

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

CHINA UNBOUND SETTING NEW TARGETS



DRAGON & ELEPHANT DANCE TOGETHER FOR WIN-WIN OUTCOMES

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SCAN TO JOIN





Seize Win-Win Development Opportunities

The year 2020 is truly extraordinary in human history. Confronted by the sudden onslaught of the novel coronavirus, humanity has shown great fortitude and has come together to tide over the trying time, writing a remarkable chapter in history.

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has all along put the people and their lives above everything else in its COVID-19 response. We have also launched the largest-ever global humanitarian campaign in the history of the People's Republic of China, engaged in the most intensive virtual exchanges, and stepped up to our responsibility as the largest supplier of anti-epidemic materials. China's visionary and energetic responsibility has not only risen to the occasion, but has also scripted a blueprint for spurring the country's economic resurgence. The recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee unveiled a multi-faceted roadmap for China's all-round development. The successful implementation of this plan will not only be transformative for China, but beneficial for the rest of the world.

There is a lot to mark as China begins the 14th Five-Year Plan. China's GDP is expected to surpass \$15.22 trillion, and per capita GDP has already surpassed \$10,000. In a historic feat, for 8 years, nearly 100 million people and all 832 poor counties have been lifted out of poverty. China has made a series of major breakthroughs in high-tech fields such as 5G network, Beidou Navigation Satellite System, lunar exploration and Mars exploration. The first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects will be realized soon.

The major characteristics of China's development in the new era are reflected in three "new"s. First, grasp the new stage of China's development based on a scientific

analysis. Second, embrace the new development philosophy that is innovative, coordinated, green, open, inclusive and shared for the benefit of all. Third, actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. To be specific, the focus would be on three things -- reform, openness and innovation.

Going forward, China's new development paradigm will have positive implications for the world. Chinese President Xi Jinping recently attended several major multilateral events such as SCO, BRICS and APEC. In all his speeches, President Xi stressed that China will uphold multilateralism, peaceful development and win-win cooperation, resolutely build a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind.

The 14th five-year plan has important ramifications for India as well. As the two largest developing countries and emerging economies, China and India need to focus on common development tasks and goals. Both countries are currently committed to fighting the COVID-19, revitalizing the economy and improving people's livelihood. The common interests between our two countries far outweigh the differences. We share interests such as anti-epidemic cooperation, economic recovery, multilateralism and improving global governance. We should unswervingly adhere to the basic judgment made by our two leaders that China and India pose no threat but offer development opportunities to each other. Let's take a far-sighted view, meet each other halfway, strengthen dialogue and communication, build mutual trust, handle differences properly, and stick to the right path of win-win cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be the name 'Sun Weidong' in Chinese characters.

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**19th CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE 5th PLENUM
& CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT**

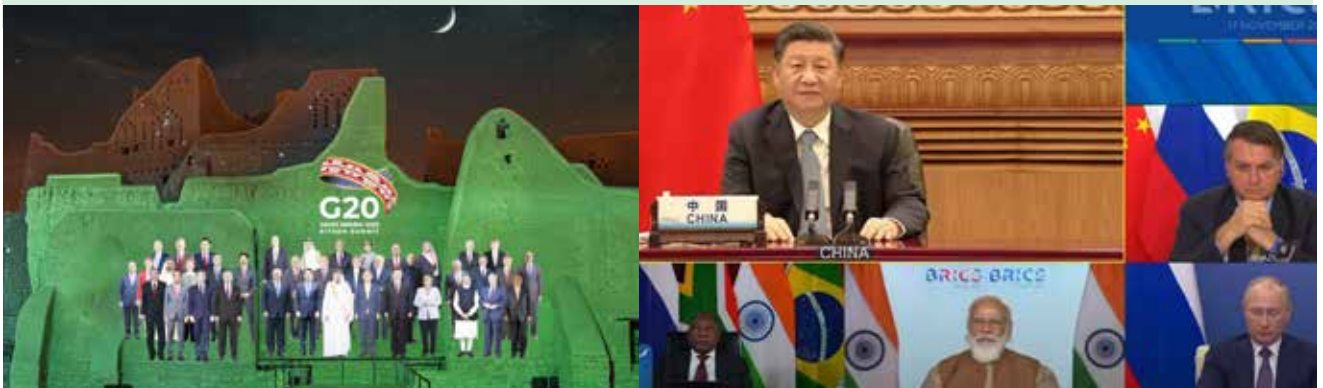
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Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the 5th plenary of the 19th CPC Central Committee in Beijing. The session was held from October 26 to 29, 2020.

XI UNVEILS NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO BUILD MODERN SOCIALIST CHINA

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has released a full text of Chinese President Xi Jinping's "explanatory speech" on the proposals adopted for the 14th Five-Year Plan and beyond early this month. In an overarching speech at the 5th session of the 19th CPC Central Committee in Beijing from October 26-29, 2020, the Chinese leader had explained the party's strategy contained in the documents titled "The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development" and "Long-Range Objectives through the year 2035", which were approved during the party plenary. The drafting of these documents had kicked off on April 13 under the guidance of President Xi. On November 3, the CPC had released a complete text of President Xi's remarks on the new proposals, Xinhua reported.

The documents hold "great significance in mobilizing and motivating the party and the country in building a modern socialist China", the Chinese leader said, stressing that there was

unanimity among all the ethnic groups on the suggestions, the road ahead, and the challenges during the implementation process. Extensive solicitations of comments and suggestions from various sectors were held, and over one million comments were received online from August 16-29, the report said. "The drafting group studied all the public comments and suggestions sent to them, holding discussions and revising the proposals many times," President Xi said. A total of 546 comments and suggestions are reflected in the proposals, he said, calling the drafting process "a vivid example of the CPC's intraparty democracy and China's socialist democracy." He underscored handling of "five relations" as principles in the drafting process: the relations between building on past achievements and seeking innovations, the government and the market, opening-up, and self-reliance, development, and security, and strategy and tactics. President Xi explained the key topics of the documents while breaking down the proposals.

High-Quality Development

China should focus on promoting high-quality development during the 14th Five-Year Plan, which is developed based on a scientific assessment of the environment and conditions in the country, President Xi said. “To forestall and defuse various kinds of risks, and proactively address the challenges brought by external changes, China will have to take care of its issues and improve the quality of development,” he said. He also emphasized the need to remain committed to the new development philosophy, deepen structural reforms on the supply side, and transform the development model to deliver real benefits to all the people.

New Development Pattern

Establishing a new development pattern in which the domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, is a strategic choice to raise the level of China’s economic development, and forge a new global economic cooperation, he said. “In recent years, along with the changes in the global political and economic environment, the upsurge in de-globalization and acts of

The documents hold “great significance in mobilizing and motivating the party and the country in building a modern socialist China”, the Chinese leader said, stressing that there was unanimity among all the ethnic groups on the suggestions, the road ahead, and the challenges during the implementation process.

unilateralism and protectionism has weakened the traditional global circulation,” the Chinese leader said, urging more efforts to entrench the roots of development deeper inside the country and rely more on the domestic market to achieve economic growth. He called for expanding domestic demand as a strategic underpinning and fostering a positive cycle of the national economy. He also called for a supply system more compatible with the domestic demand. The new development pattern, however, will not be a closed domestic circulation, but an open one, involving both domestic and foreign markets, President Xi said. Promoting a large-scale and smooth domestic economic circulation will help



Construction workers built Beijing’s new National Speed Skating Oval on September 23 – one of many infrastructure projects being built in China.

“In recent years, along with the changes in the global political and economic environment, the upsurge in de-globalization and acts of unilateralism and protectionism has weakened the traditional global circulation,” the Chinese leader said, urging more efforts to entrench the roots of development deeper inside the country and rely more on the domestic market to achieve economic growth.



A water diversion project in Henan. Three years after China opened channels to transfer water from south to parched north, the project has given clean water to over 100 million people.

better attract global resources, meet domestic needs, elevate industrial and technological development and foster new advantages in global economic cooperation and competition, he said.

Economic Development Targets

President Xi said that China's economy has the potential to maintain long-term stable development. China can meet the current standards of high-income countries by the end of the current plan period and double the per capita income by 2035, he said. "There will be many unstable and uncertain factors in the external environment in the coming period as many risks and hidden dangers may impact the domestic economic development," he added, citing the example of COVID-19 pandemic, which he said, "has a far-reaching impact, and

the world economy may continue to suffer from a downturn". The medium- and long-term goals should pay more attention to the economic structure optimization to guide all parties to focus on improving the quality and efficiency of development, he stressed.

Common Prosperity

Reiterating the importance of "common prosperity", President Xi said it is an essential requirement of socialism and the shared aspiration of all Chinese people. It is necessary to further emphasize promoting common prosperity for everyone as China embarks on a journey to build a modern socialist country. The proposals called for "more notable and substantial progress in promoting prosperity for everyone, he noted. Such expressions were included for the first time in the documents of the CPC Central Committee sessions, he said, adding that the expectations strike a balance between necessity and feasibility, and will be conducive to advancing common prosperity for everyone. In his speech, President Xi called for ensuring both development and security and upholding a systematic concept for growth during the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

'Xiaokang' Goal on Schedule

China can achieve the goal of building a moderately prosperous society (Xiaokang) in all respects on schedule, the president said. It remains the party's firm commitment to the people to comprehensively build a moderately prosperous society of more than one billion people by the time when the CPC marks its 100th founding anniversary, he said. In 2020, China's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to exceed 100 trillion yuan, the people's living standards will significantly improve, all rural impoverished population will be lifted out of poverty by current standards, the development targets set in the country's 13th Five-Year Plan can be attained on schedule, and the goal to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects can be achieved on schedule, President Xi said. The CPC Central Committee will review the progress of building a moderately prosperous society in the first half of 2021 before officially announcing the completion of the goal, he added.

Premier Li Stresses Policy Continuity to Spur Economic Recovery and Vitality

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has underscored policy continuity, effectiveness, and sustainability to spur vitality among market entities, promote sustained growth and economic recovery, and improve people's livelihoods. Mr Li made the remarks at a virtual symposium on the country's economic situation that was attended by senior government officials from Heilongjiang, Shandong, Hunan, Guangdong, and Yunnan provinces, Xinhua reported on November 22. The officials reported on the local economic situations and made suggestions for policymaking. Vice-Premier Han Zheng also attended the November 20 conference.

China has made major strategic achievements in COVID-19 prevention and control and its economy has recorded positive growth relatively quickly, thanks to the concerted efforts from both higher and lower levels, and state policies that are timely and effective, Mr Li said. He called for efforts to implement the spirit of the fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, apply new development philosophies, promote high-quality development, and forge a new development paradigm to ensure stable economic development and improve people's livelihoods. He stressed

efforts to maintain continuity, effectiveness, and sustainability of policies, keep the policy focus on market entities and people's livelihoods, as well as stabilizing employment and increasing domestic demand.

The policy prioritizing employment should be strengthened and efforts should be made to create more job opportunities, he said. He also called on governments to optimize policies on time, based on the needs of market entities and changing circumstances, while stabilizing market expectations, as well as targeted measures to help market entities overcome difficulties and improve people's livelihoods. Local governments are encouraged to introduce measures to inject more vitality and impetus into the market, creating a better environment that invigorates existing market entities and fosters new ones, Mr Li said. The premier also called for efforts to promote high-level opening-up, and continue efforts to maintain a stable foreign trade and investment and supply chains. The country should also leverage the recently signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, make good use of relevant rules and facilitation measures, and actively explore new areas of international cooperation, he said.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang presided over a symposium on the economic situation via a video link attended by local government officials in Beijing on November 20, 2020.



H.E. SUN WEIDONG
China's Ambassador to India

A NEW START, A NEW JOURNEY

While the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic as it goes through profound changes never seen in a century, we are facing a new critical juncture in human history. In this context, the recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee adopted recommendations for formulating China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, which not only depicted a great blueprint for China's development in the next stage, but will also have a significant impact on the world.

Great Achievements

The 14th Five-Year Plan builds on the success of the 13th Five-Year Plan. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China has made

remarkable achievements and continued to script shining examples of development. China's GDP is expected to exceed 100 trillion yuan (\$15.22 trillion), and per capita GDP has already surpassed \$10,000. More than 50 million people and all 832 poor counties have been lifted out of poverty. The absolute poverty is going to be eradicated historically. China's added value of manufacturing industry accounted for nearly 30 percent of the world's total, ranking first in the world for 10 consecutive years. China has made a series of major breakthroughs in high-tech fields such as 5G network, Beidou Navigation Satellite System, lunar exploration and Mars exploration. The first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects will be realized soon, and China will embark on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country.



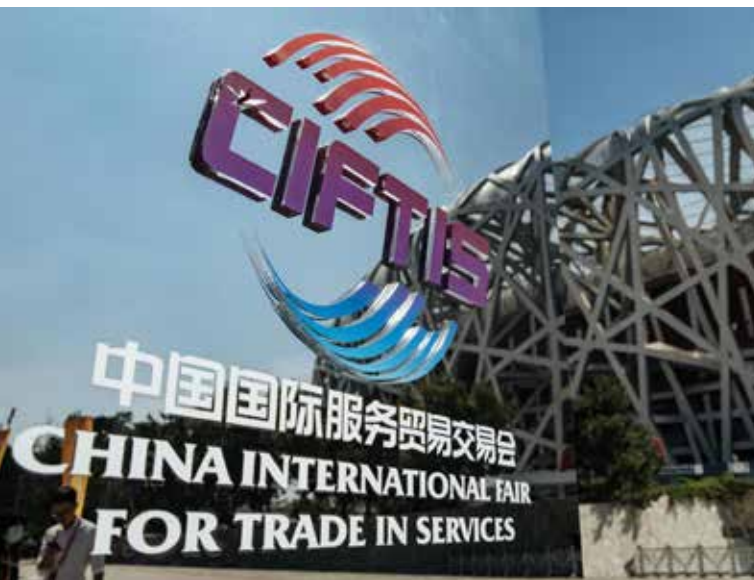
Xi's footprints on road to prosperity for all

Editor's note: In the past 30 years, China has lifted 700 million people out of poverty, a drive called by the World Bank as "China's magic" of "the fastest large-scale poverty alleviation in human history."

New Development Philosophy

The major characteristics of China's development in the new era are reflected in three "new". First, grasp the new stage of China's development based on a scientific analysis. Second, embrace the new development philosophy that is innovative, coordinated, green and open for the benefit of all. Third, actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. To be specific, the focus would be on three things --- reform, openness and innovation.

First, deepen reform comprehensively. Reform is a powerful driving force for development. Thanks to the continuous efforts of reform, China's rank jumped from 78th to 31st in the World Bank's Doing Business Report in the past two years. In



July this year, the Chinese Government proposed to support 15 new business forms, including online education, online healthcare, online office and micro economy. The digital economy currently accounts for more than 36% of China's GDP and contributes 67.7% to GDP growth, serving as a new engine for China's economic and social development. China will build high-level socialist market economy by comprehensively deepening the reform to stimulate the vitality of the 1.4 billion Chinese people and gradually move toward common prosperity.

Second, remain committed to opening up. Opening up is an inevitable choice to promote development. Since 2013, China has set up 21 pilot free trade zones, and negative lists for foreign investment have also been gradually shortened. Based on initial achievements in the fight against the COVID-19, China successfully hosted the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), the China Import and Export Fair (the Canton Fair) and the China International Import Expo (CIIE) this year, demonstrating China's confidence and resolution to expand opening up at a higher starting point. No matter how the international situation changes, China will never waver in our basic national policy of opening up. China's new economic development pattern of "dual circulation" is by no means a closed domestic loop, but a more open domestic and international dual cycle. Through pursuing high-level opening up, China will provide larger markets and more opportunities for countries around the world, which not only is conducive to China's own development, but also helps to form a more just and reasonable global economic governance system.

The first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects will be realized soon, and China will embark on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country.

Third, innovation leads to progress. Innovation is the first driving force for development. China attaches great importance to scientific research investment. In the past 5 years, the ratio of R&D expenditure to GDP has increased from 2.06% to 2.23%, and basic research expenditure has nearly doubled. According to the Global Innovation Index 2020 released by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China's ranking has jumped from 29th in 2015 to 14th in 2020. China will turn self-reliance in science and technology into a strategic pillar for national development, strive toward the goal of developing into a science and technology power, shape all-around new

development advantages, and strongly support high-quality economic development and high-quality life for the people.

China & the World

China's development cannot be achieved without the world, and the world also needs China for its development. The more developed China is, the closer it is connected with the region and rest of the world, and the more it needs a peaceful and stable international and neighbourhood environment. Chinese President Xi Jinping recently attended several major multilateral events successively and delivered a series of important speeches. He put forth a series of important initiatives and measures, and elaborated on the implications of China's new development paradigm, stressing that China will always be a builder of global peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order. He also stressed that China will uphold multilateralism, peaceful development and win-win cooperation, resolutely build a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. His remarks demonstrate that China shoulders its responsibilities of promoting international peace and development.

