

immigration aren't that different from when the Irish or the Italians came and people were saying, we can't have any more Italians, and we can't have any more Irish. If you don't know that, then you aren't going to understand the patterns that we are having today.

But the point is, is that we have the power to make our own history. We don't have to repeat the same mistakes. We don't have to just be confined to what has happened before or what is going on today. We can think differently and imagine differently and do things differently.

The one thing that we should remember, though, is that even as we try to do things that are new, we should remember that change generally doesn't happen overnight. It happens over time. So I say that to young people because sometimes they get impatient. In the United States, sometimes, people say to me, oh, why don't—why haven't we eliminated racial discrimination in the United States? And I say, well, we've made a lot of progress since I was born. In terms of human history, if you think on the scale of hundreds of years or thousands of years—in 50 years, the changes that have taken place have been amazing.

So you have to understand that even though we can think differently, societies don't move immediately. It requires hard work, and you have to persuade people. And sometimes, you take two steps forward, and then you take one step back. And you shouldn't be discouraged

when that happens, because history doesn't just move in a smooth, straight line.

The good news is that we have more access to information than we've ever had before. Young people are in a position to change the world faster than ever before. And I am confident that if you are respectful of people and you look for what you have in common with humanity, if you stay true to the values of kindness and respect and reason and trying to live together in peace, that the world will keep getting better. And I'll be looking forward to seeing all the amazing things that you do in the years to come.

Okay? Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Coliseo Polideportivo at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. In his remarks, he referred to Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative Fellow Cyntia Paytan Riveiros; Mike White, Presidential detail leader, U.S. Secret Service; and Simone Biles, gymnast, and Michael F. Phelps II, swimmer, 2016 U.S. Olympic Team. He also referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson. Participants referred to Mariana Costa Checa, cofounder and executive director, Laboratoria; and 2016 Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Xi Jinping of China in Lima November 19, 2016

*President Obama.* I am looking forward to the opportunity to once again meet with President Xi. Over the past 3½ years, we have met 9 times. And the frequency of our engagement has enabled us to advance cooperation on shared challenges and manage differences between our countries effectively.

We've collaborated on key global challenges. From supporting global growth to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, to ending the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, we've demonstrated what's possible when our two countries work together.

In particular, the United States and China have played a pivotal role in pressing the world to act on climate change. When I was in Hangzhou, our nations formally joined the Paris Agreement. Now we face the work of making sure our economies transition to become more sustainable.

In terms of regional security, President Xi and I are united on our strong opposition to North Korea's provocations, and we will intensify our efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. In the South China Sea, the United States continues to urge all claimants to

lower tensions and peacefully resolve disputes.

I expect we'll also have a candid conversation on areas where we continue to differ, including the creation of a more level playing field for our businesses to compete, innovation policies, excess capacity, and human rights.

This will be my last meeting as President with President Xi, so I want to take this opportunity to note our work together to build a more durable and productive set of bilateral ties. I view the relationship between our two countries as the most consequential in the world. I continue to believe that a constructive U.S.-China relationship benefits our two peoples and benefits the entire globe. And the structure and framework of cooperation, the frequent meetings and consultations that we've established, I think, has been extremely productive.

So I want to thank President Xi and his delegation for their efforts in this regard.

*President Xi.* Well, it's my great pleasure to meet you, Mr. President, in Lima. This is our third meeting in 2016 and our ninth meeting over the past 3 years and more. This really shows the two sides' shared commitment to the China-U.S. relationship. And, Mr. President, I would like to commend you for the active efforts you've made to grow this relationship.

Since we met in Hangzhou in early September, the China-U.S. relationship has, generally

speaking, continued to grow in a stable manner. There have been frequent exchanges at the top and other levels. We've made new progress in cooperation on the economy, military, law enforcement, judiciary, subnational exchanges, people-to-people contacts and so on. And the two sides have kept up close communication and coordination on climate change, the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, and other important international, regional, and global issues.

We meet at a hinge moment in the China-U.S. relationship. I hope the two sides will work together to focus on cooperation, manage our differences and make sure there is a smooth transition in the relationship and that it will continue to grow going forward.

Both China and the United States are important member economies in APEC. China stands ready to have more coordination with the U.S. and to work alongside others to make sure the meeting in Peru is a success and to inject new momentum into regional economic cooperation and the growth of the Asia-Pacific economy.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:16 p.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel Lima. President Xi spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Malcolm B. Turnbull of Australia in Lima, Peru *November 20, 2016*

*President Obama.* It's a great pleasure to have the opportunity to have a final meeting with my friend and colleague, Prime Minister Turnbull, and his delegation. Australia, obviously, is one of our strongest friends and allies. It is a friendship based on shared values, on extraordinarily close people-to-people ties, on shared economic interests, and a shared worldview.

And this brief visit gave us an opportunity to exchange thoughts on how we move forward

on a whole range of important issues. The Prime Minister had already reached out to President-elect Trump and his team. And I indicated to him my confidence that the U.S.-Australia alliance will remain as robust as ever, because it transcends party politics.

We had a chance to discuss the counter-ISIL campaign. Australia has been our most stalwart ally when it comes to troop deployments and the effort there. The progress that's being made in Iraq as Iraqi forces seek to