



KEYWORDS TO UNDERSTAND
**THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE**

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We must revitalize the economy and pursue more robust, greener, and more balanced global development. Development holds the key to people's well-being. Facing the severe shocks of COVID-19, we need to work together to steer global development toward a new stage of balanced, coordinated, and inclusive growth.

——Xi Jinping

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Preface

In September 2021, during the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a Global Development Initiative (GDI): staying committed to development as a priority, staying committed to a people-centered approach, staying committed to benefits for all, staying committed to innovation-driven development, staying committed to harmony between human and nature, and staying committed to results-oriented actions. In October 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC released the “Position Paper on China’s Cooperation with the United Nations,” which explains the core concepts, the starting point, the ultimate goal, the objectives, and the action guidelines of the GDI, basically forming the framework of global development.

The GDI targets major challenges to the survival and development of mankind. Built up on a broad international consensus, the initiative addresses priorities of all parties concerned and cooperation on global development, laying a solid foundation for long-term goals. The year 2030 will be a critical point for countries around the world to achieve post-pandemic recovery. It will also be a major milestone for global development cooperation. Attaching great importance to development issues, China has actively engaged in cooperation on international

development and vigorously promoted the cause of global development. China welcomes all parties, including developing countries as well as European and American countries, to participate in the GDI and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). By deepening cooperation, we can provide more quality public goods to the world and achieve sound and solid development.

Based on an overview of how the initiative was formed, this report introduces a series of keywords to interpret the GDI's core ideas and priority areas. Through comparative analysis and a case study, this report explains key concepts and the terminology of the GDI, intending to promote and facilitate systems of international discourse, knowledge sharing, paradigm research, and useful practice relating to cooperation on global development, and thus help the international community to understand the initiative.

I. How the GDI was formed

(1) The Background of the Times: Unbalanced and Insufficient Development

In September 2015, at a historic summit in New York, 193 U.N. member states unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets for the next 15 years. The agenda calls for action by all countries to eradicate extreme poverty, combat inequalities and injustices, and curb climate change. The implementation of the agenda has entered a homestretch

worldwide – we must achieve the 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets by 2030, and we cannot leave any country behind. The measures currently taken by countries to accelerate post-pandemic economic recovery will determine the path of development for the next five or even 10 years, directly affecting how the 2030 SDGs can be achieved.

Development is the master key to all problems and the common aspiration of people worldwide. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gains in development accumulated by the international community over the years have been seriously eroded, and developing countries have faced unprecedented impacts and challenges. The U.N.'s 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report says that “world hunger increased in 2020 under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic” with up to 811 million people facing hunger globally, marking an increase of 161 million people from 2019.¹ U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres pointed out that the world was “tremendously off track” to achieve the SDGs by 2030.²

The world is still facing severe imbalances in development. Data from 2021 show that 700 million people lived in extreme poverty on less than US\$1.9 a day, accounting for 9.2% of the global population; 1.8 billion people lived on less than US\$3.2 a day, accounting for 24% of the global population; and more than 3.29 billion people lived on less than US\$5.5 a day, accounting for 43.3% of the global population. Under the existing global development

¹ “U.N. Report: Pandemic Year Marked by Spike in World Hunger,”

<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-07-2021-un-report-pandemic-year-marked-by-spike-in-world-hunger>.

² “‘Tremendously off Track’ to Meet 2030 SDGs: U.N. Chief,” <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/07/1095722>.

framework, progress in North-South development cooperation has been slow, as developed countries' official development assistance to developing countries is less than half of the pledged amount, and the least developed countries in particular are still far behind the global pace in achieving sustainable development goals.

(2) The Free and Full Development of Human: Tracing Origins of the Theory

Man is the root of Marx's research. Marx proposed that the free and full development of man is the highest pursuit and the ultimate goal of man. Meanwhile, the free and full development of man is the main line of Marx's thought and runs through the development of Marxism. Standing firmly with the people is the fundamental political stance of the Communist Party of China, and it is a distinctive mark that distinguishes a Marxist party from other political parties. For the first time in human history, Marxism stands in the position of the people to explore the path of human freedom and emancipation. The pursuit of a good life is the eternal theme of human existence, and development is the key to solving various problems and achieving happiness for the people.

Development has been placed at the heart of global issues. Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 2030 SDGs add new tasks such as addressing climate change, reducing economic inequality, strengthening innovation, ensuring sustainable consumption, and promoting peace and justice. By dealing with development problems in three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental – the main mission of the 2030 SDGs is to tackle

common development problems faced by all mankind. These goals are interconnected, and the key to achieving one goal often depends on the resolution of other related issues. In recent years, however, development issues have been politicized amid deglobalization. As trade protectionism has risen in some Western countries, the global industrial chain and supply chain have been threatened and impacted. Ordinary people in developing countries and people from the rest of the world are more vulnerable to shocks and are prone to falling back into poverty because of illness. According to the World Bank's "Global Economic Prospects (January 2022)," global growth is expected to slow through 2023, adding to the risk of a "hard landing" in developing economies.³

The GDI aims to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Focused on accelerating the realization of the 2030 SDGs, the GDI is dedicated to building a global community of development with a shared future and jointly advancing global development. The GDI calls for "balanced, coordinated, and inclusive" as well as "stronger, greener, and healthier" global development, further highlighting that peace and development are the major themes of our times. Thus, António Guterres noted that the time could not have been better for Chinese President Xi Jinping to put forward the GDI and the U.N. has expressed support for the initiative and is ready to work with China and other countries to firmly advance the GDI.⁴

³ "Global Growth to Slow Through 2023, Adding to Risk of 'Hard Landing' in Developing Economies," <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/01/11/global-recovery-economics-debt-commodity-inequality>.

⁴ "Wang Yi: The Global Development Initiative Enjoys Broad Support from the International Community," https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202204/t20220425_10673499.html.

(3) The Belt and Road Initiative: The Bedrock of Practice

The BRI provides a foundation for the practice of the GDI. The two initiatives are committed to promoting mutually beneficial international cooperation and self-contained with different focuses. The BRI follows the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits and the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit. Focusing on policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds as its five major goals, the BRI upholds the concept of open, green, and clean development with goals of pursuing high-standard, people-centered, and sustainable development. By carrying out projects with such goals, the BRI is committed to promoting inclusive development and the people-to-people bond of all countries. The core of the GDI, on the other hand, is to promote common development, and its goal is to build a global community of development with a shared future. The two initiatives have a high degree of agreement in their concepts and objectives.

The GDI conceptually places emphasis on fair and equitable development opportunities and the harmonious coexistence of human and nature. At present, the GDI emphasizes the battle against COVID-19 and economic recovery, with its focus on the most pressing issues currently facing humanity, such as poverty reduction, food security, and COVID-19 response. In the mid- to long-term, the GDI strives to complete the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development through concrete actions. From a methodological perspective, the GDI attaches importance to seizing the opportunities of technological revolution and industrial change, tapping into new dynamics of post-pandemic economic growth, and working together to achieve rapid development. From a timeframe perspective, the BRI points to a longer-term future, provides a new path for promoting global governance, and offers a new direction of exploration for improving the global governance system, which requires the broad participation and efforts of people of all countries.

An important goal of the GDI is to build a global community of development with a shared future, which is an important step in building a community with a shared future for mankind. The plan to build a community with a shared future for mankind came as the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has taken a coordinated approach to the domestic and international imperatives and made a strategic plan for major-country diplomacy with distinctive Chinese features, while facing the complex and severe international situation and unprecedented external risks. The plan aims to promote the common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom for all mankind, and leads human progress through building a community with a shared future for mankind. Hence, it is fair to say that the GDI is an important practical platform for building a global community of development with a shared future. In terms of development, both the GDI and the BRI serve as practical platforms for building a community with a shared future for mankind – the GDI emphasizes completing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while the BRI focuses

on international economic cooperation on a larger scale, in greater depth, and over a longer span of time.

II. The Kernel of the Global Development Initiative

(1) Staying Committed to Development as a Priority

The GDI unequivocally establishes the priority position of development, places development in a prominent position in the global macro policy framework, and emphasizes strengthening policy coordination among major economies, as well as maintaining continuity, stability, and sustainability. By building a more equitable and balanced global development partnership, the GDI seeks to promote synergies in multilateral development cooperation, and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Development Deficit

Global problems facing human society are mainly deficits in governance, trust, peace, and development. Among these deficits, global development imbalance, especially income inequality and unbalanced development, are the most prominent problems faced by the international community and have become the main cause of social unrest in some countries. To a certain extent, the development deficit makes a dent in the effectiveness of global governance, and causes harm to mutual trust and peaceful coexistence among countries.

The cause of global development deficit is ineffective control of the negative effects of globalization. As the benefits of global development become less than the cost, and actual gains fall below expectations, global sustainable development is therefore

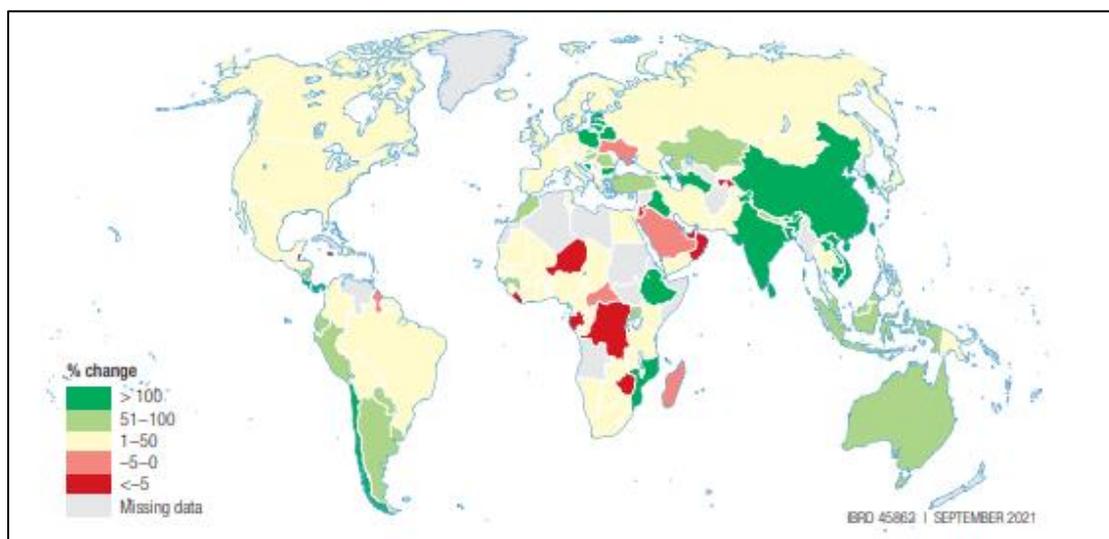
constrained. The essence of global development deficit is that the benefits of global development cannot meet the needs of the international community for sustainable development.⁵ As the main driving forces of global development, the prosperity of developed countries shores up global development. However, in recent years, most developed economies have slowed or even stagnated, leading to insufficient growth around the world. The sustainable development of developing countries, which are latecomers to global development, is crucial to global growth. However, except for a few countries such as China, many developing countries still suffer from a sluggish economy, and some have even fallen into stagnation or regression.

Uneven development is the biggest imbalance in the world today. With globalization deepening, the development gap between countries has widened, and the problem of development imbalance has become more evident. According to a report by the World Bank⁶, “The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021,” global wealth has grown overall – but at the expense of future prosperity and by exacerbating inequalities. Global wealth inequality is growing, the report indicates. Between 1995 and 2018, low-income countries’ share of global wealth hardly changed, remaining below 1% despite being home to about 8% of the world’s population. More than a third of low-income countries saw falling wealth when measured in per capita terms as wealth creation failed to keep pace with population.

⁵ “Global Development Deficit and China’s Governance Practice,” Wu Zhicheng, Liu Peidong, International Studies, 2020, fourth issue.

⁶ “Global Wealth Has Grown, But at the Expense of Future Prosperity: World Bank,” <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/10/27/global-wealth-has-grown-but-at-the-expense-of-future-prosperity-world-bank>.

Figure 1 Growth of Total Wealth per Capita (1995–2018)



Source: World Bank’s “The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021” Report

Global Development Partnership

The world is increasingly becoming a community with a shared future where all people are interconnected with one another. No country can stay aloof or unaffected while facing the complex situation of the world economy and global challenges. Thus, all countries are required to stand with each other in solidarity, accommodate others’ interests and legitimate concerns while pursuing their own interests, promote common development of all in the pursuit of their own development, establish a new type of global development partnership that is more equal and balanced, boost the common interests of humankind, and jointly build a better world.

Deepening global development partnership is an important pathway for the implementation of the GDI and the connection with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Deepening global

development partnership also promotes consensus among countries, strengthens joint actions, steers global development toward a new stage of balanced, coordinated and inclusive growth, and contributes to the building of a global community of development with a shared future. Developed countries should effectively fulfill commitments of assistance and provide more resources to developing countries. Not a single country can achieve development in isolation from each other; instead, it should seek common development of all countries while pursuing its own development.

On June 24, 2022, in his speech “Forging High-quality Partnership for a New Era of Global Development” at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, President Xi Jinping proposed to jointly forge a global development partnership. He stressed that only by working together can we accomplish big and great things with a far-reaching impact, and the North and the South need to work in the same direction to forge a united, equal, balanced, and inclusive global development partnership. He said, in this process, no country or individual should be left behind. He asserted that it is important that we support the U.N. in steering and coordinating global development cooperation, and encourage business communities, social groups, the media, and think tanks to take part in such cooperation.

Forge Greater Synergy in the Multilateral Development Cooperation Process

Facing the challenges that hinder development in the post-pandemic era, China firmly believes that development is the

master key to solving all problems. The challenges faced by all countries in the world cannot be solved by the power of one country. We must firmly uphold the international system with the U.N. as its core, seek cooperation based on extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and pursue win-win development with the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable development. Only by building a new model of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind can we better meet the challenges and drive sustainable development.

As a community of a shared future, all countries around the world should see multilateral cooperation as the right path. As global development advances, more forces are needed to share information and work together to better respond to common crises and take advantage of shared opportunities. Promoting common development is an important mission for international organizations and cooperation platforms such as the U.N. and the G20. When the G20 Hangzhou Summit was held in September 2016, China's view of global economic governance was expounded for the first time, leaving an indelible China mark in the history of the G20. In the "G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and other documents adopted in Hangzhou, G20 members proposed to put development front and center in global macro policy coordination and keep in mind the need for development throughout discussions of international cooperation in all areas. The concerns of developing countries should be accommodated, their development space should be preserved, and efforts should be made to make sure

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is implemented.

China has been deeply involved in international affairs by playing an active role in providing global public goods and making significant contributions to global development. In the 50 years since the restoration of its lawful seat in the U.N., China has made significant contributions to global development while pursuing development at home, and helped to improve global governance in practice. Committed to harmony and coexistence, China has never sought a one-man show or a zero-sum game, but instead has provided new ideas and solutions for multilateral cooperation in global development.

(2) Staying Committed to a People-centered Approach

Sticking to the people-first target in development, the GDI emphasizes safeguarding and improving people's livelihoods in development as well as protecting and promoting human rights. The GDI calls for efforts to make sure development is for the people and by the people, and its benefits are shared by the people, to continuously enhance people's sense of happiness, fulfillment, and security, and to achieve comprehensive human development.

The Development is for the People and by the People, and its Benefits are shared by the People

The Chinese people are the source of the CPC's strength. Since its founding in 1921, the CPC has established its fundamental tenet of wholeheartedly serving the people. The Party has never wavered from its original aspiration of serving the people throughout its

historical periods of revolution, construction, and reform. It is the fundamental reason for the success of the CPC. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, the CPC Central Committee, with General Secretary Xi Jinping at its core, has adhered to the people's position and put forward the people-centered development philosophy, highlighting the political sentiment of Party members who always put the people in the highest position in their hearts. The "Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035" states that we must adhere to a people-centered approach, ensure the principal status of the people, work toward common prosperity, and ensure that development is for the people and by the people, and its benefits are shared by the people. The document also states that we must safeguard the fundamental interests of the people, stimulate their enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity, promote social equality, enhance the people's wellbeing, and continue to help realize the people's aspiration for a better life.⁷

The people-centered development philosophy solves the fundamental problem of "for whom and enjoyed by whom," which not only embodies the guiding principle of historical materialism that people are the creators of history, but also highlights the traditional Chinese political philosophy that "the essence of governance is livelihood, and the essence of livelihood is adequacy." As Xi Jinping pointed out, "Development is meaningful only when it is for the people's interests, and can sustain only when it is

⁷ "Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035," Xinhua News Agency, March 12, 2021.

motivated by the people. Only by making the all-round development of people the motivation and destination of our work, and by making the people's aspiration for a better life the goal of our efforts, will it be possible to crack various development problems and create more development opportunities.”⁸

Achieving Common Prosperity

Common prosperity is the ultimate goal and practical path of developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. With the deepening of reform and opening up, the market economy characterized by free competition has produced a capital agglomeration effect, which inevitably leads to a certain degree of division between the rich and the poor. Since China gradually reached initial prosperity, the CPC has strived to implement the targeted poverty alleviation program to eliminate polarization, stayed committed to achieving common prosperity with less income disparity, and continuously improved the socialist system so as to better make use of its advantages.

China's endeavor to achieve common prosperity not only sets a good example for developing countries, it could also make developed countries look inward and consider ways of reform. Under the illusion of being a so-called developed country, the U.S. has a larger wealth gap than all other Western countries. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, economic inequality has worsened in U.S. society, with poor people falling into an, even more, grave situation. Today in the U.S., the top 0.1% of the

⁸ Xi Jinping's remarks at the conference marking 50th anniversary of restoration of People's Republic of China's lawful seat in the U.N., Xinhua News Agency, October 25, 2021.

population controls nearly 20% of the nation's wealth⁹; the top 1% of earners hold more wealth than all of the middle class, which accounts for 60% of the population¹⁰; the wealthiest 10% of households own 89% of all U.S. stocks¹¹; and the top 20% of households own a whopping 90% of the stuff in the country¹².

In his speech delivered at the 19th National Congress of the CPC in 2017, Xi Jinping stressed that we must put the people's interests above all else, see that the gains of reform and development benefit all our people in a fair way, and strive to achieve shared prosperity for everyone. China strives to deepen comprehensive reform and ensure that the gains of development benefit all our people more substantially and fairly. With this, our people will have a stronger sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security, as well as better lives.¹³ These achievements can only be made because the CPC has always prioritized the people's demands and interests, and placed people's well-being high on the agenda as it seeks to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

People First, Life First

The people-centered development philosophy has been

⁹ "Wealth Concentration Returning to 'Levels Last Seen During the Roaring Twenties,' According to New Research," The Washington Post, February 8, 2019, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2019/02/08/wealth-concentration-returning-levels-last-seen-during-roaring-twenties-according-new-research/>.

¹⁰ "Top 1% of U.S. Earners Now Hold More Wealth Than All of the Middle Class," Bloomberg, October 8, 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-08/top-1-earners-hold-more-wealth-than-the-u-s-middle-class>.

¹¹ "The Wealthiest 10% of Americans Own a Record 89% Of All U.S. Stocks," CNBC, October 18, 2021, <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/18/the-wealthiest-10percent-of-americans-own-a-record-89percent-of-all-us-stocks.html>.

¹² "The Richest 1 Percent Now Owns More of the Country's Wealth Than at Any Time in the Past 50 Years," December 6, 2017,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/12/06/the-richest-1-percent-now-owns-more-of-the-countrys-wealth-than-at-any-time-in-the-past-50-years/>.

¹³ "Ensure Gains of Reform and Development Benefit All People in a More Substantial and Fair Way," Gmw.cn, June 5, 2018.

demonstrated in China's fight against COVID-19. Since the COVID-19 outbreak that caught us all by surprise in 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping has personally taken charge of the nationwide response and emphasized the need to put people's lives and health first from the very beginning. He has repeatedly stressed that only by developing a strong public health system, improving the early warning and response mechanisms, comprehensively enhancing the capacity for prevention, control and treatment, weaving a tight prevention and control network, and consolidating the wall of quarantine, can we provide a strong guarantee for safeguarding the people's health.¹⁴ We have waged an all-out people's war on the virus, uniting the powerful forces of the whole Party, the whole military, and people of all nationalities. This has demonstrated the strength of the socialist system and the fact that the people are the creators of history and the fundamental force determining the future of the Party and the country.

From a newborn just 30 hours after birth to a 100-year-old man, every life is respected and protected, and everyone is treated with dignity. In 2020, China was the first country to bring COVID-19 under control and reopen its economy. It was also the first economy to register positive growth. In 2021, China's economy continued to recover, and its GDP exceeded the 110-trillion-yuan (US\$17.3 trillion) mark, contributing about 25% of the global GDP growth. All those breakthroughs have borne witness to the power of the "people first, life first" ideal.

¹⁴ Xi Jinping's remarks when presiding over a symposium attended by experts and scholars, June 2, 2020.

(3) Staying Committed to Benefits for All

The GDI specifies that development should follow the principle of inclusiveness and shared benefits. It emphasizes paying attention to the special needs of developing countries and supporting them – especially fragile countries with great difficulties – through debt relief and development assistance, and strives to solve the problems of uneven and insufficient development among and within countries.

Uneven and Insufficient Development

Uneven and insufficient development is a common challenge facing all countries. According to a report by the U.N., “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022,” in the global economy’s recovery from the pandemic, developed countries are recovering significantly faster than developing countries. Within some countries, the wealth of the upper-tier class has grown at a much faster rate than that of low-income groups, a characteristic that is more pronounced in Western countries such as the U.S. The widening gap between the rich and the poor among and within countries has become another challenge. On the one hand, the North-South gap – the gap between developed countries and emerging markets and developing countries – remains huge. On the other hand, there are also development gaps of varying degrees within countries.