China will build high-level socialist market economy by comprehensively deepening the reform to stimulate the vitality of the 1.4 billion Chinese people and gradually move toward common prosperity.

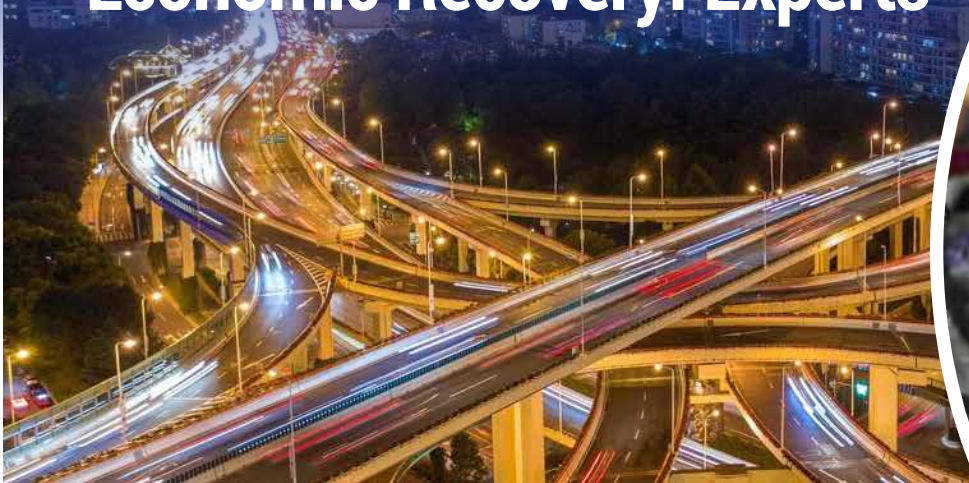
China & India: Similar Challenges

As the two largest developing countries and emerging economies, China and India face similar development tasks and goals. Both countries are currently committed to fighting the COVID-19, revitalizing the economy and improving people's livelihood. The common interests between our two countries far outweigh the differences. We should take a far-sighted view, meet each other halfway, build consensus, and join hands in development, strengthen cooperation in areas such as anti-epidemic, economic recovery, multilateralism and global governance. In this way, we could make 2.7 billion people of our two countries live a better life, and make due contributions to safeguarding world peace and stability and promoting common development.

(This article was published in India Writes Network, www.indiawrites.org)



China's New Development Proposals Help Promote Global Economic Recovery: Experts



Experts from different parts of the world have expressed optimism on China's new development policies and said that they would contribute to global economic recovery, besides ushering in a period of prosperity and domestic growth.

Though the economic outlook may appear grim as Europe is battered by a second wave of COVID-19 and US cases hit new records two days in a row, experts have said China's new development proposals inject confidence into the global economic recovery. The fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, which concluded last month, proposed major social and economic development targets for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). According to a communique released after the session, China will strive to make new strides in economic development during the period.

Noting that China's new development proposals pay more attention to the quality

and efficiency of economic development by expanding domestic demand, opening up to the outside world, and focusing green development and scientific and technological innovation, Christine Bierre, the editor-in-chief of France's *Nouvelle Solidarite* magazine and an expert at the Schiller France Institute, said the proposals will boost China's prosperity and development and also contribute to the recovery of the world economy in the post-pandemic era, Xinhua reported on November 6.

B.R. Deepak, professor, and sinologist at Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, told Xinhua that China's new development proposals have offered insights for other developing countries. Since China is likely

Tesla's electric vehicles on the assembly line at the carmaker's Gigafactory in Shanghai.



The Wangfujing shopping street in Beijing.

to take the lead in such technologies as AI, big data, 5G, and new energy vehicles, it will create new industrial supply chains and “continue to drive global economic growth and offer opportunities for various stakeholders”, Prof. Deepak said. Lauding Chinese achievements in the past five years, Yuri Tavrovsky, head of the Expert Council of the Russian-Chinese Committee for Friendship, Peace, and Development, said China’s achievements during the 13th Five-Year Plan and the coming 14th Five-Year Plan are important for Russia. “This gives us a chance to intensify our economic ties. More significantly, we can study and reflect upon the Chinese experience,” he said.

China’s new development proposals underscore the roles of opening-up. In this regard, the ongoing third China International Import Expo (CIIE) demonstrates China’s willingness to share its development opportunities with the

China's new development proposals have offered insights for other developing countries. Since China is likely to take the lead in such technologies as AI, big data, 5G, and new energy vehicles, it will create new industrial supply chains and “continue to drive global economic growth and offer opportunities for various stakeholders, Prof. B. R. Deepak said

world at a time when the world is facing grave challenges in economic recovery. China’s decision to expand its domestic market is “good news for” Italian companies to export their products to China, the Milan-based Italy China Foundation said in a statement released on the sidelines on the inaugural day of the CIIE from November 5-10. “The strategic choice of increasing the internal market that was set out in the 14th Five-Year Plan has been clearly confirmed (and) this is certainly positive for exports from our country,” Italy China Foundation President Mario Boselli said.

New Five-Year Plan To Boost Post-Pandemic Global Recovery



A night view of Shenzhen, the birthplace of China's economic reforms, in Guangdong Province.

With the COVID-19 pandemic dealing a severe blow to the world economy, China is expected to play its role as a key engine to rekindle global growth in the future, observers said. The leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has adopted proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035. China's new development plan proposals, which stress innovation, domestic demand, quality of development, and high-level opening-up, among others, will provide more development opportunities and bring shared prosperity to the world, according to scholars and politicians at the Understanding China Conference which concluded in Guangzhou on November 22, Xinhua reported.

Opportunities from Opening Up

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected the global economy will contract by 4.4 percent this year in its latest World Economic Outlook report released in October. At the Understanding China Conference, Martin Jacques, a British scholar, and political commentator said the ongoing pandemic has a far bigger impact on the world than the 2008 financial crisis. The attendees of the conference also expressed concerns about the structural problems facing the world economy and the anti-globalization approach taken by some governments in the world.

In its development proposals, China highlights its wider and higher-level opening up, which is in contrast to the headwinds of protectionism and unilateralism.

China's new development plan proposals, which stress innovation, domestic demand, quality of development, and high-level opening-up, among others, will provide more development opportunities and bring shared prosperity to the world, according to scholars and politicians at the Understanding China Conference which concluded in Guangzhou on November 22, Xinhua reported.

“As committed investors, we welcome China’s ongoing policy of higher-level opening-up,” said Merlin Swire, chairman of Swire Pacific Limited, citing the country’s new foreign investment law which took effect on January 1, and its negative list for foreign investment that is getting shorter, enabling greater access for foreign investment in a wider array of industries. “Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose serious

challenges to the global economy, we have all witnessed China’s resilience during these difficult times,” he said, adding that as an engine for economic growth, China’s post-epidemic recovery will be critical. Yun Mingqing with the China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy said multinational companies will gain more opportunities in China’s higher-level opening up and that mutually beneficial cooperation should be strengthened to jointly create new technologies, industries, and forms of business.

Confidence and Collaboration

The Chinese economy contracted 6.8 percent in the first quarter but increased by 3.2 percent in the second quarter and maintained a steady growth of 4.9 percent in the third quarter, showing a “V-shaped recovery”. According to the IMF, China is expected to be the only major economy globally to see growth in 2020. China’s manufacturing and service sector activities stood in expansion territory for eight straight months, the latest



The giant screen showed sales on Alibaba’s e-commerce platform Tmall between Nov 1 and 11 in Hangzhou in eastern China’s Zhejiang Province.

evidence that the economic recovery continued amid the government's pro-growth measures. The extraordinary sales performance recorded during this year's November 11, or Singles' Day shopping spree, also indicated China's potential in consumption. The Chinese authority has said the country has effectively contained the virus and brought production and life back to normal, and the fundamentals sustaining the country's steady and long-term economic growth remain unchanged. China has full confidence and the ability to maintain stable economic performance. The confidence is echoed by business circles that find massive opportunities in the country's new development paradigm. Noted printer producer Jolimark, versed in manufacturing smart and high-quality machines, such as intelligent coffee art and nail art printers for middle-class consumers, said it is greatly encouraged by China's efforts to expand domestic demand and tap the huge consumption potential of the middle-class. In such a situation, Yohei Kono, President of the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Trade, believed the two goals of "expanding domestic demand" and "innovating in science and technology" proposed in the communique of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee are most appropriate. The Chinese government's policy of appropriately expanding domestic demand will not only address the imbalance of regional development but also ensure job opportunities for its citizens who are not subject to international uncertainties, he said at the Understanding China Conference via video link.

In its development proposals, China highlights its wider and higher-level opening up, which is in contrast to the headwinds of protectionism and unilateralism.



Workers assembled vehicles at a factory of the First Automotive Works (FAW) Group Co., Ltd. in Changchun in northeast China's Jilin Province in September, 2020.

Noted printer producer Jolimark, versed in manufacturing smart and high-quality machines, such as intelligent coffee art and nail art printers for middle-class consumers, said it is greatly encouraged by China's efforts to expand domestic demand and tap the huge consumption potential of the middle-class.



Participants attended the opening ceremony of the "Understanding China" conference held in Guangzhou in south China's Guangzhou Province in November, 2020.

CHINA REMOVES ALL REMAINING COUNTIES FROM POVERTY LIST



A villager with an embroidered fabric in Pingqiu Village of Jinping County, southwest China's Guizhou Province in March, 2019.

China has achieved the feat of removing all remaining counties from the country's poverty list. The last nine impoverished counties, all in southwest China's Guizhou Province, have eliminated absolute poverty, the provincial government has announced, Xinhua reported on November 23. This means all 832 registered poor counties in China have shaken off poverty.

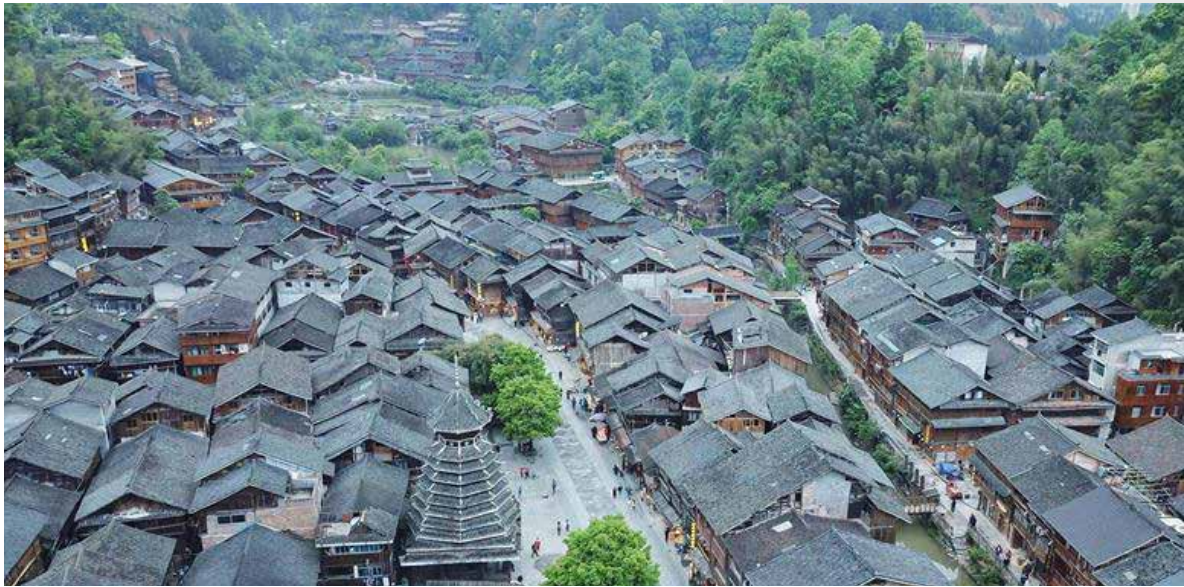
An assessment conducted by third-party agencies earlier in November showed that the overall incidence of poverty in the nine counties in Guizhou had been reduced to zero percent, and the satisfaction rate among locals was over 99 percent, said Li Jian, director of the provincial poverty alleviation and development office, at a press briefing.

The average annual net income of impoverished people in these nine counties has risen to 11,487 yuan (about 1,740 US dollars), well above the 4,000-yuan national poverty line set this year, Mr Li said. China has vowed to eradicate absolute poverty by the end of 2020. At the end of 2019, 52 counties in the northwest, southwest, and south of the country remained on the poverty list. Earlier in November, all poor counties in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, as well as the provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan, and Gansu were lifted out of poverty.

Guizhou, which used to be a provincial-level region with the biggest population of poor people, has lifted more than 9 million people out of poverty since 2012. "Delisting all poverty-stricken counties indicates China has resolved the millennia-old issue of extreme poverty," said Gao Gang, a researcher with the Guizhou Academy of Social Sciences. In the new development stage, more rural vitalization efforts should be made to consolidate poverty reduction achievements, said Mr Gao.

Yanhe Tujia Autonomous County is one of the nine counties recently removed from the poverty list. In late October, Chen Maofu, a resident in Bianjiang Village in Yanhe, signed his name on a document certifying that his family had been lifted out of poverty. "My two sons now work in Zhejiang Province, and are much better off than before," said Mr Chen, noting that each of his five family members has an annual net income of over 10,000 yuan.

The standard of living of residents in Bianjiang stands in stark contrast to that in 2014 when there were 699 registered poor people. "Poor transportation was the main reason that caused poverty in Bianjiang. The only way out of the



An aerial photo of the Dong village of Zhaoxing, Liping County in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

The average annual net income of impoverished people in these nine counties has risen to 11,487 yuan (about 1,740 US dollars), well above the 4,000-yuan national poverty line set this year, Mr Li said.



Workers collected mushrooms in Daozhen County of Zunyi, southwest China's Guizhou Province.

village was a narrow footpath near the cliff of a mountain," Mr Chen said. As China intensified its efforts on poverty reduction over the past years, more roads were built linking the village with the outside world. Even the footpath leading to Chen's house was paved. As a result of improved transportation, the fishing, chicken-raising, and chrysanthemum industries began to prosper in the village, providing locals with increasing income.

With the elimination of absolute poverty this year, China will achieve the poverty reduction target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. Over the past 40-plus years of reform and opening up, more than 700 million people in China have been lifted out of poverty, contributing more than 70 percent of the global poverty reduction. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has spoken highly of China's success in poverty reduction, calling the achievements "very strong".

With the elimination of absolute poverty this year, China will achieve the poverty reduction target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

Xi Focuses on High-Quality Development of Yangtze River Economic Belt



Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired a symposium on advancing the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt in Nanjing in Jiangsu Province in November, 2020.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed efforts to implement the spirit of the fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and promote high-quality development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. The Chinese leader made the remarks at a symposium he chaired on advancing the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt in Nanjing in China's Jiangsu Province on November 14, Xinhua reported. President Xi called for efforts to write a new chapter in ecological conservation, boosting green development, and creating a new model for regional coordinated development, high-level opening-up, fostering innovation-led development, and drawing a new painting featuring harmony between nature, the people, and the cities, the report said. Such efforts are aimed at making the Yangtze River Economic Belt a leading example of China's green development, a major artery for the smooth functioning of the "dual circulation" of domestic and international markets, and the main force spearheading high-quality economic development, he said.

After hearing reports from seven officials that included ministers and provincial party chiefs, President Xi said that over the past five years, transitional changes have taken place in the environmental protection along the Yangtze River Economic Belt while historical achievements have been achieved in the area's economic and social development. Provinces and municipalities along the Yangtze River have done a good job in

handling the COVID-19 epidemic and coping with the shocks brought by huge floods as well as external environmental changes, making a major contribution to China's feat of becoming the first to restore positive growth among other major economies, he said. The development of this economic belt is an important strategy that has a bearing on the overall national progress, he said, noting that the region consists of 11 provinces and municipalities and accounts for around half of China's population and GDP.

President Xi said that over the past five years, transitional changes have taken place in the environmental protection along the Yangtze River Economic Belt while historical achievements have been achieved in the area's economic and social development.

Efforts should also be made to strengthen the restoration of the ecological systems and the coordinated work of the upper, middle, and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, President Xi said. He also called for "comprehensively improving the efficiency of resource utilization and accelerating green and low-carbon development" to protect the environment. The restoration of the Yangtze River ecology should be the main priority, he said, adding that a mechanism should be promptly established to reward efforts for ecological

protection and punish those responsible for its destruction. President Xi also stressed efforts to explore effective ways to promoting smooth domestic circulation, advancing the coordinated development of the upper, middle, and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, promoting people-centered new urbanization, and improving people's life quality and income.

