

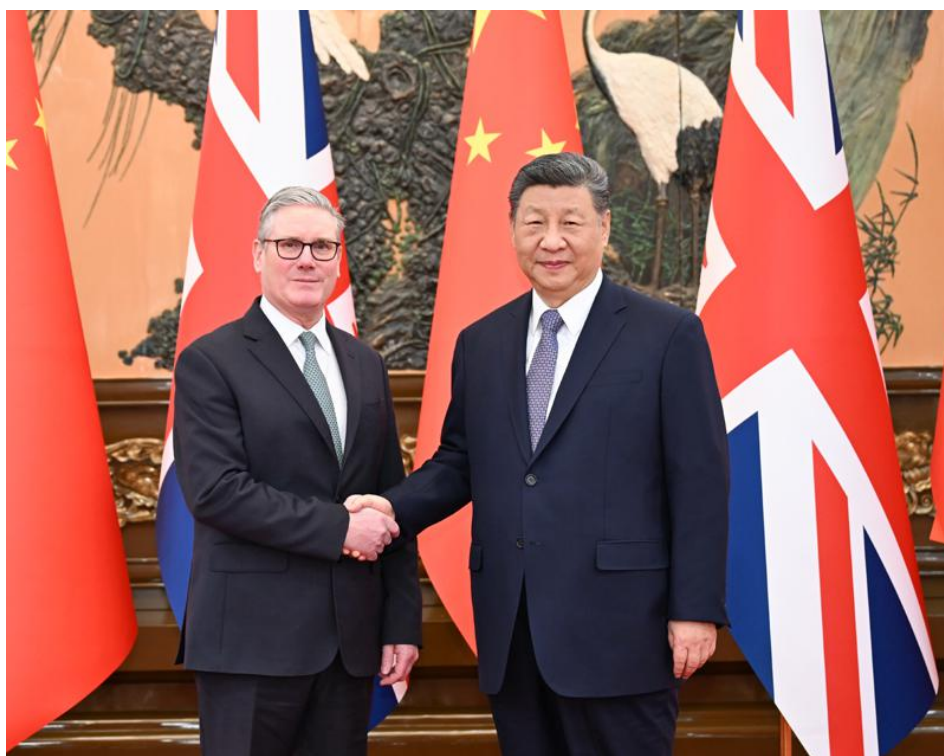


China Newsletter

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- Special Edition -

Highlights on British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's
official visit to China

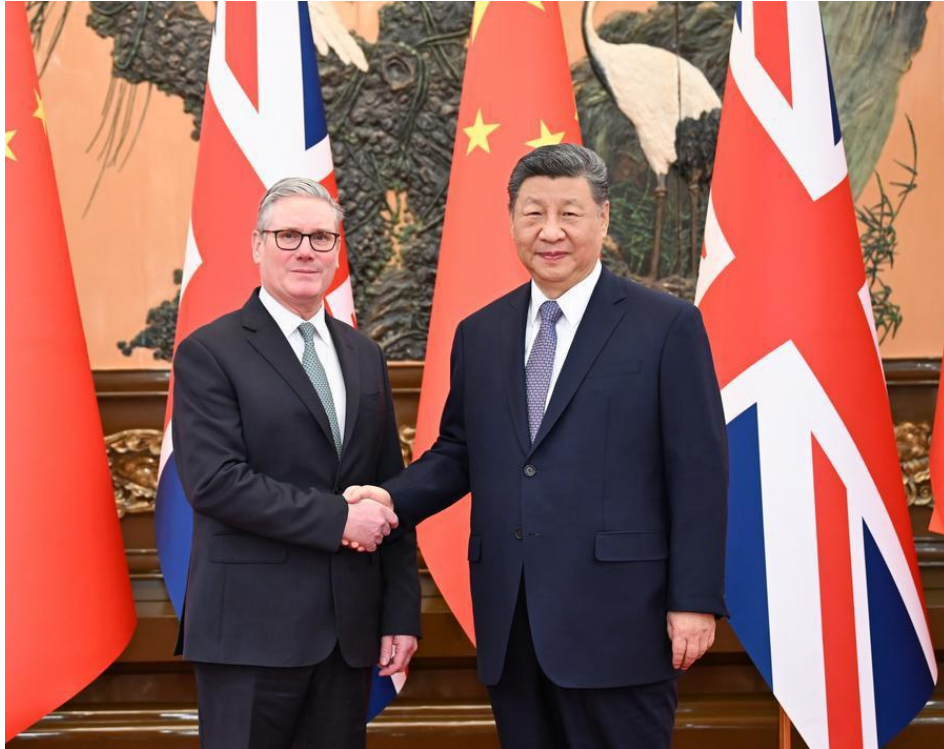


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I.

