

NEWS FROM CHINA

# CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

## Deepening Reforms People-Centric Growth





## Two Sessions: Mapping a Brighter Future for a More Open China

This year's "Two Sessions," has shone the spotlight on a new vocabulary of China's high-quality development that will accelerate the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This new language of China's modern renaissance includes new quality productive forces, Chinese modernization, whole-process people's democracy, people-centric governance, and eco-friendly growth. In each of these areas, China's top leadership has unveiled new ambitions and targets.

The annual plenary sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) brought out vividly that China is completely committed to high-level opening-up and reforms. The overarching message was one of optimism in ongoing economic recovery, and a new confidence in China's future. In his remarks, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for accelerating efforts to sustain the positive momentum of economic recovery, and boosting confidence in development across society. Xi stressed on developing new quality productive forces, which would enable advanced productivity freed from the traditional economic growth mode. This new phase of China's development will be marked by high-tech, high efficiency, and high quality.

The Two Sessions showcased "Xi Jinping the Reformer," who is determined to deepen reforms on all fronts, thereby dispelling concerns about whether China's reform is "stagnating," or its economy is "losing steam." "We must plan major moves to deepen reform to inject strong impetus into promoting high-quality development and advancing Chinese modernization," President Xi said. Xi pointed out that China's economy had entered a new development stage and proposed a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth. Against this backdrop, Ma Jia, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in India, has encapsulated the essence of the annual "Two Sessions" through a unique acronym G·D·P, whereby "G" stands for Growth, "D" for Diplomacy and "P" for People.

Looking ahead, China's onward journey of national rejuvenation and high-quality development will acquire greater momentum. Higher growth rate and deeper reforms have also opened new avenues for win-win engagement with the world and building a community with a shared future for mankind – the core tenet of "Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy."

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, or "Panchsheel". These Principles, jointly advocated by China and India, have already become a basic norm governing international relations. Over the past year, China-India relations have shown a positive momentum. The two sides have maintained high-level communications and interactions. China supported India's presidency of both G20 and SCO. Bilateral trade volume reached \$136.2 billion.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of visit of the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore to China. In the "Year of the Dragon," let's implement the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi on stabilizing bilateral ties, and usher in a new chapter of harmonious and win-win relations between our two great countries and civilizations.

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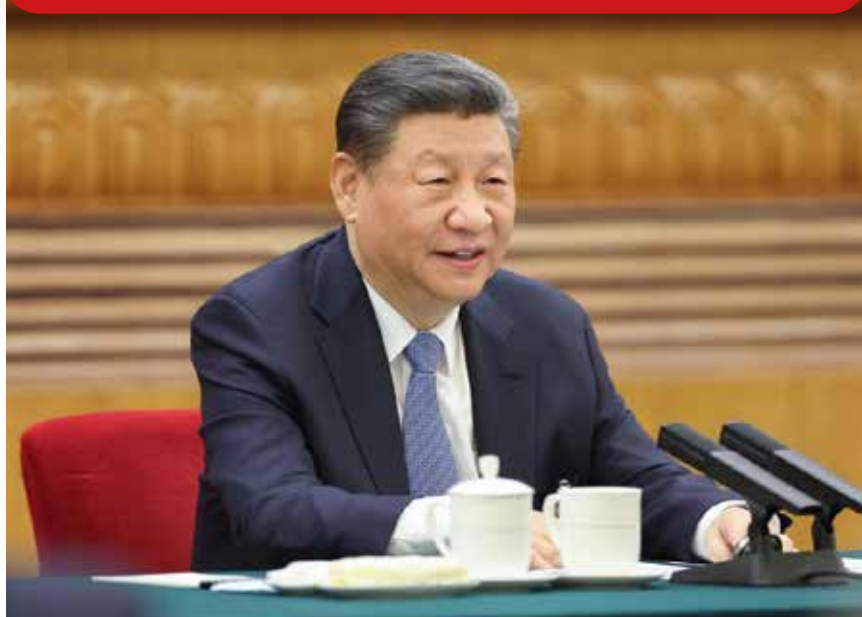
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## TWO SESSIONS



- Xi's "Two Sessions" Messages Highlight China's High-Quality Development in Crucial Year **6**
- Chinese Premier Delivers Government Work Report **10**
- China Vows to Be Staunch Force for Peace, Stability, Progress **11**
- Understanding China's G·D·P **14**

## X ICTIONARY

- Xi Jinping the Reformer **17**
- Governance: Putting People at the Center **31**
- High-Quality Development **32**
- Chinese Modernization **33**
- Whole-Process People's Democracy **34**
- New Quality Productive Forces **35**



# TENTS



## CHINA AND THE WORLD

- Breaking New Ground in Major-Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics **36**
- WEF 2024: Premier Li Unveils 5-Point Proposal for Rebuilding Trust, Economic Recovery **45**
- Premier Li Assures A More Open China, World-Class Business Environment **47**
- China's Top Diplomat Presents Diplomatic Goals For 2024 **49**
- China Stands Firm as Stabilizing Force in Turbulent World: Top Diplomat **51**
- Consensus, Solidarity and Cooperation Working Together to Promote the Healthy Development of the Global Human Rights Cause **53**
- To Media: Adhere to the One-China Principle, Do Not Provide Platform for "Taiwan Independence" Forces **55**
- Taiwan's Status Undetermined? A Fallacy **56**



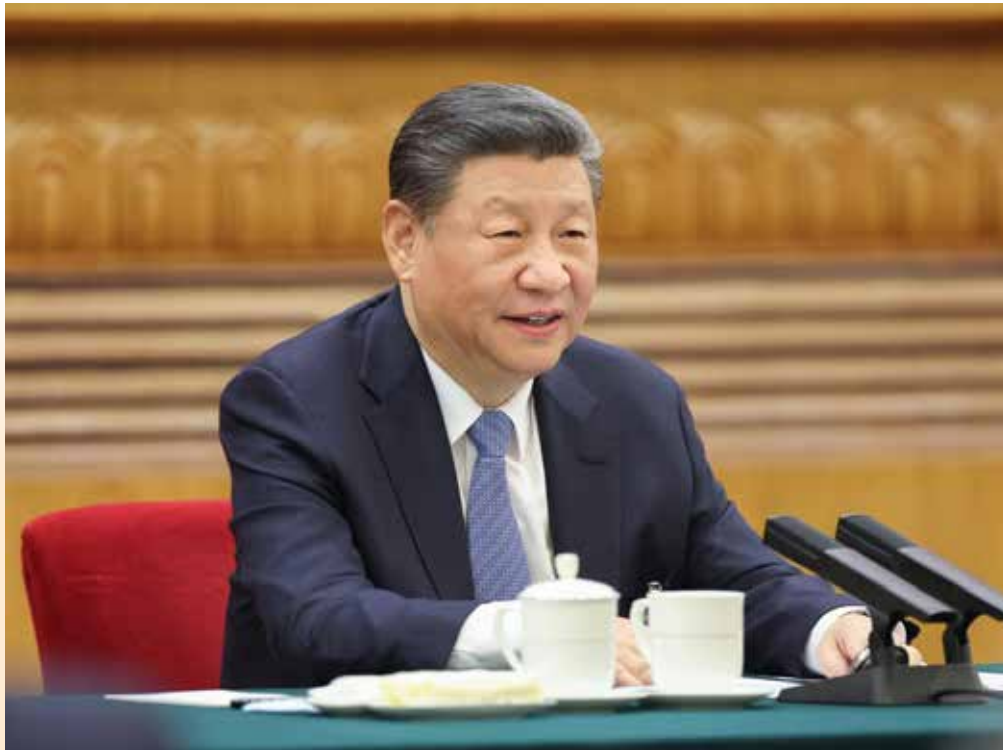
## CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS

- China, India Hold the 29th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs **58**
- China, India hold 21st round of Corps Commander Level Meeting **58**
- China Aims for A Quality Boost as its Economy Recovers **59**
- Usher in a Bright Future of Peace, Security, Prosperity and Progress for Our World **61**
- Remarks by Ma Jia, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India at the Chinese New Year Carnival **63**
- Address by Ma Jia, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in India At the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women's Summit & Felicitations 2024 **65**



# Xi's "Two Sessions" Messages Highlight China's High-Quality Development in Crucial Year

In his remarks at the "Two Sessions" on March 10, 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping underlined the need to accelerate efforts to sustain positive economic momentum and focused on his commitment to deepen reforms on all fronts.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, takes part in a deliberation with his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu Province at the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on March 5, 2024.



Chinese President Xi Jinping has shone more light on the country's source of confidence for high-quality development by expounding on a wide range of topics at this year's Two Sessions.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, joined national legislators in deliberations and participated in discussions with national political advisors at the event, making a raft of remarks on issues including new quality productive forces, environmental protection, overall reform and coordinated regional development.

In this crucial year for fulfilling the objectives and tasks set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), Xi stressed that efforts must be made to sustain and reinforce the positive momentum of economic recovery, and boost confidence in development across society. Key messages from Xi at the sessions provided insight into the trajectory of the world's second-largest economy.

## New Quality Productive Forces

Xi has stressed developing new quality productive forces amid the country's accelerated efforts to foster new growth drivers and promote high-quality development.

First put forward by Xi in 2023, the concept was highlighted at a key meeting on economic work last December, and became the subject of a group study session of the CPC leadership this year.

With innovation playing the leading role, new quality productive forces mean advanced productivity that is freed from the traditional economic growth mode and productivity development paths, features high-tech, high efficiency and high quality, and comes in line with the new development philosophy.

Joining his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu in a deliberation on March 5, Xi underscored the importance of

developing new quality productive forces based on local conditions.

Developing new quality productive forces does not mean neglecting or abandoning traditional industries, Xi said, noting that it is necessary to prevent a headlong rush into projects and the formation of industry bubbles, and avoid adopting just a single model of development.



Yonglian village, Jiangsu, with an area of over 10 square kilometers, is home to a water town, garden-like factories and modern farmlands.

Xi stressed the need to strengthen basic research and basic research in applied sciences, achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, and foster new drivers for developing new quality productive forces when participating in a joint group meeting attended by national political advisors on March 6.

Citing achievements in transportation as an example, he said that China is a global leader in automobile production and sales, excels in new energy vehicles, boasts the longest expressway network, and has successfully introduced high-speed railways and urban rail transit systems internationally, alongside the development of large aircraft.

Craftsmen are important for these accomplishments, he stressed, calling for

enhancing vocational education, fostering a culture of meticulous craftsmanship, and nurturing generations of master craftsmen at the forefront of production.

“The master craftsmen are the backbone. Without a diamond, you can’t handle porcelain,” Xi said.

Attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People’s Liberation Army and the People’s Armed Police Force on March 7, he said the drive to accelerate the development of new quality productive forces has provided rare opportunities for the development of strategic capabilities in emerging areas. He called for enabling new quality productive forces and new quality combat capabilities to effectively integrate with and boost each other.

## Deepening Overall Reform

Reform has been a key word in China over the years.

At the deliberation on March 5, Xi stressed the necessity of planning major measures to further deepen reform on all fronts, so as to continuously inject strong impetus into the endeavor to promote high-quality development and advance Chinese modernization.

To build a high-level socialist market economy, it is imperative to accelerate the improvement of basic systems underpinning the market economy, such as those for property rights protection, market access, fair competition, and social credit, Xi said.

He stressed that it is essential to improve and implement the institutions and mechanisms to unswervingly consolidate and develop the public sector and unswervingly encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector, and facilitate the growth of the private sector and private enterprises.

The reform of systems involving science and technology, education and professional personnel should be deepened, and barriers obstructing the development of new quality productive forces should be removed, Xi said, stressing creating a world-class business

environment that is market-oriented, law-based and internationalized to foster new strengths for a higher-level open economy.

## Environmental Protection

“The CPC Central Committee always attaches great importance to environmental protection,” Xi told national political advisors, including those from the sector of environment and resources, on March 6.

He emphasized the need to secure red lines in the development and protection of territorial space, and improve the region-specific environmental management system, so as to further consolidate the ecological foundations of high-quality development.

**At the deliberation on March 5, Xi stressed the necessity of planning major measures to further deepen reform on all fronts, so as to continuously inject strong impetus into the endeavor to promote high-quality development and advance Chinese modernization.**

According to the government work report, China has set a target of reducing its energy consumption per unit of GDP by approximately 2.5 percent this year.

Xi said that efforts must be made to carry out targeted, science-based and lawful pollution control, promote green and low-carbon transition in economic and social development, strengthen conservation, efficient use and recycling of resources, explore more ways to realize the market value of ecological products, and work toward peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality.

On the country’s plan to control new pollutants following its treatment of smog and black and malodorous water bodies, Xi said that both newfound and persisting environmental problems need to be addressed.





Chinese President Xi Jinping took part in the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, the capital of China, on March 5, 2024.

## Common Prosperity

Xi considers pursuing common prosperity for all to be an essential feature of Chinese modernization.

The tale of Yonglian Village in east China's Jiangsu Province, a legendary example of developing township enterprises during China's reform and opening up, caught his attention in the deliberation on March 5.

Once a tidal flat area along the Yangtze River, this village boldly established a steel enterprise about 40 years ago and emerged as a nationally renowned prosperous community.

Last year, with total industrial and agricultural revenues reaching 161.6 billion yuan (about 22.77 billion U.S. dollars) and a collective operating revenue of 335 million yuan, the village residents enjoyed an average per capita net income of 73,000 yuan.

Listening to a national legislator from the village recount these achievements, Xi praised the village as a pioneer on the path to rural revitalization and common prosperity, urging the villagers to continue their efforts to promote common prosperity.

## Coordinated Regional Development

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, a series of coordinated regional development strategies have been implemented, including the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, and the integration and coordinated development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. They are playing an important supporting role in fostering a new development paradigm and promoting high-quality development.

During the deliberation on March 5, Xi said that it is imperative for Jiangsu to fully integrate into and contribute to the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt and the strategy for integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, urging the major economically developed province to better leverage its strength to drive the development of the whole region and the whole country.



# Chinese Premier Delivers Government Work Report



Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a government work report at the opening meeting of the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 5, 2024.

## Highlights of Chinese Government Work Report

The opening meeting of the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 5, 2024.

- 2024 GDP growth target: around 5 percent
- Creating over 12 million jobs in urban areas
- Ratio of deficit to GDP: 3 percent
- Special-purpose bonds for local governments: 3.9 trillion yuan

- Issuing ultra-long special treasury bonds
- Launching AI Plus initiative
- Enhancing disruptive and frontier technology research
- Launching year-long program to stimulate consumption
- Investment from central government budget: 700 billion yuan
- Expanding domestic demand
- Ensuring national treatment for foreign-funded enterprises
- Working toward joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Pursuing higher-standard opening up
- Defusing risks in property, local debt, small and medium-sized financial institutions
- Ensuring both development and security
- Advancing energy revolution
- Opposing "Taiwan independence" and external interference
- Upholding international fairness and justice

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**QR code of full text of the government work report delivered to the second session of the 14th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on March 5, and adopted on March 11.**





# China Vows to Be Staunch Force for Peace, Stability, Progress

**China is ready to work with all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a press conference held on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress.**



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addressed a press conference on China's foreign policy and foreign relations on the sidelines of the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on March 7, 2024.

**C**hina's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on March 7, 2024 expressed the country's resolve to unswervingly promote peace, stability and progress in a world

overshadowed by protracted conflicts and lukewarm economic recovery.

All countries rise and fall together in today's world and the sure path to meeting challenges is mutual assistance and win-win cooperation, said Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping, goes beyond the obsolete zero-sum game mentality and points the right direction for humanity, Wang said at a press conference held on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress.

