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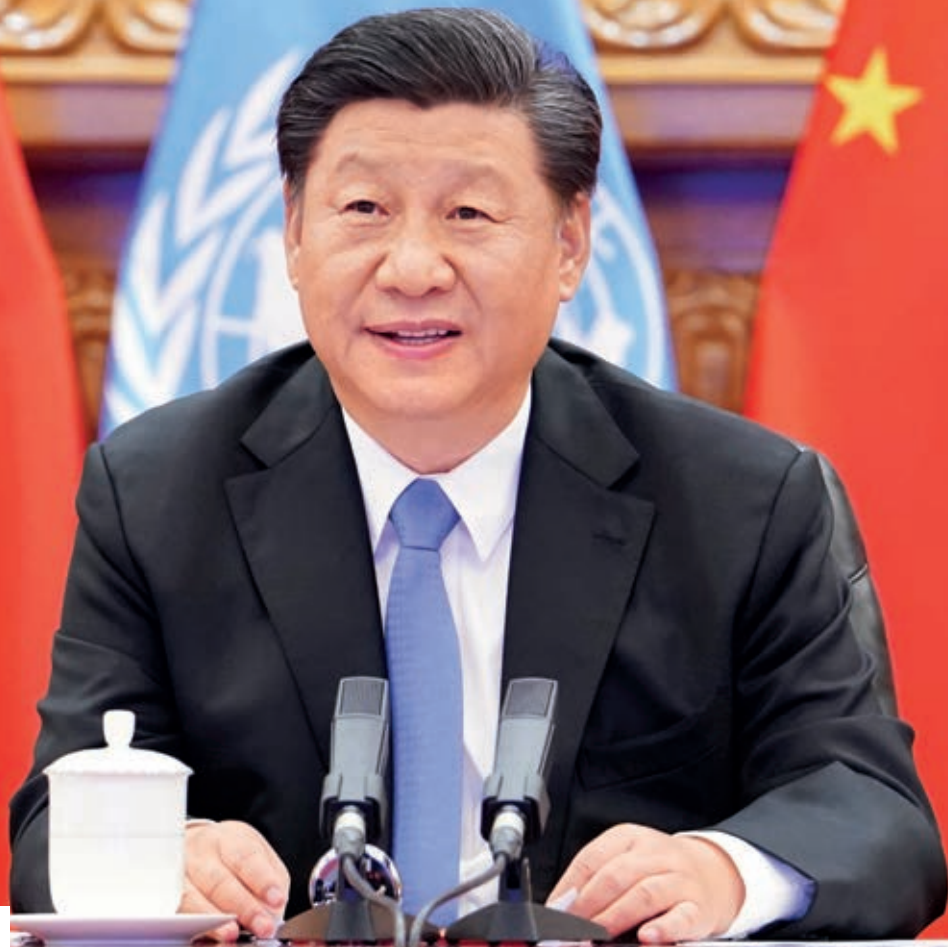


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National People's Congress of China

## PURSUE GREATER UNITY AND PROGRESS



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# 习近平主席同联合国秘书长 Video Conference between President Xi Jinping



President Xi Jinping attends a video conference with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres from Beijing on September 23. *Liu Weibing*

# 长古特雷斯举行视频会见 and UN Secretary-General António Guterres





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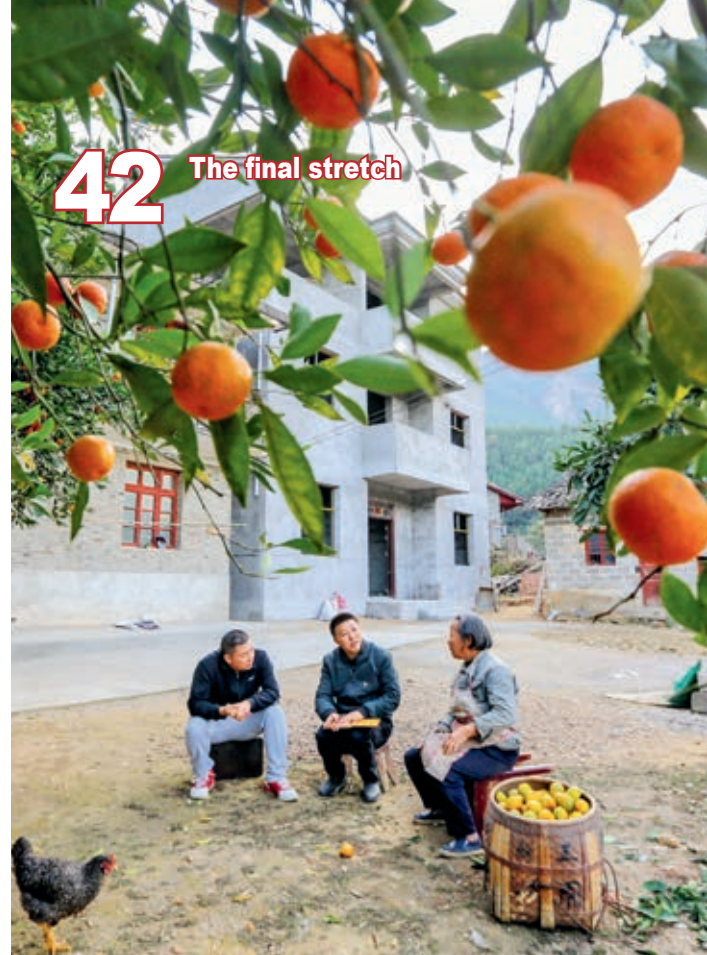
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**COVER:** President Xi Jinping addresses a high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations via video link on September 21. *Ju Peng*



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# Pursue greater unity and progress

Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping,  
President of the People's Republic of China  
at the High-level Meeting to  
Commemorate the 75th Anniversary  
of the United Nations

Beijing, September 21, 2020

Volkan Bozkir, president of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, chairs the 1st plenary meeting of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, on September 15. The 75th Session of the UN General Assembly was declared open that day by new General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir. In his opening remarks, Bozkir asked UN member states to uphold multilateralism.  
*Evan Schneider/UN Photo/Handout via Xinhua*



Mr. President,  
Colleagues,

Seventy-five years ago, the people of the world, through strenuous struggle and tremendous sacrifice, won the great victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. It was indeed a victory for justice and a victory for the people.

In the first half of the last century, humanity suffered the scourge of two devastating wars that brought untold suffering to the world. It was against this backdrop that the United Nations (UN) came into being. Over the ensuing 75 years, this organization has traveled an extraordinary journey. A new chapter has thus opened for peace and development in the world.

— The 75 years since the founding of the UN have seen dramatic progress in human society. We have experienced significant and across-the-board progress in science and technology and in industrial revolution. We are now embracing a new round of even more extensive and substantial scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. Globally, social productivity has been unprecedentedly unleashed and boosted. Humanity has never been so powerfully capable of overcoming the difficulties we face and changing the world we live in.

## **China has the full confidence and capability to win the battle against the virus with concerted efforts.**

— The 75 years since the founding of the UN have witnessed profound changes in the international situation. A great many developing countries have gained national liberation and independence. Over a billion people have risen out of poverty. And a population of several billion has embarked on a path toward modernization. These achievements have considerably strengthened the force for peace and development in the world and transformed the international landscape in a far reaching manner.

— The 75 years since the founding of the UN have been a period of the rapid development of multilateralism. The problems facing the world are big and many, and global challenges are on the rise. They should and can only be resolved through dialogue and cooperation. International affairs ought to be addressed through consultation among all of us. The understanding that we are all in the same boat is now a popular consensus in the global community.

After the storm comes the rainbow. The UN has stood one test after another and emerged with renewed vigor and vitality. The UN embodies the aspiration of the over 7 billion people for a better life, and the UN Charter remains an important guarantee for world peace and development.

Mr. President,

Major changes unseen in a century are taking place in our world. The sudden assault of COVID-19 is a grave test for the entire world. Humanity has entered a new era of interconnectedness, with countries sharing intertwined interests and a closely linked future. Global threats and global

challenges require strong, global responses.

In the face of new realities and challenges, we must do some serious thinking: What kind of UN is needed for the world? How should the organization play its role in the post-COVID-19 era? Let me share some of my thoughts with you.

First, the UN must stand firm for justice. Mutual respect and equality among all countries, big or small, represents the progress of our times and is the foremost principle of the UN Charter. No country has the right to dominate global affairs, control the destiny of others or keep advantages in development all to itself. Even less should any country be allowed to do whatever it likes and be the hegemon, bully or boss of the world. Unilateralism is a dead end. Every country needs to follow the approach of extensive consultation, joint contributions and shared benefits. Everyone needs to come together to uphold universal security, share the fruits of development and jointly decide on the future of the world. It is imperative that the representation and voice of developing countries be increased so that the UN can be more balanced in reflecting the interests and wishes of the majority of countries in the world.

Second, the UN must uphold the rule of law. The purposes and principles of the UN Charter are the fundamental guidelines for handling international relations. They constitute a cornerstone of stable international order and must be unswervingly maintained and upheld. Relations among countries and the coordination of their interests must be based solely on rules and institutions; they must not be lorded over by those who wave a strong fist at others. Big countries should lead by example in advocating and upholding the international rule of law and in honoring their commitments. There must be no practice of exceptionalism or double standards. Nor should international law be distorted and used as a pretext to undermine other countries' legiti-

**Let us renew our firm commitment to multilateralism, work to promote a community with a shared future for humanity and rally behind the banner of the UN to pursue greater unity and progress.**

mate rights and interests or world peace and stability.

Third, the UN must promote cooperation. To promote cooperation among countries is a founding mission of the UN and an important purpose spelled out in the UN Charter. A Cold War mentality, ideological lines or a zero-sum game are not solutions to a country's own problem, still less an answer to humanity's common challenges. What we need to do is to replace conflict with dialogue, coercion with consultation and zero-sum with win-win. We need to pursue the common interests of all as we each work to safeguard our own interests. We need to expand the converging interests of all and build a big global family based on harmony and cooperation.

Fourth, the UN must focus on real action. To put into practice the principle of multilateralism, we must act, not just talk. There must be a cure, not just a treatment. The UN should aim at problem-solving and move toward tangible outcomes as it simultaneously promotes security, development and human rights. In particular, as the UN advances its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, priority should be given to addressing non-traditional security challenges such as public health; the issue of development should be highlighted in the global macro framework; and there should be a greater emphasis on the promotion and protection of the rights to subsistence and development.

China was the first to sign the Charter of the United Nations. It is a founding member of the UN and the only developing country with a permanent seat on the Security Council. China will continue to be a true adherent of multilateralism. It will remain actively engaged in reforming and developing the global governance system. It will firmly uphold the UN-centered international system, firmly uphold the international order underpinned by international law and firmly defend the UN's central role in international affairs.

Mr. President,

The world now stands at a new historical starting point. Let us renew our firm commitment to multilateralism, work to promote a community with a shared future for humanity and rally behind the banner of the UN to pursue greater unity and progress.

I thank you. ■



The State Council Information Office released a white paper titled *China's Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations* in Beijing on September 18. Relevant officers attended the press conference and took questions from journalists. Jin Liangkui





President Xi Jinping addresses a high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations via video link on September 21. *Ju Peng*

# Make the world a better place for everyone

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
Beijing, September 22, 2020

Mr. President,  
Colleagues,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations (UN). Yesterday, the High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the UN was held. It was a signif-

icant meeting, since it reaffirmed our abiding commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter on the basis of reviewing the historical experience and lessons of the World Anti-Fascist War.

Mr. President,  
We humans are battling COVID-19, a virus that has rav-

aged the world and keeps resurging. In this fight, we have witnessed the efforts of governments, the dedication of medical workers, the research by scientists and the public's perseverance. People from many different countries have come together. With courage, resolve and compassion, which lit the dark hours, we have confronted the disaster head on. The virus will be defeated. Humanity will win this battle!