President Xi Jinping Meets with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer



On the morning of January 29, President Xi Jinping met with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who is on an official visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Both sides agreed to develop a long-term and consistent comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the UK.

President Xi Jinping noted that in a changing and chaotic world, China and the UK, as permanent members of the UN Security Council and major economies, need to strengthen dialogue and cooperation, both in safeguarding world peace and stability and in delivering growth and prosperity for people in both countries. They need to see history from a broader perspective, rise above differences, respect each other, and turn the vast potential of China-UK cooperation into real progress. This will open up new prospects for China-UK relations and cooperation, for the good of both peoples and the whole world.

President Xi Jinping underlined mutual trust as the foundation for steady and sustainable state-to-state relations. China is always committed to peaceful development, has never started a war, and has never taken an inch of foreign land. No matter how strong and developed China becomes, it will never be a threat to other countries. Traditional Chinese culture values peace and pursues harmony without uniformity. China-UK economic and trade ties are mutually beneficial in nature. As China kicks off its 15th Five-Year Plan, the two sides may expand win-win cooperation in the services sector including education, health, and finance, and pursue joint research and commercial application in artificial intelligence, life sciences, new energy, and low-carbon technologies for shared development and prosperity. The UK is expected to foster a fair, just, and non-discriminatory environment for Chinese companies. China and the UK, as countries with rich cultural heritage, have both made significant contributions to the development and progress of humanity. The two sides should enhance people-to-people exchanges and further facilitate two-way travel. More British people from the government, parliament, and subnational entities are welcome to visit China and develop a comprehensive, objective, and correct understanding of China. China will give positive consideration to visa-free access for UK travelers.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that unilateralism, protectionism, and power politics are running rampant. The international order is under great strain. International law can be truly effective only when all countries abide by it. Major countries in particular should set an example, otherwise the world will revert to the law of the jungle. As supporters of multilateralism and free trade, China and the UK should advocate and practice true multilateralism, make the global governance system more just and equitable, and build an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.



Prime Minister Starmer conveyed King Charles III's greetings to President Xi. Prime Minister Starmer said he was delighted to be the first British Prime Minister to visit China in 8 years. This visit, with a delegation of around 60 important representatives from British business and cultural organizations, demonstrates the breadth of UK-China cooperation and the UK's commitment to deepening and expanding ties with China. As major economies and permanent members of the UN Security Council, it is vital for the UK and China to build a long-term and consistent comprehensive strategic partnership with mutual respect and trust, especially in a volatile and fragile world. On Taiwan, the UK's position is long-standing, well-known, and unchanged. The UK would like to maintain high-level engagement with China, enhance dialogue and exchange, and strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, finance, environment, etc. to support each other's growth and prosperity. The more closely the two peoples interact, the better they will understand each other. The UK will work with China to promote exchanges between their legislatures and other sectors. Hong Kong's prosperity and stability serve the common interests of both countries, and the UK welcomes Hong Kong as a unique and important bridge between the two countries. China plays a

vital role in international affairs, and the UK would like to strengthen cooperation with China on climate change and other global challenges and jointly uphold world peace and stability.

Wang Yi was present at the meeting.

(https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202601/t20260129_11847645.html)

II. Premier Li Qiang Holds Talks with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer



BEIJING, Jan. 29 -- China and Britain should better leverage their complementary advantages to expand and improve bilateral trade, Premier Li Qiang said when holding talks with visiting British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Beijing on Thursday.

Li said China and Britain's commitment to openness, cooperation and mutual benefit reflects the will of the people and serves the common interests of both sides.