"China is ready to work with all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity. The road ahead may be tortuous, but the future is bright," the top diplomat stated.

## Solutions to Hotspot Issues

During the 1.5-hour press conference, Wang expounded on China's approaches to resolving

global hotspot issues and achieving lasting peace and common security.

On the turbulent Middle East, Wang highlighted that China supports Palestine's full membership in the United Nations (UN) and calls for a more broad-based, more authoritative and more effective international peace conference to work out a timetable and road map for the two-state solution.

**The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping, goes beyond the obsolete zero-sum game mentality and points the right direction for humanity, Wang said at a press conference held on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress.**

"Restoring justice to the Palestinian people and fully implementing the two-state solution is the only way to break the vicious circle of Palestinian-Israeli conflicts," Wang said.

Turning to the Ukraine crisis, the foreign minister renewed calls for early talks as all conflicts have to end at the negotiating table.

China supports the holding in due course of an international peace conference that is recognized by both Russia and Ukraine and ensures the equal participation of all parties and fair discussions on all peace plans, he said.

In the face of multiple global challenges, Wang praised the UN's role as the core mechanism to realize peace and development on the planet, stressing that the role of the UN should be strengthened, not weakened, and the status of the UN must be upheld, not replaced.

### Refuting "Table or Menu" Mindset

It shouldn't be the case that those with the bigger fist have the final say and it is definitely



A journalist with Xinhua News Agency raised a question at a press conference on the sidelines of the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on March 7, 2024.



unacceptable that certain countries must be “at the table” while some others can only be “on the menu,” Wang told reporters.

On China-U.S. relations, the senior official urged the United States to take an objective and rational view of China’s development and match its words with actions to honor its commitments on bilateral ties.

“In today’s world, hegemonism finds no support and division leads nowhere. Major countries should not seek confrontation and the Cold War should not be allowed to come back,” Wang stressed.

China is always willing to strengthen dialogue and communication with the United States, and believes that the two sides can certainly find a proper way for two different major countries to get along in this world, he said.

Wang lauded China-Russia relations for their great value in maintaining global strategic stability, promoting positive interaction among major countries and strengthening cooperation among major emerging countries.

Such functions are part of the significance of China-Russia ties, which have “forged a new paradigm of major-country relations that differs entirely from the obsolete Cold War approach,” as he put it.

Wang also expressed hope for smoother ties and closer partnership between China and the European Union (EU) because “as long as China and the EU engage in mutually beneficial cooperation, no attempt to create bloc confrontation will succeed; as long as China and Europe stay committed to openness and win-win, deglobalization will not prevail.”

## Opportunities Painful to Miss

Looking forward, Wang said China will continue to uphold justice and advance win-win cooperation.

China will maintain stable relations with major countries, work with its neighbors for progress, and strive for revitalization with the Global South, according to him.

This year will be a year of harvest for Global South cooperation and a new starting point for unity among Asian, African and Latin American countries, Wang said, adding that a new meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation will be held in autumn this year in Beijing.

To usher in a second golden decade of Belt and Road cooperation, China will promote the upgrading of physical connectivity, the strengthening of institutional connectivity and the deepening of people-to-people connectivity.

Underlining China’s role as a strong engine for growth, Wang noted that China’s economy grew 5.2 percent last year, contributing one-third of the world’s growth, and China’s super large market with over 1.4 billion people is opening wider to the world.

At the press conference, Wang announced a trial visa-free policy for Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg, starting from March 14.

**To usher in a second golden decade of Belt and Road cooperation, China will promote the upgrading of physical connectivity, the strengthening of institutional connectivity and the deepening of people-to-people connectivity.**

He stated China’s readiness to well develop international cooperation platforms including the China International Import Expo and the China International Fair for Trade in Services, and optimize its business environment.

“Spreading pessimistic views on China will end up harming oneself, and misjudging China will result in missed opportunities,” Wang said.

**QR code of full text of the Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press**





**Ma Jia**

# Understanding China's G·D·P

**In this article, Ma Jia, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in India, captures the essence of the annual "Two Sessions" through a unique acronym G·D·P. The Two Sessions conveyed the overarching message that China has made steady progress in pursuing high-quality development and boosted overall economic recovery and growth, she writes.**

**T**he annual plenary sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), known as the "Two Sessions," have generated great attention across the world. I would like to share my interpretation of it through "G·D·P".

## **"G" for Growth**

The Two Sessions conveyed the overarching message that China has made steady progress in pursuing high-quality development and boosted overall economic recovery and growth. We withstood pressures and overcame difficulties when the global economic recovery was sluggish, geopolitical conflicts were acute, and protectionism and unilateralism were on the rise. In 2023, China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) surpassed 126 trillion yuan

(US\$ 18 trillion), an increase of 5.2%, ranking China among the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Per capita disposable income of residents increased by 6.1%. In rural areas millions have been lifted out of poverty and per capita grew by 8.4%. China accounted for over 60% of global electric vehicle output and sales. There was a 30% increase in exports of the "new trio" -- electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and photovoltaic products.

The Two Sessions also showcased China's resolve to pursue higher-level opening up and to share opportunities with the world. China is ready to promote alignment with high-standard international economic and trade rules, steadily expand institutional opening up, increase the volume and raise the quality of foreign trade. Imports of high-quality goods will be boosted, policies to support border trade will be improved, and we will fully



apply the negative list for cross-border trade in services. We will intensify efforts to attract foreign investment and further shorten the negative list for foreign investment. All market access restrictions on foreign investment in manufacturing will be abolished. We will strive for solid progress in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and deepen multilateral, bilateral, and regional economic cooperation. We will foster an open world economy to deliver more benefits of win-win cooperation to people of all countries.

China's main targets for development this year include: GDP growth of around 5%; over 12 million new urban jobs; growth in personal income in step with economic growth; a drop of around 2.5% in energy consumption per unit of GDP; continued improvements in the environment. It is worth mentioning that for the first time, "new quality productive forces" is showcased in this year's government work report, and tops the list of the ten work tasks in 2024. It means we should give full rein to the leading role of innovation, spur industrial innovation by making innovations in science and technology and press ahead with new industrialization. These steps will raise total factor productivity, steadily foster new growth drivers and strengths, and promote a new leap forward in the productive forces.

### **“D” for diplomacy**

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is the core tenet of "Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy." It is China's solution to the question of what kind of world to build and how to build it. China is ready to work with all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity. We believe in an equal and orderly multipolar world and a



universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. It is definitely unacceptable that certain countries must be at the table while some others can only be on the menu.

70 years ago, China and India, together with Myanmar, jointly initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, an innovation in international relations of the 20th century. We stand ready to work with our neighbours to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence toward building a community with a shared future for Asia and for mankind. China was, is and will be a steadfast member of the Global South. We go through thick and thin and head toward a shared future together with countries of the South. We will be a major force for development and prosperity of the Global South.

Regarding hotspot issues, on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, we call for a more broad-based, more authoritative, and more effective



international peace conference to work out a timetable and road map for the two-state solution. On the Ukraine crisis, China supports the holding of an international peace conference that is recognized by both Russia and Ukraine and ensures the equal participation of all parties and fair discussions on all peace plans. On the Korean Peninsula issue, the imperative now is to desist from acts of deterrence and applying pressure, and move out of the spiral of escalating confrontation. The fundamental solution lies in resuming dialogue and negotiation, and addressing the legitimate security concerns of all parties, especially those of the DPRK.

## “P” for people

China stays committed to a people-centered development philosophy and develops whole-process people’s democracy. In China, all the people can manage state affairs in all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society, and they are truly the masters of the country. Both the system of People’s Congress and the institutions of the People’s Political Consultative Conference are major institutional supporting mechanism and framework for realizing the whole process people’s democracy. The Two Sessions serve as an important platform to reflect and deeply practice whole-process people’s democracy, as well as a significant window for the international community to understand China’s democracy.

When drafting the Report on the Work of the Government, which is submitted for deliberation at the “Two Sessions”, the government is open to suggestions to fully reflect public opinion and respond to the concerns of communities, the public and

businesses. Statistics show that around 10,000 people were directly involved in the report revision. After its completion, the draft was issued and sent to departments, institutions and all sectors across China for comment, generating over 1,100 suggestions. In addition, online media platforms picked up more than 1.6 million comments from netizens and sent the picks to the drafters.

Deputies to NPC have actively practiced whole-process people’s democracy and have a better understanding of what policies people want and what their needs are through themed field trips, video talks, face-to-face discussions, inspection trips and other flexible ways. In this way, 230 proposals by NPC deputies were formulated, accounting for 77.2% of the total. A total number of 5,898 proposals were received by the CPPCC this year. Through the proposals, speeches at the CPPCC meetings, and other measures to reflect the social conditions and public opinion, the CPPCC has leveraged its advantages as a specialized consultative body, met the requirements set by whole-process people’s democracy and developed this democracy.

The Harvard Kennedy School’s surveys in China which extended over 10 years suggest that the proportion of the Chinese satisfied with the government has stayed over 90 percent. China’s democratic system has motivated over 1.4 billion people to modernize the country. We have turned the advantage of our system into governance efficiency, and whole-process people’s democracy has been a rock-solid foundation for the effective governance of China.

*(Ma Jia is Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in India)*



A photograph of Chinese President Xi Jinping clapping, standing in front of a large crowd. The Chinese national flag is visible in the background. The image is used as a background for the article's title.

# Xi Jinping the Reformer

Chinese President Xi Jinping applauded the personnel awarded with medals during a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on December 18, 2018.

**Placing reform at the centre of his agenda, Chinese President Xi Jinping has outlined a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth.**

**C**hinese leader Xi Jinping has sounded the clarion call for reform during the country's annual key political season, dispelling concerns about whether China's reform is "stagnating," or its economy is "losing steam."

"We must plan major moves to deepen reform to inject strong impetus into promoting

high-quality development and advancing Chinese modernization," President Xi said at the annual sessions of China's top legislature and top political advisory body, or the "two sessions," which wrapped up on March 11.

Since Xi took the top office more than a decade ago, China has entered a "new era." The country's economic strength has



Xi Jinping, then secretary of the Zhengding County Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), listens to opinions of villagers in Zhengding County, north China's Hebei Province, in 1983.

grown, and its international influence has continued to rise. Reform is the hallmark of this era.

In the face of a myriad of challenges, China is now in a critical period for accelerating reform.

## Reform Will Not Stop, Opening-Up Will Not Cease

Xi is regarded as another outstanding reformer in the country after Deng Xiaoping.

The two leaders faced the same mission -- to modernize China, but against strikingly different backdrops.

When Deng launched the reform and opening-up drive in the late 1970s, China's per-capita GDP was only about 200 U.S. dollars. His push for reforms started almost from scratch.

In 2012, when Xi was elected general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, China had become

the world's second-largest economy, with a per-capita GDP of over 6,000 dollars. But growth was shifting gears and many advantages, including the once-low labor costs, had started to diminish.

Instead of resting on the laurels of his predecessors, Xi was committed to carrying on the reform, and he knew how hard it would be.

"The easy part of the job has been done to the satisfaction of all. What is left are tough bones that are hard to chew," he said.

**With the reform measures, the Chinese economy has not only sustained robust growth but also more than doubled since 2012, cementing the country's global status as a major growth contributor.**

Over the past decade, more than 2,000 reform measures have been rolled out, enabling

the country to eliminate extreme poverty, promote integrated urban-rural development, fight corruption, support businesses, boost innovation, and push forward a “green revolution.”

With the reform measures, the Chinese economy has not only sustained robust growth but also more than doubled since 2012, cementing the country’s global status as a major growth contributor.

China is currently at a critical juncture, where Xi is leading the country to realize the ambitious “Chinese modernization,” while being confronted with major challenges, such as downward economic pressure following the COVID-19 pandemic, rising protectionism and suppression from Western nations, and risks associated with the real estate sector, local government debts, and some small and medium-sized financial institutions.

Xi reiterated the significance of reform at a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee earlier this year. Weeks later, at the “two sessions,” he stressed deepening reforms in various sectors “to remove the barriers obstructing the development of new quality productive forces.”

The crucial role of reform was also highlighted in this year’s government work report.

It devoted a section to deepening reform, with a focus on improvements to systems underpinning the socialist market economy, such as property rights protection, market access, fair competition, and social credit. “Ultimately, high-quality development depends on reform,” it wrote.

Looking back, Xi’s commitment to reform has been consistent.

When he was not even 16, he was sent to Liangjiahe village in Shaanxi Province to do farm labor. There, he experienced hunger. Deng initiated reforms, believing that China could not remain poor. Xi’s aspiration at that time was to ensure that his fellow villagers could have enough to eat.

Like Deng, Xi’s drive for reform also stems from the people’s aspiration for a better life. The reform measures he implemented in Liangjiahe, including introducing biogas, establishing a blacksmith shop and opening a store selling daily necessities, aimed at improving the livelihood of villagers.

Xi’s commitment to reform was influenced by his father, Xi Zhongxun, a champion of reform and opening-up. In 1978, the senior Xi was sent to south China’s Guangdong Province as a principal official, and later helped build the country’s first special economic zones including Shenzhen.

Also in 1978, Xi Zhongxun entrusted Xi, who was studying at Tsinghua University, to conduct on-site research on the household contract responsibility system in Anhui Province. He filled an entire notebook with notes, a collection he preserved for many years.

Xi’s reputation as a reformer was reinforced as his political career advanced.



Xi Jinping lays a flower basket in front of the bronze statue of Deng Xiaoping in Lianhuashan Park in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province, in December 2012.



The NIO Second Advanced Manufacturing Base in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province.

In the early 1980s, he initiated reform experiments in the impoverished county of Zhengding, Hebei Province, commencing with the rural land contract trial, making Zhengding the first in Hebei to adopt this practice already tested in southern provinces.

An article published in the "China Youth" magazine in 1985 described the county's transformation. It cited a county Party secretary from a neighboring province, who visited Zhengding, as saying: "Here, you don't hear people chanting 'reform,' but reform is happening everywhere."

"Looking back at those years, one of the things we achieved was liberating our thinking," Xi said, reflecting on the reforms in Zhengding.

After Zhengding, Xi was assigned to work in Xiamen, a special economic zone in Fujian Province, where Xi spearheaded the establishment of China's first joint-venture bank -- Xiamen International Bank. After he ascended to the position of governor of Fujian,

Xi led reform in the collective forest tenure, which was later expanded nationwide. This initiative is known as another revolutionary step for China's rural areas after the household contract responsibility system.

During his time in Zhejiang Province, Xi proposed an innovative initiative to promote development through industrial upgrading. He actively supported private businesses, and encouraged business people to "come directly" to his office for important matters. He also extended reforms in Zhejiang beyond the economic sphere, addressing social, cultural, and ecological aspects.

**"Looking back at those years, one of the things we achieved was liberating our thinking," Xi said, reflecting on the reforms in Zhengding.**

Xi's reformer image left a deep impression on international figures. In September 2006, Henry Paulson, then U.S. treasury secretary,

visited China and chose Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang, as his first stop. He regarded Xi as the “perfect choice” for his initial meeting in China, describing him as “the kind of guy who knows how to get things over the goal line.”

Paulson later recounted that during a meeting with Xi in 2014, the Chinese leader stated, “My concern is mainly reform and related issues.”

After assuming the Party’s top post in 2012, Xi’s first domestic inspection took him to Shenzhen, following in his father’s footsteps. There, he laid a flower basket at the bronze statue of Deng Xiaoping in Lianhuashan Park, declaring a firm commitment to reform: “Reform will not stop, and opening-up will not cease!”

The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, convened in 2013 under Xi’s leadership, is heralded as a milestone, much like Deng’s Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee in 1978, which ushered in the era of reform. The 2013 event marked the dawn of a new era of reform.