– In the face of the virus, we should put people and life first. We should mobilize all resources to have a science-based and targeted response. No case should be missed and no patient should be left untreated. The spread of the virus must be contained.

– In the face of the virus, we should enhance solidarity and get through this together. We should follow the guidance of science, give full play to the leading role of the World Health Organization and launch a joint international response to defeat this pandemic. Any attempt at politicization of the issue or stigmatization must be rejected.

– In the face of the virus, we should adopt comprehensive and long-term control measures. We should reopen businesses and schools in an orderly manner, so as to create jobs, boost the economy, and restore economic and social order and vitality. The major economies need to step up macroeconomic policy coordination. We should not only restart our own economies, but also contribute to global recovery.

– In the face of the virus, we should show concern for and accommodate the needs of developing countries, especially African countries. The international community needs to take timely and robust measures in such fields as debt relief and international assistance, ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and help these countries overcome their difficulties.

Seventy-five years ago, China made historic contributions to winning the World Anti-Fascist War and supported the founding of the UN. Today, with the same sense of responsibility, China is actively involved in the international fight against COVID-19, contributing its share to upholding global public health security. Going forward, we will continue to share our pandemic control practices as well as diagnostics and therapeutics with other countries, provide support and assistance to countries in need, ensure stable global anti-pandemic supply chains, and actively participate in global research on tracing the source and transmission routes of the virus.

At the moment, several COVID-19 vaccines developed by China are in Phase III clinical trials. When their development is completed and they are available for use, these vaccines will be made a global public good and will be given to other developing countries on a priority basis. China will honor its commitment of providing \$2 billion of international assistance over two years, further international cooperation in such fields as agriculture, poverty reduction, education, women and children, and climate change, and support other countries in restoring economic and social development.

Mr. President,

The history of the development of human society is a history of our struggles against all challenges and difficulties and our victories over them. At present, the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic as it goes through profound changes not seen in a century. Yet, peace and development remain the underlying trend of the times, with people everywhere craving even more strongly peace, development and win-win

**With courage, resolve and compassion, which lit the dark hours, we have confronted the disaster head on. The virus will be defeated. Humanity will win this battle!**

cooperation. COVID-19 will not be the last crisis to confront humanity, so we must join hands and be prepared to meet other global challenges.

Firstly, COVID-19 reminds us that we are living in an interconnected global village with a common stake. All countries are closely connected and we share a common future. No country can gain from others' difficulties or maintain stability by taking advantage of others' troubles. To pursue a beggar-thy-neighbor policy or just watch from a safe distance when others are in danger will eventually land one in the same trouble. This is why we should embrace the vision of a community with a shared future in which everyone is bound together.

We should reject attempts to build blocs to keep others out and oppose a zero-sum approach. We should see each other as members of the same big family, pursue win-win cooperation, rise above ideological disputes and avoid falling into the trap of a "clash of civilizations." More importantly, we should respect a country's independent development path and model choices. The world is diverse in nature, thus we should turn this diversity into a constant source of inspiration driving human advancement. This will ensure that human civilizations remain colorful and diversified.

Secondly, COVID-19 reminds us that economic globalization is an indisputable reality and a historical trend. Burying one's head in the sand like an ostrich in the face of economic globalization or trying to fight it with Don Quixote's lance goes against the trend of history. Let this be clear: The world will never return to isolation, and no one can sever ties among countries. We should not dodge the challenges of economic globalization. Instead, we must face up to major issues such as the wealth gap and the development divide. We should strike a proper balance between the government and the market, fairness and efficiency, growth and income distribution, and technology and employment, in order to ensure full and balanced development that delivers benefits to the people of all countries, sectors and backgrounds in an equitable manner. We should pursue open and inclusive development, remain committed to building an open world economy and uphold the multilateral trading regime with the World Trade Organization as the cornerstone. We should say no to unilateralism and protectionism, and work to ensure the stable and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains.

Thirdly, COVID-19 reminds us that humanity must launch a green revolution and move faster to create green development and life, preserve the environment and make Mother Earth a better place for all. Humanity can no longer afford to ignore the repeated warnings of nature and go down the beaten path of extracting resources without investing in conservation, pursuing development at the expense of protection



Officers and soldiers of a peacekeeping contingent to Sudan's Darfur, were awarded UN peace medals by the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur on October 1. Yu Hao

or exploiting resources without restoration. The Paris Agreement on climate change charts a course for the world to transition to green and low-carbon development. It outlines the minimum steps to be taken to protect the Earth, our shared homeland, thus all countries must take decisive steps to honor this agreement. China will scale up its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions by adopting more vigorous policies and measures. We aim to have CO<sub>2</sub> emissions peak by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. We call on all countries to pursue innovative, coordinated, green and open development for all; seize the historic opportunities presented by the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation; achieve a green recovery of the world economy in the post-COVID era and thus create a powerful force driving sustainable development.

Fourthly, COVID-19 reminds us that the global governance system calls for reform and improvement. COVID-19 is a major test of countries' governance capacity, as well as a test of the global governance system. We should stay true to multilateralism and safeguard the international system with the UN at its core. Global governance should be based on the principle of extensive consultation, joint cooperation and shared benefits to ensure that all countries enjoy equal rights and opportunities and follow the same rules. The global governance system should adapt itself to evolving global political and economic dynamics, meet global challenges and embrace the underlying trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation. It is natural for countries to have differences. What's important is to address them through dialogue and consultation. Countries may engage in competition, but this competition should be positive and healthy in nature. When in competition, countries should not breach moral standards and should comply with international norms. In particular, major countries should act like major countries. They should provide more global public goods, take up their due responsibilities and live up to people's

expectations.

Mr. President,

Since the start of this year, we, the 1.4 billion Chinese, undaunted by the strike of COVID-19, and with the government and the people united as one, have made all-out efforts to control the virus and speedily restore life and the economy to normalcy. We have every confidence that we will achieve our goals within the set timeframe. We will finish the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, lift all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty and meet the poverty eradication target set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

China is the largest developing country in the world and is committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development. We will never seek hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence. We have no intention of fighting either a cold war or a hot war with any country. We will continue to narrow

differences and resolve disputes with others through dialogue and negotiation. We do not seek to only develop ourselves or engage in a zero-sum game. We will not pursue development behind closed doors. Rather over time, we aim to foster a new development paradigm, with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulation reinforcing each other. This will create more space for China's economic development and add impetus to global economic recovery and growth.

China will continue to be a builder of global peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order. To support the UN in playing its central role in international affairs, I hereby announce the following steps to be taken by China:

- China will provide another \$50 million to the UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan.
- China will provide \$50 million to the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund (Phase III).
- China will extend the Peace and Development Trust Fund between the UN and China by five years after it expires in 2025.
- China will set up a UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center and an International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. President,  
Colleagues,

The baton of history has been passed to our generation, and we must make the right choice, a choice worthy of the people's trust and our times. Let us join hands to uphold the values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom shared by all and build a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for humanity. Together, we can make the world a better place for everyone. ■



The United Nations Security Council holds an open debate on the situation in the Middle East at the UN headquarters in New York on July 25, 2017. Liu Jieyi, China's permanent representative to the United Nations and UN Security Council president for July, addressed a Security Council open debate on the situation in the Middle East at the UN headquarters in New York. On July 31, 2017, China concluded its rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of July. Under the month-long Chinese presidency, the Security Council, which is the most powerful UN body, convened more than 30 meetings, adopted four resolutions and four presidential statements, and issued seven press statements. *Li Muzi*

# Xi Jinping meets with UN Secretary-General António Guterres

**O**n the evening of September 23, 2020, President Xi Jinping met with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres in Beijing via video link.

Xi Jinping stressed, the UN has made important contributions to world peace and development since its founding 75 years ago. The international community should take the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN as an

opportunity to reaffirm its firm support for multilateralism and solemn commitment to the UN Charter. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China will firmly support the UN in playing a central role in international affairs and its work.

Xi Jinping pointed out, the COVID-19 pandemic is still spreading around the world and we should not slacken our efforts in the global fight against COVID-19. The Chinese

side is willing to share experience and practices with all sides without reservation and continue to provide support and assistance for countries in need. The Chinese side firmly supports the key leadership of the UN system, especially the World Health Organization, in strengthening international cooperation and joint prevention and containment of the pandemic, to jointly build a global community of health for all. China will honor its commitment to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good after putting them into use following the completion of vaccine development, and make contributions to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

Xi Jinping pointed out, the pandemic has given rise to many new problems, but they all boil down to peace and development. The UN Security Council should act as the international collective security mechanism, and the permanent members of the UN Security Council should play an exemplary role. Pursuing unilateralism and hegemony will surely be rejected.

Xi Jinping stressed, efforts should be made to reduce the impact of the pandemic on economy and people's livelihood, mobilize global resources and forces, and urge all sides to take timely and robust measures to reduce and relieve debt and enhance assistance, therefore contributing to the development of developing countries and narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

Xi Jinping stressed, development must be sustainable, which requires the relationship between people and nature to be properly handled. China not only strengthens its own ecological civilization but also actively assumes international responsibility for climate change. China strives to take good care of the Earth, the common home of mankind, and actively works with other countries to jointly build a Silk Road of Green Development.

Xi Jinping pointed out, the pandemic has also magnified the problems of maladaptation and mismatch in the global governance system. All sides should consider how to improve it rather than trying to tearing it down and setting up another one. There is only one system in the world, that is, the UN-centered international system and there is only one set of rules, namely the basic norms of international relations based on the UN Charter. China never engages in ideological confrontation, advocates decoupling, or seeks hegemony. What we care about most is how to enable the 1.4 billion Chinese people to live a better life and make greater contributions to mankind. However, we will not sit idly by and allow China's sovereignty, national dignity and space for development to be undermined. We will resolutely safeguard our legitimate rights and interests and uphold international fairness and justice.

Xi Jinping stressed, all countries are interconnected and share a common destiny. All countries should rise above

## What we care about most is how to enable the 1.4 billion Chinese people to live a better life and make greater contributions to mankind.

differences between countries, nationalities, cultures and ideologies, build a community with a shared future for mankind and jointly build our shared planet.

António Guterres said, since the world now faces many crises and challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, we need multilateralism, international cooperation and a stronger UN more than ever before. I appreciate China's consistent and firm support for multilateralism and the UN. With China's support, the UN can better carry out its duties. China plays an important role in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. I speak highly of a series of major initiatives and measures announced by President Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly recently in practicing multilateralism, tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development. I support China in promoting the joint building of a Silk Road of Green Development and deepening cooperation with Africa and other developing countries. The UN hopes to continue to strengthen cooperation with China and expects China to play a leading role. I believe that China is fully capable of achieving its own development and making greater contributions to the world.

Yang Jiechi, Wang Yi and others were present. (Xinhua) ■



A worker moves epidemic prevention and control supplies at a warehouse in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province in South China, on April 29. *Wang Ruiping*



The China Railway Express (Chang'an), ferrying 190 Chinese made Volvo XC60 vehicles, arrives at the Port of Ghent in Belgium on July 4, 2019. Pan Geping

# China's commitment to multilateralism illustrated

President Xi Jinping attended high-level meetings of the United Nations (UN) via video conference to join world leaders in tackling global challenges.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the 193-nation organization, which has grown from 51 initial signatories, including China, at the end of World War II. Today, the world is at another critical juncture in human history, thus efforts must be doubled to “save succeeding generations”—a basic value enshrined in the UN Charter.

## Multilateralism in jeopardy

The UN Charter “brought rules and hope to a world in ruins,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres while commemorating the organization’s birth. It was signed at a time when world leaders felt a strong need for establishing a mechanism that would help bring peace and stop future wars, which was viewed as only possible if all nations worked together through a global organization.

