

China's Xi Says Increasingly Unstable World Needs Stronger UN



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on October 18, 2023.

BEIJING (TASS) - The international community needs a stronger United Nations amid growing global instability, Chinese President Xi Jinping said, adding that China will continue to deepen cooperation with the organization.

"The international landscape is becoming increasingly marked by change and instability, making it essential to further uphold genuine multilateralism and strengthen the status and role of the United Nations," China Central Television quoted Xi as saying during a meeting in Shanghai with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday, who was attending the

World Artificial Intelligence Conference.

"China will continue to deepen cooperation with the United Nations, promote peace and development worldwide, and advance the vision of a global community with a shared future," he said.

Xi said the international community should uphold fairness and justice. He stressed that every country is an equal member of the international community whose sovereignty, territorial integrity, and legitimate interests must be respected. He also warned against a return to the "law of the jungle."

According to Xi, the United Nations must adapt to innovation by

steadily advancing institutional reform and improving its effectiveness. He noted that the interests of all countries are closely interconnected and that they should work together to address global challenges, while major powers should "assume greater responsibility." Xi reaffirmed that China will continue to contribute to international stability.

For his part, Guterres said the United Nations will strengthen cooperation with China, oppose unilateral actions, protectionism, and intimidation, uphold the UN Charter and international law, promote multipolarity, and safeguard the common interests of the international community.

Tucker Carlson: Trump 'Betrayal' Puts U.S. on Path to Revolution



***. American conservative journalist Tucker Carlson.

LONDON (Bloomberg) - The U.S. is on the path to revolution because President Donald Trump has betrayed Americans by putting foreign interests ahead of those of his own country, journalist Tucker Carlson has said.

In an interview on Bloomberg's The Mishal Husain Show aired on Friday, the conservative commentator - once among Trump's most prominent supporters - accused the president of being "totally disloyal" to the U.S., saying he had "cheated on the United States with a foreign power."

"This is why countries have revolutions," Carlson said, adding: "I don't want revolution, but we're going to get a revolution if this continues."

The former Fox News host, who backed Trump's 2024 reelection campaign before breaking with him over Iran, argued that many Americans no longer believed the political system represented their interests. He said Republicans had failed to fulfill promises to dismantle the "deep state," citing the handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files as evidence of why many sup-

porters had lost faith in the party.

Carlson has become increasingly critical of U.S. backing for Israel's war in Gaza and publicly urged Trump not to attack Iran during Israel's 12-Day imposed War on Iran in June 2025. Their rift deepened after the U.S. joined Israel's strikes on Iran in late February, with Carlson accusing Trump of putting Israeli interests ahead of America's. He also described Trump's "true religion" as "Israelism" and called the Iran war "disgusting and evil."

"Trump allowed the U.S. government to be completely steered by this tiny little country in the Middle East, to our great detriment," Carlson said, adding that he had argued directly against Trump's approach, but "that had no effect at all."

"And then we wound up in a war with Iran that has gravely hurt the United States," he said.

The interview comes as the U.S. continues its military campaign against Iran. U.S. Central Command said it had completed a sixth consecutive night of strikes on Thursday after Trump threatened to expand attacks to Iranian energy infrastructure and bridges.

North Korea: U.S.-Japan-South Korea 'Military Collusion' Undermines Regional Peace, Stability

PYONGYANG (Xinhua) -- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) condemned "military collusion" among the United States, Japan and South Korea, saying it undermines regional peace and stability, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Saturday, citing the country's Ministry of National Defense.

The Trilateral Chiefs of Defense meeting of the three countries con-

vened Wednesday in Washington showed an attempt to "attain a military superiority in the region and seek their hegemonic geopolitical interests through intensified trilateral military cooperation," a ministry spokesman said in a statement.

The "military collusion" is "the root cause of undermining peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region," the spokesman was quoted by the KCNA as saying.

The DPRK armed forces will never allow an "imbalance of force" in the region as a result of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea "military nexus," the spokesman said. The spokesman added that the country's military will "always remain faithful to the constitutional mission to neutralize the actual security challenges and potential threats and reliably defend the security of the country and the regional peace."

Trump Threatens Canada With Steeper Tariff Costs Over Wildfire Smoke



Smoke from Canadian wildfires clouds the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

OTTAWA (Reuters) - President Donald Trump on Friday blamed Canada for wildfire smoke spreading across the United States and said he would add the "incalculable cost" of dealing with the pollution to existing tariffs on Canadian goods.

Heavy smoke from hundreds of Canadian fires enveloped a swath of the U.S. from the Midwest to the Northeast on Thursday and Friday, prompting warnings to residents to stay indoors.

Trump, who has a combative relationship with Prime Minister Mark Carney, said he would be calling the Canadian leader to find out what he planned to do about the "totally unacceptable" situation.

"We are holding Canada responsible for the fact that they are not properly maintaining their Forests ... and the United States is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air," he said in a Truth Social post.

"This is Willful Negligence, and becoming a yearly occurrence, costing the United States Billions of Dollars, which cost of this pollution must of necessity be added to the TARIFFS Canada is currently paying."

Canada's minister of emergency management and community resilience, Eleanor Olszewski, said the government has invested C\$12 billion (\$8.56 billion) in forest sustainability and fire prevention since 2020 as the country faces increasingly drier, warmer weather.

She also cited a long history of U.S.-Canadian partnership in fighting wildfires on both sides of their border.