During this session, Xi listed a series of challenges facing China’s development, including corruption, unsustainable development, and environmental issues. He stressed that “the key to addressing these problems lies in deepening reform.”

The session approved a decision on “major issues concerning comprehensively deepening reforms.” A Spanish newspaper commented that Xi had initiated the most profound economic, social, and administrative reforms in China over 30 years.

More than a month later, China announced the decision to establish the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reform, which Xi headed. This marked the first time in the Party’s history that a leadership body exclusively dedicated to reform was established at the central level. Later, this group evolved into the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform, with Xi as its director.

## Venturing into The Mountain

The reforms led by Xi have been based on thoughtful considerations derived from his many years of practice, with a whole set of top-level designs.

He has invoked the ancient Chinese idiom of “discarding the outdated in favor of the new” to call for action, believing that reform and innovation are inherent cultural genes of the Chinese nation.

Xi has been clear-headed regarding the direction of reform. He has cautioned against copying the political systems of other countries, once saying that reform denying socialist orientation would only lead to a “dead end.”

“What cannot be changed must be resolutely kept unchanged,” he stated.

**Xi has been pushing through reform in adversity and had to break the blockades of vested interests. “We need the courage to ‘venture into the mountain despite knowing full well there are tigers’ and continuously move the reform forward,” he said.**

For what should be changed, Xi has demanded firm actions, urging creating conditions for reform even when they do not exist yet. The must-do tasks included eliminating all drawbacks that restrict the vitality of business entities and hinder the full play of the market.

With unprecedented scope, scale and intensity, Xi’s reforms have covered economic, political, cultural, social, ecological and Party building fields.

He has developed a methodology for reform in the new era: “properly handling the relationships between emancipating the mind and seeking truth from facts, between advancing as a whole and making breakthroughs in key areas, between top-level design and crossing the river by feeling the stones, between being



An aerial view of Shibadong Village in Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, central China's Hunan Province.

bold and maintaining a steady pace, as well as balancing reform, development, and stability.”

He has stressed pursuing reform in a systematic, holistic, and coordinated way and respecting the pioneering spirit of the people. Officials have also been told to “establish the new before abolishing the old” and ensure proper timing and intensity of reform to good effect.

“He corrected the mentality of measuring the success of development simply by GDP growth and enabled the reform to truly touch the interests of some people,” said an official from Shaanxi.

Herecalled that Xi had issued six instructions to crack down on illegal villa construction by officials in collusion with businesses in the nature reserves of the Qinling Mountains. It reflected the local resistance encountered by the reform in the ecological field back then.

Xi has been pushing through reform in adversity and had to break the blockades of vested interests. “We need the courage to ‘venture into the mountain despite knowing full well there are tigers’ and continuously move the reform forward,” he said.

Around the year when Xi became the general secretary, vote-buying corruption in the election of lawmakers or Party officials

occurred in the provinces of Liaoning, Hunan and Sichuan.

“Corrupt officials allowed bribe-paying enterprises to illegally obtain projects or manipulate the market,” said a local official, citing concerns over the business environment in the rustbelt northeastern provinces then.

Xi initiated an unprecedented anti-corruption “storm.” The fight against corruption is beneficial for purifying the “political ecosystem” as well as the “economic ecosystem,” and is conducive to straightening out the market order and restoring the market to what it should be, he said.

The “zero-tolerance” anti-corruption campaign continues to roar. In 2023, it made waves across sectors, including finance, grain, healthcare, semiconductors, and even sports.

Hundreds of high-ranking government officials, bank executives and hospital directors, even figures like the president of the Chinese Football Association and former head coach of the national men’s football team, were investigated or indicted.

The revelations, particularly in the football sector, were shocking--bribery could determine the outcome of matches, undermining market-based fair competition.

Xi has been focused on reshaping the “competition mechanism” through reform. He advocated the necessity of reforming the Party, which has been in existence for over a century, calling for “the most thorough self-revolution.”

Under his leadership, a full and rigorous Party self-governance system was built, and a sound system of Party regulations has taken shape. He improved the inspection system and established the national supervision system, “confining power to an institutional cage.”

He also initiated an unprecedented reform of the Party and state institutions to “address major and difficult issues drawing widespread attention.”

This reform further dismantled vested interests. Xi has called for the resolve to “offend a few thousand instead of failing the 1.4 billion Chinese people.”

He propelled the Party’s self-revolution to guide social change. The Party has taken the initiative to eliminate institutional deficiencies in social development to unlock productive forces, as explained by Liu Bingxiang, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

In this regard, Xi has advocated fully advancing law-based governance, striving to solve the long-standing problems of power outweighing the law and personal relationships trumping legal principles.

He once lashed out at the phenomenon where “money can buy exemption from punishment and even buy life.” On another occasion, he said: “The socialist market economy is an economy based on credit and the rule of law.”

He has instructed the formulation and revision of a series of laws, including the Anti-Monopoly Law, which provided the legal basis for the fair competition review system.

The legal system for intellectual property rights was also improved. In a typical case in 2020, U.S. basketball legend Michael Jordan won a lawsuit in Shanghai, with a Chinese company ordered to cease using “Qiao Dan,”

the Chinese translation of Jordan, in its name and product trademarks.

Therefore, Xi’s reforms have not only led to economic transformation. He has asserted that the essence of modernization lies in the modernization of people. Fostering “cultural confidence and national pride” among the Chinese people has become a key objective of the reform.

**Xi pointed out that China's economy had entered a new development stage and proposed a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth. He initiated the supply-side structural reform, pushing the economy toward high-quality development and moving to construct a new development pattern.**

In 2012, Xi incorporated “cultural confidence” into the report to the 18th CPC National Congress. He later integrated this concept into the “Four Confidences” of socialism with Chinese characteristics, describing cultural confidence as a “more fundamental, deeper, and more enduring force.”

Xi’s reforms also signify a reworking of Marxism to adapt to the new era, integrating its basic tenets with China’s specific realities and fine traditional culture. As a result, China’s reforms have taken on fresh philosophical significance.

In his 2017 New Year Message, Xi stated that “the main framework of reforms, resembling the ‘four beams and eight pillars’ of a house, has been essentially established in various fields.” For those acquainted with traditional Chinese architecture, this signifies that the house has taken shape and can be further perfected.

Xi has directed reforms toward an overarching goal: upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China’s system and capacity for governance.

This, undoubtedly, takes a long-term and challenging process to fulfill.

## Only Reformers Can Advance, Only Innovators Can Thrive

In the year when Xi took the top office, China's annual economic growth rate dropped below 8 percent for the first time since 1999.

The debt crisis in Europe severely hurt China's foreign trade and real estate regulation dragged down domestic demand. A foreign bank analyst claimed that "China's economy is facing its most critical moment in nearly 30 years."

**Xi believes that to develop new quality productive forces, it is imperative to further deepen reforms to boost sci-tech innovation. He likened China's lack of strong innovation capability to the "Achilles' heel" of an economic giant. New quality productive forces align with Xi's earlier vision of an innovation-driven development strategy.**

Xi pointed out that China's economy had entered a new development stage and proposed a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth. He initiated the supply-side structural reform, pushing the economy toward high-quality development and moving to construct a new development pattern.

Addressing officials on the significance of the reform to optimize the supply structure, Xi cited the story of Chinese tourists buying smart toilet seats and rice cookers abroad as an example. At that time, Chinese people were enthusiastic about purchasing a multitude of goods overseas, from luxury items to daily necessities. Meanwhile, a large number of domestic products were struggling to find buyers.

After years of supply-side structural reform under Xi's watch, the quality and

competitiveness of Chinese products have improved, many of which have earned international acclaim, spanning from lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products to drones. Media have noticed that a growing number of young Chinese consumers are redirecting their interest from imported cosmetics to domestic products.

The reform also tackled the challenge of overcapacity in certain sectors. By the end of 2022, the steel industry had eliminated outdated and excess capacity totaling around 300 million tonnes, exceeding twice the size of the entire crude steel production of India in that year.

To push forward the supply-side structural reform, Xi is leading by example with foresight. A decade ago, most cars on China's roads were foreign-brand gasoline vehicles. In 2014, during an inspection of SAIC Motor, a major Chinese carmaker, he emphasized the significance of developing products that cater to diverse needs and highlighted the importance of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in strengthening China's position in the automotive sector.

In the following decade, Xi became a big fan of electric cars, visiting automotive companies, touring laboratories, and showing great interest in experiencing electric cars.

By the time he visited an NEV company in 2023, the country had already become a global leader in NEV technology. Every three vehicles exported by China included one electric passenger car, and China's NEV production and sales constituted two-thirds of the world's total.

The new energy industry is, in fact, part of Xi's vision of new quality productive forces. The phrase "new quality productive forces" has become a fresh buzzword after Xi talked about it during his recent inspection trips, but he started to promote it much earlier.

Back in the 1970s in the village of Liangjiahe, Xi took the lead in introducing biogas-generating facilities to Shaanxi, allowing villagers to use biogas for lighting and cooking, replacing the traditional way of burning wood. This early initiative can be considered an





An aerial view of Yundang Lake and its surroundings in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province.

example of leveraging new quality productive forces during that time.

In 2024, developing new quality productive forces was written into the government work report for the first time. This is widely believed as the recognition that the economic growth model primarily driven by low-cost labor, extensive yet inefficient investment, external demand and excessive resource consumption can no longer be sustained, and China must actively cultivate new technologies, new business models and future industries to enhance the quality and efficiency of development.

"The concept has provided fresh hope and impetus for China to speed up its economic transformation," said a column article published in the South China Morning Post.

Xi believes that to develop new quality productive forces, it is imperative to further deepen reforms to boost sci-tech innovation.

He likened China's lack of strong innovation capability to the "Achilles' heel" of an economic giant. New quality productive forces align with Xi's earlier vision of an innovation-driven development strategy.

"Only reformers can advance, only innovators can thrive, and only those who reform and innovate will prevail," Xi stressed.

Under his guidance, a slew of pro-

innovation measures were rolled out to encourage enterprises to intensify research and development, apply sci-tech research achievements in the real world, and refine the management of major sci-tech projects. He also pushed for the establishment of a new system for mobilizing resources nationwide to make key technological breakthroughs.

**Xi strongly opposes cumbersome government approvals. While working in Fuzhou of Fujian, he pioneered a mechanism that enabled all procedures for investment project approval to be completed in a single building.**

The effects are evident, with China's ranking in the Global Innovation Index, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization, jumping from 34th in 2012 to 12th last year.

Data issued in 2023 showed that China in 2022 overtook the United States for the first time as the No. 1 ranked country or territory for contributions to research articles published in the Nature Index group of high-quality natural science journals.

Telecom giant Huawei successfully launched its new high-end smartphones last year, which demonstrated the limited effects of

U.S. “extreme pressure” on Chinese high-tech firms.

Nevertheless, there is yet much work to be done. Xi has cautioned that “basic research is the source of sci-tech innovation. Although China has made significant progress in basic research, the distance with the international advanced level remains evident.”

He has called for further support for basic research and original innovation, with a focus on ground-breaking and cutting-edge technologies.

## Unleashing Power of Market

When Xi assumed the Party’s top post, two decades had passed since the concept of building a socialist market economy was introduced.

However, doing business remained a challenging endeavor. In 2014, a lawmaker attending local “two sessions” revealed that a single investment project, from acquiring land to completing all administrative approval procedures, required more than 30 government approvals and over a hundred stamps. The entire process took a minimum of 272 working days.

Xi strongly opposes cumbersome government approvals. While working in Fuzhou of Fujian, he pioneered a mechanism that enabled all procedures for investment project approval to be completed in a single building.

As the country’s top leader, he advocated that “the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation and the government plays its role better.”

Over the years, the State Council has canceled or delegated to lower-level authorities the power of administrative approval for over 1,000 items and slashed the number of investment items subject to central government approval by over 90 percent.

“Let the vitality that creates wealth burst forth, and let the power of the market be fully unleashed,” said Xi.

The results of the reforms are remarkable, as China was ranked by the World Bank as one

of the top 10 economies with the most notable improvement in the business environment for two years in a row.

In January 2019, construction started for Tesla’s Shanghai Gigafactory, and the automaker started delivering the first batch of China-made Model 3 electric cars built at the factory in December 2019, a pace of development praised by Tesla CEO Elon Musk.

Xi is well-acquainted with the challenging situation faced by private enterprises. He instructed the establishment of a private economy development bureau under the country’s top economic planner to provide assistance to private enterprises facing difficulties.

Xi also emphasized the need to promote financial reforms to facilitate financing for private enterprises. He stressed the importance of encouraging private capital to enter industries and sectors where entry is not explicitly prohibited by laws and regulations.

Under Xi’s instruction, the system of a negative list for market access was comprehensively implemented, allowing entry into areas not explicitly prohibited by the list. By the end of 2023, the number of registered business entities nationwide reached 184 million, more than three times the figure in 2012.

From 2012 to 2023, the number of private enterprises in China more than quadrupled, and the proportion of private enterprises in the total number of enterprises increased from less than 80 percent to over 92 percent.

During that period, privately-owned banks received approval for establishment, a high-speed rail controlled by private capital began operation, private investment was permitted to enter the oil and gas exploration and production sector, and a private rocket company achieved success in launching a rocket from the sea.

While reinforcing the Party’s leadership, Xi initiated market-oriented reforms for state-owned enterprises (SOEs). In 2017, China Unicom, as the first centrally-administered SOE in the telecommunications industry to open up to private capital, introduced 14

strategic investors, including internet titans Tencent, Baidu, JD.com, and Alibaba, in the “mixed-ownership reform.”

A three-year action plan for SOE reform converted SOEs into limited liability companies or companies limited by shares. Some 38,000 SOEs established boards of directors.

International media have noticed that China’s reform has been advancing in step with changes in the situation. A trade war waged by the United States, the global pandemic, and increased geopolitical tensions have tested the resilience of China’s economy. The country is also transforming its economic development model.

Xi has led China to accelerate building the new development pattern, which takes the domestic market as the mainstay while allowing domestic and international markets to reinforce each other.

A key support for this strategy is the establishment of a unified national market. To achieve this, a series of reforms are being implemented to eliminate local protectionism and dismantle regional barriers.

Xi has made “institutional opening-up” a priority. In one such move, China has lifted foreign ownership limits for securities companies, management companies of securities investment funds, futures companies, and life insurance companies.

Meanwhile, he is cautious about disorderly capital expansion, market manipulation, and pursuit of exorbitant profits in certain areas. He said it harms the interests of the people.

He proposed setting “traffic lights” for capital flows, ensuring that “financial magnates” do not act unscrupulously while still allowing capital to function properly as a production factor.

This indicates that China’s reform is no longer solely focused on growth but considers a more balanced approach.

Under Xi’s leadership, China has effectively addressed risks in shadow banking and internet finance. Efforts have been made to resolve debt risks associated with local

governments and major enterprises like China Evergrande Group. These moves safeguarded the interests of the people and ensured the smooth operation of the market.

## Making People’s Priorities his Own

Xi emphasizes that the ultimate goal of reform is for the people’s well-being. He has pledged to make people’s priorities his own and act on their wishes. This is different from the “capital first” stance.



This photo shows an interior view of Beijing Library.

He recognized that after more than 30 years of reform and opening-up, the principal contradiction facing Chinese society had undergone significant changes. “What we now face is the contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people’s ever-growing needs for a better life,” Xi said in 2017.

In response to this change, he advocates for coordinated and shared development, and is committed to achieving Deng’s vision of “common prosperity.”

When Xi assumed the Party’s top post, there were significant disparities between China’s eastern and western regions, and wealth inequality was severe.

He has transformed the poverty relief strategy, implementing “targeted poverty elimination.” In less than 10 years, China eradicated absolute poverty in rural areas, a problem that had persisted for thousands of years in the country.