China is willing to continue to move in the same direction with Britain, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, strengthen strategic communication, consolidate the foundation of mutual trust and deepen cooperation across all fields, said Li, adding that this will not only help the two countries jointly address risks arising from changes in the international landscape and advance common development, but also inject more positive energy into global peace and stability.

China is ready to work with the British side to improve the inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation mechanism, and conduct exchanges more frequently at all levels and in various fields, Li noted.

He called on both sides to enhance exchanges and alignment in areas such as financial regulation and financial market connectivity, and to deepen cooperation in emerging industries including artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, the digital economy and modern shipping services.

The Chinese government is committed to providing a favorable environment for enterprises from all countries, including Britain, to invest in China, and also hopes that Britain will offer Chinese enterprises a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory business environment for investment in Britain, the premier said.

Li added that as permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, China and Britain should demonstrate the responsibility of major countries, strengthen multilateral communication and coordination, deepen cooperation on prominent issues of governance deficits, uphold the authority of the UN, safeguard multilateralism and free trade, and promote the development of the international order in a more just and equitable direction.

Noting Britain and China are permanent members of the UN Security Council and members of the Group of 20 (G20) economies, Starmer said that a long-term and stable comprehensive strategic partnership is in the interests of both sides, and is in the interests of global economic growth and world prosperity.

Britain is willing to strengthen high-level and multi-field exchanges and dialogues with China, Starmer said, adding that the British side supports open and free trade, is willing to deepen exchanges and cooperation in trade, finance, investment,

manufacturing, services, culture and other fields with China, and welcomes Chinese enterprises to carry out investment and cooperation in Britain.

Starmer expressed willingness to step up coordination with China in multilateral cooperation, in jointly addressing global challenges, and in developing bilateral relations to a new chapter.

Prior to the talks, Li hosted a welcoming ceremony for Starmer in the Great Hall of the People.

Following the talks, Li and Starmer witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents covering economy, trade, agriculture, food, media, education and market regulation.



(https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202601/29/content_WS697b5986c6d00ca5f9a08d40.html)

III.

Premier Li Qiang Attends the Closing Ceremony of the 2026 UK-China Business Council Meeting



BEIJING, Jan. 29 (Xinhua) -- China and Britain should continue to carry forward the "ice-breaking spirit" and tighten their bonds of cooperation, Chinese Premier Li Qiang told the closing ceremony of the 2026 UK-China Business Council meeting in Beijing on Thursday.

This is not only a rational choice for the two countries to deal with risks and promote development together, but also their due responsibility as responsible major countries to work together on solving global problems, Li said.

Li said that China and Britain are important economic and trade partners sharing extensive common interests. As long as both sides adhere to mutual respect, move in same direction, eliminate interference, and stick to openness and cooperation, the two countries can achieve win-win results and create prosperity through mutual success.

Li pointed out that last year, despite mounting economic pressure, China has pushed forward with innovation-led and high-quality development, demonstrating extraordinary resilience and vitality of its economy.

Noting that China starts implementing the 15th Five-Year Plan this year, Li said Chinese economic aggregate will reach a new level in the next five years, with the structure continuously optimized and new growth drivers expanding, which will provide huge space for China-Britain cooperation.

Noting that the enterprises of the two countries have great potential, he said that they can focus their efforts on four areas. The first is the expansion of the "new increment" of bilateral trade, and developing services trade into a new cooperation growth point, in particular.

Second, the two sides can create a "new engine" for innovative development, taking the lead in and empowering each other in such fields as artificial intelligence, clean energy, biomedicine and high-end manufacturing, Li said.

Third, they can explore "new blue oceans" of tripartite cooperation, carry out more cooperation in the global market -- with a particular focus on the Southern countries -- and achieve win-win and multiple-win situations, the premier said.

The fourth is the creation of "new vitality" in people-to-people exchange, alongside the development of more brand projects that are popular among people in both countries, a boost for people-to-people interaction, and the achievement of a double harvest of economic value and people-to-people connectivity, Li said.

