby fostering a synergistic interplay between China's national interests and the collective interests of the international community. This dynamic will drive China and the world toward the formation of a more tightly-knit community of shared interests and a security community. As President Xi Jinping has stated, the modernization we are pursuing is not for China alone, but for all developing countries through our joint efforts. Global modernization should be pursued to enhance peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation and bring prosperity to all.^①

(II) Firmly supporting the United Nations in playing a central role in international affairs

Against the backdrop of a turbulent and transforming international landscape, China remains steadfast in its conviction that the United Nations—standing as the most universal, representative and authoritative intergovernmental organization—plays an irreplaceable role in the maintenance of world peace and serves as the central platform for advancing global security governance.

China is steadfastly committed to upholding the authority and stature of the United Nations. The year 2025 was the 80th anniversary of both the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations. In May, during his state visit to Russia and attendance at the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the

^① Xi Jinping, "Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World for Common Development—Keynote Speech by Xi Jinping at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation," *People's Daily*, October 19, 2023, p. 2.

Victory in the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union, President Xi Jinping penned a signed article in the Russian Gazette, underscoring that “the most significant decision by the international community around the end of WWII was to establish the UN.” He further emphasized that “the more turbulent and complex the international situation becomes, the more we must uphold and defend the authority of the UN.” In September, China solemnly convened a grand ceremony to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, projecting through a majestic military parade a resounding contemporary call to promote the correct historical perspective on World War II, uphold the post-war international order, and safeguard the cause of peace for humanity.

China has made extensive efforts to foster a global consensus on security governance. In February, serving as the rotating president of the United Nations Security Council, China convened a high-level meeting themed “Practicing Multilateralism, Reforming and Improving Global Governance,” which attracted high-level representatives from over 100 countries, covering members of the Security Council. Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, articulated at the meeting that the UN-centered international system provides important safeguards for the cause of human progress. He urged all parties to implement the United Nations’ *Pact for the Future* with coordinated efforts, thereby pursuing peace and security in global governance. In September, during the General Debate of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a speech, calling upon the international community to further strengthen the forces for peace and development and to work together for peace and shared security amid the volatility and turbulence in the world.

China has actively supported the United Nations’ efforts to end violence and maintain peace. China is the second-largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget and the largest troop contributor among the permanent members of the Security Council. The year 2025 marked the 35th anniversary of the Chinese military’s participation in UN peacekeeping operations. Since 1990, China has dispatched a total of over 53,000 peacekeeping personnel, participated in 29 peacekeeping operations, and left its footprint in more than 20 countries and regions, consistently maintaining a peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 personnel. The year 2025 also commemorates the 25th anniversary of Chinese police’s participation in UN peacekeeping operations. Since 2000, China has deployed over 2,700 peacekeeping police officers to 18 UN



peacekeeping operations and the UN Headquarters, making significant contributions to restoring peace and stability in mission areas, facilitating judicial reconstruction in host countries, and protecting the safety of local populations.^① Additionally, 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-UN Peace and Development Fund. Since 2015, China has initiated over 200 practical cooperation projects across more than 100 countries, aiding developing countries in enhancing their capacities for peace, security, and sustainable development.^② The Fund has evolved into a crucial platform for deepening cooperation between China and the United Nations and was extended for another five years upon its expiration in 2025.



From 11 to 18 December, 2025, Chinese peacekeeping contingent to UNIFIL completed its 23rd rotation
(Source: Website of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Lebanon)

^① "Practicing True Multilateralism as A Steadfast Force for World Peace: Overview of the 25-Year Journey of Chinese Police in UN Peacekeeping Operations," *China Police Daily*, May 29, 2025, p. 1.

^② "Themed Event Marking the 10th Anniversary of the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund Held at UN Headquarters," Xinhuanet, September 11, 2025, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/20250911/53d0073f1ce4490ba56559d95c824d8d/c.html>.