To create a new standard for high-level opening-up, President Xi urged efforts to promote innovative development of trade and make better use of foreign capital. Provinces and municipalities along the Yangtze River should find their respective positions in the new development pattern of "dual circulation" and take the initiative to open up their markets to the world, he said. Efforts should be made to better integrate the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Belt and Road Initiative, he added. President Xi also stressed the need to accelerate the upgradation of the industrial base and the modernization of the industrial chain. "We should take bold steps in innovation and focus on the real economy to boost economic development," he said, adding that the country should speed up breakthroughs in core technologies. He also urged efforts to

strengthen the dominant position of enterprises in innovation, foster advanced manufacturing clusters with international competitiveness, and build independent, controllable, safe, and efficient industrial supply chains that serve the whole country. Noting that the Yangtze River is the icon of the Chinese nation and the symbol of Chinese civilization, President Xi called for protecting, inheriting, and carrying forward the Yangtze River culture, as well as protecting its cultural relics and heritage. He stressed the need to conduct in-depth research on key issues that currently constrain the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

Vice-Premier Han Zheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the leading group for promoting the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, among other top officials, also attended the symposium. The authorities should apply the new development philosophy in all the areas, setting a good example of high-quality development, to promote the development of the economic belt, Han said adding that it would speed up the establishment of the new development pattern.



President Xi Jinping has called for making the Yangtze River Economic Development a model of green development.

HOW TRADE CONNECTS THE WORLD - A GLIMPSE OF CHINESE MARKET AT CIIE

With partners now in over 80 countries, Israeli company Watergen, which develops water-from-air solutions, has greatly expanded its business relations after attending the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai last year. Ivan Melnikov, Watergen's chief representative in China, used an exclamation mark when texting about the development to Xinhua, while Michael Mirilashvili, the company's president called the expo "highly impressive," Xinhua reported on November 10. Their booth was up in Shanghai for the third CIIE, which ran from November 5-10. The high-tech Israeli company is among hundreds of global firms that are fixtures at the expo. Official data showed that up to 70 percent of the world's top 500 companies that participated in the first two expos were also present this year.

Over 50 Fortune Global 500 companies and leading enterprises, including Michelin, Abbott, Nike, Icona, and Uniqlo, made their debut at this year's expo, and hundreds of new products, technologies, and services were introduced to the Chinese market for the first time, more than half of which made their world debut.



A view of the National Exhibition and Convention Center, the main venue of the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE), in Shanghai.

According to official data, 29 enterprises registered for the fourth CIIE in 2021 on the first day of this year's expo, and nearly 100 exhibitors had already signed deals to attend the expo in the next three years before the opening of the third CIIE.

What attracted them here is not only China's booming market and great potential but also the power of trade itself. As the COVID-19 pandemic is raging across the world and crippling the global economy, face-to-face trading like what happens at the CIIE also means boosting people's confidence and pooling efforts for a post-pandemic recovery.

Chance to Deepen Roots in China

For many overseas exhibitors like Roy Van Den Hurk, who runs a dairy company in New Zealand, the 14-day quarantine before attending the third CIIE and another 14 days on the way back home, among other restrictions, are worthwhile. "The sales volumes are definitely increased each time we've been to the CIIE," Van Den Hurk said.

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, business opportunities at the CIIE have attracted 2,600-odd global exhibitors to the Chinese financial hub. As of November 7, up to 861 "cooperation intentions" were reached at online or offline sessions attended by 674 exhibitors and 1,351 buyers from 64 countries and regions, according to the CIIE bureau. "I have great confidence in the Chinese market and economy, which is now the second-largest market for Elekta after the United States," said Gustaf Salford, acting president and CEO of Elekta, a Swedish medical equipment producer. "China's performance was indeed beyond my expectations," Salford said. Elekta China's performance in the second quarter was essentially the same as last year despite the pandemic, he said. The Swedish company, which has been a CIIE exhibitor since 2018, exhibited its Elekta Unity this year. Elekta Unity is the world's first high-field magnetic resonance-guided adaptive linear accelerator, which has already seen orders two days after launching to the public in Shanghai.

The resilience of China's economy has been a magnet for more foreign companies, and the CIIE is deemed as an important platform to deepen their roots in the Chinese market. "There's a lot of untapped potential in the Chinese economy, and this fits with our localization efforts as well," said Alan Gabor, president of Merck China, which plans to set up a new R&D lab in Shanghai. Over 50 Fortune Global 500 companies and leading enterprises, including Michelin, Abbott, Nike, Icona, and Uniqlo, made their debut at this year's expo, and hundreds of new products, technologies, and services were introduced to the Chinese market for the first time, more than half of which made their world debut.

Platform to Build Bonds

Aiming to turn the Chinese market into "a market for the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all," Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that the CIIE acts as a major platform for international procurement, investment promotion, cultural exchange, and open cooperation. To make the best use of the platform to build cross-border trade bonds, entrepreneurs who could not attend the expo tried various ways to tap China's growth, which in many ways means global trends as well. In a Kazakhstan



An exhibitor presented beef products from South Africa at the Food and Agricultural Products exhibition area during the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

booth, potential buyers communicated online via 35 tablet computers with exhibitors of the country, an attraction at the expo. At a booth displaying Argentine beef, Sebastian Bendayan, who flew 30 hours to Shanghai with four-member of his beef promotion association, has been busy receiving scores of visitors at the exhibition as he had to represent another 54 members who couldn't come. Big progress has been made, he told Xinhua. With a total population of 1.4 billion and a middle-income group that exceeds 400 million, the Chinese market is viewed as the most promising in the world. Moreover, the spillover effect of China's "dual circulation" development pattern has benefited international companies' performance beyond China. Noting that more than 50 percent of L'Oreal's sales in China come via e-commerce, Jean-Paul Agon, CEO of the cosmetics giant, said that "We are learning a lot in China and thanks to the learning that we have in China, we are improving our performance in e-commerce in all the countries of the world."

Impetus for Post-Pandemic Recovery

Without the deals signed at the previous Shanghai expos and the e-commerce channel with Chinese buyers, his family business in saffron and Persian carpets would not survive the COVID-19 pandemic, Iranian exhibitor Mahdi Barid Olyaei told Xinhua. This year, Mahdi secured an exhibition area of 36 square meters, bigger than nine square meters in 2018, and adeptly combined livestream platforms with in-person promotion to make his products reach more people. Tackling difficult problems through cooperation is one function of the CIIE platform. Fostering a brighter future for humanity is another. Attending the Shanghai expo for the third year, Maximilian Foerst, president of ZEISS China, said the German company wants to show its innovation ability in high-tech and medical technology at the expo, strengthen cooperation with other partners, and enjoy opportunities in China. Three years on, trade bonds established at the CIIE have benefited a lot of participants. Especially in a year clouded by the COVID-19 pandemic, willingness to join the expo demonstrates a vote of confidence in the Chinese market, and China's role in the world. The power of trade, both in goods and



A staff member at the booth of French drugmaker Sanofi Pasteur at the special area for public health and epidemic prevention of the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai in November, 2020.

services, is boosting people's confidence in future development, as well as efforts to overcome the pandemic.

"Our company would like to bridge Chinese enterprises and their foreign counterparts to establish win-win cooperation focusing on the Chinese market," said Zhang Hailiang, the CEO of consulting firm Tricor Group, which was present at the third expo for the first time.

Impressed by the face-to-face communication with customers at the expo, Mr Zhang told Xinhua that Tricor would be here for the next CIIE as he is confident about the number of potential customers at the next show. According to official data, 29 enterprises registered for the fourth CIIE in 2021 on the first day of this year's expo, and nearly 100 exhibitors had already signed deals to attend the expo in the next three years before the opening of the third CIIE. According to the organizers, the six-day expo accrued 72.62 billion US dollars' worth of tentative deals, an increase of 2.1 percent compared with that of last year.

Xi Sends Congratulatory Letter To China 5G + Industrial Internet Conference

Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory letter to the China 5G + Industrial Internet Conference that opened on November 20, 2020, in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Xinhua reported. "The integration of 5G and the industrial internet will accelerate the building of a digital China and a smart society as well as the process of China's new industrialization; inject new impetus into China's economic development and create development opportunities for the world economy under the shadow of the pandemic," President Xi said in the letter. He hoped that the participants would enhance cooperation to better empower the real economy, serve society, and benefit the people. The Chinese leader stressed the conference is of special significance since it is held in Wuhan, expressing the hope that the city and the rest of the Hubei Province would take it as an opportunity to carry forward the great anti-epidemic spirit, promote the digital economy, contribute to high-quality economic growth, and building a new development paradigm.

While addressing the opening ceremony via video-link, Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said that Hubei has maintained good momentum in the development of advanced manufacturing and digital economy over the past few years. Hubei should seize the opportunities and give full play to its comparative advantages while accelerating the development of 5G+ industrial internet and advancing the modernization of the industrial chain, Mr Liu said.

Held for the first time and co-hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the provincial government of Hubei, the conference aims to promote the integrated development of 5G and the industrial internet at a wider, deeper, and higher level, and help support Hubei's post-epidemic economic recovery and development.



Robots dancing via 5G signal control are showcased during the conference.

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Make Pudong A Beacon of Innovation, Hub of Supply Chains, says Xi

On the 30th anniversary of the Pudong area development project in Shanghai, President Xi Jinping called for innovation, passion, and resilience to make the district a leading example of the country's opening-up process. In a speech delivered at a grand gathering in Shanghai on the occasion on November 12, President Xi urged the authorities to make the Pudong district a "vanguard" of China's efforts to build a modern socialist country. "Pudong should strive to become an example that highlights the Chinese people's confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics," Xinhua quoted him as saying.

Vanguard of Development

Pudong was farmland and considered less-developed compared to its neighbor Puxi, across the Huangpu River in 1990 when China announced the strategic decision to develop and open up the region. The place best summarised an old saying in Shanghai back then - "A single bed in Puxi is preferable to a room in Pudong." But the area transformed into one of the country's

most prosperous districts within 30 years, with the local GDP surging by over 210 times since then. It is now home to over 1,000 financial institutions, the regional headquarters of more than 300 multinational companies, and over 240 foreign R&D centers.

"The achievements of Pudong over the past 30 years offer the most telling evidence of the strength of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and are a vivid demonstration of the country's reform, opening-up, and socialist modernization," the Chinese leader said. The significance of Pudong's development and opening-up went beyond its own prosperity. Over the years, the area has turned into a destination for policymakers to pilot policies that were later tried out across the country.

China's first free trade zone (FTZ) was established in Pudong in 2013 as a pilot project. Some 120 institutional innovations rolled out there have been replicated and promoted nationwide ever since. The role of Pudong as the testing ground for institutional innovations was further exemplified as the country launched



A view of the Lujiazui area in Pudong, Shanghai.

the new Lingang area of the Shanghai FTZ last year. Located largely in Pudong, Lingang saw industrial investments surge by 52.2 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters this year, despite external headwinds.

New Missions

The next 30 years will be a time for China to build a great modern socialist country, President Xi stressed, calling on Pudong to “play new roles and accomplish new missions in the new march”. “All-out efforts should be made to make the innovation engine stronger and explore new horizons of independent invention,” he said. He called for breakthroughs in science and core technologies, as well as speeding up the creation of world-class industrial clusters in sectors such as integrated circuits, bio-medicine, and artificial intelligence. Also, a coordinated approach to reforms in key areas would help create a world-class business environment, which is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized, he added. He stressed creating new opportunities for global cooperation and accelerating the opening-up, with institutional guarantees in the areas of management, standards, rules, and norms. “Pudong should now give more significance to the role of Lingang, and speed up the joint building of a global shipping hub together with the Yangtze

River Delta region,” he said. Furthermore, efforts should also go into strengthening the capability of mobilizing global resources, such as funds, information, technology, skills, and goods, to serve the establishment of the new development pattern, he added.

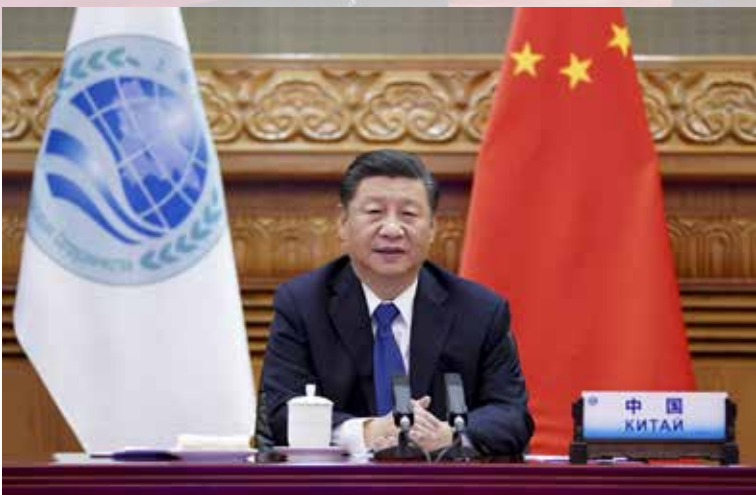
The Chinese leader urged Pudong to set up an international financial-asset trading platform, develop a modern “headquarters economy”, and build itself into an important hub of global industrial, supply, and value chains. The president also called for modernizing urban governance, opening up “new prospects for urban construction of, for and by the people, and exploring a megacity development path that reflects Chinese features and the characteristics of the times, while highlighting the advantages of China’s socialist system”. Noting that Shanghai is the birthplace of the CPC, President Xi stressed passing on the traditions of revolution and acting on the party’s original aspirations and missions.

The Chinese leader urged Pudong to set up an international financial-asset trading platform, develop a modern “headquarters economy”, and build itself into an important hub of global industrial, supply, and value chains.



China’s domestic-developed jet ARJ21 has received 616 orders since 2008.

Carrying Forward the Shanghai Spirit and Deepening Solidarity and Collaboration for a Stronger Community with a Shared Future



Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the 20th meeting of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Beijing via a video link on November 10.

Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the 20th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Beijing via a video link on November 10. His comments touched upon a variety of contemporary topics, such as cooperation in the anti-Covid efforts, multilateralism, advancing sustainable development goals, and global economic recovery that resonates with the interests of all the member-countries.

Full text of Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech entitled "Carrying Forward the Shanghai Spirit and Deepening Solidarity and Collaboration for a Stronger Community with a Shared Future"

Let me begin by thanking President Putin and Russia for the thoughtful organization of this meeting. During its presidency of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO), Russia has earnestly performed its duties and advanced the SCO's sound development despite the impact of COVID-19. China highly commends Russia for its contribution. Since its founding, the SCO has traveled an extraordinary journey. It has stood the test of time and become a major constructive force in the Eurasian region and global affairs. Committed to the Shanghai Spirit, SCO members have enhanced cooperation in the political, economic, security, people-to-people, and cultural fields, setting an example for a new type of international relations that features mutual respect, equity, justice, and win-win cooperation. In the face of COVID-19, we have backed each other up to tide over the difficulties together. Such solidarity has injected positive energy into both the SCO's steady development and international cooperation against the coronavirus.

Ancient Chinese teachings tell us that "men of insight see the trend, while men of wisdom ride it". Humanity lives in a global village where the interests and destinies of all countries are intertwined.

History Teaches Us Humility

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated shifts in the international landscape. The world is entering a period of turbulence and transformation. The international community now faces a major test with choices to be made between multilateralism and unilateralism, openness and seclusion, cooperation and confrontation. "What is going on with the world?" "What shall we do about it?"

– These are the questions awaiting answers from the people of our time. Ancient Chinese teachings tell us that “men of insight see the trend, while men of wisdom ride it”. Humanity lives in a global village where the interests and destinies of all countries are intertwined. People across the world increasingly yearn for a better life. The trend toward peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit is unstoppable. History has proven and will continue to prove that good-neighborliness will prevail over a beggar-thy-neighbor approach, mutually beneficial cooperation will replace zero-sum game, and multilateralism will win over unilateralism. In the current circumstances, the SCO is required to carry forward the Shanghai Spirit and deepen solidarity and collaboration. Together, we will contribute more to the stability and development of countries in the region and take more steps toward building a community with a shared future for mankind.

China has launched the Global Initiative on Data Security, which aims to galvanize efforts to shape peaceful, secure, open, cooperative, and orderly cyberspace. We welcome the participation of all parties in this initiative.