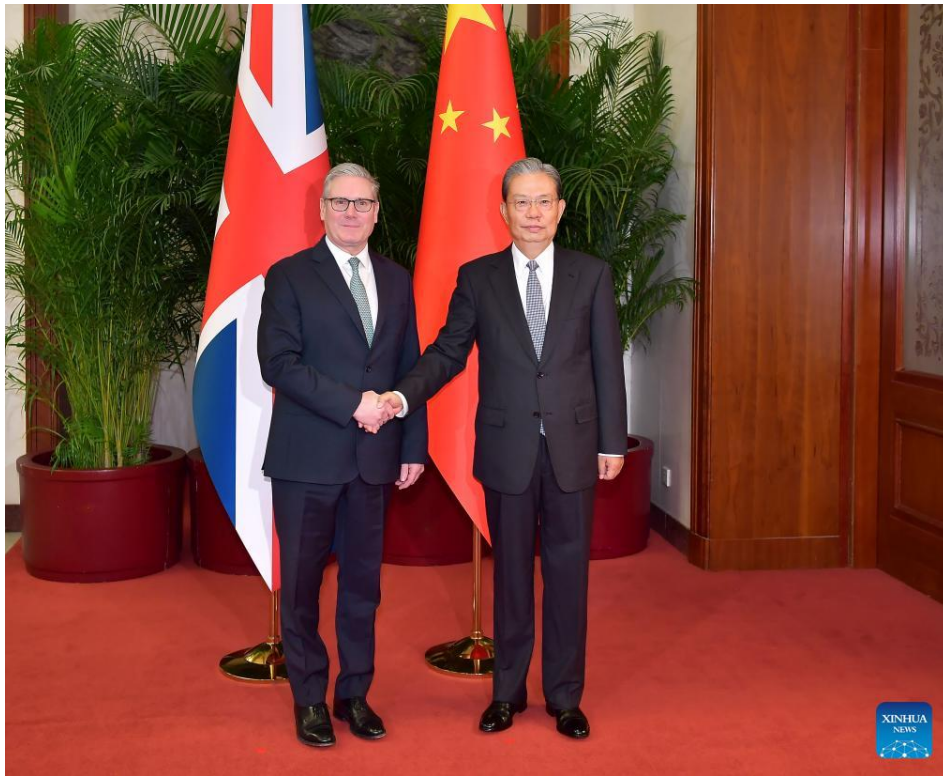
Visiting British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said during the closing ceremony that the purpose of his visit to China is to gain a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of China, and

discover and seize more opportunities for cooperation, so as to better benefit the British people and support the growth and prosperity of the country.

It is hoped that entrepreneurs and organizations of the two countries can seize the opportunity and carry out closer dialogue and cooperation, he added.

(<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0130/c90000-20420803.html>)

IV. NPC Chairman Zhao Leji Meets with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer



BEIJING, Jan. 29 (Xinhua) -- China's top legislator Zhao Leji met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Beijing on Thursday.

Zhao, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, said that as the world today is undergoing both changes and turbulence, developing sound China-Britain relations is of great contemporary value and global significance. Noting that Chinese President Xi Jinping has maintained communication with Prime Minister Starmer through phone calls and meetings since the Labour Party government took office, steering bilateral relations onto a path of improvement and development, Zhao said China is willing to work with Britain to uphold the definition of bilateral ties as strategic

partners and maintain a positive, pragmatic, stable and mutually beneficial direction in ties.

He called on the two sides to eliminate disruptions, properly manage differences and ensure the steady and enduring development of bilateral relations.

China stands ready to work with Britain to resume normal exchanges between the legislative bodies of the two countries, Zhao said, adding that China welcomes British parliamentarians to visit and experience a real, multi-dimensional and comprehensive China.

Starmer said Britain and China share broad common interests, and that Britain is willing to develop a long-term and consistent strategic partnership with China. He added that Britain's longstanding policy on the Taiwan question remains unchanged. Starmer also expressed hope for the resumption of normal exchanges between the legislative bodies of the two countries.



