

U.S.-China Relations Briefing

# Regime Builders and Busters

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### **Regime Builders and Busters**

*As the U.S. and China seek to construct and modify international regimes, some issue areas are being marked by one or the other of the two trends in Sino-U.S. relations: cooperation and conflict. March 2016 continued to show these trends and their impact on various regimes clearly. The international regime on nuclear proliferation and safety is clearly developing under U.S. and Chinese cooperation as the two were able to agree on the resolution sanctioning North Korea for its recent nuclear test and worked closely during the Nuclear Security Summit at the end of the month. Unfortunately, however, the international regimes developed to prevent and adjudicate maritime disputes has been branded by conflict as the U.S. calls on China to abide by a treaty that the U.S. itself has not ratified and China seeks to solve these disputes outside of the international regime developed to manage them. The summary below of statements made by U.S. and Chinese officials in March 2016 shows the impact the two countries are having on the development of global governance in a variety of issue areas.*

### **Sino-US Cooperation Helps Lead to Resolution 2270**

On March 2, 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2270 in response to the North Korean nuclear test in January. Compared to the previous ones, the latest resolution was deemed to be tougher<sup>1</sup> and more comprehensive<sup>2</sup> as it imposes broad sanctions on sectors of the North Korean economy which are allegedly used by the government to fuel its nuclear and missile programs, and also targeted North Korean elites who benefit from such trades.<sup>3</sup> China, considering that provocations may destabilize the region,<sup>4</sup> welcomed the UN resolution as it stressed that sanctions should not be an end in themselves, reiterating the importance of dialogue for the denuclearization as well as the

maintenance of peace and security on the Peninsula.<sup>5</sup> The U.S. appears to be optimistic in its cooperation with China regarding the issue. On one occasion with Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa of Japan and Ambassador Oh Joon of the ROK, the U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Powers praised China for its contribution in the adoption of the resolution.<sup>6</sup> President Obama also remarked that both he and President Xi are fully committed towards denuclearization and implementation of the sanctions.<sup>7</sup>

### **Arbitration for South China Sea Dispute?**

The Philippines has been persistent in recent months about convening a arbitration tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This proposal has been resoundingly rejected by the Chinese as it has insisted that the Philippines' proposal is illegal and invalid.<sup>8</sup> Making matters worse, tensions rose as Filipino fisherman and the Chinese Coast Guard were again involved in an entanglement in early March.<sup>9</sup> The U.S. continued its support for the Philippines and its proposal for arbitration under the UNCLOS treaty,<sup>10</sup> but China continued to brush aside these statements by pointing out that the U.S. is not party to the agreement in the first place.<sup>11</sup> The Chinese position was punctuated by a speech given by the Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Liu Zhenmin during which he clearly rejected the arbitration tribunal and continued Chinese position of insisting on bilateral negotiations to settle territorial disputes in the South China Sea.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> pg. [24](#)

<sup>6</sup> pg. [24](#)

<sup>7</sup> pg. [30](#)

<sup>8</sup> UCR March Issue 2016 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9, pg. [42](#)

<sup>9</sup> pg. [44](#)

<sup>10</sup> pg. [43](#)

<sup>11</sup> pg. [44](#)

<sup>12</sup> pg. [46](#)

<sup>1</sup> UCR March Issue 2016 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7, pg. [24](#)

<sup>2</sup> pg. [24](#)

<sup>3</sup> pg. [24](#)

<sup>4</sup> pg. [25](#)



### Room for Cooperation Found at Nuclear Security Summit

The fourth Nuclear Security Summit was held in Washington D.C. at the end of March and this forum provided the U.S. and China the opportunity to focus on an issue in which they are largely in agreement. The two countries issued a joint statement on the first day of the summit declaring their intention to work 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.”<sup>13</sup> Perhaps more hope inspiring however was the fact that the two countries were able to move beyond words as the Center for Excellence on Nuclear Security, a joint project between China and the U.S., opened its doors in Beijing during the weeks leading up to the Summit.<sup>14</sup>

### Conflicting Definitions of Human Rights

The U.S. and China have also long been at odds over the definition of universal human rights and how to govern globally the application of that definition. Based on the American understanding of the term, the U.S. continued to call on China to abide by global norms on free speech and freedom of the press.<sup>15</sup> China had a very different opinion of its own human rights record and argued that a “one-size-fits-all” approach to human rights is unfeasible.<sup>16</sup> China went on to press the U.S. on its own poor standards regarding torture, racism, and policing.<sup>17</sup> One aspect the two countries could agree on though was the need for supporting gender equality around the globe as both made statements confirming their commitment to this goal at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> UCR March Issue 2016- Military and Security Relations, Issue 3, pg. [13](#)

<sup>14</sup> pg. [10](#)

<sup>15</sup> UCR March Issue 2016- Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4, pg. [15](#)

<sup>16</sup> pg. [15](#)

<sup>17</sup> pg. [17](#)

<sup>18</sup> pg. [16, 17](#)

### “Chinese Wisdom” for Syria?

Triggered by yet another terrible terrorist attack in Brussels, ISIL and Syria again dominated international politics in March. While the U.S. did not hide that it is still a long way from eradicating ISIL, the Secretary Kerry remained firm “that we continue to believe that Assad cannot be part of the future of Syria.”<sup>19</sup> For this to happen he urged for a clear abruption of Russian assistance to the regime. The U.S. repeatedly praised the close cooperation of the Global Coalition which facilitates the relatively stable ceasefire agreement throughout March. Elsewhere in the Middle East, the Iranian missile test at the beginning of the month was clearly condemned as a violation against UN Resolution 2231 and the Vienna agreement which led the U.S. to “consider our appropriate national response.”<sup>20</sup>

Though China’s reactions to both incidences were in line with the U.S. side, they remained rather calm and repeated their urge for political rather than military solutions. In accordance with this perception, they appointed Xie Xiaoyan as Chinese Special Envoy for the Syrian issue who ought to “contribute Chinese wisdom and proposals”<sup>21</sup> thus facilitating a more active Chinese contribution to a final settlement of the Syrian issue.

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<sup>19</sup> UCR March Issue 2016 –Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8, pg. [32](#)

<sup>20</sup> pg. [33](#)

<sup>21</sup> pg. [32](#)



**Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: Both Countries Acknowledge the Continuing Presence of Cooperation and Conflict in Relations****United States**

• **March 1, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))  
Quote: “I’ll just say in general that we’ve been pretty clear that there have been some important areas where the United States and China have been able to effectively coordinate our efforts -- certainly compiling a package of sanctions to respond to North Korean provocations is one good example of that. The United States and China, by working together, did serve as a catalyst for the process that eventually resulted in the historic climate agreement in Paris. That would not have been possible without the world’s two largest economies coming together and demonstrating a clear commitment to the success of that process. But at the same time, we’ve not attempted to paper over our differences in other areas -- most notably, I guess I would cite the current situation in the South China Sea that China has a pretty clear difference of opinion with a number of other countries in the South China Sea who have competing claims on certain land features in that part of the world.”

• **March 30, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))  
Quote: “Q: Just a last quick one on tomorrow’s festivities. I think I was kind of interested in the idea of having both a bilat with China, a trilat with South Korea and Japan. And obviously [...] we’ve seen warm relations between South Korea and [...] I’m wondering if that sparked any renewed concern among China that they’ve either expressed to you directly or that you’ve seen sort of motivate their actions in the region, and whether or how the U.S. kind of considers that balance going forward.

A: Well, Justin, the United States has invested quite a bit of time and diplomatic energy into encouraging and promoting the reconciliation between two of our closest allies in the Asia Pacific region [...] be the subject of some discussion when the three leaders have an opportunity to meet in Washington tomorrow. As it relates to China, one thing that we’ve been quite clear about is [...] you could make a strong case that the right kind of relationship-building between China and some of our allies can actually be good for interests in the same way that the ability of China and the United States to work together can have a positive impact on South Korea and Japan.”

**China**

• **March 1, 2016 – Xi extends best wishes for China-US Year of Tourism** ([China Daily](#))  
Quote: “President Xi Jinping has expressed hopes that the 2016 “China-US Year of Tourism” will be a success, and he called on the two countries to expand visit exchanges and boost cultural communication. The President delivered his best wishes in a congratulatory message to the opening ceremony held in Beijing on Monday. Xi sent his congratulations to the opening and extended a warm welcome to visiting friends from the United States, hoping that the two countries could “enhance public opinion and the social basis for the development of the China-US relationship”. Both countries enjoy a rich culture and scenic attractions, and people from both countries want to boost mutual standing and promote friendship, Xi said.”

• **March 9, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))  
Quote: “China and the United States are two major countries. There is both cooperation and friction between us. This might be the normal state of affairs [...] I want to emphasize once again that China is not the United States, and China will not and cannot become another United States. We have no intention to displace anybody or dominate anybody. My advice to American friends: Perhaps you may want to spend more time learning about China’s cultural tradition distilled from its 5,000-year history, and don’t always judge China with the American mindset. Get this right, and you’ll see the bright prospects of China-US relations.”



## Issue 2 – Economic Relations: The Two Countries Continue to Disagree About Chinese Steel Dumping and Both Countries Turn Their Eyes Toward 2016 G20 Summit

### United States

- **March 7, 2016 – Governor Lael Brainard: An Update on the Outlook, Liquidity, and Resilience** ([Federal Reserve](#))

Quote : “Although the euro area and Japan are recovering, their demand growth remains very low, despite extraordinary monetary accommodation. In emerging market economies growth last year came in at only one-half the average rate from 2009 to 2013. Because China has accounted for one-third of the growth in world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and trade, the recent slippage in Chinese economic growth is having an important effect globally. Even if Chinese growth does not slide further, the changing composition of its growth toward consumption and services and away from resource-intensive manufacturing and investment will pose important challenges to commodity exporters and other emerging economies, especially since China had previously accounted for upwards of one-half of global imports of many base metals.”

- **March 7, 2016 –Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the Economic Club of Minnesota** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “I went to the Chinese leadership and said we needed to have a conversation about China’s overcapacity. This is a problem that affects a broad range of sectors, it affects steel, it affects aluminum, it affects solar panels, and many others. We brought in experts from the U.S. and China and made it clear that this was a problem that was going to have to be dealt with [...] Just last week, the Commerce department made another determination on Chinese steel imports. And we have used all of our bilateral mechanisms with China to continue pressing for progress.”

- **March 16, 2016 – Remarks by Counselor Antonio Weiss at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Capital Markets Summit** ([Treasury Department](#))

Quote: “Volatility in China’s stock markets and poorly-communicated shifts in exchange rate policy caused investors to question China’s ability to successfully navigate the transition from a manufacturing and export-led economy to a consumption-based economy [...] The U.S. financial system has demonstrated resilience throughout the market turmoil. This was no accident. Without question, the reforms adopted following the crisis have created a stronger, more resilient system, while establishing the strongest consumer protections in history.”

### China

- **March 2, 2016 – An Open China:From Ningxia to the World** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “ With the unfolding of the Belt and Road Initiative, today’s Ningxia is a new name card of China’s opening up. The China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum and the China-Arab States Expo hosted by Ningxia have already become important platforms for the Belt and Road Initiative.”

- **March 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China’s economy managed to maintain steady and sound growth last year. China’s GDP grew by 6.9%, a growth rate faster than that of most other major economies. 13.12 million new urban jobs have been created over the course of last year, surpassing the year’s target. Restructuring made important progress. The ratio of service sector to GDP rose to 50.5%, accounting for more than half of GDP for the first time. New driving forces for development grew rapidly. Further progress was made in implementing the strategy of innovation-driven development, the penetration of the Internet into all industries picked up pace, and emerging industries grew rapidly. Business startups and innovations by the general public flourished, with the number of newly registered businesses rising by 21.6% in 2015.”

- **March 8, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote:“ The US Ministry of Commerce released an announcement on March 4, deciding to launch an anti-dumping and countervailing investigation against the stainless plate and strip imported from China [...] China expects the US to correct its past doings that have been ruled as violating the WTO rules and investigate objectively and fairly according to the law [...] The official stressed against the background of the sluggish world economy and weak demands, the overcapacity of steel is a common issue for the global steel industry. It requires the joint efforts from all countries, not merely and simply resorting to the means of trade protectionism.”



• **March 22, 2016 – Q&A at "Looking East - Trend Lines in the Asia Pacific"** ([State Department](#))

Quote: Q: "I have a question regarding the New Silk Road. What is your view on that? And do you think it's possible for China to invest so much money and still follow its policy of non-interference?"

A: "The Chinese have been willing to make an occasional exception to the policy of non-interference in internal affairs of other countries from time to time, but they're not alone in that."