However, after decades of globalization and integration, the world is facing increasing fragmentation in response to salient risks and challenges, due to the return of unilateralism, protectionism, treaty withdrawals and military and economic bullying practices.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused over 1 million deaths worldwide and paralyzed the global economy, is a reminder of that world 75 years ago which left

millions of families grieving the loss of their loved ones.

“In 1945, the most destructive war in human history had just ended with a general recognition that humanity could never again allow such unmitigated devastation to be unleashed by national conflict and conquest, and that only a multinational body could provide that hope, if not that guarantee,” said Robert Lawrence Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation based in Los Angeles and New York in the US. “There are always differences among nations. The high road is figuring out how to develop collective opportunities while controlling potential conflict by constant contact,” he added.

Warning about the dangers of international relations in the era of instant global communications and increasingly polarized social media, Kuhn suggested that global geopolitics need both multinational organizations and strong bilateral relations among nations. “The UN cannot be the whole answer, but it is certainly part of the answer,” he said.

## Global awareness

As one of the founding members of the UN and a permanent member of the Security Council, China has honored its commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and has defended the UN by responding to global threats, and pursuing peace and development.

In its position paper on the UN’s 75th anniversary, China reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the UN-centered global governance system, the basic norms of international



↑ A live-streamer promotes local farm products in Luopu, a county in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on September 26. On October 19, the regional government announced that Luopu and nine other impoverished counties in the region were the last to be declared poverty free. *Xinhua*

→ Villagers pick camellia tea oil seeds at a planting base in Lishui, East China's Zhejiang Province on October 18. *Xinhua*



## ▶ Joint efforts in poverty alleviation

By the end of 2020, China is set to achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects, accomplishing one of the key goals laid out in its 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), namely, ending extreme poverty. According to statistics released by the World Bank, China has lifted more than 750 million people out of poverty since 1978, accounting for four-fifths of the world's total over the last four decades.



## ▶ Chinese police help keep the world safe

The year 2020 not only marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN, but also the 20th anniversary of Chinese police's participation in UN peacekeeping missions. In January 2000, China dispatched the first group of 15 police officers to the UN's peacekeeping operation in East Timor. Chinese police officers have since played an important role in promoting global peace and security along with their peers from other UN members.

← The engineering squad of the Chinese peacekeeping troops sent to South Sudan arrives in Wau to deliver clean drinking water to the local people in an effort to help ensure their basic daily needs, May 28, 2010. (Courtesy of China's Ministry of Defense)

## ▶ For every child, every right

China is home to the world's second largest population of children and over the past 40 years, the welfare of its children has improved markedly. Progress has been made in the rights of children in areas such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child protection and social policy, with a focus on reducing urban-rural, regional and gender disparities. China has been in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund for more than 40 years.



↑ Children play at a poverty relief resettlement site in Xia'ao of Du'an Yao Autonomous County in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on August 18. *Xinhua*



← A teacher gives first graders a physical education lesson in a primary school in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in East China, on September 4. *Xinhua*



↑ Representatives of Forest Declaration sponsors gather in Paris, France in December 2015. (Courtesy of WWF China)

## ▶ Conserving biodiversity under the UN framework

Since becoming a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the 1990s, China has been actively involved in its various missions, building a beautiful country and enhancing global cooperation on increasing biodiversity. China's philosophy of ecological civilization underlines the harmony between people and nature, and focuses on innovative, integrated and green development. Relevant institutions and mechanisms have been established to achieve the goals of ecological protection.





China's peacekeeping force repairs a road in Darfur Sudan on February 23. *Xinhua*



Chinese medical expert team members communicate with a local front-line health worker at a COVID-19 testing facility in Juba, South Sudan on August 21. *Gale Julius/Xinhua*

relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the authority and stature of the UN and the central role of the UN in international affairs.

China's voice is echoed by leaders of other countries and organizations across the world. In a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen via video link on September 14, President Xi reached consensus with the EU leaders on safeguarding multilateralism and jointly addressing global challenges.

For their part, Merkel, Michel and von der Leyen said it is imperative for Europe and China to strengthen cooperation, jointly safeguard multilateralism and resist unilateralism and protectionism.

Commenting on the meeting's outcomes, Christine Bierre, editor-in-chief of France's *Nouvelle Solidarite* and an expert with the Schiller Institute France, said the leaders sent a positive signal on safeguarding world peace, stability and prosperity, and fully demonstrated that multilateral cooperation remains the trend of the times.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, China always matches its deeds with its words. Beijing has actively docked its own development goals and plans with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has achieved remarkable results in areas like poverty alleviation and climate governance.

Moreover, China has also registered an 8,000-strong standby force and a 300-member permanent police squad for UN peacekeeping missions and has assisted other developing countries with 180 poverty reduction projects, among other initiatives and measures in support of the UN, in accordance with President Xi's announcement at the UN's 2015 summit meetings commemorating the organization's 70th anniversary.

"China will shoulder its share of responsibility and continue to play its part in this common endeavor," President Xi said at the UN headquarters in New York five years ago. "We should renew our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation and create a community

of shared future for mankind," Xi said.

## Hope for the future

"My wish is that there is peace and justice," said one of the 250,000 voices recorded around the world for the UN global dialogue initiative, launched to gather hopes, concerns and ideas across the world. It was part of the commemoration events for the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), with the theme *The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism*.

World leaders are expected to jointly forge solutions for global public health, full equality and climate action, among others, much like 75 years ago when the initial signatories pledged "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights... to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th UNGA, said on September 14 that "the most important thing is to continue to underline the importance of collaboration and the multilateral effort."

"This is the way to guarantee not only peace, but also prosperity, which are very important goals of the United Nations from the very beginning," he said in an interview.

Just as President Xi said in his 2015 speech, the goals of peace, development, equality, justice, democracy and freedom "are far from being achieved." But hope lies in the world's collective response.

On the eve of the 21st century, to encourage people around the world to face the challenges of the new millennium, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged all countries to stand side by side.

"More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations," he said. (Xinhua) ■

# Global services, shared prosperity




中国国际服务贸易交易会  
CHINA INTERNATIONAL FAIR  
FOR TRADE IN SERVICES

The second plenary meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) was held on August 28 in Beijing. The CIFTIS was the first major international economic and trade event held offline in China since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the scale of the event is unprecedented. 22,000 enterprises and institutions from 148 countries and regions participated in the exhibition online and offline, including 33 international organizations, 68 embassies in China, 110 foreign trade associations and 199 Fortune 500 enterprises. During the exhibition, a total of 190 forums and negotiation activities were held, including 4 summit forums, 134 industry forums, 29 special activities of overseas countries and regions, 18 provincial and municipal theme activities, and 5 evening activities.

China's fast development of trade in services will provide a huge market and rich opportunities for cooperation with countries worldwide, boosting global economic recovery against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.



A photo taken on September 2 shows the outdoor exhibition area of the China International Fair for Trade in Services. Xing Guangli



← Qu Dongyu, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, addresses the International Forum for Development and Investment of Modern Supply Chain of Food via video link during the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 7. *Cai Yang*

↓ A woman interacts with a robot during the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 6. *Ren Chao*



↓ Visitors watch a demonstration of a waste sorting robot at the comprehensive exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 5. *Lu Peng*





↑ Visitors look at a digital image of the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal at the comprehensive exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 6. *Ju Huanzong*

↓ An artificial intelligence robot specializing in traditional Chinese medicine provides a health check to a senior at the service robots exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 7. *Cai Yang*



↑ A staffer sells local specialties via live-streaming platforms at the tourism services exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 5. *Cai Yang*

# Shared progress and mutually beneficial cooperation

Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China  
at the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2020 China International  
Fair for Trade in Services

Beijing, September 4, 2020

Your Excellencies Leaders of Participating Countries,  
Your Excellencies Heads of International Organizations,  
Your Excellencies Heads of Delegation,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

Good evening! As the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) opens, I wish to extend, on behalf of the government and people of China and in my own name, a hearty welcome to all the guests attending in person or via the Internet! To the many old and new friends from across the world, I give you my warmest greetings and best wishes!

Over the past few months, the people of China and other countries have supported and helped each other in a tenacious fight against COVID-19 and the global challenges that have come with it. Today, with COVID-19 yet to be brought under full control at the global level, all countries face the formidable task to defeat the virus, stabilize the economy, and protect livelihoods. It is against such a backdrop that China decided to hold this important international trade event despite many difficulties in preparation. It shows China's willingness to join hands with all of you in this trying time and work together to enable global trade in services to thrive and the world economy to recover at an early date.

CIFTIS is a large exhibition and trading platform dedicated to trade in services. This comprehensive, state-level event with a global reach has already been held six times since 2012. We hope that this year's CIFTIS, held under the theme of "Global Services, Shared Prosperity", will present an opportunity and serve as a platform and a bridge for people from across the world to fully showcase the new progress and breakthroughs in services trade and share in the new technologies and benefits of human progress. We hope that through in-depth exchanges and closer cooperation, delegates participating in the event could contribute your wisdom and energy to deepening cooperation on trade and investment in services and invigorating economic and social development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

Our world is going through profound changes unseen in a century, and the COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating such changes. Economic globalization has run up against headwinds; protectionism and unilateralism are on the rise; the

world economy is in the doldrums; and international trade and investment have slumped. Such are the unprecedented challenges and tests in the work and life of mankind.

That said, let us not forget that a new round of technological and industrial revolution in recent years has spurred a boom in digital technologies, deepened the integration of industries, and allowed the service economy to flourish. During this pandemic, certain services have been widely used: telemedicine, e-learning, sharing platforms, collaboration systems, and cross-border e-commerce, to name just a few. They have played an important part in ensuring economic stability in individual countries and promoting international cooperation against COVID-19. Going forward, open cooperation in the services sector will become an increasingly important driver for development.

Here, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the following three thoughts and suggestions.

First, let us work together to foster an open and inclusive environment for cooperation. A review of human history shows that the world economy thrives in openness and withers in seclusion. The services sector is unique as it is asset-light but heavy in soft factors of production. As such, it requires, more than other sectors, an open, transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for businesses to grow. It calls for the concerted efforts of all countries to reduce border and behind-the-border barriers constraining the flow of production factors and promote cross-border connectivity. China will remain steadfast in opening up wider to the world. We will continue to work on a negative list system for managing cross-border services trade. We will develop open platforms for the pilot program of innovative development of the services sector. We will further ease market access for the services sector, and will take greater initiative to increase imports of quality services. To meet the actual needs for growing trade in services, China will promote greater harmonization of rules for the services sector at the multilateral and regional levels, and work for continued improvement in global economic governance and more inclusive growth of the world economy.

Second, let us work together to unleash the power of innovation in driving cooperation forward. We need to adapt to the trend towards digital-driven, Internet-based and smart growth, jointly eliminate the "digital divide", and advance



Visitors visit the exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing on September 9. Lu Peng

**The sudden attack of COVID-19 may have prevented us from meeting face to face, but it cannot block the growth of trade in services. Nor will it affect our confidence and action as we pursue shared progress and mutually beneficial cooperation.**

digitalization of trade in services. China will continue to build bases for featured services export and develop new business forms and models in services trade. China will work with other countries to enhance macro policy coordination, accelerate international cooperation in the digital sector, step up intellectual property protection, and facilitate the vibrant growth of the digital economy and sharing economy. Such efforts will generate renewed dynamism for the world economy.

