



**ASIA-PACIFIC LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

**English version**

**APLN Group Statement on China-US Arms Control and Non-Proliferation**

In recent years, the greatest risk to peace and security in the Asia Pacific has been the deteriorating relationship between China and the United States. Tensions have driven wedges into the relationship, and consequently, nearly every bilateral issue has become securitized.

Mistrust between China and the United States is exacerbating security dilemmas, widening the perception gap, and driving an arms race that threatens to devolve into open conflict with dire consequences for countries in this region and beyond.

Therefore we, the undersigned members of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, support the recent meeting on arms control between US Assistant Secretary Mallory Stewart and Chinese Director-General of Arms Control Sun Xiaobo, and welcome the resumption of high-level bilateral dialogue between China and the United States on arms control and non-proliferation and their joint recognition of the need to maintain communication and exchanges to build trust, manage differences, and explore cooperation.

Maintaining open and constructive communication on issues of common concern such as weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms is vital to preserving peace and security and reducing the risk of conflict.

In the urgent and shared interest of maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific, we call on China and the United States to continue to build on these positive steps as responsible global powers.

## Chinese version

### APLN关于中美军控和防扩散的联合声明

近年来，中美关系的恶化成为亚太地区和平与安全面临的巨大风险。紧张的局势在两国关系中制造了裂痕，导致几乎所有双边问题都变得安全化。

中美之间的不信任正在加剧安全困境，扩大了认知差异，并推动了军备竞赛，更有可能演变为公开冲突，对该地区及全球其他国家都带来了严重后果。

因此，我们亚太核不扩散和核裁军领导网络 (APLN) 的成员联名支持美国国务院主管军控事务的助理国务卿马洛利·斯图尔特 (Mallory Stewart) 和中国外交部军控司司长孙晓波最近就军控问题举行的会晤，并欢迎中美两国就军控和防扩散问题恢复高级别双边对话，双方强调应保持沟通交流，以增进互信、积累共识、管控分歧、探讨合作。

在像大规模毁伤性武器和常规武器这样的共同关切问题上保持公开而建设性的沟通，对于维护和平与安全、降低冲突风险至关重要。

维护亚太地区的稳定是当务之急，也符合双方共同利益，我们呼吁中美两国作为负责任的全球大国，借助这些积极信号的势头，继续加强合作。

#### **Signatories:**

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6. Dr. Peter HAYES, Director of the Nautilus Institute
7. John MCCARTHY, Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne, former Ambassador to Vietnam, Mexico, Thailand, the United States, Indonesia, and Japan, and High Commissioner to India
8. Hon. Melissa PARKE, former Minister for International Development of Australia
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