(https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0130/c90000-20420889.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

V.
Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Jining Meets with UK
Prime Minister Keir Starmer



SHANGHAI Jan. 31-- Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Jining met with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Chen said Shanghai is ready to work with the United Kingdom to strengthen cooperation in areas including financial services, biomedicine, and green development. He also called for deeper exchanges in culture, creativity, and education, closer people-to-people ties, and greater contributions to China-UK cooperation.

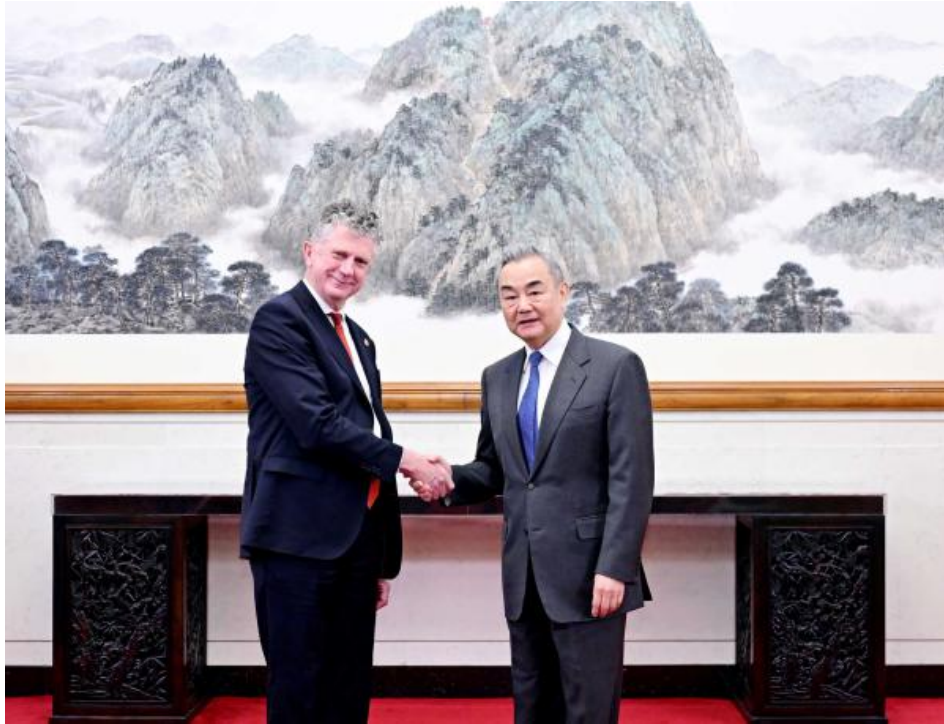
Starmer described Shanghai as an important city for UK-China cooperation and exchanges, noting that many British companies have chosen Shanghai as a base for expansion and have found success there.

He said he hopes both sides will further enhance understanding and mutual trust through closer exchanges and deepen practical cooperation in fields including finance, technology, culture,

creativity, and climate change, to benefit people in both countries.

(https://english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-Latest-WhatsNew/20260202/c03f5b7069454e8da484c0296fbf7458.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

VI.
Wang Yi Meets with UK Prime Minister's National
Security Adviser Jonathan Powell



On the evening of January 28, 2026, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with UK Prime Minister's National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell.

Wang Yi said that Prime Minister Keir Starmer will begin his visit to China, which marks the first official visit by a British prime minister in eight years. As permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, China and the UK bear significant responsibilities for world peace and development. Amid a complex and volatile international landscape, both sides should all the more uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, strengthen dialogue and cooperation, work together to address challenges, and jointly safeguard the international system with the UN at its core. Prime

Minister Keir Starmer, immediately upon his arrival in Beijing, stated that this will be a historic visit. A historic visit should yield historic outcomes. Wang Yi expressed the belief that the important common understandings reached between the leaders of both countries on developing a long-term and stable comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the UK will inject strong momentum into the institutional exchanges and cooperation across various fields between the two countries, and open a new chapter in China-UK relations.

Jonathan Powell stated that China is the world's second-largest economy and a major country with significant influence. The UK and China have not had high-level mutual visits for many years, which is not in the interests of the two peoples. The UK side hopes to take Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to China as an opportunity to enhance dialogue and cooperation with China at all levels and in various fields, and to develop a more coherent and comprehensive strategic partnership. He believes that with joint efforts from both sides, the visit will be a complete success.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern, including the Ukraine crisis.