A continued economic downturn will exacerbate poverty and inequality and impede the process of achieving sustainable development and combating climate change. The U.N. report also pointed out that a full economic recovery measured in terms of GDP per capita will remain elusive for developing countries in the near

term. Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to see losses of 5.5% and 4.2%, respectively, compared to pre-pandemic projections.¹⁵ According to the World Bank report “Global Economic Prospects (January 2022),” all advanced economies will have achieved a full output recovery by 2023; yet output in emerging and developing economies will remain 4% below its pre-pandemic trend. For many vulnerable economies, the setback is even larger: Output of fragile and conflict-affected economies will be 7.5% below its pre-pandemic trend, and output of small island states will be 8.5% below.¹⁶ As countries gradually recover from the pandemic, developing economies will further lag behind developed economies due to the spread of COVID-19 mutant strains and limited economic stimulus measures. “Macroeconomic imbalances have reached unprecedented proportions,” said World Bank Group President David Malpass. “The world is facing growing income inequality across and within countries. Compounding this rising inequality, the world is undergoing a phase of exceptional uncertainty.”¹⁷

Developing countries were hit hardest as social inequality increased during the pandemic. More than half of the global population has received two doses of the vaccine, but in Africa, the vaccination rate is only 7%. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva pointed out that large parts of the world remain

¹⁵ “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2022/>.

¹⁶ “Global Growth to Slow through 2023, Adding to Risk of ‘Hard Landing’ in Developing Economies,” World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/01/11/global-recovery-economics-debt-commodity-inequality>.

¹⁷ “Foreword of Global Economic Prospects (January 2022),” World Bank, <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/cb15f6d7442eadedf75bb95c4fdec1b3-0350012022/related/Global-Economic-Prospects-January-2022-Foreword.pdf>.

unvaccinated, and warned that the global economy is facing a slow recovery due to the “Great Vaccination Divide” between the world’s wealthiest and poorest nations.¹⁸ Vaccine inequality has become a major issue facing the international community today, with the world’s richest countries stockpiling vaccines and buying doses many times their populations, while failing to deliver on pledges to share vaccines with developing countries.¹⁹

Common Development

Faced with the tremendous resistance and challenges to global development caused by wealth gaps and other inequalities, the international community has called for improving the global governance system to fundamentally eliminate problems of unequal, insufficient, and unbalanced development and effectively promote mutual support, solidarity, and cooperation among countries, and realizing common development for all. The pursuit of a happy life is the common aspiration of all people, and the realization of common development is an important basis for human progress.

China has taken concrete actions to promote common development and achieve stronger, greener, and healthier global development by calling attention to the needs of the development of developing countries and safeguarding their space for development. By actively carrying out South-South cooperation, China has provided development assistance to 166 countries and international

¹⁸ IMF Head Says Global Economy Still ‘Hobbled’ by COVID Pandemic, <https://www.voanews.com/a/imf-head-says-global-economy-is-still-hobbled-by-covid-19-pandemic-/6259237.html>

¹⁹ “U.N. and Other International Organizations Call for Solidarity, Cooperation and Inclusive Development amid Increasing Economic Equality,” People’s Daily, February 24, 2022, p17.

organizations, and offered strong support to more than 120 developing countries to help them implement the MDGs. In response to the prominent challenges to global development, Xi Jinping has emphasized the need to increase investment in development, pay attention to the needs of developing countries, and strengthen cooperation in key areas such as poverty reduction, food security, industrialization, and connectivity. In September 2021, China successfully hosted the first International Conference on Food Loss and Waste. In the future, China will continue to contribute more China's wisdom and solutions to global development through platforms such as the G20.

Development holds the master key to solving all problems, and it is also what people of all countries desire. China will continue to stand on the right side of history and the side of human progress, and work with other countries on the path of peaceful, open, cooperative, and common development, to build a global community of development with a shared future and build a better future together.²⁰

Development Assistance

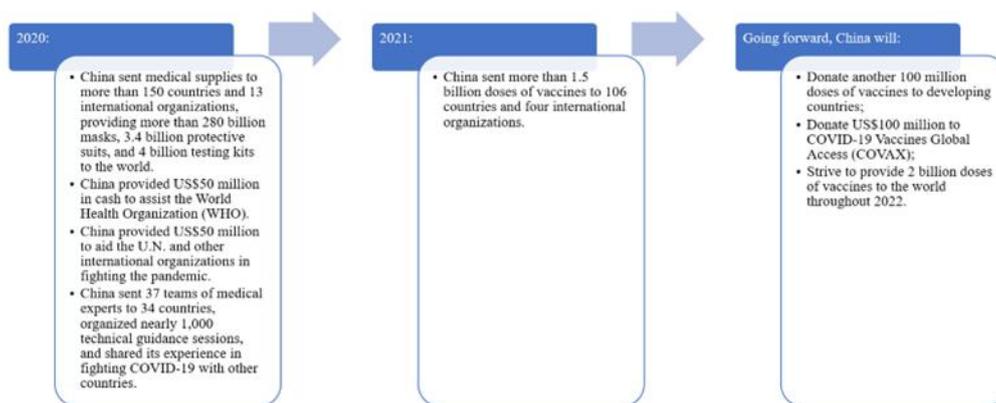
China has always closely linked its development with that of the rest of the world. China assists in the endeavors of member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to reduce rural poverty; it helps African countries to build water conservancy infrastructure and vocational and technical schools; in the South Pacific, it gives support to infrastructure construction projects and technical cooperation assistance projects in agriculture

²⁰ "Embrace Inclusiveness and Shared Benefits, and Build a Global Community of Development with a Shared Future," People's Daily, November 4, 2021, p17.

and medical care; and in Latin America, it aids the construction of agricultural technology demonstration centers. China has always stayed connected with the world and abreast with the times, and has been continuously providing opportunities and making contributions to global development while achieving its own development goals.²¹ Facing the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has taken the lead in international cooperation with developing countries on vaccine production and made a solemn commitment to the international community that China would make vaccines a global public good. China has provided more than 1.85 billion doses of vaccines to foreign countries, making a practical contribution to promoting equitable distribution of vaccines and achieving vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

Figure 2 China’s Anti-pandemic Assistance (2020-2021)

China’s Anti-pandemic Assistance (2020-2021)



Source: <http://ydyl.china.com.cn/>

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Eighth

²¹ “Charting a Blueprint for Cooperation on Global Development,” People’s Daily, December 21, 2021, p3.

Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Xi Jinping proposed that China and African countries should fight COVID-19 with solidarity, deepen practical cooperation, promote green development, and uphold equity and justice. He also stressed that China would work closely with African countries to implement nine programs: the medical and health program, the poverty reduction and agricultural development program, the trade promotion program, the investment promotion program, the digital innovation program, the green development program, the capacity building program, the cultural and people-to-people exchange program, and the peace and security program. China will undertake 10 industrialization and employment promotion projects for Africa, provide credit facilities of US\$10 billion to African financial institutions, support the development of African SMEs on a priority basis, and establish a China-Africa cross-border RMB center. China will exempt Africa's Least Developed Countries from debt incurred in the form of interest-free Chinese government loans due by the end of 2021. Home to more developing countries than any other continent, Africa has more development potential than any other region in the world. China will actively work with African countries in such areas as poverty reduction, food security, innovation, infrastructure construction, and industrialization in a way compatible with their national conditions. China will help African countries develop their economic structure, and assist the African Union in implementing its Agenda 2063.

Figure 3 China's Assistance to African Countries and the African Union (AU)

China's Assistance to African Countries and the African Union (AU)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>China provided support and assistance to African countries and the African Union (AU) mainly in six aspects:</p> | 1. conducting anti-pandemic cooperation | <p>immediately donated more than 120 batches of testing reagents, ventilators and other anti-pandemic supplies</p> <p>provided vaccines to 50 African countries and the AU</p> <p>sent medical expert teams to 17 African countries</p> |
| | 2. supporting economic recovery | <p>implemented nearly 400 assistance projects across various fields</p> <p>despite the impact of the pandemic, nearly 10,000 Chinese engineers, technicians and medical workers remain in their posts, and hundreds of assistance projects have already been implemented</p> |
| | 3. advancing project cooperation | <p>fully implemented the "eight major initiatives" introduced at the FOCAC Beijing Summit</p> <p>50 Chinese assistance projects in each of the six areas of industrial promotion, health, peace and security, green development, trade promotion and people-to-people exchanges will all be completed soon</p> |
| | 4. reducing and canceling debt to alleviate African countries' financial burden | <p>China has actively promoted and fully implemented G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative, signing debt suspension initiatives or reaching consensus with 19 African countries. China has exempted the least developed countries, heavily indebted poor countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing countries in Africa from interest-free loans due at the end of 2020</p> |
| | 5. improving capabilities | <p>trained more than 25,000 talents and technical personnel for African countries</p> <p>cooperated and shared experiences with 45 hospitals in 40 African countries</p> |
| | 6. helping African countries enhance their capacity for independent development and achieve sustainable development, China has built: | <p>more than 6,000 kilometers of railways, more than 6,000 kilometers of roads</p> <p>nearly 20 ports</p> <p>more than 80 large-scale power facilities</p> <p>more than 130 medical facilities</p> <p>45 sports venues, and more than 170 schools</p> |

Source: <http://ydyl.china.com.cn/>

In November 2021, at the Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations, Xi Jinping noted that the GDI has much to contribute to ASEAN countries' efforts to meet their development needs, and can be mutually reinforcing with ASEAN Community Vision 2025. "China is ready to provide ASEAN with another US\$1.5 billion of development assistance in the next three years to support ASEAN countries' fight against COVID-19 and economic recovery," he said. He proposed a China-ASEAN Digital Governance Dialogue to deepen the innovative application of digital technology. He said China is ready to engage in international development cooperation with ASEAN and launch negotiations on an agreement in this area. He pledged to support the establishment of a China-ASEAN Knowledge Network for Development. "China is also ready to strengthen exchange and cooperation with ASEAN on poverty reduction to promote balanced and inclusive development," he said.

The Greatest Common Denominator in Aspiring to a Better World

Global development is taking a hit, including a widening North-South gap, divergent recovery trajectories, development fault-lines, and a technological divide. Difficulties are mounting in food security, education, employment, medicine and health, and other livelihood areas. Emphasizing inclusiveness and benefits for all does not mean replacing one system with another. Rather, it calls for countries with different social systems, ideologies, histories, cultures, and levels of development to align their interests, enjoy equal rights, and share responsibilities in global affairs. In the face of crisis, humanity should overcome difficulties in solidarity and pursue common development in harmony, and we should keep moving toward a community with a shared future for mankind.

China has always attached great importance to development issues, actively engaged in international development cooperation, and vigorously promoted global development. The GDI is committed to meeting the special needs of developing countries – by taking measures such as debt suspension and development aid to help developing countries, particularly the ones vulnerable to exceptional difficulties, the GDI puts emphasis on addressing unbalanced and inadequate development among and within countries. Every country should, basing ourselves on our actual national conditions, follow the guidance of the 2030 Agenda as we pursue our own development strategies. We should put people first, ensure coordinated economic and social development and protect the

environment, thus giving our people a stronger sense of fulfillment and happiness. We should ensure harmony between human and nature and encourage the international community to fully implement the Paris Agreement. We should treat nature with awe and do more to foster an ecological system conducive to green development. It is necessary to promote international development cooperation, urge developed countries to fulfill their promises on Official Development Assistance, and increase support to developing countries.²²

(4) Staying Committed to Innovation-driven Development

Pursing innovation-driven development is the sure path leading China to economic growth, sustainable development, and coordinated development of the economy and society as well as human and nature. The essence of innovation-driven development refers to relying on independent innovation, giving full play to the role of science and technology in supporting and leading the economy and society, significantly increasing the contribution of scientific and technological progress to the economy, and achieving comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable economic and social development, and the continuous improvement of comprehensive national power. Whether at the national level or the level of science and technology organizations, it is of far-reaching significance to adhere to the innovation-driven development strategy.

An Open, Fair, Equitable, and Non-discriminatory

²² Xi Jinping's speech at BRICS Business Forum in South Africa, Xinhua News Agency, July 25, 2018.

Environment for the Development of Science and Technology

The global economy is now stuck in low gear, bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic on a scale unseen in a century. Exploiting the remaining potential of the last round of scientific and technological revolution is only a delaying tactic. Only by promoting a new revolution in basic science and cutting-edge technologies can we fundamentally meet the future survival needs of more than 7 billion people.

“We need to speed up scientific and technological innovation and institutional innovation, promote the commercialization of scientific and technological advances, and foster new drivers of growth so that innovation will boost both economic development and green transition,” said Xi Jinping at the APEC CEO Summit in November 2021.

He also called for the need to scale up cooperation between member economies of the Asia-Pacific on scientific and technological innovation, and foster an open, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for the development of science and technology.

Scientific and technological innovation is an important engine for the development of human society and a powerful weapon to deal with global challenges. We need to foster an open, fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development. We should fully tap into the potential of innovation in spurring growth, and jointly strengthen the protection of intellectual property.

The Chinese government insists on placing scientific and

technological innovation at the center of the overall national development, vigorously implements the innovation-driven development strategy and intellectual property strategy, and continuously redoubles input in scientific and technological innovation and intellectual property rights protection.

The CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued a 15-year plan (2021-2035) on the development of intellectual property rights on September 22, 2021. According to the plan, China will accelerate the reform and development of intellectual property rights, comprehensively enhance China’s strength in intellectual property rights, ensure that innovation and creation will benefit people of all countries, and build an open, fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory environment for the development of science and technology.

Figure 4 Global Innovation Index 2021 Rankings

| GII rank | Economy | Score | Income group rank | Region rank |
|----------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Switzerland | 65.5 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Sweden | 63.1 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | United States of America | 61.3 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | United Kingdom | 59.8 | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | Republic of Korea | 59.3 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | Netherlands | 58.6 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | Finland | 58.4 | 7 | 5 |
| 8 | Singapore | 57.8 | 8 | 2 |
| 9 | Denmark | 57.3 | 9 | 6 |
| 10 | Germany | 57.3 | 10 | 7 |
| 11 | France | 55.0 | 11 | 8 |
| 12 | China | 54.8 | 1 | 3 |
| 13 | Japan | 54.5 | 12 | 4 |
| 14 | Hong Kong, China | 53.7 | 13 | 5 |
| 15 | Israel | 53.4 | 14 | 1 |
| 16 | Canada | 53.1 | 15 | 2 |
| 17 | Iceland | 51.8 | 16 | 9 |
| 18 | Austria | 50.9 | 17 | 10 |
| 19 | Ireland | 50.7 | 18 | 11 |
| 20 | Norway | 50.4 | 19 | 12 |

Source: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

In the “Global Innovation Index 2021” published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China ranked 12th, moving up two places from 2020. Speaking highly of China’s progress in innovation, the report emphasizes the importance of government-led decisions and incentives in forging a good environment to promote innovation. China ranked first in nine indicators, including patents by origin, trademarks by origin, industrial designs by origin, high-tech exports, creative goods exports, and domestic market scale.

Sharing Innovation Achievements

Science and technology belong to the whole world and carry the hallmark of the times. International cooperation in science and technology is an irresistible trend. “Today, no country can be an independent innovation center, or enjoy the outcomes of innovations alone,” said President Xi Jinping. “The outcomes of innovations should benefit the whole world, instead of being a treasure buried in a cave.”²³ We should be deeply aware that international cooperation in science and technology has great significance for addressing the global challenges facing mankind, and more than ever, mankind now needs to join hands to move forward and get through hard times. “All countries in the world need to strengthen openness and cooperation in science and technology, explore ways and means of jointly solving important global issues through sci-tech innovation, address the challenges of the times together, and promote the noble

²³ Xi Jinping’s remarks at the 2019 New Economy Forum, November 22, 2019.

cause of peace and development for all,” said Xi Jinping.²⁴

Science knows no borders, and innovation knows no bounds. China will continue to integrate into the global scientific and technological innovation network, establish the sense of building a community with a shared future for mankind, participate in the governance of global scientific and technological innovation, take the initiative to launch global innovation agenda, comprehensively improve the level of globalization and international influence of its scientific and technological innovation, and significantly increase its contribution of scientific and technological innovation to the world.

So far, China has established relationships with more than 160 countries and joined more than 200 international and multilateral mechanisms in terms of scientific and technological cooperation. In the future, China will strengthen international sci-tech exchanges with a more open attitude, actively participate in global innovation networks, push forward the application of sci-tech achievements, strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights, shape the concept of developing science and technology for good purposes, improve global sci-tech governance, and enhance the wellbeing of mankind. Zhongguancun is China’s first national independent innovation demonstration zone, and the Zhongguancun Forum (ZGC Forum) is a state-level platform for global sci-tech innovation exchanges and cooperation. In his speech at the opening ceremony of the 2021 ZGC Forum, President Xi Jinping declared that China supports Zhongguancun in carrying out a new round of pilot reforms, speeding up the construction of a world-leading sci-tech park, and

²⁴ Xi Jinping’s remarks while delivering a speech via video at the opening ceremony of the 2021 Zhongguancun Forum, September 24, 2021.

making new contributions to global exchanges and cooperation on sci-tech innovation.

The Flow of Innovation Factors

Innovation factors refer to all kinds of production factors involved in innovation activities, such as talent, capital, technology, and data. To realize the innovative development of enterprises and regions, we must effectively improve the efficiency of allocating innovation factors and fully release their potential. This requires taking innovation as the core driving force and promoting high-quality regional development by optimizing the flow and allocation of innovation factors.

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee proposed to “strengthen the status of enterprises as the main body of innovation and promote the concentration of all kinds of innovation factors in enterprises,” as well as to “accelerate digital development” and build a “digital China.” Therefore, it is necessary to further accelerate the digital transformation of enterprises, promote the pooling of innovation factors into enterprises, and strengthen the status of enterprises as the principal entities in innovation, so as to bolster the effort to turn China into a country of innovators. In April 2020, the “Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Improving the Systems and Mechanisms for Market-based Allocation of Factors of Production” also clearly juxtaposes data with traditional production factors such as land, labor, capital, and technology, and we should speed up the

cultivation of a market for innovation factors.²⁵

The integration of digital technology and innovation can push the boundaries of innovation, enhance the flow of information between different innovation factors and innovation entities, reduce the information asymmetry between the supply and demand of factors, and promote the overlap in time and space, so as to speed up the flow of innovation factors and improve their allocation efficiency. For example, the R&D cycle of China's COVID vaccine is much shorter than traditional R&D cycles. This is due to the aggregation and reconstruction of innovation factors by digital technologies in R&D innovation, data collection, and other fields, which helped to significantly improve R&D efficiency at the technical level.

Leapfrog Development

Social development is a natural process of history, which does not exclude the extraordinary and leapfrog development of a country or a region in a certain historical period. Achieving leapfrog development requires seizing rare historic opportunities. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that, as socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, China's economic development has also entered a new stage, and its basic feature is that China's economy has shifted from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development. High-quality development reflects the new development philosophy. It is the type of economic development that changes its focus from quantity to quality, which requires getting over some conventional and non-conventional

²⁵ "Accelerate Digital Transformation and Encourage Pooling of Innovation Factors into Enterprises," Bai Qimin, Jia Yongfei, gmw.cn, March 5, 2021, <https://m.gmw.cn/baijia/2021-03/05/34663416.html>

hurdles.²⁶

To achieve leapfrog development, we must take innovation as the premise and achieve self-transcendence in all aspects. Whether it is the cultivation of industry from scratch or the transformation and upgrading from something to something else better, we must hold innovation as the master key. We should implement the innovation-driven development strategy and promote comprehensive innovation based on scientific and technological innovation. We should enhance the driving force of scientific and technological innovation, make major innovation platforms better and stronger, improve the mechanism for making use of scientific and technological advances, and fully stimulate the vitality of innovation, entrepreneurship, and creation. We should accelerate the cultivation of new technologies, industries, forms, and models, and actively strive to create a national digital economy innovation and development pilot area. We should gain the upper hand over talent introduction, lose no time in developing and launching more attractive talent policies, and make sure more innovation factors flow more quickly. In Yunnan, for example, the province's industrial, energy, and economic structures have been continuously optimized by pursuing open, innovative, information-based, and green industrial development, and deepening supply-side structural reform. Green energy, green food, and wellness tourism have become the calling cards and driving forces of Yunnan's economic development.²⁷

²⁶ "Stay Committed to High-Quality, Leapfrog Development," Jiangnan Metropolitan Daily, August 5, 2020, <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1674187969665859563&wfr=spider&for=pc>

²⁷ "Explore a Path to Leapfrog Development," People's Daily, August 1, 2019,

(5) Staying Committed to Harmony between Human and Nature

The natural ecological environment is the basis for human existence and development, and we must respect nature, conform to nature, and protect nature. The report of the 19th CPC National Congress has made “ensuring harmony between human and nature” one of the basic strategies for adhering to and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It points out that we should not only create more material and cultural wealth to meet people’s ever-increasing needs for a better life, but also provide more quality ecological goods to meet people’s ever-growing demands for a beautiful environment.²⁸

To promote harmony between human and nature, it is necessary to establish and improve the economic system featuring green, low-carbon, and circular development, continuously reduce the intensity of carbon emissions, get rid of blind and inefficient development, and reduce human impact on nature. It is necessary to advance the fight to prevent and control pollution, speed up the management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, and deserts, enhance the protection of biodiversity, strengthen awareness campaigns and education programs on ecological and environmental protection, and foster public awareness of ecological preservation. We should try to engage all people in the building of a beautiful China, so as to truly realize

<https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1640608762190870258&wfr=spider&for=pc>.

