**FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNAL**

**A QUARTERLY ENGLISH PUBLICATION OF THE CPIFA SINCE 1985**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsored by</th>
<th>Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edited &amp; Published by</td>
<td>Research Department of the CPIFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Wang Chao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Li Huilai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Wang Chao, Li Huilai, Wei Wei, Yang Jiemian,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jiang Xuebin, Li Feng, Ma Hong, Cheng Hong,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yang Danpin, Zhou Wei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor</td>
<td>Cheng Hong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Editor</td>
<td>Yang Danpin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proof Reading</td>
<td>Fan Yishi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed by</td>
<td>Shengtong Printing Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>71 Nanchizi Street, Beijing 100006, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel</td>
<td>(8610) 6513 1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>(8610) 6513 1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cpifa.org">http://www.cpifa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edit@cpifa.org">edit@cpifa.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Editors’ Note**

FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOURNAL is published quarterly by the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Views and opinions expressed in the writings appearing in the JOURNAL are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CPIFA.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form without first obtaining writing permission from the publisher.
BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE CPIFA

The Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) was established on December 15, 1949, the same year of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. As the first institute devoted to people-to-people diplomacy of the PRC, CPIFA was founded at the initiative of the late Premier Zhou Enlai. Premier Zhou Enlai and the late Vice Premier Chen Yi both once served as the Honorary President of the Institute.

The purposes of CPIFA are to enhance people-to-people friendship, to facilitate state-to-state relations, and to pursue world peace, development and cooperation. To this end, CPIFA takes the initiative to establish and maintain relations with prestigious political and social activists, parliaments, think tanks, media, etc., to carry out dialogues and communications on bilateral relations, major international and regional issues based on the exchange mechanism of Track II diplomacy, to conduct public diplomacy activities by hosting and organizing some major forums and conferences, to study international situation and foreign policies, and to publish the English quarterly journal, Foreign Affairs Journal.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, CPIFA is committed to “making friends for the country” by taking concerted actions with China’s overall diplomacy, expanding foreign exchanges, telling Chinese stories, promoting interaction between China and the rest of the world, and facilitating the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

To date, CPIFA has hosted the visits of over 30,000 guests of 4,000 plus delegations including foreign prestigious statesmen, parliament members, think tanks, media, etc. The Institute maintains contacts with famous statesmen, diplomats, social activists, entrepreneurs, experts and scholars on international studies from over 120 countries and has established more than 20 bilateral dialogue and exchange mechanisms.
CONTENTS

1 Enhancing Neighborhood Diplomacy in Response to Changes Unseen in a Century By Luo Zhaohui

14 China and Middle Eastern Countries: Towards a Brighter Shared Future By Zhai Jun

26 The Right Way to Take is to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind By Yang Jiemian

35 Building on Past Two Decades of Achievements for a Brighter Future in the New Era: Marking the 20th Anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation By Wu Peng

45 Characteristics of World Economic Recession and Momentum of China’s Growth By Chen Wenling

61 China’s Achievements, Position and Proposition on Human Rights By Liu Huawen

74 Visits & Events
目录

94 因应百年变局，发力周边外交
罗照辉

99 命运与共，续写辉煌，打造中国同中东国家关系更加美好的未来
翟隽

104 构建人类命运共同体是人间正道
杨洁勉

109 二十载成就卓越，新时代再创辉煌
——纪念中非合作论坛成立20周年
吴鹏

113 世界经济大衰退的特点和中国经济增长的态势
陈文玲

121 中国人权事业的成就、立场和主张
柳华文
China’s neighborhood is crucial for its security, development and prosperity. By prioritizing neighborhood in its overall diplomacy, China is committed to forging friendship and partnership with its neighbors, following the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, and deepening win-win cooperation with the neighbors. This has contributed to the sustained sound momentum in its neighborhood. Since the beginning of this year, with a global pandemic rarely seen coupled with changes unseen in a century, as well as impact of the China-US contest, the complex factors in China’s neighborhood have been on the rise.

Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, China advanced both epidemic control and economic and social development. We swiftly made major strategic achievements in the fight against COVID-19 and became one of the first countries to return to positive

* Luo Zhaohui is Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.
economic growth. Focusing on epidemic-related diplomacy and practical cooperation, we worked with Asian neighbors in solidarity to fight the virus and restore the economy. Our cooperation contributed to enhanced political mutual trust, closer bond of interests, deepened friendship and new progress in China’s good-neighborly relations and cooperation with neighboring countries. We also strongly responded to the all-out approach of the United States to contain and bring China down, and firmly defended our sovereignty, security and development interests.

I. Neighborhood Diplomacy in the Context of COVID-19 Response

High-level exchanges steered the ship. President Xi Jinping’s visit to Myanmar, his first overseas trip in 2020, wrote a new chapter in the pauk-phaw friendship between China and Myanmar. In the wake of COVID-19, President Xi Jinping has had 17 phone conversations with leaders of 14 neighboring countries, reaching important consensus with them on strengthening COVID-19 response and cooperation in various fields, and pointing the way forward for growing China’s neighborhood relations under new circumstances. Premier Li Keqiang spoke on the phone with prime ministers of Viet Nam and Laos, and attended the Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on COVID-19 and the third Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders’ Meeting via video link. Leaders of Cambodia, Mongolia and Pakistan visited China in spite of the epidemic. State Councilor Wang Yi had 37 phone conversations with 17 foreign ministers from neighboring countries, and held the Video Conferences of China-ASEAN, China-Japan-ROK, Russia-India-China (RIC), and China-Afghanistan-Pakistan-Nepal Foreign Ministers. China’s diplomacy
also restarted offline with Director Yang Jiechi’s visit to Singapore, the ROK, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. State Councilor Wang Yi had meetings and talks with foreign ministers of Indonesia, Pakistan, Viet Nam and the Philippines, and special envoy of the Indonesian President, and paid visits to Mongolia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Laos and Thailand.

