

[Special Contributions]

# China Promotes Multilateralism for World Peace and Shared Development

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The People's Republic of China is a great country not only because of its geography (more than 9 million square kilometers), its population (1.4 billion), its rich culture and its multimillennial civilization. This country is also and above all great for its invaluable contributions to the progress of humanity, its initiatives for world peace, shared development, and its unwavering commitment to the cause of multilateralism. Since regaining its rightful seat in the UN Security Council in 1971, China has played a major role in international affairs. In 1980, she took her place at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). In 2001, China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), began to actively participate in international economic and trade cooperation, and cultivated friendship within the international community. By 2019, China had established diplomatic ties with over 180 countries around the world. Following the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, China proposed “a community with a shared future.” In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative, a platform for building a community of shared future, to promote world peace and global development. To date, this initiative has registered the support of more than 180 countries, regions, and international organizations, showing tangible results. These China's initiatives, which have won recognition from the international community and are enshrined in numerous UN resolutions, are pure products of Chinese wisdom that “China cannot develop in isolation from the rest of the world, any more than the

world as a whole cannot maintain peace, development, prosperity and stability without China.” Therefore, China places its development in the development of all humanity and links its future and its interests to those of the peoples of the world.

The extraordinary progress that China has made in just a few decades has changed the world and the situation in international relations. This progress, a true human miracle, has aroused among Westerners, especially the USA, more adversity than admiration, more hostility than understanding. The propensity of the USA to use force, to sow death and desolation without bitterness, builds on the threat that this country poses to peace in the world. Since 1950, the United States of America has carried out around thirty wars, military interventions and bombings around the world: the Korean and China War in 1950 and 1953; Guatemala in 1954, 1960, 1967 and 1969; Indonesia in 1958; Cuba in 1959–1961; Congo (central Africa) on 1964; Laos on 1964 and 1973; Vietnam on 1961–1973; Cambodia on 1969–1970; Salvador on 1980; Nicaragua on 1980; Granada on 1983; Lebanon and Syria on 1983–1984; Libya on 1986; Iran on 1987; Panama on 1989; Iraq (the Gulf War) on 1991; Iraq (jointly with the British army) on 1991 and 2003; Kuwait on 1991; Somalia on 1993; Bosnia on 1994–1995; Sudan in 1998; Yugoslavia on 1999; Lebanon and Yemen on 2002; Iraq on 2001 and 2015; Afghanistan on 2001 and 2015; Somalia on 2007, 2008 and 2011; Yemen on 2009 and 2011; Libya on 2011 and 2015; Syria on 2014 and 2015. In its paranoid vision, the United States designates China as a dangerous competitor, going so far as to destroy a meteorological research balloon with a warplane. In fact, what do Westerners know about China, about the Chinese civilization so ancient and already so advanced when Europe was only in its infancy when the USA did not exist on the map of the world? Through its science and wisdom, Chinese civilization has marked the progress of mankind. For centuries, Chinese and European civilizations have evolved on their own without having real close contact. In the 16th century, diplomatic exchanges concerned a very restricted elite on both sides. Two ways of thinking and two philosophies of the world coexisted before colliding through colonization and the opium wars. Since its founding in 1949, the New China has never provoked war or conflict, nor engaged forces in a foreign land. In this 21st century, the rise of China has caused a paradigm shift that should teach Westerners to go beyond the clichés with regard to this country, to depart from the spirit of the cold war and unhealthy competition to be in phase with the march of history. Westerners, especially the USA, must abandon their poor binary “friends/ enemies” thinking to open up to other ways of thinking that are very different but not opposed to their own.

