COMMENT

Editorials

Justified countermeasures against unilateral US practices a stern warning

In response to recent restrictive actions by the United States administration targeting Chinese enterprises, the Chinese government has announced countermeasures against selected US entities.

The Ministry of Commerce of China announced on Monday that 10 US entities, including Aveox, Red Cat Holdings and Teal Drones, have been added to the export control list in accordance with the nation's law and regulations on export control of dual-use items.

In a separate statement, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce explained that the measure was in response to the US Defense Department arbitrarily adding multiple Chinese enterprises to an entity list because of alleged links to the Chinese military.

Also on Monday, the Ministry of Finance issued a notice prohibiting the purchase of products manufactured by 46 designated US companies in government procurement. Under the new measure, procurement entities participating in government purchasing activities are barred from buying products made by the listed US companies, which include Lockheed Martin Corporation and Raytheon Missiles & Defense.

The measure was approved in accordance with relevant Chinese laws and regulations, the Ministry of Finance said, adding the restriction does not apply to US-invested companies operating in China. By implementing these precise countermeasures, China aims to safeguard its national security and fulfill its nonproliferation obligations.

The measures, effective immediately, also highlight China's firm resolve to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises against unjust unilateral practices of the US, while reinforcing its commitment to core national interests and international norms. Through the specific measures, China has demonstrated that any action harming its legitimate rights and interests will incur corresponding costs.

Despite Washington's claim that it seeks to stabilize relations with China, earlier this month the Pentagon released an updated version of its list of "Chinese military companies", baselessly adding 65 entities that include Alibaba, Baidu and BYD.

The Pentagon has now groundlessly designated 188 Chinese companies as "military entities". The move aims to hype up a "military threat" from China and distort normal market competition.

China's Foreign Ministry has previously criticized the US for overgeneralizing the concept of "national security" to suppress Chinese companies, and expressed firm opposition to this practice. It has also warned that China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies. The latest measures taken by the two Chinese ministries serve as an example of China making an appropriate response to the US moves.

China seeks healthy, stable and sustainable development in its relations with the US. However, it also understands that this goal cannot be achieved by making concessions, enduring grievances or swallowing the bitter pills of the unjust and arbitrary sanctions and other means of intended suppression from the US side. It is imperative that China respond reasonably and effectively whenever it is confronted with unreasonable sanctions and restrictions.

Notably, China's response has been largely confined to export control oversight and government procurement limitations, stopping short of sweeping market exclusions or financial penalties — an indication that it continues to seek to contain competition within a manageable framework. For instance, products manufactured by US-funded enterprises operating in China are excluded from these restrictions.

This approach embodies the principle of balancing a commitment to open cooperation with safeguarding national interests. Despite so, China's move is a clear warning to the US.

As the world's two largest economies, the US and China should seek to coexist through cooperation, mutual respect and responsible management of differences. For the benefit of both nations and the world, the US should meet China halfway by advocating strategic stability through cooperation and managed competition, rather than fabricating trade and technology disputes.

Cooperation key to 'Innovating at Scale'

The global economy seems to have become a master class in contradictions: artificial intelligence is attracting record investment, yet productivity growth remains stubbornly weak. Supply chains are being reconfigured among some economies in the name of "security", yet fragmentation is making growth harder to sustain. Governments speak of innovation, while many simultaneously erect barriers to the very flows of trade, capital and talent that innovation requires.

Compounding the picture is the Middle East crisis, which has disrupted energy markets amid inflation, tariff disputes and intensifying industrial policy rivalry that continues to impact global commerce. It is no surprise that many economists surveyed by the World Economic Forum ahead of this year's Summer Davos in Dalian, Liaoning province, expect growth to weaken over the year. The World Bank also projects global economic growth to slow to 2.5 percent this year, the lowest in recent years.

Against this backdrop, the agenda of the WEF's 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, being held in Dalian from Tuesday to Thursday, looks like a diagnosis of the world economy's most pressing ailments.

