

**U.S.-China Joint Statement on
Countering the Threat of Improvised Explosive Devices**

September 14, 2015

1. In April, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and the People's Republic of China Minister of Public Security Guo Shengkun committed to increasing counterterrorism cooperation and efforts to counter the global threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to oppose terrorism in all forms at the U.S.-China Counterterrorism Dialogue held in Beijing in August. In September, the United States and the People's Republic of China convened in Washington, D.C. a workshop of experts on best practices to counter the threat posed by IEDs. U.S. co-hosts Department of State Counterterrorism Coordinator Ambassador Tina Kaidanow and Department of Homeland Security Office of International Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary Matthew King and the head of the Chinese delegation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping highlighted the importance of stemming the illicit flow of dual-use bomb components and chemical precursors used by terrorists in IEDs.

Through the U.S.-China Counterterrorism Dialogue and other channels, both countries committed to enhancing counterterrorism cooperation and to maintaining coordination on respective counterterrorism concerns. Recognizing the threat posed by IEDs to international security, the United States and China affirm their intent to sustain efforts to share best practices to counter IEDs and seek practical

avenues to enhance counterterrorism cooperation. In the first formal engagement between the two countries on the issue, both sides sought to bring together subject matter experts on IEDs to identify areas for potential cooperation.

Cognizant of the need to maintain the secure and efficient flow of goods and people, both countries also affirm their intent to work collaboratively to strengthen global supply chain security in a manner that avoids disruption to the legitimate trade of relevant materials.

2. The United States and China jointly support the following principles for furthering efforts to counter the threat posed by IEDs:

International cooperation is essential to preventing nefarious actors from exploiting the global supply chain. The United States and China are dedicated to encouraging innovative and effective approaches to increase supply chain security in their respective homelands, and to encouraging others in their regions and in the global community to do the same.

Engagement between governments, and between governments and industry, is essential to combatting the threat posed by IEDs. The United States and China seek to promote greater engagement and collaboration between government authorities and industry, including companies, associations and other stakeholders, to develop and refine supply chain security approaches and measures, and to spread awareness in the private sector of the importance of supply chain security.

Bilateral cooperation should continue to be a focus for both nations. The United States and China are committed to strengthening counterterrorism cooperation through bilateral discussions focused on preventing the illicit proliferation of components and explosive precursor

chemicals used in IEDs and the dissemination of IED manufacturing methods. In order to advance cooperation, both nations intend to explore opportunities for additional informational exchanges on these important issues.

Regional and multi-lateral engagement is necessary to address global threats. The United States and China recognize that modern supply chains are inherently international in scope and both countries are committed to seeking expanded bilateral outreach and efforts toward appropriate international organizations such as the World Customs Organization. As a next step, the United States and China decided to conduct a follow-on workshop in China to continue discussions on strengthening counter-IED cooperation.

3. This Joint Statement represents a mutual understanding and cooperative arrangement between the two countries and does not constitute a legally binding agreement. The activities under this Joint Statement should be carried out in accordance with and with respect for the laws of each country and applicable international agreements to which that country is a party. This Joint Statement does not create rights and obligations binding under international law or the law of any jurisdiction, nor does it create or confer any right, privilege, or benefit on any person, party, or entity, private or public.