

# COMMENT

## Editorials

### Washington playing devious blame game with violating Geneva agreement claims

The United States administration's latest salvo of attacks accusing China of “violating” the agreement reached in the recent Geneva meeting between the two sides is slyly manipulative.

Rather than “totally violating the agreement”, as US President Donald Trump claimed in a post on his Truth Social platform on Friday evening, without specifying how, or “slow-rolling” the agreement, as US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick alleged in an interview with Fox News on Sunday, China has fully complied with the agreement to slash the high tariffs on US goods for 90 days after the talks between top officials from the two sides in Geneva.

Following the joint statement on May 12, China has canceled or suspended relevant tariff and non-tariff measures against the US’ “reciprocal tariffs” in accordance with the consensus the two sides reached in Geneva.

A letter from the Alliance for Automotive Innovation to the White House may have prompted the US administration to falsely accuse China of not honoring the agreement.

The AAI is frustrated by what it considers to be China's foot-dragging on approving export licences for rare earths and other elements that are essential for cars, especially electric ones, and chips.

That has prompted the US government to initiate its manipulative blame game, with Trump's deputy chief of staff, Stephen Miller, telling reporters that China's failure to fulfil its obligations “opens up all manner of action for the United States to ensure future compliance”.

On Wednesday, a spokesperson for the US Department of Commerce confirmed that it was reviewing exports of strategic significance to China, and in some cases suspending existing export licences or imposing additional licence requirements while a review is pending.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce fired back by issuing a statement pointing out that it is Washington that has successively introduced a number of discriminatory restrictive measures against China since the Geneva talks.

These include export controls on artificial intelligence chips, curbs on the sale of chip design software, and the revoking of visas for Chinese students in the US.

And a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that China is committed to keeping global industry and supply chains stable, and it stands ready to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on export controls with relevant countries and regions.

It is the US that has seriously undermined the existing consensus of the Geneva meeting, and seriously damaged the goodwill generated. In doing so, the US side has unilaterally provoked new economic and trade frictions, exacerbating the uncertainty and instability of bilateral economic and trade relations.

Other economies should be clear-eyed that the US is trying to manipulate the consensus into shackles that it intends to impose on China by only highlighting the other side's commitments and ignoring its own obligations, a practice it will no doubt apply to other agreements, not just the one reached with China.

Ridiculously and predictably, instead of trying to build on the positive momentum generated by the talks in Geneva to meet each other halfway, the US administration has tried to manipulate the agreement by trying to make it a zero-sum game.

While faithfully honoring its commitments in the agreement, China will resolutely safeguard its rights and interests, and will never submit to the US’ coercive practices.

The Joint Statement on China-US Economic and Trade Meeting in Geneva, which is an important consensus reached by the two sides under the principle of mutual respect and equal consultation, was hard-won and should be cherished.

The US side should stop trying to exploit the agreement and instead work with China to build on the achievements of the Geneva meeting to reach a comprehensive agreement that promotes the healthy, stable and sustainable development of China-US economic and trade relations.

Like before, the United States used this year's Shangri-La Dialogue, held in Singapore over the weekend, as a platform to vilify China and promote discord in Asia, with US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth delivering a speech hyping up a “China threat”.

But in claiming that China's “aggression” needed to be deterred, and detailing the US’ moves to do so, Hegseth only exacerbated the region's unease at his assertion the US “is back”. His long list of the ways in which the US is militarizing the region does not accord with the region's “vision of peace and stability, of prosperity and security”, as he claimed.

That vision is one founded on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which were born in Asia, and which are completely at odds with the hegemonic practices of the US.

Today, as President Xi Jinping said in his speech marking their 70th anniversary, these principles are being carried forward in the vision of a community with a shared future, which opens up new prospects for peace and progress.

But rather than the baton of history being passed from generation to generation, and the cause of human progress moving forward from one era to another, Hegseth's speech showed the US clings to an outdated approach rooted in Cold War mentality.

In painting a distorted picture of China's relations with its neighbors, and ignoring the US’ own culpability for trouble-making in the region, Hegseth unintentionally rang alarm bells about the US creating a conflict in the region in the same manner it has done elsewhere.

As a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, “The US has deployed offensive weaponry in the South China Sea and kept stoking flames and creating tensions in the Asia-Pacific, which are turning the region into a powder keg and making countries in the region deeply concerned.”

Hegseth's emphasis on the “warrior ethos” was incredibly insensitive and deeply troubling to a region that suffered from the aggression of Japan in embracing such an ethos.

The US, with its previous Asia rebalancing strategy and current “Indo-Pacific” strategy,

has become both a trouble-maker which preys on the regional disputes and a major destabilizing factor threatening regional peace and stability.

While other parts of the world have been mired in conflicts one after another in recent years, the Asia-Pacific region has by and large maintained peace and development, which would not have been achieved without China's significant contribution.

Yet to maintain the US’ global hegemony, successive US administrations have framed China as a strategic rival and mounted multi-faceted campaigns against it. Hegseth's baseless accusations, including his wrong remarks on Taiwan and the South China Sea, only seek to further the US’ agenda in its “priority theater”. His anti-China rhetoric drives home the message that the US is back in the region, but only for itself.

Obsessed with an exclusive security perception, the US has been constantly meddling in the Taiwan question and South China Sea disputes in a bid to apply pressure on China by threatening its core interests and trying to sabotage its external security environment. In doing so, the US poses a severe threat to regional peace and stability. If the US continues walking this dangerous path, it will leave China with no choice but to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in a more resolute way.

The US should know that the Taiwan question, which is at the core of China's core interests, is China's internal affair and brooks no external interference. No matter what tricks the US plays with die-hard separatists in Taiwan, the People's Liberation Army will resolutely foil all “Taiwan independence” separatist schemes and any external interference.