²⁸ Xi Jinping's report at 19th CPC National Congress: Secure a Decisive Victory in Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects and Strive for the Great Success of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, People's Press, 2017, p50.

harmony between human and nature, and ensure lucid waters and lush mountains continue to bring fortune and wealth and the beautiful environment benefits all people.

Global Environmental Governance

There is only one Earth in the universe, and mankind shares one home. Protecting the global ecology and environment and coping with climate change pose a challenge confronting all mankind. China upholds the concept of building a community of a shared future for mankind, actively participates in global environmental governance, and strengthens international cooperation in addressing climate change, marine pollution control, and biodiversity conservation. China earnestly implements international conventions, takes the initiative to fulfill environmental governance obligations in accordance with its national conditions, development stage, and capacity, and provides the world with public goods. In doing so, China has struck a balance between its obligations and its rights, and displayed the image as a responsible major country, pushing forward the building of a fair and sound global environmental governance system.

To further improve global environmental governance, the Chinese government renewed an official document named “China’s Principled Position on Global Environmental Issues,” which clarifies China’s principles and positions on topics such as climate change, biodiversity, and other issues. The document also clearly indicates that China will follow the principle of respecting all countries’ autonomy of sustainable development as well as their environmental

rights and interests. China's environmental governance has been effective and greatly contributed to global environmental governance. Between 2000 and 2017, China was responsible for over a quarter of the new green areas created worldwide, making it the world's biggest contributor in this regard. In addition, China has protected and restored 800 million mu (53.3 million hectares) of wetlands, and reduced large-scale desertification. China has effectively held a red line in ecological protection and set priority areas for biodiversity protection. With these measures put in place, 90% of the types of natural terrestrial ecosystems and 71% of the species on the national key list of protected wild plants and animals have been effectively protected, and wildlife populations of some rare and endangered species are gradually recovering.²⁹

A Community for Human and Nature

General Secretary Xi Jinping said, "Nature is the mother of life, humans and nature form a biotic community, and humanity must revere and respect nature, follow its ways and protect it." The ecological environment is the foundation of human existence and development. Mankind is born of nature, and the relationship between human and nature is the most basic relationship in human society. Mankind lives in nature and coexists with nature. If we exploit and plunder nature in a disorderly manner, we will be mercilessly retaliated upon by nature; if we treat and protect nature carefully, we will be generously rewarded by nature. Throughout human history, there have been too many examples of national

²⁹ "China Contributes Wisdom to Global Environmental Governance," People's Daily, November 4, 2021.

security endangered by ecological problems. The ancient Loulan was once a civilized and prosperous city with abundant water and vegetation during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. to A.D. 220) in China. However, as human activities in the region increased, deforestation rose, and water levels in the Tarim River dropped dramatically. This resulted in the deterioration of Loulan's ecology and environment, and the city was eventually swallowed up by the desert. Only by understanding deeply that human and nature form a community of life, upholding ecological progress, looking for solutions in nature, and seeking development opportunities from protecting nature, can we ensure harmonious coexistence between human and nature.

Green Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a great impact on the global economy. How to achieve green recovery of the global economy in the post-pandemic era has become an important global issue in the field of the environment and development. The essential requirement of green recovery is to avoid the traditional mode of high energy consumption and pollution in the process of resuming production and consumer activities as well as restoring economic growth. It is necessary to make full use of the new round of technological revolution, promote the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, and achieve green and low-carbon economic growth. The BRI is a Chinese solution for participating in opening up and global cooperation, improving the global economic governance system, promoting common prosperity around the world, and facilitating the building of a community of a shared future for mankind. It will be an

important platform for pushing forward the green recovery of the global economy.³⁰

In today's world, green and sustainable development has become a global consensus. Sharing the concept and practice of ecological conservation and working together to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are important parts of building a green Belt and Road. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has incorporated ecological conservation into the Five-sphere Integrated Plan (China's overall plan for building socialism with Chinese characteristics, which aims to promote coordinated progress in the economic, political, cultural, social, and eco-environmental fields), built a sound eco-environment that benefits all, and vigorously promoted green, low-carbon, and sustainable development. China's industrial investment policies have tilted investment toward the green upgrade of industries and emerging green industries, and the construction of infrastructure related to green industries has picked up steam. Traditional industries represented by the electric power industry have delivered a strong performance in upgrading. China's pro-consumption policies focus on boosting efficiency through green and low-carbon programs. New forms and modes of consumer spending such as "internet plus service," smart retailing, and intelligent products have become growth points in green consumption.³¹

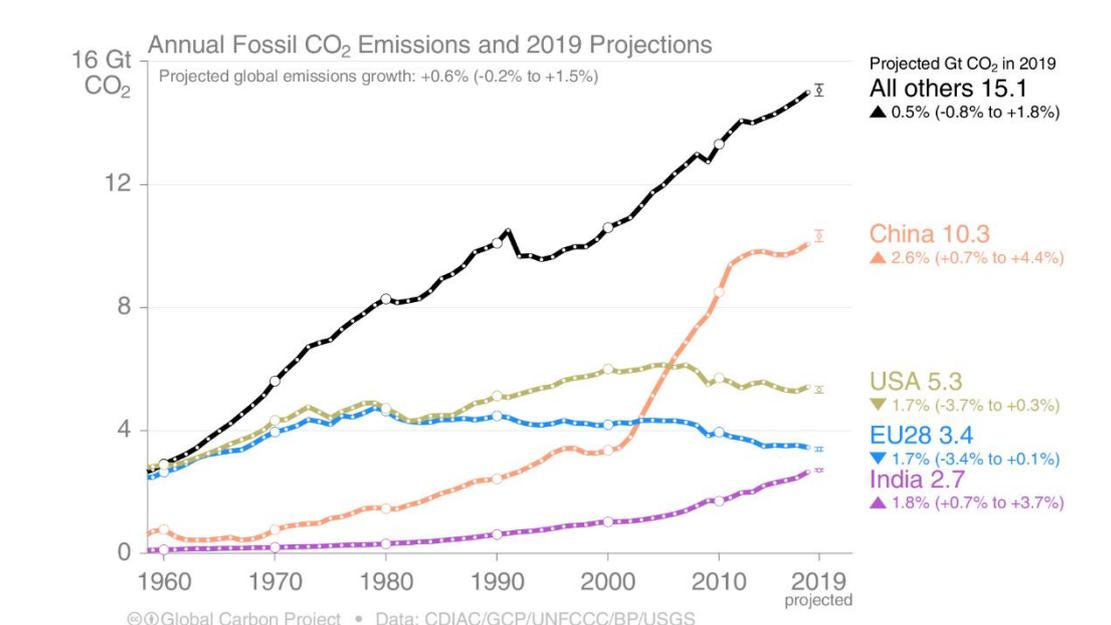
Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality

³⁰ "Build Green Belt and Road, and Promote Green Recovery of Global Economy," Tian Fang, Qizhiwang.org.cn, September 16, 2020, <http://www.qizhiwang.org.cn/n1/2020/0916/c432161-31863974.html>.

³¹ "Report: Green Recovery and Low-carbon Economy Set to Become One of Themes of Post-COVID-19 Era," Zhang Chengjie, Shanghai Environmental Protection Industry Association, March 3, 2021.

In response to global climate change, all countries are advocating a low-carbon economy and low-carbon development, and have proposed their respective peak carbon and carbon neutrality targets. In 2020, China promised to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, and started to accelerate its pace in addressing issues such as global warming due to high carbon dioxide concentration. China is currently the world’s largest carbon emitter, with total emissions reaching 10.25 billion metric tons in 2020 and carbon emissions per unit of GDP at 0.653 kilograms per U.S. dollar.³² China’s speed of achieving its own carbon peak goal is directly related to the world’s progress. On the other hand, China’s rapid pace toward its peak carbon and carbon neutrality goals can effectively fast-track the green recovery of the global economy.

Figure 5 Annual Fossil CO2 Emissions (1960-2019)



Source:

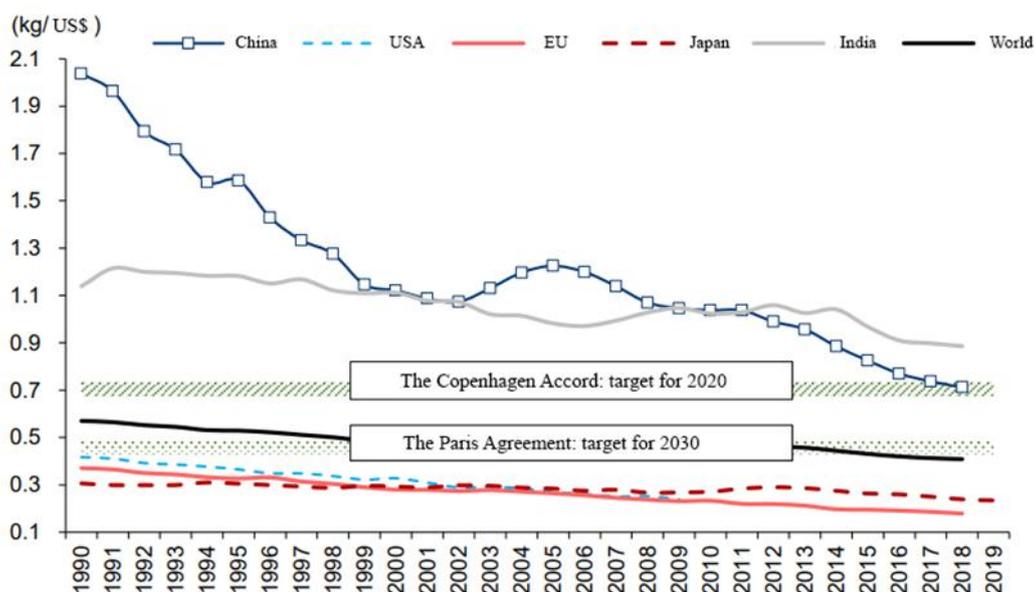
<https://arstechnica.com/science/2019/12/2019-carbon-emissions-look-to-tick-upwards>

³² “Climate Change Protocol, Carbon Strategy and their Potential Impact on China’s Industrial Development,” China Green Carbon Foundation, June 2, 2022, http://www.thjj.org/sf_AFD9331C93604F92A866A8A2697FB3D8_227_8C0B6735583.html.

-again/

As a responsible major country, China has implemented a series of strong policies and measures to adjust the industrial structure, optimize the energy structure, conserve energy, improve energy efficiency, increase forest carbon sinks, and strengthen its ability to fight climate change. These policies and measures have delivered remarkable results. By the end of 2020, China's carbon emissions per unit of GDP dropped by 48.4% from the 2005 level, beating the target of 40% to 45% that China had pledged to the international community. At the same time, China has improved its top-level design and market mechanisms, and raised public awareness of climate issues, thus enabling the work in addressing climate change to progress.³³

Figure 6 China completes Copenhagen pledge ahead of schedule in 2018



Source: International Energy Agency

³³ "China's Carbon Emissions Per Unit of GDP Drop by 48.4%," People's Daily, October 27, 2021, <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1714760920110828831&wfr=spider&for=pc>.

Achieving peak carbon and carbon neutrality goals is a step-by-step process and a systemic project involving the whole society. China's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by scaling up its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, along with its promise to reach carbon neutrality roughly in tandem with developed countries, reflect the country's commitment to its responsibilities as a major country. China will make unparalleled contributions to the global response to climate change with practical actions.

(6) Staying Committed to Results-oriented Actions

Actions speak louder than words, and the promotion of global development should follow the action-oriented approach. In his speech at the 16th G20 Leaders' Summit held in October 2021, President Xi Jinping noted that, "We should adhere to the action-oriented approach and promote pragmatic cooperation. All sides should increase input in development, attach importance to the needs of developing countries, and strengthen cooperation in critical areas such as poverty reduction, food security, industrialization, and connectivity. By doing so, we can jointly build a global community of development with a shared future."

Input in Development

Facing the once-in-a-century pandemic and the time of unprecedented global changes, the cause of international development is at a crossroads. At the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Xi

Jinping delivered a statement themed “Bolstering Confidence and Jointly Overcoming Difficulties to Build a Better World.” He proposed to increase input in development, advance on a priority basis cooperation on poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity, among other areas.

As the world’s largest developing country, China has always placed its own development in coordination with human development and has always been committed to contributing to global development. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and persistently promotes global development. In January 2022, the World Bank reported that China contributed more than a quarter of global economic growth in 2021. It also said that China achieved Goal 1 of eradicating extreme poverty set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, which contributed more than 70% to global poverty reduction. As an active provider of worldwide public goods in the fight against the pandemic, China pledged that it would provide 2 billion doses of vaccines throughout 2021, and that it will donate another 100 million doses of vaccines, free of charge, to help developing countries in 2022, on top of its US\$100 million donation to the COVAX. These actions fully demonstrate the country’s commitment to development.

Development and Security

The world economy has been brought to its knees by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most emerging markets are encountering economic slowdowns, and developing countries are battered hard. The global cause of poverty reduction now faces new challenges, and in particular, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been severely impacted. In addition, regional disputes and global issues such as terrorism, climate change, cyber security, and biosecurity are constantly coming to the surface.

When U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine on April 5, 2022, he said the crisis could throw up to 1.7 billion people – over one-fifth of humanity – into poverty, destitution, and hunger on a scale unseen in decades.³⁴

In the face of these grim challenges, President Xi Jinping proposed the GDI and the Global Security Initiative (GSI). By emphasizing a “balanced, coordinated, and inclusive” and “stronger, greener, and healthier” global development, he calls for adherence to a common, integrated, cooperative, and sustainable security concept and building a balanced, effective, and sustainable security architecture. Since Xi Jinping proposed the GDI, it has received responses and support from nearly 100 countries along with the U.N. and other international organizations. The GSI also has been well received by dignitaries, experts, and scholars in many countries.

The GDI has six main points: staying committed to development as a priority, staying committed to a people-centered

³⁴ “The War in Ukraine: A Silent Assault on the Developing World,” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2022/%E2%80%9C-war-ukraine-silent-assault-developing-world%E2%80%9D>.

approach, staying committed to benefits for all, staying committed to innovation-driven development, staying committed to harmony between human and nature, and staying committed to results-oriented actions. By taking the realization of their well-rounded development as the starting point and ultimate goal of our work, the initiative actively responds to the aspiration of the international community, especially the developing countries – to accelerate post-pandemic recovery. From the perspective of the destiny of all mankind, the GSI calls for adherence to the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, and emphasizes that all humanity is living in an indivisible security community. It clarifies the core concept, fundamental guidelines, important principles, long-term goals, and feasible ideas to achieve and maintain global security.

Security is a prerequisite for development, and development is a guarantee for security. The two concepts are mutually complementary and dialectically unified. The two initiatives can be seen as international public goods provided by China to the world. They conform to the trend of the times for peace and development, and provide forward-looking visions and action guidelines for the international community to deal with the pressing security and development challenges. Having inspired many countries to promote people's livelihood and development, the GDI and the GSI form a realistic path for building a community of human destiny.

A Global Community of Development with a Shared Future

“We must revitalize the economy and pursue more robust,

greener and more balanced global development,” said Xi Jinping at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He solemnly proposed the GDI, and called for all sides to speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also stressed that we should steer global development toward a new stage of balanced, coordinated, and inclusive growth, and work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind. The GDI reflects the common expectations of the international community, especially those of the developing countries, draws a blueprint for responding to the world’s changes, and provides insights for global development.

Peace and development are the major themes of our times. In the face of challenges, we must hold tightly to the key to development. In September 2015, while delivering a speech at the U.N. Sustainable Development Summit, Xi Jinping elaborated on a development concept centered on equity, openness, comprehensiveness, and innovation, which provides new ways to promote global development. The BRI is aimed at sharing China’s development opportunities with countries along the route and achieving common prosperity. The GDI is an important declaration of China’s efforts to help revitalize the Global Partnership for Development, and it is a vivid manifestation of the concept of a community of a shared future for mankind in development.

China has continuously promoted global development, providing development assistance to 166 countries and international organizations and supporting more than 120 developing countries in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, in

May 2021, China announced it would provide an additional US\$3 billion in international aid over the next three years to support COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery in other developing countries. These all fully demonstrate China's active role in building a global community of development with a shared future.

True development is development for all and good development is sustainable. China will continue to bring more new development opportunities to the world through its own development, join other countries on the path of peaceful development, open development, cooperative development, and common development, and continuously contribute to building a global development community of destiny.

III. Major Fields of the Global Development Initiative

(1) Cooperation on Poverty Reduction: Ending Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

Reducing poverty has always been a prominent challenge to global development and governance. The process of global development is suffering from severe disruptions. The Human Development Index has declined for the first time in 30 years. The world's poor population has increased by more than 100 million. Nearly 800 million people live in hunger. Difficulties are mounting in food security, education, employment, medicine, health, and other areas important to people's livelihoods.³⁵ China has made significant achievements in poverty reduction. Since its reform and opening up, China has lifted 770 million rural poor people out of poverty, which accounted for more than 70% of the world's total over the time period. China is actively engaging in international cooperation in poverty reduction, fulfilling its international responsibilities, and aiding developing countries within its capacity. Through strengthening exchange and cooperation with other countries on poverty reduction and promoting balanced and inclusive development, China has gradually become a powerful contributor to the cause of global poverty reduction.

China Fulfills its Responsibilities as a Major Country in Poverty Reduction

³⁵ "Forge Ahead with Confidence and Fortitude to Jointly Create a Better Post-COVID World," address by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the 2022 World Economic Forum Virtual Session, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, January 17, 2022, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202201/t20220117_10601026.html.

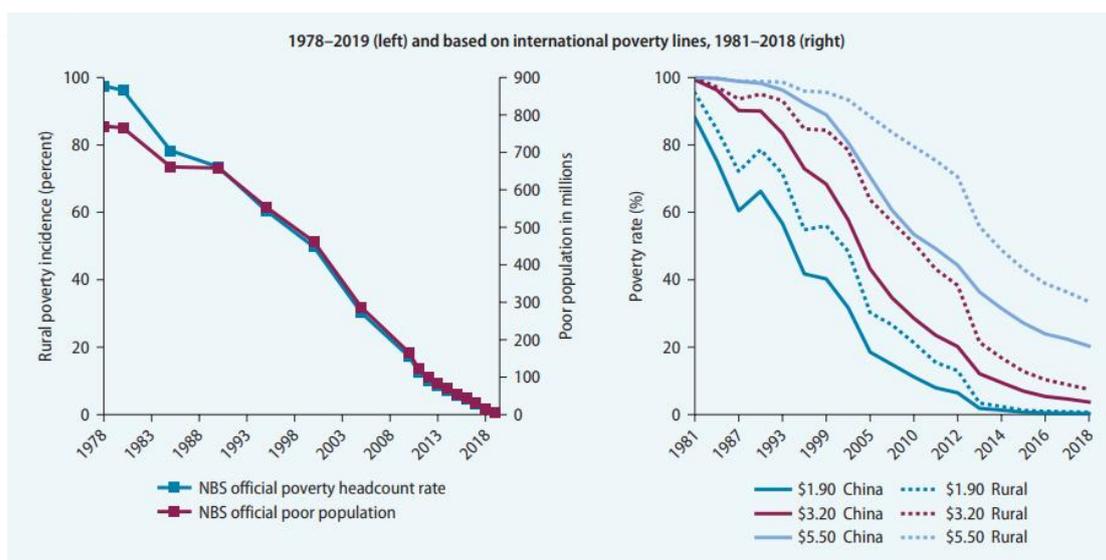
In 2021, China achieved its comprehensive victory in the battle against poverty, marking a historical milestone in solving the problem of absolute poverty. Since the reform and opening up, China has lifted 770 million rural poor out of poverty, which accounted for more than 70% of the world's total over the time period.³⁶ In particular, against the backdrops of severe global poverty and the widening wealth gap in some countries, China has achieved the poverty reduction target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, making an important contribution to the development of global poverty reduction and the progress of human development.

Over the past four decades since its reform and opening up, China has experienced unprecedented economic growth while achieving poverty reduction at a pace and scale never seen before. Between 1978 and 2019, by the 2010 poverty standard, China's rural poverty incidence dropped from 97.5% to 0.6%, and its rural population fell from 770 million to 5.5 million. In other words, in a little over four decades, nearly 765 million were lifted out of poverty,³⁷ averaging at nearly 19 million people annually, and the poverty headcount ratio was reduced by an average of 2.4 percentage points annually.

Figure 7 China's Rural Poverty Incidence Continues to Decline

³⁶ "China Charts a Blueprint for Global Development and Cooperation," People's Daily, December 21, 2021, <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2021/1221/c1002-32312837.html>.

³⁷ The figures come from the China Statistical Yearbook 2019, <http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/2019/indexeh.htm>.