First, we need to step up anti-epidemic cooperation and build a community of health for us all. Right now, COVID-19 is still presenting an ongoing threat. To fight the virus that respects no borders, we must take up the most powerful weapon of solidarity and cooperation, and rise to the most imperative task of saving people’s lives. We need to strengthen our joint response to COVID-19, support each other’s containment efforts, and uphold regional and global public health security. We need to support the World Health Organization’s crucial leadership role, oppose attempts to politicize the pandemic or mislabel the coronavirus, and jointly resist any “political virus”. We need to put the SCO’s health cooperation mechanisms into full use and deepen exchanges and cooperation in

epidemic monitoring, scientific research, and disease control and treatment. China proposes that hotline contacts be created between SCO members’ centers for disease control (CDCs) for timely updates on cross-border transmission of communicable diseases. The unique value and important role of traditional medicine have been highlighted in the battle against COVID-19, and we need to continue to hold the SCO Forum on Traditional Medicine to deepen exchanges and mutual learning in this field. Vaccines play a vital role in defeating the virus. China has joined the COVAX facility, and will actively consider SCO countries’ need for vaccines to help protect people’s safety and health in our countries.

Preconditions for Development

Second, we need to safeguard security and stability and build a community of security for us all. Security and stability are the number one precondition for a country’s development, and thus concern the core interests of all countries. We need to act on the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, address all forms of threats and challenges effectively and foster a sound security environment in our region. We need to firmly support countries concerned in their law-based efforts to steadily advance major domestic political agenda, firmly support countries in safeguarding political security and social stability, and firmly oppose interference by external forces in the domestic affairs of SCO members under whatever pretexts. We need to deepen solidarity and mutual trust and resolve disputes and differences through dialogue and consultation, to cement the political foundation for SCO development. We must forestall terrorist, separatist, and extremist attempts to exploit the pandemic for disruption, curb the proliferation of drugs, crackdown on Internet-based propagation of extremist ideology, and deepen SCO members’ law-enforcement cooperation.

It is important that we uphold bio-security, data security, and outer-space security, and engage in active communication and dialogue in this field. China has launched the Global Initiative on Data Security, which aims to galvanize efforts to shape peaceful, secure, open, cooperative, and



Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) participated in the SCO summit on November 10.

orderly cyberspace. We welcome the participation of all parties in this initiative. The situation in Afghanistan involves security and stability in the wider region. We need to make good use of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to help the country realize peace and reconstruction.

Development for All

Third, we need to deepen practical cooperation and build a community of development for us all. True development is development for all and good development is sustainable. We need to be guided by the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development and open up more opportunities for practical cooperation to facilitate economic recovery and betterment of people's lives. We need to forge greater synergy of the Belt and Road Initiative with national development strategies as well as region-wide cooperation initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union. We need to enhance connectivity and further integrate our industrial, supply, and value chains for unimpeded economic circulation in the region. We need to facilitate the reopening

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of economic activities through a "fast track" that steps up the mobility of people and a "green lane" that quickens the flow of goods. We need to foster an open, fair, and nondiscriminatory business environment for each other's companies, and expand mutual investment among us. We need to seize opportunities from the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation to step up cooperation in the digital economy, e-commerce, artificial intelligence, and smart cities. Next year, China will host a China-SCO forum on the digital economy industry in Chongqing, which will provide a platform for

innovation cooperation among parties. We need to put the people first and implement more joint projects that deliver real benefits to them. China supports setting up an SCO joint working group on poverty reduction and stands ready to share our good experience with other parties.

Public Support for SCO

Fourth, we need to nourish people-to-people amity and build a community of cultural exchanges for us all. Each civilization is distinct and none is superior to others. We need to promote mutual learning between our civilizations and enhance good-neighborliness and friendship between our countries. This allows us to enhance public support for the SCO's long-term development. We may use various forms of communication to make the SCO's achievements more widely known and win stronger public support for the SCO vision of cooperation. We may support the Organization's exchanges and cooperation in education, culture, sports, media, and women's welfare, and institute an all-round, multi-channel structure of deeper cooperation.

China will host an SCO non-governmental friendship forum next year and will continue to hold SCO Youth Campus events, to which 600 young people will be invited in the coming three years, to deepen mutual understanding among the younger generation and bring them closer together. We may better coordinate the SCO's cooperation agenda with the necessity for a long-term fight against COVID-19. We may employ new working methods and flexible cooperation forms and keep the relevant mechanisms running effectively. The SCO Secretariat and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure need to play their coordinating role, and SCO members need to give

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stronger support to the work of the permanent bodies.

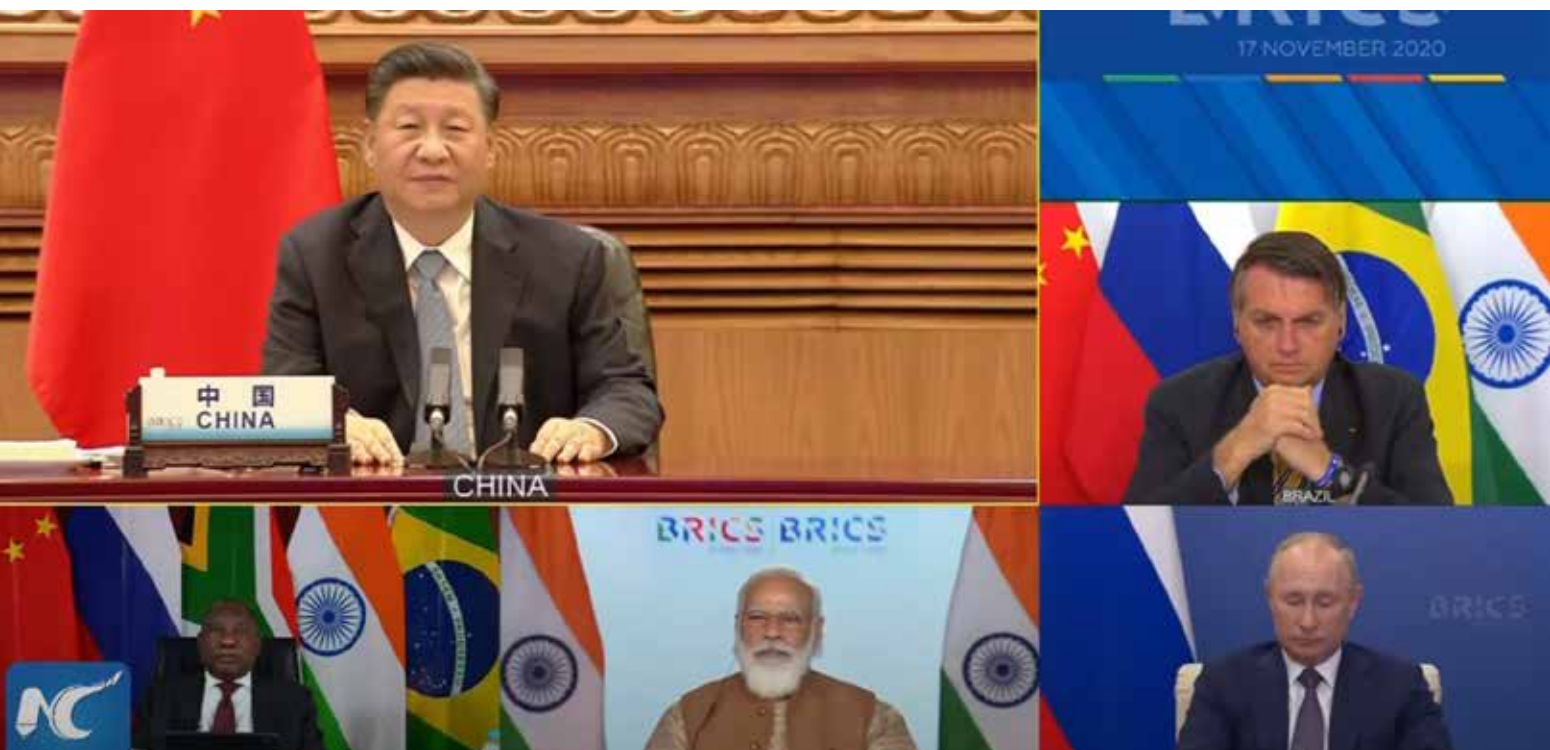
Championing Multilateralism

Seventy-five years ago, our forefathers won the world anti-fascist war and founded the United Nations (UN), thus writing a new chapter in human history. Drawing lessons from the past, we need to act to champion multilateralism, improve global governance, and uphold the international order. We need to follow the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits and build a world where global affairs are discussed by all, the governance system built by all, and development fruits shared by all. The SCO needs to expand its network of partnerships and conduct extensive cooperation with observers, dialogue partners, the UN, and other international organizations. It should play a more active role in international and regional affairs and stay committed to building an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

China cannot be separated from the world in achieving development, and the world also needs China for prosperity. Now, China is speeding up efforts to foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. New mechanisms are being put in place to build an open economy of a higher standard. China will remain committed to a win-win strategy of opening-up. It will seek development impetus from the world and contribute more to the world with its development. We welcome all parties to capitalize on China's development opportunity and make active endeavors to deepen cooperation with China. China congratulates President Emomali Rahmon on taking over the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State and will give full support to Tajikistan during its presidency. Next year, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the SCO. Let us hold high the banner of the Shanghai Spirit, forge ahead with strong cooperation, strive for the better development of our Organization, and build an even closer community with a shared future for us all.

Fighting COVID-19 in Solidarity and Advancing BRICS Cooperation Through Concerted Efforts

In his address to the 12th BRICS Summit on November 17, 2020, President Xi Jinping underscored the importance of multilateralism, cooperation, respect for each other, and sustainable development, which he said holds the “master key to all our problems”. He stressed that BRICS members must confront the COVID-19 pandemic head-on for early recovery of health and wellbeing of the people and the overall economy.



Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia through a video link from Beijing on November 17, 2020.

Full text of Chinese President Xi Jinping' speech

I wish to begin by thanking President Putin and the Russian government for their thoughtful organization of this BRICS Summit. Right now, the world is caught between a pandemic of

the century and momentous changes never seen in the last one hundred years. The international landscape keeps evolving in profound ways. At such a critical moment, we are meeting to

It is important that countries rise above ideology and respect each other's choices of the social system, economic model, and development path consistent with their national conditions. We need to champion the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security.

discuss our joint response to COVID-19 and draw a blueprint for the future of BRICS. The meeting has, thus, taken on a special significance. Around the world, COVID-19 is posing a grave threat to people's life and well-being. The global public health system is facing a severe test. Human society is going through the most serious pandemic in the past century. International trade and investment have shrunk considerably. The flow of goods and personnel has been impeded. Factors for uncertainty and instability are numerous. The world economy is witnessing the worst recession since the Great Depression in the 1930s. Unilateralism, protectionism, and acts of bullying are becoming rampant, and the deficit in governance, trust, development, and peace is widening instead of narrowing. Despite all this, we remain convinced that the theme of our times, peace and development, has not changed, and that the trend toward multipolarity and economic globalization cannot be turned around. We must keep people's welfare close to heart and pursue the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. Through concrete actions, we will contribute our share to making the world a better place for everyone.

Multilateralism, Peace, and Stability

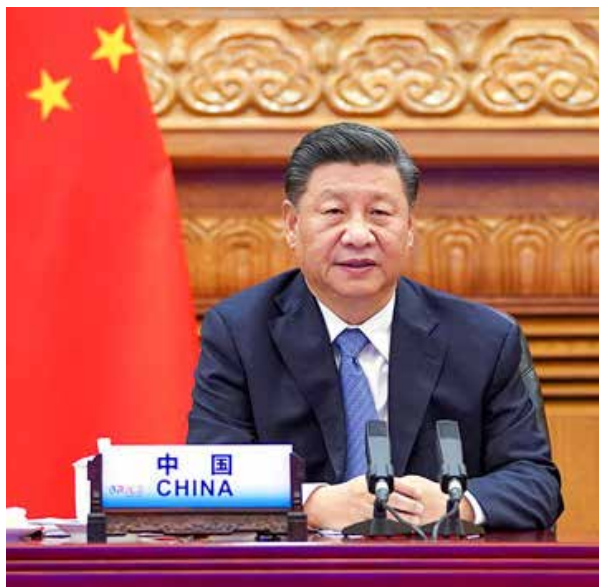
First, we need to uphold multilateralism and safeguard peace and stability in our world. History teaches us that multilateralism, equity, and justice can keep war and conflict at bay, while unilateralism and power politics will inflate dispute and confrontation. Flouting rules

and laws, treading the path of unilateralism and bullying, and withdrawing from international organizations and agreements run counter to the will of the general public and trample on the legitimate rights and dignity of all nations. Facing the choice between multilateralism and unilateralism, and between justice and hegemony, we BRICS countries must stand up for equity and justice in the world. We must hold high the banner of multilateralism, and defend the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We must endeavor to safeguard the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law. It is important that countries rise above ideology and respect each other's choices of the social system, economic model, and development path consistent with their national conditions. We need to champion the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. We need to work through consultation and negotiation to address differences. We need to oppose interference in others' internal affairs, as well as unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction. With concerted efforts, we will foster a peaceful and stable environment for development.

Cooperation in COVID-19 Fight

Second, we need to enhance solidarity and coordination and come together to meet the COVID-19 challenge. The coronavirus is still causing havoc in many places and waves of infection are resurging. Securing a worldwide victory against the pandemic remains an uphill journey. Nearly one year into the battle, many countries have gained important experience in COVID-19 containment and made encouraging progress in drugs and vaccine research and development (R&D). Our fight over the past year proves that as long as we stand in unity and follow science, we can control the spread of the virus and offset its impact. What is important is that we put people's life and health first, mobilize all resources and do everything we can to protect people's safety and well-being. It is important to

It is important to step up international coordination and response and share information and epidemic control experience to stop the virus in its tracks. It is important that we support the WHO's crucial leadership role in this endeavor.



step up international coordination and response and share information and epidemic control experience to stop the virus in its tracks. It is important that we support the WHO's crucial leadership role in this endeavor. As we speak, Chinese companies are working with their Russian and Brazilian partners on phase-III clinical trials of vaccines, and we are prepared to extend our cooperation with South Africa and India as well. China has joined the COVAX facility, a platform on which we will share vaccines with other countries, developing countries in particular. We will actively consider providing vaccines to BRICS countries where there is a need. To support the development of the BRICS Vaccine R&D Center, China has designated its own national center. We will work with other BRICS countries, both online and offline, to advance collective vaccine research and trials, set up plants, authorize the production, and recognize each other's standards. I propose that we convene a BRICS symposium on traditional medicine to explore its role in coronavirus prevention and

treatment. This may well boost the global arsenal against COVID-19. What has happened shows that acts of politicization, stigmatization, blame-shifting, and scapegoating only serve to disrupt overall global cooperation against the virus. We need to overcome division with unity, replace bias with reason, and stamp out the "political virus". In this way, we will pool the maximum global synergy to beat the virus.

Global Economic Recovery

Third, we need to pursue openness and innovation and promote global economic recovery. The IMF predicts that the world economy will shrink by 4.4 percent this year and that emerging markets and developing countries will experience negative growth for the first time in 60 years. To stabilize the economy while controlling the pandemic is the pressing task facing all countries. Under the precondition that safety is ensured, we must actively pursue economic recovery and seek to carry out economic and social activities in an orderly way as we fight the virus on an ongoing basis. We need to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination, follow through on the initiative on facilitating the cross-border flow of people and goods, and keep industrial and supply chains safe and open to better enable the resumption of business activities and economic recovery. The practice of using the pandemic to pursue "de-globalization" or clamor for "economic decoupling" and "parallel systems" will end up hurting one's own interests and the common interests of all. Under the current situation, we need to stand firm for building an open world economy. We need to uphold the

We need to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination, follow through on the initiative on facilitating the cross-border flow of people and goods, and keep industrial and supply chains safe and open to better enable the resumption of business activities and economic recovery.

multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and reject the abuse of the "national security" concept for protectionist purposes. We need



(From Left to Right) South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at the 11th BRICS Summit held in Brazil in November 2019.

We will work with other BRICS countries, both online and offline, to advance collective vaccine research and trials, set up plants, authorize the production, and recognize each other's standards. I propose that we convene a BRICS symposium on traditional medicine to explore its role in coronavirus prevention and treatment.

to leverage the new business forms and models triggered by the pandemic, strengthen cooperation on scientific and technological innovation, and nurture an open, fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory business environment to bring about common development of higher quality and stronger resilience.

China will work with other parties to flesh out the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution at a faster pace. We will open in Xiamen, Fujian Province a BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution innovation center to advance cooperation on policy coordination, personnel training, and project development, and we welcome the active participation of fellow BRICS countries. Not long ago, China launched a Global Initiative on Data Security, which aims to jointly foster peaceful, secure, open, cooperative, and

orderly cyberspace to enable sound growth of the digital economy. We look forward to getting support from our fellow BRICS countries.