• **March 30, 2016 – Remarks by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Robert Holleyman to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: "Everyone has a stake in ensuring we keep the Internet open and free [...] In the recently-concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership, we fought hard for rules that will combat these trends [...] We brought home a deal with a policy architecture that is constructed around keeping the Internet open and free. It's the first trade agreement in history with comprehensive rules to do just that [...] But not everyone agrees with our commitment to openness. China's trade alternatives to TPP, for example, don't include rules to keep the Internet open and free. Nor does Russia's Eurasian Economic Union. These approaches reflect different views of what tomorrow's global economy should look like. They don't reflect the interests and values that have made America a land of innovation."

• **March 31, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China Before Bilateral Meeting** ([White House](#))

Quote: "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."

• **March 9, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "For the first time, we will make innovative growth a key topic on the G20 agenda. We want to capitalize on the new industrial revolution and digital economy, and develop a new blueprint for the innovative growth of the world economy. We will stress the importance of structural reform and encourage the major economies to build new consensus around this, so as to work together to put the world economy on the path to strong recovery."

• **March 17, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Export decreased largely, and the decrease of import slowed down [...] The exports to major trade partners decreased. On China-US Bilateral Investment Treaty negotiation [...] Since it was launched, the negotiation has been top on the agenda for the two leaders. During President Xi's state visit to the US last September, they affirmed it as the top priority in our trade and economic relations, and agreed to push it forward towards a high-standard win-win treaty. This provided immense political momentum for the negotiation."

• **March 21, 2016 – Belt and Road initiative acts as new engine for world economy** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Meanwhile, the opportunities and risks that come with the initiative must be viewed objectively. Some commentators have twisted the initiative into "China's Marshall Plan." This misunderstanding fails to grasp China's desire for peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation. As Xi has explicitly stated on many occasions, the Belt and Road initiative is not meant to establish a sphere of influence, but to weave a partnership network."





• **March 23, 2016 – Joint Press Communiqué of the Sixth Round of Consultations Between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of The Caribbean Countries which have Diplomatic Relations With China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “The Two Sides agreed to deepen practical cooperation by strengthening collaboration in areas such as trade, investment, finance, infrastructure, energy, manufacturing and agriculture, jointly implementing ongoing and potential projects as well as convening the Fourth China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum at an appropriate date. [...] The Two Sides highly commended the important role of the China-CELAC Forum in boosting the overall cooperation between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries. [...] They also agreed to promote cooperation under the framework of the China-CELAC Forum and work towards achieving more early results through effective use of the financing arrangements, convening sub-fora and cultural exchange activities, among others. China will continue to accommodate the special needs of the Caribbean countries through necessary policy measures and welcomed the participation of the Caribbean Development Bank and other regional financial institutions in relevant collaboration.”

• **March 23, 2016 – Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation Among Lancang-Mekong Countries** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “ We, the Heads of State/Government of the Lancang-Mekong Countries, recalling that the Lancang-Mekong countries [...] agree to prioritize in production capacity cooperation sectors [...], in line with legal frameworks and development realities of relevant countries and relying on the development of transportation linkages and the platform of industry cluster districts [...] We agree to make good use of the existing bilateral and multilateral financial resources, including the AIIB, to support production capacity cooperation among Lancang-Mekong member countries, and will continue to explore additional financial resources [...] We firmly believe that production capacity cooperation will further strengthen the existing close economic ties among the Lancang-Mekong countries.”



• **March 23, 2016 – Address by H.E. Li Keqiang Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China At the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "I wish to make the following four points for the future development of Lancang-Mekong cooperation. First, we need to work together to build a Lancang-Mekong community of shared destiny [...] Second, we need to speed up connectivity and production capacity cooperation [...] Third, we need to focus on sustainable development [...] Fourth, we need to build bridges of people-to-people and cultural exchanges [...] China stands ready to work with countries in the sub-region to promote sound and steady development of Lancang-Mekong cooperation, achieve greater progress in China-ASEAN cooperation and make new contribution to peace, stability, prosperity and development in Asia."

• **March 24, 2016 – A New Vision for A Dynamic Asia Through Joint Efforts** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "China hopes to align its initiative of building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road with the development strategies of other countries in the region and regional organizations. Together, we could foster a new pattern of regional development through integrated planning and production and coordinated actions. China is ready to provide high quality and cost-effective equipment and production-lines that could tailor to the needs of Asian countries. We may carry out production capacity cooperation in infrastructure building and industrial equipment making. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is the biggest regional trade arrangement in Asia that attracts the largest number of participating members, and we hope that negotiations under the RCEP could be concluded by 2016. For the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund, their priority should be placed on serving developing countries of Asia first, and on connectivity and production capacity cooperation projects, so that people in the region could share in the benefits of such integrated development."





• **March 25, 2016 – Remarks by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the G20 Session of The Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2016** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “The G20 reflects the changes and trends in international forces and is built on equal participation by developed and developing countries in global economic governance, which makes it irreplaceable. That said, the G20 needs to keep abreast with the times and transition from crisis response to long-term governance and from focusing on short-term policy to a combination of short, medium and long term policies. We hope the Hangzhou Summit will be a new starting point in that transition process. [...] the G20 is tasked to live up to expectations and show leadership. Moreover, it takes the joint efforts of all members, not just China, to ensure the success of the Hangzhou Summit. To achieve all this, we need to work in partnership, stay united, step up policy coordination and make concerted efforts. We need to demonstrate resolve and courage and pursue innovation and new paths. We need to uphold openness and inclusiveness, pool wisdom and form synergy. We also need to have a strategic vision to deliver real outcomes with overarching and far-reaching significance.”

• **March 25, 2016 – Deepening Regional Cooperation for a Community of Shared Future** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “China and ASEAN countries are building a closer community of shared future and had finished the negotiation on upgrading the free trade area last year. China supports the building of an East Asian Economic Community among China, Japan, the ROK and ASEAN by 2020 and supports speeding up negotiations on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Just two days ago, the first Leaders' Meeting of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) was successfully held in Sanya. As a new sub-regional cooperation framework, it will promote the development and prosperity of the sub-region and contribute to the ASEAN community building and its integration. China strongly supports the SCO and actively participates in ACD, ASEM, APEC and other mechanisms. China is now advancing the "Belt and Road" initiative. It has initiated the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and most recently proposed the setting up of an Asia Financial Cooperation Association. All this has contributed to regional integration and lent fresh impetus to regional cooperation.”



• **March 25, 2016 – Deepening Regional Cooperation for a Community of Shared Future** (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)

Quote: “With our deep-rooted friendship, political good-will and popular support as a strong basis, China and CEECs (Central and East European countries) launched “16+1” cooperation, which has since made solid progress. Over the past four years, under the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, inclusiveness and openness, China and CEECs have built new cooperation mechanisms and platforms. Thanks to these efforts, China-CEECs cooperation is entering a maturing phase and delivering early harvests. Our cooperation on the “Belt and Road” initiative and efforts to strengthen synergy between China and the EU in their development strategies will create even greater impetus and potential for “16+1” cooperation [...]. The MOU of cooperation on the joint development of the “Belt and Road” between China and the Czech Republic offers fresh opportunity for the two countries to better align our development strategies and plans, and prepare the ground for identifying major cooperation projects for early harvests.”

• **March 30, 2016– Remarks by Counsellor Yao Shaojun on the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Inequality** (*Chinese Mission to the UN*)

Quote: “ China aligns itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China. China would like to make the following three observations. First, more focus should be given to inequality among states [...] The international community should scale up its efforts in implementing Goal 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to reduce inequality among countries, ensure greater representation and voice of developing countries in international economic and financial institutions, facilitate orderly, safe and regular flow migration, reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances, provide ODA and foreign direct investment to developing countries, and promote fair and free trade. Second, more attention should be paid to reducing economic inequality [...] Third, we should forge a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at its core and build a community of common destiny. ”



### Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: Both Countries Recognize the Importance of Preventing Nuclear Proliferation at the Nuclear Security Summit and Fighting Terrorism in the Wake of the Brussels Attacks

#### United States

• **March 1, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))  
Quote: “Q: A cybersecurity client asked if the President feels the U.S. is fully prepared for “a massive attack” on our power grid, financial network, et cetera -- emphasis on the phrase “fully prepared.”

A: As you will note from our budget proposal that we rolled out just a few weeks ago, it includes a substantial enhancement of programs and funding to strengthen our cybersecurity in this country. There are a variety of steps that can be taken that relate to protecting government networks to working with the private sector to fortify key private networks. There are also some common-sense steps that American citizens can take to protect their own privacy and to protect their own cybersecurity.”

• **March 1, 2016 – Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch Delivers Remarks at RSA Conference on Cybersecurity** ([State Department](#))  
Quote: “Today, I am pleased to report that we have begun negotiations with the United Kingdom to establish a new framework that would permit UK authorities to access electronic communications directly from American companies where the investigation targets accounts not used by Americans or people in the United States [...] It would help one of our oldest and closest allies perform high-priority criminal investigations that keep its citizens safe – and many of which, in our age of transnational crime and terrorism, also further American interests.”

• **March 1, 2016 – Remarks at the Strong Cities Network International Visitors Leadership Program for Municipal Leaders and Countering Violence Extremism Experts Event** ([State Department](#))  
Quote: “Put simply, it is undeniable, I think, at this point, that local communities are the place where you can best take the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. That is the place where it has to begin, and that’s what you all have recognized and that’s what brings you here [...] So yes, it is also true that national policies and global coalitions will also be absolutely critical in the effort to degrade and destroy terrorist networks [...] But all of us understand this is not a short-term overnight battle. It’s a long-term effort. I mean, there are millions upon millions of kids out there.”

#### China

• **March 6, 2016 – China devotes more efforts to combating terrorism by law** ([People’s Daily](#))  
Quote: “The enactment of the law shows China’s firm determination to fight terrorism and maintain security. It not only meets the urgent demands, but also reflects China’s courage to shoulder international responsibility.”

• **March 19, 2016 – Sino-US center will boost nuclear security** ([China Daily](#))  
Quote: “The Center of Excellence on Nuclear Security, a joint effort by China and the United States, started operation on Friday and will soon begin to train technical and security professionals from China and abroad. The center was built by the China Atomic Energy Authority and the US Department of Energy. [...] Liu Yongde, spokesman for the CAEA, said that China and the US have been cooperating on nuclear security since the 1980s. “In addition to the nuclear security center, the collaboration has also resulted in the better protection and management of radioactive sources used by Chinese companies and improved law enforcement on smuggling of radioactive materials,” he said. Xu Dazhe, head of the CAEA, said China is very serious about making good use of nuclear power, adding that the Chinese government is also committed to improving nuclear security.”

• **March 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))  
Quote: “Q: Chief of the Japanese cabinet legislation bureau [...] answered that the Japanese Constitution did not ban the usage of nuclear weapons?”

A: As a signatory country to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Japan should be clear about its own obligations. But still we keep hearing remarks in Japan supporting the possession of nuclear weapons, which has raised concerns of the international community. It is a high-ranking official from the Japanese cabinet that made such remarks on nuclear weapons this time, and such remarks have made the world more anxious. We urge the Japanese government to expound its position on this issue.”



• **March 4, 2016 – Keynote Speech to the 2016 Deterrence and Assurance Conference** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And it was seventeen years ago—1999—that the Senate voted against ratification. We think it is time to revisit this treaty. We are realistic about prospects, and as I said at the outset we have no set timeframe for pursuing Senate action [...] So point one is that a CTBT in force advances our security interests [...] We would be betting on a treaty that improves our standing in the world...that can help avoid costly nuclear arms races...that has clear political and military advantages...and that comes at no cost to our deterrence and security commitments to friends and allies.”

• **March 7, 2016 – Satellite Industries Association** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Both Russia and China have studied our way of warfighting, searching for gaps to exploit. Both have focused on our space systems as a potentially vulnerable center of gravity – and they are aggressively pursuing counter-space capabilities. That means, as Secretary Carter said last week in California, DoD must now prepare for a conflict that extends into space. And in our budget, we’re continuing to invest more in space, totaling more than \$22 billion just this year alone.”

• **March 22, 2016 – Interview With Maria Celeste Arraras of Telemundo** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Mr. Secretary, these attacks in Brussels are sending shockwaves across the world. What can you tell Americans this morning? Are we safe?”

A: Regrettably, if one person decides they want to kill themselves and they want to blow themselves up around other people, regrettably, we live in a world where somebody can do that somewhere. [...] the United States is already engaged in a global response. We are leading an international coalition of 66 nations [...] But clearly this underscores the imperative to try to find ways to move even faster.

Q: Doesn’t that open the door for, in the future, sitting at tables with, let’s say, if the circumstances would merit it, with ISIS?

A: No, because what I – no, there’s no negotiations with ISIS, first of all – none possible because there’s no possible [...] because there’s no possible reconciliation with their philosophy, with their ideology, with their extreme view.”