(III) Promoting coordination and sound interactions among major countries

The interactions among major countries are pivotal to upholding global strategic stability. When it comes to the preservation of world peace and security, major countries bear a special responsibility. Guided by a profound sense of duty toward the world, history and the future, China has been actively fostering major-country dynamics featuring peaceful coexistence, overall stability, and balanced development.

China is dedicated to nurturing the steady development of China-US relations. In the face of the undulating trajectory of China-US relations, China has steadfastly upheld the consistency and stability of its policy toward the United States. It has consistently adhered to the three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation articulated by Chinese President Xi Jinping, while resolutely defending its national sovereignty, security, and developmental interests. China urges the United States to adopt a rational and objective perspective in its dealings with China and to resolve differences through dialogue and consultation. President Xi Jinping and President Trump engaged in four telephone conversations and held a historic meeting in Busan, where they engaged in profound discussions and forged important consensus on major issues concerning bilateral relations as well as global peace and development, thereby providing strategic guidance for China-US relations. China posits that the two sides should continuously shorten the list of problems and lengthen the list of cooperation in the principles of equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit, jointly doing more big, practical, and good things that benefit the two countries and the world.

China is committed to strengthening comprehensive strategic coordination with Russia. Throughout the year, the heads of state of China and Russia have maintained frequent communication through telephone calls and meetings, including reciprocal state visits, to deliberate on comprehensive cooperation across various domains and jointly commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. These interactions have not only inscribed a new chapter in the pursuit of international fairness and justice but also underscored the high level of China-Russia relations. During President Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia, the two leaders signed the Joint Statement on Further Deepening the China-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era, urging



all countries to safeguard common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security through coordination. They also explicitly expressed their commitment to cooperate on the Global Security Initiative. Furthermore, the two sides issued a joint statement on global strategic stability, emphasizing that security of one country should not come at the expense of that of others, Cold War mentality and zero-sum games should be abandoned, and concerns should be addressed through equal dialogue and consultations.

China endeavors to foster the steady and sustained development of China-EU relations. The year 2025 heralded the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the European Union. On this momentous occasion, President Xi Jinping and EU leaders exchanged congratulatory messages and convened a meeting in Beijing, further solidifying consensus between the two sides in practicing multilateralism, upholding strategic autonomy, and safeguarding international rules. Moreover, President Xi Jinping maintained close communication with leaders of various European countries through a myriad of channels, including phone calls, correspondence, and high-level meetings, encouraging them to view China-EU relations from a comprehensive, dialectical, and forward-looking perspective. During French President Macron's state visit to China, both sides issued joint statements on strengthening global governance, joint response to global climate and environmental challenges, continuous promotion of cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy, exchanges and cooperation in agriculture and food, and the situations in Ukraine and Palestine, injecting fresh vitality into the continued development of the China-France comprehensive strategic partnership.

(IV) Practicing the Chinese way to address hotspot issues

In 2025, the persistence of existing conflicts, coupled with the incessant emergence of new crises, has constituted an entrenched malaise undermining global security. Staying committed to non-interference in internal affairs, political settlement, objectivity and impartiality, and addressing both symptoms and root causes, China has worked with all sides to build consensus for ending conflicts and pave the way for peace talks, so as to advance the peaceful resolution of hotspot issues.

China advocates for a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. China has consistently maintained an objective and impartial stance and persistently advocated for talks for

peace, creating favorable conditions for resolving the crisis. In October, China and Brazil co-chaired an ambassadorial-level meeting of the Group of Friends for Peace on the Ukraine crisis at the United Nations. The group issued a joint statement, which called for an early ceasefire, urged all sides to refrain from supplying weapons to the parties involved, stressed the importance of strengthening humanitarian assistance and protecting civilians, and stated that the Group would continue to play a constructive role in seeking a peaceful resolution.

