



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on Advocating a Multipolar World and a New Type of International Relations

Beijing, 20 May 2026

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are civilisations with ancient histories. As founding countries of the United Nations (UN) and permanent members of its Security Council and as important centres of power in a multipolar world, they play a constructive role in maintaining the global balance of power and improving the system of international relations.

Guided by the ideas of the Russian-Chinese Joint Declaration on a Multipolar World and the Formation of a New International Order (23 April 1997); the Joint Declaration between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on International Order in the 21st Century (1 July 2005); the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on the Current Situation in the World and Major International Issues (4 July 2017); and the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on International Relations Entering a New Era, and Global Sustainable Development (4 February 2022),

We state the following:

1. Since the end of World War II, changes in the international landscape and global power relations have accelerated.

On the one hand, the **wave of decolonisation** and the end of the Cold War have led to a significant increase in the number of sovereign states in the world. The global community has become more diverse and complex. The level of development and international influence of states in Asia, Africa, the Middle East,

Latin America, and the Caribbean has risen. The number of regional and interregional associations, covering all areas of international relations, from politics and security to economics and humanitarian affairs, has increased, and their role in global affairs is steadily growing. Global interconnectedness and interdependence have reached levels unprecedented in human history. Attempts by some states to unilaterally govern global affairs, impose their interests globally, and — in the spirit of the colonial era — limit the sovereign development of other countries, have failed. The system of international relations in the 21st century is undergoing a profound transformation, evolving toward a long-term state of polycentricity and the emergence of a new type of international relations.

Most states, drawing on their historical experience, sincerely recognise the dawn of a new era and the need to pursue the path of building a more cohesive international community, embracing mutual respect for fundamental interests, equality, justice, and mutually beneficial cooperation without dividing the world into opposing regions and blocs.

On the other hand, the global situation is becoming more complex. On the rise are negative, neo-colonial tendencies, such as the practice of unilateral forceful approaches, hegemonism, and bloc confrontation. Fundamental, universally-recognized norms of international law and international relations are regularly violated, and it is becoming more difficult for states to coordinate their actions and resolve conflicts within global governance institutions, many of which are losing their effectiveness. The global peace and development agenda faces new risks and challenges, and there is a danger of fragmentation of the international community and a return to the “law of the jungle.”

2. As advocates for the harmonious development of an equitable and orderly multipolar world and a new type of international relations, including a more just and rational system of global governance, Russia and China call upon the international community to adhere to the following fundamental principles in their relations with each other:

1) The principle of global openness to inclusive and mutually beneficial cooperation.

It is important to overcome global division and promote the elimination of cross-border barriers in various spheres, while respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and identity of all sovereign states. There is no universal path

of development, and no “first-class” countries or peoples exist. Differences between states — natural in such a diverse and complex world — should not be an obstacle to the development of equal, respectful, and mutually beneficial relations. It is necessary to respect the chosen development model of each sovereign state. The democratisation of international political relations and the construction of a more open global economy are in the fundamental interests of all countries. Unacceptable are hegemony, coercive policies and unilateral approaches to resolving common problems.

2) The principle of indivisible and equal security.

The formation of a more cohesive international community amid growing common risks and challenges for humanity means that the security of one state cannot be ensured at the expense of another. All sovereign states have an equal right to security. It is necessary to pay due attention to the rational security concerns of all countries, focus on cooperation on security issues, reject bloc confrontation and zero-sum game strategies, oppose the expansion of military alliances, hybrid wars, and proxy wars, and promote the creation of a renewed, balanced, effective, and sustainable global and regional security architecture. Disagreements and disputes should be resolved peacefully, addressing the root causes of conflicts. It is unacceptable to coerce sovereign states into abandoning their neutrality.

3) The principle of democratisation of international relations and improvement of the global governance system.

All states and their associations are free to choose their foreign partners and models of international interaction. Global hegemony is unacceptable and must be prohibited. No single state or group of states should control international affairs, dictate the fate of other countries, or monopolise development opportunities. The system of global governance and regulation — which should ensure the conditions and benefits of the equal participation of all states in political decision-making — must be continually improved. As an important instrument for regulating the system of international relations, global governance must adhere to sovereign equality, the rule of international law, multilateralism, human-centeredness, and results-oriented approaches. To this end, it is necessary to strengthen the role of multilateralism as the primary tool for addressing multifaceted and complex global problems and prevent the weakening of the UN.

Reform of the UN and other multilateral institutions must serve the interests of all humanity and consistently enhance the representativeness and voice of developing states in the international system. The UN Charter is the fundamental norm of international relations, and its principles must be observed in their entirety and interrelationship. Rules developed by a narrow circle of states should not replace generally recognized international law. Large states must assume a special responsibility and mission, place additional demands on themselves, and not abuse their advantages.

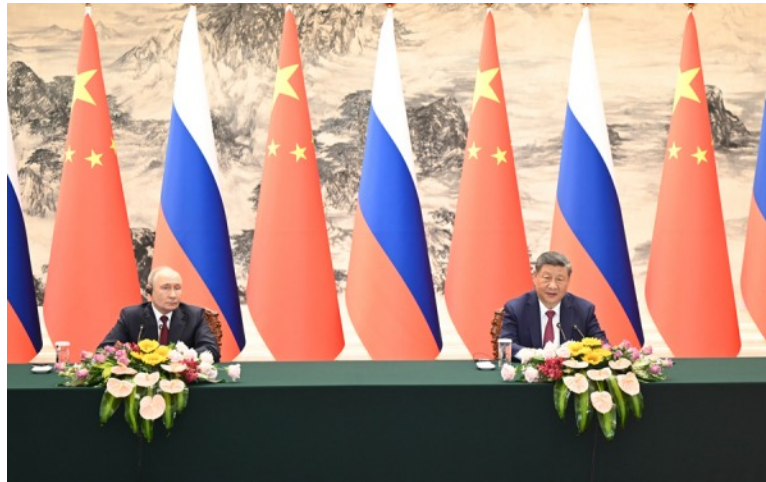
4) Global civilizational and value diversity.

