

Declaration of Action on China-Arab States Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative

1. The People's Republic of China and the Arab States (hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Two Parties"), bearing in mind the historic legacy of the ancient Silk Road on land and at sea, welcome the initiative of building a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road Initiative or BRI for short). The Two Parties are natural partners for cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and both stand committed to the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit. The Two Parties undertake to work together toward mutual connectivity in policy coordination, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people relations.

2. The Two Parties highly appreciate the presence of President of the People's Republic of China H.E. Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) in Beijing in 2014 and his visit to the headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS) in 2016, and commend his keynote speeches to the Arab world on both occasions, particularly his call for China and Arab States working together to build the Belt and Road. The Two Parties agree that Sino-Arab cooperation under the BRI provides excellent opportunities for China and Arab States to advance their mutually beneficial cooperation, elevate their strategic partnership and achieve common development.

3. The Two Parties agree to issue a *Declaration of Action on China-Arab States Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative*, which defines the principles and objectives of their BRI cooperation, highlights major achievements accomplished, and sets out priorities for cooperation and the way forward. The Declaration of Action reads as follows:

Principles and Objectives

4. The Two Parties emphasize that Sino-Arab cooperation under the BRI aims to achieve common development for both Parties, promote practical and results-oriented cooperation and sustainable growth, and ultimately enhance their relations in the political, security, economic, social and other fields.

5. The Two Parties reiterate the importance of the BRI guiding principle of achieving shared benefits through extensive consultation and joint contribution. They also emphasize that building a road of peace, prosperity, openness, innovation and cultural exchanges between China and the Arab world serves their mutual interests and help expand areas of cooperation.

6. The Two Parties support the rules of the multilateral trading system under the WTO framework and the goal of making development more sustainable around the world.

7. The Two Parties reaffirm their commitment to uphold mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, work together toward a community of shared future for mankind, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, deepen mutual trust, and expand common interests.

8. The Two Parties will ensure the progress of Sino-Arab practical cooperation in all areas in accordance with their applicable laws and regulations and their international obligations and commitments, fully leveraging the existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms, the multilateral mechanisms participated by both Parties, and/or effective regional cooperation platforms available.

Achievements accomplished

9. The Arab States welcome the Belt and Road Initiative and commend the fruitful outcomes of Sino-Arab cooperation under the BRI framework. As of today, China has signed documents on BRI cooperation with Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt and Morocco. China has also signed documents on industrial capacity cooperation with the UAE, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Egypt. Seven Arab States, namely the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Egypt, are founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Arab States and the League of Arab States actively participated in the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing in May 2017. The Two Parties applaud the outcomes of the China-Arab Business Conference and Investment Seminar, which is one of the most important mechanisms of the CASC. The eighth edition of the conference is scheduled for 2019 and will focus on strengthening two-way trade and investment as well as cooperation in the private sector.

In 2017, trade between China and the Arab States reached US\$191.352 billion, up by 11.9 percent year on year. The fifth China-LAS Energy Cooperation Conference was held. The sixth edition of the conference themed “Belt and Road: Broad Prospects for Investment” will be held from 5 to 8 November 2018 in Cairo, Egypt.

Practical cooperation between the Two Parties is developing in depth in such areas as oil and gas, electricity, nuclear energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and nuclear power. The LAS Secretariat and China’s Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The China Atomic Energy Authority and the Arab Atomic Energy Agency signed an MOU on the establishment of an Arab training center for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

10. Significant progress has been made in major BRI infrastructure projects undertaken by Chinese enterprises in Arab countries. The preparation for the construction of Algeria’s El Hamdania Center Port, a China-Algeria cooperation project, is well underway. Other infrastructure projects are also progressing smoothly, including the light rail project in Egypt’s city of 10th of Ramadan, the 500KV transmission line of the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EEHC), the Jushi fiberglass production line in Egypt, the satellite assembly, integration and testing center in Egypt, the Khalifa Port Container Terminal Phase II in the UAE, the expansion of Friendship Port in Mauritania, Morocco’s Mohammed VI bridge and other China-Morocco BRI cooperation projects including a new generation of strategic projects in northern Morocco, Qatar’s Lusail Stadium, the oil shale-fueled Arrarat Power Plant in Jordan, the Sohar Independent Power Plant in Oman and the Upper Atbara Dam Complex in Sudan.

