



November 21, 2010, Bratislava

### Position of the People's Republic of China

First The People's Republic of China would like to appreciate the effort of the Forum for the 21st Century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on global cultural issues. At the same time we express our full support towards solving the challenges occurring in the new global scenario. After an in-depth analysis of the second draft proposed by the Forum for the 21st century let us annotate it and include our suggestions as well. The People's Republic of China stresses that it supports all efforts to take part in making the global situation's performance more effective and that it sees the most important issues in assecuration of collective security in the 21st century.

Now, at the beginning of the 21st century in the changing world plays culture new and crucial role that can not be omitted. It should be presented that in the past few decades Chinese culture has experienced a significant revival. People are rediscovering their Chinese traditions, history and roots. The people of China are experiencing a renewed love for their arts and new pride in their culture. In spite of that we have to agree that no culture is static. The world's images represented by the Chinese culture and language are in fact diverse and complex, which can never be generalized in one doctrine or system. The Chinese culture may have shown some stability or continuation, but it has also been developing and changing through the exchanges and interactions with the outside world over several thousand years. The Chinese, as well as any other nation are also adopting new cultural practices that have their roots in other cultures. This trend has many pros and cons and it would be very useful find the international platform for discussing this global challenge in The Forum for the 21st century.

A process of globalization did not conduct to one unit culture and a unification as it was thought before. Every trend has its contrary trend, which leads every nation to cultural revival and cultural *glokalisation*. A unification in the sense of *Americanisation* or *Westernization*, as it was presented before, did not happened. However the unification in the sense of economic or culture cooperation and apprehension of differences persist a positive point of view. The global world cultural cooperation should be based on:

- A respect for a state as the main subject of international relationships with great respect for its internal affairs.





- Effort to defining common attitudes to effective cooperation
- Looking for common values and attributes

Globalization of a culture should not be presented just as *a bogey*. The People's Republic of China is an example of a culture that can use economic advantages of globalization along with orientation on its local cultural aspects and roots. China is a unique culture; where economic growth serves as a psychological impulse to reinforce the cultural identity. The culture based on family (home) networks supports the prosperity of China's economic. Chinese living abroad have still connection to the native language and family relations. These cultural aspects bring a big opportunity for the Chinese economy.

### 1. Global English as Lingua Franca

Within the variety of Chinese dialects and languages there is nearly same number of people (312 mil., 21% of population) that learn English as a second language, as in comparison with the sum of those the USA, Canada and Great Britain. Chinese entrepreneurs are aware of English being the main business language. English language according to Chinese is very direct and has also different historical development, grammar and cultural status. It would be helpful to develop a Unitarian functional system of the English language, as an individual help for those cases, where English will be chosen as a business, political or conferential language or in the field of international institutions. Despite this, we can not agree with establishing Global English **as the only** official language for global communication. We consider English language as the most used business language, but every nation or organisation should still have its own right to choose its nation or any other language in international relationships. The language is a way to observe the world and a symbol to represent our world views.

We would like to participate on creating the unification of English expressions formed by English speaking professionals from all participated countries, if the output of this cooperation would lead to creating materials for system of learning English free available for schools, science and business participants.

We are willing to provide Representatives of Chinese language. This group will cooperate on developing the Unitarian functional system of English language that will include Asian point of view. We suggest changing the devoted 1% of GDP of each participant. We are willing to pay all **necessary and reasonable costs** that have to be **forward agreed by a Ministry**





of Culture of the Peoples Republic of China and other countries. We suggest concentrating this language system on economic vocabulary. We assume that English language is the first but not the only language that will this platform concentrate on. We strongly devise Chinese language as a second business one. We will participate if the language commission of Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> century would continue with working on a Unitarian functional system of Chinese language for international use as a Global Chinese.