In April 2012, just months before Xi took the top office, a tragic incident occurred in Beijing’s neighboring Hebei Province, where a farmer cut off his leg by himself due to illness and concerns over unaffordable medical treatment. Many impoverished farmers had few ways to deal with serious illnesses at that time.

Xi has initiated reforms in the rural healthcare system to ensure that people in the vast rural areas have access to medical treatment. The campaigns have significantly reduced cases of illness-induced poverty. Almost all low-income people and individuals just lifted out of poverty in rural areas now have medical insurance.

China’s reforms started in rural areas in the 1970s, and Xi’s reform initiatives regarding agriculture, rural areas, and farmers encompass a broader range of changes.

He has established a sound mechanism for stable grain production to ensure that “China’s food supply remains firmly in its own hands,” improved the village business environment, and promoted rural revitalization across the board.

In the early 2000s, Xi proposed in an academic paper bold reforms to the household registration system to eliminate various social and economic disparities as well as the division of the urban and rural labor markets caused by the system.

At that time, there was considerable controversy over whether or not to abolish household registration restrictions.

In 2016, the central government rolled out a plan to grant urban residency to some 100 million people from rural areas and other permanent residents without local household registration, which was fulfilled ahead of schedule.

During an inspection trip to Shanghai in 2023, Xi visited the apartments where migrant

workers lived. He was happy to learn that migrants were settling down in the metropolis.

“Great! Stay, settle down, and strive for a better life,” he said.

Under Xi’s leadership, China scrapped the reeducation-through-labor system, which had been in operation for over half a century.

**Xi advocated for the comprehensive elimination of markups on drugs and medical consumables that had been in place for over 60 years, reducing patient healthcare costs. Government departments acted on his call and formed a work team to negotiate drug and consumable prices with pharmaceutical companies.**

In response to demographic changes, China has adjusted its population and family planning policies accordingly. Reforms have been carried out to ensure better and more equitable education. Additionally, Xi has spearheaded the establishment of the world’s largest social security system and initiated reforms in basic elderly care services.

With a belief that “people’s health is the primary indicator of modernization,” Xi called for studying and promoting the practice in the city of Sanming in Fujian to address the challenge of healthcare reform.

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In a widely circulated online video of price negotiation in 2021, representatives from the National Healthcare Security Administration insisted that “no minority group of patients should be abandoned,” and managed to cut the price of a life-saving drug for a rare disease from about 700,000 yuan per shot to 33,000

yuan per shot after eight rounds of intense negotiations.

This drug was then included in China's medical insurance catalog, igniting hope for over 30,000 patients nationwide. Similar price cuts for hundreds of drugs have cumulatively saved the public some 500 billion yuan in medical expenses.

Xi has a fascination with history and culture and is a frequenter of museums, having visited almost all of the museums in Beijing during his childhood.

Over the past decade, China has significantly increased funding for cultural relics preservation, sparking a cultural and museum boom nationwide. There are over 3,300 public libraries and more than 10,000 cultural centers and museums nationwide. Tickets for museums are often in high demand, especially during holidays.

Xi's reform in the cultural sector emphasizes enriching the "spiritual world" of the people as an essential requirement for Chinese modernization. This involves refining cultural industry planning and policies, and nurturing new cultural business forms and cultural consumption patterns.

As a result, the film industry has seen fast development in recent years. The number of cinema screens in the country has multiplied from about 13,000 in 2012 to over 86,000 now, the highest on Earth.

Another ground-breaking reform led by Xi occurred in the ecological domain.

When Xi took office as the general secretary in 2012, environmental pollution was one of the most common complaints among the public. At the start of that year, a river in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region reported cadmium pollution, endangering the drinking water safety of over a million people. Several high-profile "not-in-my-backyard" incidents occurred across the country during the year.

Xi, known for environmental initiatives in Xiamen to clean up Yundang Lake and in Hangzhou to protect West Lake, established the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, set ecological and environmental protection as an

inviolable "red line," introduced inspections on ecological and environmental protection by central authorities, and asked local officials to be responsible for the protection of rivers, lakes and forests as their "chiefs."

Under Xi's leadership, China became the country with the fastest improvement in air quality, the largest increase in forest resources, and the largest area of afforestation globally. The country has also held a steady position as the world leader in installed capacities for hydro, wind, solar, and biomass power generation amid his campaign to revolutionize the energy field.

China has also developed the world's largest carbon market and vowed to achieve carbon neutrality after carbon peaking in a much shorter time than developed countries. "Green and low-carbon development is the order of the day, and those who follow it will prosper," he said.

Xi believes that protecting the environment and ecology is vital to sustaining the Chinese nation's development and is also crucial for protecting the Earth, which is "our one and only home."

## Forging Ahead with Courage

"No other country around the world can comprehensively advance reform in the same way as present-day China does, with a commitment to its promises and a sense of urgency," said a report by the Singaporean newspaper Lianhe Zaobao.

According to the 2023 Edelman Trust Barometer, a survey by consulting firm Edelman, China's overall trust level was 83, ranking first among all surveyed countries.

China was the only country among those surveyed that expressed optimism about economic prospects, according to the survey.

Observers believe that it is because Xi himself is the helmsman of reform in the new era that the socialist market economy heralded by Deng can continue.

Xi has ignited the engine propelling China on an irreversible journey toward modernization.

This is undoubtedly one of the most far-

reaching reforms in human history. In the early 1990s, Deng's proclamation of "development is the absolute principle" liberated and developed China's social productive forces, enhancing China's comprehensive national strength.

Xi has held that high-quality development is the unyielding principle of the new era, and initiated a comprehensive and systematic transformation in China, which has contributed to the re-balancing of the world economy.

He has advocated for building a world economy that is innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive, injecting new vitality into global development.

Last year, China's economy grew by 5.2 percent, contributing one-third of global growth. The country's economic engine remains strong. The "next China," according to many analysts, is still China, when looking for investment destinations.

What and how will China reform in the future? The question is drawing worldwide attention.

Reforms aimed at promoting new quality productive forces will bring about a new emancipation of the mind. Zhao Zhenhua, director of the Department of Economics of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, said that fostering new quality relations of production that adapt to new quality productive forces is indeed a profound revolution, involving elements such as ownership of means of production, distribution, and people's positions in production.

This year's "two sessions" sent the signal that China plans to establish "pilot reform zones for building a high-standard socialist market economy." The goal is to foster "a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized," where SOEs, private businesses, and foreign-funded companies all play an important role in China's modernization drive.

In addition, new reform measures will be introduced to foster new industrial growth engines, promote consumption growth, expand the middle-income group, and ensure

equal access to basic services. These initiatives are expected to further unpack tremendous business opportunities in a market of over 1.4 billion people.

China is pushing for accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

A Ministry of Commerce spokesperson said that China is willing to deepen reforms continuously, strive to meet the high standards required by the agreement, and make high-level opening-up commitments beyond its existing practices in the area of market access.

There are reasons to be optimistic about the prospects of reforms under the leadership of Xi.

This optimism is not only based on China's enormous economic and market size but also the unified leadership of the Party with Xi at the core. The CPC has the guts for self-reform and is capable of turning blueprints into concrete actions.

Furthermore, China is still a developing country with substantial growth space and potential.

Some Western observers perceive China's growing economic strength as a threat and China's large market as a "tool of economic coercion," fueling the attempt to decouple with or impose a blockade on China. These views need to be changed.

China's reforms are not intended to change or challenge the world order. Instead, the country is actively engaging in and impacting global economic governance, upholding fairness and justice on the world stage.

Xi has inherited and carried forward Deng's legacy through comprehensively deepening reform. This not only created economic miracles but also displayed the charm of the Chinese culture, contributing to the creation of a new form of human civilization.

"Our modernization is both the most challenging and the greatest," said Xi. "This is an unprecedented path, but we will continue to explore it and forge ahead with courage."

# Governance: Putting People at the Center

**The concept of people-centered governance has found a new energy in Chinese President Xi Jinping’s style of governance. This fits in with the founding mission of Chinese Communists to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has consistently emphasized the significance of the people, unwaveringly adhering to the principle of “putting people at the center” in his governance approach.

The concept of people-centered governance has long been a central tenet of Chinese culture. The original aspiration and founding mission of Chinese Communists is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. Serving the people wholeheartedly has been the fundamental purpose of the century-old Communist Party of China (CPC).

In October 2015, Xi proposed the philosophy of people-centered development for the first time at a key meeting of the CPC. He later said it is a philosophy that should be followed in “everything we do in advancing economic and social development.”

Xi himself has always placed the people at the forefront of his heart. He treats the “little things,” such as warm accommodation, hot meals, fresh air, and even rural toilet facilities, not as trivialities but significant aspects of his state governance.



Under Xi’s leadership, China has successfully helped around 100 million people leave absolute poverty behind in less than a decade, winning the battle against absolute poverty in the country with 1.4 billion people. In doing so, the country has achieved the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

In China, the average life expectancy of its people has reached 78.2 years, and over 1 billion people are connected to the internet. Furthermore, the country has established the world’s largest education system, social security system, and healthcare system.

“Our goal is both inspiring and simple. Ultimately, it is about delivering a better life for the people,” Xi said.

# High-Quality Development

**Under Xi Jinping’s leadership, pursuing high-quality development has become a key requirement for Chinese authorities when formulating economic policies.**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has always put “high-quality development” among the top of his governance agenda, highlighting it as the first and foremost task in China’s efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects.

Xi made a significant judgment in 2017 that China’s economy had been transitioning from a phase of rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development.

He noted that China had reached a critical stage in transforming its growth model and was faced with prominent problems such as rising labor costs, growing constraints from resources and the environment, unsustainable models of extensive development, and impediments in the economic flows.

Since then, pursuing high-quality development has become a key requirement for Chinese authorities when formulating economic policies, leading to sweeping changes including rapid technological advancement, burgeoning green industries and wider market access for foreign investors.

In essence, high-quality development means a change from seeking growth to seeking better growth.

In Xi’s view, high-quality development is the kind of development that can meet the

people’s ever-growing desire for a better life. It reflects the new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

During China’s annual central economic work conference last December, Xi said: “It is imperative to uphold high-quality development as the unyielding principle of the new era.”





# Chinese Modernization

**China has pioneered a new and uniquely Chinese path to modernization, and created a new model for human civilization, says Chinese President Xi Jinping.**

President Xi Jinping has expounded Chinese modernization at various settings -- be it domestic inspections or international gatherings.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, first introduced the concept of Chinese modernization, or “Chinese path to modernization,” in a speech he gave to mark the Party’s centennial in July 2021.

“As we have upheld and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics and driven coordinated progress in material, political, cultural-ethical, social, and ecological terms, we have pioneered a new and uniquely Chinese path to modernization, and created a new model for human civilization,” Xi said in the speech.

Proclaiming the realization of the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in the same speech, Xi announced that China is marching toward the second centenary goal of building itself into a great modern socialist country in all respects by 2049, the 100th founding anniversary of the People’s Republic of China.

The report to the 20th CPC National Congress delivered by Xi in October 2022



positioned realizing the second centenary goal and advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization as the Party’s central task.

Five features of Chinese modernization were clarified in the same report: modernization of a huge population, common prosperity for all, material and cultural-ethical advancement, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development.

The implications of Chinese modernization reach beyond the borders of China. The practice expands the channels for developing countries to achieve modernization and provides a Chinese solution for humanity in exploring a better social system, according to Xi.



# Whole-Process People's Democracy

**In contrast to the Western model, the whole-process people's democracy, as exemplified in the "Two Sessions" truly integrates law-based democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management, and oversight.**

The annual sessions of China's national legislature and political advisory body, or the "two sessions," are one of the most significant events in the Chinese political calendar, providing a window to observe the ideas and practices of whole-process people's democracy.

The concept of "whole-process people's democracy" was first put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping during an inspection tour of Shanghai in 2019. While visiting a community-level legislative outreach office there, Xi said people's democracy in China is a type of whole-process democracy. He has on many occasions emphasized the importance of this democracy.

The concept of whole-process people's democracy is a result of the creative evolution and development of the wisdom of political philosophy in the fine traditional Chinese culture. In contrast to the Western model, where democracy and elections are frequently equated, the whole-process people's democracy truly integrates law-based democratic elections, consultations, decision-making, management, and oversight through a series of laws and institutional arrangements.

The essence of the people's democracy is that people get to discuss their own affairs to reach the greatest common ground based on the wishes and needs of the entire society.

Take the "two sessions" as an example, national lawmakers and political advisors representing diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and professions convene in Beijing to discharge their responsibilities.

They engage in in-depth deliberations and heated discussions, focusing on a wide range of topics such as income distribution, education, medical care, housing, elderly care, and child care.

Just as Xi once said, democracy is not an ornament to be put on display, but an instrument for addressing the issues that concern the people.

China enables its people to participate in the "whole process" of the administration of state affairs, and allows its people to engage in real democracy to efficiently address and resolve issues.

Xi called whole-process people's democracy "the defining feature of socialist democracy," and said it is democracy "in its broadest, most genuine, and most effective form."



# New Quality Productive Forces

**With innovation playing a key role in the Chinese economy, Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed on new quality productive forces that feature high-tech, high efficiency and high quality in line with the new development philosophy.**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed developing new quality productive forces amid the country's accelerated efforts to foster new growth drivers and promote high-quality development.

First put forward by Xi in his inspection tour of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province in September 2023, the term was highlighted again at the Central Economic Work Conference in December, and became the subject of the first group study session held by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee this year.

With innovation playing the leading role, new quality productive forces mean advanced productivity that is freed from traditional economic growth mode and productivity development paths, features high-tech, high efficiency and high quality, and comes in line with the new development philosophy, Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said at the study session.

New quality productive forces are driven by revolutionary technological breakthroughs, innovative allocation of production factors, and deep industrial transformation and upgrading, he noted.

Xi highlighted the concept again March 5 when participating in a deliberation at the ongoing annual national legislative session, stressing developing new quality productive forces based on local conditions.

He called for efforts to step up innovation, foster emerging industries, adopt forward-thinking plans for developing future-oriented industries and improve the modern industrial system.

**New quality productive forces are driven by revolutionary technological breakthroughs, innovative allocation of production factors, and deep industrial transformation and upgrading, he noted.**

Developing new quality productive forces does not mean neglecting or abandoning traditional industries, Xi said, noting that it is necessary to prevent a headlong rush into projects and the formation of industry bubbles, and avoid adopting just a single model of development.

China has made strides in boosting sci-tech innovation and industrial upgrading. Its global ranking in innovation has increased markedly over the past decade, while strategic emerging industries, such as new energy, high-end equipment and biotechnology, have taken a larger share in the national economic output.

"Developing new quality productive forces is an intrinsic requirement and an important focus of promoting high-quality development," Xi once said.

# Breaking New Ground in Major-Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics

**The Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs identified the theme of China's external work as building a community with a shared future for mankind and set the noble goal pursued by China in conducting major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. In this context, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy has increasingly demonstrated its extraordinary theoretical quality of keeping in sync with and leading the times.**



**A**t the end of December 2023, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs was successfully held. General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important address at the conference, in which he presented a comprehensive review of the historic achievements and valuable experience of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, gave a profound exposition on the international environment and historical

mission of China's external work on the new journey, and made comprehensive plans for China's external work for the present and coming periods. The conference identified the theme of China's external work as building a community with a shared future for mankind, set the noble goal pursued by China in conducting major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and laid out the top-level plan for China's diplomatic strategies on the new journey ahead. Practiced and developed over the first decade of the new era, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy has increasingly demonstrated its extraordinary theoretical quality of keeping in sync with and leading the times, a testament that our Party's understanding of China's relations with the world has reached a new and higher level.