China promotes the construction of a new security architecture in the Middle East. China has continued to advance the implementation of its five-point initiative for achieving security in the Middle East. Since facilitating the historic reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, China has actively supported both sides in implementing the Beijing Agreement. In December, the third meeting of the China-Saudi Arabia-Iran Trilateral Joint Committee was held in Tehran, where the three parties reaffirmed their welcome for the continuous progress in Iran-Saudi Arabia relations and supported and encouraged the steps taken by Iran and Saudi Arabia toward developing their relations in various fields, injecting invaluable positive momentum into the situation in the Middle East.

China endeavors to uphold peace, stability, and development in neighboring regions. In January and October respectively, under China's mediation and facilitation, the Myanmar government held the seventh round of peace talks with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the ninth round of peace talks with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army in Kunming, Yunnan, and signed formal ceasefire agreements, leading to the de-escalation of tensions in northern Myanmar. Since the outbreak of the Cambodia-Thailand border conflict, China has upheld a just and fair position and made active efforts to promote talks for peace. The three parties—China, Cambodia, and Thailand—held multiple meetings, reached the Anning Outcome, and issued the press release of Fuxian Meeting. China's special envoy made several shuttle-diplomacy trips for peace between Cambodia and Thailand, making unrelenting efforts to improve Cambodia-Thailand relations.

China pioneers an important mechanism for international mediation. In just five months, the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) was signed and brought into force, and the organization was inaugurated in Hong Kong, China in October. By December 1, the convention had 38



signatory states and was ratified by ten of them.^① As an innovative step in international rule of law, the IOMed will supplement and synergize with existing international litigation or arbitration institutions and provide a new platform for all parties to peacefully settle international disputes.^②

(V) Providing coordinated responses to traditional and non-traditional security threats

In the contemporary landscape, the intension and extension of global security governance are broadening to cover a much larger framework of time, space, and areas. Security is becoming more interconnected, transnational, and diverse. China, steadfast in its commitment to solidarity and coordination, pursues integrated planning and concerted actions, continuously fostering pragmatic cooperation in the security domain and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of global security governance.

China plays a constructive role in the international arms control process. It remains a staunch defender of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, conscientiously fulfilling its obligations under the NPT and rigorously advocating the principle that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” From August 2024 to August 2025, China served as the coordinator of the P5 (the five nuclear-weapon states recognized by the NPT who are also the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) mechanism, undertaking extensive efforts to promote greater communication about nuclear policies and strategic mutual trust among the five states. In November, China unveiled the white paper titled *China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era*, which offers a comprehensive exposition of China's policy practices in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation in the new era. It presents China's vision for international security governance in emerging fields such as outer space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence, and underscores China's unwavering resolve to uphold world peace and

^① “10 Countries Have Ratified the IOMed Convention,” chinanews.com.cn, December 1, 2025, <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/gj/2025/12-01/10524966.shtml>.

^② “The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) is Officially Established,” website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, October 20, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjbxw_new/202510/t20251020_11736570.shtml.

security, aiming to reinvigorate multilateral arms control and consolidate the foundation for peaceful development.^① China also places great emphasis on the humanitarian concerns stemming from landmines. It has initiated the “Lancang-Mekong Cooperation in Mine Action” project with Cambodia, and collaborated with Ethiopia, Somalia, and other countries as well as the African Union to implement the second phase of projects under the “Action For A Mine-free Africa” framework, thereby continuously strengthening international assistance and cooperation on mine action.



The State Council Information Office releases the white paper titled *China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era*

China deepens international cooperation on non-traditional security threats. In the climate change arena, China has put forward for the first time an absolute emission reduction target that covers all economic sectors and all greenhouse gases, released China's Initiative on Deepening Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries on Combating Climate Change, and pledged to allocate USD 2 million for climate change

^① “China's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation in the New Era,” website of the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, November 27, 2025, http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/zfbps_2279/202511/t20251127_940277.html.



cooperation to Pacific Island Countries.^① In the realm of combating transnational crime, China has fortified its cooperation with ASEAN countries through mechanisms such as the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, intensifying efforts to clamp down on illicit activities, including drug trafficking, online gambling and fraud, and human trafficking. In the public health sector, the PLAN hospital ship Silk Road Ark set sail for Mission Harmony-2025 to the South Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. By mid-October, it had in total treated over 9,200 people and conducted more than 1,100 surgeries onboard.^②

