

Speech by President Xi Jinping at Welcome Dinner by Friendly Organizations in the United States

习近平在美国友好团体联合欢迎宴会上的演讲

Global AI Governance Initiative

全球人工智能治理倡议

**Galvanizing Our Peoples Into a Strong Force
For the Cause of China-U.S. Friendship****汇聚两国人民力量 推进中美友好事业****Speech at Welcome Dinner by Friendly Organizations in the United States**

——在美国友好团体联合欢迎宴会上的演讲

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

中华人民共和国主席 习近平

San Francisco, November 15, 2023

2023年11月15日, 旧金山

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to meet with you, friends from across the American society, in San Francisco to renew our friendship and strengthen our bond. My first visit to the United States in 1985 started from San Francisco, which formed my first impression of this country. Today I still keep a photo of me in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, the U.S.-China Business Council, the Asia Society, the Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other friendly organizations for hosting this event. I also want to express my warm greetings to all American friends who have long committed to growing China-U.S. relations and my best wishes to the friendly American people.

San Francisco has borne witness to exchanges between the Chinese and American peoples for over a century. A hundred and fifty-eight years ago, a large number of Chinese workers came all the way to the United States to build the first transcontinental railroad, and established in San Francisco the oldest Chinatown in the Western Hemisphere. From here, China and the United States have made many achievements—USD 760 billion of annual bilateral trade and over USD 260 billion of two-way investment, 284 pairs of sister provinces/states and sister cities, and over 300 scheduled flights every week and over five million travels every year at peak time. These extraordinary accomplishments were made jointly by our peoples accounting for nearly one quarter of the global population.

San Francisco has also borne witness to the efforts by China and the United States in building a better world. Seventy-eight years ago, after jointly defeating fascism and militarism, our two countries initiated together with others the San Francisco Conference, which helped found the United Nations, and China was the first country

女士们, 先生们, 朋友们:

很高兴在旧金山, 同美国各界朋友见面, 共叙友情, 共话友好。1985年我第一次访问美国, 就是从旧金山入境, 我对美国的第一印象来自旧金山, 至今还保存着一张在金門大桥的留影。

首先, 我要向组织这次活动的美中关系全国委员会、美中贸易全国委员会、亚洲协会、美国对外关系委员会、美国商会等友好团体表示衷心感谢! 向长期致力于中美关系发展的美国朋友表示诚挚问候! 向友好的美国人民致以良好祝愿!

旧金山见证了中美两国人民百年交往的历史。158年前, 大批中国工人来到美国, 修建连接东西海岸的太平洋铁路, 筚路蓝缕, 在旧金山建起了西半球历史最悠久的唐人街。从这里出发, 中美两国之间发展起7600亿美元双边贸易和累计2600多亿美元双向投资, 建立起284对友好省州和友好城市关系, 最多每周300多个航班和每年500多万人次的相互往来。这是全世界近四分之一人口共同绘就的宏伟画卷。

旧金山见证了中美建设美好世界的努力。78年前, 在携手战胜法西斯主义和军国主义之后, 中美共同参与发起旧金山制宪会议, 推动建立了联合国, 中国第一个在《联合国宪章》上签字。从这里

to sign the U.N. Charter. Starting from San Francisco, the postwar international order was established. Over 100 countries have gained independence one after another. Several billion people have eventually shaken off poverty. The forces for world peace, development and progress have grown stronger. This has been the main fruit jointly achieved by people of all countries and the international community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

The foundation of China-U.S. relations was laid by our peoples. During World War II, our two countries fought side by side for peace and justice. Headed by General Claire Lee Chennault, a group of American volunteers, known as the Flying Tigers, went to the battlefield in China. They not only engaged in direct combats fighting Japanese aggressors, but also created “The Hump” airlift to transport much-needed supplies to China. More than 1,000 Chinese and American airmen lost their lives on this air route. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the United States sent 16 B-25 bombers on an air raid to Japan in 1942. Running low on fuel after completing their mission, Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle and his fellow pilots parachuted in China. They were rescued by Chinese troops and local civilians. But some 250,000 civilian Chinese were killed by Japanese aggressors in retaliation.

The Chinese people never forget the Flying Tigers. We built a Flying Tigers museum in Chongqing, and invited over 1,000 Flying Tigers veterans and their families to visit China. I have kept in touch with some of them through letters. Most recently, 103-year-old Harry Moyer and 98-year-old Mel McMullen, both Flying Tigers veterans, went back to China. They visited the Great Wall, and were warmly received by the Chinese people.