Third, let us work together to promote mutually beneficial cooperation. In this age of economic globalization, countries share economic interdependency and intertwined interests like never before. To treat each other with sincerity and pursue shared benefits holds the key to state-to-state relations in today's world. Countries need to forge greater synergy in growing their trade in services, seek new ways and more areas of cooperation, and look for the widest possible converging interests in development so as to make the "pie" bigger and bigger. China will make full use of CIFTIS and other platforms such as the China International Import Expo to promote poli-

cy exchange and experience-sharing, and foster diverse partnerships with foreign governments, international organizations, business associations and enterprises. China supports the establishment of a global alliance for trade in services. We hope to see more fruits from our practical cooperation so that people in different countries will all benefit from a growing trade in services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

To better leverage Beijing's role in spearheading the opening-up of China's services sector, we will support the municipality in developing a national integrated demonstration zone for greater openness in the services sector. It will enable Beijing to take bigger, bolder steps as a trailblazer and gain more experience that would be replicable and scalable. We will also support Beijing in setting up a pilot free trade zone characterizing scientific and technological innovation, opening-up of the services sector, and digital economy. It will serve as a platform of high-standard opening-up for the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and open up new horizons for reform and opening-up at a higher level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends,

The sudden attack of COVID-19 may have prevented us from meeting face to face, but it cannot block the growth of trade in services. Nor will it affect our confidence and action as we pursue shared progress and mutually beneficial cooperation. Let us pull together and strengthen our resolve to get over this difficult period for mankind. Let us move to embrace a better tomorrow for the world.

To conclude, I wish CIFTIS a great success.  
Thank you. ■

# Accelerated development of trade in services benefits the global economy

**T**he China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) which kicked off in Beijing on September 4 is the first major international economic and trade event held offline in China since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

China's accelerated development of trade in services will provide a huge market and rich opportunities for cooperation with countries worldwide, while also boosting global economic recovery since the pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to the world economy, analysts and scholars said.

## Confidence in recovery

In the context of the complex international trade situation amid the pandemic, an international trade fair of such a scale is of great significance not only for China, a country that managed to control the epidemic fairly quickly, but also for the entire world.

Peter Bakker, President and CEO of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, said that the Chinese government responded appropriately to the COVID-19 crisis. Through the CIFTIS, people would be able to see how China has dealt with the crisis and has made efforts toward economic recovery, he said.

Gamal Bayoumi, head of the Cairo-based Arab Investors Union, said that in recent years, despite the rise of global

trade protectionism, China has been committed to promoting international trade. With the pandemic hitting most economies in the world, China's holding of the CIFTIS will bolster confidence in global economic development, he said.

Calling the event ambitious, Jan Zahradil, chairman of the EU-China Friendship Group of the European Parliament, said that the CIFTIS sent a positive signal to the world that despite some negative effects from the pandemic, countries like China can still seek a path to recovery, expand international cooperation and activate foreign trade.

Jose Luis de la Cruz, director of Mexico's Institute for Industrial Development and Economic Growth, said that the CIFTIS helps facilitate trade and exchanges among countries, promote the integrated development of world trade in services and provide new options for global trade. It will also promote the resumption of work and production in various countries, while alleviating global economic losses caused by the pandemic in a timely manner, he added.

Gustavo Girado, a professor at Argentina's National University of Lanus, said that the pandemic has brought huge challenges to global trade, and with worldwide activities drastically reduced, service trade in the field of digitization and communications is crucial.

Farid Murad, vice-president of the Federation of Sao Paulo Trade Associations, said that a successful CIFTIS reveals a new path for countries around the world to resume economic development in the post-pandemic era, and promote economic and trade cooperation among countries globally.

## New engine for growth

In recent years, trade in services has become increasingly important and dynamic in international trade, and China's trade in services in particular has seen rapid growth. Since 2012, China's trade in services has grown at an average annual rate of 7.8 percent, higher than the global growth rate, according to China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). Trade in services in China totaled over 5.4 trillion yuan (\$775.6 billion) in 2019, ranking second in the world for the sixth consecutive year, the MOFCOM stated.

In fact, trade in services has become a new backbone for China's economic stability and a new engine for its development of foreign trade under the new circumstances, said An Yuhua, a professor of finance with the Republic of Korea's Sungkyunkwan University.

China has a huge market and abundant imports, An said, adding that expanding trade in services can help achieve economic complementarity and mutual benefits between China



A visitor takes a selfie at the comprehensive exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services on September 6. Ju Huanzong





A photo taken on September 9 shows an entrance to the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing. *Chen Zhonghao*

and other parts of the world.

With a ravaging pandemic and a reeling world economy, international demand has been shrinking substantially, with global trade now facing a grim situation. In April, the World Trade Organization warned that global trade is expected to fall by 13 to 32 percent in 2020, as the pandemic disrupts economic activity and life around the world.

Douglas McWilliams, deputy chairman of the Center for Economics and Business Research, said that before the pandemic hit, global trade in services was growing faster than trade in goods.

In the post-pandemic era, with an increasing proportion of the service industry in the global economy and the vigorous development of digital trade in services driven by technological advancement, the share of trade in services in global trade will continue to increase, McWilliams said.

In addition, An said that trade in goods has been greatly restricted because the pandemic has not yet been fully contained around the world, but the trade in services industries such as communications, finance, entertainment and culture may benefit from opportunities created by the pandemic, with broad prospects for rapid growth.

## Model for broader opening up

Against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic, the CIFTIS demonstrates the responsibilities China has undertaken, and the country's determination to unswervingly adhere to its opening-up policy, which will be furthered by the event.

"Affected by the pandemic, countries around the world should cooperate and embrace opening up," said An, adding that the event will further help ease market access in the service sector, promote the development of global trade in services and create a larger market.

Philip Chan, president of the Hong Kong Singapore Business Association, said the CIFTIS demonstrates China's dedication to its responsibility to the world, contributing to market opening up and free trade around the world.

Moreover, the CIFTIS provides another platform for China to defend free trade, multilateralism and the interests of developing countries, Girado said, noting that the event embodies fair trade, mutual benefits and win-win cooperation, as well as the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind. (Xinhua) ■



President Xi Jinping (center) and Zhong Nanshan (front second right), who was awarded the Medal of the Republic, along with recipients of the national honorary title People's Hero, Chen Wei (front left), Zhang Boli (front second left) and Zhang Dingyu (front right) for their outstanding contribution to the fight against the novel coronavirus disease, pose for a group photo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 8. *Xie Huanchi*

# President Xi presents medals to COVID-19 fighters

The nation is willing to do whatever it takes to protect people's lives, the president said

By Cao Desheng

**S**olidarity and cooperation are the correct choices for the international community to respond to a major crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, while selfishness and scapegoating will harm the people of all countries, President Xi Jinping said on September 8.

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while addressing a meeting to commend the role models in the country's fight against COVID-19 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

During the meeting, Xi presented the Medal of the Republic to renowned respiratory disease expert Zhong Nanshan, and the national honorary title People's Hero to Zhang Boli, a traditional Chinese medicine expert; Zhang Dingyu, head of Jinyintan Hospital in Wuhan, Hubei Province; and Chen Wei, a military biomedical expert, for their outstanding contributions to the country's fight against COVID-19.

Xi said the great anti-epidemic effort demonstrated that building a community with a shared future for mankind is the correct route to prevailing over the common challenges facing humanity and to building a more prosperous and better world.

He reviewed nationwide efforts in combating the unprecedented public health crisis as well as China's cooperation with the rest of the world in fighting the pandemic. He also praised those who had made sacrifices and contributions to the country's epidemic control achievements, along with the foreign countries and international organizations that offered assistance and support to China during its difficult time.

Despite the tremendous pressure of domestic epidemic control, Xi said China has offered assistance to the international community to the best of its ability to fight the pandemic. China has donated funds totaling \$50 million to the World Health Organization (WHO), sent 34 medical expert teams to 32 countries and provided assistance to 150 countries and four international organizations.

Between March 15 and September 6, China had exported 151.5 billion masks, 1.4 billion protective suits, 230 million goggles and 209,000 ventilators to more than 200 countries

and regions to support the global fight against COVID-19. "With concrete actions, China has helped save a great number of lives from COVID-19 around the world," Xi said.

Since the pandemic is still raging globally, Xi said China will continue to enhance international cooperation in epidemic control, support the WHO in playing a leading role in the global fight against the disease, share anti-epidemic and treatment experience with other nations and provide aid to countries and regions which are vulnerable to the pandemic.

During his speech, Xi summarized China's spirit of combating the pandemic, which features putting people's lives first, practicing nationwide solidarity, sacrificing, respecting science, and having a sense of mission for humanity. In the fight against the epidemic, people's lives have always been put first and foremost, Xi said, adding that China is willing to do whatever it takes to protect people's lives.

Noting that strong Party leadership is the most reliable support for the Chinese people in times of trouble, Xi said the fight against the epidemic has also demonstrated that socialism with Chinese characteristics is the fundamental guarantee for overcoming risks and challenges and improving the capacity for national governance.

He also indicated that the Chinese economy is steadily turning toward the better as the country coordinates epidemic control with economic growth. "China has become the first major economy to return to growth during the COVID-19 pandemic and has taken the lead in the world in both epidemic control and economic recovery," Xi said. "This has demonstrated China's strong ability to recover and its enormous vitality."

The country will continue to advance economic globalization, firmly uphold the multilateral trading system, ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains, and work with the international community to help the world economy recover, he said.

"We will also stand ready to work with other countries to make global governance more inclusive, the multilateral system more efficient and regional cooperation more robust," he added. (China Daily) ■



**Zhong Nanshan:**  
outspoken doctor  
awarded China's top honor

Renowned Chinese epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan, an active fighter in China's battle against COVID-19, was bestowed the Medal of the Republic on September 8.

A statement accompanying the award commended the octogenarian expert as a "brave, upright doctor," recognizing his vital contribution to the nation's fight against the dangerous infectious diseases.

Back in January, he publicly announced that the novel coronavirus was transmissible from person to person, alerting society during the crucial early stages of the epidemic.

He also led the compiling of novel coronavirus diagnoses and treatment plans, and has made great contributions to epidemic prevention and control, the treatment of severe cases and overall COVID-19 research.

It was not the first time Zhong stood out and sounded the

alarm during a public health emergency. In 2003, he boldly challenged the then prevailing and authoritative conclusion that chlamydia was the culprit behind the SARS epidemic by asserting that the causative agent might be a novel pathogen. He also pointed out that the spread of the SARS virus in Beijing had not been effectively controlled, revealing an inconvenient truth and eventually helping to put the capital's epidemic prevention and control efforts on the right track.

"In science, it is only right to seek truth from facts and not play it safe, otherwise patients will be the victims. What is not in books, we explore through practice," Zhong said in an interview.

Aside from being known as a leading expert on coronavirus, Zhong is also a courageous fighter on the anti-virus frontlines and an optimist about China's ability to tame highly infectious diseases.

During the SARS outbreak, the Guangdong-based doctor saved many lives by carefully formulating therapeutic solutions, which helped the southern Chinese province become one of the regions with the highest cure rate and lowest mortality rate among SARS-hit areas in the world.

Zhong has also kept in close contact with international medical research circles throughout his career. In 2009, one of professor Zhong's papers published in *The Lancet*, an international journal of clinical medicine, was selected as Paper of the Year 2008. *The Lancet* editorial board selected six papers for readers to vote, and announced two winners—Zhong's paper obtained the highest number of votes.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Zhong has been engaged in multiple international exchanges to inform others about China's anti-virus experience and talked with experts from other countries to develop a global strategy as well.



**Zhang Boli:**  
hero doctor fighting  
coronavirus with TCM

Over the past few months, Zhang Boli, 72, has revealed to the world the effectiveness of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) by leading an expert team that treated COVID-19 infections successfully in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China's frontline in the battle against the novel coronavirus disease.

Zhang, head of Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, arrived in Wuhan on January 27, the fifth day of the city's 76-day lockdown.

As a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, he was among four people awarded as The People's Hero, a national medal and honorary title, for his outstanding contribution to fighting the COVID-19 epidemic on August 11.

"This honor was not only given to me as an individual. I share the honor as a member of the TCM medical staff," Zhang said.

Zhang celebrated his 72nd birthday in Wuhan on March 19, a day when no new infections or suspected cases of COVID-19 were reported after the difficult battle to curb the epidemic in the city of over 10 million.

Zhang and over 300 doctors formed a TCM medical team were stationed at a makeshift hospital in Wuhan's Jiangxia District and used TCM decoctions with other treatments such as massage, acupuncture and exercises from Tai Chi and Baduanjin, a traditional aerobic form, to treat COVID-19 patients.

TCM showed obvious results in helping COVID-19 patients recuperate. None of the 564 patients with mild symptoms at the TCM-oriented temporary hospital saw their health condition deteriorate.

"We have used TCM in 16 makeshift hospitals for isolation treatment of COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, and since then the rate of patients developing severe conditions has decreased substantially," Zhang said.

His pioneering TCM treatment has been given to 90 percent of COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, relieving symptoms, slowing the progression of the disease, reducing mortality and boosting recovery.

"Chinese medics have relied on joint consultations between TCM and Western medicine experts to treat COVID-19. Regardless of national boundaries, I hope TCM can help more and more people worldwide," Zhang said.



**Zhang Dingyu:**  
hero doctor fighting  
ALS and COVID-19

Perhaps no hero will be able to save Zhang Dingyu, a 56-year-old doctor with an incurable disease, but over the past months, he has been a hero to many in Wuhan, China's former epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak, in Hubei Province.

As head of Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, a major battlefield amid the epidemic, Zhang knows his clock is ticking. Suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), he will progressively lose muscle strength, become paralyzed and be unable to speak, move, swallow or breathe.

Notwithstanding his condition, he and his colleagues have treated and saved more than 2,800 COVID-19 patients, many of whom were severely and critically ill.

In August, Zhang was awarded the national honorary title

The People's Hero for his extraordinary contributions in the fight against COVID-19.

On December 29, 2019, the first batch of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause were transferred to Zhang's hospital in Wuhan, a designated hospital for emergency and infectious disease treatment. He immediately set up a separate area to handle them, remaining on high alert. The situation turned out to be worse than he had previously imagined. On the second day, he decided to allocate more medical resources and collected the patients' bronchoalveolar lavage fluid samples for testing, which laid the foundation for future research on the virus.

On January 23, China locked down Wuhan in an unprecedented effort to curb the spread of the new infectious disease, as the city became the center of the outbreak. Zhang's daily routine morphed into going to bed at about 1 a.m. and getting up at about 6 a.m. the next day. Some days, he slept as little as two hours before being woken amid a stream of emergency calls.

Though the life and death battle with COVID-19 was the toughest challenge Zhang has ever faced, it was not the first time that he has stood on the frontlines over the past 33 years. In 2008, he led a medical team from Hubei to help victims in Southwest China's Sichuan Province after a devastating earthquake in Wenchuan. He was also a member of a Chinese medical team assisting Algeria, and in 2011, he worked in a hospital in Pakistan to help the local people.

"For me, ALS is like a sword hanging in the air. I want to make a contribution with what limited time I have left. I am trying to outrun death, save time and more patients," he said.



**Chen Wei:**  
military medical scientist  
marching toward  
COVID-19 vaccine

Chinese military medical scientist Chen Wei was awarded the national honorary title The People's Hero for her outstanding contributions to the country's fight against the COVID-19 epidemic at a meeting held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 8.

Chen, a 54-year-old researcher at the Institute of Military Medicine under the Academy of Military Sciences, has made major achievements in COVID-19-related basic research and the development of a vaccine and preventative medicine.

China locked down Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, to curb the spread of the infectious disease on January 23. Three days later, Chen arrived in the city to focus on vaccine development. "It is the call of duty because I'm a person

in uniform. I did what I should," she said.

On March 16, the adenovirus vector vaccine developed by Chen's team started Phase 1 clinical trials, making it the first in the world. According to the data published in the medical journal *The Lancet* in May, all 108 vaccinated participants produced antibodies.

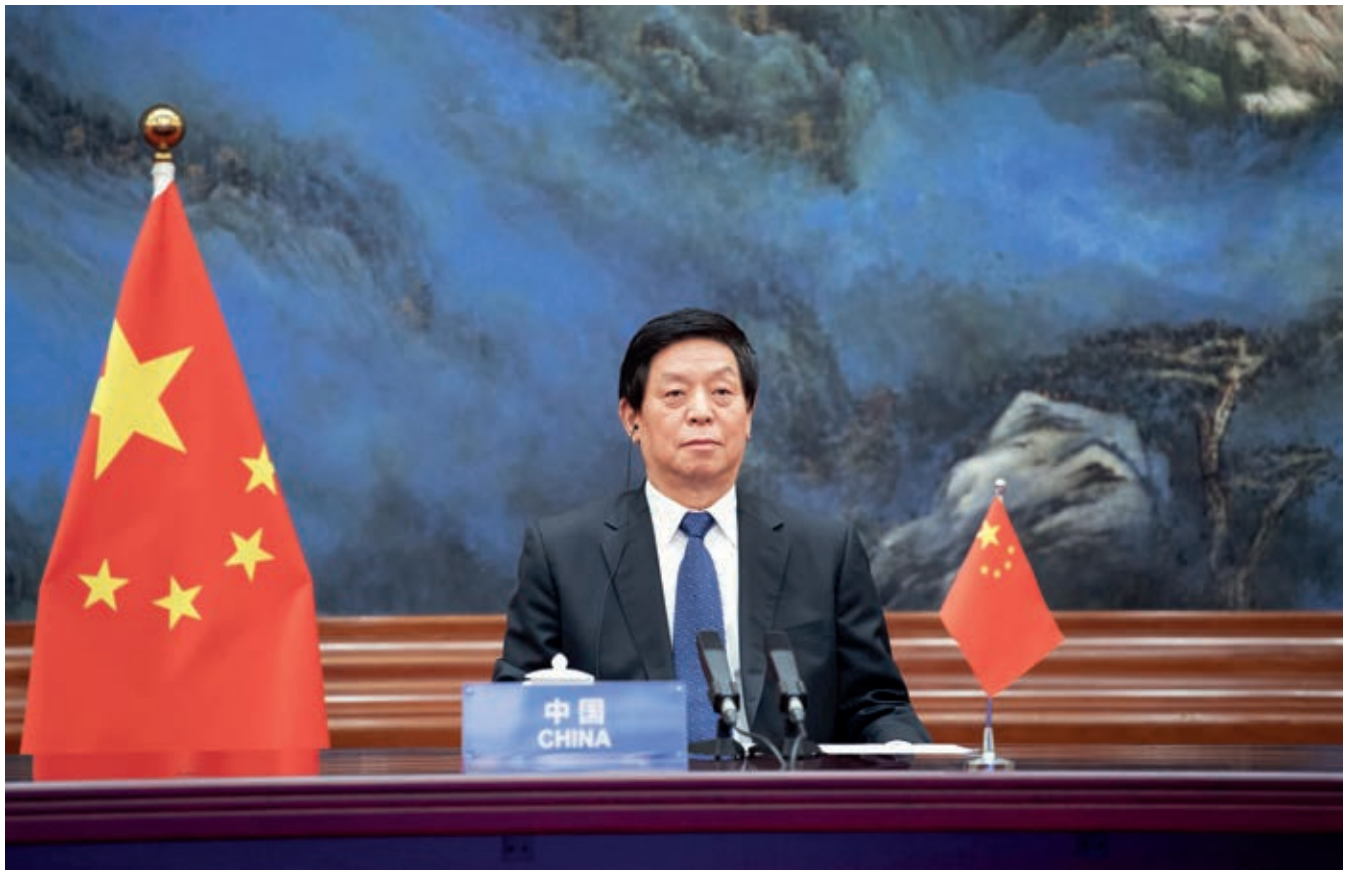
"By releasing our testing methods and indicators to the world, we have helped researchers from other countries take fewer detours and promoted global vaccine research," Chen said. In July, the data from the vaccine's Phase 2 clinical trials was released internationally, verifying the efficacy and safety of the vaccine through the results of the two phases of clinical trials.

It was not the first time Chen has stood on the frontlines against viruses in the past decades. Her team developed a nasal spray that helped protect medical staff against the SARS virus in 2003, and a vaccine for the prevention of Ebola virus disease in 2014.

She attributes the outstanding achievements to her team. "Everyone on the team has shown extraordinary perseverance and contributed their wisdom," she said.

On April 12, Chen sent a voice message to more than 80,000 middle and primary school students in her hometown in Lanxi of East China's Zhejiang Province, where classes were resumed that day.

"When we contribute more to the society, we will have a higher sense of meaning in life. Your world will become even more splendid when you bring warmth to others," Chen said in the message. (Xinhua)



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, attends the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament via video link in Beijing on August 19. *Li Tao*

# Work together to defeat COVID-19 and build a community with a shared future for mankind

Written Statement by H.E. Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this crucial stage in the global fight against COVID-19, the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, held via video link, underlines the resolve and confidence of legislatures around the world to work together to defeat the outbreak.

In the face of COVID-19, China has put the safety and health of its people front and center. President Xi Jinping has been personally directing and planning China's response efforts. He called for adhering to the people-first approach as nothing matters more than human life. He stressed that China will stop at nothing to protect its people's life and health.

## **Legislatures of all countries need to firmly uphold multilateralism, advance global cooperation against the disease, and restore the growth of the world economy.**

We have swiftly taken the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough measures, mobilized the whole nation, and established collective and society-wide mechanisms to fight the virus. Through these painstaking efforts and enormous sacrifices, China has scored major strategic achievements in bringing the virus under control. It has proved the remarkable strengths and effectiveness of the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and the system and governance of our country.

China is working to maintain the right balance between proper COVID-19 containment and sound socio-economic development, and will stay committed to deepening reform and opening-up. We will make every effort to overcome the impact of the virus, complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and secure an ultimate victory in the battle against extreme poverty.

In international cooperation against COVID-19, China stands for building a community with a shared future for mankind. President Xi Jinping stressed that solidarity and cooperation is the most powerful weapon to defeat COVID-19. He has advocated joint efforts in building a global community of health for all, and has conducted frequent head-of-state diplomacy to elaborate on China's propositions and proposals and discuss joint responses to the disease with other world leaders.

China has acted with openness, transparency and responsibility. We have provided information to the World Health Organization (WHO) and relevant countries in a timely fashion. We have released the genome sequence at the earliest possible time. We have shared control and treatment experience with the world without reservation. We have done everything in our power to support and assist countries in need.

China has sent 31 medical expert teams to 29 countries, and extended assistance to over 150 countries and international organizations. China has donated \$50 million in cash to WHO, and will provide \$2 billion over two years to affected countries, especially developing countries. True friendship stands the test of adversity. In fighting COVID-19, China has received heart-warming help and support from the international community, and has played an important role in safeguarding international public health security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, and the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. Over these years, the UN has played an important role in promoting peace and development in the world. The sudden onslaught of COVID-19 once again reminds us that the interests of all countries are intertwined, and future of all humanity interconnected. Legislatures of all countries need

to firmly uphold multilateralism, advance global cooperation against the disease, and restore the growth of the world economy. To this end, I wish to propose the following:

First, we need to make every possible effort to defeat COVID-19. The virus respects no borders or nationalities, and can only be defeated when the international community fights in unity. We need to oppose stigmatization and politicization, and stop the spread of the "political virus". We need to step up information and experience sharing on COVID-19, take strong steps in areas such as protection, quarantine, detection, treatment and tracing, and strengthen cooperation on source-identification, testing, clinical treatment, vaccine research and development, etc. We need to provide more assistance to developing countries and win the global war against the disease.