• **March 24, 2016 – Commentary: Lessons we can learn from Brussels terror attacks** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “Along with globalization of politics, economy and finance, terrorism is also being globalized. Different terrorist organizations have started to coordinate with each other. They now carry out propaganda campaigns and recruit new members on the Internet, creating a larger and shadowier terrorist network. Only by strengthening international cooperation and addressing both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism, can the international community achieve the final victory in its fight against terrorism.”

• **March 29, 2016 – China-U.S. cooperation "vital" for global nuclear security: U.S. official** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Earlier this month, the Nuclear Security Center of Excellence, the largest nuclear security center in the Asia-Pacific region, which was financed by both governments, opened in Beijing.”

• **March 30, 2016 – Commentary: Eliminating root causes of terrorism indispensable to nuclear security** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The process will not be successful until the Western countries, especially the United States, reflect on and change their anti-terror strategies, which are based on self-interests and geopolitical considerations, and feature double standards in fighting terrorism.”

• **March 31, 2016 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: The U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Robert O. Work said yesterday that the America had warned China that if China establishes the Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the South China Sea, the U.S. will not recognize it. How do you respond to this?”

A: For the ADIZ in the South China Sea, we have repeated our position on many occasions. What I need to underscore here is that to set up an ADIZ is the right of a sovereign state and we don’t need other countries to make suggestions.”



• **March 22, 2016 – Q&A at "Looking East - Trend Lines in the Asia Pacific"** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Q: How come that you didn't talk about cooperation with China when it comes to anti-terrorism? [...] So why don't you admit that China has this problem, and why don't you try to cooperate with China on it?"

A: We fully recognize that China has a huge problem with its oppressed Muslim minority population in Xinjiang. We fully recognize that there is a growing number of Uighurs who are fighting in Syria [...] And we do seriously try to talk to and cooperate with China on countering terrorism, not only on a local basis but on a regional and a global basis."

• **March 28, 2016 – LiveAtState: Nuclear Security Summit 2016** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Just the same as in every other important global issue, it is vital that China and the United States understand each other and cooperate with each other when it comes to nuclear nonproliferation [...] We've worked together on writing a Security Council resolution to respond to North Korea's violations and provocations. And we work together also because we recognize that when Iran or North Korea wants to go shopping for nuclear or ballistic materials, ballistic missile materials [...] That's how important the relationship with China is."

• **March 30, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: "Q: So is it not a problem at all that they're (Russia) not coming? It's not significant that they're a no-show?"

A: Well, obviously we would welcome them doing so, and they're going to miss out on an opportunity to coordinate with the rest of the international community on these important issues. I do think that it serves to further illustrate the degree to which Russia is isolated from the rest of the international community. That for whatever reason, they've chosen not to engage in this conversation. And I think — I'm sure some of that is at least in part related to tensions that they have with the United States and other countries in other regions of the world, including Ukraine. And this is yet another consequence of Russia's involvement in that particular matter."



• **March 30, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “Q: That seems interesting right as the President is convening the Nuclear Security Summit. What’s your response to the suggestion that more countries should be developing their own nuclear weapons?”

A: Well, that prospect would be incredibly destabilizing. And I think the best way to sort of view this [...] suggestion that somehow we should encourage our allies in South Korea to develop nuclear weapons is directly contrary to a policy that the United States has long pursued, and is directly contrary to a policy that the international community has long supported. And it’s hard for me to imagine why it would be a good idea to give the North Koreans any justification or any incentive to further accelerate their nuclear weapons program.”

• **March 31, 2016 – Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Nuclear Security Summit** ([White House](#))

Quote: “The three leaders also agreed that trilateral security cooperation is essential to maintaining peace and stability in northeast Asia and to deterring the North Korea threat. And in the meeting, all three leaders talked about practical ways we can deepen that cooperation. And they directed their teams to further work at the working level in that regard. And they agreed that this kind of trilateral security cooperation will remain critical to our collective efforts and will be a significant priority going forward. But as President Obama noted, our collaboration with these critically close allies of the United States goes well beyond security issues. The three leaders also discussed challenges and opportunities in the region and beyond. Those topics included our work as members of the global coalition to destroy ISIL and to counter terrorist threats around the world.”

• **March 31, 2016 – U.S.-China Joint Statement on Nuclear Security Cooperation** ([White House](#))

Quote: “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.”



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• **March 31, 2016 – Remarks By Deputy Secretary Sarah Bloom Raskin at the Cybersecurity Docket’s Incident Response Forum 2016** ([Treasury Department](#))  
Quote :“ Given the increasing number and morphing nature of cyber assaults, we must prepare for the eventuality of significant cyber incidents. By deploying the tools of preparation, coordination, and practice, the government, the financial sector, and their advisors can exponentially accelerate cyber response and can recover in a way that does not prolong the opportunity for damage—damage not only to the firms that compose our nation’s financial infrastructure, but also damage to the people of our country who rely on this financial infrastructure.”

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#### Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Issues Broad Criticisms of Chinese Human Rights Record and Works to Strengthen Reporting of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers; China Rebuffs U.S. Claims and Touts Efforts to Improve Gender Equality

##### United States

• **March 2, 2016 – National Statement at the Human Rights Council** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In China, we are alarmed by the ongoing crackdown on lawyers, religious adherents, and civil society leaders and by growing attempts to restrict internationally recognized freedoms, including the freedom of speech. We are also deeply troubled by China’s willingness to threaten journalists with expulsion or the non-renewal of their visas as a tool to influence their reporting. Hundreds of Chinese citizens have been detained, formally arrested, or held incommunicado without due process. This includes the apparent abduction of five individuals associated with a Hong Kong bookstore that strongly suggests that China has taken extrajudicial or extraterritorial action in violation of its international commitments.”

• **March 4, 2016 – Statement on the Secretary-General’s Report on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The United States has expanded our outreach to troop and police contributing countries to press for immediate and necessary actions to complement the UN’s efforts to bolster justice and accountability measures for perpetrators of SEA [Sexual Exploitation and Abuse]. In this report, the Secretary-General has requested member states approve several reform initiatives. The United States has always urged the Secretary-General, on his own authority, to take action on SEA, and will also push for member states to approve his requests [...] We need a whole-of-UN approach to ending sexual exploitation and abuse and ensuring that those who commit such crimes are held accountable. Solutions to this scourge cannot continue to be marked “pending.”

• **March 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “Q: But would the President like to see European leaders doing something more, faster and better, dealing with this problem (refugee crisis in Europe)?

A: Well, obviously this is going to be a big challenge for Europe. The United States will support the European Union and our many close allies in Europe as they confront this threat. But ultimately, this is something that will be their responsibility.”

##### China

• **March 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote : Q: “Why must the international community stop interfering in China’s human rights?”

A: “The action taken by the US and some other countries at the Human Rights Council is, in its essence, an attempt to interfere in China’s domestic affairs and judicial sovereignty under the pretext of the human rights issue. Everybody is clear about that. Therefore, the Chinese side does not accept but firmly opposes that [...] No country can claim it is the best in protecting human rights. What we should do is trying to become better. The Chinese government attaches great importance to promoting and protecting human rights, integrates the universality of human rights with the realities of China, blazes a trail of human rights development with Chinese characteristics and has made notable progress. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for the development of human rights.”

• **March 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Remarks on Dalai’s Participation in Relevant Activity at US Invitation** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The 14th Dalai Lama is not a purely religious figure, but a political exile who has long engaged in anti-China separatist activities. He was the biggest serf owner in old Tibet, and is in no position at all to talk about human rights. The Chinese side is firmly opposed to Dalai’s visits in any name or capacity to any country, and any foreign officials’ contact with him in any form.”

• **March 14, 2016– Remarks by Ms. Meng Xiaosi at Side Event co-hosted by China, Denmark, Kenya and Mexico of CSW60** ([Chinese Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “China values the wisdom and talents of women and works to build a favorable environment and platform for their equal participation in economic and social development. China incorporates women’s development goals into the overall planning on economic and social development [...] China passed the Law against Domestic Violence at the end of 2015 which has taken into effect on 1st March this year. This is a new step taken by China in ensuring women’s rights and in respecting and protecting human rights. It is also one of the actions taken to meet the calls of President Xi made at the summit to protect women’s rights and goals set in the UN 2030 sustainable development agenda.”



• **March 11, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “On South Sudan. The United States is appalled by the attacks on civilians, sexual- and gender-based violence, mass pillage, and destruction of property carried out by the Government of South Sudan and allied forces, which have been documented in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. We have repeatedly called on the Government of South Sudan and the opposition to end human rights violations and live up to their commitment to establish a transitional government as soon as possible.”

• **March 11, 2016 – Explanation of Vote at the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2272 on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in UN Peacekeeping Operations (U.S. Mission to the UN)**

Quote: “The resolution signals the Security Council’s strong support for the UN zero tolerance policy, and for the ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General to strengthen this institution’s response, reporting, and remedial measures to prevent and combat sexual exploitation and abuse among UN peacekeepers. The resolution underscores that peacekeepers found guilty – not those accused – those found guilty of committing SEA do not deserve to serve in UN peacekeeping missions, sending a clear message to troop- and police- contributing countries who fail to take action to prevent or punish credible allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as to all Member States, and to UN bodies, to ensure that these investigations are carried out thoroughly, promptly, and impartially.”

• **March 14, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote : “Q: Thank you. U.S. Navy soldier arrested on Sunday on suspicion for raping Japanese woman. Okinawa prefecture already made a protest and also Okinawa people worry about the impact for tourism industry. So do you – I need a comment for U.S. Government.”

A: Obviously, we take our relationship with the people of Okinawa, as with everybody in Japan, very, very seriously. It’s a strong alliance, it’s a deep and abiding friendship, and we have great respect for the Japanese people. Again, I can’t speak to the – to whether or not this crime occurred in the circumstances. I wouldn’t do that. But obviously, if it did, it’s completely inconsistent with our values and our principles and what we expect of our people overseas.”

• **March 15, 2016– Speech by Ms. Meng Xiaosi at General Debate of the 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (Chinese Mission to the UN)**

Quote: “ China is now drafting the 13th Five-Year Plan on National Economic and Social Development which is dedicated to innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development. China will undertake to implement the 2030 Agenda and inject strong impetus into fair, inclusive and sustainable development of the world [...] Over the past year, China has made good progress in enhancing gender equality and women’s empowerment [...] The Law against Domestic Violence was enacted on 27 December 2015 [...] The gender equality evaluation mechanism on laws, regulations and policies has been set up and extended [...] China further improves skills training for women and adopt preferential policy measures to encourage women’s participation in economic affairs in order to achieve poverty elimination for all, so that no one will be left behind in our joint efforts to move into the society of moderate prosperity. ”

• **March 15, 2016– Protecting Women’s Rights and Interests and Eliminating All Forms of Violence against Women (Chinese Mission to the UN)**

Quote: “ In recent years, especially since the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, China has strengthened actions against violence against women and made the following progress in this field. First, improving legislation to protect women’s rights and interests [...] Second, strengthening mechanisms to incorporate gender perspectives into mainstream policymaking [...] Third, empowering women through multiple measures [...] The Chinese government values the role of civil organizations in promoting gender equality and women’s development and works to include them into our multi-agency working mechanism for better cooperation. The All-China Women’s Federation, as China’s largest women NGO, has made tremendous efforts over the years in fulfilling its basic function of protecting women’s rights and interests and promoting gender equality. ”

• **March 15, 2016 – Washington’s human rights stance ‘serves its own interests’ (People’s Daily)**

Quote: “The United States’ confrontational attitude toward China on human rights serves only its national interests, and it also harms global governance and the cause of international human rights.”



• **March 18, 2016 – Remarks at the UN Commission on the Status of Women** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The United States strongly supported including gender equality as a stand-alone goal; it reflected our deep commitment to advancing women’s rights and gender equality. [...] we must recognize that many development challenges affect girls and women in unique ways [...]once we identify the specific challenges faced by girls and women, we must design interventions that effectively address them [...]Integrating gender in this way will enable faster progress towards all of the Global Goals. [...] Goal 16 is at the core of the development process, and advancing it requires recognizing that – as with other goals – constituent challenges like access to justice or disenfranchisement are experienced very differently by girls and women, and that interventions need be tailored accordingly.”

• **March 21, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and President Raul Castro of Cuba in a Joint Press Conference** ([White House](#))

Quote: “Q: And you said the conversations about human rights were frank and candid and that you want to move forward. But even as you were arriving, there were dramatic arrests of peaceful protests -- the Ladies in White. What signal does that send? Can you have civilized coexistence at the same time you have such profound disagreements about the very definitions of what human rights means, as President Castro expressed today?

