

Carrying Forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence
and Jointly Building a Community
with a Shared Future for Mankind



By H.E.Mr. Li Xiang,
New Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to
the State of Eritrea,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. On 28 June, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the Conference Marking the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, stating that the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is about promoting the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence under the new circumstances, joining hands to build a Community with a Shared Future for mankind, and providing a strong impetus to the progress of human civilization.

In the wake of World War II, the national independence and liberation in Asia, Africa and Latin America flourished, and the newly independent nations were eager to establish international relations on the basis of equality. Seventy years ago, Premier Zhou Enlai put forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence for the first time, namely, mutual

respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence, which came into being under this historical background. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which draw on the wisdom of the East and respond to the trend of the times, have garnered wide international recognition and support since they were first put forward. Over the past 70 years, they have expanded from the norms guiding relations between countries with different social systems to the basic principles guiding general international relations, and from the bilateral scope to the multilateral scope. They have become basic norms for international relations and fundamental principles of international law, and they are widely applicable. Over the past 70 years, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have repeatedly proved that strengthening solidarity and cooperation and enhancing communication and understanding is an effective way for all countries to meet challenges and create a common future.

President Xi Jinping solemnly stated that "China is an active advocate and firm practitioner of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence has been written into China's Constitution long before. They are the bedrock of China's independent foreign policy of peace." Over the past 70 years, China has insisted on developing friendship and cooperation with all countries in the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and has played an important role in promoting the cause of world peace and human progress.

China has always adhered to the concept of peaceful development, and is firmly committed to being a builder of world peace. Since the founding of New China, China has pursued an independent foreign policy of peace and adhered to the path of peaceful development. China has never waged war, invaded an inch of other country's land, engaged in proxy wars, joined or formed any military bloc, and has the best record on peace and security

issues in the world. China is the only country in the world that has enshrined the phrase "adhering to the path of peaceful development" in its Constitution, and it is also the only one of the nuclear Powers that has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

China has always practiced genuine multilateralism and upheld international justice. In international affairs, China stands on the side of justice, adheres to sovereign equality, and opposes interference in internal affairs, hegemonism and power politics; stands on the side of righteousness, adheres to objectivity and fairness, and opposes geopolitical rivalry and ganging up; stands on the side of peace, adheres to political settlement, and opposes the use of force and unilateral sanctions. On issues such as the Ukraine crisis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, China has always been a force for peace and justice by upholding an objective and fair position and by promoting peace and negotiation.

China has always adhered to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and has promoted the improvement of global governance. Since the beginning of the new era, China has put forward important concepts and major initiatives such as building a new type of international relations, building a community with a shared future for mankind, championing for humanity's common values, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, which have given a new connotation to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and have injected positive energy into the unstable and uncertain world. China is leading the international community in promoting equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, joining hands with all parties to promote equal and orderly multipolarity and inclusive economic globalization, and contributing its solutions and strength to improving global governance and solving the challenges of human development.

China and Eritrea are both members of the Group of Friends in Defense of

the Charter of the United Nations. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence fully reflect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, conform to the trend of the times in the development of international relations and meet the fundamental interests of people all over the world. The way to achieve good is to keep pace with the times. China will continue to work with Eritrea to uphold and promote the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, shoulder the responsibilities of the times, join hands to address challenges, push the world towards a better and brighter future and jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind
