

Q: The charge d'affaires at the US mission to the UN in Geneva voiced hope that the WHO-led mission to Wuhan had access to the raw data and to the people required to make an independent assessment. The US expects the WHO investigation into the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic to require further study, perhaps including a return visit to China. What's your response to that? <u>Hua Chunying</u>: Whenever the origin-tracing study comes at a crucial juncture, certain individuals from the US side will start spreading conspiracy theories even though they are neither scientists or health experts. It can't be more obvious that political manipulation is at play here.

Members of the WHO mission said that during the joint study in China, they had comprehensive and frank discussions with the Chinese side on data issues, and were able to obtain key data throughout the process. They can feel the trust and openness of the Chinese side. Member of the joint mission Peter Daszak said during an interview with American media that they were able to had indepth exchanges with authoritative experts in the Wuhan Institute of Virology with a level of openness even he hadn't anticipated, when the origin-tracing study was "politicized on a global scale". This fully shows that China provides as much support as possible to the origin-tracing cooperation, and the international mission also obtained sufficient and necessary information. The experts went to every place they asked to see, and met everyone they wanted to meet.

The work related to the report on origin-tracing has been carried out between Chinese and international experts. We are not aware of specifics with regard to the specific content of the report, how the Chinese translation is going and the date of release, etc. I think this mainly depends on the discussions between Chinese and international experts. But I would like to stress again that China has all along been open, transparent and aboveboard in the origin-tracing issue. Origin-tracing is a complex scientific issue that involves many countries and places and should be jointly studied by scientists worldwide. All parties should leave this job to experts with a science-based attitude, rather than make noise and interference.

Q: You just mentioned that the charge d'affaires of the US mission in Geneva said they expect the expert team to require another visit to China, right?

<u>Hua Chunying</u>: As I said just now, the Chinese side has always been very open, transparent and aboveboard on the issue of origin-tracing and our cooperation with the expert group has been very good. Now that the WHO expert team has concluded their visit to China, including to Wuhan and specifically the Wuhan Institute of Virology and that relevant media, including US media, have also conducted interviews there. I am curious to know when will the US side become as open and transparent as China on the issue of origin-tracing? When will the international expert team be invited to the US for investigation and study? When will Fort Detrick be opened for foreign experts and media to visit, investigate and study? Should the US do something on their part?



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