China has set up a special loan of US\$15 billion to support industrialization in the Middle East and provided US\$10 billion in concessional loans. China has also established RMB clearing centers in Qatar and the UAE and joint investment funds totaling US\$20 billion with the two countries. Continued progress has been made in projects such as the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, the China-Oman Industrial Park in the Special Economic Zone in Duqum, the Chinese Special Development Zone of Jazan Economic City and the Demonstration Park of Industrial Capacity Cooperation between China and the UAE.

The China-Arab States Technology Transfer Center has been officially inaugurated. Positive headway has been made in the establishment of an Arab training center for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and a Sino-Arab training center for clean energy. The launch of Alcomsat-I Satellite of Algeria and the First China-Arab States BDS Cooperation Forum was a success. The Two Parties welcome the launch of China-Arab States BDS/GNSS Center of Excellence in Tunisia in April 2018. A Chinese company has successfully won the bid for the construction of the Dubai Hassyan Clean Coal Power Plant.

The Sino-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development has been established in China and has hosted four seminars. The Joint Training Program for Chinese-Arabic Translators already has two groups of graduates. The Sino-Arab Program of Mutual Translation and Publication of Ancient Books is moving forward steadily. Cultural events including the Sino-Arab friendship conference, the inter-civilization dialogue and the forum on media cooperation are held on a regular basis.

In 2017, Arab students enrolled in Chinese educational institutions totaled 20,149, and Chinese students in the Arab States numbered 1,129, representing a significant increase over the figures in 2012. China has established 12 Confucius Institutes and 4 Confucius Classrooms in Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Sudan, Comoros, Lebanon, Egypt and Morocco. As regards tourism, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt and Morocco have been designated as tourist destinations for outbound Chinese tourist groups. There are 195 scheduled air service flights between China and Arab States every week.

Cooperation Priorities and Measures

11. The Two Parties reaffirm their readiness to strengthen policy coordination in cooperation areas and stay committed to advancing cooperation under the Sino-Arab “1+2+3” framework, i.e. focusing on energy cooperation, advancing infrastructure cooperation, trade and investment facilitation and upgrading results-oriented cooperation on three high tech fronts of nuclear energy, space and satellite, and new energy. The Two Parties will implement the four-point action plan of promoting stability, exploring new ways of cooperation, developing industrial capacity cooperation and enhancing friendship. The Two Parties emphasize that they will prioritize cooperation in the following areas in compliance with their laws and regulations, and international obligations.

(1) To strengthen dialogue, consultation and exchanges on each other's development strategies and policy initiatives, and deliver win-win results by promoting complementarity between the BRI and major development strategies and policies of Arab States, having due regard to each other's priorities. China and Arab States are expected to sign more documents on BRI cooperation, such as a China-Saudi Arabia plan on synergizing the BRI with Saudi Vision 2030 and a China-Kuwait bilateral cooperation outline program. Efforts will be made to strengthen mutual complementarity and coordination between the BRI and development strategies of Arab States, such as Qatar's National Vision 2030, Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, Egypt's Vision 2030 of Sustainable Development Strategy, and Morocco's 2014-2020 Industrial Acceleration Plan. Tunisia has signed an MOU with the Chinese government to participate in cooperation under the BRI. Jordan is ready to sign an MOU on BRI cooperation with the Chinese government.

(2) To advance cooperation on the planning and development of major infrastructure projects, such as roads, railways, bridges, tunnels, civil aviation, construction, power generation, optical fiber and telecommunications, and push forward cooperation on industrial parks, and in the Gulf Railway and high-speed rails in interested Arab States.

(3) To ensure a smooth implementation of the ongoing practical cooperation projects between China and the Arab States so that cooperation on the maritime Silk Road will grow in depth and deliver more results.

(4) To deepen whole-industrial-chain cooperation on petroleum and natural gas, and press ahead with projects in prospecting, extracting, refining and the construction of storage and transport facilities.

(5) To enhance energy cooperation, including the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the design and construction of nuclear power plants, nuclear safety, training on nuclear power technologies, solar power, wind power and hydro power, and deepen cooperation on new energy and clean energy. Joint efforts will be made to build the Global Energy Interconnection and achieve green development.

(6) To open wider to each other. In particular, efforts will be made to improve the environment for investment, accelerate the negotiation and establishment of bilateral and multilateral free trade areas (FTAs) and strengthen transport cooperation.