In this world in crisis, while the actions of Western leaders call into question multilateralism, China holds high the banner of this instrument of peace and development for the construction of a community of destiny for humanity. Unilateralism, hegemonism, protectionism and the politics of confrontation are factors that affect the world peace, development, and stability so desired by the people who aspire to live a better life in a world of lasting peace, security and shared development. The threat to this aspiration is a source of instability and uncertainty. In this context, in 2012, China proposed “A Community of Shared Future”. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative, expressing China’s deep commitment to

multilateralism, harmony within the international community and development for all. China's initiatives call for cooperative measures contributing to global development, peace and people's well-being. Since then, China has been working in all the major international economic and financial organizations and multilateral economic mechanisms, contributing enormously to the development of trade in infrastructure and connectivity between countries. China's deep commitment to multilateralism was marked in the 1950s by the proposal made jointly by China, India and Myanmar on the five principles of peaceful coexistence: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity; mutual non-aggression; non-interference in internal affairs; equality and mutual benefit; peaceful coexistence. Since then, these principles have become the norms that govern international relations and the fundamental principles of international law. Over the past ten years, China has proposed several important initiatives, including: "The Belt and Road Initiative; a community with a common future; a New Model of International Relations; the principle of the defense of the common good and the pursuit of common interests; a common, global, cooperative and sustainable security vision; the principles of full consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in global governance and the principles of equality, dialogue, etc." These initiatives have brought Chinese science and wisdom to the promotion of world peace and common prosperity. China has signed more than 20 multilateral treaties, including those on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is the second-largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping operations budget and the largest troop contributor among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

As part of promoting multilateral cooperation, China has established a number of multilateral platforms, including the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation; China International Import Expo; Hongqiao International Economic Forum; Forum on China-Africa Cooperation; Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum; China-CELAC Forum; Boao Forum for Asia; China-ASEAN Expo; Exhibition of Arab States in China; China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo; Conference on the Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, and the World Conference on the Internet. China's past and culture teach that this country has never sought hegemony and will never seek hegemony or any other form of domination over others. From China's history and culture of light and wisdom, we also learn that "the powerful should not oppress the weak, and the rich should not abuse the poor" and "don't do to others what you don't want others to do to you." Building a community with a shared future is a proposal that promotes mutual respect and consultation on an equal footing. Its ultimate goal remains equity and justice, mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation. A country that withdraws from international organizations denounces international treaties according to its interests and builds border walls undermines peace and global development. Therefore, China defends the international system based on the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, taking into account the general interest. This is why China intends to remain attached to multilateralism, to defend equity and international justice. China respects the right of peoples to choose their own path of development and their own social system, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and opposes interference in the internal affairs of others. On September 21, 2021, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping assured the world of his country's peaceful intentions: "China is



and will remain a global peacemaker... One country's success does not necessarily mean another country must fail. The world can fully accept the simultaneous success and growth of each country. We need to persevere in dialogue and not in confrontation, to embrace and not exclude, to build and respect each other in equity and justice, to nurture international relations based on cooperation for the common benefit, to expand our points of convergence, to draw the largest circle possible”.

Africa remains at the heart of all of China's initiatives. Both sides support a fair, open and inclusive global economy and multilateral trading system. China-Africa Cooperation has become a model of South-South cooperation that makes a remarkable contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind. At the opening ceremony of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Dakar, Senegal, on November 29, 2021, President Xi Jinping noted, “Over the past 65 years, China and Africa have forged unfailing brotherhood in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism, blazed a path of exceptional cooperation in the pursuit of development and recovery and wrote a splendid chapter of solidarity in the face of complex changes”. Peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are common human values and aspirations that China and Africa tirelessly pursue together. The Global Development Initiative proposed at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly converges with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2013, 10 years ago, President Xi Jinping launched the principles of “sincerity, effective results, friendship and good faith and seeking the greater good and shared interests in China-Africa relations.” The Sino-African Cooperation thus began “the new era of building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.” China and Africa are working together to “implement several cooperation programs” adopted by the two sides. China is the first country to support Africa Union membership to the G20 and intends to encourage the G20 to take strong actions to support an increased role of the Africa Union and African countries in the global governance system. China is also the first country to support Africa for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. Loyalty to its commitments on the international scene makes China a leading promoter of multilateralism for world peace and shared development.

(Editors: Bonnie WANG & Joe ZHANG)