A: Now, keep in mind I’ve got fierce disagreements with the Chinese around human rights. I’ll be going to Vietnam later this year -- I have deep disagreements with them as well. When we first visited Burma, people questioned whether we should be traveling there because of longstanding human rights violations in our view. And the approach that I’ve taken has been that if I engage frankly, clearly, stating what our beliefs are but also being clear that we can’t force change on any particular country -- ultimately it has to come from within -- then that is going to be a more useful strategy than the same kinds of rigid disengagement that for 50 years did nothing.”

• **March 15, 2016 – Commentary: Time to address the politicizing of human** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The “shaming” of China by human rights record has been a default position that certain nations often retreat to. [...] The United States and 11 other countries expressed concern over “worsening” human rights in China at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 10. [...] America is using this pretext to attack China, despite its own less-than-perfect record. The Human Rights Council meeting coincided with China’s annual parliamentary session, which might explain why those raising objections did so. [...] This “selective blindness” is driven by prejudice and the show was put on to serve nothing more than political interests. [...] Take America for instance, its torture of prisoners, breach of its own citizens’ privacy, and deep-rooted racism is well documented. There is no end to human rights protection for any nation, especially in a nation such as China, which has a large, multiethnic population. The move, led by the United States, could be seen as nothing more than a refusal to understand China’s bigger human rights strategy and the paranoia on the smaller details could be detrimental to the dialog between China and the West on the wider human rights issue.”



• **March 23, 2016 – Remarks on “The Role of the Arts in Helping to End Human Trafficking” at a Special Interactive CSW Panel** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “ In the US government and here at the UN, we often talk about the four P’s to end modern slavery and human trafficking – prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership. These four pillars are at the bedrock of the Palermo Protocol and the Global Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons. Using storytelling to combat human trafficking is essential to the realization of the first three pillars and often only possible through the fourth [...]For governments, UN agencies, and NGOs alike, raising awareness – critical to changing cultural attitudes – through film, music, or other forms of art is only possible through that fourth pillar – partnerships. Some may view the arts as a luxury but in the service of combat human trafficking, they are essential to helping create change. ”



## Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Continues Efforts to Decrease Carbon Emissions; China Seeks a Plan for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth

### United States

- **March 7, 2016 – WEDNESDAY: EPA Administrator McCarthy to Give Keynote Address at 2016 Climate Leadership Conference** ([Environmental Protection Agency](#))  
 Quote: “On Wednesday, March 9, 2016, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy will give the keynote address at the 2016 Climate Leadership Conference in Seattle. The conference calls national attention to exemplary leadership in response to climate change and recognizes the outstanding actions taken by corporate, organizational, and individual leaders. EPA co-sponsors the conference and awards with The Climate Registry and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.”
- **March 10, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada in Joint Press Conference** ([White House](#))  
 Quote: “I’m especially pleased to say the United States and Canada are fully united in combating climate change. As the first U.S. President to visit the Arctic, I saw how both of our nations are threatened by rising seas, melting permafrost, disappearing glaciers and sea ice. And so we are focusing on making sure the Paris agreement is fully implemented, and we’re working to double our investments in clean energy research and development. Today, we’re also announcing some new steps. Canada is joining us in our aggressive goal to bring down methane emissions in the oil and gas sectors in both of our countries, and together we’re going to move swiftly to establish comprehensive standards to meet that goal. We’re also going to work together to phase down HFCs and to limit carbon emissions from international aviation. We’re announcing a new climate and science partnership to protect the Arctic and its people. And later this year, I’ll welcome our partners, including Canada, to our White House Science Ministerial on the Arctic to deepen our cooperation in this vital region.”
- **March 15, 2016 – EPA Publishes 21st Annual U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory** ([Environmental Protection Agency](#))  
 Quote: “National GHG emissions are going down over the long term, but minor variability year-to-year is to be expected. Over the last decade, there has been tremendous momentum in the energy sector toward low-carbon solutions. Today, the U.S. is generating three times as much wind power, and 30 times as much solar power, as when President Obama took office. The cost of renewable energy is getting cheaper, and growth in the U.S. energy efficiency sector is creating thousands of new jobs and opportunities.”

### China

- **March 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on March 7, 2016** ([Ministry of Environmental Protection](#))  
 Quote: “It is encouraging and not easy for China's economy to make achievements as such when the whole world is undergoing sluggish economic growth. Premier Li Keqiang also expounded on the major targets laid out in the State Council-made draft of the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development. [...] Fourth, we should encourage green ways of working and living and speed up efforts to conserve ecosystems and the environment.”



• **March 29, 2016 – EPA Proposes Use of Climate-Friendly Alternatives to HFCs Action supports Climate Action Plan by reducing greenhouse gas emissions**

([Environmental Protection Agency](#))

Quote: “Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to expand the list of acceptable substitutes and prohibit the use of certain chemicals in the U.S. that significantly contribute to climate change where safer, more climate-friendly alternatives exist. This is another step forward in a series under President Obama’s Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a class of potent greenhouse gases that can be up to 10,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide and are used in air-conditioning, refrigeration, and other equipment.”

• **March 31, 2016 – Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Nuclear Security Summit** ([White House](#))

Quote: “They (the president of South Korea, Japan, and the U.S.) also talked about our important work in combatting climate change, promoting global health, including through agreement that we’re going to explore cooperation under the Vice President’s moonshot cancer initiative. And they all agreed that this kind of global cooperation is a fitting testament to the close ties that these three allies share.”

• **March 31, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China Before Bilateral Meeting** ([White House](#))

Quote: “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.”

• **March 31, 2016 – U.S.-China Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change** ([White House](#))

Quote: “The United States and China will sign the Paris Agreement on April 22nd and take their respective domestic steps in order to join the Agreement as early as possible this year. They encourage other Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to do the same, with a view to bringing the Paris Agreement into force as early as possible.”



## Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Continues to Seek Stronger Ties with Allies in Asia Pacific; China Strongly Criticizes Japanese Revisions to its Pacifist Constitution and Expresses Concerns about Increased Presence of U.S. Military in the Region

### United States

- **March 14, 2016 – Remarks by the President at Chief of Missions Conference** ([White House](#))

Quote: “In the Asia Pacific, we’ve got to move ahead with our rebalance, strengthening our alliances, partnering with ASEAN, supporting the transition in Myanmar, moving ahead with TPP, and ensuring security and stability in places like the South China Sea.”

- **March 15, 2016 – Remarks on the Intellectual Property Ecosystem in India** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I have come here with a delegation of U.S. companies. We are calling it the “American Innovation Roadshow.” The idea is to engage with business people like yourselves, as well as key government officials, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship as drivers of inclusive economic growth, jobs and security. By working with the Indian government and the private sector, we believe we can address many of the challenges that we all face, such as intellectual property rights, to achieve those outcomes.”

- **March 16, 2016 – United States and Philippines Strengthen Engagement on Trade** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The United States and the Philippines engaged on key bilateral issues, including investment, customs, intellectual property rights, and agricultural trade issues, and made plans to continue their dialogue on these issues. These discussions built on earlier talks, including in the new TIFA Labor Committee, which held its first meeting early this month.”

- **March 18, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This morning, the State Department hosted here in D.C. the Sixth Annual U.S.-Philippines Strategic Dialogue [...] Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the U.S.-Philippines alliance in terms of ensuring both countries – our mutual defense and security as well as jointly contributing to regional peace, stability, and economic prosperity [...] Both sides also noted agreement on five Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement agreed locations encompassing portions [...] They also discussed next steps for implementation of the EDCA and how it will support the United States efforts to help modernize the armed forces of the Philippines, develop capacity and capability for maritime security and domain awareness, and provide rapid humanitarian assistance to the people of the Philippines.”

### China

- **March 9, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: Q: “How do you see the current state of affairs in China-Japan relations? What is the underlying problem in the relationship and how can it be improved?”

A: “Japan’s wrong approach to history and other issues in recent years has dealt a body blow to China-Japan relations. Thanks to the efforts of wise people on both sides, there are signs of improvement in the relationship, but I don’t see any grounds for optimism. On the one hand, the Japanese government and leaders say nice things about wanting to improve relations. On the other hand, they are making trouble for China at every turn. This is a typical case of double-dealing.”

- **March 10, 2016 – China concerned about US basing bombers in Australia** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China has expressed concern about a report that the US is in talks to base long-range bombers in Australia.”

- **March 21, 2016 – News Analysis: Japan’s young minds innocent pawns in gov’t’s politicization of textbooks** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “Last week, the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, himself a hawkishly rightwing politician with an openly revisionist agenda, ensured that textbooks authorized by the Education Ministry’s screening process, particularly emphasized Japan’s disputed territorial claims with South Korea, China and Russia[...] The politicization of textbooks here and the attempt by the government to cruelly brainwash the younger generations are an example of the lengths the Abe administration will go in its obstinate bid to not face up squarely to history. But in doing so, being that the international community is well aware of both historical and territorial truths, the only effect the move will have is to ensure an undeservedly ignorant, regionally estranged and potentially volatile future for Japan’s now innocent young lives.”





• **March 22, 2016 – Q&A at "Looking East - Trend Lines in the Asia Pacific"** ([State Department](#))

Quote: Q: "How would you see the argument that is being raised of, especially in the case of China, that this rules-based system is to a certain degree not applying or cohering with their cultural experiences? That in fact, like, derive from Confucianism. A rules-based system with codified rules that apply equally to all are just not natural in that sense.

A: "None of us can accept the premise that there is a cultural carve-out that exempts us, individuals or societies, from universal rules, from international law. That's not an option [...] And now it's rare to find a serious Asian thinker who holds to that premise because people are people and people want the same thing. They want opportunity, they want fairness, they want justice, they want safety, and that is what makes these values universal."

• **March 26, 2016 – Remarks on the Conflict in Southern Thailand** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Southern Thailand has experienced one of the deadliest conflicts in Southeast Asia [...] The United States, as Thailand's longtime friend and partner, hopes for a peaceful, just, and lasting resolution to this conflict because this is vital for achieving Thailand's stability and prosperity."

• **March 29, 2016 – U.S.-Japan-R.O.K. Trilateral Relationship** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "For the first time in nearly two decades, we've updated the guidelines for our defense cooperation with Japan so that our forces will have the flexibility to face 21st century challenges. We have also concluded new host nation support agreements with both Japan and the Republic of Korea, reinforcing these alliances and underscoring our shared commitment to a continuing U.S. presence in the region [...] Together, we are taking steps to counter the spread of violent extremism as members of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL [...] And at the end of the year, the governments of the Republic of Korea and Japan—under the leadership of President Park and Prime Minister Abe—forged a historic agreement on the sensitive issue of comfort women. Their courageous statecraft has helped create space for a continued process of healing and reconciliation and opened the door to greater bilateral and trilateral collaboration. In support of these stronger ties, I have been honored to convene the first-ever trilateral meetings at my level."

• **March 22, 2016 – Commentary: Japan's controversial security legislation to bring only insecurity to world** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "In blatant violation of the country's pacifist Constitution, which restricts Japan's military action in self-defense, the new security legislation gives the green light to overseas military operations by the Self-Defense Forces. The legislation marks an overhaul of Japan's exclusively defensive defense posture, casting a shadow over the hard-won international political order after World War II [...] As champion of the security legislation, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has alleged that the laws are intended to protect Japan. However, with the implementation of the security legislation, Japan will face much higher risks of being embroiled in wars, and civilians will also be exposed to more dangers or be targeted in war zones around the world. In other words, Japan will only become less secure with the security laws [...] As a close ally of the United States, Japan, with the security laws in place, will inevitably play a more active role in regional and global security affairs. With Abe's so-called proactive diplomacy for peace and his revisionist historical viewpoints, the situation in Northeast Asia and the world may witness great uncertainty. As Japan is marching on the road of militarization, other countries, especially its Asian neighbors, should be vigilant. Japanese people should also continue to oppose the plot that may let Japan repeat its historical mistakes."

• **March 28, 2016 – News Analysis: Japan's plutonium stockpiles raise specter of nuclear security, de facto deterrence** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "Japan, over the years and more so recently, is being called into question over its own adherence, or lack thereof, to the global movement, as regards its own policy and contrary activities [...] Japan itself is a committed signatory of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [...] has reiterated its stance that it has no intention of shifting its nuclear stance and will adhere to its three non-nuclear principles of not producing, possessing or allowing nuclear weapons on Japanese territory. But with Japan's ever-shifting security dynamic, including the recent actualization of a reinterpretation of key constitutional clause last year that paved the way for war related bills to be forced through parliament and into law by the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is, henceforth, setting about to see the constitution amended further to allow his military to be reinstated beyond the constraints of defense and operate borderlessly, questions are being asked of Japan's intended adherence to its own nuclear principles."