Under the theme of "Innovating at Scale", the forum has convened over 1,700 participants — including business executives, policymakers, researchers and technical experts — from more than 90 countries and regions. The five core questions guiding the agenda are revealing: how to achieve prosperity amid changing trade realities; how to understand China's next stage of development; how technology can generate real economic value; how growth can create opportunities for younger generations; and how the climate transition can become a source of competitiveness. The common thread running through all of these is the rolling out of innovation as a practical tool for growth, employment and economic renewal.

The first question may be the most urgent. According to World Trade Organization, around 11 percent of global trade has been affected by the tariff tensions since 2025. The result is a world economy increasingly constricted by protectionism. Yet history offers little evidence that prosperity can be built behind walls, while economic globalization has proved the opposite. Globalization requires reform, yet retreating into protectionism or unilateralism is unlikely to provide the answer.

The forum's emphasis on stronger institutions, greater capital flows and forward-looking policies reflects an understanding that innovation flourishes in open systems rather than closed ones. It is difficult to imagine breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, biotechnology or clean energy occurring without cross-border cooperation, investment and talent mobility. This is where the discussions among the policymakers, entrepreneurs and investors gathered in Dalian can made a difference.

China will occupy a key place in those discussions. The world's second-largest economy is navigating a transition to growth driven by new quality productive forces, with greater emphasis on smart manufacturing, the green economy and advanced technology. How that transition unfolds will influence global supply chains, investment decisions and economic expectations far beyond China's borders.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang's participation in the opening ceremony of the Summer Davos, meetings with foreign guests and discussions with business leaders on the sidelines of the forum in Dalian will provide the participants with an opportunity to engage directly with China's policymaking circle. Equally important, it offers Chinese policymakers a chance to hear firsthand the expectations of the global business community.

The deeper significance of the Summer Davos lies in its insistence that growth remains a collective endeavor. The world is entering an era increasingly influenced by geopolitical rivalry, economic fragmentation and technological "decoupling" in many places and sectors. Yet none of these challenges can be solved through isolation.

In an age when policymakers in many places are tempted to erect walls, a key message from Dalian, a vibrant coastal city in Northeast China, will be that prosperity is still built through openness, cooperation and confidence in a shared future based on a just, fair and inclusive world order.

Jin Ding

Opinion Line

Coming days will show if peace is near, or a renewed war awaits

The first direct US-Iran talks since the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding — which stipulated that Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, while the United States would lift its naval blockade as an initial step — were always going to be judged less by the handshakes in Switzerland on the weekend than by what happens afterward.

That the two sides have agreed to establish a high-level committee, create working groups on nuclear issues and sanctions, launch technical negotiations, and adopt a 60-day road map toward a final agreement is an encouraging sign. Just as importantly, they have opened communication channels to prevent incidents in the Strait of Hormuz and created mechanisms to support a ceasefire in Lebanon.

But the real question is whether the peace the US and Iran seek can survive Israel's belief that its agenda remains unfinished. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israeli military operations had created conditions for the eventual fall of Iran, while pledging to maintain security zones in Lebanon and Gaza for as long as necessary. "In the United States, they say that President Trump does everything that I ask him to do. And in Israel, they say that I do everything he wants me to do. Well, neither is true," the Israeli leader said while addressing a policy forum.

In Switzerland, the US Vice-President JD Vance openly described Israel's reaction as a "freakout" and argued that "you can't just kill your way out of solving every single national security problem". He urged critics to "wake up and smell the reality".

The current US administration has already provided Israel with levels of military, diplomatic and political support that previous administrations would have balked to extend. But Washington finally appears convinced that it should call time on giving Tel Aviv a free rein.

From Israel's perspective, an agreement that leaves Iran's state system intact, allows Tehran to rebuild regional influence and does not permanently eliminate Hezbollah, Hamas or Iran's missile capabilities can hardly be regarded as a strategic victory. That is why Israel insists on retaining influence in southern Lebanon and maintaining operations in Gaza. Should it eventually be pressured to scale back its military footprint there, the gains from more than two and a half years of conflict could turn out to be surprisingly meager.