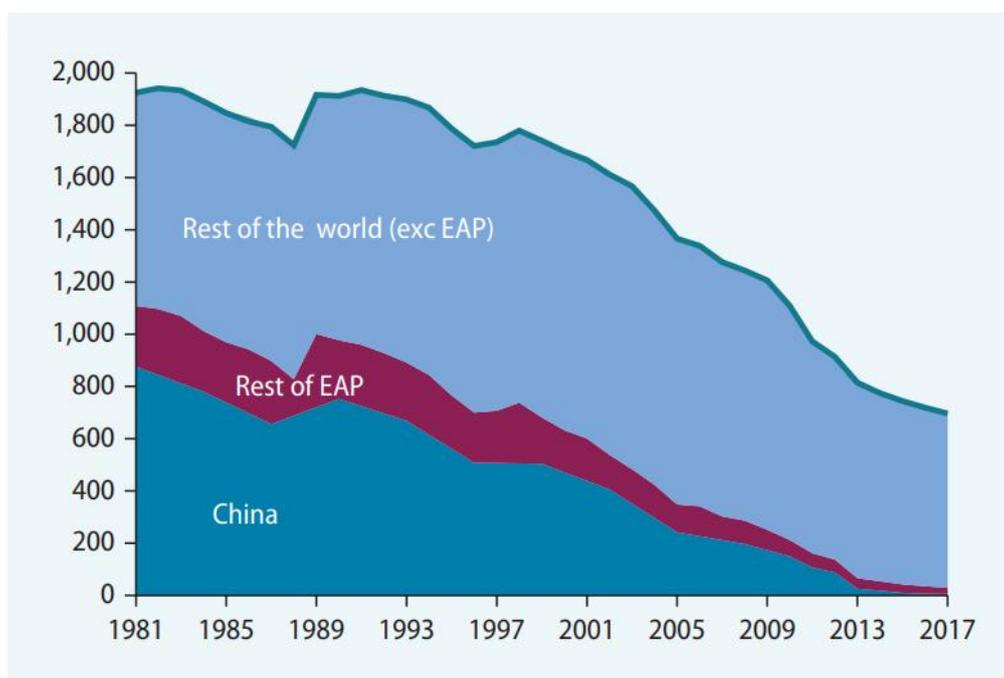
Source: Four Decades of Poverty Reduction in China: Drivers, Insights for the World, and the Way Ahead,

World Bank Group and China’s Development Research Center of the State Council

China’s eradication of absolute poverty is of great global significance. Not only has China helped the world to achieve the MDGs, but it has also achieved the goal of eradicating extreme poverty set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. Between 1981 and 2017, there were almost 34 million fewer poor people living on less than US\$1.90 a day in the world on average each year, with 24 million of them coming from China. China alone accounted for almost three quarters of the total reduction in global extreme poverty in that period. The pace of poverty reduction in China has always been faster than that in the rest of the world.³⁸

Figure 8 China’s Contribution to Global Poverty Reduction since 1981

³⁸ “Four Decades of Poverty Reduction in China: Drivers, Insights for the World, and the Way Ahead” (conference edition), World Bank Group and China’s Development Research Center of the State Council.



Source: “Four Decades of Poverty Reduction in China: Drivers, Insights for the World, and the Way Ahead,”
World Bank Group and China’s Development Research Center of the State Council

With the world undergoing unprecedented changes in a century, the continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increase in climate change, regional security and other unstable factors, the cause of poverty reduction in developing countries is under unprecedented pressure. China’s efforts in eliminating absolute poverty have brought confidence to the world for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and China’s successful poverty reduction practices and achievements can also provide useful references for other developing countries. In addition, while pushing forward its own poverty reduction efforts, China is also deeply engaging in and promoting international exchanges and cooperation on poverty reduction. It is providing aid to developing countries within its capacity, supporting poverty reduction in the

Least Developed Countries, and striving to contribute its due share as a major country to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

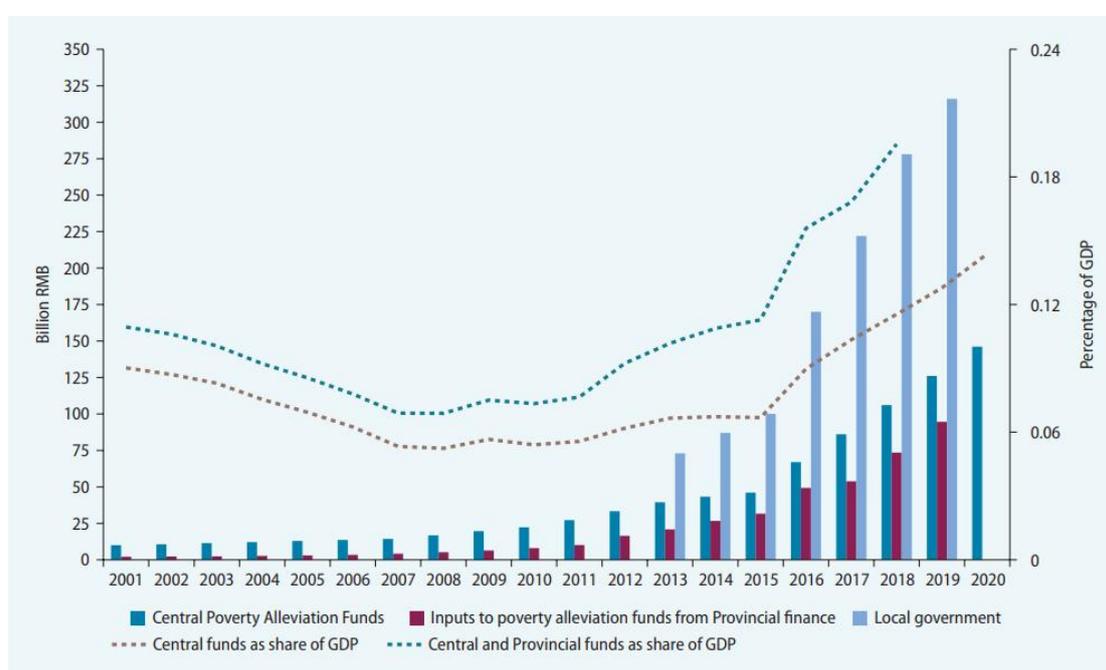
Targeted Poverty Alleviation Strategy

The targeted poverty alleviation strategy plays an active role in solving the “last mile” problems. The strategy, since its adoption in 2013, spanned the whole process from poverty identification to poverty exit, determining whom to help, who should help, how to help, how to exit, and how to avoid poverty reoccurrence. The strategy aims to help all of the remaining poor achieve incomes above the national income poverty line and meet a set of multi-dimensional goals. The strategy has won support of the government and the whole society, and is of great significance for the eradication of absolute poverty.

The targeted poverty alleviation strategy was endowed with generous government funding. From 2013 to 2020, the Chinese government steadily increased funds to meet the challenge. allocations from the anti-poverty fund of the central, provincial, and local governments totaled nearly 1.6 trillion yuan, including 660.1 billion yuan from the central budget. Recently published estimates for 2020 indicate that central funds for poverty alleviation reached 146.5 billion yuan, and the APF from sub-national governments reached 208.3 billion yuan, together representing around 0.35% of the GDP. Non-budget sources also contributed to poverty alleviation during 2013-2020, including more than 440 billion yuan in inter-provincial transfer and intra-provincial transfer of funds linked

to land increase and decrease, more than 710 billion yuan in small loans, and 100.5 billion yuan in government and social assistance funds from nine eastern provincial-level administrative units to paired units in poor provinces. In 2020, the total amount of poverty alleviation funds, including loans, financial credit, and aid from eastern provinces, was twice that of special financial funds.³⁹

Figure 9 Central and Provincial Anti-Poverty Funds Allocations (2001–2020)



Source: “Four Decades of Poverty Reduction in China: Drivers, Insights for the World, and the Way Ahead,” World Bank Group and China’s Development Research Center of the State Council

Digital technologies have produced remarkable results in promoting innovations of the targeted poverty alleviation system. It has played an important role in finding the poor and improving the connectivity of poor households to markets. New digital financial

³⁹ “Four Decades of Poverty Reduction in China: Drivers, Insights for the World, and the Way Ahead” (conference edition), World Bank Group and China’s Development Research Center of the State Council.

platforms have expanded access to finance for poor areas and poor people. China has found an effective way in digital technologies to achieve targeted poverty alleviation, but this experience cannot be simply replicated in other developing countries, because the application of digital technologies requires massive investments in connectivity, high-quality transportation, energy, and other public infrastructures, along with abundant human capital and other factors.⁴⁰

(2) United Against the Pandemic: Putting People First

People's safety and health are the prerequisites for human development and progress. Currently, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 remains high, the virus is still spreading rapidly, and the global pandemic is far from over. To eventually defeat the pandemic, mankind must prioritize overcoming barriers impeding global collaboration and multilateralism, rather than technical or adaptive challenges. By putting COVID-19 response and vaccines as one of its eight priority areas of cooperation, the GDI aims to overcome the current global development dilemma through increased cooperation and joint anti-pandemic efforts among countries.

Global Solidarity Against the Pandemic

The inadequacy of global health governance, as illustrated by the pandemic, is a challenge that the world must face together today. At such a moment, the international community must strengthen

⁴⁰ Luo, Xubei and Niu, Chiyu. (2019). "E-Commerce Participation and Household Income Growth in Taobao Villages". World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 8811. Washington, DC: World Bank.

confidence, act with unity, and work together in a collective response. We must comprehensively step up international cooperation and foster greater synergy so that humanity as one could win the battle against such a major infectious disease.⁴¹

On May 21, 2021, the Global Health Summit, jointly organized by the Italian Presidency of the G20 and the European Commission, was held in Rome, Italy. The meeting called for strengthening multilateral cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, taking joint actions to prevent global health crises, and issued the Rome Declaration, which reached an important consensus and put forward practical initiatives aiming to promote global solidarity against the pandemic and help the world economy recover. Chinese President Xi Jinping was invited to attend the summit by video and delivered an important speech. He made five points on what we need to do and announced five measures that China would take to support global anti-pandemic cooperation, charting the future course and bringing strong impetus to help the world clinch an early victory against COVID-19 and restore economic growth.

China has been taking solid actions to combat the pandemic. The Chinese people have always stood with people from all over the world. Especially in the face of the once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic, China has launched the largest emergency humanitarian operation. “Up to now, China has provided hundreds of billions of anti-pandemic supplies to 153 countries and 15 international organizations, and 2.2 billion doses of vaccine to more than 120 countries and international organizations,” said Wang Yi at the

⁴¹ “Working Together to Defeat the COVID-19 Outbreak,” Xi Jinping’s remarks at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit, March 26, 2020.

International Forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Artemisinin and on Building a Global Community of Health for All. “China has sent 37 teams of medical experts to 34 countries, and shared its experience in fighting COVID-19 with more than 180 countries and international organizations.”⁴² By undertaking concrete efforts, China has led the way in fighting against the pandemic, building solidarity and instilling hope for global cooperation.

A Global Community of Health for All

In the era of economic globalization, public health emergencies like COVID-19 may very well recur, and global public health governance needs to be enhanced. No global problem can be solved by any one country alone. There must be global action, global response, and global cooperation.⁴³ Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has steadily followed its vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. To overcome the present difficulties, China calls on the international community to support and assist one another in the spirit of unity. China calls on the world to build a global community of health for all. By proposing this initiative, China acts to forge consensus on combating the pandemic and promoting international cooperation with concrete and active efforts.

⁴² Address by the State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the International Forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Artemisinin and on Building a Global Community of Health for All, April 25, 2022.

⁴³ “Let the Torch of Multilateralism Light up Humanity’s Way Forward,” special address by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda, January 25, 2021.

In March 2020, when Xi Jinping sent a message of sympathy to French President Macron over the COVID-19 outbreak in France, he first proposed to “build a global community of health for all.” On March 26, 2020, when the Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit was held, Xi Jinping put forth four proposals: be resolute in fighting an all-out global war against the COVID-19 outbreak, make a collective response for control and treatment at the international level, support international organizations in playing their active roles, and enhance international macro-economic policy coordination.

On May 18, 2020, at the virtual opening event of the 73rd World Health Assembly, Xi Jinping announced five more proposals, including providing US\$2 billion over two years to help with COVID-19 response and economic and social development in affected countries, as well as making China’s COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment a global public good. Those measures have brought strong impetus to the global collective response to the pandemic.

The two ideas of building a global community of health for all and building a community with a shared future for mankind echo each other. They combine to express China’s idea of integrating pandemic prevention and control with economic and social development, and they vividly portray the community with a shared future for mankind in the face of global challenges. Over the past two years, China has persisted in upholding the philosophy of building a community with a shared future for mankind, steadfastly promoted international cooperation on pandemic prevention and control, and tirelessly provided support to other countries –

especially developing countries – in fighting the virus.

Bridging the Immunization Gap

While the global production of vaccines has increased and vaccination rates have risen, the immunization gap between developed and developing countries has continued to widen. Some developed countries are hoarding and wasting vaccines, to wide criticism by the international community. The immunization gap has become a severe pain for developing countries, and the politicization of COVID-19 responses has seriously damaged the global cooperation against the pandemic.⁴⁴ Under such circumstances, the World Health Organization (WHO) has repeatedly called on wealthy countries to effectively fulfill their commitments and actively promote fair and equitable distribution of vaccines globally.

Global vaccine production and supply have largely improved, but inequities in vaccine distribution are becoming more pronounced. While some developed economies are promoting vaccine shots on a large scale, the African continent has a vaccination rate of only 7%. As of January 13, 2022, out of 194 WHO member states, 36 had vaccinated less than 10% of their population, and 88 less than 40%.⁴⁵ The lack of vaccines is a direct threat to the health of people in developing countries, but at the same time, a few Western countries are stockpiling vaccines far exceeding their needs and wasting them. Tens of millions of COVID vaccine doses were wasted in the U.S. in 2021, with the State of Louisiana wasting more than 224,000 doses

⁴⁴ “The Global Health Summit Calls for Global Collective Efforts to Combat the Pandemic,” People’s Daily (overseas edition), May 27, 2021.

⁴⁵ “Bridging the Immunization Gap is a Priority in Global Vaccine Cooperation,” People’s Daily, January 27, 2022.

and the State of Tennessee wasting more than 200,000.⁴⁶

Vaccine equity is of great importance in the global fight against the pandemic. With global vaccine production approaching 1.5 billion doses per month, at least 11 billion vaccine doses are needed, which is sufficient to fully vaccinate the global population. The key to bridging the immunization gap lies not in vaccine supply but distribution. The main reason for the rise of COVID-19 infections is political maneuvers that hinder global efforts to combat the pandemic. Populism, narrow nationalism, and hoarding of health tools, by a small number of countries, undermined equity and created the ideal conditions for the emergence of new variants. The politicization of COVID-19 responses has been weakening global efforts to unite against the pandemic.

The COVID-19 vaccine should be a global public good. In his speech made at Session I of the 16th G20 Leaders' Summit, Xi Jinping proposed a Global Vaccine Cooperation Action Initiative: First, we need to strengthen vaccine R&D cooperation and support vaccine companies in conducting joint R&D and production with developing countries. Second, we need to uphold equity and justice, and provide more vaccines to developing countries to meet the global vaccination target for 2022 as set by the WHO. Third, we need to support the World Trade Organization (WTO) in making an early decision on waiving intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, and encourage vaccine companies to transfer technology to developing countries. Fourth, we need to scale up cross-border trade cooperation to ensure smooth trade in vaccines and related raw and

⁴⁶ The Statistics come from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov.

auxiliary materials. Fifth, we need to treat different vaccines equally and advance mutual recognition of vaccines in accordance with the WHO's Emergency Use Listing. Sixth, we need to provide financial support for global vaccine cooperation, especially for developing countries to access vaccines.⁴⁷ Xi Jinping stressed that China is ready to work with all parties to enhance vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries, and make positive contributions to building a global line of defense through vaccination.

(3) Food Safety: Zero Hunger

Food security is an essential guarantee for world peace and development, an important foundation for building a community with a shared future for mankind, and an influential factor for the development and future of humanity. China has always been a positive force in safeguarding world food security. It works with other countries to enhance sustainable agricultural productivity, strengthens the resilience of the global food system, ensures smooth food supply chains, and jointly maintains global food security.⁴⁸ China has made food security a priority area of the GDI, demonstrating the country's sincerity in working with the international community to tackle global hunger and being a positive force in maintaining world food security.

Global Food Crisis

⁴⁷ "Acting in Solidarity for a Shared Future," remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping at Session I of the 16th G20 Leaders' Summit, October 30, 2021.

⁴⁸ "Promoting International Cooperation in Safeguarding Food Security," People's Daily, June 14, 2022.

International food trade is facing disruptions from protectionism and unilateralism, and instability factors such as continued pandemics, local conflicts, and climate change have increased, bringing a serious challenge to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. COVID-19 is undoing years of progress in curbing global poverty. It has impacted food production and transportation and caused a dramatic increase in the number of people suffering from hunger. Nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020, an increase of almost 320 million people in just one year.⁴⁹

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition, highlighting the agri-food system's vulnerability to shocks and stresses. The pandemic has had a serious impact on the global industrial chain and supply chain, resulting in a slow recovery of the world economy. Loss of purchasing power harmed the food security and nutrition of billions of people. Low-income countries are facing severe challenges while middle- and high-income countries are also at risk. In 2020, about 811 million people were affected by hunger, increasing by 161 million from 2019. It was also estimated that an additional one billion people were at risk as they would not be able to afford a healthy diet if circumstances suddenly reduce their incomes by one-third.⁵⁰

Looking ahead to the world food security situation, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) called on governments to take active actions to enhance the resilience of agri-food systems as

⁴⁹ "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021," <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4474en>.

⁵⁰ "The State of Food and Agriculture 2021: Making Agrifood Systems More Resilient to Shocks and Stresses," <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4476en/online/cb4476en.html>.

a strategic factor for their countries to meet current and future challenges. It is important to diversify input resources, production mixes, output markets, and supply chains. It is important to improve the inter-connectivity of agri-food networks, strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups to risks, and enhance social protection programs to help them cope with unexpected situations.

Working Together to Fight Global Hunger

From a global perspective, China has shouldered its responsibilities and put forward the GDI, in which food security is listed as one of the eight key areas of cooperation. It calls on the world to mobilize on a global scale, give full play to their respective advantages and forge a complementary partnership, and make positive contributions to ensuring global food security.

China attaches great importance to its food and agricultural production, and has always made feeding its people the top priority of its governance. Using less than 9% of the world's arable land to produce 23% of the world's food, China has succeeded in feeding 1.4 billion people, and made historical progress from “not having enough to eat,” to “having enough to eat,” and then to “eating nutritiously.” China's grain production capacity has steadily increased, with output stabilizing at more than 1.3 trillion jin (650 million metric tons) for seven consecutive years.⁵¹ In 2021, its output reached a record high of 1.37 trillion jin (682.8 million metric tons). China has not only secured the food supply for its own people, but also contributed to the food security of the world.

⁵¹ The figures are from a press conference on rural revitalization in the new era under the theme of “China in the past decade” held by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, June 27, 2022.

China is actively helping to address global food security challenges. In the year it stopped receiving aid from the World Food Program (WFP), China became the world's third-largest donor of food aid after the U.S. and the EU, providing a total of 577,000 metric tons of food aid. China has long been an important strategic partner of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in South-South cooperation. It has contributed US\$130 million to the FAO South-South Cooperation Fund, and has also sent a large number of experts and technicians to Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Pacific Island countries, making it the developing country with the most financial assistance, the most experts, and the most projects under the FAO South-South cooperation framework. Since 2016, China has continuously provided emergency food aid to more than 50 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, benefiting tens of millions of people. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has responded positively to the initiatives of the U.N. and other international organizations. It has provided emergency food aid to Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Uganda, Congo (Brazzaville), Benin, Liberia, and other countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, and has won wide praise from the international community and people of all countries.

China actively shares opportunities in its huge grain market. It has earnestly fulfilled its commitments to the WTO, continuously expanded the opening of grain markets, strengthened foreign cooperation, and made important contributions to maintaining world food security. Under the premise of ensuring national food security, China is sharing its huge grain market with the world's major

food-producing countries. Over the past 20 years since its accession to the WTO, China has abolished non-tariff measures such as import quotas and licenses for relevant agricultural products, implemented import tariff quota management for wheat, corn, and rice, significantly reduced import tariffs for other grain varieties, and increased grain imports from 5% to 22% of the global share, with cumulative grain imports reaching about 165 million metric tons in 2021, up 18% year-on-year.⁵²

Sustainable Agriculture

As the global population continues to rise, meeting the growing demand for food with limited land resources has become a common issue in front of all countries. In the face of development opportunities and challenges, countries are actively adopting policy measures that suit their respective circumstances to promote sustainable agricultural development and enhance the resilience of the global agri-food system.

Take Saudi Arabia's water-saving agriculture as an example. The country's climate is hot and arid and with low precipitation, thus the natural environment restricts the development of large-scale planting. As a result, fine, special, and water-saving agriculture has become its main development direction. According to Saudi Arabia's Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) Strategy (2021-2025), it will continue to support the development of major agricultural sectors, including poultry farming, greenhouse cultivation, and aquaculture. At the same time, the ADF Strategy proposes to provide credit

⁵² "China Becomes a Positive Force for Safeguarding World Food Security," People's Daily, April 8, 2022.

facilities to support the implementation of the ADF program, and focuses on agricultural investment and financing, agricultural supply chain construction, and other work to accelerate the transformation and upgrading of sustainable agriculture.

China is actively sharing advanced agricultural technologies with many countries. The BRI has given a huge boost to the cause of international cooperation in agriculture. China has dispatched several groups of agricultural technology experts to African countries, created agricultural technology demonstration centers, and taught advanced agricultural skills. In Ethiopia, Chinese experts helped to build an edible fungus seed resource development center and a technical training center, developed five demonstration sites for edible fungus, and provided technical guidance to 50 households that will serve as demonstration sites for the technology to scale up in other parts of the country. In Djibouti, the Chinese expert group promoted the construction of a 2,500-square-meter demonstration base for marine products farming and the successful implementation of grouper artificial breeding trials, laying a solid foundation for the local people to start the business.⁵³

(4) Energy Safety: Creating a New Pattern of Energy Cooperation

Energy is the foundation and source of socioeconomic development. Vital to national prosperity and development, energy is of great importance to improving people's lives and long-term social stability. International cooperation on energy is an important part of

⁵³ "Work Together to Advance Sustainable Development Worldwide," People's Daily, June 24, 2022.

international exchange and cooperation. China has become the world's largest energy producer and consumer, drawing increased expectations from the international community. The GDI puts a strong emphasis on energy development. China has been the leader in the implementation of the BRI. It focuses on the implementation of wider, broader, and deeper energy openness and cooperation, and seeks to promote the formation of a mutually beneficial and win-win international cooperation pattern. Aiming to become a leader in clean energy supply and a key participant in international energy cooperation, China strives to achieve energy security while opening up the sector.