• **March 29, 2016 – Commentary: Regional peace, stability overshadowed by Japan's new security legislation** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: " As champion of the security legislation, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has alleged that the laws are intended to protect Japan. However, marking an overhaul of Japan's exclusively defensive defense posture, the new security laws will only bring more insecurity to Japan itself and the world [...] When Japan abandons pacifism and adventures with the new security legislation that carries the risk of drawing fire against itself, what else would be accomplished except for the personal ambition of some hawkish and historical revisionist politicians? [...] after the new security laws took effect, the current one-way defense aid from the United States to Japan will be replaced by mutual defense between the two countries, which comes closer to a military alliance in modern times. Looking back in history, every time when Japan made military alliances with big powers, its appetite for military expansions would be stimulated, ending up embroiling Japan and other Asian countries in wars "

• **March 30, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote : "The implementation of the new security bill is a major post-war adjustment to Japan's military and security policies, which has raised doubts about whether Japan has second thoughts about the path of peaceful development. There are also strong voices of opposition to the new security bill inside Japan. Because of Japan's behaviors in the past and present, the path that Japan chooses to follow has been closely watched. As a close neighbor and a victim of WWII, we urge Japan to learn from history."



## Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Continues to Highlight China’s Special Relationship with North Korea; China States it Will Faithfully Implement Sanctions Against North Korea, Opposes Introduction of THAAD to South Korea

United States	China
<p>• <b>March 1, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b> (<a href="#">White House</a>) Quote: “And imposing these sanctions will have an impact on the financial well-being of the North Korean elite. Will that be enough to get them to start changing their behavior and change their strategic calculation? That remains to be seen, but certainly applying more pressure to the North Korean elite is one reasonable suggestion for trying to do that. We surely know that the North Korean people have suffered for far too long because of the decisions that were made by the North Korean government, that their pursuit of nuclear weapons and their willingness to isolate that country from the rest of the international community has had a devastating impact on the North Korean population.”</p> <p>• <b>March 2, 2016 – Explanation of Vote at the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2270 on DPRK Sanctions</b> (<a href="#">U.S. Mission to the UN</a>) Quote: “We have studied the ways the DPRK has been able to exploit gaps and evade measures aimed at impeding its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, and we’ve put in place new measures to fill those gaps, one by one [...] as these measures make abundantly clear, the purpose of this resolution is not to inflict greater hardship on the people of North Korea, who endure immeasurable suffering under one of the most repressive governments the modern world has ever seen. The United States has repeatedly urged this Council to address the human rights violations committed by the DPRK, which the UN Commission of Inquiry concluded in its comprehensive 2014 report were widespread and systematic, and “have been committed...pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the State.””</p> <p>• <b>March 2, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa, and Ambassador Oh Joon, at the Security Council Stakeout Following the Adoption of Resolution 2270 on DPRK Sanctions</b> (<a href="#">U.S. Mission to the UN</a>) Quote: “But this resolution is so comprehensive, there are so many provisions that leave no gap, no window I would just add that the obstacle to dialogue has not been the countries that are before you here today, or Russia or China. The obstacles to dialogue have been a regime that refuses to commit to a negotiation aimed at credible denuclearization. So I think that the resolution makes very clear, our collective and respective eagerness even, to see resumption of the Six-Party Talks, but around credible, verifiable denuclearization.”</p>	<p>• <b>March 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>) Quote: “Q: The UN Security Council will vote on a resolution against the DPRK. Will China vote for it?”</p> <p>A : It is necessary for the UN Security Council to pass a new resolution on curbing the DPRK's capabilities to develop nuclear and missile programs [...] The Chinese side will earnestly implement the resolution if it is passed.”</p> <p>• <b>March 2, 2016 – UN Security Council to vote on DPRK resolution on Wednesday</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>) Quote: “The UN Security Council is scheduled to vote Wednesday on a resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) after the country conducted its fourth nuclear test in January. Diplomats said on Tuesday that the Council originally planned to vote on the resolution on Tuesday afternoon, but Russia had asked for a procedural 24-hour review of the document. The vote is now planned for 10 a.m. local time(1500 GMT) on Wednesday. The United States circulated the draft resolution to the 15-nation Council last week.”</p> <p>• <b>March 3, 2016 – UN votes new sanctions on DPRK</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>) Quote: “Liu Jieyi, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, reiterated China's opposition to the North Koreans' tests. He said China sticks to the principle of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula; maintaining the peace and stability of the peninsula; and resolving the issue through dialogue and negotiation. “The Security Council resolution passed today has reflected that principle. It shows the seriousness of the international community in opposing DPRK's further development of the nuclear and missile capacity and protecting the global non-proliferation regime,” he said. Liu urged parties involved to return to the Six-Party Talks, saying, “Today's adoption should be a new starting point and a paving stone for political settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. “Sanctions are not an end in themselves,” he said, emphasizing that history has shown that dialogue and negotiation make up the only correct path to the denuclearization of the peninsula.”</p>



• **March 2, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa, and Ambassador Oh Joon, at the Security Council Stakeout Following the Adoption of Resolution 2270 on DPRK Sanctions** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “Q : Ambassador Power, during the session China clearly opposed a deployment of anti-missile system, THAAD, on Korean Peninsula. Russia also expressed their concern, too. What is your take on it? Do you stick to the deployment?”

A : China has, from the beginning – when we announced that we were going to begin consultations – has made very clear its concerns. This is a defensive – it’s a consultation around a defensive system, that is what we are in the midst of and those consultations have gotten underway. I think what’s really important is that everyone on the Council today voted with their feet – as well as their arms. They voted for this unprecedented sanctions resolution because they see the acute threat posed by the actions of North Korea, posed by the regime. And so the reason that we have moved forward with consultations on the system is because of that acute threat.”

• **March 2, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “And we obviously have already taken a number of steps to ensure that our allies in the region and the American people here at home are protected from North Korea’s potential capabilities. So we’ve talked at some length about how over the last several years the Obama administration and President Obama has directed an increase in assets in the Asia Pacific to include anti-ballistic missile technology and systems that could protect the United States from any sort of North Korea missiles. There are a number of steps that we have taken to enhance the capabilities of our allies in Japan and our allies in South Korea to protect themselves, as well. And we’ll certainly be mindful of any additional steps that may be needed to ensure greater protection for the United States and our allies.”

• **March 2, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “We also anticipate that it will have an impact on industries that we know are used to fund their nuclear and ballistic missile programs. This required a significant commitment on the part of the Chinese and the Russians, and we certainly welcome the way that they are working closely with the rest of the international community, including the United States and our allies, Japan and South Korea, to implement these sanctions. And that sends an important message just as a symbolic matter. But once these sanctions and restrictions are imposed, it will have an impact on North Korea.”

• **March 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote : “In light of the development of the situation, we proposed to pursue in parallel tracks denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the replacement of the armistice with a peace agreement [...] We oppose the deployment of the THAAD system on the Peninsula and urge relevant parties to act cautiously.”

Quote: Q: “Is there any communication between China and the DPRK before and after the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution?”

A: “China and relevant parties have been in touch on the Korean Peninsula situation.”

• **March 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: Q: “The UNSCR 2270 prohibits countries from importing coal, iron ore and iron from the DPRK. China has long been a major importer of the DPRK’s coal. How will China implement the resolution?”

A: “China has been faithfully fulfilling its international obligations. We will earnestly observe the UNSCR 2270. The resolution prohibits the DPRK’s export of coal, iron ore and iron, but those that are deemed essential for people’s livelihood and have no connection with the funding of the DPRK’s nuclear and missile programs will not be affected.”

• **March 4, 2016 – Three reasons why China voted in favor of new sanctions resolution on DPRK** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China has repeatedly stressed that relevant parties should not give up efforts to resume talks, for the sake of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. It hopes that all the parties will return to the negotiating table because negotiation is the best way to solve the problem.”

• **March 7, 2016 – China’s Security Council vote shows a responsible attitude** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “But most Chinese people see such “analysis” as obfuscation, as the country is always responsible and constructive when dealing with international affairs. It also implements UN resolutions resolutely. “We hope that the resolution can be fully and earnestly implemented,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei expressed China’s position at a regular press conference last Thursday.”



• **March 2, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “But one of the challenges here is you have a country that’s so isolated – you have an authoritarian government that it’s hard to allow money into the country that they aren’t able to get their hands on. That’s why what we’re trying to do here is to focus our efforts on those revenue streams that we know benefit those areas that we’re concerned about, which is specifically their nuclear program and their missile program. Ultimately, in order for the needs of the North Korean people to be met, we need to see a North Korean government that’s making different decisions, and actually making decisions that are in the best interest of the day-to-day lives of the North Korean people. Thus far they haven’t been willing to do that.”

• **March 2, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “But as it relates to China, we’ve long acknowledged that China has unique influence and a unique relationship with North Korea. They have a more active relationship with the North Korean regime than any other country in the world. We know that the North Korean economy depends more on China than any other country in the world. So they do have unique leverage. But we also know that China is quite concerned about North Korea’s nuclear activities. We know they’re concerned about their ballistic missile activities. And we’re pleased to see China using their influence and demonstrating a willingness to coordinate their efforts with the rest of the international community.”

• **March 2, 2016 – Statement by the President on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2270** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “I have consistently said that the DPRK would face consequences for its actions, and I welcome this resolution as a firm, united, and appropriate response by the international community to the DPRK’s recent provocations that flagrantly violated multiple Security Council resolutions.”

• **March 9, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the Korean Peninsula are linked by common mountains and rivers; we have gone through thick and thin together. Nowadays China and the DPRK enjoy a normal state-to-state relationship built on a deep tradition of friendship.”

• **March 11, 2016 – Wang Yi: Staying with Negotiation Is Also Implementing the UNSC Resolution** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Wang Yi said the idea to simultaneously pursue the denuclearization of the Peninsula and the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace treaty put forward by the Chinese side firstly shows China’s responsible attitude to stay with the negotiation, and embodies the implementation of Resolution 2270.”

• **March 11, 2016 – Commentary: Pull the North Korean nuclear issue back to the negotiating table** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Only a denuclearized Korean peninsula can maintain long-term stability. Dialogue is the only solution to the existing problems and only cooperation leads to win-win situations. These constitute the common ground of all parties, common interests of all, and the cornerstone of peace.”

• **March 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: Q: “It is reported that US government officials hoped to have technical dialogue with China on the deployment of THAAD in the ROK and explained that this system was only to defend the ROK from the DPRK’s attacks, rather than target China. Does China want to have such a dialogue with the US?”

A: “THAAD is by no means a pure technical issue. China holds a consistent and clear stance when it comes to anti-missiles, and we are fully aware of the essence and danger of the relevant issue. Any country, when pursuing its own security interests, should bear in mind the security interests of other countries as well as regional peace and stability.”



• **March 3, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “There – nothing is going to change about our belief that first and foremost there has to be denuclearization. And we – and as we talked about before when the North Koreans floated this idea, and we made it clear that we weren’t even going to begin to have that discussion until denuclearization was factored in; then it all kind of collapsed at that point. So nothing has changed about our position and our policy on denuclearization.

Q: “So there has to be denuclearization and then you can contemplate a peace process?”

A: “Nothing’s changed on our policy that denuclearization has to be a part of this, and the Six-Party Talks is the process and the vehicle to do that. Thus far, the North has shown no willingness or even the ability to consider returning to that process, but that’s the right process, that’s the vehicle, and that’s what – that’s how we want to pursue this.”

• **March 4, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Q: Let me follow on diplomacy. Do you think it would be more fruitful -- or a better way, how much more useful or impactful might it be to focus on Japan and South Korea applying more pressure on Pyongyang versus sort of working through Beijing?”

A: “There’s no government in the world that has more influence with the North Koreans than the Chinese. And that is why we have sought to gain leverage or to work with China to try to encourage them to use their leverage and influence with the North Koreans.”

• **March 11, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We want them [China] to use the influence they have and the leadership in the region to engender a different set of behaviors out of Pyongyang. That’s the same. And we have said that privately and publicly to Chinese leaders. If you’re asking what’s the message here to Russia or China or anybody else, the message is this [THAAD] is a purely defensive system. It hasn’t been deployed. It – I don’t know if it’s going to get deployed. But if it does, there’s no reason for the Russians or the Chinese to be concerned about it, because it is purely defensive in nature. And we continue to believe that consultations on the potential deployment are important given the continued rhetoric and behavior out of the North.”

• **March 30, 2016 – US plans to explain THAAD technology with China to ease concerns** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “He was specifically talking about the consultation between the US and South Korea of a possible deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system in South Korea against the DPRK nuclear and missile threat. China and Russia have both expressed serious concerns over the possible deployment of the THAAD system. “We believe China’s legitimate security concerns must be taken into account, and a convincing explanation must be provided to China. I don’t think it’s too much to ask. It’s a reasonable position,” Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in Washington on Feb 25.”



