

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 12 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative
of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of August 2022, China will convene a Security Council briefing on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: promote common security through dialogue and cooperation” on 22 August 2022.

In order to guide the discussions on the topic, China has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on “Maintenance of international peace and security: promote common security through dialogue and cooperation”, to be held on 22 August 2022

Objective

The briefing aims to provide an opportunity for members of the Security Council to consider the concept of security from a broader perspective and explore ways to promote common security through dialogue and cooperation.

Background

Peace and security are our common aspiration, and the Security Council was designed by the Charter of the United Nations to promote collective security and peace in the world.

A long-term pursuit of the United Nations

Since the United Nations was established, the Security Council has been striving to fulfil its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security through collective security mechanisms. At its first meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government, on 31 January 1992, the Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to achieving the objectives of the Charter – a United Nations capable of maintaining international peace and security. “An Agenda for Peace” submitted by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1992 made recommendations on strengthening “the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, for peacemaking and for peace-keeping”.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 2000 reaffirmed the Member States faith in the Charter and their determination “to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world”. In 2003, the report of Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration proposed “a common security agenda which should reflect global consensus on the major threats to peace and security and our common response”.

In the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, the Heads of State and Government of Member States are committed to working together to “strengthen coordination and global governance for the common future”. In his report *Our Common Agenda*, Secretary-General António Guterres proposed that we need a new agenda for peace to renew our effort to “agree on more effective collective security responses and a meaningful set of steps to manage emerging risks”.

Challenges and pathways to common security

Our collective peace and security is increasingly under threat. Risks to peace and security are growing, and we are facing new challenges posed by emerging technologies as well as protracted conflicts driven by, *inter alia*, border disputes, competition for dwindling natural resources and intercommunal clashes. Against the backdrop of a rapidly changing security landscape and in view of the indivisible nature of security, common security can only be achieved through dialogue and cooperation and steadfast commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

According to the statistics collected by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and its analysis thereof, the number of State-based armed conflicts documented around the world increased from 30 in 2010 to 56 in 2020. Compared to intra-State armed conflicts, inter-State conflicts are more intense and more likely to have spillover effects.

Arms control agreements are becoming increasingly fragile as trust among major powers continues to erode. With the nuclear disarmament process in deadlock, the global strategic balance and stability is facing unprecedented challenges.

Emerging non-traditional security threats such as pandemics, terrorism, transnational organized crime, refugee and migration crises as well as food and energy insecurity are intertwined with traditional security threats. These threats, interacting with one another, have further exacerbated fragility and vulnerabilities and made the risks harder to manage.

A stable strategic security relationship between major powers will bring stability and some much-needed positive energy to the world. The joint statement of the leaders of the five nuclear-weapon States issued on 3 January 2022 reaffirms that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”. One country’s security is indivisible from the common security of the region and the international community. No country can seek its own security at the cost of others’ security. The legitimate security concerns of all countries must be respected and greater efforts be made to build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture in the pursuit of common security. It is imperative to stay committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains, and work together on regional disputes and global challenges such as terrorism, cybersecurity and biosecurity.

Guiding questions

(a) What constitutes the key factors in promoting common security? What can we learn from the successful practices in the past?

(b) What are the major challenges to global strategic stability? How to enhance mutual trust to reduce strategic risks and avoid a new Cold War?

(c) How to respond to security threats and challenges more effectively based on a better and comprehensive understanding of the concept of security? How to ensure security through stronger support for and commitment to the non-proliferation process?

(d) What is the role of the United Nations in promoting dialogue and cooperation to achieve common security? What are the key elements that could contribute to the New Agenda for Peace being developed by the United Nations system?

Format and briefers

The briefing will be chaired by Ambassador Zhang Jun, Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations.

The following speakers will brief the Council:

- Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, President of the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons