

▶ Two sides could discuss boosting BRI cooperation, promoting cease-fire in Gaza: expert

## Turkish FM visits China to 'enrich bilateral ties'

By Yang Sheng

China has been in close communication with Muslim countries in the Middle East recently amid the worsening situation in Gaza, as Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan started his visit to China on Monday, just a few days after the 10th ministerial conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. Chinese analysts said that apart from boosting bilateral cooperation, China will strengthen cooperation and coordination with Turkey and other regional major powers to jointly promote a sustainable cease-fire in the conflict.

Chen Wenqing, a member

of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Central Committee, met with Fidan in Beijing on Monday.

Guided by the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries, China is willing to work with Turkey to bring cooperation in the field of security to new heights continuously, enrich and expand the connotations of bilateral ties further, protect the security interests of both countries in an improved manner, serve the strategic alignment of the two countries' development, and

contribute actively to the peace and development of both countries, the region and the world, Chen added.

Fidan expressed willingness to continue promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of security, according to Xinhua News Agency. Fidan will stay in China till Wednesday, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

With regard to bilateral relations, the visit will boost the China-Turkey cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, as Turkey is a key partner of China with an important location bridging Asia and Europe, and also a major power in the region, said Li Xinggang, a research fellow at

the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean Rim at Zhejiang International Studies University.

"The two sides could discuss how to further activate the potential of the China-Europe Railway Express to bring more economic and trade benefits," Li noted.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor with the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Monday that China-Turkey relations have been stabilized in recent years, as China offered significant support and aid to Turkey after the deadly earthquake in 2023, and both sides are willing

to further promote relations to boost economic growth.

On the topic of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the tragedy in Gaza, China and Muslim countries, including Arab states, Turkey and Iran, share a similar stance, while the US is playing a role to one-sidedly defend Israel and stands against the majority of the international community, said analysts.

"During Fidan's visit to China, the two countries are likely to jointly urge Israel to stop its operation in Rafah and allow humanitarian aid and supplies to enter the Gaza Strip without obstacles, and jointly push the implementation of the two-State solution," Liu said.

### ▶ Sorry for cheating



**Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda apologizes during a news conference in Tokyo on June 3, 2024, for massive cheating on certification tests for seven vehicle models as the Japanese automaker suspended production of three of them. The wide-ranging faulty testing involved the use of inadequate or outdated data in collision tests, and incorrect testing of airbag inflation and rear-seat damage in crashes, media reported. Photo: IC**

## Chinese FM slams remarks by Marcos on South China Sea



By GT staff reporters

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday slammed remarks of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, saying the so-called arbitral award on the South China Sea is illegal, null and void and China will continue to defend its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights.

"Those remarks disregard history and facts and are designed to amplify the Philippines' wrongful position on the issues concerning the South China Sea and deliberately distort and hype up the maritime situation," a spokesperson from the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The Philippines has been frequently trespassing into waters off Chinese islands and reefs in the South China Sea since August 2023 under the instigation of the US. In his keynote speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Friday, Marcos cited treaties including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 arbitral award on the South China Sea, which he claimed established a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.

The Chinese government's statement has unequivocally declared that the responsibility for the current tension in the South China Sea lies primarily with the Philippines and China's approach is for peace and stability in the region, adopting a highly rational, moderate and responsible attitude, said Dai Fan, vice dean of the School of International Studies at the Guangzhou-based Jinan University.

The responsibility for the recent escalation between China and the Philippines lies fully with the Philippine side, the spokesperson stressed, explaining that the Philippines breached its commitments and common understandings with China, violated the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).

The spokesperson said China will continue to firmly defend its territorial sovereignty and maritime interests and rights and urged the Philippines to stop maritime provocations at once.

## China's position on Summit on Peace in Ukraine is 'fair and just'

By GT staff reporters

Clarifying China's decision not to attend a Ukraine peace conference in Switzerland scheduled in mid-June, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated Monday that not attending it does not mean not supporting peace, adding that what matters is what kind of action that is being taken. The spokesperson stressed that China has been most firmly and actively committed to promoting talks for peace.

Hegemonism and power politics are not China's diplomatic style. There is no such thing as China pressuring other countries, spokesperson Mao Ning stressed, in response to comments made by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Shangri-La Dialogue, where he claimed Russia and China are "at-

tempting to undermine the peace summit in Switzerland."

China's position on the peace summit is fair and just, and does not target any party, certainly not this particular summit, Mao said.

In a separate response to a series of questions on the Ukraine crisis and the upcoming peace conference in Switzerland at a regular press briefing on Monday, the Chinese spokesperson said that whether one supports peace or not should not be judged by a particular country or on the basis of a particular meeting.

China sincerely hopes that a peace conference will not turn into a platform used to create bloc confrontation. Not attending it does not mean not supporting peace, Mao said.

China has never sat idly by or fueled the flames, still less profited from the conflict. Instead, we have

worked relentlessly for a cease-fire, and this has been highly commended by various parties, including Russia and Ukraine, the spokesperson remarked.

Mao stressed that China has always maintained that the international peace conference needs to meet three important elements: recognition from both Russia and Ukraine, equal participation of all parties, and fair discussion of all peace plans.

As far as China is concerned, the meeting does not yet seem to meet these three elements and that is exactly why China would not be able to take part in the meeting, according to the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson.