Second, we need to join hands to defend multilateralism. China will work with the global community to safeguard the international system centered on the United Nations, and the international order based on international law, and to promote the vision of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits in global governance. We need to support political resolution of regional hot-spots, firmly oppose unilateralism, hegemony and power politics, and stand against any interference in other countries' internal affairs. These efforts will help steer the reform of the global governance system in the right direction and uphold global fairness and justice.

Third, we need to work actively to revive the global economy. The top priority at this moment is to reopen the economy and restore normal life at a faster pace under the precondition of normalized prevention and control efforts. At the same time, we need to focus on the post COVID-19 era by accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We need to uphold the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, coordinate macro-economic policies and ensure the stable and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains. We also need to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation to facilitate world economic recovery, and balanced and sustainable growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organization of parliaments with the longest history and greatest influence. The National People's Congress of China attaches great importance to the role of IPU, and will continue to participate in IPU events and support its growth. I am pleased to announce that China will make a cash donation of US\$1.5 million to IPU to facilitate its activities. We will step up exchanges and cooperation with regional parliamentary organizations and legislatures of other countries to focus on improving the public health governance system and draw on each others' legislative experience. Together, we will contribute our due share to the ongoing battle against COVID-19, and the restoration of socio-economic development in our countries.

With unity and collective wisdom, we can accomplish any goal. I am confident that with the spirit of partnership and cooperation, we will be able to prevail over the virus, build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world with lasting peace, universal security and common development, and together foster a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you. ■

# Promote peace and development through parliamentary diplomacy

By Shen Zheyi and Zheng Yi



The Opening Ceremony of the 140th IPU Assembly. IPU/Parliament of Qatar



**T**he IPU, founded in 1889, is a global organization of national parliaments dedicated to promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue. Its slogan is “For democracy. For everyone.” Headquartered in Geneva Switzerland, the IPU has a membership ever closer to being universal, with 179 Member Parliaments, 13 Associate Members, and an increasing number of parliamentarians from all over the world involved in its work. It works closely with parliaments and parliamentarians to articulate and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. It advocates for peace, democracy, human

rights, gender equality, women empowerment, youth political participation and sustainable development through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action.

The IPU is made up of different bodies with specific mandates and functions, including the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and etc. The Assembly, held twice yearly, serves as the main political body, on which parliamentarians address and drive changes on issues on the international agenda and member parliaments adopt resolutions on parliamentary actions concerning world affairs. The Governing Council is the administrative and policy-making body, whereas the Executive Committee oversees the IPU’s administration and makes recommendations to the Governing Council on various matters.

The National People’s Congress (NPC) joined the IPU in 1984 and has attended the following IPU Assemblies and other important meetings and seminars ever since. In 1996, China successfully held the 96th IPU Assembly in Beijing, which was acclaimed as the best-organized Assembly in the IPU history.

## **The National People’s Congress joined the IPU in 1984 and has attended the following IPU Assemblies and other important meetings and seminars ever since.**

Chairmen of the NPC Standing Committee, including Li Peng, Wu Bangguo and Zhang Dejiang, attended and addressed world conferences of speakers of parliament, which are the most high-level and prominent gatherings of speakers from parliaments all over the world held by the IPU every five years since 2000. This year, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, attended the virtual meeting of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

The NPC has worked closely with the IPU for years. Since 2015, the IPU has donated \$1.5 million to the IPU, aiming to promote capacity building of parliaments in developing countries. With this donation, the NPC and the IPU co-organized four regional seminars for parliamentarians from developing countries. Hundreds of parliamentarians were thus invited to China for dialogues, experience sharing and mutual learning. This year, Chairman Li Zhanshu announced to renew China’s commitment with another \$1.5 million to be donated to the IPU for further advancing this endeavor. The NPC also pledged to provide a five-year annual donation of \$200,000 to the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, of which the NPC is an active participant, and other relevant counter-terrorism programs. In 2018, Chen Guomin, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the 13th NPC, was elected a member of the IPU Executive Committee for a four-year term and was further elected vice-chairman in 2019. IPU presidents and secretary generals have visited China in recent years, contributing to the cooperation between the two sides. ■



# Top legislature resolves HKSAR LegCo vacancy concern



A flag raising ceremony is held at the Golden Bauhinia Square, HKSAR, to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland on July 1. *Li Gang*

**T**he Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress(NPC) at its 21st session adopted a decision approving the sixth Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to continue performing its duties.

According to the decision, the sixth LegCo will continue performing its duties after September 30, for no less than a year until the term of the seventh LegCo begins, which will still be four years after it is formed in accordance with the law.

The decision came as Hong Kong is making efforts to contain a new COVID-19 outbreak that started in July. Hong Kong's health authorities reported 33 new COVID-19 cases on August 11, including 15 infections of unknown source, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the city to 4,181.

In late July, HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced that the election of the seventh LegCo, which was originally scheduled for September 6, would be postponed for a year due to the epidemic.

On July 28, Lam submitted a report to the central government on matters concerning the postponement and asked it to request that the NPC Standing Committee make arrangements to handle the LegCo vacancy due to the post-ponement. The State Council presented a bill to the NPC Standing Committee on August 8, on a decision for the sixth LegCo to continue operation.

Explaining the bill at the legislative session, Xia Baolong, head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HMO) of the State Council, said matters concerning the LegCo vacancy can only be resolved by the NPC Standing Committee at the constitutional level, since the HKSAR chief executive only has the power to postpone the election under the HKSAR applicable law.

The NPC Standing Committee has the power and duty to properly address constitutional issues arising from the implementation of the HKSAR Basic Law, Xia stated.

## Necessary and timely move

Addressing the closing meeting of the NPC Standing Committee session, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said the decision provided a consti-

tutional basis and legal guarantee for upholding the rule of law in Hong Kong and ensuring the normal governance of the HKSAR government and the orderly functioning of Hong Kong society.

In a statement supporting the NPC Standing Committee decision, the HMO said the decision was important and timely, and pledged to cooperate with relevant authorities in implementing the decision.

In a separate statement, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR said the decision was in line with the Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law and had unchallengeable legal authority. It will minimize social instability and enable society to focus on the most pressing task of containing the COVID-19 epidemic, the liaison office added.

## Care and support

Lam also expressed her gratitude for the NPC Standing Committee decision, saying it resolved the problem of a lacuna in the local legislature and demonstrated once again the care and support of the central government for the HKSAR.

The HKSAR government will publish the decision in its gazette and work to enable the sixth LegCo to resume operation, she said. In a meeting with LegCo President Andrew Leung, the two exchanged views on the resumption of LegCo operation.

Lam said the current epidemic situation in Hong Kong remains severe, and various sectors have been hit hard. "I hope that under the continued leadership of Leung, LegCo members can set aside their differences and disputes, and rebuild mutual trust for the well-being of Hong Kong residents," she said.

Chan Man-ki, founding President of the Small and Medium Law Firms Association of Hong Kong, said she fully supports the NPC Standing Committee decision because it gave top priority to the life and health of Hong Kong residents.

The decision also showed the central authorities' resolve to fully support Hong Kong's anti-epidemic fight and safeguard Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, Chan said. (Xinhua) ■



Li Zhanshu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presides over the closing meeting of the 21st Session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on August 11. *Fan Rujun*



Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Chief Executive Carrie Lam (center) announces the postponement of the HKSAR's 2020 Legislative Council General Election due to the novel coronavirus disease pandemic on July 31. *Li Gang*



Li Zhanshu (front second right), a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, conducts a law enforcement inspection on soil pollution prevention and control in Jinan, East China's Shandong Province, on August 25. *Liu Weibing*

## Top legislator stresses soil protection

**T**op legislator Li Zhanshu stressed efforts to promote the effective implementation of the law on soil pollution prevention and control in all areas. Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, made the comments during a law enforcement inspection in Jiangsu and Shandong provinces in East China from August 23 to 26.

During a meeting with experts, Li called for efforts to fo-

cus on pollution prevention, since soil remediation is difficult, time-consuming and costly.

Strong measures are required to prevent soil from being further contaminated, and new pollution must be stopped, Li noted, emphasizing the need for more plans to protect unpolluted soil.

While presiding over a symposium, Li said soil pollution must be prevented in accordance with the law. He was also briefed on the current situation and heard suggestions from lawmakers. (Global Times) ■

# Full implementation wildlife protection law stressed

**A** senior Chinese legislator stressed the need to fully implement the Wildlife Protection Law, along with the decision adopted in February to completely ban the eating of wild animals.

Wang Chen, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, made the remarks at a meeting of a law enforcement inspection team of the NPC Standing Committee on July 28.

Authorities across China have investigated and dealt with several cases involving wild animals in recent months and have stepped up their protection, Wang noted. Illegal acts related to wild animals must be strictly handled, and the capabilities of law enforcement supervision and quarantine inspections must be strengthened, he said.

Efforts should also be made to help breeders shift to producing or selling other products and ensure monetary compensation, Wang said, stressing the need to step up the protection and construction of wild animal habitats, and advance legislation and law revisions. (Xinhua) ■



Wang Chen, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, speaks at a meeting of the NPC Standing Committee on wildlife protection in Beijing on July 28. *Fan Rujun*



Wang Chen, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, speaks at a meeting of the NPC Standing Committee on wildlife protection in Beijing on July 28. *Fan Rujun*

# Stop food waste with legislation, crack down on eating shows

By Ji Yuqiao and Cao Siqi

After President Xi Jinping called for the establishment of a long-term mechanism to stop the waste of food, top legislature announced on August 13 that it is discussing related legislation. At the same time, several popular domestic short-video platforms vowed to regulate livestreaming shows that feature binge eating.

Current laws have articles intended to stop food waste, but there are no strong unified measures to deal with this problem, said Zhang Guilong, a member of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee. Therefore, the NPC will add more specific articles to existing laws and enact more detailed provisions.

A spokesperson from the public relations department of the short-video platform Douyin said on August 13 that the platform has taken measures to rectify livestreaming eating shows, noting that when users search for key words such as "eating show" or "competitive eater," they will be alerted to

save food, while the platform will also punish those who uploaded the videos.

Other social media platforms including Kuaishou, Douyu and Sina Weibo made similar statements, promising to strengthen content review. Kuaishou sent a statement on August 13, which said the platform will seriously deal with videos containing binge eating and drinking, while videos that feature fake eating and vomiting will be deleted and the accounts shut down.

Moreover, China has launched the Clean Plate Campaign 2.0 to put a stop to food waste. The first campaign was launched in 2013, which effectively curbed officials' extravagant feasts and receptions. The latest available statistics from 2015 showed that food wasted in China's catering industry amounted to 93 grams per person per meal, or 11.7 percent of the total meal.

In 2015, China's urban catering industry wasted some 17-18 million tons of food, enough to feed 30-50 million people for a year, state broadcaster CCTV reported. ■



A sign at a table reminds customers not to waste food at a buffet in Handan, Hebei Province in North China, on August 12. Hao Qunying

**Ma Shanxiang**, the head of Laoma Studio of Guanyinqiao Community, Jiangbei District in Chongqing Municipality:

**Raising public awareness on the Civil Code must be integrated with mass work**

We should keep the people updated about the rule of law and let them be aware that even a mischief could constitute a violation of law. I have addressed 14 conferences to promote the spirit of this year's Two Sessions. Along with explaining the essence of General Secretary Xi Jinping's speeches, I have also focused my lectures on the Civil Code. For instance, I talked about why objects falling from heights are not only a huge safety concern, but can cause the people involved to bear criminal liability. It is my intention to inform as many people as possible of the importance of following the Civil Code.