The American people, on their part, always remember the Chinese who risked their lives to save American pilots. Offspring of those American pilots often visit the Doolittle Raid Memorial Hall in Quzhou of Zhejiang Province to pay tribute to the Chinese people for their heroic and valorous efforts. These stories fill me with firm confidence that the friendship between our two peoples, which has stood the test of blood and fire, will be passed on from generation to generation.

The door of China-U.S. relations was opened by our peoples. For 22 years, there were estrangement and antagonism between our two countries. But the trend of the times brought us together, converging interests enabled us to rise above differences, and the people’s longing broke the ice between the two countries. In 1971, the U.S. table tennis team visited Beijing—a small ball moved the globe. Not long after that, Mr. Mike Mansfield led the first U.S. Congressional delegation to China. This was followed by the first governors’ delegation including Iowa Governor Robert Ray and then many business delegations, forming waves of friendly exchanges.

This year, after the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, I have respectively met in Beijing with Dr. Henry Kissinger, Mr. Bill Gates, Senator Chuck Schumer and his Senate colleagues, and Governor Gavin Newsom. I told them that the hope of the China-U.S. relationship lies in the people, its foundation is in our societies, its future depends on the youth, and its vitality comes from exchanges at subnational levels. I welcome more U.S. governors, Congressional members, and people from all walks of life to visit China.

The stories of China-U.S. relations are written by our peoples. During my first visit to the United States, I stayed at the Dvorchaks in Iowa. I still remember their address—2911 Bonnie Drive. That was my first face-to-face contact with the Americans. The days I spent with them are unforgettable. For me, they represent

出发，二战后的国际秩序得以建立，100多个国家相继获得了民族独立，几十亿人口最终摆脱了贫困，世界和平发展进步的力量不断成长。这是各国人民和国际社会携手取得的硕果。

女士们、先生们、朋友们！

中美关系的根基是由人民浇筑的。第二次世界大战时期，我们两国共同为和平和正义而战。陈纳德将军带领美国志愿者奔赴中国战场，组成了著名的飞虎队。他们不仅直接对日本侵略者作战，还建起了向中国运送急需物资的驼峰航线，1000多名中美机组人员牺牲在这条航线上。日本偷袭珍珠港后，1942年美国空军16架B-25轰炸机奔袭日本，由于油料不足，杜立特中校等飞行员在中国弃机跳伞，中国军民奋勇救助，日军竟因此屠杀了25万中国平民。中国人民没有忘记飞虎队。我们在重庆专门修建了纪念馆，邀请了1000多名飞虎队老兵及其家属回到中国，我同他们中的一些人也一直有书信往来。最近，飞虎队老兵、103岁高龄的莫耶和98岁高龄的麦克马伦来到中国，登上了长城，受到中国人民热烈欢迎。美国人民也没有忘记殊死营救美国军人的中国人民。浙江衢州有一个杜立特行动纪念馆，当年获救的美国军人的后代经常来到这里，向见义勇为的中国人民表达敬意。我相信，血与火铸造的中美两国人民友谊一定能够代代相传。

中美关系的大门是由人民打开的。两国曾经隔绝对立22年。是时代潮流让我们走向彼此，是共同利益让中美超越分歧，是人民愿望让两国打破坚冰。1971年，美国乒乓球代表团来到北京，小球转动了大球。此后不久，曼斯菲尔德先生率领的第一个美国国会议员代表团来了，包括艾奥瓦州州长罗伯特·雷在内的第一个美国州长代表团来了，许多工商界人士也来了，掀起了中美友好交往的浪潮。世界走出新冠疫情大流行后，我在北京见了基辛格博士、比尔·盖茨先生，也见了舒默先生和其他几位参议员，还有纽森州长。我对他们讲，中美关系希望在人民，基础在民间，未来在青年，活力在地方。我欢迎更多美国州长、议员访华，欢迎美国各界人士到中国去。

中美关系的故事是由人民书写的。我第一次访问美国时，住在艾奥瓦州的德沃切克夫妇家中，我还记得门牌号是邦尼街2911号。这是我同美国民众首次面对面接触，也是一段我和美国人民共同生活的难忘经历。对我来说，他们就是美国。我也发

America. I have found that although our two countries are different in history, culture and social system and have embarked on different development paths, our two peoples are both kind, friendly, hardworking and down-to-earth. We both love our countries, our families and our lives, and we both are friendly toward each other and are interested in each other. It is the convergence of many streams of goodwill and friendship that has created a strong current surging across the vast Pacific Ocean; it is the reaching out to each other by our peoples that has time and again brought China-U.S. relations from a low ebb back onto the right track. I am convinced that once opened, the door of China-U.S. relations cannot be shut again. Once started, the cause of China-U.S. friendship cannot be derailed halfway. The tree of our peoples' friendship has grown tall and strong; and it can surely withstand the assault of any wind or storm.