All human civilisations are valuable and equal in themselves; civilisations are not divided into highly developed and underdeveloped, strong and weak. The spiritual and moral system of no civilisation can be viewed as exclusive or superior to others. All countries must advance a civilisational perspective based on equality, the exchange of experiences, and dialogue. They must strengthen mutual respect, understanding, trust, and exchanges between different nationalities and civilisations, promote mutual understanding and friendship among the peoples of all countries, and protect the diversity of cultures and civilisations. It is necessary to resolutely oppose the use of human rights as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of other states, as well as the politicisation and instrumentalisation of human rights issues. Religion is an important conduit for human culture, playing a special role in building ties between peoples, and all states should create favourable conditions for interreligious dialogue and exchange.

3. Russia and China will continue to develop a shared vision for the formation of a multipolar world and a new type of more equitable international relations.

President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin Meet the Press

Beijing, 20 May 2026



President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin meet the press at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, 20 May 2026.

On the afternoon of May 20, 2026, President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin jointly met the press after their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

President Xi noted that this is President Putin's 25th visit to China, which speaks volumes about the high level and uniqueness of China-Russia relations. I have just held in-depth, friendly and fruitful talks with President Putin, engaging in strategic communication on a series of major issues. Together, we signed the joint statement on further strengthening comprehensive strategic coordination and deepening good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation, and witnessed the conclusion of a number of important bilateral cooperation documents. The two countries will also issue the joint statement on advocating a multipolar world and new type of international relations.

President Xi stressed that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination. Over the past three decades, the China-Russia relationship has kept progressing with the times amid changing international dynamics. It has been growing in stature and now stands at the highest level in history as a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era, setting a prime example of a new type of major-country

relationship. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between China and Russia. Over the years, the two countries have always adhered to the treaty's established principle of non-alliance, non-confrontation and not targeting any third party, and stayed committed to equality, mutual respect, good faith and win-win cooperation, making important contributions to safeguarding international fairness and justice and promoting a new type of international relations, and serving as a vital constant amid century-defining changes sweeping across the world.

President Xi pointed out that under the joint strategic guidance of President Putin and myself, China-Russia relations have reached a new starting point. The two sides should follow the trend of the times toward peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and strive for higher-quality development of bilateral ties.

First, we should build higher-quality political mutual trust and give each other firm strategic support. Political mutual trust is the most prominent feature of the China-Russia relationship and the purpose and fundamental principle of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between China and Russia. President Putin and I have jointly decided to extend this treaty again. The two sides should build on past tradition and forge ahead, further strengthen mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns, continuously enhance strategic communication and exchanges at all levels, and consolidate the foundation of the political mutual trust.

Second, we should empower higher-quality mutually beneficial cooperation and jointly advance our two countries' development and revitalization. In recent years, China and Russia have made big strides and achieved many positive outcomes in our cooperation in all fields. Two-way trade has exceeded US\$200 billion for the third consecutive year, and in the first four months of this year, bilateral trade grew by nearly 20 percent. The two sides should seize the momentum, deepen the synergy between China's 15th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development and Russia's development strategy through 2030, and upgrade mutually beneficial cooperation across the board, so as to serve the development and revitalization of both countries.

Third, we should promote higher-quality people-to-people connectivity and strengthen the foundation of lasting friendship between the two nations. With the high-level development of China-Russia relations, our people-to-people exchanges have become increasingly close and the bond between our peoples has grown even stronger. President Putin and I have decided to hold the tenth national theme year, namely the China-Russia Years of Education, this year and next. The two sides should seize the opportunities to continuously expand two-way student exchanges, deepen exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions and research platforms, and achieve more tangible results in such areas as talent cultivation and joint research to tackle key scientific challenges, in order to create more enabling conditions for the continued growth of bilateral ties.

Fourth, we should pursue higher-quality international coordination to reform and improve global governance. Today's world is far from a tranquil place. Unilateralism and hegemonism have brought severe harm and the world risks regressing to the law of the jungle. As permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, China and Russia must work steadfastly as responsible major countries, safeguard the authority of the U.N. and international fairness and justice, oppose all unilateral acts of bullying and attempts to reverse the course of history, and especially oppose all provocative acts that deny the outcomes of the victory of World War II and attempt to justify and revive fascism and militarism, and work together to shape a more just and equitable global governance system.

President Putin said that my visit came at the important moment of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Russia-China Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, a treaty that laid the foundation for the comprehensive advancement of bilateral relations. The Russia-China relationship is now at an unprecedented high level. The two countries have consistently acted in a spirit of mutual respect, equality, mutual assistance and mutual support and continuously deepened bilateral cooperation. The growth of this relationship is powered by strong inherent drivers, and the cooperation between the two countries does not target any third party, nor is it swayed by geopolitical changes. President Xi and I had in-depth exchanges on a wide range of important topics in bilateral relations in a warm and cordial atmosphere, and set the direction for future cooperation. Russia has full confidence in the future of bilateral relations and will work with China to deepen the partnership and good-neighborly friendship, strengthen people-to-people ties, and contribute to each other's development and

revitalization and the well-being of the two peoples. Russia and China will maintain close strategic coordination on the international stage and work together to safeguard the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and global security and stability.

Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Wang Yi, He Lifeng, Zhang Guoqing, Shen Yiqin, and others were present.