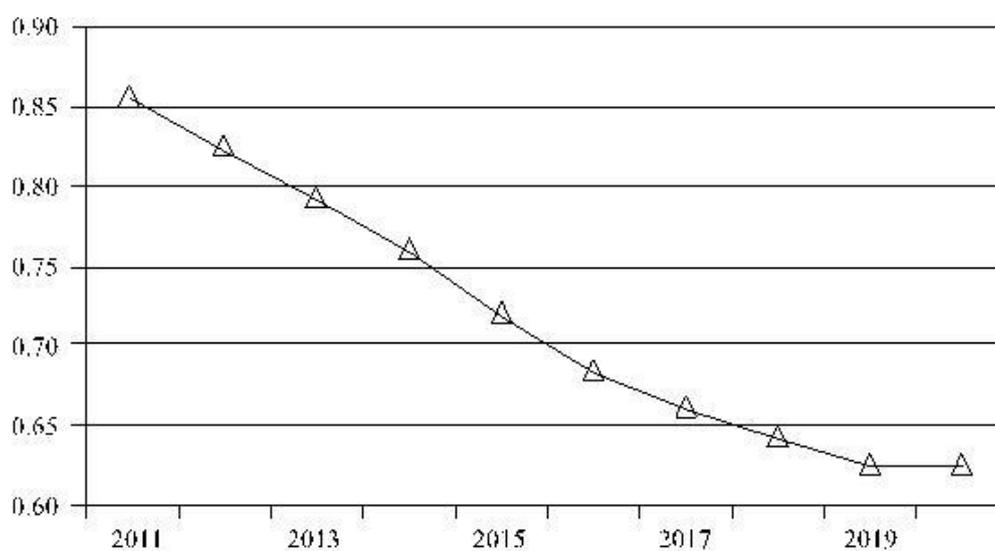
The Green Energy Transition

Green and low-carbon have become the main themes of energy development. The global response to climate change has embarked on a new journey, as more than 130 countries and regions have proposed carbon neutral targets, and accelerating the low-carbon energy transition has become a worldwide consensus. In 2020, China announced an array of new targets for Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs): By 2030, the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption will reach around 25%, and the total installed capacity of wind and solar power will reach more than 1.2 billion kilowatts. In 2021, China announced that it will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad, demonstrating its commitment to addressing climate change with practical actions.

China has steadfastly implemented the green energy transition and made positive contributions to addressing climate change and

building a clean and beautiful world. China is one of the fastest countries in reducing the national energy consumption intensity. According to preliminary calculations, the country’s energy consumption intensity was reduced by 28.7% from 2011 to 2020. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China fueled an average annual economic growth of 5.7% with an average annual energy consumption growth of 2.8%, and the amount of energy it saved accounted for about half of the global energy savings in the same period.⁵⁴

Figure 10 China’s Energy Consumption Intensity (2011-2020)



(unit: metric ton of standard coal per RMB10,000 of GDP)

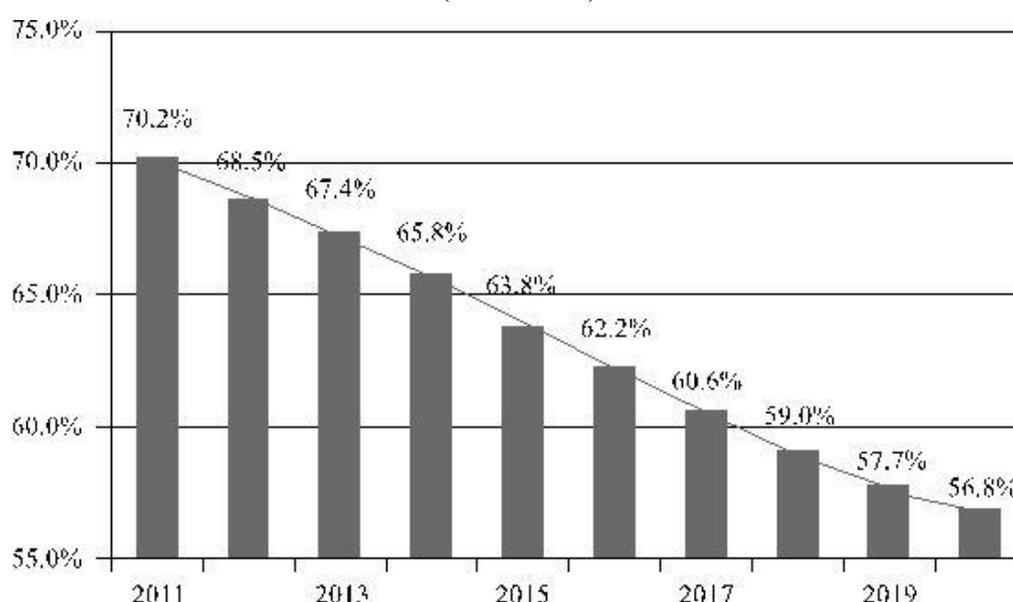
Source: State Council Information Office, PRC

China has accelerated the transformation to a clean and low-carbon energy consumption structure. In order to address pollution and climate change caused by fossil fuel combustion,

⁵⁴ “Responding to Climate Change: China’s Policies and Actions,” a white paper published by the State Council Information Office in October 2021.

China has strictly controlled coal consumption, and the proportion of coal consumption has continued to decline significantly. In 2020, China's total energy consumption was kept under 5 billion metric tons of standard coal. The proportion of coal in its total energy consumption dropped from 72.4% in 2005 to 56.8% in 2020.⁵⁵

Figure 11 The Share of Coal Consumption in China's Total Energy Consumption (2011-2020)



Source: State Council Information Office, PRC

Carbon peak and carbon neutrality cannot be realized overnight. Through solid and steady steps, China will pursue an orderly phasing-down of traditional energy in the course of finding reliable substitutions in new energy. This approach, which combines phasing out the old and bringing in the new, will ensure steady economic and social development. China will also actively engage in international cooperation on climate change response and jointly work for a

⁵⁵ "Responding to Climate Change: China's Policies and Actions," a white paper published by the State Council Information Office in October 2021.

complete transition to a greener economy and society.

Partnership for Energy Cooperation

Under the guidance of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, China is actively building energy partnerships, promoting green and low-carbon energy cooperation, and bringing economic and social benefits to countries along the Belt and Road. As a major part of the BRI, energy cooperation has achieved positive results. China will continue to deepen policy communication and coordination with all parties, pragmatically promote the development of green energy on a larger scale, actively carry out cooperation in energy technology innovation, strengthen capacity building and technical assistance in the field of green energy, and jointly push forward the high-quality development of green energy cooperation and contribute more to the inclusive recovery of the world economy.

In April 2019, during the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, China and 29 other countries launched the Belt and Road Energy Partnership (BREP), and they jointly released the Cooperation Principles and Concrete Actions of the BREP. Ever since its formation, the BREP has been organizing large numbers of project matchmaking events and technical exchange activities, delivering positive results.

In October 2021, during the Second Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference, member countries of the BREP held a membership-expanding ceremony and a Cooperation Network inauguration ceremony, adopted the Charter of the BREP, and released the Qingdao Initiative for Belt and Road Green Energy

Cooperation and the Best Practice Cases of the Belt and Road Energy Cooperation. The Cooperation Network will be an important part of the BREP. Within this intergovernmental energy cooperation framework, various social forces such as businesses, financial institutions, research institutions, academia, and industrial associations will be better mobilized to work with partners from Belt and Road countries in multi-tiered and multi-form cooperation across the board. Within five years from June 2021, China plans to come up with a number of best practice cases, build several energy cooperation research bases, launch a number of quality think tank products, and empower a number of world-renowned energy cooperation experts and young talents. Step by step, China along with other participating countries will increase the BREP's international influence and make sure energy cooperation under the BRI framework makes solid progress.

Global Energy Governance System

Jointly safeguarding global energy security and addressing global climate change has become a major challenge facing the world. At present, the international political and economic landscape has entered a turbulent period. Risks are accumulating as the world economy recovers. The global industrial and supply chain is facing severe challenges, and the global energy supply and demand structure is undergoing profound adjustments. Energy consumption is gravitating eastward, and energy production is moving westward. Energy demand in Asia and the Pacific has been growing fast, and more than 80% of the world's crude oil production growth comes

from North America. All these trends further highlight the diversified supply pattern of world energy.⁵⁶ China will continue to follow the principle of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, promote the building of a global energy governance system featuring justice, equity, balance, inclusiveness, openness, and shared benefits, jointly maintain the stability of the world's energy market, and promote the sustainable development of global energy.

We need to facilitate energy trade and investment. China will further open itself to the rest of the world, substantially ease access for foreign investment, and promote liberalization and facilitation of energy trade and investment. China has fully implemented the system of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list across the board. Particularly, and lifted access restrictions on foreign investment in coal, oil, gas, power generation (excluding nuclear power), as well as new energy businesses. At the same time, the country will actively promote cross-country and cross-regional energy infrastructure connectivity.⁵⁷

We will promote energy cooperation with Belt and Road countries. China will cooperate extensively with countries along the Belt and Road in energy investment, trade, production capacity, and technology standards, and jointly launch the Belt and Road Energy Partnership. In response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China will actively participate in international cooperation on energy access, and support the energy access projects in Belt and Road countries to ensure local people's access to

⁵⁶ "Accelerate the Building of a Modern Energy System," People's Daily, April 1, 2022.

⁵⁷ "Toward High-quality Development of China's Energy Sector in the New Era," People's Daily, December 31, 2020, p9.

electricity.

We need to actively participate in global energy governance. China actively participates in international cooperation on energy under the G20, APEC, BRICS, and other multilateral mechanisms. In the energy sector, China has established intergovernmental cooperation mechanisms with more than 90 countries and regions, and built partnerships with more than 30 international organizations and multilateral mechanisms. Since 2012, China has become a member of the International Renewable Energy Agency, a signatory observer of the Energy Charter Treaty, and a member of the International Energy Agency. China has actively advocated and promoted regional energy cooperation, and has built cooperation platforms with ASEAN, the League of Arab States, the African Union, Central and Eastern European Countries, etc.

(5) New Type of Industrialization: A New Industrialization Approach in Line with National Conditions

Industrialization is the path a country must take to achieve economic development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets its eighth goal to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”⁵⁸ By turning its attention to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, the world is thinking about how industrialization can play a key role in driving economic growth and achieving sustainable development.⁵⁹ China spent only a few

⁵⁸ “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” January 13, 2016.

https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E.

⁵⁹ “Support Industrialization of Developing Countries,” People’s Daily, April 20, 2022.

decades completing the industrialization process that took developed countries hundreds of years. In recent years, the pace of China's new industrialization has quickened significantly, ushering in a historical leap from a big manufacturing country to a strong manufacturing country, and a country with an extensive cyber presence to a leader in internet technology.⁶⁰ At the same time, China is supporting other developing countries to build a more modern industrial system and enhance the added value of resources, bringing a strong impetus to the industrialization process of developing countries.

New Type of Industrialization

Taking its own realities into account, China draws on the experience and lessons of industrialization from other countries, and gives full play to its comparative and latecomer advantages based on the new level of economic and technological development in the present era. China has always ensured that the development of an information-based society and industrialization will reinforce each other, and thus takes a path of industrialization based on the development of science and technology, with good economic returns, low resource consumption, and less pollution, and such industrialization fully taps into human resources.

China has optimized its industrial structure and significantly improved its comprehensive strength in manufacturing. From 2012 to 2021, the value-added industrial output in China nearly doubled from 20.9 trillion yuan to 37.3 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 6.3%. In particular, manufacturing output grew from

⁶⁰ "Making Strides in Building up China's Strengths in Manufacturing and Cyberspace," People's Daily, June 15, 2022, p2.

16.98 trillion yuan to 31.4 trillion yuan, accounting for nearly 30% of the global manufacturing output, up from about 20% in 2012. China tops the world in more than 40% of 500 major industrial products. China has established a complete industrial system comprising 41 large industrial categories, 207 medium categories, and 666 small categories.

China's emerging industries have also accelerated their development. Industries in service robots, intelligent wearable equipment, and other products have robust growth; the production and sales of new energy vehicles have ranked first in the world for seven consecutive years; the output value of the new materials industry has doubled; the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries have picked up the pace; and digital transformation and green transformation have gained momentum. A large number of significant innovations – such as the Chang'e lunar exploration project, the Zhurong mars rovers, the Xihe solar observation satellite, and the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System – have led China's manufacturing industry to new heights. China's industrial system and industrial chains have seen constant improvements. The overall strength, quality, efficiency, as well innovation ability, competitiveness, and risk resistance capacity have all been significantly enhanced.⁶¹

The strength of China's manufacturing enterprises has increased significantly, and the core competitiveness of its small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has also largely improved. A total of 73 Chinese industrial enterprises have ranked among the global

⁶¹ "Making Strides in Building up China's Strengths in Manufacturing and Cyberspace," People's Daily, June 15, 2022, p2.

top 500, and the assets of industrial enterprises above designated size have doubled. More than 40,000 technologically advanced SMEs, 4,762 “little giant” enterprises (outstanding high-tech SMEs with high growth potential, advanced technology, and strong market competitive edge), and 848 single-champion enterprises (enterprises leading an individual field of the manufacturing industry) have been cultivated. The total R&D expenditure of industrial enterprises above designated size has multiplied, the proportion of sales revenues from new products in the total business revenues among leading enterprises rose from 11.9% to 22.4%, and more than 570 industrial enterprises have been among the top 2,500 R&D investing companies worldwide.

China’s information and communication industry (ICT) has improved by leaps and bounds, and the integration of new-generation information technology and manufacturing has made great strides. China has made remarkable achievements in its mobile networks in 3G, 4G, and particularly 5G. It has built the world’s largest and most advanced network infrastructure, and the bandwidth of its fiber optic network has been upgraded from 10 megabits per second to 100 megabits per second, even 1,000 megabits per second in certain areas. For the first time in history, broadband access has been realized in all administrative villages across the country.

The Ability of Sustainable Development

Industrialization, while generating unprecedented material wealth, has incurred serious damage to mother nature. Development without thought of the future is not sustainable. The way forward

should be green development that focuses on harmony with nature and eco-friendly progress.⁶² To embark on a new path of industrialization, we must try to overcome the serious problems brought about by traditional industrialization, constantly improve the quality and level of industrialization development, and promote the harmonious coexistence of human and nature.⁶³

China adheres to the philosophy of prioritizing ecological conservation and green development in its industrial upgrading, continues to promote green and low-carbon industrialization, and strives to explore a new road of ecological conservation while creating a win-win situation for both industrial development and environmental protection.

Addressing climate change has given a new mission and brought new opportunities for the green and low-carbon development of Chinese industries. Strategic emerging industries such as energy conservation and environmental protection are growing rapidly and becoming pillars of the economy. Hi-tech manufacturing now accounts for 15.1% of the added value of industrial firms of the designated size. During the 2016-2020 period, China effectively reined in the expansion of energy-intensive industries, and accelerated the upgrading and transformation of key industries, including petrochemicals, chemicals, and iron and steel. Having set the goal of reducing the overcapacity of iron and steel production by up to 150 million metric tons during this period, China met the goal two years ahead of schedule, and

⁶² Xi Jinping's speech at the opening ceremony of the international Horticultural exhibition, April 28, 2019.

⁶³ "Enhance Industrialization development, Adopt New Approach to Industrialization," People's Daily, December 2, 2021.

decommissioned facilities producing substandard steel products to a total volume exceeding 100 million metric tons. It is estimated that, from 2015 to 2020, carbon dioxide emissions per unit of added value of Chinese industries fell by about 22%. In 2020, major resource productivity rose by approximately 26% from the 2015 level. About 260 million metric tons of scrap steel and 54.9 million metric tons of waste paper were reused, and the output of recycled non-ferrous metals reached 14.5 million metric tons.⁶⁴

Industrialization of Developing Countries

Industrialization, as one of the eight priority areas of cooperation of the GDI, will help developing countries reduce poverty, improve people's livelihood, and address the challenge to growth. International capacity cooperation runs through the entire development process of economic globalization, and it is also a key element of the BRI. Over the years, China has been supporting the industrialization and economic diversification of other developing countries through foreign investment cooperation and other measures, and has been striving to enhance the wellbeing of people around the world.

China provides financial support and strengthens policy coordination for industrialization projects in developing countries. In his speech at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Xi Jinping announced that China will encourage its businesses to invest no less than US\$10 billion in Africa in the next three years. China will

⁶⁴ Responding to Climate Change: China's Policies and Actions, State Council Information Office, PRC, October 2021, http://english.scio.gov.cn/node_8026776.html,

establish a platform for China-Africa private investment promotion, and undertake 10 industrialization and employment promotion projects for Africa.⁶⁵ China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), will strengthen industrial policy exchanges, deepen cooperation in the fields of raw materials, equipment manufacturing, green and low-carbon industries, and industrial and supply chains, and promote smart, digital, and green development of industries in China and CELAC countries.⁶⁶

China helps developing countries to meet their needs for well-trained personnel and capacity building in industrialization. China announced that it will implement the “Future of Africa” project designed to establish China-Africa cooperation on vocational education, and launch an employment scheme for African students in China. China will continue to work with African countries to set up “Luban Workshops,” and encourage Chinese companies in Africa to create at least 800,000 local jobs.⁶⁷ China will continue to provide strong support to African countries in their quest for strong growth, regional integration, and industrial development.

China is providing more support to promote scientific and technological progress and technological innovation in various countries. China has announced that it will launch the China-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Enhancing Program, and will provide 1,000 items of advanced and applicable technologies to ASEAN and support a program for 300 young

⁶⁵ Xi Jinping’s speech at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, November 29, 2021.

⁶⁶ China - CELAC Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas (2022-2024).

⁶⁷ Xi Jinping’s speech at the opening ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, November 29, 2021.

scientists from ASEAN to come to China for exchanges in the next five years. By actively pushing forward the promotion and application of scientific and technological achievements along with advanced and applicable technologies, China has facilitated the process of industrialization.

China continues to contribute solutions to sustainable industrial development. China has issued guidelines such as the “Green Development Guidelines for Foreign Investment and Cooperation” and the “Guidelines for Ecological and Environmental Protection of Foreign Investment Cooperation and Construction Projects.” It has expressed willingness to further build demonstration zones for high-quality development of international production capacity cooperation under the BRI framework, and released the “Opinions on Promoting Green Development of the Belt and Road Initiative.” These are practical moves that China has taken to promote green and sustainable industrial growth, and make sure that developing countries avoid the pattern of “grow first, clean up later.”⁶⁸

(6) Digital Economy: Chinese Wisdom in Global Digital Governance

The digital economy has become the main economic form following the agricultural economy and the industrial economy. It is a new economic form, with digital resources as the key element, the modern information network as the main carrier, and the integration and application of ICT along with the digital transformation of all factors as the important driving force. It promotes the integration of

⁶⁸ “Facilitate Industrialization of Developing Countries,” People’s Daily, April 20, 2022, p3.

fairness and efficiency. The speed of the digital economy's development, the extent of its reach, and the level of its impact are unprecedented; and it is fast becoming a critical force that is reordering global production factors, reshaping global economic structures, and transforming global competition.⁶⁹

Global Initiative on Data Security

The world is undergoing changes rarely seen in a century. The development of digital and network technologies, combined with various risks, has led to a rise in the demand for global governance. However, the tendency of politicization in cyberspace disrupts, hinders, and even undermines the efforts of the international community, and meanwhile, unilateralism, protectionism, and bullying practices are impeding the supply of global public goods.

On September 8, 2020, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed the Global Data Security Initiative at the International Seminar on Global Digital Governance, which was themed "Upholding Multilateralism, Fairness and Justice and Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation." China has launched the Global Initiative on Data Security, which aims to galvanize efforts to shape a peaceful, secure, open, cooperative, and orderly cyberspace.⁷⁰ China is willing to discuss and develop international rules for digital governance that reflect the will and respect the interests of all sides, and actively foster an open, fair, just, and

⁶⁹ "Xi Jinping: Building Up the Strength, Quality, and Size of China's Digital Economy," Qiushi Journal, January 16, 2022.

⁷⁰ Xi Jinping's remarks at the 20th meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State, November 10, 2020.

non-discriminatory environment for digital development.⁷¹ China will work with all sides to formulate standards and rules of the global digital field and promote the sound development of global governance in the digital economy.⁷²

Global digital governance follows three principles: upholding multilateralism, balancing security and development, and ensuring fairness and justice. These are the key points of the Global Data Security Initiative: actively maintain an open, secure, and stable global supply chain; oppose using ICT activities to impair other countries' critical infrastructure or steal important data; take actions to prevent and put an end to activities that infringe upon personal information, oppose abusing ICT to conduct mass surveillance against other countries; ask companies to respect the laws of host countries, desist from coercing domestic companies into storing data generated and obtained overseas in one's own territory; and companies should not install backdoors in their products.⁷³

The Global Data Security Initiative focuses on the major data security issues at the moment, proposes constructive concepts and schemes for the regulation of government and enterprise behaviors in the field of data security, and provides a blueprint for the formulation of global rules. This is the first international initiative in the field of data security, and it is a pronounced manifestation of China's fulfillment of its international responsibilities as a major country.⁷⁴ China promotes global data security governance with an

⁷¹ Xi Jinping's remarks at Session I of the 16th G20 Leaders' Summit, October 30, 2021.