China steers international security governance of new frontiers. In the domain of military artificial intelligence (AI), China presented a document to the United Nations in April on the “Opportunities and Challenges Posed to International Peace and Security by the Application of AI in the Military Domain,” reiterating the cardinal notion of “people-centered approach in military applications of AI.” It underscored the imperative for all parties to promote the development of an open, fair, and efficient governance framework of AI security through dialogue and cooperation, thereby ensuring that the application of AI in the military domain remains secure, reliable, and controllable. In March and September, China constructively participated in the meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) under the framework of the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* (CCW), facilitating the convergence of viewpoints among all parties and reaffirming its commitment to prioritizing the negotiation of binding international legal instruments predicated on consensus. In September, China engaged in the United Nations Security Council high-level open debate on “Artificial Intelligence and International Peace and Security,” unequivocally endorsing the pivotal role of the United Nations in global AI governance. In the sphere of outer space security governance, in April and July, China played a constructive role in the deliberations of the United Nations Open-ended Working

^① “China’ s Initiative on Deepening Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries on Combating Climate Change,” website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’ s Republic of China, May 28, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/bmdyzs_673629/xwlb_673631/202505/t20250528_11635729.shtml.

^② “Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of National Defense in Mid-October 2025,” website of the Ministry of National Defense of the People’ s Republic of China, October 17, 2025, <http://www.mod.gov.cn/gfbw/xwfy/yzxwfb/16418904.html>.

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Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), championing the ethos of the Global Security Initiative and encouraging parties to contribute substantive insights toward the formulation of a legally binding instrument on arms control in outer space. In December, China and Russia co-sponsored resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly on “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space” and “Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space,” both of which were adopted with overwhelming support. For nine consecutive years, China’s vision of a community with a shared future for humanity in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space was included in relevant UN General Assembly resolutions.



A thematic meeting of the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-building was successfully held at the United Nations on May 6, 2025

(Source: website of the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations)

(VI) Improving the platforms and mechanisms for advancing the Global Security Initiative

Promoting the implementation of the Global Security Initiative is a long-term endeavor demanding persistent and unremitting efforts. China highly values and consistently advances the development of platforms and mechanisms, facilitating in-depth policy dialogues and conceptual convergence on security issues among all parties and galvanizing collective action toward the refinement of global security governance.



China establishes a suite of platforms dedicated to fostering international security exchanges and dialogues. For four consecutive years, China has successfully convened the Conference of Global Public Security Cooperation Forum (Lianyungang), which has yielded a plethora of substantive outcomes, such as the *Global Public Security Index Report (2025)*, the *Joint Initiative to Combat and Govern Telecom and Online Fraud*, the *Initiative on Systematically Addressing Synthetic Drug Issues*, the *International Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative Document*, and the *Call to Action: Future Talent Excellence Initiative in Global Public Security*. Furthermore, the 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum was held successfully, attracting over 1,800 eminent guests, comprising official delegates from more than 100 countries, regions, and international organizations, as well as renowned experts, scholars and observers from diverse countries. Under the theme of “Upholding International Order and Promoting Peaceful Development,” participants engaged in profound deliberations, thereby deepening their conceptual alignment and practical exploration of the Global Security Initiative.^① In addition, the 6th China-Latin America High-Level Defense Forum was convened in Beijing, with defense and military officials of China and 18 Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries working to foster closer and more resilient defense ties that are flexible, pragmatic, and grounded in strong mutual trust. Based on such efforts, China and LAC countries can create a model of security cooperation among Global South countries. Concurrently, the follow-up actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation have been implemented steadily, with notable early outcomes achieved such as strengthening communication on security issues.

