

**THE 2013 CHINA-UNITED STATES
STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC DIALOGUE:
AN ASSESSMENT**

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Executive Summary

1. As the Special Representatives of President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi led the fifth meeting of the Strategic Track of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) in Washington, D.C., 10 to 11 July for the first time in their new positions.
2. Both China and the United States view the S&ED as a direct follow up from the informal Summit held between the two leaders at Sunnylands Ranch, California, USA from 7 to 8 June.
3. A number of Memoranda of Understanding were signed and Working Groups met between Chinese and US sub-national and national agencies which increased understanding of capacity and mandate of respective institutions. They also allowed for greater interaction between officials and potentially signified a future impact on the next generation of leaders.
4. The fifth US-China S&ED included the first meetings of the Cyber Working Group (CWG) and Climate Change Working Group. Both US and Chinese officials recognized the CWG as the premier platform for bilateral talks on cyber issues.
5. The first round of CWG meetings was held on 8 July, ahead of the US-China S&ED. Following Chinese demands, the United States agreed to separate cyber-enabled economic theft issues from military cyber warfare and espionage issues.
6. A follow-up to UN Group of Government Experts (GGE) on Information Security meeting in June 2013 in which China, the United States and other states endorsed the application of international law to cyberspace including the principle of state responsibility, the meeting also agreed not to use ‘proxies’ for malicious cyber actions.

7. The Climate Change Working Group produced a plan of action to address the key drivers of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution including renewable energy, building and industrial energy efficiency, clean transportation and electric vehicles, green buildings, sustainable cities, land use and forestry, scientific research, and technology research and development.
8. Other issues discussed and policies announced included the oversight of six pilot eco-cities by the US Department of Environment and the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.
9. China will accelerate legal and regulatory framework development covering unconventional oil and natural gas. The two countries are committed to actively promote technical and environmental protection cooperation in unconventional energy resources such as shale gas. The US will also advise China on the Natural Gas Act and its implications for LNG exports to the US.