⁷² Xi Jinping Co-hosts Meeting with German and European Union Leaders, <https://www.mfa.gov.cn/ce/ceus/eng/zgyw/t1815597.htm>.

⁷³ "China proposes the Global Data Security Initiative," People.com.cn, September 9, 2020, <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2020/0909/c1002-31854286.html>.

⁷⁴ "New Prospects for Global Digital Governance," People.com.cn, March 30, 2021,

open and inclusive attitude, and works with all parties to build a new framework of international rules and a community with a shared future in the digital world.

Global Digital Governance

Digital governance is a new area of global governance, and data security risks are a challenge for all countries. The development of the digital economy around the world is occurring at a breakneck pace. Digital technology has accelerated innovation, and it is being steadily integrated into all the aspects and processes of global economic and social development. The adjustment and direction of global digital governance have received increasing attention. From proposing the Global Data Security Initiative to applying for accession to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, China has been committed to expanding openness, dovetailing with high-level international rules and standards, and promoting the development of a more just and reasonable global digital governance system.⁷⁵

China has actively participated in international cooperation in the digital economy and related rulemaking. It has made key contributions to helping developing countries cross the “digital divide,” maintaining and improving global digital governance mechanisms, and generating new growth momentums for world economic growth. China has demonstrated its role as a major country in the digital era. By improving its laws and regulations in digital governance, China is actively integrating itself into the global

<http://cpc.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0330/c64094-32064571.html>

⁷⁵ “Contribute Chinese Wisdom to Global Digital Governance,” People.com.cn, January 9, 2022, <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2022/0109/c1002-32327000.html>.

digital governance system. According to the “Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035,” China will strike a balance between promoting development and standardized management, and it will establish a digital rule system and create an open, healthy, and secure digital environment. China has consecutively launched the Data Security Law, the White Paper on Global Digital Governance, the Personal Information Protection Law and other laws and regulations. China has also released a few draft documents for comments, such as the “Security Assessment Measures for Data Export and the Provisions on the Administration of Algorithm-generated Recommendations for Internet Information Services,” putting forward Chinese solutions for data governance.

China actively promotes the healthy development of the digital economy and strives to promote digital applications and services for the benefit of all people. China continuously improves domestic laws, regulations, and policy norms, and proactively integrates itself into the global governance framework for emerging digital technologies. It is also actively applying to join high-level digital trade agreements and strengthening cooperation in the global digital economy. China promotes the joint construction of the Digital Silk Road, dedicates itself to narrowing the “digital divide,” and pushes forward the development of global digital governance that is open, inclusive, mutually beneficial, and equal.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ White Paper on Global Digital Governance, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, December 12.

International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals

China will set up a U.N. Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center and an International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, announced President Xi Jinping at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. The founding of the center is an important move for China to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The world is reeling from the severe impact of COVID-19. Sci-tech innovations and the application of big data will help the international community to overcome difficulties and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development globally.⁷⁷ Meanwhile, setting up the center also reflects China's commitment to international peace and development, and moreover, its solid actions to support multilateralism.⁷⁸

The International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development (SDG Center) is the world's first international research institute to serve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with big data. The SDG Center relies on the Chinese Academy of Sciences for its construction, and sets its targets on the cutting-edge intersections of earth system science, socioeconomics, and sustainable development. With the help of big data, the center will conduct systematic research on SDG monitoring, assessment, and

⁷⁷ "Xi extends congratulations on founding of Int'l Research Center of Big Data for SDGs," Xinhua News Agency, September 7, 2021, http://www.news.cn/mrdx/2021-09/07/c_1310173178.htm.

⁷⁸ "China Ready to Shoulder its Responsibilities as a Major Country," Xinhua News Agency, October 3, 2020. <http://gs.people.com.cn/n2/2020/1003/c183342-34332417.html>

prediction in the fields of environmental commons, urban and rural development, food security, and energy decarbonization. It will also develop big data theoretical systems and technical methods, set up big data platforms and decision support systems to serve sustainable development goals, and provide basic theories, technical methods, decision support, and think tank services for solving major sustainable development issues in China and globally.⁷⁹

On April 26, 2022, at the opening ceremony of the BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development, the SDG Center released several Sustainable Development Data Products for BRICS Countries, including the Data Product of Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1 (SDGSAT-1). Focused on the needs of BRICS countries to achieve the SDGs, these products, built up on big data theories, as well as big data processing, and analysis skills will provide monitoring and evaluation information concerning SDGs such as human activity traces, urban development, and forest coverage. They will provide support for scientific research on SDGs in BRICS countries.⁸⁰

(7) Green Development: The Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

Protecting the environment and coping with climate change are challenges faced by all mankind. As the world's largest developing country, China has overcome its own economic and social difficulties, implemented a series of strategies, measures, and actions

⁷⁹ Introduction of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development, <http://www.cbac.ac.cn/zxjs/>.

⁸⁰ "Scientists from Five Countries Chart Blueprint for a Community of a Shared Future for Mankind," Science and Technology Daily, April 28, 2022. https://m.gmw.cn/2022-04/28/content_1302921262.htm

to address climate change, and participated in global climate governance. China has always put addressing climate change high up on the agenda of promoting ecological conservation and achieving high-quality development, and has contributed Chinese wisdom to global climate governance, based on its own need to achieve sustainable development and its responsibility to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Implementing the Paris Agreement

To tackle climate change, representatives from 197 countries gathered at the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris and had a breakthrough on Dec. 12, 2015, by reaching the historic Paris Agreement.⁸¹ It is the first instrument universally accepted by the world for addressing climate change. The Paris Agreement states that all parties will strengthen their response to the threat of climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels; and all parties are committed to achieving the goal in steps through Nationally Determined Contributions.⁸²

The milestone agreement on climate change charts the course for the world to its transition to green and low-carbon development. It outlines the minimum steps to be taken to protect the Earth, our shared homeland.⁸³ China has always attached great importance to international cooperation on climate change, actively participated in

⁸¹ The Paris Agreement, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>.

⁸² “China Plays Key Role in Implementing the Paris Agreement,” People’s Daily, December 6, 2020, <http://qh.people.com.cn/n2/2020/1206/c182757-34458598.html>

⁸³ Xi Jinping’s statement at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, September 22, 2020.

climate change negotiations, and played a leading role in the process of climate negotiations. It has actively promoted the signing, entry into force, and implementation of the Paris Agreement, and announced that its carbon emissions peak will be achieved by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060. China's ecological progress has also been widely recognized by the international community. Chinese ideas and practices have helped shape the dynamics of global climate governance, gradually taking center stage in the global endeavor in response to climate change.⁸⁴ In October 2021, China's National Focal Point formally submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat "China's Achievements, New Goals and New Measures for Nationally Determined Contributions" and "China's Mid-Century Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy." Those measures are the epitome of China fulfilling the Paris Agreement, which reflects its determination and efforts to promote green and low-carbon development and actively respond to global climate change.

At present, China is taking unprecedented actions to address climate change, and continuing to firmly adhere to multilateralism and work with all parties to promote the comprehensive, balanced, and effective implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. China has announced that it will no longer build new coal-fired power projects abroad. China has set up a leading group for its "dual-carbon" targets, and it is establishing and implementing the "1 N" policy framework. Committed to achieving carbon

⁸⁴ "Chinese Ideas and Practices Help Shape Global Climate Governance," People's Daily.

emissions peak by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060, China is actively promoting low-carbon development and green transformation.

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

Established by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, “common but differentiated responsibilities” has been regarded by the international community as an underlying principle in dealing with environmental problems. It is the cornerstone of global climate governance.⁸⁵ Given the difference between developed and developing countries in historical responsibility, development stage, and coping capability, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be adhered to, instead of becoming obsolete.

All countries in the world should adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and implement the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement in an accurate, balanced, and comprehensive way based on the existing consensus, in light of different national circumstances and in accordance with the institutional arrangement of nationally determined contributions.⁸⁶ Developed countries, which bear historical responsibilities for global climate change, should take the lead in scaling up mitigation actions and increasing their indispensable support to developing countries in finance, technology, and capacity-building. Developed countries should come up with

⁸⁵ Xi Jinping's remarks at the Leaders Summit on Climate, April 22, 2021.

⁸⁶ XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, June 24, 2022,
https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202206/t20220623_10709037.html

bigger ambitions and stronger actions, refrain from creating green trade barriers, help developing countries accelerate their transition to green and low-carbon development, and promote international cooperation on climate change in the context of development.

We need to give full recognition to developing countries' contributions to climate action and accommodate their particular difficulties and concerns. China is firmly committed to putting multilateralism into action and promoting a fair and equitable system of global environmental governance for win-win cooperation. China will adhere to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, fairness, and respective capabilities. China will firmly uphold multilateralism and resolutely safeguard its development interests.⁸⁷

The Green Belt and Road

In the face of environmental challenges, all countries are in a community with linked destinies, and no country can stay immune.⁸⁸ Many countries along the Belt and Road route have complex geographical conditions and fragile ecosystems, and thus face great pressure in achieving sustainable development. Therefore, we must promote green development. A series of practical green actions have been taken to turn the BRI into practice and shift it from vision to action. Green development has gradually produced positive results, as its prospects are bright, the concept of green development has taken root, the exchange mechanism has been improved, and

⁸⁷ "Xi Stresses Strategic Resolve on Building Eco-civilization," Xinhua News Agency, May 1, 2021, http://www.qstheory.cn/yaowen/2021-05/01/c_1127401190.htm.

⁸⁸ Xi Jinping's remarks at the opening ceremony of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, April 28, 2019.

practical cooperation has been deepened.

The BRI is not only a route to prosperity, but also a path of green development. China is an important participant, contributor, and leader in global ecological conservation, and the initiative is a win-win platform for cooperation built by China for the international community. Always bearing in mind that green is a defining feature of the BRI, we must push forward green infrastructure, green investment, and green financing, and actively work with all sides to build a green Silk Road.⁸⁹ China has always embraced the green development concept and taken concrete actions with other countries to jointly build the green Belt and Road. With inclusive development as its core concept, the green Belt and Road can play a stronger exemplary role for the international community.

Promoting green development under the BRI framework is an inherent requirement of practicing the concept of green development and promoting ecological progress, a vital measure to address climate change and safeguard global ecological security, and an important vehicle for promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road and building a community of life for human and nature. Successful practices in the past have proven that the green Belt and Road is the Chinese wisdom and solution for improving the global governance system, and China has become an important participant, contributor, and torchbearer in the global endeavor for ecological civilization.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ “Green is defining feature of the Belt and Road Initiative,” People’s Daily, December 22, 2020, <http://ccnews.people.com.cn/n1/2020/1222/c141677-31974798.html>.

⁹⁰ “Opinions on Advancing Green Development of Belt and Road,” National Development and Reform Commission and other departments, March 16, 2022, https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/tz/202203/t20220328_1320629.html.

(8) Interconnectivity: Infrastructure, Rules and Standards, People-to-people Ties

The world has become a global village where our interests are intertwined, and our economic and social progress interconnected. To promote common prosperity and development in today's world, we have no choice but to pursue greater connectivity and integrated development.⁹¹ On November 19, 2021, the third symposium on the development of the Belt and Road Initiative stressed that we should take the connectivity of infrastructure as an important direction, the connectivity of rules and standards as important support, and strengthening people-to-people ties as an important foundation. Interconnectivity focuses on infrastructure, rules and institutions, and personnel exchange, and calls for progress in policy communication, infrastructure linkage, trade flow, financing arrangements, and friendly exchanges between people.⁹²

Economic Corridors

The Belt and Road Initiative, as the longest-span economic corridor in the world, links many economic circles such as Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Africa.⁹³

The main framework of the BRI includes six corridors and six channels serving multiple countries and ports, as the construction of economic corridors is an important part of pushing forward the

⁹¹ Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018, April 10, 2018.

⁹² Xi Jinping's speech at the APEC CEO Summit, November 18, 2015.

⁹³ A feature article on Xi Jinping's visit to Tajikistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and India, Xinhuanet.com, September 24, 2014, http://www.xinhuanet.com/world/2014-09/24/c_1112598515_3.htm.

development of the Belt and Road. The six corridors are: the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor, the New Eurasian Land Bridge, the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor, the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor. The six major economic corridors list relevant developing countries and regions as key targets, which is conducive to creating mutual benefit and win-win results between China and the countries and regions related to the BRI.⁹⁴

Xi Jinping said, “We should focus on Asia countries, develop a basic framework of Asian connectivity supported by economic corridors, achieve early success in Asian connectivity by making breakthroughs in transport infrastructure development, break the bottleneck in Asian connectivity by building a financing platform, and strengthen the social foundation of Asian connectivity by promoting people-to-people exchanges. Let us deepen our connectivity partnership, improve Asia’s regional cooperation and work together to build a community of common development with a shared future.”⁹⁵

As the strategic pillars of the BRI, the six major economic corridors are also important frameworks for regional economic cooperation. They have already brought benefits and interests, as well as hope and satisfaction, to people in countries along the route.

As a model of jointly building the BRI, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has not only promoted Pakistan’s economic and social development through omni-directional and multi-field

⁹⁴ “Construction of Six Major Economic Corridors,” Ccssn.cn, April 26, 2019.

⁹⁵ Xi Jinping’s speech at the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership, November 9, 2014.

cooperation between the two countries, but also further strengthened their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The corridor has become a model and flagship project of the initiative. Since the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor began, about 38,000 jobs have been created, of which more than 75% were filled by the local population. Its energy sector, in particular, has created the most jobs, taken on by 16,000 Pakistani workers and engineers. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is being recognized and joined by more and more countries. As the corridor extends, it will benefit more countries and bring benefits to the people of China and Pakistan and other countries in the region.⁹⁶

‘Hard Connectivity’ of Infrastructure

China has made overall planning to promote high-quality development, establish a new development paradigm, and jointly build the Belt and Road. China upholds the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and takes the connectivity of infrastructure as an important direction.⁹⁷ Infrastructure connectivity is the bond that enables people-to-people exchanges, and it is also the cornerstone of interconnection. At present, solid progress has been made regarding the physical connectivity of infrastructure. Major infrastructure projects such as the China-Laos Railway and the new port of Haifa in Israel were completed. The construction and operation of projects in relation to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Port of Piraeus, the

⁹⁶ “Belt and Road Model Project: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Makes Major Advances,” Gmw.cn, March 21, 2022, <https://m.gmw.cn/baijia/2022-03/21/35599554.html>.

⁹⁷ “Xi Urges Continuous Efforts to Promote High-quality BRI Development,” Xinhua News Agency, November 19, 2021, http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/19/c_1310321353.htm

Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, and the Hungary-Serbia railway are steadily advancing. The China-Europe freight trains have reached new records in the number of freight services and cargo transportation, providing a strong boost to economic recovery in countries along the railway.

In the future, countries and regions along the Belt and Road will build a new infrastructure system based on modern digital technologies, involving railways, highways, shipping, aviation, pipelines, information, and other hardware interconnection. China is helping countries along the route integrate into global supply chains, industrial chains, and value chains, and contributing to trade and sharing opportunities. Interconnectivity is what we need for resource integration and a market economy. Infrastructure interconnection can reduce the transactional costs of resource integration and provide basic material guarantees for unimpeded trade, financial integration, people-to-people exchanges, and policy coordination. It also makes the high-quality development of the Belt and Road cooperation possible. The new infrastructure system will attach great importance to the green development principle of ecological conservation. It emphasizes project planning as well as design and construction that feature harmonious coexistence between human and nature. Green technologies, green equipment, green materials, and green techniques are used throughout the process of infrastructure interconnection. This will be the way for us to eventually achieve infrastructure connectivity that is both modern and ecologically friendly.⁹⁸

⁹⁸ “‘Hard’ Connectivity and ‘Soft’ Connectivity: Promote High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation,” Gmw.cn,

‘Soft Connectivity’ of Rules and Standards

General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed the need to make overall planning to promote high-quality development, establish a new development paradigm, and proceed with high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. He said we must uphold the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and take the connectivity of rules and standards as important support. Policy coordination, rule adjustment, and standard alignment are the three aspects of “soft connectivity.” By providing wisdom and experience for optimizing global economic governance, China is making the BRI a route of opportunity and prosperity that helps people around the world achieve equitable benefits.

The key to soft connectivity is the transformation from opening up based on flows of goods and factors of production to opening up based on rules and institutions. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement has officially entered into force, and China will work with its partners to build the world’s largest free trade area. China is also actively applying to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, so as to drive high-quality development through high-level opening. In addition, China has signed third-party market cooperation agreements with 14 countries, including France, Japan, Italy, the U.K., Switzerland, Austria, and Canada.

The idea of soft connectivity not only points to connections of

policies, rules, and standards, and the crucial support for the real economy, but also defines the role of connectivity. As the institutional guarantee of infrastructure construction, soft connectivity of rules and standards provides support for geographical planning, trade facilitation, finance and taxation, customs cooperation, social security, investment dispute resolution, and audit supervision. To achieve soft connectivity, it is necessary to introduce an administrative certification system recognized by multiple parties for enterprises, commodities, occupations, and other areas. By simplifying the procedures for the movement of commodities, funds, technologies, and professionals, saving unnecessary transaction costs, and facilitating the free flow of production factors, China has helped to underpin the economic development of other countries.

‘Connectivity of the Heart’

The BRI aims for high-standard, sustainable, and people-centered progress. Strengthening people-to-people ties between China and countries along the route has always been one of the original aspirations of the Belt and Road cooperation. By promoting people-to-people exchanges, China and countries along the Belt and Road can achieve in-depth integration in their cooperation, and jointly build a humanistic ecosystem of mutual understanding and support.⁹⁹ Boosting people-to-people ties is the foundation and the ultimate goal of the BRI. By strengthening people-to-people exchange, China is making the Belt and Road a

⁹⁹ “Connectivity of Heart: Amity between the People Holds the Key to State-to-state Relations, China Pictorial, January 9, 2022.

route to happiness that brings benefits to people of all countries.

Mutual learning between civilizations has become a highlight in strengthening people-to-people ties. The BRI aims for development, calls for win-win cooperation, and conveys the message of hope. It strives to establish a global partnership of close connectivity, through which countries would lend one another a helping hand during trying times. Cooperation and construction are inseparable from the guidance of values and culture. We should promote harmonious coexistence among different civilizations, advocate exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, uphold the principles of diversity, equality, and tolerance of civilizations, and build bridges that connect hearts.

The construction of livelihood projects is an important way to quickly enhance the sense of gain for people along the Belt and Road. Since the BRI was put forward, people-to-people ties featuring mutual assistance have continued to deepen.¹⁰⁰ China has made every effort to assist countries in the fight against COVID-19 and carried out joint vaccine production cooperation with partners in developing countries, most of which are BRI participants. By the end of 2021, China had provided the international community with about 372 billion masks, more than 4.2 billion pieces of protective clothing, more than 8.4 billion testing reagents, and more than 2 billion doses of vaccine, making it the country with the largest number of exported vaccines. A large number of “small yet smart” assistance programs have been carried out to help people in partner countries increase their income and improve their lives.

¹⁰⁰ “FM Wang Yi: China to Make BRI a 'Belt of Development', a 'Road to Happiness,’” news.cn, March 7, 2022, http://www.news.cn/politics/2022lh/2022-03/07/c_1128446765.htm

(9) Human Resources: Teaching a Man to Fish

Developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, still face serious development challenges and have a long way to go in areas such as poverty, health, and governance capacity. Capacity building is of vital importance for developing countries to achieve autonomous development. It is also the defining factor for the Least Developed Countries to break the bottleneck of reducing poverty. China believes in its ancient wisdom of “teaching one to fish rather than giving one fish,” and it conducts seminars for officials, technical staff training, and vocational education programs by that principle. This way, the country shares its development experience, governance experience, and industrial advantages with recipient countries, promotes technology transfer, and thus enhances their independent development.

“We need to build bridges for exchanges and mutual learning among different cultures, and deepen human resources development cooperation in various areas,” said Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. In recent years, China has kept growing its foreign aid training. Within five years, the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development has trained more than 200 high-level professionals from over 60 countries. Through foreign aid training programs, China has helped recipient countries improve their governance capacity, planning level, and industry development capability. China has also trained officials and technicians for the development agenda of developing countries. During its 14th Five-Year Plan period

(2021-2025), as China strides toward its Second Centenary Goal, it will continue to promote mutual learning with other developing countries and strengthen communication and exchanges in the field of governance. Through platforms such as the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, China will scale up training programs for high-level professionals of developing countries and contribute its experience and solutions to their capacity building.¹⁰¹

Vocational Education and Training Bases

The BRI cooperation has given a boost to construction, and as a result, has generated a large demand for talent. With the initiative well underway, more cooperation programs on vocational education are implemented along the Belt and Road route. Through school-enterprise cooperation, joint construction of Chinese and foreign institutions, and the establishment of training centers, China and countries along the Belt and Road have achieved remarkable results in cultivating professionals with diverse talents, sharing technical skills, and promoting employment and entrepreneurship. These cooperation programs have propped up local economic and social development in terms of human resources and intelligence.¹⁰²

Vocational education is an important means for developing countries to generate demographic dividends and increase employment. China has helped to set up technical schools and vocational training centers in Laos, Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar,

¹⁰¹ “Promote Quality of Foreign Assistance Programs,” Gmw.cn, July 30, 2021, https://m.gmw.cn/2021-07/30/content_1302443189.htm.

¹⁰² “Strengthen the Exchange of Vocational Education and promote Economic and Social Development,” People.cn, February 25, 2022, <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2022/0225/c1002-32359264.html>.