(https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/zyxw/202601/t20260129_11847503.html)

VII. China-Britain Economic, Trade Cooperation Documents to Deepen Bilateral Ties

BEIJING, Jan. 30 (Xinhua) -- The latest economic and trade cooperation documents signed between China and Britain aimed to further deepen bilateral economic and trade relations through coordinated efforts in goods trade, services trade, and the development of economic and trade mechanisms, China's Ministry of Commerce said on Friday.

During British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's ongoing visit to China, the two countries signed four economic and trade cooperation documents, according to a ministry spokesperson. With the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on export cooperation with China, Britain has become the first country to sign such a memorandum with China since China launched an initiative to enable global trade partners to share its vast market, said the spokesperson.

The two sides will establish a cooperation mechanism for exporting to China, jointly explore the export potential of high-quality British goods and services to China, strengthen information exchange, carry out promotional activities, and improve trade facilitation so as to jointly promote the sound development of China-Britain trade, the spokesperson added.

Through the signing of two other documents, namely, the MoU on launching a joint feasibility study on a China-Britain services trade agreement and the MoU on establishing a bilateral partnership on services, the two sides will fully leverage the complementarity and respective advantages in the service sector to deepen cooperation in creative industries, professional services, financial services, as well as in medical and health care.

The MoU on strengthening the work of the China-UK Joint Economic and Trade Commission aims to consolidate the commission's role as a platform for bilateral economic and trade policy dialogue and trade and investment promotion, according to the spokesperson.

It will promote interaction between the commission and the UK-China Business Council, strengthen dialogue between governments and businesses from the two countries, facilitate the resolution of issues and demands raised by enterprises from both sides, and contribute to deepening China-Britain economic and trade relations, according to the ministry.

(<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0131/c90000-20421255.html>)

VIII.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Outlines Fruitful Results of UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's China Trip

BEIJING, Jan. 30 (Xinhua) -- British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's official visit to China yielded fruitful results, demonstrating the breadth and depth of cooperation between the two countries, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said here Friday.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a regular news briefing that this is the first visit to China by a British prime minister in eight years, and Starmer is also the first leader of a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council received by China in 2026.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Starmer on Thursday, during which the two leaders agreed that China and Britain should develop a long-term and consistent comprehensive strategic partnership, turn the vast potential of China-Britain cooperation into real progress, and open up new prospects for China-Britain relations and cooperation, Guo said.

The spokesperson noted that Chinese Premier Li Qiang held talks with Starmer, and China's top legislator Zhao Leji also met with him, during which they exchanged in-depth views on advancing pragmatic cooperation across various fields and restoring exchanges between the legislative bodies of both countries.

Guo said that both sides agreed to establish a high-level China-Britain climate and nature partnership, resume the bilateral high-level security dialogue, and hold a new round of institutional dialogues within the year, such as the strategic dialogue and economic and financial dialogue, and the meeting of the China-Britain Joint Economic and Trade Commission.

China will reduce tariffs on imported whisky from Britain from 10 percent to 5 percent, he added.

Both sides agreed they should strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and facilitate personnel exchanges to deepen mutual understanding and build trust, and in principle agreed to resume normal exchanges between their legislative bodies, Guo said, adding that China welcomes British parliamentarians to visit China more if they so desire and will give positive consideration to visa-free access for British travelers.

During the visit, Premier Li and Prime Minister Starmer jointly witnessed the signing of 12 intergovernmental cooperation documents covering trade, agriculture and food, culture, and market regulation. They also attended the 2026 UK-China Business Council meeting.

The two sides will also hold the first meeting of the China-Britain financial working group and the China-Britain insurance forum, he said.

Guo said it is particularly noteworthy that Starmer has led a delegation of more than 60 important representatives from Britain's business and cultural sectors on this visit to China.

"We have noted that many British netizens regard China as a trustworthy friend and partner," Guo said, adding that China is ready to work with Britain to implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and jointly develop a long-term and consistent comprehensive strategic partnership.

