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For Immediate Release

March 31, 2016

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/03/31/remarks-president-obama-and-president-xi-peoples-republic-china>

Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China Before Bilateral Meeting

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
Washington, D.C.

2:24 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT OBAMA:  I want to welcome President Xi back to Washington.  As I've said before, the United States welcomes the rise of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous China, working with us to address global challenges.  And I have been committed throughout my administration to working effectively with China on a whole range of issues and have developed a frank and effective level of communications cooperation with President Xi as we seek to expand cooperation between our countries and narrow our differences.

The United States and China have established a relationship when it comes to nuclear security, and that includes China’s new Nuclear Security Center of Excellence.  I believe we can deepen our cooperation, including against nuclear smuggling.

Of great importance to both of us is North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons, which threatens the security and stability of the region.  And President Xi and I are both committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and full implementation of U.N. sanctions.  So we're going to discuss how we can discourage action like nuclear missile tests that escalate tensions and violate international obligations.

I'm also very pleased that today we're announcing new steps to accelerate implementation of the historic Paris climate change agreement.  Our cooperation and our joint statements were critical in arriving at the Paris agreement, and our two countries have agreed that we will not only sign the agreement on the first day possible, but we're committing to formally join it as soon as possible this year.  And we urge other countries to do the same.

I look forward to working with President Xi as well on the global economy.  As the world’s two largest economies, we have a special obligation to find cooperative measures that we can take to expand growth and global demand.  And because China is hosting the G20 this year, we look forward to using this meeting to establish some of the agenda items that we want to drive at the G20.  We very much want the G20 to be a successful meeting, and given China’s past hospitality of large summit meetings, we're sure we can be successful in helping to promote global growth as well as address a range of other challenges.

Now, as has been true in the past, we will have a candid exchange about areas where we have significant differences -- issues like human rights, cyber and maritime issues.  Like China and other countries, the United States has significant interests in the Asia Pacific region.  We have deep concerns about our ability to protect the intellectual property of our companies.  And we care deeply about human rights.  But I very much appreciate President Xi’s willingness to have candid conversations on these issues in a constructive way.  And this will just be one more step in our overall efforts to assure that the U.S. and China maintain the kind of effective, constructive relationship that is important not only to our two peoples but also to the world at large.

So, President Xi, welcome.  Let me allow you to address the press briefly.

**PRESIDENT XI:**  (As interpreted.)  Mr. President, it's my great pleasure to accept your invitation and attend the fourth Nuclear Security Summit, and to have this bilateral meeting with you on the margins of the summit.  I appreciate the opportunity to have this bilateral meeting.

Through the joint efforts of both sides, many major steps of progress have been taken in our bilateral relationship.  We have worked alongside others to make the Paris climate conference a success and adopted the historic Paris agreement.  We have worked closely together on the Iranian nuclear issue, and concluded and implemented the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Our two-way trade, two-way investment, and two-way travel have set new highs, and we have had effective communication and coordination on the Korea nuclear issue, Syria, Afghanistan, and peacekeeping development, health, and other important issues.

All of this demonstrates the enormous potential in building the new model of major country relations, and highlights the importance and necessity of enhanced level of coordination and cooperation between China and the U.S.

The world economic growth is sluggish, and regional issues are complex and protracted.  The terrorist threat is on the rise. As the largest developing country and the largest developed country, and also as the world's top two economies, China and the United States have growing responsibilities for promoting world peace, stability and prosperity.  There are wide areas where we should and we can work with each other.

In the meantime, as you have said, Mr. President, our two countries have some disputes and disagreements in some areas.  On the basis of respecting each other core interests and major concerns, we should seek active solutions through dialogue and consultation.  Even when this is not possible, for the time being, we should manage them constructively and avoid misunderstanding and misperception or escalation, and prevent big disruptions to the overall interests of China-U.S. cooperation.

I'm glad that this time the two sides have issued the third joint statement on climate change, and we have announced that we will both sign the Paris agreement on April the 22nd.

After this bilateral meeting, the two sides will issue a joint statement on nuclear security cooperation, and work together to make the NSS a success.  
    
We will also actively explore possibilities of deepening cooperation in wide areas, from economy and trade, to mil-to-mil ties and people-to-people exchange, from counterterrorism to law enforcement and cybersecurity.  And we want to enhance communication and coordination on the Korea nuclear issue and other regional and global issues, and to consolidate and expand our shared interests.

I wish to reiterate that it is a priority for China's foreign policy to work with the United States to build a new model of major country relations, and to realize no conflicts or confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.  
    
I look forward to increasing communication with President Obama, focus on cooperation, manage our differences, build mutual trust, and set China-U.S. relations on a path of healthy and steady growth.

Thank you.