We must study and implement the guiding principles of the conference, follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era, especially Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, act with a stronger sense of historical responsibility and a more vibrant

spirit of innovation to make new headway in our major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and create a more favorable international environment and provide more solid strategic support for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through the Chinese path to modernization.

## I

A summary was made at the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs of the historic achievements of China's external work in the new era. They include the following ten points: establishing and developing Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy; showcasing distinct Chinese characteristics, style and ethos in China's diplomacy; advocating the building of a community with a shared future for mankind; creating a new model of diplomacy led by the strategic guidance of head-of-state diplomacy; fostering major-country dynamics featuring peaceful coexistence, overall stability and balanced development; forming a wide-ranging, high-quality global network of partnerships; advancing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation; effectively upholding China's sovereignty, security and development interests; showing the way in reforming the international system and order; and strengthening the centralized, unified leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). To fully appreciate the extraordinary historical process of China's diplomacy in the new era, the key is to understand the basic thread and underlying logic of these ten achievements in a multi-dimensional, systemic and interconnected manner.

**First, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy serves as the fundamental guideline.** Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is based on General Secretary Xi Jinping's profound strategic thinking about changes of the world, of our times and of historical significance, and rooted in the great practice of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the

new era. It is a shining example of applying the basic tenets of Marxism to the practice of China's diplomacy and fine traditional Chinese culture. It has not only built on the proud diplomatic tradition of New China but also kept abreast of the times, broken new ground and opened up new vistas in China's diplomatic theory and practice.

**Second, head-of-state diplomacy offers strategic guidance.** General Secretary Xi Jinping is the core of the CPC Central Committee and the entire CPC, and the top decision-maker and chief architect of our external work. As the highest form of China's diplomacy, head-of-state diplomacy has played an important and irreplaceable role in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, achieving exemplary and landmark diplomatic results and fully reflecting China's image as a confident, open and responsible major country. It is thanks to the great foresight and statesmanship of General Secretary Xi Jinping that China has been able to pursue its diplomacy against all odds amid the great transformation of the world, and to remain calm, confident and proactive in the context of a changing international landscape.

**Third, building a community with a shared future for mankind stands as the bright banner.** General Secretary Xi Jinping, with his broad strategic insight, extraordinary political wisdom and deep commitment to the world as the leader of a major party and a major country, has gained a deep understanding of the prevailing trends and laws governing the evolution of human society, ingeniously put forth the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and charted the right course for the world at a historical inflection point. Building a community with a shared future for mankind is the core tenet of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. It reflects the high consistency of the CPC's founding aspiration and mission with the trend of our times, and embodies the broadest common expectations of people around the globe for a better world. With tremendous theoretical

value and far-reaching historical significance, this vision is gaining increasingly strong influence, vitality and appeal.

**Fourth, CPC leadership provides the fundamental safeguard.** CPC leadership is our greatest political strength and the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It is also the most fundamental principle and greatest source of strength for China's diplomacy. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, three Central Conferences on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs and one symposium on neighborhood diplomacy have been convened; the system and mechanisms for the leadership by the CPC Central Committee over the external work have been improved; and the Law on Foreign Relations and the guidelines on the CPC's leadership over foreign affairs have been promulgated. All this has ensured greater coordination among various departments under the unified stewardship of the CPC central leadership, thereby providing strong political and organizational safeguards for China's diplomacy in the new era.

Major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era builds on and carries forward New China's diplomacy. Withstanding high winds and choppy waters and overcoming various difficulties and challenges, we have, in our external work, provided strong leadership in the development of the world, shaped our country's external environment profoundly and gained much more strategic autonomy and initiative in our diplomacy. China has become a responsible major country with enhanced international influence, stronger capacity to steer new endeavors and greater moral appeal.

## II

On the basis of reviewing the historic achievements of China's diplomacy in the new era, "six imperatives" has been identified at the Conference as new experience and understanding of the external work, i.e. it is imperative to uphold principles, shoulder

China's responsibility as a major country, apply systems thinking, uphold fundamental principles and break new ground, carry forward our fighting spirit, and leverage our institutional strengths.

**On major issues of right and wrong, it is imperative to uphold principles.** China is a socialist country led by the CPC. We should take a clear position by standing on the progressive side of history and on the side of fairness and justice, work actively to meet the common aspirations and legitimate concerns of people of all countries, and demonstrate the people-centeredness of the CPC and the commitment to serving the people in China's foreign policy. This way, we will always rally abundant support for the just cause, hold the high ground of justice and have strategic initiative.

**On promoting peaceful development, it is imperative to shoulder China's responsibility as a major country.** It is incumbent on China, the biggest developing country and a major country, to uphold justice in a world undergoing profound changes and turbulence and to shoulder responsibility at critical moments, and hence be a firm defender of world peace and champion of global development. At the same time, and through Chinese modernization, we are ready to be helpful in the efforts of other developing countries that want to achieve development while preserving their independence, so that all countries will be able to embark on the right path toward modernization through peaceful development.

**On making strategies and policies, it is imperative to apply systems thinking.** The CPC, a Marxist party armed with theories of dialectical and historical materialism, should know how to analyze, study and assess international situation with the understanding that things are universally connected and constantly evolving. We should be able to see the present from a historical perspective and look beyond the surface to get to the crux of issues, so as to discern and analyze accurately

the laws and direction of the profoundly changing world, and make sound foreign policies.

**On making progress in both theories and practices, it is imperative to uphold fundamental principles and break new ground.** In our external work, we should not only carry forward the fine traditions but also blaze new ground. We need to draw on past achievements in steering new endeavors which, in turn, consolidate the progress we have made. Over the years, China's diplomatic work has withstood numerous tests, accomplished no small number of key and major tasks, and made a series of significant breakthroughs. Facts have proven that it is the outstanding character and defining feature of China's diplomacy to advance with the times and break new ground while upholding fundamental principles.

**On addressing risks and challenges, it is imperative to carry forward our fighting spirit.** The CPC has never been deterred by intimidation, swayed by fallacies, or cowed by pressure. Only with the courage and ability to carry on our fight, can we overcome various difficulties and obstacles. Going forward, we will face an even more severe international situation and more complex external environment. We must forge ahead with an indomitable spirit and tenacious efforts to open up new horizons in our external work.

**On strengthening coordination, it is imperative to leverage our institutional strengths.** The greatest strength of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the CPC. By upholding and strengthening the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee over the external work, we will be able to ensure smoother coordination and collaboration among all regions and all departments, advance and implement major strategic plans more forcefully, and achieve even greater success in China's diplomacy.

The "six imperatives" captures succinctly the new developments and practices of Chinese diplomacy in the last five years. It is a thorough account of our basic experience

in conducting major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, further enriching and developing Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. Having been tested repeatedly in practice, the "six imperatives" demonstrates the political, theoretical and institutional strengths of the CPC, and reflects the CPC's inherent internationalist vision and its historic mission of pursuing world harmony. It is an invaluable asset that we must hold dear and an important guide for our external work on the new journey ahead.

### III

The Conference reached important conclusions on the strategic environment for China's future development. It was pointed out that great transformation is accelerating across the world. Changes of the world, of our times, and of historical significance are unfolding like never before, and the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. Yet the overall direction of human development and progress will not change, the overall dynamics of world history moving forward amid twists and turns will not change, and the overall trend toward a shared future for the international community will not change. We must have full confidence in these trends of historical impact. These important conclusions are based on in-depth analyses of the major changes in the international balance of power, of the transformation and reshaping of the international system and order, and of the interplay between different concepts and ideas on a global scale. They provide important guidance for our understanding of the international situation.

Going forward, China faces new strategic opportunities in its development. On the new journey, major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics will enter a new stage where much more can be accomplished. We must not be complacent about our past achievements, or be intimidated by the high winds and choppy waters in the external environment. Instead, we must keep our eyes on realizing Chinese modernization, forge ahead with great enterprise and write a

new chapter in the history of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. We must focus on the central task of the CPC and the country, seek progress while maintaining stability, break new ground while upholding fundamental principles, and firmly safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests. We will explore new frontiers in China's diplomatic theory and practice, foster new dynamics in the relations between China and the world, and raise China's international influence, appeal and ability to shape events to a new level.

At the same time, we must always remember that China remains a developing country, and faces arduous tasks regarding reform, development and stability. In conducting diplomacy, we must stay committed to our political character, focus on our central tasks and serve the overall national interests. We must keep enhancing our capabilities for strategic thinking, operational planning and emergency response, with a view to creating a more favorable international environment for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through the Chinese path to modernization.

#### IV

The Conference gave a systematic elaboration on and a comprehensive summary of the substantial practices in building a community with a shared future for mankind over the past decade, and established the pillars of building a community with a shared future for mankind as a scientific system: The goal is to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity; the pathway is promoting global governance that features extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit; the guiding principle is to apply the common values of humanity; the basic underpinning lies in building a new type of international relations; the strategic guidance comes from the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global

Civilization Initiative (GCI); and the platform for action is high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. On this basis, we hope to work with countries of the world to meet challenges and achieve prosperity for all. Such is the top-level design of China's diplomatic strategy on the new journey.

Since the 18th National Congress, our Party has endeavored to come up with systematic answers to the "three epochal questions" concerning the course of the Party, the country and governance. Building on this effort and bearing the future of the world in mind, General Secretary Xi Jinping has raised the question of our times: Where should humanity be heading? His answer to the question—building a community with a shared future for mankind—encapsulates how China proposes to solve the questions of what kind of world to build and how to build it. The proposal of this important vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and China's practice to implement it has elevated the Party's understanding of the laws governing the development of human society to a new level. It underscores the CPC's commitment not only to pursuing happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation but also to human progress and world harmony.

Since the dawn of the new era, building a community with a shared future for mankind has developed from a Chinese initiative to an international consensus, from a promising vision to substantive actions, and from a conceptual proposition to a scientific system. It has served as a glorious banner leading the progress of the times. So far, China has engaged with dozens of countries and regions in building communities with a shared future in various forms, and promoted the vision in multiple fields such as health, the relationship between man and nature, cyberspace, and maritime development. These initiatives have pointed the direction for humanity to pursue common development, lasting tranquility and mutual learning between civilizations. Under the general



framework of building a community with a shared future, General Secretary Xi Jinping has proposed the GDI, GSI and GCI, giving further response to the universal aspiration of all peoples for peace, development and cooperation, and offering China's solutions to the common problems facing humanity today.

A country's foreign policy is closely linked to its domestic agenda as its external and internal imperatives correlate and interplay with each other. At a fundamental level, we should handle the relationship between the three well: a community with a shared future for mankind, global transformation, and Chinese modernization. Building a great modern socialist country in all respects and achieving national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization is the top political priority on the new journey of the new era. To accomplish this central task of the Party and the country, we must hold high the banner of building a community with a shared future for mankind to steer global transformation in the right direction. We need to pursue China's development in the broader development of the world, and advance the interests of both the Chinese people and people the world over. By doing so, we will facilitate the move toward a brighter future of peace, security, prosperity and progress in the world.

## V

It was pointed out at the Conference that in view of the series of major issues and challenges facing the world today, China calls for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. These two major propositions are highly relevant to the issues of the day and provide strategic guidance. They will generate more favorable conditions for world peace and development, and lay a more solid foundation for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

**Multipolarity is the general trend of the world today.** Great transformation is accelerating across the world. The international balance of power is undergoing profound realignment. The Global South is gaining a

stronger momentum, shaping the trajectory of the world history in a profound way. The overwhelming majority of the members of the international community, be they big or small, all stand for a multipolar world and reject the old path of bloc confrontation and zero-sum competition, still less a repeat of war and conflict. However, consensus is yet to emerge on how to advance the multipolar process in a drastically changing world, and in what way countries participate in and facilitate this process. Right at this historic juncture, China's proposition has charted the course forward for advancing a multipolar world.

The multipolar world China champions is one based on equality. It means all countries, regardless of their size, are treated as equals; hegemonism and power politics are rejected; international affairs are not dominated by only a handful of countries; and democracy is truly promoted in international relations. Each and every country or country group should have its place in the multipolar system, and the conventional myth that multipolarity is the monopoly of a few big powers should be debunked. The multipolar world China champions is one based on order. It means that the progress toward greater multipolarity should be generally stable and constructive. It should be a historical process in which countries choose solidarity over division, communication over confrontation, and cooperation over conflict. If all countries can observe the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, uphold the universally recognized basic norms governing international relations, and practice true multilateralism, multipolarity will not lead to turbulence or disorder.

**Economic globalization is an inherent requirement of developing productive forces, a natural result of scientific and technological advancement, a sure path to human progress and more importantly, an irreversible trend of the times.** Since the end of the Cold War, economic globalization has enabled thriving trade, easy investment, greater flow of people and technological advancement, underpinning the rapid development of the world economy.

However, recent years have seen notable prevalence of various forms of protectionist measures and disturbing attempts to shift blames onto others to deflect attention from one's domestic problems. Facts have proven that the beggar-thy-neighbor approach to roll back globalization will not solve one's own deep-seated problems; it will only disrupt the global industrial and supply chains, hamper the healthy development of the world economy, and undermine the interests of all countries.

The economic globalization China advocates is one that is universally beneficial. It means meeting the common needs of all countries, especially the developing countries, properly addressing the development imbalances between and within countries resulting from the global allocation of resources, and delivering balanced and adequate development. This will help foster a globalization process that enables faster development of all countries, especially the developing countries, and realize universal benefit and common prosperity. The economic globalization China advocates is one that is inclusive. It means supporting all countries in pursuing development paths suited to their respective national realities while joining hands to promote the common development of the entire humanity. All forms of unilateralism and protectionism should be opposed, and all attempts to impose discriminatory or exclusionary standards and rules should be rejected. Trade and investment liberalization and facilitation should be promoted, global industrial and supply chains should be kept stable and unimpeded, and there should be mutual respect for the legitimate interests and reasonable concerns. This is the way to overcome the structural problems hindering the healthy development of the world economy and sustain the dynamism and momentum of global economic growth.

## VI

At the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs, it was made clear that in the current and upcoming periods, China's external work shall be guided by Xi Jinping Thought on

Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy in particular, and shall serve the goals and missions of Chinese modernization and follow the principles of self-confidence and self-reliance, openness and inclusiveness, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation, with a view to breaking new ground in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and making new contribution to the development and progress of humanity. These principles, by drawing on the diplomatic theory and practice since the founding of the People's Republic of China seven decades ago and especially since the start of the new era, encapsulate our Party's summary of the guidelines for major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

**The principle of self-confidence and self-reliance underscores the imperative to strengthen our confidence in our path, theory, system and culture, have firm conviction in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and stay committed to the ideal of building a community with a shared future for mankind.** We must develop our country and nation with our own strength, deal with China's issues in light of the Chinese context, and build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through the Chinese path to modernization. We must firmly uphold our independent foreign policy of peace, stay true to the belief that peace and development represent the unstoppable trend of our times, and unswervingly pursue the new path of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. The principle of self-confidence and self-reliance is an important element of the worldview and methodology of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era. It represents the inherent character of Chinese communists and serves as the basis for further innovation in China's diplomatic theory and practice.

**The principle of openness and inclusiveness underscores the imperative to take into account both domestic and international dynamics,**

uphold the basic state policy of opening to the outside world, take proactive measures for opening up, contribute to building an open global economy, and deliver more benefits to the people of China and across the world. Countries' independent choice of their development paths as well as the diversity of civilizations in the world must be respected. It is important to refrain from imposing one's own values and model on others or engaging in ideological confrontation, and let intercivilization exchanges and mutual learning become a driving force for the progress of human society. Such is a path that must be taken to promote greater democracy in international relations and a crucial premise for achieving common development of all countries. Openness and inclusiveness are deep-rooted qualities of the Chinese civilization. We should consistently champion mutual respect, mutual tolerance and equality among countries.