That also explains why many observers see what Washington is pursuing as an "off-ramp" rather than a comprehensive settlement, claiming that the US merely wants to stabilize shipping through Hormuz, lower energy prices and reduce domestic political headaches.

Should the negotiations in Switzerland mark the beginning of a US disengagement from an increasingly complicated conflict, the Middle East might quickly return to familiar patterns. Iran and Israel would resume their rivalry through proxies or direct confrontation. Lebanon would remain fragile. The Palestinian question would remain unresolved.

That is why the current talks represent a test for the US. Can Washington persuade its closest regional partner that military pressure alone cannot guarantee security? Can it ensure that ceasefire arrangements evolve into a durable political framework rather than a temporary tactical truce? Can it restrain all parties, including Israel, from returning to the logic of escalation? It was the US' reckless endorsement of joint strikes with Israel on Iran in February that has landed Washington in its current predicament — burdened both morally and materially.

China has consistently argued that force is not a solution and that dialogue on the basis of equality remains the only viable path forward. Beijing supports efforts to consolidate the ceasefire momentum, while continuing diplomatic engagement with all relevant parties and advocating a shared vision of security for the Gulf region and the wider Middle East.

The coming days will reveal whether the Middle East is genuinely moving toward peace, or merely preparing for the next chapter of an unfinished war.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

What They Say

Teachers to be collaborators in AI-powered classrooms

Editor's note: *Artificial intelligence is reshaping education. Xiong Zhang, a professor at Beihang University, spoke to China Business Journal about how teachers should adapt to the rapid rise of AI technology. Below are excerpts of the interview. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.*

China has adopted a top-level national strategy to advance AI education across all stages of learning and promote AI literacy among the public.

On the one hand, this can cultivate specialized talent in the field.

On the other hand, it can equip the broader society with the capabilities needed to manage AI-induced risks and turn challenges into opportunities. It moves beyond the outdated exam-oriented and utilitarian path to a more innovative approach.

To ensure the sound and orderly integration of AI into education, it is essential to enhance the competency of teachers.

The integration should encompass all disciplines and stages of education, and involve every student and teacher. All education professionals should upgrade their AI capabilities.

Under the traditional model of education, teachers are responsible for classroom instruction, transmission of knowledge and assessment of students.

But in the AI-enabled education ecosystem, many repetitive tasks, such as making lesson plans, grading assignments, analyzing student performance and answering basic questions, can be performed by AI.

This means teachers need to redefine their roles. Rather than serving as transmitters of knowledge, they need to become designers of learning experiences, planners of educational scenarios and integrators of resources. Students should assume greater responsibility for their own learning and teachers should work alongside them as collaborators.

At the same time, teachers should strike a balance between technology and humanity. Their roles should evolve from being authoritative figures imparting knowledge to guides and companions who help students develop sound values, healthy personalities and aesthetic tastes, and strengthen their mental well-being.

Additionally, single-subject instruction should give way to more integrated teaching approaches. Teachers need to connect different disciplines so that AI technology can be effectively integrated into moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and labor education.

There are some misconceptions schools and teachers need to avoid when applying AI in education. Viewing AI as "futile" and refusing to learn the new technology is no more helpful than regarding AI as "omnipotent" in a way that will weaken the teachers' guiding roles.

Schools and teachers should recognize that integrating AI in education is not a task only for information technology teachers. It is interdisciplinary, and requires all teachers to enhance their knowledge and upgrade their capabilities.

To develop a teaching workforce that meets the requirements of the AI era, it is vital to improve the evaluation system. AI-related indicators, such as participation in AI training courses and AI literacy, should be factored into the evaluation of a teacher's performance.

Teachers with humanistic grounding, technical proficiency, innovative thinking and ethical awareness will be essential for striking a balance between AI empowerment and human-centered education. They can help nurture highly competent young people suited to the intelligent age.

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