To Build the Northeast Asia Cooperative Security Mechanism with Sustainable Security Concept

Liu Jiangyong, Tsinghua University

To build the Northeast Asian cooperative security mechanism based on the view of sustainable security, is directly related to the possibility for China to avoid the risk of international security and strategy aroused by the "Belt and Road" initiative, which we couldn't ignore.

1. Two trends in international security

Two trends have appeared on the world political arena since the 21st century: the first is "the peaceful multilateralism" which is gaining ascendancy in East Asia. For instance, multilateral security dialogue mechanisms like CICA summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, the six-party talks on the Korean nuclear dispute, advocates that the international disputes should be relieved or solved in a peaceful way through dialogue negotiations. The other trend is "the violent multilateralism" which spreads in Middle East and Europe after the Cold War. "The violent multilateralism" had appeared in history in the way that, the imperialist powers jointed to invade a sovereign state or nip its regime in bud. In 2015, the wars and refugee tide in the Middle East and Europe are resulted from the combined impact of "Color Revolution" and "the violent multilateralism". "The violent multilateralism" can be shown in the five regional wars burst out in the Middle East and Europe after the Cold War. Violent conflicts and wars caused many people homeless. Even worse, the homeless people then became refugees and had to leave home and flood into Europe. All this had made the main countries in Europe, which have been marking themselves with "democracy" and "human rights", tired of dealing with the situation and be caught in the dilemma. The future of this issue will attract more attention.

2. The sustainable security concept

Sustainably security is as important as sustainable development, they should support each other and be integral. The new concept of common, comprehension, cooperation and sustainable security can be concluded as "four principles of sustainable security". Common security is overall security, including two domains of traditional security and non-traditional security, and two dimensions of domestic security and international security; cooperative security includes not only the seamlessly connected security cooperation among the related departments domestically, but also

Liu Jiangyong:Professor of Tsinghua University, Deputy Director of Institute of contemporary international relations. His research focus is international relations between China and East Asian countries.

To build the Northeast Asian cooperative security mechanism based on the view of sustainable security, is directly related to the possibility for China to avoid the risk of international security and strategy aroused by our advocate of building the "Belt and Road" initiative, and is also related to the harmonious and stable political pattern of Northeast Asia. This is an unavoidable road to establish a sustainable fate community in Northeast Asia.

the cooperation among nations, especially the active cooperation on the non-traditional domains. Only by effective international cooperation can we realize a high sustainable security at a low cost. From this perspective, the "four principles of sustainable security" is of equal value with "the five principles of peaceful coexistence" on its strategic guidance and regulative significance.

3. The necessity of pushing forward the Northeast Asia cooperative security mechanism based on the view of sustainable security

a)From the perspective of international strategic pattern, the coming into being of a non-traditional strategic pattern provides an opportunity for the anti-terrorism cooperation among great powers. However, intense strategic competitions in the traditional strategic pattern still exist.

Firstly, the non-traditional international pattern means that the non-state and non-governmental actors form transnational armed groups and "an invisible polar", on the material base of network information society, to compete with America and its alliances, which can form a brand new international relation system. "Islamic state" (IS) is one of the important forms. Even being seriously defeated, new transnational terrorism network could also appear, posing the threat of "nuclear terrorism".

Secondly, in the domain of the traditional international pattern, the possibility is rising that a new anti-terrorism and anti-Western alliance among Syria, Iraq, Iran and other countries, headed by Russia, is to be formed. For Russia, being in the defensive position in the Ukraine and NATO enlargement issue, this is an edged strategic counterattack in response to "the violent multilateralism" leaded by America. It is worthy of attention whether it will worsen the Sino-US-Russia conflict in the traditional international pattern.

In the Northeast Asia, US-Japan alliance attempts to take charge of the security here, however, America emphasizes more on Russia while Japan targets on China, its imaginary enemy. Meanwhile, under the US-Japan strategic extrusion, China and Russia have to further their strategic cooperation. To prevent wars in East Asia like what happened in the Middle East and Europe, it is necessary to build up the Northeast Asia cooperative security mechanism based on the view of sustainable security.

b)Uncertainties exist in the development of sustainable security in Northeast Asia

It is vital to see whether America, as the world super power, can change its "unilateral militarism" of the Bush Administration to "the violent multilateralism" proposed by the Obama Administration. In the process of seeking a new relationship between great powers, China and American

share the common responsibility and benefits in realizing and ensuring the Northeast Asian sustainable security.

The Japanese government forced through the Security Law, pacing its way for sending militia overseas to practice "the right of collective self-defense".

Whether Japan is going to take part in "the violent multilateral" on the global scope and damage the sustainable security of itself, the Northeast Asia and even the world, is really worrying. Once Japan amends its Japanese Constitution, its security cost will rise while the security level will drop continuously. At that time, Japan is hard to take the related regulations in the Pacifist Constitution as a shield to refuse the requirement by America to give it military support worldwide. Japan will not only, in the traditional strategic pattern, worsen its strategic conflict with China and Korean and be caught in trouble in the US-Russia confrontation, but also share more international risk in the non-traditional international pattern.

4. Build up a sustainable fate community in the Northeast Asia

In the Northeast Asia, we should work hard to build sustainable economic fate community, sustainable security and peace fate community and harmonious fate community. To build these three communities in the Northeast Asia, we should propose and maintain a peaceful multilateralism and reject the violent multilateralism to push forward common security; we should also propose "sea and land unity theory" rather than "sea rights theory", "land rights theory" or "Eurasia marginal theory" which serve for war and hegemonic traditional geopolitical thoughts. Although the six party negotiations on South Korean nuclear dispute encountered great difficulties, however, as a try of the peaceful multilateralism, the active influence of it cannot be denied. An effective regional multilateral security mechanism relies on a stable bilateral relationship. The "one belt, one road" proposed by China is to seek peaceful cooperation between sea and land countries, between land countries and between sea countries. To achieve this goal, we have to exclude the influence and limitation of the traditional geopolitical thoughts, take each other's advantage of geo-economics, realize an all-dimensional, wide-ranging and peaceful cooperation, and build a network of practical, inter-connective and diversified fate community.

On this account, we should take the view of sustainable development as an instruction to establish the Northeast Asia security mechanism. All the nations involved should design the route together. Our research subject should be: how to resolve the territory disputes over seas and lands in the view of sustainable security; how to realized the peaceful and independent unification for the nations split after wars; how to solve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and stop the nuclear proliferation in Northeast Asia in the view of sustainable security; how to promote the Northeast Asia diplomacy, the strategic security dialogue, establish and improve the risk management mechanism; how to strengthen the practical cooperation in the nontraditional security fields and so on. This process will benefit the establishment, consolidation and development of Northeast Asian security mechanism in the future.

Translator/ Ji Yinyun
Proofreader/ Xia Meng