**The principle of fairness and justice underscores the imperative to always determine our position and policy based on the merits of the issue in question when handling international affairs, abide by the basic norms of international relations, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of all countries, especially developing countries.** We should call on all countries to pursue the new path of state-to-state relations that favors dialogue and partnership over confrontation and alliance, resolve differences and disputes through dialogue and cooperation, and oppose all hegemonic, high-handed and bullying acts, the Cold War mentality and attempts to stoke division and confrontation. Upholding fairness and justice has been a fine tradition and unwavering commitment of Chinese diplomacy. From putting forth the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence with neighboring countries in Asia over 70 years ago to actively advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind in the new era, we have taken concrete actions to contribute our strength in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.

**The principle of win-win cooperation underscores the imperative to actively pursue converging interests, leverage respective strengths, carry out mutually beneficial cooperation and enable each other's success.** Like passengers in the same boat, countries need to join hands in addressing global challenges. It is important to reinforce coordination on macro economic policies and create a favorable global environment for development. Countries should plan together, build together and benefit together, and steer the reform of the global governance system in the right direction. Win-win cooperation is a core principle in fostering a new type of international relations. Amid global changes, no country can stay unaffected, and a "winner-takes-all" approach is at best untenable. We must take the right path of promoting solidarity and cooperation.

## VII

The Conference has drawn up the blueprint for China's external work for the present and coming periods. All of us engaged in foreign-related work must keenly study the important address by General Secretary Xi Jinping, implement its guiding principles, and remain guided by the principles in our thinking and actions.

**We should enhance our political stance.** Our work must always be guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. We should appreciate the decisive significance of the "Two Establishings", namely, establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era. We should deliver on the "Two Upholds", namely, to uphold Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole, and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership. We must maintain a high degree of unity with the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, and improve the capacity for political judgement, thinking

and implementation. We must have a deep understanding of the spiritual essence, core tenets and latest enrichment of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, and make efforts to translate them into concrete actions. With a more proactive sense of historical responsibility and a more vibrant spirit of innovation, we will usher in new prospects of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

**We should focus on the defining theme of our work.** We must hold high the banner of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and continuously add new substance to the theory and practice related to diplomacy. It is crucial to communicate the scientific system of building a community with a shared future for mankind, to further build consensus and to unite the vast majority of the international community. Guided by the top-level design of China's diplomatic strategy on the new journey, we should put the GDI, GSI and GCI into action and add more substance, promote the building of a new type of international relations, pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, champion an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and contribute greater positive energy to the reform and development of the global governance system.

**We should work on planning and implementation.** We must shoulder our due responsibilities for China's diplomatic work on the new journey and better serve the central tasks of the Party and the country. We will explore new approaches and measures in carrying out external work, bearing in mind the priorities in China's modernization drive and the important agenda of the international community in the coming few years. Committed to the principles of self-confidence and self-reliance, openness and inclusiveness, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation, we will improve the diplomatic layout in keeping with the times, focus on the major issues, follow a problem-oriented approach, and apply a systematic way of

thinking to ensure solid implementation of the priority tasks laid out in the strategic planning for diplomacy.

**We should uphold fundamental principles and break new ground.** Promoting innovation and improvement in such areas as the thinking, systems and capacity of China's diplomacy is an essential requirement of the new era and the new journey, one that will enable us to navigate global changes and underpin Chinese modernization. We must commit ourselves to openness, draw on the lessons in the evolution of other countries' diplomacy, deepen understanding of the law of the development of international relations, and make our external work more science-based, forward-looking, proactive and innovative. It is important to strengthen the intellectual and theoretical competence of the foreign service, deepen reform of systems and institutions, carry forward the fine tradition of China's diplomacy, and advance the building of a stronger contingent of personnel involved in foreign affairs, a diplomatic service that is loyal to the Party, lives up to its responsibilities, is ready and able to defend China's interests, and acts in strict compliance with disciplines.

**We should make full use of our institutional strength.** The key to major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics lies in committing to and strengthening Party leadership. We must unwaveringly uphold the CPC central leadership's ultimate authority over foreign affairs, and conscientiously uphold the centralized, unified leadership of the Party Central Committee. We should act in line with the guidelines on the CPC's leadership over foreign affairs, and strengthen the systems and institutions that ensure such leadership. All localities and departments should bear in mind the big picture, work in coordination and collaboration, faithfully implement the decisions and plans on external work made by the Party Central Committee, and deliver on the outcomes of the Conference by better fulfilling our duties and responsibilities.

# WEF 2024: Premier Li Unveils 5-Point Proposal for Rebuilding Trust, Economic Recovery

**In his address at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 on January 16, 2024, Chinese Premier Li Qiang shared a five-point proposal on rebuilding trust, enhancing cooperation and promoting world economic recovery.**



**O**n the morning of January 16 local time, Premier of the State Council Li Qiang attended the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 at the Davos Congress Center and delivered a special address. Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab chaired the meeting.

Li Qiang noted that the theme of this meeting, “Rebuilding Trust,” echoes well with people’s concerns. Trust comes from our shared

aspiration for a better future for humanity and from our common will to work together for that vision. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. Yet the overall direction of human development and progress will not change, the overall dynamics of world history moving forward amid twists and turns will not change, and the overall trend toward a shared future for the international community will not change. It is essential that we discard prejudice, bridge differences, treat each other with sincerity and work as one in the same direction to tackle the trust deficit.

Li Qiang shared a five-point proposal on rebuilding trust, enhancing cooperation and promoting world economic recovery. First, strengthening macroeconomic policy coordination and firmly upholding the multilateral trading system to build greater synergy for global growth. Second, strengthening global industrial specialization and collaboration and firmly advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation to keep global industrial and supply chains stable and smooth. Third, strengthening international exchanges and cooperation on science and

technology, working together for an open, just and nondiscriminatory environment for the development of science and technology, and breaking the barriers impeding the flow of factors of innovation. Fourth, strengthening cooperation on green development, removing various barriers in this field, jointly working for a transition to green development, and upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, so as to actively tackle climate change. Fifth, strengthening North-South and South-South cooperation, fully implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and bridging development gaps, so as to build a universally beneficial and inclusive world economy.

**Li Qiang noted that the theme of this meeting, "Rebuilding Trust," echoes well with people's concerns. Trust comes from our shared aspiration for a better future for humanity and from our common will to work together for that vision.**

Li Qiang stressed that China is a country that attaches great importance to commitments, honoring its words with concrete actions all along. With greatest sincerity, utmost efforts and concrete results, China has proven consistently to the world that it is a country worthy of trust. Over recent years, China has been an important engine of global development. We are now advancing Chinese modernization on all fronts through high-quality development. China has established sound and solid fundamentals in terms of the industrial base, production factors and innovation capacity. The overall trend of long-term growth will not change. It will provide continuous and strong impetus to the development of the world. China has a supersize market with rapidly unlocked demand. China is also cultivating large-scale new growth drivers in areas such as a new type of urbanization and green transition. It will provide broader space for boosting global

trade and investment. No matter how the world changes, China will stay committed to the fundamental national policy of opening up and open its door still wider to the world. Choosing the Chinese market is not a risk, but an opportunity. We embrace investments from businesses of all countries with open arms, and will steadily expand institutional opening up, continue to shorten the negative list for foreign investment, provide national treatment for foreign businesses, and keep fostering a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment.

After the address, Li Qiang answered questions from Klaus Schwab on topics including AI governance and the multilateral system. He stressed that we must be people-centered, inclusive and bring benefit for all, work for good AI with good governance, and guide AI in a direction that is conducive to the progress of human civilization; true multilateralism should be built on basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, China neither walks away from agreements or pulls out of organizations, nor do we ask other countries to pick sides, and we have always been a staunch supporter of multilateralism.

President of the Swiss Confederation Viola Amherd, President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam, King of Belgium Philippe, President of Rwanda Paul Kagame, President of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Prime Minister of Luxembourg Luc Frieden, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, WIPO Director General Daren Tang and about 1,500 political figures and representatives from the business community, academia and media organizations of various countries attended the event.

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**Speech by Chinese premier Li Qiang at the opening ceremony of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024**



# Premier Li Assures A More Open China, World-Class Business Environment



**Premier Li Qiang of the State Council attended the opening ceremony of the China Development Forum 2024 on March 24, 2024, in Beijing, and delivered a keynote speech, which focused on strong resilience and great potential of China's economy.**

**O**n March 24, 2024, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council attended the opening ceremony of the China Development Forum 2024 in Beijing, and delivered a keynote speech.

Li Qiang said that the theme of this year's Forum, "The Continuous Development of China", is not only an objective description of China's economic development for a long time, but also fully reflects the attention and expectations of all sectors for the steady, sustained and high-quality development of

China's economy. Over the past year, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, China, by withstanding external pressures and overcoming internal difficulties, successfully accomplished its main targets and tasks for economic and social development in 2023. The economy has continued to consolidate and strengthen its upward trend, and new industries, new models and new driving forces are growing rapidly and becoming stronger. China's economy has strong resilience, great

potential and enough vitality, while the fundamentals of its long-term sound growth remain unchanged.

Li Qiang pointed out that enterprises are participants, contributors, witnesses and beneficiaries of the sustained development of China's economy. The Chinese side has always regarded respect for the market and services for enterprises as an important foothold in planning economic work and an important focus for implementing economic policies, and has always been an advocate and a good companion on the development and growth path of enterprises. In particular, since last year, the Chinese side has further improved and optimized services and established a regular communication and exchange mechanism with enterprises, earnestly responded to and addressed the concerns of enterprises, and actively built institutional mechanisms that better integrate effective markets with proactive governments. He expressed confidence that the mutual trust and two-way efforts between the government and enterprises will definitely converge into a strong synergy of working together for development and win-win outcomes.

Li Qiang noted that the international situation is now undergoing profound changes, and the world economic development is facing many severe challenges. China will take practical and effective actions to promote high-quality development and inject more certainty and positive energy into the recovery and stable development of the world economy. He said the Chinese side will intensify macro-policy adjustments and strengthen policy coordination and cooperation to ensure concerted efforts and form a synergy. The Chinese side will focus on expanding domestic demand, further promote the building of a unified national market, vigorously promote a new type of people-centered urbanization, and advance large-scale equipment renewal and trade-ins of durable consumer goods. The Chinese side will speed up the establishment of a modern industrial system, adhere to advancing industrial innovation through scientific

and technological innovation, promote the upgrading of traditional industries, the growth of emerging industries and the cultivation of future industries in a coordinated manner, and accelerate the development of new quality productive forces. The Chinese side will continue to promote green transformation, and stay firmly committed to the path that prioritizes eco-environmental conservation and green development. The Chinese side will properly address both symptoms and root causes of challenges to prevent and defuse various risks and hidden dangers, and promote the long-term, continuous and sound development of China's economy.

Li Qiang said that China's economy has been deeply integrated with the world economy today. He said that the Chinese side will continue to foster a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based and internationalized, further deepen reforms in key areas and crucial links, focus on improving the efficiency of government services, protect the legitimate rights and interests of all types of enterprises in accordance with the law, steadily advance institutional opening up, and continuously connect with the world at a higher level of openness. A more open China will surely bring more opportunities for win-win cooperation to the world. The Chinese side is willing to share with the world the great opportunities of China's sustained development and work with all parties to create a bright future of common development.

Wu Zhenglong attended the opening ceremony.

This year's Forum is hosted by the Development Research Centre of the State Council. Nearly 400 people, including President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, as well as domestic and foreign experts and scholars, entrepreneurs, government officials and representatives from international organizations, attended the opening ceremony.



# China's Top Diplomat Presents Diplomatic Goals For 2024

Presenting China's diplomatic work for 2024, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed that China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, and strive for achieving high-quality development.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses the symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2023 in Beijing on January 9, 2024.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on January 9 presented China's diplomatic work for 2024, saying that China will always be confident and self-reliant, and fulfill its duties as a responsible major country.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China

Central Committee, made the remarks when addressing a symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2023.

Wang said China will give full play to the strategic leading role of head-of-state diplomacy and make every effort to ensure the success of events including the Forum on

China-Africa Cooperation, the Boao Forum for Asia, the China International Import Expo and the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development.

China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, and strive for a favorable external environment for building a new development pattern and achieving high-quality development, Wang said, adding that it will firmly assume its responsibilities on major issues concerning the unity, cooperation and legitimate rights of developing countries and major issues concerning the future and destiny of mankind and the direction of world development.

Wang said China will remain committed to openness and inclusiveness and strengthen and expand the network of global partnerships.

Specifically, Wang said China will implement the consensus reached by the two heads of states of China and the United States in San Francisco, and deepen strategic mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Russia to consolidate their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era.

China will increase high-level exchanges and strategic communication with the EU to promote the steady and sustained growth of their relations. The country will continue to increase friendship, mutual trust and convergence of interests with its neighbors, work hand in hand with other developing countries, unite with the BRICS countries, and promote the building of a new type of international relations, he said.

China will also actively implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the common values of mankind, promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and advance mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries.

Wang said China will always uphold fairness and justice, advocate the building of an equal and orderly multi-polar world, practice genuine multilateralism, promote democracy in international relations, and uphold the equality of all countries.

Calling on all countries to jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, safeguard the universally recognized basic norms governing international relations, and participate in the reform and construction of the global governance system, Wang said China will fully implement the Global Security Initiative, uphold fairness and justice, actively promote peace talks, take a constructive part in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Ukraine crisis and other global and regional hotspots, and provide more public goods conducive to world peace and development.

Wang said China will continue to pursue win-win cooperation and actively promote inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, pledging to firmly oppose all forms of unilateralism, protectionism and anti-globalization, continue to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, strive to solve structural problems hindering the sound development of the world economy, and maintain the stability and smoothness of global industrial chains and supply chains.

China will promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, increase its input on global development cooperation, help developing countries improve their capacity for independent development, make globalization more open, inclusive, beneficial to all and balanced.

It will also fully implement the outcomes of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, upgrade the quality of cooperation, expand cooperation areas, and continue to provide new opportunities for the world with China's new development, he said.

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**QR code of full text of speech by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi titled Self-Confidence and Self-Reliance, Openness and Inclusiveness, Fairness and Justice, and Win-Win Cooperation**



# China Stands Firm as Stabilizing Force in Turbulent World: Top Diplomat

**In his keynote speech at the Munich Security Conference in February, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined that no matter how the international situation changes, China as a responsible major country will always maintain the continuity and stability of its major policies and will be a force for stability in a turbulent world.**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivered a keynote speech entitled “Firmly acting as a force for stability in a turbulent world” during the “China in the World” session at the ongoing Munich Security Conference here on February 17.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central

Committee, said the world is full of turbulence and mankind face multiple challenges. Protectionism and pan-security have impacted the world economy, while unilateralism and bloc politics have dealt a heavy blow to the international system, he noted.

The Ukraine crisis has dragged on and intensified, and conflicts in the Middle East



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, delivered a keynote speech entitled “Firmly acting as a force for stability in a turbulent world” during the “China in the World” session at the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany on February 17, 2024.

have flared up again, Wang said, adding that new challenges have emerged one after another, such as artificial intelligence, climate change and polar regions in space.

However, no matter how the international situation changes, China as a responsible major country will always maintain the continuity and stability of its major policies and stay committed to being a force for stability in a turbulent world, he stressed.

Firstly, China will be a force for stability in pushing for cooperation among major countries, Wang said.

China will work with the United States to implement the common understandings reached by their heads of state and push China-U.S. relations forward on the right path of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, he said.