### 2. Secularization and Harmonization of Religious Differences

China is an example of national unity, where there are five religions recognized by the state: Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism and many local forms of Chinese popular religion and the religions of national minorities. Finally, there is a dynamic field of new religions movements, which has undergone explosive development in China since the late 1980-90's. This mix of beliefs characterized China for many hundreds of years.

In China's case, the judgment of secularization depends crucially on whether we classify Confucianism as a religion or as agnosticism. The Confucianism confronts us with something which, in its specifics is not compatible with any kind of western ideology, whose religiosity was always defined via the orthodoxy of institutionalized religion. Therefore term like "secular" can not be applied here with any analytical success. So we agree with advice of religious individualization and we respect that every belief is equal, but the religion can not contradict the state interest and nation priorities, nor disrespect the others. We think that interest to cooperate should come from believers, so the state would only look after harmony and prosperity in the state and not mix in religious dialog. According to our history, we can not agree on establishing any religious tax, nor to putting the recommendation of religious interest in state level.

### 3. Multiculturalism and Importance of Common Values

China is an unitary country, in which many nationalities have lived together for centuries. The multiculturalism of China is therefore of a different meaning than the one in Europe or the USA. The China's 54 officially recognized ethnic minorities constitute 8, 41 % of Chinas overall population. According to this, China has to define a balance between national unity and ethnic diversity so as to achieve the vision of multicultural China. Every nation has its own historical background, culture, national conditions and disagreement with minorities. This leads to very





different view of this problematic of every state. Despite of a global multiculturalism, this problem is about local multicultural problems that should be considered as an internal states affair. We suggest continuing with Confucius's approach to minorities, which is premised on the *moral principle of compassion* with concerning on historical preference for strong and centralized state. We would consider the creation of special section, functioning under Ministry of Culture, responsible for research of effective multicultural model. We also suggest create Permanent international forum of multiculturalism, where would be the outcomes of national researchs discussed and revalued. The main member of this forum should be represented by Minister of Culture, and than a working group of experts, students or any other competent people from each country, that will discuss the most importatnant problems according to the state research. This forum could be iniciated once a year, the working team meeting twice a years. It depends of real effects after first years of existance of this Forum.

#### 4. Intercultural dialogue as Prevention of Intra-national Conflicts

The cooperation and dialog among states creates a very important and useful direction in the international relations. This relationship must be achieved gradually and thus should be viewed as a long and step-by-step process. In order to put the building-up of this new relationship on track, it is perhaps essential for both sides to base their efforts on the common understanding. Firstly, cooperation must be built on the basis of equality, mutual respect, trust and mutual benefit. Particularly, each should respect the core security interests of the other side. Secondly, cooperation should also be built on the basis of respecting the fundamental principles of international law and Charter of the United Nations. Cooperation should be focused on achieving strategic harmony without necessarily being identical in their positions. Either side should be allowed to maintain its strategic independence, and different views or policies on specific issues. Both sides should not let the difference in ideology interfere with cooperation. After that, The People's Republic of China would participate on building a foundation for an active international network of experts, representatives of nongovernmental organizations or scholars, that would be delegated by state. These representatives could advance new international strategies dealing with **economical strategies**, rather than with political or military sectors. We suggest this according to the old well-known phrase expressing a general true that *people who make a business together don't*





*fight against each other.* A common budget is in the competence of Ministry of Culture and Ministry of education of the China, that will give their proposes after a set of common negotiations with the representatives of other states and The Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> century

At the end we suggest considering this phrases in a final declaration:

- ...a culture swamps another like an invasive, fast-reproducing weed...
- Moreover, English language, being used as lingua franca for the global communication,...as a most used language in West
- ... democratic multiculturalism as a effective multiculturalism, or just multiculturalism.
- ... for preventing and resolving intra-national conflicts as a international situation

The People's Republic of China believes that her opinions and comments will be considered and incorporated into a final document. The People's Republic of China highly appreciates the initiative and preparation of the final document by the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and hopes the forthcoming Model conference will bring effective solutions in cross-cultural issues.