Pakistan, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, Egypt, Sudan, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, and Vanuatu. In Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, and Madagascar, China has provided material support for improving their vocational and technical education. The Omdurman Friendship Center for Vocational Training, supported by China, has become Sudan's national vocational training base for teachers. In Djibouti and Egypt, China has established Lu Ban workshops to provide practical technical training to local youths through paired cooperation with Chinese vocational schools. China's technical assistance to the vocational training center in Burkina Faso has helped boost the local vocational education market.¹⁰³

Human Resource Development Cooperation

Human resource development cooperation means that, through multilateral or bilateral channels, China runs different kinds of research and training programs for government officials, education programs, technical training programs, and other personnel exchange programs for developing countries. China began running these programs in 1953. At present, roughly 10,000 people from developing countries receive training in China every year. Moreover, China has trained a large number of managerial and technical personnel for recipient countries through technical cooperation and other ways.¹⁰⁴

Providing human resource training for developing countries is an important part of China's foreign aid. In recent years, General

¹⁰³ "White Paper: China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era," State Council Information Office, PRC, January 2021, http://english.scio.gov.cn/node_8021417.html.

¹⁰⁴ "White Paper: China's Foreign Aid," State Council Information Office, PRC, April 2011, <http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/ndhf/2011/Document/896982/896982.htm>.

Secretary Xi Jinping has announced a series of human resource development cooperation initiatives at forums, summits, and other major diplomatic events, winning wide acclaim and high praise from the international community. China helps other developing countries make plans, shares governance experience with them, and implements capacity building programs through bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms. China actively shares its practices and experience in governance, such as how it builds a government based on the rule of law, undertakes reforms to streamline the government, delegates power, and improves government services, upgrades industrial innovation, and boosts the digital economy. By hosting an array of training seminars and degree programs, China has helped to improve the policymaking capacity of officials in the public sector in other developing countries.

Meanwhile, China has strengthened the construction of cooperation mechanisms regarding bilateral human resource development. It has signed memoranda of understanding on human resource development cooperation with 31 countries, including Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, El Salvador, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago. It also provides targeted support in the capacity building based on the actual needs of different countries. Through human resource development cooperation, technical cooperation, and volunteer services, China shares development experience and practical skills with other developing countries, helping them cultivate talent and enhance their capacity for independent development.

Teaching a Man to Fish

In its foreign aid, China adheres to the traditional Chinese philosophy of “teaching people how to fish.” By increasing cooperation on technological and human resource development, China continues to enrich the contents and create new methods of foreign aid, aiming to contribute its experience and solutions to the capacity building of developing countries. China helps developing countries improve their governance capacity, planning level, and industry development capability. Moreover, China has trained officials and technicians for developing countries. For more than half a century, China’s training programs have been an important part of its foreign aid. Along with other kinds of assistance, these training programs have been an important approach to the country’s overall foreign strategy. Through human resource development cooperation and other means, China is sharing its experience in development and practical skills with other developing countries and helping them to foster talent. In that sense, China is “teaching those developing countries to fish.”

Training assistance to developing countries is the embodiment of China’s responsibility as a major country. “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,” said Xi Jinping at the 2015 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum. “Poverty alleviation requires the support of education. Providing a good education to children in poor regions is not only an important task of poverty alleviation and development, but also a very effective way to stop the intergenerational transmission of poverty.” This principle also applies to China-Africa

relations. What defines China-Africa relations is their shared interests – to facilitate Africa’s development endeavor with China’s development, and to ultimately deliver win-win progress and common development through mutually beneficial cooperation.¹⁰⁵ China not only “gives a man the fish” through no-strings-attached assistance to Africa, but also “teaches a man to fish” by helping Africa foster talent by strengthening cooperation in human resource development and technology exchange.¹⁰⁶

Independent Development Capacity

The fundamental principle of the GDI is to uphold multilateralism and deepen global development partnerships. China will provide more resources to developing countries and help them enhance independent development capacity, so as to eliminate the development gap and jointly build a global development community.¹⁰⁷ China has provided sincere and selfless assistance to developing countries within its capacity, giving them a large amount of material, technical, personnel, and intellectual support to help them enhance their independent development capacity and promote global sustainable development.¹⁰⁸

China launched pilot projects in some countries and regions with sound tendering processes and experience in organizing and implementing such projects. Under this model, China provided both funds and technical assistance to those projects, and the recipient

¹⁰⁵ Xi Jinping's address at opening ceremony of FOCAC summit, December 5, 2015.

¹⁰⁶ “Inject Momentum into a China-Africa Community with a Shared Future in the New Era,” Xinhua News Agency, July 30, 2018, http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2018-07/30/content_5310295.htm.

¹⁰⁷ “Charting A Course for International Development Cooperation,” Gmw.cn, May 20, 2022, https://theory.gmw.cn/2022-05/20/content_35749797.htm.

¹⁰⁸ “Building Closer Partnerships for Connectivity,” People’s Daily, May 1, 2022, <http://cpc.people.com.cn/n1/2022/0501/c64387-32412828.html>

countries were responsible for site survey, design, construction, and process management.¹⁰⁹ In this way, China is promoting local employment and enhancing the independent development capacity of recipient countries. By putting more effort into human resources development cooperation, China is sharing its experience, skills, and technologies, and providing intellectual support for the sustainable economic and social development of other developing countries. China energetically promotes regional cooperation in Asia and beyond, stays committed to narrowing the North-South gap, and supports other developing countries in their efforts to enhance their capacity for independent development.¹¹⁰ Moreover, China seeks to enhance South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue, strengthen developing countries' capacity for self-development, urge developed countries to shoulder more responsibilities, and narrow the North-South gap. This will help build a more equal and more balanced new global partnership for development, and cement the foundation for achieving long-term and stable global growth.¹¹¹

(10) Development Financing: No Political Conditions Attached

For a long time, the lack of development funds and the unreasonable international trade and economic system have seriously hindered the economic and social development of developing countries. To promote development and live in peace and prosperity is the common desire of all peoples, and without development, peace

¹⁰⁹ "What Paper: China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era," State Council Information Office, PRC, January 2021, http://english.scio.gov.cn/node_8021417.html.

¹¹⁰ Xi Jinping's speech at opening ceremony of Boao Forum, April 7, 2013.

¹¹¹ Xi Jinping's speech at 'Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence' anniversary, June 28, 2014.

and security cannot last. In September 2021, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative for the first time at the U.N. and called for more investment in development. And in January 2022, at the 2022 World Economic Forum Virtual Session, he called on international economic and financial institutions to play a constructive role, pool global consensus, enhance policy synergy, and prevent systemic risks.

As the world's second largest economy, China has become a major source of financing and investment for global sustainable development and delivers benefits to developing countries. Through the U.N., China promotes high-quality development that is more efficient, equitable, sustainable, and secure, and boosts economic and social development to better benefit the people of all countries. In September 2015, when attending the summits marking the 70th anniversary of the U.N., Xi Jinping announced China's decision to establish a China-U.N. Peace and Development Fund. To date, China has provided US\$120 million to the fund and launched 112 cooperation projects contributing to global peace, security, and development, benefiting more than 100 countries and regions in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. China also announced a series of initiatives to promote international development cooperation, including international assistance to support developing countries in fighting COVID-19 and restoring economic and social development, the establishment of a South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and the China-FAO Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, the cancellation of interest-free debts involving relevant developing countries, and an effort to increase investment in the Least

Developed Countries to US\$12 billion by 2030.

Imposing No Political Conditions

China's history of foreign aid and international development cooperation has lasted more than 70 years. "Economically, we respect other countries' will and never impose our own wills on others. We neither take advantage of other countries' precarious situations nor attach any political strings," said Xi Jinping at the High-level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation.¹¹² He also stressed at the Asian-African Summit in April 2015 that, "We should urge the developed countries to earnestly fulfill their pledges on official development assistance and to boost their support to developing nations without any political preconditions, thus to build a more equal and more balanced new global partnership for development and narrow the gap between the South and the North."¹¹³

So far, China has implemented several thousand complete projects and in-kind assistance programs, over 10,000 capacity building projects, and provided more than 400,000 training opportunities, benefiting over 160 fellow developing countries.¹¹⁴ Through its foreign aid, China has repeatedly proven that it is a staunch defender of the principle of sovereign equality and a sincere partner of developing countries in their pursuit of independence,

¹¹² "Xi Jinping Attends and Chairs High-level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation," People.cn, September 27, 2015, <http://jhsjk.people.cn/article/27639120>.

¹¹³ "Xi Jinping Attends the Asian-African Summit and Delivers Important Speech, Stressing to Carry Forward Bandung Spirit, Intensify Cooperation Between Asia and Africa, and Promote the Construction of Community of Common Destiny for Mankind," Xinhua News Agency, April 22, 2015, <http://jhsjk.people.cn/article/26887945>.

¹¹⁴ Address by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the High-Level Virtual Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, April 20, 2021, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202205/t20220509_10683625.html.

development, and rejuvenation.¹¹⁵ Mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs are the basic principles of China's diplomacy and naturally the core of China's foreign aid, and it is also one of the biggest differences between China and the West in providing foreign aid. Having no political conditions attached is the key feature of China's foreign aid, which reduces developing countries' dependency on Western aid. Different from Western countries, China's investment model can make up for the shortcomings of developing countries. The model's vitality lies in its two-wheel-drive development mode of "government plus market."

Non-interference in Internal Affairs of Developing Countries

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence build the cornerstone of China's foreign policy. China has been an active advocate and a firm advocate of these five principles. China persistently adheres to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and basic norms governing international relations, sticks to the principle that all countries, big or small, are equal, never interfere with another country's internal affairs, and respects the development paths and social systems independently chosen by other countries. Non-interference in internal affairs is an important principle of the U.N. Charter and a basic norm governing international relations. It fully embodies the essence of multilateralism, and more importantly helps developing countries safeguard their sovereign independence, and legitimate rights. The destiny of each country should lie in its

¹¹⁵ "China's Foreign Aid Model: Theory, Experience, and Significance for World," Ccssn.cn, January 7, 2021, http://www.cssn.cn/gjgxx/gj_ttxw/202101/t20210107_5242936.shtml.

own hands, and the future of the region should be jointly created by all countries in the region.¹¹⁶

Only by adhering to the principle of non-interference can we prevent the politicization of human rights, ensure smooth international cooperation on human rights, stop countries from bullying the weak and imposing their own will and model on others, and prevent human rights from being used as a pretext for military interventions.¹¹⁷ In state-to-state exchanges, we must adhere to non-interference in each other's internal affairs, respect the social system and development path independently chosen by each country, respect the characteristics of each country's different historical and cultural traditions as well as development stages, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and insist on peaceful means through dialogue and consultation. We should insist on learning from each other and make joint progress in seeking common ground while reserving differences.

China unswervingly follows the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, it respects the rights of each country to independently explore a development path that suits its own national conditions, and exchanges modernization experience with other countries on an equal footing. China does not seek to export its development mode or impose its will on others. China has established partnerships at different levels with many countries and regions, and these partnerships share the features of mutual respect and equal treatment. This is also an important reason why China's

¹¹⁶ "Wang Yi Attends the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the 28th ASEAN Regional Forum," Ministry of Foreign Affairs, August 7, 2021, <https://www.mfa.gov.cn/ce/ceee/eng/zgyw/t1898103.htm>.

¹¹⁷ "Statement of the Chinese Delegation at Item 8 General Debate at the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council," Ministry of Foreign Affairs, March 19, 2021, <https://www.mfa.gov.cn/ce/cegy//eng/dbdt/t1862578.htm>.

“circle of friends” is getting bigger and its “partner network” is gathering a larger crowd.¹¹⁸

South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund

China has been actively committed to the cause of international peace and development for many years. In September 2015, President Xi Jinping addressed the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 at the U.N. headquarters. He announced China will establish an assistance fund for South-South cooperation, with an initial pledge of US\$2 billion to support developing countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹¹⁹ In May 2017, while hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Xi Jinping pledged an additional contribution of US\$1 billion to the Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation.

By pooling resources from China and the international community, the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund aims to promote South-South cooperation, and support developing countries in participating in global economic governance on an equal footing. It is an innovative initiative for the Chinese government to champion the 2030 Agenda and facilitate sustainable development in other developing countries. It embodies China’s effort to value and bolster South-South cooperation, and demonstrates that, as a major country, China honors its responsibilities and welcomes other countries to board the express train of its development to achieve common

¹¹⁸ “China’s Plan for Promoting the Healthy Development of International Relations,” Gmw.cn, May 5, 2022, https://theory.gmw.cn/2022-05/05/content_35709602.htm.

¹¹⁹ Xi Jinping’s address at the U.N. Sustainable Development Summit 2015, September 26, 2015.

progress. “China is ready to work with other developing countries to further release the potential of South-South cooperation and share development opportunities,” said Xi Jinping in his congratulatory letter on the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. “We hope that the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund will continue to help developing countries achieve sustainable development and make greater contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.”¹²⁰

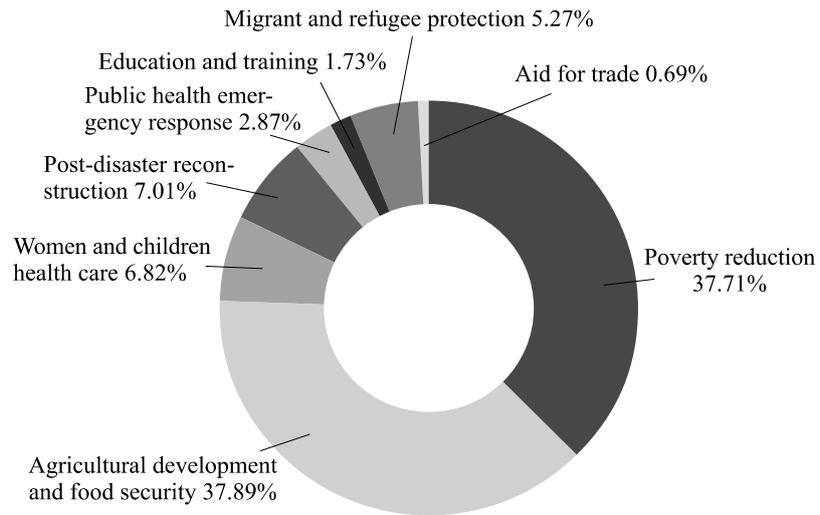
The SSCAF gives priority to humanitarian aid, agricultural development and food security, health care, poverty alleviation, disaster preparation and mitigation, education and training, sustainable industrial development, environmental protection, trade promotion, and investment facilitation. It focuses on micro and small public wellbeing projects in cooperation with mainly international organizations, think tanks, and social organizations from China and recipient countries. To date, the SSCAF has implemented more than 100 livelihood projects in over 50 countries.¹²¹

Figure 12 Distribution of SSCAF Funds by Purpose (2013-2018)

¹²⁰ “Xi congratulates 5th anniversary of South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, ISSCAD,” Xinhua News Agency, July 8, 2021, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-07/08/c_1310049804.htm.

¹²¹ “China Provides Food Aid to Sierra Leone via SSCAF,” CIDCA, August 9, 2021, http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2021-08/09/c_652133.htm.

KEYWORDS TO UNDERSTAND THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



Source: State Council Information Office, PRC

Conclusion: Working Together to Steer Global Development Toward a New Stage of Balanced, Coordinated, and Inclusive Growth

Today, the global development process has hit major roadblocks, the momentum of international development cooperation is being weakened, and the development gap between the North and the South keeps widening. As a result, the global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have suffered major setbacks. Almost 1.2 billion people in nearly 70 countries are confronted with COVID-19, food, energy, and debt crises. What has been achieved in decades of global poverty reduction efforts could be wiped out.

This is a time of challenge, but also a time of hope. The GDI proposed by Xi Jinping has sent a clear signal of supporting the central role of the U.N. in international affairs. China not only proposes the initiative, but also takes action. In order to call on the international community to speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China has taken the lead and set an example, and has continuously put forward feasible solutions. The GDI has not only gathered a broad international consensus, but also effectively prompted joint efforts, providing a guide for advancing global development and international cooperation.

On October 25, 1971, the 26th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758 with an overwhelming majority, which decided to restore all rights of the People's Republic of China in the U.N., and recognized that the representatives of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of

China in the U.N. In the five decades since, as a founding member of the U.N. and a permanent member of the Security Council, China has firmly upheld the international system with the U.N. as its core, the basic norms governing international relations embodied in the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, the authority and stature of the U.N., and its core role in international affairs. China has always practiced true multilateralism, insisting that international affairs should be handled by everyone through consultation, and that the future and destiny of the world are in the hands of all countries. In that way, China is promoting the development of the global governance system in a more just and reasonable direction.

Countries in the world should support and assist one another. We need to jointly build an international consensus on promoting development, jointly create an enabling international environment for development, jointly foster new drivers for global development, jointly forge a global development partnership, and give continued support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We should have a deep understanding of the six core elements of the Global Development Initiative, and comprehensively promote cooperation in the 10 priority areas such as poverty reduction, health, education, digital connectivity, and industrialization. We should carry out high-level dialogues on global development and promote knowledge and experience sharing, and jointly discuss the major issues of global development.

The world is again at a crossroads of history. The pursuit of peace, development, and progress is an unstoppable trend of the times. China responds to people's concerns, pursues the larger

interests of all countries, and steers global development into a new era to deliver benefits to all. China stands ready to work with the rest of the world to jointly tackle global threats and challenges, promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and together build a better world.

Annex: Position Paper on China's Cooperation with the U.N.

I. The founding of the United Nations was a milestone in humanity's pursuit of peace and development. As a founding member, China was the first to put its signature on the U.N. Charter. On 25 October 1971, the U.N. General Assembly at its 26th Session adopted Resolution 2758 with an overwhelming majority to restore all the rights of the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations.

This was a victory for justice and fairness in the world, and a victory for the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. Since then, the Chinese people, which accounted for nearly one-fourth of the world population, have had their true representatives in the U.N. The U.N. has become more universal, representative and authoritative. The commitment of the international community to the one-China principle has been significantly consolidated and enhanced. And the force for world peace and development has grown stronger than ever before.

Over the past 50 years, China's cooperation with the U.N. has kept expanding and deepening. U.N. agencies have set up offices in China, and conducted fruitful cooperation in a wide range of areas including economic development, poverty alleviation, health care, food security and environmental protection.

II. The year 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the U.N. These five decades have witnessed China's practice of multilateralism, its full participation in and support for the cause of the U.N., and its continuous contributions to world peace and development.

1. Over the past 50 years, China has firmly upheld world peace and security. Holding high the banner of peace, development and win-win cooperation, China has been committed to an objective and just position, to resolving differences through dialogue and consultation, and to the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. China firmly opposes the willful threat or use of force in international affairs. It has taken an active part in the political resolution of major regional hotspots such as the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, the Iranian nuclear issue, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Palestine and Israel, Syria, Libya, Sudan and South Sudan. It has explored and practiced solutions with distinctive Chinese features to global and regional hotspot issues. It has endeavored to safeguard the authority and solidarity of the Security Council, actively supported U.N.'s good offices as mandated and its coordination and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, and contributed to world peace and security.

Since 1990, China has dispatched over 50,000 peacekeepers to nearly 30 U.N. peacekeeping missions. It is the second largest

funding contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations and an important troop provider, contributing more peacekeepers than any other permanent members of the Security Council. More than 2,200 Chinese peacekeepers are now on duty in eight mission areas. China has set up an 8,000-strong standby force and a 300-member permanent police squad for U.N. peacekeeping missions. This has put China ahead of all other U.N. troops providers in terms of the size of standby forces and the variety of contingents. China has facilitated the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 2518 on the safety and security of peacekeepers, and initiated the launch of the Group of Friends on the Safety and Security of U.N. Peacekeepers, contributing China's wisdom to the reform and improvement of peacekeeping missions.

China has taken an active part in international arms control and disarmament. It has joined more than 20 international arms control treaties and mechanisms including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC), and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC), and has constructively participated in relevant international conferences and mechanisms. China has timely declared its implementation of relevant treaties, kept improving its domestic legal structure and measures to ensure sound implementation, and enhanced capacity building of its national implementation authorities.

President Xi Jinping attended the Nuclear Security Summit in 2014 and in 2016, and proposed to follow a sensible, coordinated and balanced approach to nuclear security, and build a global nuclear security architecture featuring fairness and win-win cooperation. China has played a constructive part in the deliberation and negotiation of the U.N. and relevant international organizations on arms control and disarmament. It has taken the initiative to offer its proposals and solutions including no-first-use of nuclear weapon, and promoted the establishment of a verification regime under the BWC, making important contributions to world peace and security as well as to global strategic stability.

China has taken an active part in global cooperation to address non-traditional security threats. It supports U.N.'s leading role in the global fight against terrorism and the counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the Security Council. It has vigorously promoted the full implementation of the U.N. Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

China has all along supported the U.N. in playing a leading role in global governance on cyberspace and has taken a constructive part in the U.N. Open-ended Working Group and the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. It has initiated with other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) the International Code of Conduct for Information Security, the world's first systematic document on the international code of conduct in cyberspace, and

facilitated negotiations on a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. In 2020, China submitted to the U.N. General Assembly the Global Initiative on Data Security, providing a blueprint for global rules on data security. In 2021, China submitted to the U.N. General Assembly the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists, making new contributions to lowering biosecurity risks and advancing the well-being for humanity with biological sciences.

2. Over the past 50 years, China has made vigorous efforts to promote global development. Through unremitting efforts, China has realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and brought about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China. China has met the poverty eradication target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule. This is a miracle in the human history of reducing poverty, and an enormous contribution to global poverty reduction and sustainable development endeavors.