China makes significant strides in deepening and broadening new-model security partnerships. The 15th China-ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Informal Meeting was convened, and the China-Vietnam “3+3” ministerial-level strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defense, and public security was advanced. Additionally, China and Malaysia established a “2+2” dialogue mechanism on diplomacy and defense, China and Indonesia initiated a “2+2” dialogue mechanism between their foreign and defense ministers, and China and Cambodia established a “2+2” strategic dialogue mechanism

^① “The 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum Concludes in Beijing,” Xinhuanet, September 19, 2025, <https://www.news.cn/politics/20250919/903ddd70feb04ca2bd95ceb6b67f542e/c.html>.

between their foreign and defense ministers. These concerted efforts have effectively institutionalized and normalized defense and security cooperation, laying a solid foundation for pursuing the model of security for Asia that features sharing weal and woe, seeking common ground while shelving differences, and prioritizing dialogue and consultation. Furthermore, China has embarked on five programs with Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, including the Peace Program, to jointly build a China-LAC community with a shared future. The two sides will enhance cooperation in disaster governance, cybersecurity, counterterrorism, anti-corruption, narcotics control, and combating transnational crimes. In parallel, China and Africa launched the Partnership Action for Common Security, forging partnerships for implementing the Global Security Initiative. In this context, China has signed memoranda of understanding on cooperation under the Global Security Initiative with relevant African countries.



China's Role as an Anchor for World Peace and Stability Becomes Increasingly Prominent

06

Conclusion

- Strengthening Global Solidarity

06 Strengthening Global Solidarity

Looking ahead to 2026, the structural and deep-seated challenges in the security domain remain intractable, and hegemonism, power politics, and unilateralism increasingly erode the bedrock of world peace and stability. The global security situation will become more grave and complex, while “gray rhinos” and “black swans” in both traditional and non-traditional security domains are likely to keep emerging. At the outset of 2026, the United States resorted to military force against Venezuela, forcibly seizing President Nicolás Maduro and his wife and taking them out of the country. This flagrant violation of international law and infringement upon Venezuela’s sovereignty poses a grave threat to peace and security in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The US government further asserted that seeking regime change and seizing control over oil wealth in Venezuela was its primary objective, issued threats against Cuba, Iran, Colombia, Mexico and other countries, and reiterated its intention to acquire Greenland. These developments have heightened security anxieties within the international community, which fears that the world is being pushed back into the imperialist expansion and colonization of the 19th century.

Meanwhile, the international community’s expectation for world peace and stability has grown stronger. In the contemporary epoch of a global village, countries share a joint responsibility for common security. Fighting alone, no country can look after only itself, let alone do everything on its own. Hegemonism and power politics win no hearts. Using or threatening to use force against other countries and even making

territorial claims constitute a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Such acts also run counter to the prevailing trends of the 21st century, defy the will of the world, lose popular support, and will only lead to a dead end in history. It is only by embracing the ethos of global solidarity, summoning the courage to innovate and reform, fostering unity and collaboration, enhancing policy coordination, expanding the room for cooperation, and forging a united front that we can effectively tackle various security risks and jointly strive toward a future of lasting peace and universal security. As President Xi Jinping has stated, global solidarity, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win should become the defining theme of our times.^①

According to the Recommendations for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan, China will continue to promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. China will expand its global network of partnerships, work with neighboring countries to advance integrated development, and strengthen common security. China will maintain overall stability in major-country relations, deepen solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries, and act on the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative. China will support the Global South in building strength through unity, resolutely oppose all hegemonic, high-handed, and bullying acts, defend international fairness and justice, promote the building of an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security, and shared prosperity, and deliver its contribution to building a community with a shared future for humanity. This vision provides concrete pathways and clear strategic guidance for the international community to collectively address global security challenges, tackle the deficits in peace, development, security, and governance, and promote the cause of world peace and development.

^① "Xi Jinping Meets with Heads of Major International Economic Organizations," *People's Daily*, December 11, 2024, p. 1.

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Website: <http://www.ciiis.org.cn>

Address: No.3,Toutiao,Taijichang,Beijing, China