Bullying and intimidation cannot force China to back off, and testing China's bottom line would lead to serious consequences.

If the US really cares about peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region, it should join hands with China and other regional countries to carry forward the baton of peace and development, and work with them to build an Asian security model by recognizing the region as a community with a shared future.



## Opinion Line

### Improving Afghan-Pakistani ties result of efforts to promote peace

The interim government in Afghanistan has welcomed the decision of Pakistan to elevate its diplomatic mission in Kabul to ambassadorial status, the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement late Saturday evening, according to a Xinhua report.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan welcomes the decision of the government of Pakistan to upgrade the level of its diplomatic mission in Kabul to that of an ambassador,” the ministry's deputy spokesman Hafiz Zia Ahmad posted on X.

On Friday, Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar announced the decision, adding that relations between the two countries had taken a positive turn since his visit to Kabul in April. Reports showed Kabul had also elevated its diplomatic mission in Islamabad to full ambassadorial status.

This development came following the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral dialogue in Beijing on May 21. In the meeting attended by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and Dar, they spoke highly of the outcomes of the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan trilateral dialogue.

China has played an important role in bringing the two neighbors together so they could make joint efforts to repair their ties based on mutual respect. The foreign ministers had agreed that the three countries should enhance political mutual trust and uphold friendly relations.

China welcomes this progress and stands ready to continue helping improve Afghanistan-Pakistan relations.

The three neighbors have also agreed to promote the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into Afghanistan and improve regional connectivity and infrastructure development.

As Wang said, China and Pakistan support Afghanistan's reconstruction, and are willing to increase trade to help enhance its self-development capabilities.

That serves to pave the way for broader regional common development. The countries also agreed to enforce the law and carry out security cooperation.

As Wang said, they need to remain vigilant against external interference in regional countries' internal affairs so that they can keep their relations and cooperation on the right track of development, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability.

In fact, China has made consistent efforts to broker a rapprochement between the two neighbors ever since their relations soured in 2021 due to disputes over combating terrorism.

During Premier Li Qiang's official visit to Pakistan in October, Afghanistan-related topics were already on the agenda.

In a joint statement, both sides had called for concerted efforts of the international community to encourage the interim Afghan government to build an inclusive political framework, adopt moderate policies and pursue good-neighborly policies.

The two sides called for strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism at the bilateral and multilateral levels to support Afghanistan in taking comprehensive measures to eradicate terrorism. They also called on the Afghan government to take visible and verifiable actions to dismantle and eliminate all terrorist groups there and prevent the use of Afghan territory against its neighbors and in the region and beyond.

It is fair to add here that the recent conflict between Pakistan and India, triggered by terrorists killing Indian tourists in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, has prompted Beijing to step up efforts to help them mend ties, as well as to promote the common development of the whole region.

China has always been a doer, not a talker, when it comes to promoting peace and development in the region.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

## What They Say

### Macron's adversarial message not welcome in Asia

French President Emmanuel Macron has been doubling down on foreign policy lately in a bid to salvage his rapidly declining popularity at home. However, his show at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Friday revealed many contradictions and blunders.

Macron said in a keynote speech that he was upset with countries from Asia and Africa to Latin America which have adopted a different approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict in comparison to the European Union and the United States.

Yet those countries have been steadfast in calling for an end to the fighting and a peaceful resolution to the crisis through dialogue, while Macron's approach to the crisis has flip-flopped over the past three years. His initial bid to reach out to Russia to mediate peace between Moscow and Kyiv was rebuked by the US and EU, and Macron quickly jumped in line, blaming Russia for the conflict, even floating the idea of sending European troops to Ukraine.

Macron likes to talk about strategic autonomy. Yet the EU's policy on Ukraine and many other issues has been largely dictated by Washington. Macron and other EU leaders' latest push for a ceasefire is largely to align with the approach of US President Donald Trump.

That alignment was reinforced by Macron linking the Ukraine crisis

with the Taiwan question, a false narrative manufactured by Washington. The Chinese embassy in Singapore immediately censured him and set the record straight, stating: “The two are different in nature and not comparable at all. The Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affair.”

Macron is well aware of that. The only explanation for his remark which flies in the face of international law is that he wanted to assure the Trump administration that he will not rock the boat.

Tensions in the Taiwan Strait have risen sharply over the past years because the current Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te and his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen refused to acknowledge the 1992 Consensus that there is only one China. Meanwhile, the US has been using the Taiwan question as a geopolitical tool against China.

Macron also criticized the policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, holding China responsible for that, as if he does not know that the DPRK is a sovereign nation and China's core foreign policy principle is no interference in the internal affairs of other countries, unlike many Western nations.

His intimation of NATO's expansion into the Asia-Pacific will also not be welcomed by Asian nations, which are appalled by the armed conflict in Europe caused by NATO's relentless expansion.

The East Asia region has maintained peace better and longer than many other parts of the world largely due to the Asian wisdom of dispute settlement. They don't need lectures on peace and security from Europeans. It was European power games that resulted in two world wars. The prolonging and escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has shown European leaders have not learned the lessons of the past, and still put entrenched biases before understanding.

Macron did not criticize any US policies, such as its enabling of Israel's bloody land grab of Palestinian territory and its undermining of the United Nations and the global trading system.

The EU's strategic autonomy that he once championed seems to have fallen by the wayside as the US continues its march of hegemony under the banner of “America First”.

The French and other European leaders should step out from under the US security umbrella and face the reality that security is not just about spending on the military; it is also about spending time and effort to enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust.

Rather than lecturing Asian, African and Latin American countries, the Western leaders should listen to the wisdom they have earned through bitter experience.

— CHEN WEIHUA, CHINA DAILY

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