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Chinese scientists map the Moon's chemical composition by building an AI-based model using the measured data from the sample collected on the Moon's far side **10**

Paralympians achieve best overseas result

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记者会

Press Conference for the Fourth Session of the 14th National People's Congress



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attends a press conference on China's foreign policy and external relations on the sidelines of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on March 8, 2026. Photo: VCG

► China's diplomacy provides most-needed stability, certainty

FM pitches China's diplomatic vision in world of turbulence

By Chen Qingqing

In roughly 90 minutes, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday addressed 21 questions ranging from China's relations with major countries of Russia and the US, to the situation in Iran and the China-Japan ties... In front of this barrage of challenging and complex questions, Wang, drawing on traditional Chinese classics and metaphors, faced them



head-on and pitched China's diplomatic vision.

This marks the 12th time that Wang Yi has addressed a press conference during China's "two sessions" as foreign minister, and his remarks have sent a calm and confident message that in a world marked by turbulence

and chaos, China's approach and wisdom, embodied in its four global initiatives, constitute one of the important public goods it has offered to the international community.

"Under the guidance and stewardship of Chinese President Xi Jinping, China's diplomacy provides the most-needed stability and certainty to a world in turmoil and serves as an irreplaceable

mainstay amid global turbulence," Wang Yi said.

China's answers in focus

About four hours before the press conference began, Global Times reporters noticed a long line outside the press conference hall at the Media Center Hotel. Some foreign journalists came to set up their camera equipment as early as 6 am.

Iran reportedly finalizes decision on new supreme leader as US-Israel strikes against Iran continue

By Deng Xiaoci and Xu Keyue

"Weapons are ominous tools, and should not be used without discretion."

As a US-Israeli military operation against Iran entered its ninth day on Sunday with no de-escalation in sight, Iran's Assembly of Experts has reportedly finalized its decision on a new supreme leader. The spiraling crisis in the Middle East has alarmed many countries, drawing a warning on Sunday from China's top diplomat Wang Yi, who invoked a proverb from ancient Chinese philosopher Han Feizi to caution that war is an "ominous tool" not to be used lightly.

The swift selection of a successor – coming just a week after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was confirmed killed in the US-Israeli airstrike – sends a defiant message that Iran's organizational structure remains intact despite hopes from the US and Israel that Iran would fall into internal chaos. Analysts noted that the new supreme leader will have a far-reaching impact on the scope of the war, Iran's future and the balance of power in the Middle East.

Consensus on successor

According to Xinhua, a majority consensus over a successor to the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has more or less been reached, Ayatollah Mohammadmehdi Mirbaqeri, a member of the Assembly, was quoted as saying by the semi-official Mehr news agency. The name has yet to be announced as of press time.

Over Iran's pick of new leader, Trump previously said the US must have a role in choosing Iran's next leader, Axios reported on March 5. Trump also indicated Thursday that he wants to see Iran's leadership structure fully removed and that he has some names in mind for a "good leader," NBC News reported.

Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times the decision in just one week

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Swift



► Spring kicks in



People enjoy the fine spring weather as they exercise at the Olympic Park in Beijing on March 8, 2026. The temperatures in the capital rose to 13 C on the day after a cold snap. Photo: VCG

China's wisdom important public goods to intl community: expert

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Some foreign journalists said they were eager to hear China's voice and China's proposals amid the increasingly turbulent and complex international situation.

Among the 21 questions raised during the press conference, 11 were raised by foreign journalists including how China and Russia – two major powers – can counter attempts to reshape international law and global trade rules, the role that China plays in the global governance and how the US-Israeli joint military strikes against Iran could impact US Pre

Foreign journalists from Pakistan, India, Brazil, Japan, Nigeria and Indonesia also raised questions about neighborhood diplomacy, China-EU relations, the "US-China co-governance" framework, China-Latin America relations under the influence of the US and the erroneous remarks of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Taiwan, as well as the future development of China-Japan relations.

Seven questions directly involved the US, and the replies shed light on China's view of major-country diplomacy and the role it could play in today's world that is facing growing geopolitical tensions and challenges.

This year is a "big year" for China-US relations. The agenda of high-level exchanges is already on the table. What the two sides need to do now is to make thorough preparations accordingly, create a suitable environment, manage the risks that do exist, and remove unnecessary disruptions, Wang noted.

"If the message last year was of warning amid uncertainties, the one this year was marked by confidence," CNN said in an article covering the press conference.

The Associated Press reported that

China is striking a "largely positive tone" ahead of an expected summit between the leaders of the two countries later this month.

Bloomberg said "China's top diplomat signaled that Beijing is prioritizing a stabilization of ties with Washington, even as he issued a pointed critique of US military actions in the Middle East."