(7) To work closely to build a multi-tiered and diversified network that includes a “cyber Silk Road”, an “airborne Silk Road” and a “space-based Belt and Road information corridor”. The Two Parties will see that MISR Sat 2 project is a success. On the basis of a successful moon exploration project, the Two Parties will actively promote cooperation between China and Saudi Arabia in China’s Mars Exploration Mission. The Two Parties will make further moves to develop cooperation on space technology applications, such as providing Arab States with meteorological information collected by China’s weather satellite of *Fengyun* and seeking new progress in *Beidou* navigation satellite system cooperation. The Two Parties will step up cooperation on technology and innovation and advance the China-Arab States scientific and technological partnership program. The Two Parties will seek to strengthen complementarity and mutually beneficial cooperation in service sectors such as telecommunications, information technology and the digital economy, promote mutual benefits and stand together against challenges that may arise. The Two Parties will also step up coordination of their international policies concerning telecommunications and information technology and promote their e-commerce cooperation.

(8) To actively explore how to promote monetary and financial cooperation. The Two Parties support more and wider use of local currencies in their trade and investment and will enhance exchange and cooperation between their financial institutions. The Two Parties will provide financial support to this end.

(9) To encourage the sharing of information through high-level mutual visits. The Two Parties will enhance official and people-to-people exchanges, support the Sino-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development, and share experience and best practices in governance. The Two Parties will deepen cooperation in education, sports, public health, arts, publication and training through the mutual opening of cultural centers and the establishment of sister-city relationship between more of their cities. The Two Parties welcome Morocco’s hosting of the second Sino-Arab Cities Forum in 2018 and will continue the feasibility study of a Sino-Arab tourism and hotel industry training center in Tunisia.

(10) To support and assist Palestine’s capacity building for independent development. On the premise of security, the Two Parties will work together to participate in and support the reconstruction and development of the countries in the region to consolidate the foundation

for peace and stability.

12. The Arab States and the LAS welcome the China International Import Expo in 2018 and will actively participate in the event. China supports the UAE's endeavor to deliver a successful Expo 2020 Dubai and supports Saudi Arabia in hosting the 2020 G20 Summit.

Guarantee Measures

13. The Two Parties agree that Sino-Arab cooperation under the BRI will help remove barriers, boost regional economic integration, and will provide self-generated drive for development and prosperity and uphold the most fundamental human right -- the right to development. The Two Parties will work in concert to foster a sound environment for BRI cooperation.

14. The Two Parties will continue to enrich and substantiate the Sino-Arab dialogue on civilization and deepen cooperation in eradicating extremism and combating terrorism of all forms.

15. The Two Parties will work together to build up capacity for maintaining stability. The Two Parties will make good on the US\$300 million worth of assistance that China has announced for law enforcement cooperation and police training programs and, in light of the progress of the on-going programs and actual needs, consider new programs to support the countries in the region to enhance their capability to maintain stability.

16. The Two Parties are ready to enhance communication and cooperation, improve the bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, and work together to safeguard the freedom of navigation and safety of maritime routes, and combat piracy.

Visions for the Future

17. The Two Parties reiterate that while advancing cooperation under the BRI, they have a shared responsibility to uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, promote peace and win-win cooperation, realize inclusive and sustainable development and improve people's living standards. China and the Arab States will work together toward peace, security and stability in the Middle East and uphold sovereignty, stability, unity and territorial integrity of the Arab States. The Two Parties will, with a view to building a community of

shared future for mankind, uphold the principle of non-interference in other's internal affairs and endeavor to establish a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation.

18. The Two Parties emphasize that in the course of cooperation under the BRI, it is important for a nation or state to independently choose its own development path, having regard to its distinctive features and domestic laws and regulations, and that the development path should be commensurate with the nation's history, cultural traditions and level of social and economic development. Independence being essential, business inclusiveness, opening up and cooperation with the rest of the world are equally important for a country to achieve development.

19. The Two Parties will make further efforts to promote Sino-Arab cooperation under the BRI, which will open up broader prospects for the Sino-Arab future-oriented strategic partnership of comprehensive cooperation and common development.

Done in duplicate in Beijing on 10 July 2018 in the Arabic and Chinese languages, both texts are equally authentic.

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