

German-Chinese Communiqué

Heiko Maas, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, conducted talks on 21 April 2021 within the framework of the Sixth German-Chinese intergovernmental consultations. The Ministers openly and intensively discussed foreign and security policy issues of mutual interest and reached the following understanding on continued cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries:

Bilateral cooperation

1. The two sides reaffirm their readiness to strengthen mutual understanding and political trust to secure the stable long-term development of bilateral relations. The two sides emphasise the importance of the **Strategic Dialogue on Foreign and Security Policy between the German and Chinese Foreign Ministers** and declare their intention to continue this Dialogue in 2021 and thereafter.
2. The two Ministers reaffirm their desire to continue **dialogue formats** also during the pandemic, in particular the consular consultations and arms control consultations. Looking to the future, the two sides also want to engage in consultations on the topics of crisis prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding and feed shared priorities also into multilateral formats such as the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). The two sides will quickly launch comprehensive and cross-regional **Asia-Pacific consultations**, if possible in the course of 2021.
3. The existing **consultations between German and Chinese missions abroad** in third countries are to be continued. The two sides will extend the consultations to embassies in a further five countries with a view to engaging in dialogue on regional issues and on trilateral cooperation.
4. The two sides underscore the responsibility of all states to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. They attach importance to cooperation when it comes to promoting human rights together and continue their dialogue on human rights issues.
5. The long-standing **exchange of** and the **programmes for young diplomats** are to be continued.
6. The two sides are keen to deepen mutual understanding and are therefore prepared to offer visa facilitation and support to the foreign correspondents who are currently deployed and those who will be deployed by the other side in line with applicable laws and regulations.
7. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the two sides envisage pragmatic approaches in the visa and entry regime to facilitate the reciprocal movement of persons. The two sides want to continue using the fast-track procedure to create favourable regulations for business travellers and others. In this way, they want to contribute to the stability of international production and supply chains.
8. The Ministers are looking forward to appropriately celebrating the **50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations** in 2022. In this context, the Ministers reaffirm their support for the important contributions that can be made by cultural institutions on both sides.

Regional issues

9. Germany and China share the concerns about the development in Myanmar. The two Foreign Ministers advocate a political process based on dialogue to resolve the crisis, a process in which

ASEAN ought to play an important role. They underscore the need to prevent further violence and civilian victims.

10. The two sides reaffirm their continuing commitment to a process of peace and reconciliation to create peace and stability in **Afghanistan** in the near future.
11. With regard to **Libya**, the two sides underscore the principle of non-intervention to enable the full implementation of the cease-fire agreement; the two sides welcome the formation of the new Presidential Council and the interim Government of National Unity and support the resolving of political issues under the auspices of the United Nations.
12. The two sides support the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for **Yemen**, Griffiths, to bring about a cease-fire, launch confidence-building measures and begin political talks.
13. With regard to **Syria**, the two sides reaffirm their will to continue to support the political process in line with Resolution 2254 of the United Nations Security Council and in particular the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Pedersen.

Multilateral cooperation and international order

14. The two Ministers reaffirm their will to work together to strengthen the rules-based international order with the United Nations at its heart and on the basis of international law. They are committed to multilateralism and reject unilateralism and protectionism. They want to further intensify their cooperation in the framework of the UN, the WTO and the G20.
15. The two sides reaffirm the decisions of the final document of the 2005 UN World Summit and the declaration of the Heads of State and Government marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations and underscore the need for reform of the United Nations with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient. The Ministers will together work to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping.
16. The two sides underscore the importance of an international response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will together play an active role in the ACT Accelerator and in COVAX.
17. The two sides attach great importance to strengthening worldwide endeavours towards **arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation**. The two sides are committed to strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the full and balanced implementation of its aims. They advocate in particular the upholding and implementation of the nuclear agreement with **Iran (JCPOA)**.
18. As parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the two sides are committed to respecting the **maritime order based on international law**. The German side welcomes the ongoing negotiations by China and ASEAN Member States to agree an effective **code of conduct for the South China Sea**. All sides are called on to conduct dialogue, resolve disputes peacefully and avoid actions that could heighten tensions.
19. The two Ministries want to intensify their dialogue and their cooperation on establishing marine protected areas, on marine protection measures in Antarctic waters and on the conclusion of an effective **UNCLOS implementing agreement on the preservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)** as quickly as possible.
20. The two sides will work together with other Parties towards the adoption of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity Framework at the **15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity** in Kunming, China, in 2021.