China attaches great importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was among the first to publish the National Plan and three Progress Reports on the implementation of the Agenda, and has achieved early harvests in many areas. China has taken an active part in international poverty reduction cooperation, and facilitated the adoption of

resolutions on rural poverty eradication at the U.N. General Assembly for three consecutive years. China has published a selection of poverty reduction cases in a book titled *Eradication of Poverty: China's Practices*. It has consistently increased input in international poverty reduction cooperation, and has fully implemented the 100 poverty reduction projects announced by President Xi Jinping and other major, practical steps to support fellow developing countries. Food security is critical to human survival. It is also an important part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China is actively involved in international agricultural cooperation, and has provided support to fellow developing countries within the South-South cooperation framework to the best of its ability. It has worked to promote international food and agriculture governance as well as global food security.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping put forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI follows the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the philosophy of open, green and clean cooperation, and a high-standard, people-centered and sustainable approach. With connectivity as its main focus, Belt and Road cooperation aims to promote policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, and to contribute China's wisdom and solutions for better global governance system, greater development worldwide, and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. To date, 141 countries and 32 international organizations including 19 U.N. agencies have

signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with China. A large number of cooperation projects have been delivered, which have enhanced the connectivity between countries and regions and given a strong boost to economic and social development and people's livelihood in relevant countries and regions.

Belt and Road cooperation has demonstrated strong resilience and dynamism despite the COVID-19 pandemic and has played an important role in helping countries fight the coronavirus, stabilize the economy and ensure people's livelihood. The participants have worked actively to build a Silk Road of health, green and digital development, and foster new areas of cooperation. Such efforts have opened up new space for economic and social recovery and sustainable development, and provided strong support for the international community to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, with a view to speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the international community and achieving more robust, greener and more balanced global development.

This Initiative embraces the people-centered core concept, takes the betterment of people's well-being and realization of their well-rounded development as the starting point and ultimate goal, and endeavors to meet the aspirations of all nations for a better life. It focuses on development as the master key to addressing all problems, and strives to solve difficult issues of

development and create more opportunities for development, leaving no countries and no individuals behind.

This Initiative follows the guidelines of practical cooperation, responds to the dynamics and urgent needs of global development, and has identified priority areas including poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity. It has put forward cooperation proposals and plans to translate development consensus into pragmatic actions. It is an important public good and cooperation platform that China provides to the international community.

China has worked tirelessly to advance international cooperation on climate change. During the negotiations on the Paris Agreement in 2015, China called on all parties to work in the same direction and build consensus, making an important contribution to the conclusion of the Agreement as scheduled. At the General Debate of the 75th Session of the U.N. General Assembly in September 2020, President Xi Jinping announced China's commitment to strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. China has committed to move from carbon peak to carbon neutrality in a much shorter time span than what might take the developed countries, which requires extraordinarily hard efforts. China has accepted the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and tightened regulations over non-carbon dioxide emissions, and its national carbon market has started trading.

China has accelerated the transition toward clean and low-carbon energy. In 2020, China's non-fossil energy accounted for 15.9 percent of its primary energy consumption, reaching the world average, and the proportion of coal consumption lowered to 56.8 percent. China will strictly control coal-fired power generation projects, strictly limit the increase in coal consumption over the 14th Five-Year Plan period, and phase it down in the 15th Five-Year Plan period. China has given priority to developing non-fossil energy, and remained the world's number one in terms of the installed capacity of hydropower, wind power, photovoltaic power and nuclear power plants under construction. By the end of 2020, China's installed capacity of clean energy accounted for nearly half of the total installed capacity. China has vigorously advanced the ultra-low emissions and energy-saving renovation of coal-fired power generating units. Over 100 million kilowatts of outdated coal-fired power generating units were closed. The average coal consumption for power supply from thermal power plants dropped to 305.5g/kWh. China has built the world's largest clean coal power supply system. President Xi Jinping solemnly announced, in his address at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, that China will step up support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy, and will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad.

China attaches great importance to protecting biological diversity. It has firmly promoted international cooperation and exchanges in this field, engaged deeply in the governance process

of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and strictly fulfilled its treaty obligations to advance global governance on biodiversity. China is an important participant in, a contributor to, and a pacesetter for the multilateral process on biodiversity. President Xi Jinping made an important speech at the 2020 U.N. Summit on Biodiversity. He made a four-point proposal on global environmental governance, namely, adhering to ecological civilization, upholding multilateralism, continuing with green development, and heightening the sense of responsibility. He also shared China's experience of biodiversity governance and contribution to global environmental governance. From 11 to 15 October 2021, the first part of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Kunming. President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech and put forward four propositions: taking the development of ecological civilization as the guide to coordinate the relationship between human and nature; letting green transition drive the efforts to facilitate global sustainable development; concentrating on bettering people's well-being to promote social equity and justice; and taking international law as the basis to uphold a fair and equitable international governance system. These represent China's proposals to high-quality development of humanity, and have injected fresh impetus into global biodiversity governance.

China is committed to advancing sustainable transport and connectivity in the world. From 14 to 16 October 2021, the Second U.N. Global Sustainable Transport Conference was held in Beijing. President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech and

made five propositions: upholding open interplay and enhancing connectivity; upholding common development and promoting fairness and inclusiveness; upholding an innovation-driven approach and creating more drivers for development; upholding ecological conservation as a priority and pursuing green and low-carbon development; and upholding multilateralism and improving global governance. This is a contribution of China's wisdom to advancing sustainable transport and achieving sustainable development. The Conference released the Beijing Statement, which encourages countries to enhance cooperation, capacity building and knowledge exchange in the field of sustainable transport, accelerate sustainable transport transformation, contribute to the post-pandemic green recovery, and foster more new drivers for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Over the past 50 years, China has worked steadily to advance international rule of law. As a member of nearly all universal inter-governmental organizations and a signatory to over 600 international conventions and amendments, China has been fulfilling its treaty obligations in good faith, honoring its international commitments, and firmly upholding the international order underpinned by international law.

China has firmly supported developing countries' efforts to safeguard their own maritime rights and interests. It has played an important role in the final conclusion of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. China has signed and ratified the Convention

and has been implementing it. China has taken an active part in the negotiation processes for multiple follow-up agreements.

China has actively facilitated negotiations and formulation of international rules in such emerging areas as cyber, deep sea, polar regions (Arctic and Antarctic), outer space and anti-corruption.

China has actively participated in negotiations on the international agreement on marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ), advocated a sound balance between marine conservation and sustainable use, and firmly supported the legitimate demands of developing countries.

China has actively participated in the development of Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area, and worked for the formulation of an equitable, reasonable, and balanced mining code in the Area.

China has played a constructive role in the development of multiple outer space rules, including on the prevention of an arms race in the outer space, the development and use of space resources, and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and has worked with various parties to uphold the global governance system of the outer space based on international law.

China has advocated formulating an international convention on countering cybercrime under the U.N. framework, and has been an initiator, supporter and promoter of the U.N. Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime. China has actively facilitated the U.N. General Assembly's adoption of a

resolution to launch the negotiation process for a global convention on countering cybercrime, which is the first U.N.-led international convention on cybercrime.

China has been deeply involved in negotiations on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, firmly upheld the Convention's status as the main channel of international anti-corruption cooperation, and actively participated in the Conferences of the State Parties and relevant working group meetings. China has earnestly fulfilled its obligations under the Convention and attached high importance to the review of implementation. China has taken an active part in the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, and expounded on its proposals for international cooperation against corruption, with a view to fostering a more just and equitable international anti-corruption governance system.

China is an important party to and a faithful practitioner of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Convention, and to resolutely and forcefully combating transnational organized crime by improving domestic legislation, conducting various international cooperation and stepping up technical and capacity building assistance to other developing countries.

China has firmly supported the work of U.N. judicial institutions. It has actively participated in international judicial activities, and firmly upheld important principles of international law such as sovereignty and territorial integrity.

4. Over the past 50 years, China has fully supported the U.N. in playing a central role in international affairs. The U.N. is a banner of multilateralism. The U.N. Charter has laid down the cornerstone of the modern international order and established the basic norms of contemporary international relations. China firmly maintains that there is only one system in the world, i.e., the U.N.-centered international system; only one order, i.e., the international order based on international law; and only one set of rules, i.e., the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter.

China has always held high the banner of multilateralism and practiced true multilateralism. China believes that international affairs should be addressed through consultation by all, and that the future of the world should be decided by all countries together. China firmly opposes unilateralism, protectionism and bullying acts, and firmly rejects pseudo-multilateralism in such disguises as group politics and small circles. China is committed to making the global governance system more just and equitable.

China has taken an active part in the work of the U.N. in all areas, and urged the U.N. to focus on the concerns and needs of developing countries. In September 2015, when attending the summits marking the 70th anniversary of the U.N., President Xi Jinping announced China's decision to establish a China-U.N. Peace and Development Fund. To date, China has provided US\$120 million to the fund and launched 112 cooperation

projects, giving support to U.N.'s work on peace and development.

In September 2020, during the high-level meetings marking the 75th anniversary of the U.N., President Xi Jinping announced that China would provide another US\$50 million to the U.N. COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, provide US\$50 million to the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund (Phase III), extend the China-U.N. Peace and Development Fund by five years after it expires in 2025, and actively support the U.N. in setting up the U.N. Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center and an International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals in China. These are part of China's new contribution to the international efforts to defeat the coronavirus, restart the economy, and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China has always advocated consultation, cooperation and shared benefits in global governance, and adopted a Member States-led and action-oriented approach to improve the global governance system. The aim is to make the system better reflect the changing international landscape and the aspirations and interests of the majority of countries, especially emerging markets and developing countries, and to tackle global challenges more effectively. China supports the U.N. in advancing with the times and better coordinating national efforts against global challenges through reform in order to better meet the expectation of the international community.

5. Over the past 50 years, China has been actively promoting and protecting human rights. China embraces a human rights philosophy that centers on the people, sees the rights to subsistence and development as the primary basic human rights, takes systematic steps to advance the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental rights of all people, and strives to uphold social fairness and justice and promote the all-round human development. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, it has successfully blazed a path of human rights development that suits China's national reality and needs and has the wholehearted support of the Chinese people. China's achievements in advancing human rights are recognized by the whole world.

China has been an active participant, builder and contributor for the international human rights cause. It has joined or ratified 26 international human rights instruments, including six core human rights conventions. It has played a constructive role in the formulation of such important documents as the Declaration on the Right to Development and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. China is deeply involved in the work of multilateral human rights mechanisms, and has been elected to the U.N. Human Rights Council five times. China advocates abiding by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and the basic norms of international relations, upholds the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectiveness, and attaches equal importance to and systematically advances all types of

human rights. China has facilitated the adoption of Human Rights Council resolutions on “the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights,” “promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights” and “negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights,” and spoken on behalf of developing countries on many occasions on “realizing the right to development,” “promoting human rights through poverty alleviation,” “promoting international human rights cooperation” and “fair and more equitable global distribution of vaccines.” Through these efforts, China has contributed its wisdom and strength to global human rights governance. Moreover, China has established human rights dialogue or consultation mechanisms with more than 20 countries and regional organizations, and stands committed to carrying out human rights exchange and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

6. Over the past 50 years, China has vigorously advanced development and cooperation on social affairs. China has taken an active part in the U.N.’s work in such fields as education, science, culture, sports, health, women and youth. Through multi-tiered and diverse forms of cooperation, China has contributed to the exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and the all-round development and progress of humanity.

China has always adhered to the basic state policy of gender equality. It has established a legal framework consisting of over

100 laws and regulations to fully safeguard the rights and interests of women. Women account for half of the population lifted out of poverty in China, and take up over 40 percent of jobs in the country. Gender equality is basically realized throughout compulsory education years. China has actively shared its successful experience in the development of women affairs. It successfully hosted the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, during which the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted. In 2015, President Xi Jinping chaired the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and delivered an important statement at the 2020 High-level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women at the U.N. General Assembly, lending a new impetus into the all-round development of women and the global cooperation on women affairs.

China has long been actively committed to cooperation on education with the U.N. and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, jointly established by China and UNESCO, honors outstanding contributions made by individuals, institutions and organizations to advance girls' and women's education, and six consecutive editions have been hosted. As the only UNESCO Prize in girls' and women's education, it has become a fine example of practical cooperation between China and UNESCO. China also launched with UNESCO the UNESCO-China Funds-In-Trust (CFIT) in 2012, and has since made annual contributions of US\$2 million to earnestly support

African countries in building greater capacity of teacher training and narrow the education gap in Africa. When COVID-19 caused massive school closures around the world and dealt a heavy blow to global education, China supported the U.N. in advancing digital education, and catalyzed international community's exploration of flexible and hybrid learning during the pandemic to help ensure equal opportunity in education and inclusive education for all, and strive to attain the goals for education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sport is a symbol of social development and human progress, and the Olympic spirit represents people's shared aspiration that transcends national boundaries. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly identifies sport as an important enabler of sustainable development and recognizes its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace. China attaches great importance to developing sport, and actively supports and participates in the Olympic Movement. Over the past 50 years, China has hosted multiple major international multi-sport events including the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games, and the Asian Games. It has made vigorous efforts to popularize the Olympic Movement and contributed its share to world Olympic Movement. Beijing will be hosting the 24th Olympic Winter Games from 4 to 20 February 2022 and the 13th Paralympic Winter Games from 4 to 13 March 2022. That will make Beijing the world's first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Following a green, inclusive, open and clean approach, China is able and confident to present a

streamlined, safe and splendid Olympic Games, which welcomes the participation of all parties. China will work with other countries to uphold the purposes of the Olympic Charter, promote the Olympic spirit, give full play to the positive role of sport in promoting world peace, the development of countries and friendship among the people, jointly advance the sound development of sport in the world, champion “together” as enshrined in the new Olympic motto, and achieve the goal of “Together for a Shared Future.” China will submit to the 76th session of the U.N. General Assembly a draft resolution for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and looks forward to receiving active support from other Member States.

China has actively participated in youth-related international cooperation and engaged in wide-ranging, youth-related interactions with other countries and international organizations. As an active participant in the ECOSOC Youth Forum and the UNESCO Youth Forum, China has shared with other parties its experience and practices in enhancing youth education and implementing the U.N. Youth Strategy in an effort to facilitate the development of global youth programs. China actively supports young people from all countries in coming to China for study and exchanges, and has established a China-Africa innovation cooperation center to facilitate cooperation on innovation and entrepreneurship among the younger generation, held young talents training programs for the Arab League, and implemented the China-LAC Scientist Exchange Program.

7. Over the past 50 years, China has made continuous contribution to improving healthcare for mankind. Actively participating in global health development, China has engaged in multi-tiered health exchanges and cooperation through multiple channels. It has provided robust international assistance on health, and has been actively involved in major international health initiatives, playing an important role in helping recipient countries with disaster response and healthcare development.

Infectious diseases pose a serious threat to human health, and represent a common challenge to the development of humanity. Following a law-based and science-based approach, China has implemented a succession of five-year plans on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. The quality of life of people affected by HIV/AIDS has been further improved, and social discrimination further reduced. AIDS epidemic has been kept at a low prevalence level. Thanks to years of efforts, China was officially awarded a malaria-free certification by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021. China closely follows the Ebola epidemic in Africa and responds actively to the call of African countries. It was among the first to deliver a large number of medical aids to the Ebola-affected countries and their neighbors, and sent a large number of disease control experts and medical professionals to work with African people and help them defeat the virus. China supports the WHO and other U.N. agencies in mobilizing global resources to accelerate vaccine and medicine research and development and support Africa in building up public health capacity and realizing greater

development.

After COVID-19 broke out, China was the first to share with other parties COVID-related information and response experience, the first to provide other countries with large amounts of medical supplies, the first to assist developing countries with large quantities of vaccines, and the first to send medical expert teams abroad. President Xi Jinping delivered important remarks at the virtual opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly, calling on all countries to fight COVID-19 through solidarity and cooperation and build a global community of health for all.

China actively responded to the U.N.-initiated Global Humanitarian Response Plan, providing assistance in kind to over 150 countries and international organizations and exporting medical supplies to over 200 countries and regions. In total, it has extended to the world over 320 billion masks, 3.9 billion protective suits and 5.6 billion testing kits. China supports the Strategy to Achieve Global COVID-19 Vaccination by mid-2022 launched recently by the WHO, and has honored its commitment of making vaccines a global public good. As of mid-October 2021, China has contributed over 1.5 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 100 countries and international organizations, contributing significantly to building a global immune defense. In October 2020, China joined the WHO-led COVAX Facility, and called on multilateral financial institutions to provide inclusive financing support for developing countries in their procurement and production of vaccines. In 2021, vaccines produced by the China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) and Sinovac

were granted WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) and added to the COVAX Facility procurement pool in July of the same year. The two companies have concluded long-term supply agreements as well. China has decided to donate US\$100 million to COVAX for vaccine distribution among developing countries. It will donate an additional 100 million doses of vaccines to fellow developing countries. China has announced support for waiving intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, and called on countries to further strengthen international cooperation on vaccine production capacity through joint research, authorized production, technology transfer and other means, and take feasible measures to improve the production capacity of developing countries.

III. China is ready to strive ahead together with all the progressive forces of the world, and advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are the common values of humanity. China will continue to make new contributions to upholding the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, maintaining world peace, and promoting common development and human progress. It will continue to promote a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice and win-win cooperation, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

1. China will continue to be a builder of world peace. China firmly follows a path of peaceful development and will never

seek hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence. It is committed to developing friendship and cooperation with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. At the same time, China will firmly defend its national interests and dignity, uphold its legitimate rights and interests, and safeguard international justice and equity. China maintains that all countries, irrespective of their size, strength and wealth, are equal members of the international community, that the development paths and social systems independently chosen by people of all countries should be respected, and that the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs should be upheld. China is ready to work with countries around the world to pursue the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security for the world, effectively tackle traditional and non-traditional security threats, and jointly develop a world that enjoys universal security. China will continue to support the implementation of the global ceasefire appeal by the U.N. Secretary-General to facilitate the ceasefire and cessation of violence by all relevant parties as soon as possible and the political settlement of hotspot issues. China resolutely opposes any unfounded threat or use of force, unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction.

China supports enhancing international cooperation on counter-terrorism and building a global united front against terrorism centered around the U.N. China strongly condemns terrorism and extremism of all forms, opposes associating them with specific countries, ethnicities or religions, and stands against

double standards on counter-terrorism. China calls for a holistic approach to counter-terrorism that addresses both the symptoms and root causes. Efforts are needed to facilitate the political settlement of hotspot issues, advocate mutual respect and harmonious coexistence of different civilizations and religions, and help relevant regions and countries develop their economies and improve people's lives, so as to eliminate the breeding ground of terrorism at its source.

China maintains that nuclear-weapon states should reiterate their stance that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,” abandon nuclear deterrence policies based on preemptive moves, reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security policy, stop developing and deploying global anti-ballistic missile systems, and not seek to deploy land-based intermediate-range missiles overseas, so as to promote global strategic balance and stability.

In nuclear disarmament, countries should follow a step-by-step approach based on the principles of “maintaining global strategic stability” and “undiminished security for all countries.” Countries with the largest nuclear arsenals have special and primary responsibilities in nuclear disarmament. They should continue to substantively slash their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding manner to create conditions for complete and thorough nuclear disarmament in the end.

2. China will continue to be a contributor to global

development. China will work with other countries to advance the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, and stay committed to development as a priority, a people-centered approach, benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between human and nature, and results-oriented actions, with a view to forging greater synergy in multilateral development cooperation and building a global community of development with a shared future. Under the framework of South-South cooperation, China will continue to do its best to help other developing countries implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China will continue to seek greater synergy between Belt and Road cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for greater benefits. With a focus on priority areas such as COVID-19 response, poverty alleviation, development cooperation and climate change, China will explore ways to jointly build a Health Silk Road, a Green Silk Road, a Digital Silk Road and a Silk Road of Innovation, and work with all parties for a bright future of win-win cooperation.

China supports strengthening global climate and environmental governance across the board. Countries need to follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and work for a fair and equitable system of global environmental governance for win-win cooperation. They need to step up climate actions in light of their respective national circumstances and capabilities, and fully and effectively implement the Paris Agreement.

China supports further efforts to protect the world's ecosystems and promote the harmony between human and nature. Countries need to implement in a balanced way the three objectives of the CBD, namely, the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. They must, under the principles of fairness, transparency and parties-driven process, seek greater consensus, move in the same direction, and work toward a more just and equitable biodiversity governance system that embodies the best efforts of all parties.

3. China will continue to be a defender of the international order. In face of new developments and challenges, the world needs true multilateralism. China will continue to hold high the banner of multilateralism, resolutely defend the U.N.-centered international system, the international order underpinned by international law and the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and actively participate in the reform and development of the global governance system. China stands firmly against unilateralism, protectionism, bullying acts and the practices of forming small circles and group politics. China firmly defends the right of developing countries to peaceful use of technology. It advocates launching an inclusive and transparent discussion process under the framework of the U.N., and handling the relationship between non-proliferation and peaceful use in a more balanced and just manner.

4. China will continue to be a provider of public goods. It will continue to implement the major initiatives and measures that President Xi Jinping announced at the U.N., work for a greater role of the China-U.N. Peace and Development Fund, the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund, the Center for International Knowledge on Development, the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Innovation and Knowledge Center for Sustainable Transport, and the mechanisms of the standby force and permanent police squad for U.N. peacekeeping missions, among many others. It will work with the U.N. to accelerate the building of a global humanitarian response depot and hub and a U.N. Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center, and make greater contributions to the cause of world peace and development. China will honor its commitment of making vaccines a global public good, and help ensure vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

Over the past 50 years, China has held to its original aspiration for multilateralism, world peace and common development, and firmly supported the U.N. in playing a bigger role in international affairs. Standing at a new historical starting point, China will work tirelessly with all countries in the world for a community with a shared future for mankind!



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