The future of China-U.S. relations will be created by our peoples. The more difficulties there are, the greater the need for us to forge a closer bond between our peoples and to open our hearts to each other, and more people need to speak up for the relationship. We should build more bridges and pave more roads for people-to-people interactions. We must not erect barriers or create a chilling effect.

Today, President Biden and I reached important consensus. Our two countries will roll out more measures to facilitate travels and promote people-to-people exchanges, including increasing direct passenger flights, holding a high-level dialogue on tourism, and streamlining visa application procedures. We hope that our two peoples will make more visits, contacts and exchanges and write new stories of friendship in the new era. I also hope that California and San Francisco will continue to take the lead on the journey of growing China-U.S. friendship!

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

We are in an era of challenges and changes. It is also an era of hope. The world needs China and the United States to work together for a better future. We, the largest developing country and the largest developed country, must handle our relations well. In a world of changes and chaos, it is ever more important for us to have the mind, assume the vision, shoulder the responsibility, and play the role that come along with our status as major countries.

I have always had one question on my mind: How to steer the giant ship of China-U.S. relations clear of hidden rocks and shoals, navigate it through storms and waves without getting disoriented, losing speed or even having a collision?

In this respect, the number one question for us is: are we adversaries, or partners? This is the fundamental and overarching issue. The logic is quite simple. If one sees the other side as a primary competitor, the most consequential geopolitical challenge and a pacing threat, it will only lead to misinformed policy making, misguided actions, and unwanted results. China is ready to be a partner and friend of the United States. The fundamental principles that we follow in handling China-U.S. relations are mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

Just as mutual respect is a basic code of behavior for individuals, it is fundamental for China-U.S. relations. The United States is unique in its history, culture and geographical position, which have shaped its distinct development path and social system. We fully respect all this. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been found under the guidance of the theory of scientific socialism, and is rooted in the tradition of the Chinese civilization with an uninterrupted history of more than 5,000 years. We are proud of our choice,

现，两国虽然历史文化、社会制度、发展道路不同，但人民都善良友好、勤劳务实，都爱祖国、爱家庭、爱生活，都对彼此抱有好感和兴趣。正是善意友好的涓滴汇流，让宽广太平洋不再是天堑；正是人民的双向奔赴，让中美关系一次次从低谷重回正道。我相信，中美关系的大门一旦打开，就不会再被关上。两国人民友好事业一经开启，就不会半途而废。人民友谊之树已经长大，一定能经风雨。

中美关系的未来是由人民创造的。越是困难的时候，越需要拉紧人民的纽带、增进人心的沟通，越需要更多的人站出来为中美关系鼓与呼。我们要为人民之间的交往搭建更多桥梁、铺设更多道路，而不是设置各种障碍、制造“寒蝉效应”。我今天同拜登总统达成重要共识，两国将推出更多便利人员往来、促进人文交流的措施，包括增加中美客运直航航班，举办中美旅游高层对话，优化签证申请流程等。我们期待着两国人民多走动、多来往、多交流，共同续写新时代两国人民友好的故事！我也期待着加州和旧金山在中美友好的征程上继续领跑！

女士们、先生们、朋友们！

我们处在一个充满挑战变化的时代，也处在一个充满希望的时代。世界的未来需要中美合作。作为世界上最大的发展中国家和发达国家，中美要好好打交道。面对变乱交织的世界，中美更需要有宽广的胸怀，展现大国格局、拿出大国担当、发挥大国作用。

我一直在思考，如何让中美关系这艘巨轮避开暗礁浅滩、穿越狂风巨浪，不偏航、不失速、不碰撞？首先要回答的是，中美到底是对手，还是伙伴。这是一个根本的、也是管总的问题。道理很简单，如果把对方视为最主要竞争对手、最重大地缘政治挑战和步步紧逼的威胁，必然导致错误的政策、采取错误的行动、产生错误的结果。中国愿意同美国做伙伴、做朋友。我们处理中美关系的根本遵循就是相互尊重、和平共处、合作共赢。

相互尊重是人与人打交道的基本礼数，也是中美两国相处的起码准则。美国有独特的历史文化和地理位置，塑造了自身的发展道路和社会制度，我们充分尊重。中国特色社会主义道路是在科学社会主义理论指导下走出来的，植根于5000多年绵延不断的中华文明，我们同样感到自豪。两条道路不同，但都是人民的选择，都通向全人类共同价值，