**The Ukraine crisis has dragged on and intensified, and conflicts in the Middle East have flared up again, Wang said, adding that new challenges have emerged one after another, such as artificial intelligence, climate change and polar regions in space.**

China will push for the stable development of relations with Russia and promote strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large, meanwhile adhere to China-EU partnership and inject positive energy into endeavors addressing turbulence, he added.

Secondly, China will be a force for stability in dealing with hotspot issues, Wang said.

China acts on the Global Security Initiative and is committed to following a Chinese approach to resolve hotspot issues, Wang said.

He stressed that China insists on non-interference in other countries' internal affairs and stands against imposing one's own view on others. It adheres to fair and objective approaches instead of seeking selfish gains, to political settlements instead of the use of forces, and to addressing both the symptoms and root causes, he said.

Thirdly, China will be a force for stability in enhancing global governance, Wang said.

He said China supports the United Nations' authority and core status, as well as the Security Council's primary role in peace and security issues.

**China will be a force for stability in dealing with hotspot issues, Wang said. China acts on the Global Security Initiative and is committed to following a Chinese approach to resolve hotspot issues, Wang said.**

China has been strengthening solidarity and cooperation in the Global South and striving to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in global affairs, Wang added.

China has also been providing the world with more public goods and making its own contribution to tackling global challenges, Wang said.

Fourthly, China will be a force for stability in promoting global growth, he said.

China's economy has been vibrant and resilient, Wang said, noting that its long-term positive momentum has become more obvious. In the future, the Chinese economy will deliver even greater benefits to the world, he stressed.

China has been prioritizing its modernization efforts, he said, emphasizing that China is willing to work with all parties to promote globalization in a manner that is more universally beneficial and inclusive, ultimately benefiting more countries and people.

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**QR code of full text of remarks by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the 60th Munich Security Conference Conversation with China titled A Staunch Force for Stability in a Turbulent World**



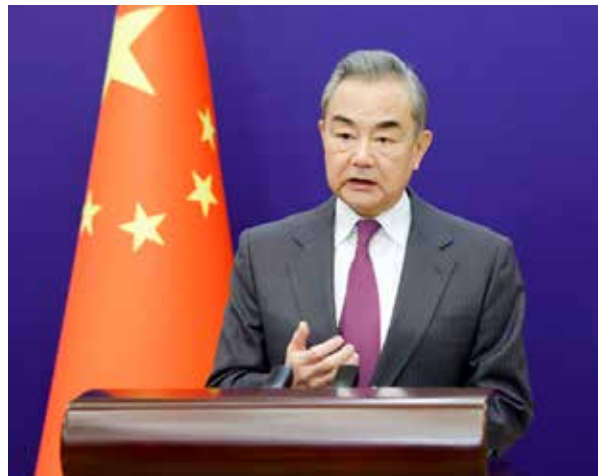
# Consensus, Solidarity and Cooperation Working Together to Promote the Healthy Development of the Global Human Rights Cause

In his remarks at the High-level Segment of the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on February 26, 2024, Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, underlined that as a responsible major country, China plays an active part in global human rights governance.

**M**r. President,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Protecting and promoting human rights is a common cause for all humanity. At the moment, the world is becoming more turbulent, crises and conflicts keep flaring up, and deficit in global human rights governance is widening. The ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict has cost the lives of nearly 30,000 civilians, and left close to two million people displaced. The situation is indeed saddening. It falls upon the entire international community to protect the human rights of all ethnic groups and all people in a fair, equal and effective way.

**We must put people first.** Safeguarding people's interests must be the basis and goal of the human rights cause. People's right to survival and development should be protected as a priority and pursued with a greater sense of urgency.

**We must uphold fairness and justice,** stand against the attempts to use human rights as a pretext to interfere with other countries' internal affairs or curb others' development,



oppose acts of hegemonism and power politics, and reject the practice of double standards.

**We must stay open and inclusive,** respect the diversity of world civilizations, and respect all countries' right to independently choose their paths to human rights development. Countries should not impose their own values or development models on others, still less creating small blocs and aligning against those with different views.

**We must pursue cooperation that benefits all.** Consensus should be built through dialogue, and mutual learning enhanced through exchanges. Human rights must be protected and promoted by ensuring security, advancing development and enhancing cooperation. Emerging issues, such as the relationship between artificial intelligence and human rights, must be properly handled.

**Human rights must be protected and promoted by ensuring security, advancing development and enhancing cooperation. Emerging issues, such as the relationship between artificial intelligence and human rights, must be properly handled.**

I would like to stress here that human rights bodies in the United Nations should carry out their work in a fair and objective manner, follow a non-selective and non-politicized approach, and place equal emphasis on all types of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights. Multilateral human rights bodies should serve as platforms for constructive engagement and cooperation for all sides, rather than a battleground for group politics or bloc confrontation.

Mr. President,

The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have all along endeavored to deliver a better life for the Chinese people and advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. We have made substantive progress in advancing China's human rights cause, and found a path to human rights development that is in line with the trend of the times and consistent with our national conditions. We have eradicated absolute poverty once and for all, bringing moderate prosperity in all respects to the 1.4 billion-plus Chinese people. We have made sustained efforts to advance whole-process people's

democracy, providing more robust guarantee for ensuring our people's right to run the country. We have put in place the world's largest education, social security and health care systems, giving our people a greater sense of accomplishment, happiness and security.

China is home to 56 ethnic groups. People of different ethnicities and communities are equal in enjoying human rights. With a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, the 56 ethnic groups are sticking together like the seeds of a pomegranate.

As a responsible major country, China plays an active part in global human rights governance. We have contributed efforts to the conclusion of a series of important international conventions and declarations on human rights. The vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind represents a shared aspiration of people of all countries. It also injects strong impetus into human rights protection worldwide.

Mr. President,

Human rights protection is an ongoing process. There is always room for improvement. China is now working to deliver the fruits of modernization to its population in a more substantive and equitable way, and raising the level of human rights protection. As our future is closely tied to that of people around the world, we will actively champion the common values of humanity, and work with all sides to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and make new contributions to the healthy development of the global human rights cause.

**China is home to 56 ethnic groups. People of different ethnicities and communities are equal in enjoying human rights. With a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, the 56 ethnic groups are sticking together like the seeds of a pomegranate.**

# To Media: Adhere to the One-China Principle, Do Not Provide Platform for “Taiwan Independence” Forces

**Indian media should take a correct stance on issues of core interests concerning China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, adhere to the one-China principle, not to provide platform for “Taiwan independence” forces, and avoid sending wrong messages that are totally against basic common sense to mislead the public, said spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi.**

**T**he definition of the one-China principle is crystal clear, i.e., there is only one China in the world, Taiwan is part of China, and the government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. The one-China principle is an established international consensus and widely accepted basic norm in international relations. It constitutes part of the post-WWII world order and is affirmed in UNGA Resolution 2758. It is the political foundation for the establishment and development of diplomatic relations between China and countries in the world.

It is clearly stated in the official legal opinions of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat that “the United Nations considers ‘Taiwan’ as a province of China with no separate status”, and the “ ‘authorities’ in ‘Taipei’ are not considered to... enjoy any form of government status”. At the UN, the island is referred to as “Taiwan, Province of China”.

No matter how separatist forces distort facts and advocate “Taiwan independence”, they cannot change those historical and legal facts.

All countries that have diplomatic relations with China should firmly honor their commitments to the one-China principle, which is also Indian government’s official standing. What’s more, India was among the first countries to recognize that there is one China.

We urge the relevant Indian media to take a correct stance on issues of core interests concerning China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, adhere to the one-China principle, not to provide platform for “Taiwan independence” forces, and avoid sending wrong messages that are totally against basic common sense to mislead the public.

**The one-China principle is an established international consensus and widely accepted basic norm in international relations. It constitutes part of the post-WWII world order and is affirmed in UNGA Resolution 2758.**

# Taiwan's Status Undetermined? A Fallacy



Luo Zhaohui (2nd R), head of the China International Development Cooperation Agency, who participates in the reopening ceremony of the Chinese Embassy in Nauru as a representative of the Chinese government, and Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea (2nd L), unveil a plaque of the Chinese Embassy during the ceremony held in a hotel in Nauru, January 29, 2024.

**S**evering “diplomatic” ties with China’s Taiwan region, Nauru recently became the 183rd country to recognize the fact that the government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory.

In some corners, however, this indisputable fact continues to run into denialism. Laura Rosenberger, chair of the “American Institute in Taiwan,” told reporters she thought Nauru’s move was “unfortunate” and “disappointing.” “U.N. Resolution 2758 did not make a determination on the status of Taiwan, did not preclude any countries from having diplomatic relationships with Taiwan and did not preclude

Taiwan’s meaningful participation in the U.N. system,” she said.

Her smattering of international affairs is shocking.

In fact, Resolution 2758 definitively states that it “decides to restore all its rights to the People’s Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it.”

Would the U.N. have expelled the representatives of a sovereign state?



In addition to delivering an emphatic conclusion, Resolution 2758 also represents a process during which any ambiguity about Taiwan's status was removed. The minutes of debates leading to its adoption show that sponsors of the resolution urged UN General Assembly not to partition China's territory just because the Chiang Kai-shek clique was entrenched in Taiwan region, and regarded the draft resolution as "a question of credentials," i.e. who are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations, not about "admission of new Members to the United Nations."

When some tried to smuggle "dual representation" into the draft resolution, they were met with strong opposition. Their motions were considered "illegal and clearly inconsistent with current reality, justice and the principles of the U.N. Charter." With their votes for Resolution 2758, U.N. member states made it clear there are no "two Chinas," or "one China, one Taiwan."

Preceding Resolution 2758, the Cairo Declaration, and the Potsdam Proclamation, two milestone international legal instruments, also explicitly recognized Taiwan's status as an inalienable part of China. In 1943, the leaders of China, the United States, and Britain issued the Cairo Declaration, which stated that all territories Japan stole from the Chinese, such as Taiwan region, shall be restored to China. The Potsdam Declaration of 1945 affirmed that the terms of the Cairo Declaration would be carried out.

Today, 183 countries recognize the truth about Taiwan's status, including Rosenberger's own country the United States, which pledged to the one-China principle in its joint communiques with China. Over the years, consecutive U.S. administrations have stated the U.S. opposition to Taiwan's "independence."

In the course of its millennia-long history, China was more than once engulfed in internal conflict. Yet in each case the Chinese people

came together to reunify their country. It is a force not to be stopped by anyone or anything, and certainly not by a flimsy lie.

Yi Xin is a Beijing-based commentator on international affairs. The article reflects the author's opinions and not necessarily the views of CGTN.

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Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea at the reopening ceremony of the Chinese Embassy in Nauru held in a hotel in Nauru on January 29, 2024.

# China, India Hold the 29th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Border Affairs



On March 27, 2024, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Hong Liang and Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of Ministry of External Affairs of India Gourangalal Das co-chaired the 29th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on China-India Border Affairs in Beijing. Representatives from the foreign affairs, defense, immigration and other departments of the two countries attended the meeting.

Both sides positively evaluated the progress made in the management and control of the situation in the China-India border area, and had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the ideas of work for the next stage. The two sides agreed to focus on the relevant issues on the ground along the border, reach a solution acceptable to both sides as soon as possible, and promote the transition of the border situation into a normalized phase of control and management. Both sides agreed to continue to maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels,

improve the mechanism for negotiation and consultation, and hold a new round of corps commander-level talks at an early date. The two sides agreed to strictly abide by the agreements and guiding principles of the relevant common understandings reached between the two sides, avoid flare-ups in the situation on the ground, and continue to consolidate the previous disengagement outcomes, in a bid to safeguard peace and tranquility in the border area.

## China, India hold 21st round of Corps Commander Level Meeting

The 21st round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at the Moldo-Chushul border meeting point on the Chinese side on February 19. The two sides engaged in positive, in-depth and constructive communication on resolving the issues of each other's concern in the border areas. Both sides agreed to maintain communication through military and diplomatic channels under the guidance of the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and reach the mutually acceptable solution at an early date, so as to turn over a new leaf for the border situation. During this period, both sides agreed to maintain peace and tranquility in the China-India border areas.

# China Aims for A Quality Boost as its Economy Recovers

GUEST VIEW

## China aims for a quality boost as its economy recovers

MA JIA



Ma Jia, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in India.

The year 2023 marked the beginning of China's push to promote its modernization. It was also a year of economic recovery following three years of covid prevention and control. Towards the end of the year, we saw many discussions about China's economy. The annual Central Economic Work Conference held in Beijing on 11 and 12 December reviewed China's economic situation and decided 2024's priorities. It concluded that the fundamental trend of China's economic recovery and long-term positive outlook has not changed.

China's economic growth momentum remains strong. In the first three quarters of last year, China's gross domestic product (GDP) reached more than RMB9.3 trillion (about \$12.7 trillion), growing 5.2% year-on-year, which is among the highest for fast-growing economies. China will contribute a third of global economic growth in 2023. The International Monetary Fund raised China's growth estimate to 5.4% for 2023. JPMorgan Chase, UBS and Deutsche Bank

have also increased their estimates for the Chinese economy to above 5.4%. During the recent New Year holiday, 135 million domestic trips were made, up 9.4% on a comparable basis from the same period in 2019, and domestic tourism generated 5.6% higher revenue than it did in the same period of 2019. Market institutions widely expect that China can achieve its annual growth target of around 5%, which was set at the beginning of last year.

A shift from high-speed to high-quality growth has greatly improved the efficiency of development in China. In 2023, China's total automobile exports will rank first in the world. In the first three quarters, combined exports of new-energy vehicles, lithium ion batteries and photovoltaic products equaled more than \$10 billion, up more than 40% year-on-year. The total installed capacity of renewable energy has historically exceeded coal power. Key components of clean energy equipment such as photovoltaic modules and wind turbines account for 70% of the global share. The green industry's development has kept vigorous. China's self-developed large passenger aircraft, C919, is set to go into commercial operation and enter a new phase of development. Delivery of the first domestically-built large

cruise ship made China the fifth largest cruise ship builder in the world. All these indicate that China's economy has been transitioning from high-speed growth to high-quality development.

China remains attracting funds for global investment. China strives to foster a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment for global enterprises, and create as well as share development dividends with the world.

Since 2017, China has revised the negative list on foreign investment access for five consecutive years, making it shorter and shorter. Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the removal of all restrictive measures on foreign investment in manufacturing at the third Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit Forum in October. Actually, utilized foreign direct investment (FDI) in China increased by 5% to reach an annual record of \$289.1 billion in 2022. In the first three quarters of 2023, there have been year-on-year increases in

investment from France (21.7%), the UK (16.9%), Canada (10.9%), Switzerland (7.6%) and the Netherlands (2.4%), respectively. Data shows that foreign companies have not slowed down their deployment in China, but continue to add new investments and launch new projects, casting a vote of confidence in the Chinese economy.

**Its aim has shifted from high speed to high-quality development and is ready for renewed growth**

China's door to the outside world will only open wider. China is applying high standards to the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), while it works to align with the high-standard economic and trade rules of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and Digital Economy Partnership Agreement to advance the process of

according to those two agreements and expand a globally-oriented network of high-standard free-trade areas. Since the establishment of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone 10 years ago, China has set up 22 pilot FTZs.

Also, in 2023, IRE cooperation ushered in its second "Golden Decade". The sixth China International Import Expo and the first China International Supply Chain Expo were successfully held. China is taking more proactive and promising actions to build a broader agenda of opening up its economy across revenues and in greater depth.

In 2024, China aims to apply its new development philosophy in all fronts, speed up the building of a new development paradigm, promote high-quality development, and continue to harness its strong innovation capacity, huge market, sound infrastructure, complete industrial chains and high-quality human resources. China will expand high level opening up, further ease market access, and share with the rest of the world new opportunities created by Chinese modernization.