END   
2:32 P.M. EDT

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/03/31/us-china-joint-statement-nuclear-security-cooperation>

U.S.-China Joint Statement on Nuclear Security Cooperation

1.  Today in Washington, D.C., on the occasion of the fourth Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), we, the United States and China, declare our commitment to working together to foster a peaceful and stable international environment by reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism and striving for a more inclusive, coordinated, sustainable and robust global nuclear security architecture for the common benefit and security of all.

2.  The United States and China, in this regard, are announcing the successful completion of the inaugural round of bilateral discussions on nuclear security that took place on February 20, 2016, in Stockholm, Sweden. **We plan to continue this dialogue on an annual basis**, so as to intensify our cooperation to prevent nuclear terrorism and continue advancing Nuclear Security Summit goals.

3.  We further demonstrate today our conviction **that strong communication and cooperation are essential to nuclear security by committing to continue strong support for the work of relevant international agencies on nuclear security**, in accordance with their respective mandates, through engagement of our experts as well as financial and in-kind contributions.

4.  Together we continue to collaborate on key areas of nuclear security. In particular, we recognize significant accomplishments and ongoing engagement in the following areas:

5.  On conversion of Miniature Neutron Source Reactors (MNSR) from highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel, the United States and China express satisfaction on the recent LEU start-up of the prototype MNSR reactor near Beijing, China. Building on this successful collaboration, China commits to work with the United States to convert its remaining MNSR reactors at Shenzhen University. Further, the United States and China together commit to work through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to support the conversion of MNSR reactors in Ghana and Nigeria as soon as possible. China reaffirms its readiness, upon the request of respective countries, to convert all remaining Chinese-origin MNSRs worldwide.

6.  On nuclear security training and best practices, the United States and China express satisfaction on the successful completion and official opening of the nuclear security Center of Excellence (COE) in Beijing, China on 18 March, 2016. The COE is a world-class venue to meet China's domestic nuclear security training requirements, as well as a forum for bilateral and regional best practice exchanges, and a venue for demonstrating advanced technologies related to nuclear security. The United States and China commit to continued engagement on nuclear security training and best practices to maximize the use and effectiveness of the COE. China further commits to sponsor training programs at the COE for regional partners and other international participants to further global nuclear security awareness and engagement.

7.  On counter nuclear smuggling, the United States and China state our enduring commitment to prevent terrorists, criminals, or other unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear or other radioactive materials. Recognizing the need for strengthened international cooperation to counter nuclear smuggling, **we will continue to seek opportunities to deepen our joint efforts to investigate nuclear and radioactive material smuggling networks**; detect, recover and secure material out of regulatory control; and successfully arrest and prosecute the criminals involved. The United States and China will continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen counter nuclear smuggling capabilities and share best practices with the international community, taking full advantage of the training programs sponsored by the China Customs Training Center for Radiation Detection. We further commit to continuing a discussion in 2016 on counter nuclear smuggling where our two countries can exchange views on the nuclear smuggling threat, effective tools to counter this threat, and how our governments could strengthen collaboration in this area.

8.  On the security of radioactive sources, the United States and China express satisfaction on the fruitful cooperation between the two sides in enhancing the security of radioactive sources, in particular regarding recovery of disused sources and transport security of radioactive sources. We commit to further strengthen cooperation in this regard, and facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices with other countries.

9.  The United States and China also express satisfaction on the recent signature of the Statement of Intent on Commodity Identification Training Cooperation between the General Administration of Customs of China and the Department of Energy of the United States.

10.  The United States and China express their strong commitment to addressing the evolving nuclear security challenge through continuing activities sustained efforts after the current Nuclear Security Summit process concludes.

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April 01, 2016

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/04/01/readout-presidents-meeting-president-xi-jinping-china>

# Readout of the President’s Meeting with President Xi Jinping of China

The President met yesterday with Chinese President Xi Jinping.  The two leaders committed to continue narrowing differences and expanding practical cooperation on regional and global challenges.  Both leaders agreed to sign the Paris climate agreement on April 22, to join the agreement as soon as possible this year, and to work together and with other parties to bring the Paris Agreement into force as early as possible.  The leaders also agreed to galvanize global action to phase down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol and to work to secure an accord on a global market-based measure for addressing greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation.

The President commended our strengthening bilateral cooperation on nuclear security issues, including the establishment of China’s nuclear security Center of Excellence and its commitment to reactor conversions.  Both leaders committed to advance cooperation on development and public health initiatives, and to strengthen coordination in addressing the shared threat presented by North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile systems.  Both leaders affirmed their commitment to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2270.

The President reiterated America’s unwavering support for upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms in China.  On cyber issues, both leaders reaffirmed the cyber commitments announced during President Xi's September 2015 State Visit and agreed to ensure their full implementation.  The President reiterated that we will continue to monitor whether Chinese actions demonstrate their adherence to the commitments.  The President further emphasized the importance of establishing a level playing field for all firms to compete fairly in China.  The President urged China to address differences with its neighbors on maritime issues peacefully and in accordance with international law and emphasized the United States global interest in upholding freedom of navigation and overflight.