(<https://en.people.cn/n3/2026/0131/c90000-20421249.html>)

IX.

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang Contributes an Article
to *The Times*: "China and Britain don't see eye to eye but
we share many interests"



ZHENG ZEGUANG

China and Britain don't see eye to eye but we share many interests

The Chinese ambassador to the UK writes that co-operation will enhance
relations between two countries and smooth over misunderstandings

Zheng Zeguang | Monday January 26 2026, 8.15pm, The Times

On 27 January 2026 (Beijing time), the British newspaper *The Times* published an article by Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang, titled "China and Britain don't see eye to eye but we share many interests". The editor's note highlighted that the Chinese ambassador to the UK writes that co-operation will enhance relations between two countries and smooth over misunderstandings.

The full text of the article is as follows:

China and Britain don't see eye to eye but we share many interests

China welcomes Prime Minister Keir Starmer's forthcoming official visit. The last visit to China by a British prime minister took place in 2018. The past eight years have witnessed unprecedented changes in the world, and it has also been an eventful time in China-UK relations. The resumption of high-level engagement serves the

fundamental interests of both countries and reflects the shared aspirations of our peoples. Our two sides should work together to ensure that the visit delivers positive outcomes.

We should enhance political trust. Mutual trust is the foundation of bilateral relations. This visit will provide a valuable opportunity for leaders of the two countries to have an in-depth exchange of views on their respective domestic priorities and the current complex international situation.

China believes that our two countries should proceed from a long-term and strategic perspective, stick to our positioning as partners, and develop a stable and mutually beneficial relationship. The UK, for its part, has reiterated on many occasions that it seeks a long-term, consistent and strategic relationship with China, and that it would be a predictable and pragmatic partner. I hope that, through this visit, both sides will deepen mutual understanding, reaffirm the original vision of a strategic partnership and steer China-UK relations onto a track of steady development.

We should expand practical co-operation. The Labour government has identified growing the economy, lowering the cost of living and accelerating green transition as its priorities, and has released a modern industrial strategy and other policy papers. China focuses on pursuing high-quality development and deepening reform and opening up in all respects, and is formulating its 15th Five-Year Plan for national economic and social development. As the world's second-largest economy, China is sharing its vast market demand with the world and providing its partners with more cutting-edge technologies, investments and high-quality yet affordable products.

Closer collaboration with China will only benefit the UK in attaining its development goals. British businesses and consumers are becoming increasingly aware of this through first-hand experience. We should expand dialogue,

co-ordination and co-operation across a wide range of fields, including trade and investment, financial services, clean energy, the fight against cross-border crime, education and culture, science and technological innovation, climate change and public health. By extending the list of co-operation, we can deliver more tangible benefits to both the Chinese and British peoples.

We should seek common ground while managing differences. It is a fact that China and the UK do not see eye to eye on every issue. Some of the differences arise from our different political systems and historical and cultural backgrounds; others from divergent practical interests; and many more from a lack of engagement and mutual understanding, which can make otherwise normal issues more complicated.

The right approach to addressing these differences is to engage in rational dialogue, and look for solutions in the spirit of mutual respect and pragmatism. To this end, we should encourage more people-to-people exchanges, and even more so, strengthen regular high-level contacts. We will find that our common ground far outweighs our differences, and that many issues can, in fact, be resolved or managed better. I am confident this visit will help both sides to expand common ground and reduce frictions.

We should promote collaboration in international affairs. The world is experiencing growing transformation and turbulence, global economic growth remains sluggish, and the international order faces mounting challenges. Countries with a sense of responsibility should discern right from wrong, and stand in solidarity to uphold the post-Second World War international order, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. We should firmly oppose division and confrontation and dare to call out unilateralism and bullying.

As permanent members of the UN Security Council and major economies, China and the UK share common interests and important responsibilities on these major issues. We should strengthen co-ordination and do more to safeguard world peace and support global prosperity.

No storm, no rainbow. I hope that both sides will move in the same direction, seize this historic opportunity, and begin a new journey in China-UK relations, one defined by more trust and collaboration.

(https://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjhh/202601/t20260127_11846204.htm)