Promoting Sustainable Development

Fourth, we need to prioritize people's livelihood and promote sustainable global development. Development holds the master key to all problems. All our efforts, from clearing the impact of COVID-19 and getting back to a normal life, to ending conflicts and humanitarian crises, ultimately depend on people-centered development. According to the World Bank forecast, global per capita income might drop 3.6 percent this year, and some 88 million to 115 million people might be pushed into extreme poverty due to the pandemic. COVID-19 is a challenge we have to face head-on. We need to call on the international community to place the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the heart of international development cooperation. Poverty eradication must be made a primary goal, and more resources must be channeled to poverty reduction, education, health, and infrastructure development. We need to support the UN's coordinating role and foster global development partnerships that are more equal and balanced so that the fruits of development will spread to more developing countries and the needs of underprivileged groups will be better addressed.

Addressing Climate Change

Fifth, we need to pursue green and low-carbon development and strive for harmony between man and nature. Global warming will not stop due to COVID-19. To tackle climate change, we must never relax our efforts. We need to implement the Paris Agreement in good faith, stick to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and provide more help to developing countries, particularly the small island developing states. China is prepared to take on international responsibilities befitting its level of development and will continue to make extraordinary efforts to address climate change. Recently, I announced at the UN China's initiative to scale up its nationally determined

We need to support the UN's coordinating role and foster global development partnerships that are more equal and balanced so that the fruits of development will spread to more developing countries and the needs of underprivileged groups will be better addressed.

contributions and adopt more forceful policies and measures to strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Building a Modern Socialist Country

The recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee adopted recommendations for formulating China's 14th five-year plan. The plenum underscored that China will finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects within the set time frame, and will embark on a new journey next year toward fully building a modern socialist country. Based on a scientific analysis of the new stage of China's development, we will stay committed to the new development philosophy, and actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. We will redouble efforts to expand domestic demand, deepen reform across the board, and promote innovation in science and technology to add impetus to China's economic growth. China will not shut its door of opening-up; it will embrace the world with more open arms. China will be more vigorous in integrating with the global market and will take greater initiative in deepening international cooperation. In so doing, China will create more opportunities and space for global recovery and growth.

All of us are indeed passengers in the same boat. When the wind is strong and the tides are high, we must be even more focused on our direction. We must keep pace and work as a team to break the waves and navigate steadily toward a brighter future.

BRICS Share Obligation to Amplify Voice of Developing World



The 8th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Science, Technology and Innovation was held online in November 2020.

Calling BRICS the “stepping stones” for reforming global governance, Yaroslav Lissovlik, the program director of Russia’s think tank Valdai Discussion Club, has noted that apart from the bloc’s increasing weight on the world economy, it exercises a “comparative advantage” with other groups in reaching out to the rest of the globe, given that “this diverse grouping is present in all of the main regions of the developing world”. As such, BRICS members need to forge a stronger consensus on enhancing their cooperation and working more closely with other countries to weather the raging COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic crisis. The November 17 virtual summit of the five major emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- came at a time when the international community is confronting profound

transformations and growing uncertainties, such as rising trade protectionism and unilateralism. The coronavirus crisis is worsening the situation. And within their borders, all BRICS members are facing monumental work to boost domestic development, Gao Wencheng wrote in an editorial in Xinhua on November 17. Since the inception of the mechanism, the BRICS countries have continuously elevated their global economic rankings and expanded all-round cooperation, particularly in economic and trade sectors, which have yielded substantial results over the past decade. For example, the New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS bank, has produced notable accomplishments. The multilateral bank has approved 65 infrastructure and sustainable development projects worth 21 billion US dollars across all its member countries

in the past five years, ranging from urban development, water sanitation, and clean energy to smart cities, said NDB President Marcos Troyjo. The bank is also providing up to 10 billion US dollars in crisis-related assistance and economic recovery projects through its emergency COVID-19 response program, he added.

Ushering in Another Golden Decade

To ensure that the BRICS countries can further unleash their cooperation potential and a second “golden decade” for the bloc despite the current difficulties, they need to join their hands more closely. The first priority is to work with the rest of the world in the epic fight against the pandemic. The BRICS countries should strengthen public health cooperation, exchange experience in epidemic prevention and control, and make joint contributions to ensuring that vaccines, once ready, are affordable and accessible globally. The member countries also need, on the condition of maintaining health safety, to resume work and production and set up “fast tracks” and “green lanes” to facilitate the flow of people and goods in an orderly fashion. The second common task is to deepen their economic and trade cooperation to infuse new impetus into the global economy. The Chinese economy is already bouncing back, and is likely to become the only major economy in the world to register positive growth this year. Other BRICS countries also boast an optimistic economic outlook.

British economist Jim O’Neill, best known for coining the acronym BRIC in the early 2000s, told US news outlet CNBC that China is “well on its way” to recovering from the pandemic-induced economic crisis and will continue to be “the most important marginal driver” of global gross domestic product (GDP). O’Neill pointed out that Brazil, Russia and India are also likely to see V-shaped bounce backs in the coming quarters.

To facilitate a more steadfast recovery of themselves and the global economy, the BRICS countries need to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly stabilize the global industrial and supply chains. Over the longer run, while mulling updating the strategy for their economic partnership, the BRICS countries should leverage their respective strengths and

jointly explore new growth drivers to achieve higher quality, as well as more resilient and sustainable development, and to blaze new paths that could inspire other emerging markets and developing countries. The third job is to improve global economic governance so that it can better reflect the transformations of the current global political and economic landscape.

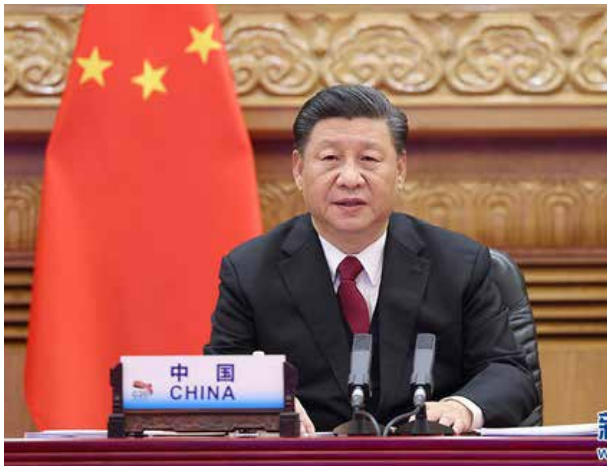
Representing Developing World

Collectively, the BRICS members represent 30 percent of the world’s landmass, 42 percent of the global population, and 20 percent of the global GDP, which put them in a good position to play a greater role in anchoring this changing world. Calling BRICS “stepping stones” for reforming global governance, Yaroslav Lissovolik, program director of Russia’s think tank Valdai Discussion Club, noted that apart from the increasing weight of the bloc in the world economy, BRICS exercises a “comparative advantage” with other groups or arrangements in reaching out to the rest of the world, given that “this diverse grouping is present in all of the main regions of the developing world.” The BRICS countries, as the representatives of the developing world, share the obligation to increase the voice and influence of emerging markets and developing countries in the international arena. To this end, they should advocate the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits in improving global governance, and push for reforms of the global economic governance system to strike a balance between fairness and efficiency.

Currently, economic globalization is encountering strong headwinds. The BRICS countries need to band together to counter protectionism and isolationism, maintain the multilateral trading system centered on the World Trade Organization, and build an open world economy.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has compared the BRICS economies to five fingers of a hand, saying they are “short and long if extended, but a powerful fist if clenched together.” Indeed, if the five countries can forge a more tenacious partnership, their joint efforts can always make more positive differences in the world.

Poverty Reduction Holds Key to a Sustainable Future: President Xi at G20 Summit



President Xi Jinping addressed the 15th G20 Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia from November 21-22, 2020.

Expounding his views on sustainable development at the 15th G20 summit from November 21-22, President Xi Jinping has said that countries' progress in poverty reduction alone will determine to what extent they have been successful in creating an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for their citizens. He said that in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, nations more than ever need "substantial measures" to achieve their long-term socio-economic goals.

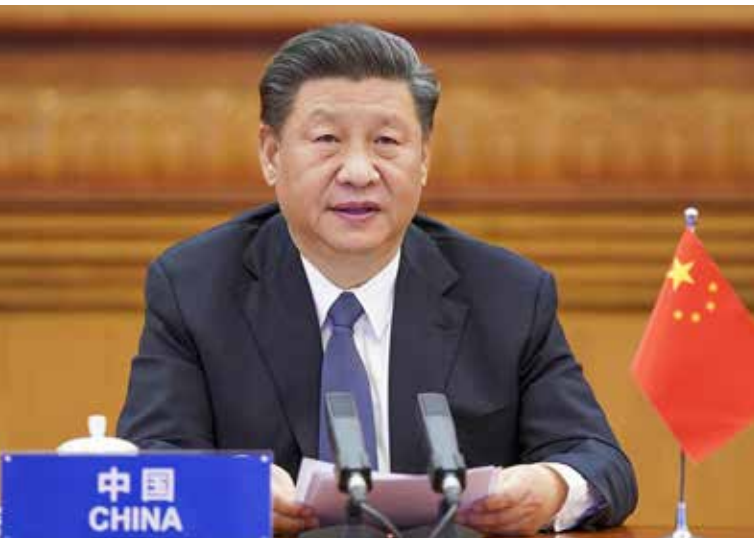
First, he said, countries "need to uphold the vision of prioritizing development". And guided by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they "should strengthen development cooperation and narrow the North-South gap". Second, they should adopt "comprehensive and balanced policies" to tackle the COVID-19 induced poverty, as well as make efforts to alleviate the debt burden of the developing countries, he said at the second session of the virtual summit hosted by Saudi Arabia. Besides, providing them with necessary financing support and boosting infrastructure and connectivity would help ease their sufferings, the

Chinese Embassy in India quoted him as saying in a release.

Third, the G20 must create a favorable international economic environment by lowering "tariff and non-tariff barriers" to advance poverty reduction and economic growth through trade and help developing countries better integrate into the global market, the Chinese leader said. "We need to give play to the role of digital technology in poverty alleviation, and create more opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups to move from poverty to prosperity," he added. President Xi stressed that China would achieve the goal of eliminating absolute poverty ten years ahead of schedule. "Over the past 40-plus years of reform and opening up, more than 700 million people in China have been lifted out of poverty, contributing more than 70 percent of the global poverty reduction. China is ready to work with other countries to build a better world that is free of poverty and enjoys common development," he said.

The leaders at the summit called for stepping up support for developing countries to overcome the impact of COVID-19 on people's health and economy, eliminate poverty, create educational and job opportunities for women and youth, bridge the digital divide, and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for inclusive development. They also stressed reducing carbon emissions and promoting green and low-carbon development, calling for joint efforts to respond to global challenges such as climate change. The G20 meeting finally adopted the Leaders' Declaration. Besides President Xi, other senior government and party officials who participated in the summit included Ding Xuexiang, Liu He, Yang Jiechi, Wang Yi, and He Lifeng.

Together, Let's Fight Covid-19 and Create a Better Future: President Xi



President Xi Jinping addressed the 15th G20 Leaders' Summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia, on November 21.

Addressing the 15th G20 Leaders' Summit from November 21-22, Chinese President Xi Jinping drew attention to some of the most pressing issues of our times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, unilateralism, political and economic inequalities, challenges to the UN system, as well as opportunities for cooperation to build a shared future for humanity. President Xi said that China would continue on its path of peaceful development and seek to forge long-lasting partnerships with countries to achieve the common objectives.

Full text of President Xi Jinping's speech at the 15th G20 Summit

I wish to begin by expressing heartfelt thanks to the Saudi Presidency and especially Your Majesty King Salman for the tremendous efforts in hosting this summit. This outgoing year, humanity has

China has proposed a global mechanism for mutual recognition of health certificates based on nucleic acid test results in the form of internationally accepted QR codes. We hope more countries will join this mechanism.

experienced the most serious global pandemic in a century. Over one million people have lost their lives. The world economy is in recession. Societies and livelihoods are taking a big hit. The impact of COVID-19 is even worse than that of the 2008 global financial crisis. The G20 has taken swift actions in the wake of COVID-19. At the Extraordinary Summit earlier this year, we agreed to step up cooperation to fight the pandemic. We agreed to advance the R&D of medicines and vaccines, maintain economic and financial stability, keep the industrial and supply chains open, and ease the debt burden of developing countries. These measures have given the world confidence and charted the course for international cooperation against the virus. In this global battle, the G20 has once again played an important and, indeed, irreplaceable role.

As we speak, the pandemic is still wreaking havoc across the world, and some countries face the threat of a second wave of infections. To contain the virus, stabilize the economy, and protect livelihood remains a long and arduous journey for all countries. In the meantime, international architecture is evolving at a faster pace. Rising unilateralism and protectionism are causing disruptions to global industrial and supply chains. While containing the virus on an ongoing basis, we must also stabilize and restore

economic growth. For the G20, I believe more efforts are needed in the following areas:

Let's Support WHO

First, build a global firewall against COVID-19. We must first put the disease under control at home and, on that basis, strengthen exchanges and cooperation to help countries in need. Several G20 members have made progress in vaccine R&D and production. We should speed up the action and support the WHO in mobilizing and consolidating resources and distributing vaccines fairly and efficiently. China actively supports and participates in international cooperation on COVID-19 vaccines. We have joined the COVAX facility and stand ready to step up cooperation with other countries on the R&D, production, and distribution of vaccines. We will honor our commitment of giving assistance and support to other developing countries, and work to make vaccines a global public good accessible and affordable to people around the world.

Restoring Supply Chains

Second, ensure the smooth functioning of the global economy. While containing the virus, we need to restore the secure and smooth operation of global industrial and supply chains. We need

to reduce tariffs and barriers and explore the liberalization of trade of key medical supplies. We need to harmonize policies and standards and establish “fast tracks” to facilitate the orderly flow of personnel. China has proposed a global mechanism for mutual recognition of health certificates based on nucleic acid test results in the form of internationally accepted QR codes. We hope more countries will join this mechanism. We also support the G20 in carrying out institutionalized cooperation and building global cooperation networks to facilitate the flow of personnel and goods.

Leveraging Digital Economy

Third, harness the role of the digital economy. COVID-19 has fueled the boom of new technologies, new business forms, and new platforms such as 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), and smart cities, and accelerated the development of a contact-free economy like online shopping, online education, and telemedicine. All this opens new pathways for economic growth. We ought to adapt to change and turn crisis into opportunity. We may deepen structural reform and cultivate new growth drivers through scientific and technological innovation and digital transformation. We could foster an enabling environment for the development of the digital



The official group photo of the leaders of G20 countries, unveiled by the Saudi presidency of the grouping in November 2020.

In spite of its own difficulties, China has fully implemented the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and put off debt repayment totaling over US\$1.3 billion. China supports the decision on the DSSI extension and will continue to work with other parties for its full implementation.

economy, enhance data security cooperation, strengthen the digital infrastructure, and level the playing field for high-tech companies from all countries. Meanwhile, we need to address the challenges posed by the digital economy to employment, taxation, and vulnerable groups and seek to bridge the digital divide.

Inclusive Development

Fourth, pursue more inclusive development. We should keep our support for developing countries and help them overcome the hardships caused by the pandemic. In spite of its own difficulties, China has fully implemented the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and put off debt repayment totaling over US\$1.3 billion. China supports the decision on the DSSI extension and will continue to work with other parties for its full implementation. Meanwhile, China will increase the level of debt suspension and relief for countries facing particular difficulties and encourage its financial institutions to provide new financing support on a voluntary basis and

We should firmly safeguard the rules-based multilateral trading system that is transparent, nondiscriminatory, open and inclusive, and support the reform of the WTO to enhance its effectiveness and authority. We should promote free trade, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, uphold fair competition, and protect the development rights, interests and space of developing countries.

according to market principles. We should help women walk out of the shadow of the pandemic, address their special needs, and implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. China has proposed the convening of another Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in 2025 to contribute to women's development in the post-COVID era. It is also vital that we take the challenge of food security seriously and support the UN in holding the Food Systems Summit next year. In this connection, China proposes the holding of an international conference on food loss and waste in due course and welcomes the active participation of G20 members and relevant international organizations.

The grave challenge of COVID-19 has exposed the deficiencies of global governance. The international community has a keen interest in the post-COVID international order and global governance as well as the future role of the G20. In my view, the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits should guide our way forward. We should uphold multilateralism, pursue openness and inclusiveness, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and keep pace with the times. The G20 ought to play a bigger role in this process.

Addressing Issues through UN

First, we need to strengthen the UN-centered international system. The UN is the core institution for addressing international affairs through cooperation. All countries should firmly support the UN's authority and standing, follow the purposes and principles of its Charter and uphold the international order underpinned by international law. We support the UN in more effectively building global consensus, mobilizing global resources, and coordinating global actions. We support a bigger role of the UN in promoting world peace and development.