"At this time, our first priority is protecting Canadians and keeping communities safe," Olszewski said in a statement.

Climate experts say rising temperatures have led to drier timber and more wildfires in recent years in Canada, home to some of

the world's largest forest landscapes.

"As our climate warms, we're seeing ... more extreme weather, and we're going to see more fire," said Mike Flannigan, a professor of wildland fire at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia.

Shortly after taking office in 2025, Trump imposed tariffs on several key imports from Canada.

Carney's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's remarks. Carney said on Thursday the United States could do more to combat climate change that is leading to more prolonged drought and rising temperatures around the world.

The two men are likely to meet at the FIFA World Cup final in New Jersey on Sunday.

Many blazes this year are in the giant province of Ontario and are concentrated in the remote and sparsely populated northwest, where the only mode of transport is via air. So far, 650,000 acres (2,630 sq km) have burned, compared with 600,000 acres at the same time last year. Thousands of people have been evacuated.

Thunder Bay, a city of about 110,000 people on the northern shore of Lake Superior more than 1,300 km (800 miles) northwest of Toronto, is at full capacity from sheltering wildfire evacuees from across northwestern Ontario, Mayor Ken Boshcoff told Reuters.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Friday said the province would buy 11 new aircraft to help counter the fast-spreading wildfires and pushed back against U.S. politicians who have criticized the campaign as inadequate.

The United States is also experiencing an above-average fire year, with 3.7 million acres burned to date in 2026 compared with a 10-year average of 2.7 million acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Russian-Ukrainian Escalation Continues as Drone Strikes Kill 7



Fire after Russian attack on Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian and Ukrainian forces intensified drone attacks on Saturday, leaving seven people dead, dozens injured and causing extensive damage to logistics facilities and port infrastructure as both sides expanded long-range strikes.

According to Russia's Sputnik news agency, Tambov Governor Yevgeny Pervyshov said a Ukrainian drone attack targeted a Wildberries logistics center, killing seven people, injuring 25 others and sparking a large fire.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said more than 370 Ukrainian drones had flown toward the Russian capital since Friday evening, adding that air defenses intercepted most of them before they reached the city and destroyed 64 during their approach.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces carried out coordinated strikes using precision weapons and drones against fuel unloading infrastructure

at the ports of Odesa and Chornomorsk in southern Ukraine. It also said two vessels carrying military cargo were hit in and near Chornomorsk port.

Meanwhile, Ukraine announced it had targeted 13 vessels from Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, including cargo ships, an oil tanker, a gas carrier, a tugboat and two floating cranes.

Ukraine's state news agency Ukrinform quoted Unmanned Systems Forces Commander Robert Brovdi as saying the operation, codenamed "Molochka," targeted 172 Russian vessels between July 6 and 18 in an effort to disrupt logistics supporting Russian oil, fuel and cargo shipments.

The conflict, which began in February 2022, has increasingly shifted toward long-range drone warfare, with both sides striking logistics hubs, infrastructure and industrial facilities deep behind the front lines.

News in Brief

VENICE (AFP) - The billionaire U.S. ambassador to Italy faced protests when he arrived in Venice on Friday aboard his luxury yacht as part of a coastal diplomacy tour marking the 250th anniversary of American independence. Activists described hospitality mogul Tilman Fertitta's arrival as an unwelcome display of American wealth and influence for many Italians at a time when they see the Trump administration as upending the post-World War II international order.

DRAMMEN (AP) - A major fire in southern Norway destroyed more than 100 homes Friday and forced hundreds of people to evacuate the area, according to police and the country's public broadcaster. The blaze started in a townhouse in the city of Drammen around 3:30 p.m. Friday, police said. It then spread through the area and into nearby forests. Firefighters continued their efforts Saturday morning to bring the blaze under control. NRK, Norway's public broadcaster, said hundreds of people went to an evacuation center. No residents have been reported missing, police said. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire.

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Germany is upgrading its security stance to a "high threat level" from a previous "abstract threat level" based on increasing reports and intelligence, the country's Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said in a German newspaper interview published on Saturday. "This means that the risk of attacks must be reckoned with at all times in Germany," he was quoted as telling Welt am Sonntag. "Plans for attacks against our country are clearly discernible," he added. He cited risks to German infrastructure, individuals and institutions. The Interior Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for more details. Germany has seen a number of attacks in recent years.

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's parliament has enacted a controversial law introducing criminal penalties for desecrating the national flag. The passage of the legislation on Friday is part of an ongoing drive by staunchly conservative Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to promote traditional patriotism and correct what her supporters call a "wrong" legal double standard. Under existing laws, Japan penalizes the desecration of foreign flags to prevent diplomatic disputes, but previously lacked equivalent protections for its own flag, the Hinomaru.

PARIS (AFP) - Militants and a separatist group ambushed a Malian army convoy in the country's hard-hit north on Saturday, resulting in the killing or capture of scores of soldiers, the rebels said. The Malian army confirmed the attack, saying in a statement that armed groups ambushed the convoy of Malian soldiers and their partners in a remote part of the northern Gao region. It did not give further details, only saying that "a counterattack is under way". Both the regional al Qaeda affiliate JNIM and the separatist Azawad Liberation Front, or FLA, claimed responsibility for the attack in separate statements that spoke about "great human losses" and "serious material damage" on the side of the Malian army.