

China urges calm response on Ukraine

Calmness and rationality, instead of moves that pour oil on the flames and escalate tensions, are needed to resolve complex problems, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said early this week while elaborating on China's position on resolving the Ukraine crisis.

Wang stressed the need to remain committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and respect and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

And to uphold the principle of indivisible security and accommodate the legitimate security concerns of relevant parties; to rely on dialogue, negotiation and peaceful means for dispute resolution.

He also stressed the need to aim for lasting peace and stability in the region and forge a balanced, effective and sustainable European security mechanism.

Wang said the causes of the "Ukraine situation" were "complex" and had not happened overnight, noting, using a traditional Chinese expression, that "three feet of ice does not form in a single day."

"Solving complex problems requires calmness and rationality, rather than adding fuel to the fire and intensifying contradictions," he told a news conference on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's parliament.

China is willing to continue playing a constructive role in facilitating dialogue for peace, and work alongside the international community to carry out necessary mediation to help resolve the conflict.

The international community should focus its efforts on facilitating Russia-Ukraine talks and preventing a large-scale humanitarian crisis, Wang said. He noted that China has done some work while maintaining close contacts with relevant parties.

China believes that the more tense the situation, the more important it is the talks continue.

And the wider the disagreement, the greater the need to sit down and negotiate.

Wang put forth a six-point initiative on preventing a large-scale humanitarian crisis.

First, efforts should be made to make sure humanitarian operations abide by the principle of neutrality and



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at a press conference on the sidelines of the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress. — IC

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Wang Yi
Chinese Foreign Minister

impartiality, and to avoid politicizing humanitarian issues.

Second, full attention should be given to the displaced people in and from Ukraine, and efforts should be made to provide them with proper shelter.

Wang urged ensuring the protection of civilians and preventing secondary humanitarian disasters in Ukraine.

Fourth, efforts should be made to guarantee safe and smooth humanitarian aid activities, including providing rapid, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access.

He also called for ensuring the safety of foreign nationals in Ukraine, allowing

them safe departure and helping them return to their home countries.

Sixth, support should be given to the UN's coordinating role in channeling humanitarian aid and the work of the UN crisis coordinator for Ukraine.

Humanitarian crisis

Noting that China will continue its efforts to overcome the humanitarian crisis, Wang announced that the Red Cross Society of China will provide Ukraine with a batch of emergency humanitarian supplies as soon as possible.

China proposes that "humanitarian action" must abide by the principles of neutrality and impartiality, and humanitarian issues should not be politicized.

Wang also expressed China's gratitude to those countries that have offered friendly and valuable support in evacuating Chinese nationals from Ukraine.

The right way forward lies in greater solidarity and cooperation under the banner of multilateralism and joint efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind, he said.

Wang was responding to growing concerns that the world is facing risks about division and confrontation, and the potential for a new Cold War.

First and foremost, peace must be preserved, he said.

Countries need to follow the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and stay committed to ceasing conflicts through negotiation, resolving disputes through dialogue, and increasing mutual trust through cooperation, so as to jointly build a world of enduring peace, Wang said.

Highlighting the importance of solidarity, Wang said that diversity is what makes the world a beautiful place, and differences should not become a cause for confrontation.

Stressing the need to uphold openness, Wang said economic globalization is the trend of the times.

"We must say no to all forms of protectionism and isolationism, and firmly uphold a free, fair and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system," he added. "We should tear down small yards with high fences and build open markets instead."

He urged the world to strengthen cooperation, and enhance communication and coordination on fighting COVID-19 and terrorism and coping with climate change, cybersecurity and other global issues.

"In a world of instability and transformation, China always serves as an anchor for stability and a force of positive energy, and always stands on the right side of history," Wang added.

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