China-US relations is repeatedly touched upon. This reflects the international community's keen attention to China-US interactions and underscores the significance of China-US relations on resolving specific international issues as well as reforming of the global landscape, Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Analysts said many of the foreign minister's words made at this press conference were both novel and profound.

"For example, when discussing China-Japan relations, this year they specifically mentioned the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Tokyo Trials, which had already defined Japanese militarism and nailed it to the pillar of historical shame. There is no way for it to escape the constraints established after World War II," Wang Yiwei, an international affairs expert at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Shared aspirations

Wang Yi clearly articulated some of China's fundamental positions in current international affairs and global governance, such as supporting enhanced cooperation among countries of the Global South, safeguarding and strengthening the role of the UN, and opposing the notion of so-called "China-US co-governance." These positions also reflect China's diplomatic emphasis on independence,

peace, and development, Li said.

Whether emphasizing the voices of Global South countries or responding to a Global Times reporter's question on the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity, Wang Yi conveyed China's ideas and practices regarding global governance and how to build a better world in today's turbulent and intertwined international environment.

Li also noted that Wang's remarks explained China's concepts for international relations and blueprint for building a better world, as demonstrated in the China-proposed initiatives and mechanisms.

China, as one of the main voices of the Global South, is a country that has achieved huge goals in the last decades, without invading other countries nor interfering in internal affairs of other countries, Mauro Ramos Pintos, journalist from Brasil de Fato who raised the question about China-Latin America relations during the press conference, told the Global Times.

"China's wisdom in governance is something to be valued in today's world," he said when referring to China-proposed four global initiatives.

Wang on Sunday specifically elaborated on the Global Governance Initiative proposed in 2025, which was quickly echoed by over 150 countries and international organizations.

Why is the GGI able to draw such widespread response? Wang explained the key lies in the five major principles advocated by the GGI, namely, sovereign equality, international rule of law, multilateralism, a people-centered approach and real actions.

"They meet the common expectations of the international community and reflect the shared aspirations of people from all countries."

Swift selection defies US 'regime collapse' expectations, to consolidate Iran's unity: experts

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showed the Iranian government is operating smoothly, capable of quickly building consensus, and has not fallen into the internal chaos or regime collapse that the US and Israel had hoped for, he said. Appointing a new supreme leader would help Iran maintain unity and solidarity, stabilize the regime and public morale, and preserve its resilience, Ding predicted.

Qin Tian, a deputy director of the Institute of Middle East Studies of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times the specific identity of the new leader, his positional inclinations, and the policy directions he will subsequently adopt are also crucial.

Will he adhere to an even tougher anti-American stance, or will he adopt a more pragmatic approach toward US relations and the ongoing war? This choice will exert a profound and far-reaching impact on Iran's future trajectory, Qin said.

War on both fronts

On the battlefield, the skies over Tehran lit up again overnight into Sunday with fresh explosions. US and Israeli forces expanded their bombardment of Iran late Saturday, including with strikes on fuel depots near Tehran, as Iran vowed to continue retaliatory strikes and to make the nation's enemies "pay the price" for attacking it, The New York Times reported on Sunday.

Al Jazeera highlighted that it marked a first of US-Israeli attack against the energy facilities in the Iranian capital.

In retaliation for the attacks, Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has launched a new wave of retaliatory strikes against Israel and US assets in the Middle East, according to Iranian state media, Al Jazeera reported.

Viewed by many observers as a quite surprising development, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a pre-recorded address broadcast on state television, delivered a rare and unusual conciliatory message on Saturday. Pezeshkian said Iran's temporary leadership council had approved suspending attacks on nearby countries unless an assault on Iran originated from those states, per The Guardian.

Pezeshkian later said on Sunday that his remarks were "misinterpreted by the enemy that seeks to sow division with neighbors", according to state TV. The response came after US President Donald Trump's post on Truth Social on local time Saturday, which claimed Iran's apology as sign of "surrender" to its Gulf neighbors, crediting sustained US-Israeli attacks.

"An external attack is more likely to strengthen that apparatus than dissolve it, enabling the IRGC to recast itself as the protector of the nation. In such a scenario, even the most determined regime critics can be swept into nationalist solidarity," read a New York Times opinion article over the weekend, doubting that the most likely outcome of the US-Israeli bombing campaign is not the advent of liberal democracy.

Pointing to this very geopolitical hubris, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday invoked a second Chinese adage from over 2,000 years ago in his speech to warn the danger behind Washington's obsession with force. The phrase was quoted from Jia Yi's Guo Qin Lun, or "Faults of Qin," which analyzed why the Qin Dynasty fell so rapidly despite its power.

"When benevolence and justice are not practiced, the position of strength shifts."