Strengthening Global Governance

Second, we need to improve the governance architecture for economic globalization. We should firmly safeguard the rules-based



President Xi Jinping addressed the 75th session of the UN General Assembly via video conferencing on September 22, 2020.

multilateral trading system that is transparent, nondiscriminatory, open and inclusive, and support the reform of the WTO to enhance its effectiveness and authority. We should promote free trade, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, uphold fair competition, and protect the development rights, interests and space of developing countries. We should continue the reform of the international financial system, conclude the IMF's 16th General Quota Review on schedule, expand the role of the Special Drawing Rights, buttress the global financial safety net, and raise the representation and voice of developing countries. We should also address the challenges to economic globalization head-on, and make it more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

Promotion of Digital Economy

Third, we need to promote the sound development of the digital economy. To address countries' concerns on data security, the digital divide, personal privacy, and ethics, we should

adopt people-centered and facts-based policies to encourage innovation and build trust. We should support the UN's leadership role in this field and work together to foster an open, fair, just, and nondiscriminatory environment for building the digital economy. Recently, China launched the Global Initiative on Data Security. We may work on that basis and join other parties for discussing and formulating rules on global digital governance. China supports increased dialogue on AI and proposes a meeting on this in due course to advance the G20 AI Principles and set the stage for the healthy development of AI globally. The G20 also needs to discuss developing the standards and principles for central bank digital currencies with an open and accommodating attitude and properly

We should promote free trade, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, uphold fair competition, and protect the development rights, interests and space of developing countries.

handle all types of risks and challenges while pushing collectively for the development of the international monetary system.

Tackling Global Challenges

Fourth, we need to build up capacities for tackling global challenges. The most pressing task of the moment is to shore up the global public health system and contain COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. We need to enhance the role of the WHO, improve pandemic preparedness and response, forge a strong shield for human health and safety, and build a global community of health for all. We need to scale up international cooperation on ecology and the environment to

The most pressing task of the moment is to shore up the global public health system and contain COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. We need to enhance the role of the WHO, improve pandemic preparedness and response, forge a strong shield for human health and safety, and build a global community of health for all.

protect the planet Earth, our only homeland. We need to curtail the production and use of non-essential, disposable plastic goods. COP26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, both to be held next year, may serve as opportunities for forging broader consensus and strong synergy in building a clean and beautiful world where man and nature coexist in harmony. China calls for a complete ban on the illegal trade of wildlife and stronger exchanges and cooperation on the protection of wild fauna and flora.

Building a Modern Socialist China

Building on its major strategic gains in fighting COVID-19, China has made steady strides in economic development. The recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee adopted recommendations for formulating China's 14th five-year plan. The

Based on a scientific analysis of the new stage of China's development, we will stay committed to the new development philosophy, and actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other.

plenum underscored that China will finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects within the set time frame, and will embark on a new journey next year toward fully building a modern socialist country. Based on a scientific analysis of the new stage of China's development, we will stay committed to the new development philosophy, and actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. This new development paradigm is by no means a closed-door policy. Instead, it urges efforts on both the supply and demand sides to ensure unimpeded flow in production, distribution, exchange, and consumption. While making the Chinese economy more resilient and competitive, it also aims to build a new system of open economy of higher standards. This will create more opportunities for the world to benefit from China's high-quality development. China will always be a builder of global peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order. On the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, China stands ready to pursue peaceful coexistence and common development with all countries. We may bridge differences through dialogue, resolve disputes through negotiation, and make a joint effort for world peace and development. As a Chinese poem reads, "Past a fallen ship, one thousand sail onward; for a sick tree, ten thousand thrive by spring." I believe that when COVID-19 is over, our world will rise from the pandemic and emerge even stronger. In that spirit, let us join hands to deliver a better life for our people and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Xi's G20 Speech Offers Guidance to Tackle World Challenges: Experts



Chinese President Xi Jinping, center, wearing a protective face mask, interacted with a medical staff member during his visit to the Academy of Military Medical Sciences in Beijing in March, 2020.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks at the 15th G20 Summit have been constructive and of practical significance as they offer solutions to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, experts have said. The president has put forward a set of proposals for the G20's role in a post-COVID international order and global governance in his speech, which was "a message of hope", said William Jones, the Washington bureau chief of the US publication Executive Intelligence Review. He pointed to the fact that "the onset of COVID-19 had demonstrated the flaws in our international mechanisms," and called for a new governance architecture that provides "a more just and equal world order," which would "allow the world to better deal with such crises that threaten all of mankind," said Mr Jones. The meeting was hosted by Saudi Arabia via video link from November 21-22, 2020.

As the world is facing many challenges today, with the COVID-19 pandemic among the gravest ones, the responsibilities and actions of the G20 will be even more important, said Abdulaziz Alshaabani, a Saudi journalist and China expert. In this context, the speech by the Chinese president is of practical significance and can help guide the international community to make concerted efforts in fighting the pandemic effectively, he added. Sonia Bressler, a French writer and sinologist, said that President Xi's vision of a community with a shared future for mankind "has never had so much importance,

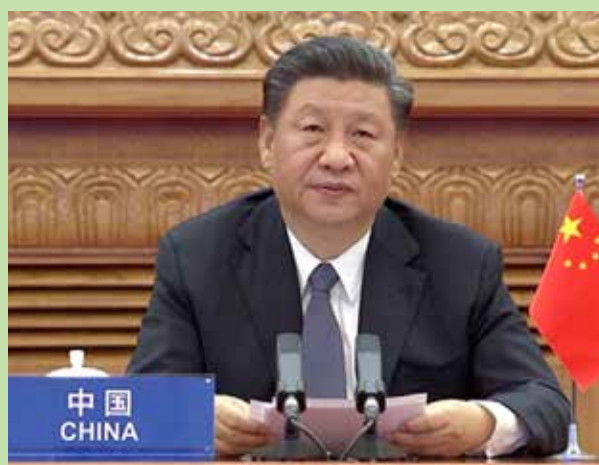
so much real meaning for China and also for the West," since it "offers solutions" to major challenges posed by the health crisis.

"What affects some, affects the other," said Bressler. "We must find a way to work together."

President Xi's contribution to the G20 is part of a long-term vision of "a fairer, more united, more effective and more sustainable world order," Pierre Defraigne, executive director of the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation, told Xinhua. "I believe that President Xi's speech is part of a responsible choice of a great nation, which has shown a lot of credit for its actions in the world," Mr Defraigne said.

B.R. Deepak, a professor and sinologist at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, described President Xi's speech at the summit as "constructive," for it did not merely propose approaches to deal with the twin challenges of the pandemic and economic recession, but also "outlined China's thinking on the post-pandemic international order and underscored the role of the G20 in reshaping it." China in recent years has put forward a series of important proposals in terms of international coordination, and the G20 provides a platform to discuss these proposals, said Yaroslav Lissovlik, program director of Russia's think tank Valdai Discussion Club. Mr Lissovlik added that he looks forward to China's continuous efforts in promoting international coordination within the framework of the G20 to combat the pandemic.

Shaping a Clean & Green World: President Xi



President Xi Jinping has laid out a three-point plan for the G20 countries to combat the scourge of climate change during a side event themed “Safeguarding Planet” at the G20 Riyadh Summit on November 22, 2020. Emphasizing that China is determined to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, the Chinese leader expressed hope that the G20 would work collectively under the UN framework to build a robust and sustainable future for mankind.

The following is the full text of President Xi’s speech at the meeting.

The Earth is our shared home. We may follow the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind and pitch in to tackle climate and other environmental challenges and protect the blue planet. Let me share with you my thoughts on what G20 could do:

First, we could strengthen our response to climate change. G20 should continue to take the lead in tackling climate change. We need to follow the guidance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and push for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Not long ago, I announced China’s initiative to scale up its nationally determined contributions and strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. China will honor its commitment and see the implementation through.

Second, we could deepen the transition toward clean energy. China applauds Saudi Arabia’s initiative on Circular Carbon Economy

and supports the shift to low-carbon energy in the post-COVID era to achieve the goal of sustainable energy for all. China has put in place the world’s biggest clean energy system and has led the world in the output and sales of new energy vehicles for five years running. Under the recommendations for formulating China’s 14th five-year development plan and the long-range goals for 2035, China will pursue clean, low-carbon, safe, and efficient use of energy and accelerate the growth of new energy and green industries to promote greener economic and social development in all respects.

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Third, we could protect the ecosystem with a respect for nature. China supports deepening G20 cooperation in reducing land degradation, conserving coral reefs, and cleaning up plastic from the ocean. Through cooperation in these and many other areas, we could build a stronger defense for global ecological security. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in the Chinese city of Kunming in May next year. China welcomes the participation of all parties and hopes the meeting will set goals and take actions to ensure the protection of global biodiversity in the years ahead. Let us work together for a clean and beautiful world.

Working Together For An Asia-Pacific Community With A Shared Future



In an all-embracing foreign policy speech at the 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting on November 20, 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled a roadmap for cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific and reaffirmed China's commitment to regional economic integration. Asia-Pacific must remain resolutely focused on promoting free and fair trade and investment, and balanced and inclusive economic globalization for the benefit of all, the Chinese

leader said in a speech titled "Working Together for an Asia-Pacific Community with a Shared Future".

Full text of President Xi Jinping's remarks at the 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

It gives me great pleasure to join you via video link. I wish to thank Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and the Malaysian government for hosting the meeting. The past 30-plus years since the



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting on November 20, 2020.

inception of APEC have seen the rapid evolution of the international landscape and profound transformation of global governance. It has also witnessed a sea change in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the past three decades and more, APEC cooperation has kept deepening and made substantial progress on many fronts. Guided by the Bogor Goals, we have steadily enhanced regional economic integration.

We have advanced trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in tandem with economic and technical cooperation, with a view to realizing mutual complementarity and balanced development of the “two wheels” of APEC cooperation. We have advocated open regionalism and developed an APEC approach of voluntarism, consensus-building, flexibility, pragmatism, and incremental progress. Over the years, the Asia-Pacific has weathered two financial crises and lifted over one billion people out of poverty. It has become a leading and most dynamic powerhouse of the global economy, playing an active role in building an open world economy, upholding the multilateral trading system, and spearheading economic globalization.

Over the years, the Asia-Pacific has weathered two financial crises and lifted over one billion people out of poverty. It has become a leading and most dynamic powerhouse of the global economy, playing an active role in building an open world economy, upholding the multilateral trading system, and spearheading economic globalization.

APEC's Post-2020 Vision

Three decades on, both the world and the Asia-Pacific are experiencing profound changes, a process further accelerated by COVID-19. The world economy is in the doldrums. Economic globalization is encountering headwinds. Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise. Balancing equity and efficiency, growth and distribution, or technology and employment is getting more difficult. The wealth gap remains a common sight. The global governance system faces new challenges. For the first time in decades, the Asia-Pacific, as a whole, registered negative economic growth. Protecting people's health and reviving the economy are two formidable tasks we have to take on. Where should the Asia-Pacific cooperation be heading? The answer bears on the development of our region, the well-being of our people, and the future of the world at large. One priority in this year's APEC agenda is to unveil the post-2020 vision, a pathway toward our goal of building an Asia-Pacific community.

This should be taken as a new starting point for us to begin another phase in Asia-Pacific cooperation, sustain the strong momentum of development in our region, and embrace a future of shared prosperity. Together, we can build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future, featuring openness and inclusiveness, innovation-driven growth, greater connectivity, and mutually beneficial cooperation.



Shaping Asia-Pacific Prosperity

First, we need to stay open and inclusive. The world economy is like the Pacific Ocean around us – it admits water from various rivers, and connects different parts of the world. As such, it has acquired a vast magnitude and enormous vitality. The approach of pursuing cooperation as equals and resolving differences with mutual respect is what essentially makes economic development and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific possible. Throughout the years, APEC has committed itself to deepen regional economic integration and made significant progress in implementing the Bogor Goals. It has also played an important role in steering the evolution of the multilateral trading system. Yet, it must be noted that free and open trade and investment cannot be achieved overnight. It is important that the Asia-Pacific should remain the bellwether in safeguarding peace and stability, upholding multilateralism, and fostering an open world economy. We must stay as determined as ever to support the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, promote free and open trade and investment, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial to all. Continued efforts are needed to press ahead with regional economic integration for the early realization of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). China welcomes the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and will favorably consider joining the

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

As we continue to work on free and open trade, we should pay no less attention to economic and technical cooperation. We need to further implement the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth and the Action Agenda on Advancing Inclusion and accommodate the concerns of developing members. We need to address, in particular, the special needs of women and some other communities, and support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Such efforts will contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth. China will host a seminar on advancing economic inclusion through trade and investment to look for suggestions on how trade and investment policies could deliver broader benefits to people. China looks forward to working with all parties to follow up on those suggestions.

Digital Economy is the Future

Second, we need to pursue innovation-driven growth. The digital economy represents the future direction of global development, while innovation has fueled the economic takeoff of the Asia-Pacific. We need to proactively seize the opportunities of our times and fully harness our region's abundant human resources, solid technological foundation, and enormous market potential to gain a new competitive edge and open up new possibilities for the betterment of



Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on November 20, 2020.

our people's lives. The APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap should be implemented in full to spur the dissemination and application of new technologies, strengthen digital infrastructure, and close the digital divide. We need to improve economic governance and foster an open, fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory environment for businesses. This year, China has conducted an APEC case study on smart cities, which we hope will contribute to the formulation of guidelines on smart cities and offer an example for innovative urban development across the region.

China calls for experience-sharing among APEC members on how to control COVID-19 and achieve economic recovery with digital technologies. China also calls for improving the doing-digital-business environment, energizing market players, and tapping the potential of the digital economy. Such efforts will bring fresh impetus to economic recovery in our region. Next year, China will host a workshop on digital technology-enabled poverty alleviation, in a bid to unleash the role of digital technologies in eradicating poverty in our region.

Continued efforts are needed to press ahead with regional economic integration for the early realization of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. China welcomes the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and will favorably consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Importance of Connectivity

Third, we need to enhance connectivity. Connectivity is a vital basis of regional economic integration and an essential underpinning for the interconnected development of the world. The ongoing pandemic further highlights the importance of connectivity. We need to continue to implement the APEC Connectivity Blueprint to facilitate the smooth, safe, and orderly flow of people, goods, capital, and data and achieve a seamlessly connected Asia-Pacific. China has opened "fast tracks" with fellow APEC members like Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore to facilitate the movement of people during the pandemic, and more will be done to complete a network of such arrangements. In this connection, it is important to promote the mutual recognition of the COVID-related health information of international travelers. China is ready to take active and well-thought-out steps with all other parties to set up "green lanes", which will help make customs clearance more efficient, unclog bottlenecks, and reconnect disrupted links. We may also promote the creation of international cooperation platforms on industrial and supply chains to ensure the safe and smooth operation of industrial and supply chains in our region and beyond. We need to pursue greater complementarity among the development plans and connectivity initiatives of different parties to forge a bigger synergy. On China's part, we hope to work with all partners in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, which we believe will set up a bigger platform for connectivity in the Asia-Pacific and inject a stronger impetus into the economy of our region and the wider world.

Need to Deepen Partnership

Fourth, we need to promote mutually beneficial cooperation. The Asia-Pacific economies have a high degree of mutual complementarity and enjoy deeply intertwined interests. Our economic

cooperation has never been a zero-sum political game in which one gains at the expense of the other. Rather, our cooperation has provided us with a development platform to ensure what we each do can be mutually reinforcing and beneficial to all. There is a Malay proverb that goes, “bukit sama didaki, lurah sama dituruni”, which means to climb the hill together and go down the ravine together. It aptly captures the spirit of our Asia-Pacific family. COVID-19 serves as another reminder that only solidarity and cooperation can enable us to prevail over challenges. We need to deepen the Asia-Pacific partnership featuring mutual trust, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation and follow the approach of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. We need to keep raising the level and scope of our regional cooperation to achieve shared prosperity for the whole region. It is important that we advance practical cooperation on the basis of consensus, properly manage differences and disagreements, and keep Asia-Pacific cooperation in the right direction to ensure APEC’s sound development in the long run.

China’s Telemedicine Initiative

At this very moment, fighting COVID-19 is the most pressing task for us all. We must step up research and development of vaccines and related exchanges, and work harder to make the vaccines a global public good to improve their accessibility and affordability in developing countries. For that purpose, China has joined the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX). We support APEC in strengthening policy exchanges and capacity building in the areas of public health and MSMEs. China has made a telemedicine initiative to give people in poor and remote areas access to timely and quality medical services. We hope these efforts will contribute to anti-epidemic cooperation and economic recovery.