• **March 16, 2016 – Announcement of Sanctions against North Korean Transportation, Mining, Energy, and Financial Services Industries and North Korean Government Officials and Organizations** ([Treasury Department](#))

Quote: "The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today announced the designations of 17 Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) government officials and organizations and identifications of 20 vessels as blocked property [...] These actions implement both the unanimous UNSCR approved earlier this month as well as recent bipartisan sanctions legislation on North Korea. We will work closely with our international partners to continue in a strong and unambiguous way to pressure North Korea to abandon its illicit nuclear and ballistic missile programs."

• **March 16, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "It's the news that the DPRK court has convicted U.S. citizen Otto Warmbier. Mr. Warmbier was reportedly charged with, quote, "hostile acts against the DPRK," end quote, and sentenced to 15 years' hard labor. The Department believes that the sentence is unduly harsh for the actions Mr. Warmbier allegedly took. Despite official claims that U.S. citizens arrested in the DPRK are not used for political purposes, it's increasingly clear from its very public treatment of these cases that the DPRK does exactly that. It only underscores the risks associated with travel to North Korea. The Department of State strongly recommends against all travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea."

• **March 17, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: "Our success in applying additional pressure on the North Korean government would depend upon the effective cooperation of Chinese authorities. The reason for that is that China has a rather unique relationship with North Korea. The North Korean economy is more dependent on the Chinese economy [...] And that's what we have succeeded in obtaining. And that is why we have been able to put in place sanctions against North Korea that go far beyond sanctions [...] this will apply additional pressure not just to the North Korean government but also to the ruling elite in North Korea."





• **March 18, 2016 – Remarks at “Women’s Voices from North Korea: Repression and Resilience” a Panel Discussion with North Korean Defectors at the U.S. Mission** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “As North Korea continues its dangerous pursuit of nuclear weapons, some will argue that North Korea’s security and human rights situations are somehow unrelated. This is absurd. It is no coincidence that the North Korean government would rather grow its nuclear weapons program than grow its own children. Indeed, many of North Korea’s systematic human rights violations deliberately underwrite the government’s nuclear program, including the forced labor carried out by tens of thousands of men, women, and children, as well as by workers deployed overseas. North Korea continues to demonstrate what we have said repeatedly: governments that so flagrantly violate the human rights of their own people can be expected to show similar disdain for the international norms that help ensure our shared security.”

• **March 18, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Q: Switching to North Korea, a firing of the first mid-range missile. Does the White House have a reaction to this? And there were new sanctions this week from the White House. Could one argue that sanctions are not effective?”

A: Well, let me start by saying that we are aware of reports that North Korea did conduct a couple of launches into the Sea of Japan. The United States, as we always do, is closely monitoring [...] North Korea should refrain from actions that further raise tensions in the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its international commitments and obligations. As you point out, [...] we hope that they will channel that anxiety in the direction of coming into compliance [...] But it will be up to them to decide if they’re going to change their strategy.”

• **March 29, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: The U.S. concern is -- does the United States have any significant message to Kim Jong Un?”

A: Our message is one, again, of steadfast solidarity with our South Korean ally, and our continued message that we'd like to see a de-escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula. And we don't see a whole lot coming from North Korea right now that would send a -- tend to support that.”



• **March 30, 2016 – Press Call Previewing the Nuclear Security Summit** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I think the primary focus of the trilateral meeting will be North Korea. And I think the three leaders will clearly demonstrate their unity in our commitment and our firm resolve to deter and defend against North Korean aggression. Our three countries recognize that our security is linked and that it's essential that we work closely together to meet this challenge. And I anticipate that they will call upon all in the international community to join in vigilantly implementing U.N. measures on North Korea.”

• **March 31, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama, President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan After Trilateral Meeting** ([White House](#))

Quote: “We agreed during this meeting that trilateral security cooperation is essential to maintaining peace and stability in Northeast Asia, deterring the North Korean nuclear threat and the potential of nuclear proliferation as a consequence of North Korean activities. And in our meeting, we discussed ways to deepen that cooperation. We've directed our teams to work diligently in the coming weeks and months to elaborate additional steps that we can take collectively in order to ensure that we have a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and that we can restore a sense of stability and peace to the region, as well as hopefully promoting the kind of opportunities and prosperity for the North Korean people who have been suffering so severely because of human rights abuses in North Korea.”

• **March 31, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China Before Bilateral Meeting** ([White House](#))

Quote: “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.”



## Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Continues to Insist on Regime Change in Syria and Emphasizes Need to Stop ISIL Following Brussels Attack; China Notes Continued Cooperation with U.S. on Peace Process in Afghanistan

### United States

- **March 1, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “There’s only one goal, and that is a whole, unified, nonsectarian Syria that is led by, administered by a government that the Syrians themselves have had a hand in choosing, that does not include Bashar al-Assad, that can be responsive to their needs and responsible for them and their – and Syria’s future. We want a whole, unified Syria. That’s the goal.”

- **March 2, 2016 – Explanation of Vote at the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2271 on South Sudan Sanctions** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “We urge South Sudanese parties to take the key steps that are necessary for full implementation of the peace agreement [...] We encourage South Sudan’s leaders to show their commitment to peace and to a prosperous future for the people of South Sudan through these concrete actions over the next weeks. We will use this time to support the parties in their effort to carry out these tasks, to measure their progress, and to respond appropriately.”

- **March 2, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: “We’re also encouraging all of our partners in the ISSG to use their influence with parties on the ground to not engage in actions that put the cessation of hostility at risk. So there’s a lot of diplomatic work that goes into this. And as we acknowledged prior to the implementation of the cessation of hostilities, we anticipated all along that we would encounter some resistance, that we would hit some potholes. But there at least are some tentative indications of a slightly improved situation inside of Syria. There’s more that needs to be done, and we’re going to follow up on every report of a violation. And we take violations -- particularly as it relates to tank and artillery attacks against civilians -- quite seriously.”

- **March 2, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Secretary has said on multiple occasions, and I can find you chapter and verse, that the ISSG, this International Syria Support Group, the U.S., Russia – one fact they’ve agreed on all along is that Syria needs to remain whole, unified, secular. And that’s been kind of a – the basis of trying to resolve the ongoing conflict in Syria.”

### China

- **March 7, 2016 – News Analysis: Afghans have high hopes for peace efforts despite Taliban's obstinance** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The ongoing peace efforts involving China and the U.S. have raised hopes among war-weary Afghans that the four-nation talks would eventually help Afghans to live in an atmosphere of lasting peace and stability in their country. [...] Looking hopefully at the latest developments, Afghan political watchers believe that the steadfast attitude of the United States and China to deliver peace will bolster the overall multilateral efforts in this regard.”

- **March 14, 2016 – News Analysis: Despite Taliban's refusal, Pakistani, Afghan officials keep hopes for talks alive** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “It is not only Afghanistan, but Pakistan and other members of the quadrilateral process of Pakistan including Afghanistan, China and the United States are unanimous in believing that there should be no preconditions for the dialogue.”

- **March 15, 2016 – Statement by Ambassador LIU Jieyi at the Security Council Debate on the Situation in Afghanistan** ([Chinese Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “China supports the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. China has actively participated in the Quadrilateral Coordination Group of Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States of America in an effort to create an enabling external environment and to help the Government work out a practicable road map for reconciliation. China is ready to join all parties in continuing to play a constructive role in pushing the reconciliation and reconstruction process in Afghanistan forward, and in helping to bring about the timely attainment of lasting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan.”

- **March 17, 2016 – Feature: Kenyan youth lives back on track thanks to China-funded railway** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “In November 2013, the Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta laid the foundation stone for the construction of the railway line in Mombasa that will connect the coastal city with the Kenyan capital Nairobi. [...] The railway is being built by the state-owned China Road and Bridge Corporation. Work is expected to be completed by 2017.”



• **March 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve been clear on what our position is on Assad. And I’ll just restate it again: That we continue to believe that Assad cannot be part of the future of Syria and that we need a government in place in Syria that does not have Bashar al-Assad at its head. We’ve also said that whatever that government looks like and how it should – how it’s formed has got to be – those have to be decisions made by the Syrian people, which is why we think it’s so important to get the opposition together with the regime. We want to see these talks resume [...] But for the United States, our position is that future cannot include Bashar al-Assad.”

• **March 7, 2016 – Remarks by Lisa O. Monaco at the Council on Foreign Relations - Kenneth A. Moskow Memorial Lecture** ([White House](#))

Quote: “The United States has built a broad coalition of 66 international partners. We’re sharing vital intelligence. We’re training, equipping, and empowering partners on the ground in Syria and Iraq. Together with our international partners, we’re working through the political process to diminish the terrible violence in Syria. The current cessation of hostilities provides an opportunity to move that process forward, even as we continue to isolate and hammer ISIL. And we are hammering ISIL on the ground through direct action, our third pillar. In Iraq and Syria, coalition forces have conducted almost 11,000 precision airstrikes on ISIL.”

• **March 8, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Q: I also wanted to ask you about the IRGC and some ballistic missile tests in Iran. Does the U.S. see that as a violation of U.N. sanctions? I know you have continued to sanction the ballistic missiles program, even as the nuclear deal goes forward, but can you talk about what this speaks to the broader state of trying to dissuade Iran from some of these dangerous actions?”

A: But our longstanding concerns with Iran’s ballistic missile program have been well chronicled. And even earlier this year, the United States put in place sanctions against Iran because of their ballistic missile activity. But we’ll review this particular incident, review this particular launch to determine what the appropriate response is.”

• **March 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: What is behind the Chinese government's decision to appoint the Special Envoy for the Syrian issue?”

A: As a permanent member of the Security Council, China has been making positive and constructive efforts in pushing for a proper settlement of the Syrian issue. China believes that political settlement represents the only way out of the Syrian issue and the UN should play a leading role in this regard. [...] By appointing the Special Envoy for the Syrian issue, China is to better promote peace talks and negotiations, contribute Chinese wisdom and proposals, and enhance communication and coordination with relevant parties more effectively, so that China can continue to play a constructive role in seeking a final proper settlement of the Syrian issue.”



**• March 9, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: One, so you’ve seen the reports of the new missile test today [of Iran], including one that apparently had “Israel must be wiped off the Earth” or something written on it? What do you make of that?”

A: We’re going to take a look at it and we’ll take whatever appropriate response is necessary, either at the UN or unilaterally. And obviously, without being able to confirm these – the graffiti on them about Israel – I can’t confirm that independently, but obviously we condemn all threats to Israel, and we stand – will stand with Israel to help it defend itself against all kinds of threats.”

**• March 9, 2016 – Interview With Lisa Laflamme of CTV**" ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Well, Iran knows that under the United Nations Security Council, that is a violation. And in addition, under the agreement that we reached, we kept the embargo in place with respect to the missile launches for eight years. So it’s also, while not a violation of the nuclear agreement, it’s a violation of the concept that was embraced within it. So undoubtedly, if confirmed – and we’re doing the homework to make certain that everybody knows what they’re talking about – this will invite, I’m confident, additional measures by the United States and perhaps by others.”

**• March 11, 2016 – Statement on Iranian Ballistic Missile Launches** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The United States is deeply concerned about Iran’s recent ballistic missile launches, which are provocative and destabilizing. Moreover, Iranian military leaders have reportedly claimed these missiles are designed to be a direct threat to Israel. We condemn such threats against another UN Member State and one of our closest allies. UN Security Council Resolution 2231 calls upon Iran not to undertake any launches of ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering a nuclear weapon. We will raise these dangerous launches directly at Council consultations, which we have called for, on Monday. These launches underscore the need to work with partners around the world to slow and degrade Iran’s missile program. We will therefore continue to insist on full implementation of Resolution 2231, which expressly prohibits third-party support to Iran’s ballistic missile program, as we also consider our appropriate national response.”



• **March 12, 2016 – Remarks With Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We really focused very intently on Syria and all agree on the importance of getting to the talks where the substance of transition, the transitional government, takes place as soon as possible. We emphasized together the need to get more humanitarian assistance flowing and we particularly are concerned about allegations of violations by the Assad regime itself even as recently as yesterday, which need to be resolved in order to keep the process moving I would emphasize that we both seek a future in Syria without Bashar al-Assad.” [...] On Libya, we all agreed on the urgency of getting the government in place, and we agreed to take very specific steps, which I’m not going to go into in detail, in order to try to facilitate the return of a government to Libya, get the Government of National Accord in place, and begin to rebuild government capacity.”

• **March 14, 2016 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on Iran** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The United States was particularly troubled by reports that Iranian military leaders have claimed these missiles are designed to be a direct threat to Israel. We condemn such threats against one of our closest allies and another UN Member State. Beyond just destabilizing the region, these launches were also in defiance of provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the resolution that came into effect on January 16, on Implementation Day for the JCPOA. In that resolution, as you all know, Iran was “called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.” Iran, however, continues to act as if this Council has not spoken on the matter [...] We will continue to push in the Security Council in the 2231 format, bring forward the technical information – that Iran itself has made public – showing that the technology they used is inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons and thus inherently defying Resolution 2231.”