Recently, while participating in a property dispute mediation, I introduced the parties to the Civil Code and had them look at the relationship between democracy and individual rights and interests, as well as democracy and the rule of law. The results were very encouraging. Officials in relevant departments should also understand the integral nature of legal thought and the rule of law in performing their duties in accordance with the Civil Code rather than simply looking at a combination of laws and facts.

**Li Weimin**, president of the West China Hospital of Sichuan University:

**The Civil Code can be a guide for a harmonious doctor-patient relationship**

One chapter of the Civil Code with 11 articles elaborates on the legal rights and obligations of both doctors and patients, providing a detailed behavioral guide for medical personnel. This type of legislation helps build a harmonious relationship between doctors and patients.

Efforts should be made to strengthen the publicity and interpretation of the medical service-related clauses of the Civil Code. We should strengthen the promulgation of correlative laws and regulations so that Civil Code provisions can play a protective and constraining role.

Moreover, medical service-related articles should be updated regularly with the changing forms of medical service. For example, with the rise of new models, such as online medical services and intelligent medication, the rights and obligations of doctors and patients will change accordingly. In view of these new situations, it is necessary to amend relevant laws and regulations as well as judicial interpretations.

**Sun Xianzhong**, academician with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:

**The value of the Civil Code lies in targeted implementation**

The Civil Code is not just an epitome of social progress, but also demonstrates the integrity and consistency of the promulgation of a code, establishing a unified basis for law enforcement and judicial adjudication. It also sets up a scientifically logical relationship between targeted enforcement and judicial process, showing the precise scope and methods which act on the reality of social life.

As a result, the implementation of the Civil Code should be based on the principles of integrity and consistency. Only by studying the law accurately, executing the law strictly and administering justice fairly can we realize the legislative value of the Civil Code.

**Shi Guilu**, vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and Chairman of Rongmin Holding Group:

**The Civil Code complements the development of private enterprises**

We should do a good job in raising the public's awareness of the Civil Code. Relevant government departments are welcome to visit enterprises and publicize the content of the code among employees.

It is necessary that legal assistance – funds and personnel – is provided to private enterprises and employees in need. Efforts should be made to improve the supervision mechanism of legal aid cases to make sure that private business owners and their employees experience the fairness and justice of the law and that their legitimate rights and interests are soundly protected.

It is imperative that private enterprises hold Civil Code-centered training sessions for its employees who could therefore have a better understanding of their legitimate rights and interests under the Civil Code. It would in turn spur the healthy development of the private economy.



# Local people's congresses in action

## Primary-level legislation service stations cover all districts in Shanghai

A total of 25 primary-level legislation service stations were established by the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress in April, covering all districts in the city. These stations work as bases of the Shanghai legislature, collecting residents' suggestions and proposals on legislation, and giving them feedback on whether or not their proposals are accepted and incorporated in relevant laws. This unique platform serves as a direct channel for local residents to participate in community governance by contributing their thoughts and expertise. Through this process, local residents in Shanghai will be able to get well informed about legislative efforts of the NPC and local people's congress, thus laying a solid foundation for the implementation in the future. Since 2016 when the initial 10 stations started operation in Shanghai, they have received wide recognition for the important role they have played.

## Provincial people's congress legislative work conference held in Jiangsu

A legislative session was held by the Standing Committee of Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress on May 6-7. Participants discussed how to strengthen local legislation in the new era and enhance the role of legislation in advancing the modernization of provincial governance systems and capabilities. The session called for the committee to thoroughly study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important remarks on legislative work, improve the effectiveness of local legislation in the new era, and enhance the role of legislation in provincial level governance. These efforts are expected to advance the local social and economic development and improve the well-beings of the people.

## Symposium on coordinated legislative work for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region held

The 7th symposium on the coordinated legislative work for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region was held in Tianjin on September 18. Participants discussed issues on the local people's congresses' role in promoting public health legislation and conducted in-depth exchanges on inspections of the coordinated implementation of regulations on the prevention and control of emissions pollution from motor vehicles and non-road mobile machinery. The positive outcome of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei coordinated legislation was recognized by all attendees.

## Hunan government departments' work reviewed

The Standing Committee of Hunan Provincial People's Congress organized 60 deputies from the province to evaluate the government's work on its dealings with deputies' suggestions and proposals in September. The work of seven local government departments, including the high people's court, the department of public security and the department of civil affairs, is under review. Deputies to the people's congress have proposed various suggestions to these departments so that their work will be more people-centered and problem-solving oriented. The evaluation results showed that these departments had all taken the deputies' suggestions seriously and addressed the inadequacies accordingly.


## Sichuan and Chongqing promote cooperative legislation to jointly protect Jialing River Basin

The Standing Committee of Chongqing Municipal People's Congress held a session on the implementation of legislation on ecological and environmental protection in the Jialing River Basin on September 9, which was based on a cooperation agreement on the joint construction of an economic circle between Sichuan Province and Chongqing Municipality. Participants agreed that sound platforms and mechanisms should be improved as institutional and legislative guarantees for the ecological protection of the Jialing River Basin. Prior to this, the Sichuan and Chongqing legislatures had agreed to strengthen cooperation and research on joint legislation and supervision, coordinate local deputies' activities and research theories and practices of the people's congress system.

## Demonstration zone promoting Yangtze River Delta Green Development

On September 25, the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress voted to pass a decision on promoting the demonstration zone of the Yangtze River Delta Ecological Green Integration Development. This decision authorizes the Demonstration District Executive Committee to exercise Municipal-level project management authority to manage cross-regional projects. The standing committees of the provincial people's congresses of Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces also passed relevant decisions on the construction of the demonstration zone.





## Regulation on Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park released

To strengthen the protection and management of the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park, maintain ecological security and promote the construction of national ecological civilization pilot zones, the 22nd Session of the Standing Committee of the 6th Hainan Provincial People's Congress passed a regulation on September 3, which stipulates a unified management system for the conservation of the national park. The regulation went into effect on October 1. It is a new addition to China's laws and regulations dedicated to the protection of national parks.

## Regulation on the protection of Yunnan's Dongba culture comes into force

A regulation on the protection of Dongba culture went into effect on May 1. Dongba culture makes up the most important component of the ancient culture of the Naxi ethnic minority and an integral part of Chinese traditional culture. Ancient Dongba documents are the first ancient ethnic minority documents listed in the Memory of the World in China. The regulation was passed during the 16th Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th Yunnan Provincial People's Congress.

## Shanxi promotes innovation-driven high-quality development

On April 20, a symposium on soliciting opinions on a draft regulation of innovation-driven high-quality development was held by the Standing Committee of Shanxi Provincial People's Congress. Yue Puyu, a deputy director of the Standing Committee of the provincial congress, stressed that high-quality legislation serves as a strong guarantee for the economic transformation and high-quality development of the province. The regulation will serve as a cornerstone on which further major reform measures will base.

## Hebei drafts regulation to crack down on food waste

A draft regulation on promoting thriftiness and encouraging people to reduce food waste was submitted to the 19th Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th Hebei Provincial People's Congress for deliberation on September 22. The draft regulation aims at enhancing public awareness of the issue, cultivating thrifty habits and fostering a social environment where food waste is strictly prohibited. It also drafted a certain code of conduct for government organs, restaurants, schools and the general public.

## Legislators inspect soil pollution prevention in Sichuan

In September, the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress conducted inspections on law enforcement concerning soil pollution prevention and control in the cities of Suining and Nanchong. The team inspected key enterprises involved in pollution prevention and soil restoration, as well as pesticide and fertilizer stores. Seminars were held in the two cities for the inspection team who listened to work reports on the implementation of the national law on soil pollution prevention and control.

## Special inquiry conducted on soil pollution prevention results in Shanghai

A special inquiry was conducted on a report on the inspection of the implementation of Law on Soil Pollution Prevention and Control at the 25th Session of the Standing Committee of the 15th Shanghai Municipal People's Congress on September 24. Municipal officials answered questions concerning soil pollution prevention and control supervision. Shanghai's vice-mayor Tang Zhiping said that the prevention and control of soil pollution are of great significance for ensuring public health, promoting the sustainable use of soil resources and advancing sustainable economic and social development.

## Beijing to implement regulations on hospital security

A regulation aimed at maintaining security and order in Beijing hospitals was put into implementation on July 1. The regulation was adopted on June 5 at the 22nd Session of the Standing Committee of the 15th Beijing Municipal People's Congress. According to the regulation, behaviors such as insulting, intimidating or stalking medical staff are off limits. Seven other offensive acts such as restriction on freedom of movement of medical personnel will result in the offender bearing civil or criminal liabilities.

## Anti-domestic violence regulation passed in Inner Mongolia

On April 1, an anti-domestic violence regulation was passed at the 19th Session of the Standing Committee of the 13th Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region People's Congress. The regulation, which went into effect on May 1, comprises 40 articles, covering issues such as the improvement of the mandatory reporting system, the personal protection order system and the temporary asylum system. It also enhances the role of women and children's work agencies and slates a fund in local fiscal expense to advance the work on anti-domestic violence.



Poverty alleviation cadres visit poor households in Dongbao Village of Xiajiang County, Ji'an City, Jiangxi Province on November 14, 2019. VCG

# The final stretch

Final push underway to eliminate absolute poverty in China

By Lu Yan

In 1988, Ningde in Fujian Province was a typically impoverished region. It was the year Xi Jinping arrived in the city to take up the office of secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) local committee. After touring the area extensively and getting to know every corner of the land, he decided that the weakest of the flock to be the first to take flight, meaning that the poverty-stricken area has to take the initiative to make social and economic experiment.

After more than 30 years of continuous hard work, Ningde lived up to these words and gradually took off. In 2018, the region's GDP was 194.28 billion (\$29 billion) yuan, while per-capita income for rural residents soared to 16,147 yuan, nearly 100 times higher than it was 30 years before. This epitomizes China's efforts to pursue rapid development and poverty alleviation, and is just one of the countless success stories across the country.

The year 2020 is the decisive year to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicate poverty nationwide. Xi, now president of China, urged continuous efforts to win a complete victory in the battle against absolute poverty when China observed the seventh National Poverty Relief Day on October 17.

## Step by step

In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded, the country was in shambles, riddled with a myriad of problems, including dire poverty. Restoring production and resolving widespread poverty became the most urgent tasks. The CPC led the people through more than two decades of arduous work, instituting and consolidating the basic system of socialism and establishing relatively complete industrial and national economic structures. The rural economy was developed, and conditions for farmers to live and produce were markedly improved, laying crucial material and institutional foundations for China's efforts to eliminate poverty.

In 1978, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee marked the beginning of reform and opening up, as well as the sweeping reduction of poverty across China. Development-oriented poverty alleviation was incorporated into China's overall strategy for national development, exemplified by the launching of several poverty alleviation projects in the following years.

According to calculations using current standards, the rural poverty rate fell from 97.5 percent to 10.2 percent between 1978 and 2012, with a pace far outstripping the global average.

After 2012, socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era. Under new historical conditions, rural areas, par-

The Chinese Government launched a pro-consumption campaign in September to boost the sales of products from impoverished areas and call for people to contribute their fair share to poverty alleviation. Themed Involving Tens of Thousands of Enterprises and Hundreds of Millions of Chinese Consumers, the campaign is significant as China aims to eliminate absolute poverty and complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020.



Customers buy goods at a promotional activity for agricultural products from impoverished areas in Shangyou, Jiangxi Province in East China, on October 18. *Li Xin*



A promotional event for agricultural products from impoverished areas is held in Hexi District of Tianjin Municipality in North China, on September 4. *Sun Fanyue*

ticularly those in impoverished regions, still lagged behind urban areas in terms of infrastructure and social and economic development. The CPC Central Committee with General Secretary Xi at its core introduced the policy of targeted poverty alleviation and eradication, and the central government earmarked more than 500 billion yuan into poverty alleviation between 2013 and 2019.