China highly values the role of APEC. We will continue to support the organization’s development, and with our roots struck deep in the Asia-Pacific, we will continue to serve its development and prosperity. This year, the Chinese people have exerted strenuous efforts to score a major strategic achievement in controlling COVID-19. Working with other countries in these

The APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap should be implemented in full to spur the dissemination and application of new technologies, strengthen digital infrastructure, and close the digital divide.

trying times, China has contributed its wisdom and resources to the global fight against the coronavirus. It has shared with various parties its full experience on containment and treatment and done its best to assist other countries and international organizations. All these are among the concrete actions we have taken toward building a global community of health for all. At the same time, we have coordinated COVID-19 control with economic and social development at home, and scaled up macro policy response so that the Chinese economy could stabilize, pick up, and steadily upgrade. In the first three quarters of this year, China’s GDP grew by 0.7 percent, on course to register positive growth for the whole year. It is also worth noting that by the end of this year, we will have lifted out of poverty all rural residents living below the current poverty line.

Five-year Plan Target

The recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee adopted recommendations for formulating China’s 14th five-year plan. The plenum underscored that China will finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects within the set time frame, and will embark on a new journey next year toward fully building a modern socialist country. Based on a scientific analysis of the new stage of China’s development, we will stay committed to the new development philosophy, and actively foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. China will build a new system of open economy of higher standards and create a more attractive investment and business environment. To conclude, China is ready to work with all other parties in the Asia-Pacific to build and share a brighter future of peace and prosperity for our region and get ever closer to the goal of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Forging a New Development Paradigm and Pursuing Mutual Benefit and Win-Win Cooperation: Xi



Participants at the APEC CEO Dialogues in November, 2020.

Reaffirming China's unwavering commitment to market reforms and economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region, Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged the business community to play an active role in realizing the APEC's vision for post-2020. In a keynote address to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Dialogues on November 19, President Xi underlined the vast opportunities that lay await for businesses as countries move to boost synergy and market integration in the Asia-Pacific. The Chinese leader also highlighted the various steps that China has taken to improve goods circulation both domestically and globally in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Full text of Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech at the APEC CEO Dialogues

At a critical time when the world is fighting COVID-19 and exploring ways to achieve economic recovery, I am glad to have this dialogue with you through video links. This is an unusual time in history for humanity. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated changes unseen in a century in the world. The global economy finds itself in deep recession, its industrial and supply chains are disrupted, and governance, trust, development, and peace deficits continue to grow. Mounting unilateralism, protectionism, and bullying as well as a backlash against economic globalization have added to risks and

uncertainties in the world economy. However, peace and development remain the underlying trend of our times.

Promoting Spirit of Partnership

Meeting challenges through cooperation is the only way forward for us in the international community. This pandemic once again shows that the interests of all countries are closely interwoven and humankind shares a common stake. Indeed, our world is an indivisible community with a shared future. To beat the virus and promote global recovery, we in the international community must close ranks and jointly respond to this crisis and meet the test. All countries should act in the spirit of partnership and get through this tough time together. We need to step up policy communication and coordination, intensify all-round global cooperation against COVID-19 and keep the global economy open. By doing so, we can defeat the virus at an early date and achieve robust, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth for all.

China Resumes Positive Growth

Since the start of this year, facing the sudden onslaught of COVID-19, China has put people and life above everything else. The 1.4 billion Chinese people, united as one, have made a major strategic achievement in fighting the virus. We have endeavored to both contain the virus and speedily bring production and life back to normal, thus maintaining economic and social development. China's economy resumed positive overall growth in the first three quarters this year. This hard-won achievement speaks volumes about the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy. The fundamentals sustaining China's steady and long-term economic growth remain unchanged. We have full confidence and ability to maintain stable economic performance and achieve the goals of finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicating poverty within the set time frame.

At its recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee, the Communist Party of China deliberated on and adopted the recommendations for formulating

China's 14th Five-Year Plan. According to the recommendations, China will complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects within the set time frame. From next year on, China will embark on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country. We will develop a full understanding of the new development stage, and apply the new development philosophy. We will foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. The new development paradigm is a strategic decision we have made based on the current stage and conditions of development in China and with full consideration given to economic globalization and changes in the external environment.

Domestic Demand Driving Growth

First, we will expand domestic demand as a strategic priority and ensure the smooth flow of economic activity. In recent years, China's development model of reliance on foreign markets and resources has gone through some gradual changes. The ratio of foreign trade to GDP dropped from 67 percent in 2006 to less than 32 percent in 2019, while the ratio of current account surplus to GDP has come down from 9.9 percent in 2007 to less than one percent today. In seven years since the 2008 global financial crisis, the contribution of China's domestic demand to GDP exceeded 100 percent, making domestic consumption the main driver of its growth. In promoting domestic and international circulations, the Chinese economy has become much more domestically driven and the performance of China's development has been significantly enhanced. Fostering a new development paradigm will enable China to better adjust its economic structure and achieve high-quality development. China will continue to deepen supply-side structural reforms and further expand domestic demand. Doing so will make production, distribution, the flow of goods and services, and consumption in China more based on the domestic market, and it will make the supply system better adapt to domestic demand. This will usher in a higher stage of well-adjusted balance where demand drives supply, and supply, in turn, creates demand.



Creating New Growth Drivers

Second, we will vigorously make scientific and technological innovations to foster new growth drivers. A new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is gathering pace, and science and technology are playing an even more significant role in boosting social productivity. To China, innovation has always been the primary driver of development, and we have made major achievements by implementing an innovation-driven development strategy. As China enters a new stage of development, factors of production underpinning its development have gone through profound changes. This means that China must pursue innovation to achieve high-quality growth driven by domestic demand. We will fully leverage the demand of our super-sized domestic market and the strengths of its complete industrial system and redouble efforts to turn research outcomes into real productivity. We will endeavor to build an innovation system that integrates science and technology, education, industries, and the financial sector, and upgrade the industrial chains. This will sustain China's long-term economic development.

Market Reforms to Continue

Third, we will continue to deepen reform and energize the market. What we have achieved during the past 40-plus years of China's reform and opening-up shows one thing: Reform is crucial for unleashing and boosting productivity. China has entered a new stage of development and faces new tasks of reform. We will take

more steps and remove with greater resolve deep-seated systemic and institutional barriers to modernizing China's governance system and capacity. We will enhance our ability to better apply the new development philosophy, namely, one of pursuing innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development. We will transform the growth model, upgrade quality and performance, and make growth drivers more robust. We will accelerate the building of a modernized economy, strengthen the protection of property and intellectual property rights, set up a high-standard market system, and improve mechanisms for fair competition. All of this will fully motivate all types of market entities. Openness enables a country to move forward, while seclusion holds it back. In today's world where economic globalization has become an irreversible trend, no country can develop itself by keeping its doors closed. China is already deeply integrated into the global economy and the international system. We will not reverse course or run against the historical trend by "decoupling" or forming a small circle to keep others out. By fostering a new development paradigm, we are not pursuing a closed-door circulation but open a mutually reinforcing domestic and international circulation.

The new development paradigm will enable China to fully unlock its market potential and create greater demand for other countries. China's per capita GDP has topped US\$10,000, and its middle-income population has exceeded 400 million. It is projected by many international institutions that China's retail market will reach six trillion dollars in size this year. As China's economy grows, our people naturally want to lead an even better life. This will create more demand for a greater variety of quality products, technologies, and services from across the world. Despite the damage inflicted by COVID-19, China's import of goods has recovered to the level of last year. The China International Fair for Trade in Services held in Beijing this September brought together 22,000 companies from 148 countries and regions to its online and offline events. Not long ago, the third China International Import Expo was successfully held in Shanghai. Companies from 124 countries and regions participated in the event. The exhibition area was further

expanded. More deals were sealed, reaching US\$72.62 billion in value. China will further cut tariffs and government instituted transaction costs, and open a number of demonstration zones for creative promotion of import trade to increase import of quality goods and services. I am confident that the steady unleashing of the China market potential will create vast business possibilities for other countries, and this will create a stronger impetus for maintaining stable growth of the global economy.

The new development paradigm will enable China to open up wider and share more opportunities for common development with other countries. China is committed to opening-up, which is its fundamental policy, a policy that will not change at any time. The world economy has faced more instability and uncertainty this year. Protectionism and unilateralism are mounting. Yet China has not stalled in its pursuit of opening-up. As a matter of fact, we have taken many policy steps to open the country still wider. It includes the following: The Foreign Investment Law and its supporting rules and regulations have been fully implemented. The negative list for foreign investment has been further cut. Access to the financial market has been steadily eased. A master plan has been drawn up for the

To China, innovation has always been the primary driver of development, and we have made major achievements by implementing an innovation-driven development strategy.

development of the Hainan Free Trade Port. Reform and opening-up in Shenzhen and Pudong have been further advanced. And more pilot programs have been conducted for the creative promotion of trade in services.

High-Quality Development

I wish to reiterate that China's commitment to opening-up is strong and China will open its door wider to the world. China will continue to advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, to conclude, through negotiation, high-standard free trade agreements with more countries, and to actively engage in bilateral,

multilateral, and regional mechanisms for trade and investment cooperation. The purpose is to build a higher-standard open economy in China. China will improve its system for foreign investment management based on pre-establishment national treatment and negative list.

The lawful rights and interests of foreign investors will be protected. China will open up the service sector in a well-planned way and foster a market-oriented, world-class business environment underpinned by a sound legal framework. China will give its pilot free trade zones greater power in carrying out reform, and turn them into new pacesetters of opening-up. At the same time, China will continue to firmly support the multilateral trading system, get more actively involved in reforming the system of global economic governance, and play its part to make this system fairer and more equitable.

The new development paradigm will enable China to continue to deepen international cooperation for shared benefits. China will take a more active part in the international division of labor, get more effectively integrated into global industrial, supply, and value chains, and more enthusiastically expand exchanges and cooperation with other countries. We welcome cooperation with every other region, country, or company that wants to do so. China will remain committed to openness and cooperation and adhere to multilateralism and the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and



Participants at the APEC CEO Dialogues on November 19, 2020.

shared benefits. China will work to pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with its partners and seek greater complementarity between the development strategies and connectivity plans of regions and countries concerned. China will further harmonize policies, rules, and standards with BRI partners, and deepen effective cooperation with them on infrastructure, industry, trade, scientific and technological innovation, public health, and people-to-people exchange. Together, we will make the Belt and Road a model of cooperation, health, recovery, and growth and deepen cooperation on green development. This will allow us to contribute to common development and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Asia-Pacific, a Shared Home

The Asia-Pacific is our shared home. To sustain peace, stability, development, and prosperity in the region meets the interests of us all. As Asia-Pacific economies are connected by the same ocean, we benefit from close interactions between our peoples and geographic proximity. We should follow market trends, seize opportunities created by economic globalization and regional economic integration, and become forerunners driving global growth. The development of the Asia-Pacific and greater economic cooperation in our region represent an underlying historical trend, and such development and cooperation will continue to be imbued with strong vitality because they respond to the call of the people in our region.

Last year, I proposed building an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future, featuring openness, inclusiveness, innovation-driven growth, greater connectivity, and mutually beneficial cooperation. This year, thanks to the participation of all economies concerned, the APEC Post-2020 Vision has been formulated, which sets out ambitious goals and important guidelines for our future cooperation. Let us not forget that we are a community with a common stake, and let us move toward closer regional economic integration. We need to accelerate innovation-driven growth, enhance regional connectivity, and realize inclusive and sustainable development. Step by step, we can surely turn our vision into reality and deliver a better life for people in the region.

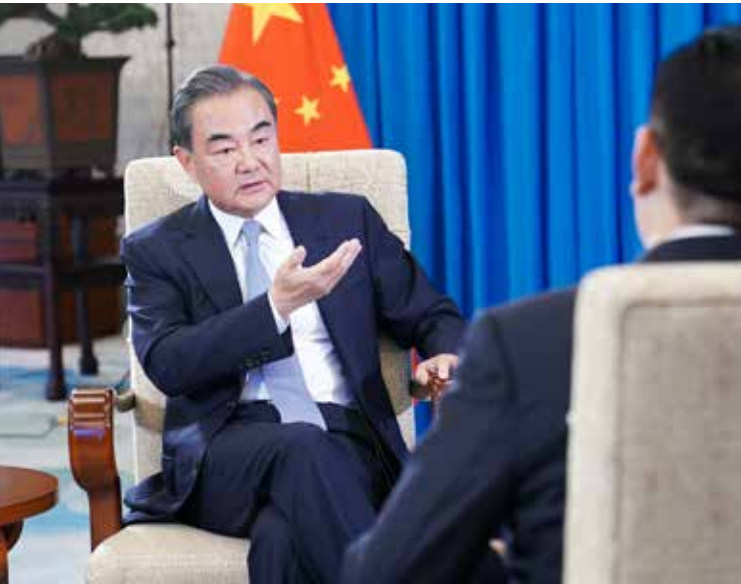
The new development paradigm will enable China to fully unlock its market potential and create greater demand for other countries.

Innovation-driven Growth

The Asia-Pacific business community is an engine driving economic growth. You have witnessed development and cooperation in our region; and indeed, you have contributed to it in every step on the way. You have an important role to play in shaping the future of our region, and there is no doubt you will benefit from its development. Asia-Pacific cooperation has entered a new historical stage at a time when the world is facing multiple challenges.

The business community needs a broader vision, greater resilience and stronger entrepreneurship. With them, I am sure you will create greater prospects for business development. I hope you will contribute your share to promoting openness and development. You may work to advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and ensure the security and stability of industrial and supply chains of our region; and your work will enable the Asia-Pacific to take the lead in achieving economic recovery and prosperity. I hope you will explore innovation-driven growth. You may take bold steps to pursue organizational, technological and market innovations; that will make the Asia-Pacific a fertile ground for scientific breakthroughs and a pacesetter for innovation. I hope you will be partners for achieving win-win cooperation. You may tap fully into the potential for cooperation, and make the pie of cooperation even bigger for all our people to benefit from. I hope you will actively fulfill your social responsibilities. You may all play active parts in the international fight against COVID-19 and do more to help disadvantaged groups to add more momentum to global development. The day will come when we finally beat COVID-19 and win victory in this fight. Let us work in solidarity and weather the storm together. Let us stay true to openness and cooperation and make development and circulations at home and overseas reinforce each other. Together, we can surely deliver a brighter future for all of us, both here in the Asia-Pacific and across the world!

President Xi Held High the Banner of Multilateralism Amid Turbulence: Wang Yi



Chinese State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi participates in an interview with Xinhua in August 2020.

In an interview with Xinhua, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke about President Xi Jinping's key ideas and proposals shared by the Chinese leader at the 12th BRICS Summit, the 27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, and the 15th G20 Leaders' Conference over the past few weeks. Mr Wang underlined that President Xi held high the banner of multilateralism at these virtual events as he explained the concept of building a shared future for humanity and the futility of "a zero-sum game in which one gains at the expense of the other".

The foreign minister also highlighted the positive outcomes of the 5th Plenary of the 19th CPC Central Committee, during which a blueprint for China's development was unveiled.

(Excerpts from Wang Yi's interview with Xinhua on November 23, 2020)

Between November 17 and 22, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended three major multilateral events: the 12th BRICS Summit, the meeting of the economic leaders at the 27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the 15th G20 Leaders' Summit, and delivered a series of important speeches. These events were held in the backdrop of a most severe pandemic in a century, a serious global economic recession, and a series of turbulences and changes in the world. After attending the meetings to commemorate the UN's 75th anniversary, President Xi pitched for strong multilateral cooperation and put forward China's perspective as well as solutions to some of the global challenges. Concerned over the pandemic and a host of other issues, the international community was eager to hear President Xi's thoughts on how they can work together to address them.

The international community spoke highly of the achievements of the three meetings and believed that President Xi's speeches and initiatives are committed to building consensus, boosting confidence, and jointly promoting development, providing a solution for the world to shake off the current crisis and charting the course for reshaping the post-pandemic world.

In the light of the current global situation and reflecting on the broad vision of the participating countries, President Xi highlighted the historical positions of the BRICS, the APEC, and the G20 and the need for close partnership to control and prevent COVID-19. He also stressed economic and social development, shaping a post-pandemic international order, and strengthening

economic governance to establish a community with a shared future for mankind. President Xi has put forth 23 important initiatives, proposals, and measures for achieving the goals. He also elaborated on the implications of China's new development paradigm and sent a clear signal that China will pursue high-quality development while continuing to further open up to the outside world, injecting strong confidence and impetus into the international community.

COVID-19 Solidarity and Cooperation

President Xi held high the banner of building a global community of health for all and made a comprehensive and systematic explanation of China's ideas and proposals for the global COVID-19 fight. First, President Xi called on all parties to uphold the concept of people-centered development and put people and life first. Second, he stressed that solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons in fighting COVID-19. All countries should replace differences with solidarity, eliminate prejudice with rationality, and work together as soon as possible.