• **March 14, 2016 – Remarks by the President at Chief of Missions Conference** ([White House](#))

Quote: “In Africa, with its enormous economic and human potential, we’re going to continue to work with partners to increase trade and investment, lift people out of -- into the middle class, expand access to electricity through Power Africa, and support strong democratic institutions. Across these regions, we’ve got to keep forging partnerships that empower young people, entrepreneurs, students through programs like 100,000 Strong in the Americas, or the Young Leaders of the Americas, or YALI in Africa, or YSEALI in Southeast Asia.”



**• March 15, 2016 – Remarks at the UN Security Council Debate on Afghanistan**

(U.S. Mission to the UN)

Quote: “Today, I would like to briefly touch on three key areas: the ongoing toll on the civilian population; actions that must be taken to ensure economic and political progress; and the importance of the Council’s action to renew the mandate of UNAMA [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan], which continues to play a critical role in guiding the government through this difficult period [...] we continue to believe that outreach from the government to all major segments of society is critical as those who feel excluded are more likely to undermine the unity government and foster greater instability [...]we welcome the support from regional partners to advance this Afghan-led and Afghan-owned initiative and we will continue to work through the Quadrilateral Coordination Group to do our part to advance the peace process. On the economic front, we welcome President Ghani’s efforts to increase regional connectivity. We also commend the government for significantly increased revenue collection in 2015 [...] We agree with the Tripartite Review Commission’s assessment that Afghanistan continues to demand significant international assistance; it’s essential for the country to achieve political and economic stability and security. UNAMA is representative of our common resolve to be Afghanistan’s partner. With the renewal of UNAMA’s mandate, this Council will once again demonstrate its collective commitment to Afghanistan and to the Afghan people.”

**• March 15, 2016 – Remarks With Georgian Foreign Minister Mikheil Janelidze**

(State Department)

Quote: “But today, as we mark the fifth anniversary of the start of this horrific war, we may face the best opportunity that we’ve had in years to end it. The cessation of hostilities has obviously not been perfect [...] But it’s also clear that the violence in Syria is down, very significantly reduced. And access to humanitarian assistance is up, though it still could be increased even further [...] We know that despite the progress that we’ve made, despite the reductions in violence and the increases in humanitarian assistance and relief, lasting peace will be impossible without a genuine political transition.”





• **March 15, 2016 – Joint Press Availability with French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, and Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Witness the comments made just yesterday by the foreign minister of Syria, clearly trying to disrupt the process, clearly trying to send a message of deterrence to others [...] But the fact is that his strongest sponsors, Iran and Russia, have both adopted at the United Nations in support of the – at the United Nations and in the Vienna communique and the Munich meetings an approach which dictates that there must be a political transition and that we must move towards a presidential election at some point in time [...] The Syrian people strongly support the cessation of hostilities because it has made their lives better [...] In the long run, the only way to actually end this challenge of refugees is to end the Syrian Civil War. And that is also to cut the – to engage in the best method to destroy Daesh [...] I want to express for the part of the United States and the rest of us the strong support for Prime Minister al-Sarraj and the new Government of National Accord. We urge members of the Libyan Political Dialogue who reaffirmed their support for the new prime minister and the Presidency Council to move rapidly to Tripoli. And we call on all Libyan public institutions to facilitate a peaceful and orderly handover of power so that Libya’s new leaders can begin to govern from Libya’s capital.”

• **March 17, 2016 – Remarks on Daesh and Genocide** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “My purpose in appearing before you today is to assert that, in my judgment, Daesh is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control, including Yazidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims. Daesh is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions – in what it says, what it believes, and what it does [...] Part of our response to Daesh must, of course, be to destroy it by military force [...] So we must bear in mind, after all, that the best response to genocide is a reaffirmation of the fundamental right to survive of every group targeted for destruction [...] Now, that is not easy; we know that. As President Obama and I have consistently said – it won’t happen overnight.”



• **March 21, 2016 – Remarks at a UN Security Council Open Debate on Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The United States has historically been a strong partner of all four of these countries [Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi], as it has been for others in the region. These partnerships are not tied to any particular individual leader, but to the people in these countries. This has been evident in our longstanding aid programs, our efforts to encourage stability, and our commitment to institution building. It is evident too in our strong support for the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Trade in Minerals, which we hope will enable supply chain solutions that encourage the legitimate trade of natural resources. All four of the leaders I’ve mentioned today have led their countries through extraordinarily difficult times. But the choices they make now will determine whether their countries’ gains are sustained, and how they themselves will be remembered decades from now.”

• **March 24, 2016 – Treasury Sanctions Supporters of Iran's Ballistic Missile Program and Terrorism-Designated Mahan Air** ([Treasury Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated entities and individuals for supporting Iran’s ballistic missile program and U.S.-designated Iranian airline Mahan Air [...] Today’s designations reflect the United States’ steadfast commitment to countering Iran’s ongoing development of ballistic missiles and its support for terrorism.”

• **March 25, 2016 – Interview With Terry Moran of ABC** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: How much is what’s happening here, the problem with terrorism here, threatening Americans?”

A: Well, the problem with terrorism is threatening everybody in the world. And most of it is coming out of the Middle East. Most of it is coming out of Syria, out of the region with a combination of ISIL/Daesh and al-Qaida and a few other groups. That is significantly the consequence of what has been happening in Syria over the course of the last five years. And you can point to one person predominantly who is perpetuating it – his name is Assad.”



**• March 26, 2016 – Weekly Address: Defeating ISIL** ([White House](#))

Quote: “More broadly, we’re going to continue to root out and defeat ISIL. We’ve been taking out ISIL leadership, and this week, we removed one of their top leaders from the battlefield – permanently. A relentless air campaign – and support for forces in Iraq and Syria who are fighting ISIL on the ground – has allowed us to take approximately forty percent of the populated territory that ISIL once held in Iraq. We’re supporting Iraqi Security Forces who are beginning to put pressure on the ISIL stronghold of Mosul. And we will not stop until ISIL’s safe-havens are destroyed. We’re also working to disrupt plots against the United States and against our friends and allies. A team of FBI agents is on the ground in Belgium supporting the investigation. [...] Secretary Kerry is leading an international effort to bring the Syrian civil war to an end, a critical piece of restoring stability to that war-torn part of the world. And next week, dozens of world leaders will come here to Washington for a summit focused on nuclear security. We’ll use that opportunity to also review our joint efforts against ISIL, and to make sure the world remains united in this effort to protect our people.”

**• March 26, 2016 – Interview With CBS Face the Nation's John Dickerson** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: You’ve been working with the Russians on a cessation of violence in Syria. How long till Assad is out of power, which is a U.S. goal?”

A: Well, I can’t tell you that, but if Assad is not going to move to the side and cede to the transition that Iran and Russia and all the other nations in the international security group have called for and supported – if he doesn’t do that, there will not be peace in Syria.”

**• March 28, 2016 – Remarks at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: the Role of Women in Conflict Prevention and Resolutions in Africa** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “It is undeniable that some progress on the women, peace, and security agenda has been made across Africa since the adoption of resolution 1325 in 2000. We appreciate the efforts of the 18 African countries which have developed National Action Plans that seek to institutionalize the greater participation of women throughout government and society. But there is still much work to be done. I would like to suggest three areas where we should redouble our efforts: first, in helping women overcome systemic obstacles to political participation; second, in addressing gender-based violence; and, third, in translating the women, peace, and security norms established by this Council into concrete success in the real world.”



• **March 28, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Q: Do attacks like these point to our success or failure in the war against terror in the Middle East?”

A: Well, I don’t think that you can point to one specific event and draw broader conclusions about our overall efforts to stamp out extremism around the globe. I think [...] an indication of important progress, but the President’s key understanding here is that our success is going to depend upon the ability of our partners around the globe to take action to protect their own countries and to fight extremism in their own countries. [...] cannot be the world’s policeman, but our national security is going to depend on the ability of our partners to protect their own countries. And that’s why the United States is going to be very supportive of the Pakistani government as they confront the threat from extremism. And they’re not going to do that at our urging. Again, they recognize that it is their own citizens who are being victimized by these atrocious acts of terrorism.”

• **March 30, 2016 – On the Libyan Government of National Accord** ([State Department](#))

Quote : “The Libyan people, supported by the United States and our partners in the international community, have worked toward this moment for nearly two years. The Government of National Accord can now begin the crucial work of addressing the full range of Libya’s political, security, economic, and humanitarian challenges [...] We reiterate calls by the Libyan Political Dialogue and the international community for all Libyan public institutions to facilitate and support a peaceful and orderly transition in the capital, and we urge all Libyans to support the Government of National Accord.”

• **March 30, 2016 – Remarks at a Press Availability Following President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's Inauguration as President of the Central African Republic** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “And I just want to reassure the people of Central Africa that the United States is here to stay and we view today’s inauguration as unlocking a new phase in the U.S. relationship with the Central African Republic. We’re together, we support you as you seek to take on those challenges I mentioned earlier – to enhance security, to end corruption, to fight impunity, and to ensure that your generation’s children can live with the kind of security, dignity, and opportunity that too many Central African Republic citizens have been denied for too.”



• **March 30, 2016 – Remarks on “Crafting Peace by the Way We Live Our Lives” at a Reception Honoring President Faustin-Archange Touadéra** ([U.S. Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The fact that we have representatives as esteemed as the Secretary of the Navy, the head of AFRICOM, on the security side; and then that we also have our USAID leader for the continent of Africa on the development and humanitarian side, shows you the knitting that is going to need to happen here, across multiple sectors, in order to take advantage of the promise of this amazing day and this amazing moment [...] We have the chance to support brave people who have taken the country this far. I think the fact that they have taken it this far with the help of many actors in the international community and, above all – with the help of great leadership from citizens of this country – throws the spotlight back on the international community. We now have to put our heads together. We have to prioritize among so many challenges. And we have to recognize that maybe the hardest part of all is what starts tomorrow morning. It’s easy to get overwhelmed by the extent of the challenges here, but the amazing thing I think about the Central African Republic is just a modest investment of resources can go so far.”

• **March 30, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Q: Now we’ve had Paris, you had Brussels, so on and so forth. And there’s been progress, as you’ve noted. But in terms, fundamentally, does the President think that there has to be a significant ground military troop component to ultimately destroy ISIS that’s not there now?”

A: Well, our strategy when it comes to making military progress against ISIL — and recognize that’s just one component of our strategy, but clearly a very important one. That strategy has rested upon the notion that we need to build the capacity of fighters inside those countries to fight the security situation in their own country.”



## Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Urges China to Participate in Tribunals to Settle South China Sea Disputes, Continues to Argue Crimea Belongs to Ukraine; China Justifies Placing of Military Equipment in Nansha Islands and Refuses Multilateral Settings for Negotiations on Territorial Issues in South China Sea

United States	China
<p>• <b>March 1, 2016 – Remarks on “Securing the Oceans, the Internet, and Space: Protecting the Domains that Drive Prosperity” (The Commonwealth Club of California)</b> (<a href="#">Department of Defense</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “That’s why the United States joins virtually every nation in the region in being deeply concerned about the artificial island construction and militarization in the South China Sea, including steps, especially by China, as it has taken most recently, by placing anti-access systems and military aircraft on a disputed island. These activities have the potential to increase the risk of miscalculation and conflict among claimant states. President Xi stated in Washington a few months ago that China would not do this. China must not pursue militarization in the South China Sea. Specific actions will have specific consequences.”</p> <p>• <b>March 15, 2016 – Joint Press Availability with French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, and Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “And we reviewed the situation in Ukraine [...] Russia faces a choice between continuing economically damaging sanctions and fully meeting its obligations under Minsk. And I think Moscow is very well aware of what it needs to do, and our message today is one that we are united in our determination to continue to be supportive of Ukraine, to protect its sovereignty and its integrity, at the same time as we proffer to Russia the opportunity to work with us to fully implement Minsk and move to stabilize that region.”</p> <p>• <b>March 17, 2016 – Remarks on “Crimea Was, Is, and Will Remain Part of Ukraine,” at an Event on the Second Anniversary of the Adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution, “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine”</b> (<a href="#">U.S. Mission to the UN</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “The passage of time does not change the facts; Crimea was, is, and must and will remain part of sovereign Ukraine – and we refuse to accept Russia’s attempt to use force and to use propaganda to alter that fact. That means we cannot allow ourselves to get used to a new normal, a world in which one of five permanent members of the Security Council – a body whose primary responsibility is maintaining international peace and security – where one of the permanent members itself becomes the source of threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another UN Member State.”</p>	<p>• <b>March 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “I want to stress that China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands including Wufang Jiao and the adjacent waters. China is willing to work with ASEAN countries to continue to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and uphold peace and stability of the South China Sea.[...] Chinese side urges the US side to stop the hype, stop the sensationalization that misleads the public, and stop threatening words and deeds.”</p> <p>• <b>March 9, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “Q: Why doesn’t China allow foreign journalists to visit its South China Sea islands and reefs? What is the purpose of China’s construction on the islands and reefs?”</p> <p>A: In building defense facilities on our own islands and reefs, China is exercising its right to self-preservation under international law. China is not the first country to have deployed weapons in the Nansha, we are not the country that has deployed the most weapons, and we are not the country that conducts the most frequent military activities. China cannot be accused of “militarization [...] When the construction is completed and the condition is ripe, we will consider inviting foreign journalists to visit the islands and reefs [...] China was the first country to discover, name, develop and administer the South China Sea island [ ...] so we know and love the place more than anyone else. And more than anyone else, we want to uphold peace, stability and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea [...] Now, some people are trying to make waves, some others are showing off force. However, like the tide that comes and goes, these attempts will not make any impact.”</p> <p>• <b>March 10, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “If the Philippines is meant to challenge China’s sovereignty and security interests, it will be met with firm opposition from the Chinese side.”</p>



• **March 18, 2016 – Opening Remarks at the U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “An arbitral tribunal in the Hague will soon announce its ruling in the Philippines’ case under the Law of the Sea Convention signed and ratified by all South China Sea claimant states. This use of international arbitration is an example of how SCS claimants, and any country, can use established mechanisms of international law to peacefully and fairly resolve thorny disputes. The question of jurisdiction has been resolved by the appropriate authorities. Therefore, the decision of the tribunal will be legally binding on the parties [...] The United States will continue to work with all our partners in the region to uphold these important principles of international law. We will work to uphold a rules-based order in the South China Sea that protects the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea guaranteed to all nations.”