Resident incomes continued to increase rapidly, while roughly 77 million poor people obtained medical insurance coverage and people's living standards rose across the board. By the end of 2018, half of China's 832 poor counties and more than 100,000 registered poor villages had shaken off poverty, marking the greatest poverty reduction results ever recorded in human history. The number of impoverished people in the country fell to 5.51 million at the end of 2019 from 98.99 million at the end of 2012, with a reduction in the poverty headcount ratio going from 10.2 to 0.6 percent.

Currently, China still has 52 counties, 2,707 villages and 5.51 million people living in poverty. By the end of 2020, those living under the current standards are expected to be lifted out of poverty, while regional poverty will be resolved.

To be sure, it is not an easy task to make sure that the rural poor have their food and clothing needs met and their access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing guaranteed. Still more challenging is to ensure that those who have been lifted out of poverty will not become poor again.

Most of the remaining poor are scattered in deeply impoverished areas with high poverty rates, low per-capita disposable income, poor infrastructure, and inadequate housing

and they live on subsistence allowances.

This year is crucial for China. By winning the fight against poverty, it will resolve the problem of absolute poverty that has plagued China for centuries. However, the eradication of absolute poverty doesn't negate the fact that relative poverty will still exist for a long time, said Liu Yongfu, director of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

In an instruction on poverty relief work, Xi, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, urged Party committees and governments at all levels to maintain momentum and continue until the country secures a complete victory in the final stage of the fight against poverty. He called on all localities and departments to give full play to the system and mechanism of poverty alleviation, while keeping policies stable and consolidating the results with multiple measures.

### All out efforts

Zhang Junning's family was living in poverty six years ago. At the time, Zhang had just moved from Xihaigu, an impoverished mountainous region in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in Northwest China, to Minning some 300 kilometers away.

But since he only knew traditional farming, he was at a loss in his new surroundings at the beginning. All he could do was to get odd jobs such as construction work, and was barely able to make ends meet. The pressure wasn't relieved until he and his wife were hired by a vineyard.

By mid-August, sales of products from impoverished areas had topped 102.7 billion yuan thanks to consumption-driven poverty reduction efforts, according to the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.



Li Fuwen (center), a resident of Haixi Mongol and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province in Northwest China, sells home-grown wolfberries via a live-streaming show with the help of two hosts on September 3. Zhang Long

Since 1997, the central government has implemented a pairing assistance program in Xinjiang, channeling financial support to the area from economically advanced regions of the country and sending officials and professionals to work there. Thanks to nationwide support and local incentive policies, Xinjiang has established a number of industrial parks in poverty-stricken areas, which help create more jobs and drive local economic growth.



Farmers harvest honeydew melons in Bachu County, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on June 23, 2019. Ding Lei

After receiving training and learning on their own, the couple gradually gained sufficient skills and earned a decent, stable income. Seeing more and more villagers like himself being hired by the vineyard, Zhang developed the idea of establishing a labor market intermediary to help vineyards hire local villagers.

His entrepreneurship enables him to not only shake off poverty, but also build a new house and live a comfortable lifestyle. Recently he bought a car, something unimaginable in the past. “If it weren’t for the national poverty alleviation program, I most likely would still be a poor farmer living in the backwater unable to achieve any of this,” Zhang told China Central Television (CCTV).

His success dates back to a conference on poverty alleviation cooperation held by the State Council, China’s cabinet, in May 1996, where 10 developed provinces in East China were paired up with 10 underdeveloped regions in the western part of the country. Fujian, a coastal province in Southeast China, was chosen to aid Ningxia.

Xihaigu’s poverty was mainly caused by its extreme weather conditions – droughts in summer, floods in autumn and freezing cold in winter. In 1972, the United Nations classified Xihaigu as one of the world’s most uninhabitable regions. Under the Fujian-Ningxia partnership, a resettlement program was proposed to move entire village communities from impoverished areas like Xihaigu to more fertile land near the Yellow River. Minning was one of the resettlement locations.

Today, there are more than 60,000 residents in Minning, with annual per-capita disposable income of 14,000 yuan last year, more than 20 times what it was in the past, according to Zhao Chao, the town’s deputy Party chief.

For 70 years, China has channeled as many resources as possible to impoverished regions and people on the basis of development and long-term goals. Since the mid-1990s, paired cooperation between China’s more developed eastern regions and less developed western regions has been a major part of the strategy to alleviate poverty and bridge the wealth gap between them.

The regions have joined hands and worked together across the distance that separates them. The eastern areas provide the less developed regions with assistance funds, officials and specialists, as well as help with relocation and employment.

In 2015, Xi gave a speech at the Central Conference on Development-Oriented Poverty Reduction, which opened up a new train of thought on how to eliminate poverty in the new stage of development. Noting that many impoverished regions blame their conditions on their surroundings, he said, “Looking at it from another perspective, however, if these regions wish to become prosperous, it is precisely by relying on their natural surroundings that they will do so.”

Tibet Autonomous Region, with the highest concentration of poverty-stricken areas in China, is one example. By the end of 2019, all of its 74 counties and districts in the region had risen out of poverty for the first time in history following years of targeted poverty alleviation efforts. Based on local resources and market demand, the government had promoted industries with local characteristics, such as highland barley planting, yak breeding and tourism.

With the development of the internet, e-commerce is playing a crucial role in poverty reduction. In September, a consumption campaign was launched to further boost the sales

of products from impoverished areas and promote poverty alleviation. Sales of products from these areas topped 102.7 billion yuan amid consumption-powered poverty reduction efforts, according to the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development. “This campaign signifies that the relief-through-consumption strategy has reached a new level,” Hong Tianyun, deputy head of the office, said at a press conference in Beijing on August 28.

Gansu Province in Northwest China is another example. In 2019, the province developed an officially recognized farm produce quality certificate – Ganwei – and allocated it to 200 enterprises. In this way, it aimed to build a brand unique to its specialty products, expand its sales channels and earn a bigger share of the market.

Xiangyu, a premier olive oil production company in Longnan, Gansu Province, has directly or indirectly helped more than 4,600 local households shake off poverty and generated over 970 million yuan in rural income over the past two decades. It was authorized to add the Ganwei label to its products.

With the development of industries in poverty-stricken areas, relief-through-consumption is a platform that can help companies with promotion and enable more consumers to get to know them, Hong said. Facilitated by local government, Xiangyu has signed cooperation deals with large state-owned enterprises.

Hong explained that consumers and governments at all levels place great importance on brand building. “It takes both the power of the market and the encouragement of the government to bring premier quality products from remote mountainous areas to the rest of the country,” he said.

At a press conference in early September, Liu Hongyu, chairman of the Xiangyu Board, said the consumption campaign has helped boost small- and medium-sized businesses like hers that can’t afford commercials on major platforms like state television to promote their organic products nationwide.

Moreover, poverty alleviation and economic growth do not come at the expense of cultural preservation and ecological conservation, but instead play a complementary role. In Bacha, a small fishing village in Heilongjiang Province in Northeast China, Yimakan storytelling in the Hezhe language of the ethnic group by the same name, has been recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage.

This is an official acknowledgment of the artistic contribution of a group with a population of only about 5,000 – one of the smallest ethnic minorities in China. By developing tourism and the unique Hezhe culture and customs, the formerly poor village which relied solely on fishing in the past, has seen an increase in its revenue and an improvement in people’s living conditions.

You Mingguo, chief of the CPC’s Bacha Committee, told CCTV that Xi assured them during a visit to the town in 2016 that no ethnic group would be left behind when China realized the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. He also told them to nurture their environment, since green mountains and clear rivers are as valuable as mountains of gold and silver.

## Global recognition

In the past seven decades, China has lifted over 850 mil-

lion people out of poverty, accounting for more than 70 percent of poverty reduction worldwide. In October, former US Ambassador to Cambodia Kenneth Quinn told Xinhua News Agency that China has made remarkable achievements in alleviating poverty, while its experience offers inspiration to the global cause of poverty reduction.

Quinn, who is also President Emeritus of the World Food Prize Foundation, said he believes there is no other country that “has done as much in such a short period of time to reduce poverty than China,” adding that “it can only be said to be a spectacular success.”

The veteran US diplomat, who first visited China in 1979 and has since made multiple trips, said he mainly attributes China’s success to the four “R’s,” namely roads, research, rice and reform. He said that prioritizing infrastructure construction, valuing education and research to inspire younger generations and offering opportunities to women are among the key practices that other nations can draw from China.

“Another lesson to take away from China is the importance of training and educating a large number of people to administer programs,” he said, adding that China’s achievements have contributed to the global cause of poverty reduction.

Quinn urged China and the United States to collaborate in tackling poverty, noting that international cooperation is crucial to tackling the global challenge of ending poverty. “China and the United States have both shown they can do remarkable things,” he said, noting that joint efforts by the two largest economies could help uplift the world.

International collaboration has also played a key role in China’s poverty alleviation cause. International organizations such as the UN Development Program and the World Food Program have supported the country, as China has also played an active role in global cooperation by offering help to other nations’ poverty-reduction efforts via providing material, financial and personnel aid.

Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of China’s Foreign Ministry, said at a press conference in October that China’s poverty alleviation efforts are of global significance, since China has not only accelerated the world’s poverty reduction process, but has also offered help to many developing countries that are engaged in the same task. For example, China assisted in the construction of 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa, benefiting more than 500,000 local people.

Data from the World Bank showed that the joint construction of China’s Belt and Road Initiative is expected to help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty. China also continues to help developing countries improve their capacity building through multilateral and bilateral channels, and facilitate international cooperation in poverty reduction.

It will continue to share its experience in poverty alleviation and development with the world, promote international exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction and make new contributions to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Zhao said.

Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan international relations expert, said Beijing’s reform-driven and people-centered poverty alleviation model has resonated with African policymakers and its citizenry. He noted that seamless planning, hard work, innovation and patriotism made it possible for the Chinese government to lift a vast number of people out of poverty

into middle-income status within a short time span. “China’s ability to rally people’s strength into poverty eradication from the grassroots to the national level is an inspiration to African societies,” Adhere said during an interview in Nairobi.

This year, the novel coronavirus disease has not only affected the economies of all countries and regions, but also poses a challenge to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending poverty by 2030.

Although hit by COVID-19 early in the year, China’s poverty alleviation goal is expected to be met, meaning China will have achieved the first of the 17 SDGs 10 years ahead of schedule. It will also mean that China will become the first country in the world to end absolute poverty.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke highly of China’s role in achieving the 2030 SDGs, and called on redoubling efforts to build a more sustainable, prosperous and harmonious world. At an online seminar on September 16, themed The UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and China’s Experience in Poverty Alleviation, he said, “China’s extraordinary national development and success in implementing the UN’s millennium development goals is integral to global gains.” Ban said. ■

Cona County is home to many communities of the Monba ethnic group in Shannan. Several residents of Xiangxian Village moved to their new homes in a newly built community called Xiaokang Village on September 26. The new village was constructed in line with local architectural tradition and the standard was 60 square meters per person. Supporting facilities such as water and electricity, and roads had been completed.



Villagers hold a traditional rite for moving into a new home. Xinhua



A villager stands in front of his new home in Shannan of Tibet Autonomous Region in Southwest China, on September 26, 2019. Xinhua

## Editor's Note

The third volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* has been published by the Foreign Languages Press in both Chinese and English. The volume is a collection of 92 articles, including speeches, conversations, instructions, and letters of Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, between October 18, 2017 and January 13, 2020.

The third volume records the practices of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core in uniting and leading the whole Party and Chinese people of all ethnic groups to make new and major progresses in various undertakings of the Party and country since the 19th CPC National Congress. It is an authoritative work that fully and systematically reflects Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.



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