Third, President Xi called on all parties to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in the fight, strengthen joint prevention and control mechanism, promote the practice of telemedicine, share the experience of digital technology in fighting COVID-19, economic recovery, establish an international recognition mechanism for health codes, and jointly build a global firewall against the pandemic.

President Xi reaffirmed that China will continue to actively support and participate in international cooperation on COVID-19 vaccines, materialize the COVAX facility, backed by the WHO, share China's vaccines with countries, particularly the developing nations, and work to make vaccines accessible and affordable to people around the world. President Xi stated that China has set up a BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center to advance collective vaccine research and trials, set up plants, authorize the production and recognize each other's standards among the five BRICS countries. He also proposed to convene a BRICS symposium on traditional medicine to explore its role in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

President Xi's proposals and initiatives injected momentum in international cooperation on the COVID-19 fight and boosted humanity's confidence of triumphing over the pandemic, which is an obvious contrast to the acts of politicization and stigmatization.

China's Solution for Global Economic Recovery

The world economy is on the brink of recession due to the pandemic. Against this backdrop, President Xi, referring to China's success in coordinating pandemic control with socio-economic development and taking the lead in resuming work, production, and economic growth, put forward a set of solutions to facilitate the global economic recovery with four keywords: openness, innovation, inclusiveness, and green.

First, pursue open development. President Xi Jinping pointed out that the practice of using the pandemic to pursue "de-globalization" will only end up hurting one's interests and the common concerns. The international community should stand firm for building an open world economy, uphold the multilateral trading system with the WTO as its core, and reject the abuse of the "national security" concept for protectionist purposes. The Chinese leader pointed out that the world should adhere to the principle of "special and differential treatment" for developing countries, promote poverty alleviation and development through trade, and help developing countries better integrate into the global market.

Second, pursue innovative development. President Xi called on all parties to actively grasp the opportunity to expedite new development momentum based on scientific and technological innovation, digitalization and finally realize higher-quality and more resilient development. President Xi stressed that all parties should leverage the new business forms and models triggered by the pandemic, increase investment in the development of digital infrastructure, strengthen cooperation in scientific and technological innovation, and unleash the potential of the digital economy. As the consensus of the G20, this proposal was written into the Leaders' Declaration for the first time and was fully reflected in the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Third, pursue inclusive development. President Xi emphasized the international community should place the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the heart of international development cooperation and make poverty eradication a primary goal.

Comprehensive and balanced policy moves should be adopted to implement the G20 Emergency Response Packages to Facilitate the Recovery of Developing Countries from COVID-19, provide developing countries with necessary financing support and promote infrastructure and connectivity construction. President Xi Jinping also systematically introduced the actions taken by China to promote the world's inclusive development and fully implement the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) and the relevant outcomes, stressing that China will help developing countries pull through the difficulties with practical steps by further leveraging its strengths so that the development will benefit a wider group of people.

Fourth, pursue green development. To tackle climate change, President Xi Jinping stressed that all parties need to implement the Paris Agreement in good faith, stick to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", and provide more help to developing countries, particularly the small island developing states.

COP26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, both to be held next year, may serve as opportunities for building a clean and beautiful world where man and nature coexist in harmony.

President Xi introduced the initiatives to be taken by China in further curtailing the production and use of non-essential, disposable plastic goods, banning illegal trade in wildlife, and holding an international conference on food loss and waste, among others and explicitly reiterated that China will keep its promise on scaling up its nationally determined contributions. China's solutions offered by President Xi include not only initiatives calling for strengthened cooperation among nations but also concrete moves were taken by China.

Spearheading Global Economic Governance Reform

President Xi Jinping expounded on China's principled propositions on global economic governance at the G20 summit. First, define further guiding ideas. Based on the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits for guiding global governance, President Xi further proposed to uphold multilateralism, pursue openness and inclusiveness, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and keep pace with the times.

Second, continuously improve rules and mechanisms. President Xi pointed out that we should firmly safeguard the rules-based multilateral trading system that is transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive, enhance the effectiveness and authority of the WTO, promote free trade, uphold fair competition, and protect the development rights, interests, and space of developing countries. We should also continue the reform of the international financial system, conclude the IMF's 16th General Review of Quotas on schedule, expand the role of the Special Drawing Rights, buttress the global financial safety net, and raise the representation and voice of developing countries.

Third, place a higher premium upon the digital economy. To address concerns on data security, digital divide, personal privacy, and ethics, President Xi underscored that the world should adopt people-centered and facts-based policies to encourage innovation and build trust, support the UN's leading role in this field, and work together to foster an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory environment for building the digital economy.

Vaccines to BRICS Countries

The BRICS cooperation embodies the call of developing countries to build a more just and reasonable international order. Currently, the pandemic may throw emerging markets and developing countries, as a whole, into an economic recession, possibly unseen in many years. Against this backdrop, President Xi made it clear at the BRICS Summit that the member countries must hold high the banner of multilateralism,

safeguard the UN-centered international system, and oppose unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction.

President Xi said that Chinese companies are working with their Russian and Brazilian partners on phase-III clinical trials of vaccines, and we are prepared to assist South Africa and India as well. China will actively consider providing vaccines to BRICS countries where there is a need.

President Xi also proposed a series of practical cooperation initiatives. He pointed out that we need to deepen economic and trade cooperation, push forward the BRICS partnership on the new industrial revolution, implement the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2025, and accelerate the negotiations of the New Development Bank's membership expansion. We need to enhance political and security cooperation, and maintain communication on major international issues within the UN and other frameworks, and improve strategic cooperation among BRICS countries. We also need to expand people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and take them to greater breadth, depth, and warmth. President Xi announced that a BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution innovation center will

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be opened in Xiamen, Fujian Province, and the BRICS Seminar on Governance and the BRICS Civil Forum will be held via video link. He also proposed the convening of the BRICS Women Innovation Competition under the framework of the BRICS Women Business Alliance (WBA).

Seamless Region: Implementing APEC Connectivity Platform

As an important advocate, participant, and contributor of Asia-Pacific cooperation, China's stance, and attitude are in the limelight. President Xi emphasized that Asia-Pacific cooperation



President Xi Jinping participated in the 12th BRICS summit via video link in Beijing on November 17, 2020.

has never been a zero-sum game in which one gains at the expense of the other. President Xi further pointed out that the Asia-Pacific should, based on the new starting point of the post-2020 vision, remain the bellwether in upholding multilateralism, maintaining regional peace and stability, and advancing regional economic integration, to build a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) at an early date. He stressed on implementing the APEC Connectivity Blueprint to facilitate the smooth, safe and orderly flow of people, goods, capital, and data and achieve a seamlessly connected Asia-Pacific, and build an Asian-Pacific community with a shared future featuring openness and inclusiveness, innovation-driven growth, greater connectivity, and mutually beneficial cooperation. President Xi emphasized that China welcomes the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and will favorably consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

China's New Development Paradigm

The recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee adopted recommendations for formulating China's 14th five-year plan and the Long-Range Objectives Through the year 2035, which called for accelerating the building of a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. During the three meetings, President Xi elaborated on the reason for fostering a new development paradigm, its characteristics, and implications to the world, sharing China's ambitious plan of embarking on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country.

President Xi stressed that China will not reverse course or run against the historical trend by "decoupling" or forming a small circle to keep others out. By fostering a new development paradigm, we are not pursuing a closed-door circulation, but better connectivity between domestic and international markets, a new system of open economy of higher standards, and wider, broader and deeper opening up. He stated that China is willing to share new development

opportunities with other countries, and seek peaceful coexistence and common development on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and shared benefits. The new development paradigm will enable China to fully unlock its market potential and create greater demand for other countries, enable China to open up wider and share more opportunities for common development with other countries and enable China to continue to deepen international cooperation for shared benefits. China will continue to pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with its partners and make the Belt and Road a model of cooperation, health, recovery, and growth and deepen international cooperation.

The viewpoints, proposals, and initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping during the three meetings represent the Chinese characteristics, and safeguard international justice, showcasing a country which effectively coordinates the pandemic prevention and control with economic and social development, and enjoys improving capabilities of national governance, and a promising prospect; a country which embarks on a new journey of development, implements new development concepts and builds a new development paradigm; a country which follows the path of peaceful development and forges ahead with other countries; a country which pursues an independent foreign policy and follows a win-win strategy of opening up; and a country which advocates a community with a shared future for mankind and stands together with people from all over the world.

When standing high and looking at the broad horizon from afar, one is poised to navigate his way ahead. No matter how the international situation is changing, under the firm leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is unstoppable. In face of all difficulties and setbacks, we will, under the guidance of President Xi's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era and on diplomacy, uphold multilateralism and win-win cooperation, resolutely build a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind, work tirelessly for China's national rejuvenation and make a greater contribution to the world peace and development.

Historic Feat: Xinjiang Bids Adieu to Absolute Poverty



Villagers at a broom-making center in Akesalayi Township of Moyu County in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in October, 2020.

In a historic feat, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has bid farewell to absolute poverty. The last 10 impoverished counties in Xinjiang, where the country's largest desert is located, have managed to end absolute poverty, the regional government announced on November 14. All the 10 counties, including Shache, Moyu, and Akto, are no longer impoverished by official standards, the local government said in an online statement, Xinhua reported. The locals used to have limited access to stable income and public services due to the harsh natural environment and poor infrastructure.

The announcement was made based on a string of evaluations by the local governments and authorized third-party organizations, which found that people in the counties now have stable access to education and medical care, among other things. Chen Lei, an inspector with the regional poverty alleviation office, said that the latest outcome meant all of Xinjiang's 32 poverty-

stricken counties and over 3.08 million registered poor residents have shaken off poverty. In recent years, the regional government has dedicated itself to promoting employment, education, and medical services to improve people's circumstances, with over 70 percent of the fiscal budget spent on ensuring and improving people's wellbeing. Thanks to strenuous efforts from all stakeholders, major progress has been achieved in Xinjiang.

From 2014 to 2019, a sound economic momentum was sustained with an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.2 percent. Living standards of the local people have significantly improved with an average yearly growth of 9.1 percent in residential per capita disposable income, Xinhua said. With over 25 million people of various ethnic groups, the region's anti-poverty achievement brings the country one step closer to its goal of ending poverty by the end of 2020. Of the last 10 counties to escape from poverty in Xinjiang, five are in the Hotan Prefecture, where the area suitable for human survival accounts for less than 4 percent of the land. "Now, the remaining five impoverished counties in Hotan, 228 poverty-stricken villages and 76,900 people, all meet the exit criteria," said Yang Hua, Party secretary of Hotan's poverty-alleviation office. "Hotan will continue to develop characteristic and advantageous industries to ensure that people can have a sustained and stable source of income," he added.

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Xinjiang Sees Exponential Growth, Western Allegations Untrue

The western media and some government officials who tom-tom about human rights violations in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region proved false as evidence paint a different picture of development and welfare, CCTV said in an opinion piece on November 2. "Actions speak louder than words and results matter more than empty promises," Tom McGregor wrote in the article. "Critics claim that Beijing has engaged in rights abuses against Uygur, but there is no evidence proving the allegations are true," he said. According to him, facts and figures show that Xinjiang has witnessed soaring economic growth in recent years.

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Xinjiang's GDP surged to 1.22 trillion yuan in 2018 from a lowly 791 million yuan in 1952, around 200 times increase from the previous, he said citing a Xinhua report. From 1952 to 2018, its GDP recorded an average annual growth rate of about 8.3 percent. Furthermore, Beijing has poured in about 2.35 trillion yuan over the past seven decades to jumpstart the region's socio-economic development. As China's largest provincial-level region in terms of territorial landmass, Xinjiang can boast of 21 civilian airports and a road network connecting nearly all villages across the region. Besides, it has witnessed dramatic upgrades of its industrial structure. "The tertiary industry, including tourism and internet plus, has



A resident dances to the music at a tea house in the ancient city of Kashgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

contributed 62.3 percent of the region's economic growth in 2018," the article said.

The region's foreign trade volume reached US\$20 billion in 2018, about 1,481 times higher than in 1950. Xinjiang has also been promoting economic cooperation with neighboring nations largely on account of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, he said. Xinjiang's urban and rural per capita disposable incomes have both risen more than 100 times from 1978 to 2018. In 2018, the figures were 32,764 yuan and 11,975 yuan, respectively. Moreover, the region has performed remarkably in poverty alleviation over the past 70 years. Between 2014 and 2018, approximately 2.3 million people were lifted out of poverty, with the region's poverty headcount ratio slipping from 19.4 percent to 6.1 percent, he added.

Evidence of Muslims Being Suppressed Utter Nonsense, Say Xinjiang Officials



People dance outside the Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The so-called evidence of China violently suppressing Muslims and arresting a large number of people from ethnic groups in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region alleged by "East Turkestan" organizations at the International Criminal Court are "fabricated and utter nonsense", a Xinjiang official said. "The 'East Turkestan government-in-exile' that aims to separate Xinjiang from China has teamed up with the 'East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)' to spread false information through every means to confuse the public, poison the public opinion, and

bring shame on Xinjiang," Ekbel Adar, deputy director of the committee of ethnic, religious, foreign, and overseas Chinese affairs of the Xinjiang people's congress, said at a press conference in the regional capital Urumqi on November 18.

In July, the two organizations presented so-called evidence to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, and called on the court to investigate cases of so-called genocide and crimes against humanity. "The organizations once again aim to stir up trouble. The farce of the so-called litigation is boring and extremely clumsy," *China Daily* quoted Mr Ekbel as saying in an article on November 20. "They have gone farther and farther down the shameless road, trying to show the whole world their ugly images," he said. Due to the penetration of religious extremism, the region had been frequently hit by terrorist attacks for some time. As a result, the region has implemented a series of anti-terrorism and anti-extremism measures in recent years, the report noted.

“Anti-terrorism and anti-extremism measures in Xinjiang are backed by a clear legal basis and legal procedures. Those measures have never targeted any specific region, ethnic group, or religion, so there is no ‘suppression of Muslims’ or ‘mass detention of people from certain ethnic groups’ at all,” Mr Ekbel added. “US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s recent announcement to remove ETIM from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations disregards the bloody crimes committed by the group and has undermined international anti-terrorism cooperation. The decision has revealed the US double standard on anti-terrorism issues,” Ilijan Anayt, spokesman for the regional government, said at the news conference.

In 2002, the ETIM was designated as a terrorist organization and added to the UN sanctions list under UNSC Resolutions 1267 and 1390. “For a long time, the ETIM has spread terrorist thought in the guise of religion and instigated, planned, and carried out violent terrorist acts, harming people’s lives and property, to separate Xinjiang from China. It has released a large number of violent terrorist audio and video recordings on the internet, and incited extremists to commit violent attacks,” Mr Ilijan said. “The most violent terrorist attacks in China are carried out by ETIM. The attacks were influenced by its audio and

video clips posted online. Almost all the attackers involved had watched or listened to those recordings. The ETIM is part of an international terrorism system and threatens both China and the world,” he said, adding that “Xinjiang will not waiver in its determination to crack down on the ETIM and other terrorist forces, safeguard the lives and property of people of all ethnic groups, and protect social stability and national unity. Any attempt to undermine the stability and development of Xinjiang will not succeed,” the spokesman added.

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Tourists with the locals in a teahouse in the ancient city of Kashgar.

Diplomats Visit Xinjiang, Hail Ethnic Unity, Progress and Human Rights Protection

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's achievements, whether it is socio-economic development, poverty alleviation, unity and harmony, human rights protection, or counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts, are obvious to all, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. Spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the remarks at a press briefing while answering a query about a recent visit of Arab envoys to Xinjiang Xinhua reported on October 26.

Diplomatic envoys from 20 Arab states posted in China and the Arab League toured Xinjiang from October 19 to 22. They visited the local companies, schools, poverty alleviation projects, and grassroots communities, and talked to villagers to get an in-depth understanding of social stability, ethnic equality and unity, improvement in people's livelihood, and economic development in Xinjiang, Mr Zhao

said. They also visited the Islamic institutes and mosques to learn about the protection of freedom of religious belief in Xinjiang, said the spokesperson.

According to Mr Zhao, the diplomats spoke highly of Xinjiang's achievements in economic and social development and human rights. Some of them pointed out that rumors about the human rights situation in China and China's Xinjiang were groundless, and that Xinjiang's experience in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization was worth learning from. They also expressed their willingness to contribute to strengthening cooperation between Arab countries and Xinjiang, he added. "China welcomes friends from all over the world, including Arab and Islamic states, to visit Xinjiang and tell the world about a real, beautiful, and colorful Xinjiang," Xinhua quoted him as saying.



A couple displayed embroidery works at a handicraft making cooperative in Aketao County in Xinjiang in September, 2020. They founded a handicraft-making cooperative, which has provided job opportunities for 20 local households.

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