• **March 22, 2016 – Q&A at "Looking East - Trend Lines in the Asia Pacific"** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Each one of us wants to have good relations with China [...] Look, the Chinese are fond of saying that the Pacific is big enough for both of us. What that does not mean is that they can draw a line in the center of the Pacific and say you stay on the east and we’ll have control over everything west of the Nine-Dash Line. That’s unacceptable. The organizing principle, as I said, has to be international law and global norms. There is no right that the United States exercises in Asia or in the South China Sea that we do not also accord to China. That’s what rules mean. They apply equally to everyone [...] The fact that the South China Sea is closer to China than it is to the United States isn’t really the issue. All the islands in the Spratlys are a lot closer to the Philippines and Malaysia than they are to China.”

• **March 10, 2016 – Commentary: Muddling the waters in South China Sea doomed to fail** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China is not the first country to deploy weapons on the Nansha Islands nor has deployed the most weapons, not even the one that has conducted the most frequent military activities. China cannot be accused of militarization. The label is more suited to some other countries.”

• **March 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Remarks on Resumption of Diplomatic Ties between China and Gambia** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: Q: “Gambia severed its “diplomatic ties” with Taiwan as early as 2013. Why does China choose to restore its diplomatic ties with Gambia now? Does this amount to a warning to the leader-elect of Taiwan? Will the mainland seek to establish or restore diplomatic ties with more countries that have “diplomatic relations” with Taiwan?”

A: “The restoration of diplomatic ties between China and Gambia targets no one. We adhere to the one-China principle [...] It is known to all that there is only one China in the world. Both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same China. China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity brook no division. The Chinese government seeks friendly cooperative ties with all countries around the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and the one-China principle. We follow the one-China principle in dealing with issues related to Taiwan’s external relations.”

• **March 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China always adheres to resolving territorial disputes and maritime jurisdiction disputes with neighboring countries through negotiation and consultation. On issues concerning territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, China does not accept any dispute settlement approach of unilaterally resorting to a third party. The Philippine side neglected its agreement with China on resolving the South China Sea dispute through bilateral negotiations, went against the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and abused the arbitration procedures of the UNCLOS. Therefore, the South China Sea arbitration case unilaterally initiated and obstinately pushed forward by the Philippine side is illegal and invalid. We have been saying repeatedly that this illegal arbitration, regardless of its result, will not be binding on China at all.”



• **March 22, 2016 – Remarks at "Looking East - Trend Lines in the Asia Pacific"** ([State Department](#))

Q: "China has chosen to build seven advanced outposts on top of these fragile coral reefs using thousands of acres of landfill and tons of concrete with state-of-the-art ports and runways and other significant military facilities [...] So the question is why? Particularly in light of its pledge not to militarize its outposts [...] Another argument I've heard is to safeguard freedom of navigation. But it's pretty hard to argue that you're safeguarding freedom of navigation when your military radio operators challenge a ship or a plane from a neighboring country and say hey, you've got to get out of here, even though it's international space. So we're faced with a real paradox [...] The tribunal, an arbitration tribunal that has been convened under the Law of the Sea Convention which is a treaty that all of the claimants in the Asia-Pacific region have both signed and ratified, this tribunal is expected to make a decision on a case that was brought by the Philippines [...] What the tribunal will do is to make some important decisions about the maritime space, not the land, but the sea -- and some important decisions about the rights that claimants have to the sea. But regardless of how this tribunal ultimately rules, I'd say there are three important things to note here. Number one, the decision will be binding on both China and the Philippines."

• **March 24, 2016 – Remarks With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "The United States remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that includes Crimea. As President Obama reiterated in his recent call with President Putin, and as I underscored in our meeting today, our position is clear and we agree with Sergey Lavrov and Russia that the Minsk agreements must be fully implemented without delay [...] I reinforced President Obama's pledge to roll back sanctions when all of the provisions of Minsk are complete, including the withdrawal of all weapons and fighters and the return of Ukraine's sovereign border [...] In closing, we all know that there have been some differences between the United States and Russia in these past years, but it is precisely discussions like those that we had today that lead to a better set of outcomes."

• **March 18, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: Q: "Today the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology published its review on high school textbooks, which state that Diaoyu Dao is Japanese territory. How does China respond to this?"

A: "It is an indisputable fact that China exerts inherent sovereignty on Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands. China's position is always clear and consistent. The Japanese textbooks issue is actually all about whether Japan can see and deal with its past history of aggression in a right way. We believe that the Japanese side should face up to the history, educate the younger generation with a right view on history, and win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community through tangible moves."

• **March 18, 2016 – China's presence in Indian Ocean legitimate, military expert says** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "China's decision to send a nuclear submarine into the area simply demonstrates the country's commitment to protecting its legitimate rights, according to Yin."

• **March 21, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: Q: "It is reported that the Indonesian government summoned the Chinese ambassador to Indonesia today and complained that a Chinese coast guard vessel had infringed upon the Indonesian waters when being involved in a dispute between a Chinese fishing vessel and Indonesian coast guards."

A: "On March 19, after the relevant fishing vessel was attacked and harassed by an armed Indonesian ship, a Chinese coast guard ship went to assist and did not enter the Indonesian territorial waters [...] It is hoped that the Indonesian side would bear in mind the general picture of bilateral relations and properly handle this incident. Indonesia has no territorial claims over the Nansha Islands. Natuna Islands belong to Indonesia, and there is no objection from China on that. Maritime disputes between the two countries should be properly handled through bilateral negotiation."





• **March 29, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: A quick follow-up. The CNO also recently talked about Chinese activities near Scarborough Shoal, which is fairly closed to -- (inaudible) -- Bay. What's -- what's going on at that facility?”

A: The United States continues not to take sides in these disputes, these territorial claims, but we do encourage and ask all players to -- to pursue a legal and diplomatic solution to these -- to these controversies, to these issues. We continue to maintain that.”

• **March 30, 2016 – Press Call Previewing the Nuclear Security Summit** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Q: And then on the bilateral with President Xi, last time he was here he pretty blatantly promised that there would be no more militarization on the South China Sea. Is President Obama going to call him out on that in light of recent Chinese activity there? How will he approach that issue? Thanks.

A: On the South China Sea, I'd just say that we once again reiterated the principles that we would uphold as it relates to maritime disputes in the South China Sea — most recently at Sunnyslands. Non-militarization was certainly one of those principles, along with the peaceful resolution of disputes, support for resolving the issues consistent with international law. That's not to single out China. That's a principle that we would support as it relates to any country. And we'll be very clear where we believe that there is behavior that is counter to those principles, just as we're very clear in our own interests in promoting international principles like freedom of navigation.”

• **March 21, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The US-Philippines cooperation should not target a third party, even less jeopardize the sovereign and security interests of other countries or affect regional peace and stability. I also want to mention that the US military has kept talking about the so-called militarization in the South China Sea. Maybe they can explain whether their increased military deployment in the South China Sea and nearby areas is an action of militarization or not?”

• **March 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to media reports of the Philippines, a captain of a Philippine fishing vessel said that his ship was twice warned and driven away by Chinese coast guard vessels while fishing around Huangyan Dao in early March.”

A: Huangyan Dao is China's inherent territory. Some Philippine fishing vessels have recently been engaged in illegal actions in waters off China's Huangyan Dao [...] Chinese official vessels, acting in line with law, persuaded illegal Philippine fishing vessels to leave this area. But the Philippine ships refused to obey, and some people aboard even waved around machetes and flung fire bombs, carried out deliberate provocation, and attacked the Chinese law enforcers and official boats. These actions defied China's law enforcement and seriously threatened the safety and order of the waters off Huangyan Dao. China has no other choice but to strengthen supervision in waters off Huangyan Dao to uphold sovereignty as well as safety and order in the relevant waters.”

Q: US Assistant Secretary of State Daniel R. Russel said that the arbitration case in the South China Sea initiated by the Philippines was a good example showing that claimants in the South China Sea or any country could use the current mechanism of international law to solve problems’

A: The Philippines stubbornly initiated and forced forward the South China Sea arbitration case, and such action is unlawful, unfaithful and unreasonable. It is clearly the result of behind-the-scenes instigation and political maneuvering. As for this action that deploys legal tools to serve political purposes, China is certainly not going to humor it. It is interesting that the US cannot stop talking about the arbitration case and UNCLOS. If the US really wants to uphold order and stability in the South China Sea, why hasn't it joined UNCLOS yet?”



• **March 22, 2016 – Commentary: It’s not wise for Japan to seek international arbitration over the East China Sea dispute** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China has stated that the consensus must not violate China’s sovereignty and jurisdiction in the region. China is not willing to shift its stance toward the proposed demarcation of the region, and refuses the “middle line” being advocated by Japan. However, Japan continues to deny China’s sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Chunxiao gas field.”

• **March 24, 2016 – Cross-Strait Chinese share responsibility to protect Nansha Islands: FM** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: ““China will take Nansha Islands as a whole to claim maritime rights,” Hua said, reaffirming China’s resolute opposition against the Philippines’ attempt to unilaterally deny China’s territory sovereignty and maritime rights by arbitration.”

• **March 24, 2016 – PLA’s theater commands adjustment & establishment accomplished** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “What’s ridiculous about this U.S.-Philippines strategic dialogue is that even as both sides voice strong opinions against militarization of the South China Sea, both sides are also agreeing to open more military bases in the region. Both countries even explicitly acknowledged the goal of expanding U.S. military presence in the area. Such a double standard is unacceptable.”



• **March 25, 2016 – China Remains Committed to Peaceful Settlement of Disputes in the South China Sea through Negotiations and Consultations** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “In recent times, peace and stability in the South China Sea have been affected, more or less, by certain negative factors: Some countries are making unilateral provocations at sea to impose their claims on China; a certain country, using the application of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as a pretext, has initiated arbitration procedures against China to negate China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, without any good will to settle disputes, some countries from outside the region have stepped up political and military intervention in the South China Sea out of their own strategic interests, which has heightened tension in the region and made the situation even more complicated. [...] China is convinced that negotiation is the fundamental way to resolve disputes over territory and maritime delimitation [...] Some people may argue that bilateral negotiations are no more than a cover for China to bully smaller countries and advance its own claims. Is that really the case? The answer is NO [...] Some claim that multilateral negotiations offer a better way out. But frankly, this view doesn't hold water. In international practice, apart from post-war arrangements, there has hardly been any case where complicated and sensitive territorial and maritime disputes got resolved through multilateral negotiations. [...] Some countries like to bring up the South China Sea issue on multilateral forums. Their real purpose is not to resolve the issue, but to play it up. [...] China's position of resolving disputes through bilateral negotiations is supported by many successful precedents. We strongly believe that among the various ways of international dispute resolution, peaceful settlement through negotiations is the best approach, as it complies with the principle of sovereign equality and is most effective in practice. For the above reasons, China firmly opposes the arbitration case brought by the Philippines, which is nothing but an act of imposition without prior consultation.”



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