

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Swiss Federal Council
And
The Government of the People's Republic of China
On
Promoting Dialogue and Cooperation

The Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China have enjoyed friendly relations and fruitful cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, educational, scientific and technological fields since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1950.

The Swiss Federal Council recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China on 17th January 1950 and has since then consistently followed the one China policy, including in international organizations, and it reaffirms its intention to adhere to it. The Swiss side wishes to see a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue and will not support any unilateral action which may increase tensions in the Taiwan Straits and lead to "Taiwan independence". The Chinese side appreciates the Swiss side's one China policy and reiterates its principled stance on the Taiwan issue.

The Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the two

Parties") agree that maintaining and enhancing bilateral cooperation is in their fundamental interests and conducive to peace and development in the world at large. They wish to deepen and expand dialogue and cooperation in various fields on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality and mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs with full respect for international law, and have reached the following understanding:

1. To further develop high-level visits between representatives of the two countries and promote regular contacts between their government departments with a view to increasing mutual understanding.

2. To intensify consultation and cooperation between the two foreign ministries. The two Parties shall maintain the political consultation mechanism at deputy foreign ministers' level to review annually the state of bilateral relations, define objectives, coordinate exchanges and cooperation in various fields, ensure the effective implementation of joint decisions, and exchange views on major international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The two Parties shall further improve the annual consultation mechanism at director-general level between the two foreign ministries to facilitate communication and cooperation at the working level.

The two Parties shall consult each other on global and regional policy, security issues, including United Nations issues, and development assistance policies. They shall reinforce bilateral cooperation with a view to improving governance, international humanitarian law, the rule of law and human rights, both bilaterally and through multilateral institutions, in accordance with domestic law and international standards. On the basis of equality and mutual respect, the two Parties shall carry out concrete cooperation projects within the framework of the human rights dialogue to promote and safeguard human rights and basic freedoms.

They shall pursue and intensify bilateral consultations in order to expand cooperation in the field of migration.

3. To further deepen and expand bilateral economic and trade relations. The two Parties shall make full use of and improve the existing consultation and cooperation mechanisms on trade, investment, technology and protection of intellectual property rights, such as the joint economic commission, in order to promote free trade and fair competition. To this end, if mutually agreed, the bilateral economic regulatory framework could be fostered by new agreements in order to cover new areas of common interest. The two Parties shall strengthen consultation on financial policy and encourage cooperation between small- and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries.

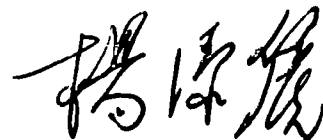
4. To increase exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, scientific research and environmental protection. Making full use of existing consultation and cooperation mechanisms, the two Parties shall encourage contacts between universities, cooperation between scientific research institutions, and exchange of visits by scientists, support cooperation in training, encourage exchanges and cooperation in environmental protection and information sharing on environment and energy to achieve sustainable development.

Done in duplicate in New York on 25 September 2007 in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Swiss Federal Council

For the Government

of the People's Republic of China



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Yang Jiechi

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