China is a source of certainty and positive energy in a world full of economic uncertainties. It complements the outstanding performance of India's economy, creating an eye-catching scenario in the East. China and India can give countries around the world new opportunities and the world economy a stronger impetus by cooperating with each other while maintaining rapid economic growth.

On January 10th, 2024, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia published an article entitled "China aims for a quality boost as its economy recovers" in The Mint. The full text is as follows:

The year 2023 marked the beginning of China's push to promote its modernization. It was also a year of economic recovery following three years of covid prevention and control. Towards the end of the year, we saw many discussions about China's economy. The annual Central Economic Work Conference held in Beijing on 11 and 12 December reviewed China's economic situation and decided 2024's priorities. It concluded that the fundamental trend of China's economic recovery and long-term positive outlook has not changed.

China's economic growth momentum remains strong: In the first three quarters of last year, China's gross domestic product

(GDP) reached more than RMB 91.3 trillion (about \$12.7 trillion), growing 5.2% year-on-year, which is among the highest for fast-growing economies. China will contribute a third of global economic growth in 2023. The International Monetary Fund raised China's growth estimate to 5.4% for 2023. JPMorgan Chase, UBS and Deutsche Bank have also increased their estimates for the Chinese economy to above 5.4%. During the recent New Year holiday, 135 million domestic trips were made, up 9.4% on a comparable basis from the same period in 2019; and domestic tourism generated 5.6% higher revenue than it did in the same period of 2019. Market institutions widely expect that China can achieve its annual growth target of around 5%, which was set at the beginning of last year.

A shift from high-speed to high-quality growth has greatly improved the efficiency of development in China: In 2023, China's total

automobile exports will rank first in the world. In the first three quarters, combined exports of new-energy vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products equalled more than \$110 billion, up more than 40% year-on-year. The total installed capacity of renewable energy has historically exceeded coal power. Key components of clean energy equipment such as photovoltaic modules and wind turbines account for 70% of the global share. The green industry's development has leapfrogged. China's self-developed large passenger aircraft, C919, is set to go into commercial operation and enter a new phase of development. Delivery of the first domestically-built large cruise ship made China the fifth largest cruise ship builder in the world. All these indicate that China's economy has been transitioning from high-speed growth to high-quality development.

China remains a promising land for global investment: China strives to foster a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment for global enterprises, and create as well as share development dividends with the world.

Since 2017, China has revised the negative list on foreign investment access for five consecutive years, making it shorter and shorter. Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the removal of all restrictive measures on foreign investment in manufacturing at the third Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit Forum in October. Actually-utilized foreign direct investment (FDI) in China increased by 5% to reach an annual record of \$189.1 billion in 2022. In the first three quarters of 2023, there have been year-on-year increases in investment from France (121.7%), the UK (116.9%), Canada (109.2%), Switzerland (76.9%) and the Netherlands (32.6%), respectively. Data shows that foreign companies have not slowed down their deployment in China, but continue to add new investments and launch new projects, casting a vote of confidence in the Chinese economy.

China's door to the outside world will only open wider: China is applying high standards to its implementation of the Regional

Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), while it works to align with the high-standard economic and trade rules of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and Digital Economy Partnership Agreement to advance the process of acceding to these two agreements and expand a globally-oriented network of high-standard free-trade areas. Since the establishment of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone 10 years ago, China has set up 22 pilot FTZs.

Also, in 2023, BRI cooperation ushered in its second "Golden Decade". The sixth China International Import Expo and the first China International Supply Chain Expo were successfully held. China is taking more proactive and promising actions to build a broader agenda of opening up its economy across more areas and in greater depth.

In 2024, China aims to apply its new development philosophy on all fronts, speed up the building of a new development paradigm, promote high-quality development, and continue to harness its strong innovation capacity, huge market, sound infrastructure, complete industrial chains and high-quality human resources. China will expand high-level opening up, further ease market access, and share with the rest of the world new opportunities created by Chinese modernization.

**China will expand high-level opening up, further ease market access, and share with the rest of the world new opportunities created by Chinese modernization.**

China is a source of certainty and positive energy in a world battling economic uncertainties. It complements the outstanding performance of India's economy, creating an eye-catching scenario in the East. China and India can give countries around the world new opportunities and the world economy a stronger impetus by cooperating with each other while maintaining rapid economic growth.

# Usher in a Bright Future of Peace, Security, Prosperity and Progress for Our World

Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia  
Published an Article in The Diplomatist

**M**s. Ma Jia, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India, published an article entitled “Usher in a Bright Future of Peace, Security, Prosperity and Progress for Our World” in the January issue of The Diplomatist. The full text is as follows:

With the crisis in Ukraine continuing unabated as new conflicts flare up in the Middle East, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. On 27-28 December 2023, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs was held in Beijing, outlining China’s future foreign work, contributing China’s wisdom and solutions to problems that the world is facing.

## One Theme

Entering into the 21st century, the global village is getting smaller and the planet is becoming flat. Human interests are intertwined with each other, and our future is shared by all. At a crossroads in history, we have to choose between unity and division, between opening up and closing off, between cooperation and confrontation.

The only right choice is to build a community with a shared future for mankind, a vision that represents the greatest synergy among all nations and their popular calls for peace, development and stability. All civilizations around the world have manifestations of the concept of a global community of shared



future, just as the motto of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” in ancient Indian literature.

The goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind is to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity. The pathway is to promote global governance that features extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit. The guiding principle is to apply the common values of humanity, the basic underpinning lies in building a new type of international relations. The strategic guidance comes from the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and the platform for action is high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Over a decade years, this theme of building a community with a shared future

for mankind has developed from a Chinese initiative to an international consensus, from a promising vision to substantive actions.

## Two “calling for”

At present, a significant shift is taking place in the international balance of power, meanwhile, the Global South continues to grow and develop. Trends of multi-polarization and economic globalization have become irreversible. In recent years, facing the situation that certain countries keep instigating divisions and confrontations, sticking to bloc politics and zero-sum games, and with the rise of protectionism and transfer of domestic difficulties or even conflicts abroad, the international community has become more vigilant about repeating mistakes of history, more worried about negative consequences, and thus more against unilateralism and power politics, unwilling to allow disruption on global industrial and supply chains.

Facing these major challenges, China is calling for an equal and orderly multi-polar world, and calling for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation.

An equal and orderly multi-polar world is the one in which all countries, regardless of size, are treated as equals, hegemonism and power politics are rejected, and democracy is truly promoted in international relations.

To keep the progress toward greater multipolarity generally stable and constructive, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter must be observed by all, the universally recognised basic norms governing international relations must be upheld, and true multilateralism must be practiced.

A universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation is the one that meets the common needs of all countries, especially the developing countries, and properly addresses the development imbalances between and within countries resulting from the global allocation of resources.

To achieve this, we should resolutely oppose the attempt to roll back globalisation and abuse the concept of security, oppose all forms

of unilateralism and protectionism, firmly promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, overcome the structural problems hindering the healthy development of the world economy, and make economic globalisation more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

## Three “unchanged”

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” If focusing only on the dark side, we could see hegemonistic practices still prevail with the powerful bent on pushing a zero-sum agenda to bully and exploit the weak and vulnerable, and deficits in peace, development, security and governance keep expanding.

Yet we need also be clear on the bright side. That is, the historical trends of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit are unstoppable, as well as the will of the people and the general trends of our day will eventually lead to a bright future for humanity.

In China’s judgement, we firmly believe that the overall direction of human development and progress will not change, the overall dynamics of world history moving forward amid twists and turns will not change, and the overall trend toward a shared future for the international community will not change.

China and India are neighbours. Being ancient civilisations, the largest developing countries and emerging market economies with a population of over one billion, both of the two are now at a crucial stage of development and revitalisation. China and India share common visions for the future of mankind, and have been playing increasingly important roles in maintaining global stability and promoting common development.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence jointly advocated by China and India. Standing at a new historic point, the two countries could once again offer oriental wisdom hand in hand, shoulder responsibility as major countries, carry forward the spirit of independence, and jointly help the world usher in a bright future of peace, security, prosperity and progress.

# Remarks by Ma Jia, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India at the Chinese New Year Carnival

**D**istinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Good evening and Namaste!

The Chinese new year of the Dragon will fall in three days. It gives me great pleasure to celebrate this most important traditional Chinese festival with our old and new friends here. In Chinese culture, dragon symbolizes auspiciousness, wisdom and strength. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous year of the Dragon.

Over the past year, Chinese modernization has made great progress. China’s economic performance was impressive in 2023, with a GDP growth rate of 5.2%. China has contributed to more than 30 percent of global growth for over 10 consecutive years. The living standard of Chinese people has reached a new level. The ecological environment continues to improve. The tourist destinations are full of visitors on holidays. The Chengdu World University Games and the Hangzhou Asian Games were spectacular, and I would congratulate India for its best-ever performance in the Asian Games.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. We will stay committed to advancing Chinese modernization through high-quality



development, providing strong impetus for the economic development of China and the world, and delivering a better life for the people. We will stay committed to the policy of opening-up, give full play to the advantage of a huge domestic market, and create favorable conditions for the world to share China’s opportunities.

Over the past year, China has promoted world peace and development. In a world of instability and transformation, China has shouldered the responsibilities, and pushed forward the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. We worked hard for the cessation of hostilities and for peace talks in the Ukraine crisis, made unremitting efforts for the de-escalation of the Palestinian-

Israeli conflict, played a constructive role in addressing hotspot issues such as Afghanistan and Myanmar, and contributed to addressing global challenges.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, or “Panchsheel”. These Principles, jointly advocated by China and India, have already become a basic norm governing international relations. In 2024, we hope conflicts and wars will be brought to an end, displaced people return to their home at an early date, and international justice and fairness will be truly upheld. We look forward to an early realization of an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Over the past year, China-India relations have shown a positive momentum of improvement. The two sides maintained high-level communications and interactions. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi reached important consensus on stabilizing bilateral ties. China supported India’s presidency of both G20 and SCO. Bilateral trade volume reached 136.2 billion US dollars last year, with a year-on-year growth of 1.5%. India’s exports to China also increased by 6% last year.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore Ji’s visit to China. 100 years ago, Tagore Ji was warmly received in China, and said “My heart stays” upon leaving China. Today we should further enhance heart-to-heart communication and carry forward Tagore Ji’s legacy for China-India friendship. As the spring comes, we hope the window for communications gets bigger, the platform of practical cooperation becomes larger, the bridge for people-to-people exchanges will be rebuilt, and the two peoples can invest in and travel to each other’s country freely and conveniently.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Spring Festival was recognized as a UN holiday last December, and the Chinese New



Nobel Laureate and poet Rabindranath Tagore with Chinese painter Xu Beihong in Santiniketan, a centre for art, in West Bengal.

Year is celebrated around the world. Tonight, we present you with cultural performances, games and Chinese delicacies. You can also learn how to make dumplings, which is essential for the Chinese New Year Eve Dinner. We hope everyone will taste the flavor of spring and a fresh start of the new year, feel the warmth of family, and enjoy a happy and auspicious night together with us.

**Over the past year, China-India relations have shown a positive momentum of improvement. The two sides maintained high-level communications and interactions. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi reached important consensus on stabilizing bilateral ties.**

To conclude, let’s make wishes together. May China enjoy greater prosperity and the Chinese people live in happiness in the new year. May China-India friendship last forever and bilateral relations improve steadily. Wish you and your family good health and happiness.

Thank you! Dhanyabad!



# Address by Ma Jia, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Chinese Embassy in India At the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women’s Summit & Felicitations 2024



Vice Chairman Ashok Singh,  
Vice Chairman Sameep Shastri,  
Director General BBL Madhukar,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Namaste and good morning.

It’s my great pleasure to attend the BRICS CCI Annual Women’s Summit and Felicitations 2024 on International Women’s Day. Happy Women’s Day to all ladies. Warm congratulations to every recipient of felicitations.

As creators of human civilization and drivers of social progress, women make extraordinary achievements. With the theme of ‘The Changing Narrative: Women Development to Women-Led Development’, this summit captures new trends of our time and applauds women’s achievements, reflecting the importance of women in national and social development. There’s

one well-known quote from an Indian movie, ‘woman strong, mother strong, sister strong, then country strong’. That’s perfectly right.

Our world is witnessing enormous changes with mounting conflicts and challenges. But peace, development and win-win cooperation are shared aspiration for all. Women account for half of the world population. Women’s status is a significant mark of social progress. Ensuring women’s rights is protecting dignity and human rights. Supporting women to realize their dreams and play leading roles are inherent goals of building a global community of shared future. China is a force for peace, stability and progress of the world. We are committed to national development and rejuvenation through Chinese modernization. We actively implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. We strive to enhance global solidarity and cooperation, address challenges and crises, and promote world peace and development. Chinese women play a prominent role in this great cause.

–China achieves visible outcomes in women’s development. China pursues the policy of gender equality and protects women’s rights and interests. China’s reform and development create greater opportunities for women. In China, women make up over 40% of the employed population, and represent over 50% of undergraduate and postgraduate students in higher education.

Among the founders of major e-commerce companies, more than 40% are women. From political affairs to business operations, from diplomatic stage to peacekeeping missions, from the world of art to space exploration, from Olympic gold medalist to Nobel Prize laureate, Chinese women's confidence and excellence reshape the world's perception of China in the new era. Meanwhile, women's education, employment and medical conditions still face urban-rural imbalance and regional disparities in China. We will continue to address these challenges.

**China achieves visible outcomes in women's development. China pursues the policy of gender equality and protects women's rights and interests. China's reform and development create greater opportunities for women.**

China is committed to promoting women's development worldwide. In 1995, China hosted the 4th World Conference on Women, which adopted Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and laid down the guidelines for gender equality. In 2015, President Xi Jinping hosted the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the UN Headquarters in New York and delivered an important speech, setting a new milestone for global women's development. China supports developing countries' poverty reduction, job creation and welfare projects for women, and promotes women's exchanges under the framework of G20 and other fora. We call for convening another global summit on women in 2025 and will lend stronger support for global women's development.

**–The BRICS countries are committed to supporting Women's leading role.** BRICS countries recognize women's contribution to peace, reconstruction, economics, finance, innovation and international organizations. BRICS success and expansion create

more economic and social development opportunities for women at national, regional and global levels. BRICS women development report shows a remarkable rise in BRICS nations' women performance in economics, health, education and management in past 10 years. Under President Xi Jinping's initiative, China held BRICS Women's Leadership Forum and Best Women Startups Contest. We anticipate successful women events during Russian BRICS presidency this year.

India is a major BRICS country making efforts to reduce poverty and raise labor participation rate for women. The BRICS CCI not only builds an eco-system for BRICS women entrepreneurs and professionals to pursue careers and cooperation, but also showcases the success stories of Indian women in multiple domains.

**–Increasing women's well-being is a global mission.** While the international community promotes women's development and advocates women's interests. The rights, opportunities and resources allocation remain unequal between men and women. Gender equality and women's development require united and persistent endeavor of the world.

The UN Women designates 'Invest in women, accelerate progress' as the theme of International Women's Day 2024. Women should play more prominent roles in national governance and economic, cultural and social affairs. They can lead the way in new technology and industrial revolution. An enabling environment should be fostered for women to unleash creativity and embrace an amazing life and career. Their rights must be protected without bias or discrimination. This year's UN Summit of the Future should give voice to women, and women's development goal should be early harvest of the 2030 Agenda.

As a famous Chinese saying goes, women hold up half the sky. Let us work together to deepen BRICS cooperation, promote women's development, and build a better world.

Thank you.



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