Cooperation on COVID-19 response demonstrated our deep friendship. As a saying goes, those who love others will be returned with love. When China was battling COVID-19, its neighboring countries in Asia offered help to support China through various means. When the virus spread in neighboring countries, China provided a large amount of medical supplies and shared its experience in light of the needs of all its neighboring countries. We sent medical teams to countries including Cambodia, Pakistan, Laos, the Philippines, Myanmar and Malaysia, and held video conferences between Chinese medical experts and their counterparts from Mongolia and ASEAN and South Asian countries. China also worked closely with its neighbors on vaccine R&D and deployment to make vaccines accessible and affordable in the region and beyond. Local governments, businesses, civil organizations and people of relevant countries got involved in this joint fight against the virus, writing a touching chapter that gives true meaning to the verses “Though we live in different lands, the same moon and sky make us one”.

Economic re-opening boosted our confidence. Being among the first to contain the virus, China worked actively to set up the joint prevention and control mechanism with the ROK, Mongolia, Singapore, Pakistan, the Maldives and Afghanistan. China’s border provinces also established this mechanism with places of
neighboring countries bordering China. Such arrangements helped stem the cross-border transmission of the virus. We established “fast tracks” and “green lanes” for the flows of personnel and goods with countries such as the ROK, Singapore, Myanmar, Indonesia and Mongolia to ensure the stability of regional industrial and supply chains and help boost both their epidemic control and economic and social development.

Economic and trade relations grew against headwinds. In the first half of this year, China’s trade with its neighbors in Asia reached US$632.1 billion, accounting for 31% of China’s total foreign trade. As China’s trade with ASEAN countries increased by 5.6% year-on-year, ASEAN has become China’s biggest trading partner by overtaking the EU. Southeast Asia received 76% of China’s non-financial direct investment to BRI partner countries. Major projects under the BRI framework continued to make progress. The upgrade of the ML-1 railway, the largest infrastructure project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), was approved by the Pakistani government. With the subgrade earthwork basically completed, the China-Laos Railway kicked off its track-laying work. The construction of the Jakarta-Bandung Railway and the China-Thailand Railway continued to move forward.

Solidarity and cooperation helped push back outside disturbances. The United States acted against the trend of the times by politicizing COVID-19, sowing discord with the South China Sea issue, building exclusive blocs, pushing for economic and technological decoupling, calling for ideological confrontation and undermining regional cooperation. In contrast, China and its neighbors maintained strategic communication both bilaterally
and multilaterally, and worked to remove disturbances, build consensus, firmly support multilateralism and uphold open and inclusive cooperation. The regional countries agreed to properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation and focus on both epidemic response and development. With a stronger sense of justice and righteousness, regional countries have enhanced their consensus on pursuing peace, development and cooperation.

II. Risks and Challenges in Neighborhood Diplomacy

As the rampage of COVID-19 continues around the world, the upcoming autumn and winter seasons in the northern hemisphere increase the risk of resurgence. Confirmed cases in China’s neighboring countries and the wider region exceeded 10 million, taking up one third of the world’s total. As specified below, the spread of the virus, economic slowdown and the interference of extra-regional forces are posing multiple challenges to this region.

First, the COVID-19 situation became severe. To date, there have been over 8 million confirmed cases in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia, with over 95% in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Indonesia. India has nearly 7 million confirmed cases, the second highest in the world (by 9 October) only after the US. The situation in Japan, the ROK and Myanmar remained grave as a result of the resurgence. With the approaching of the autumn and winter seasons, which are more suitable for viruses to survive and spread, China’s neighbors are likely to experience another outbreak. For the moment, the proportion of imported cases from these countries to China is not big, but it keeps growing fast. The neighboring countries are
connected by rivers and mountains with China, and the frequent people-to-people exchanges represent risks of case importation that cannot be ignored.

Second, the economy plunged. COVID-19 dealt a huge blow to major economies in the region. Japan witnessed the third straight quarter of negative growth. Its economy in the second quarter of this year shrank by 7.8%, the worst contraction since comparable data became available. Singapore and India’s GDP in the second quarter fell by 6.7% and 23.9% year on year, representing the largest drop in a single quarter ever recorded. The Philippines’ GDP in the first half of this year declined by 9% year on year, the first negative half-year growth in the past 22 years. Indonesia experienced its first economic recession since 1999. The epidemic has disrupted the stability of regional industrial and supply chains, jeopardized regional countries’ trade and greatly reduced imports and exports of Japan, the ROK and India. The resurgence of the virus, if happens again, will cause even greater uncertainties for the economic recovery of neighboring countries.

Third, the US was bent on stirring up troubles. It has taken a wholesale approach against China in an attempt to contain China. The US, Japan, India and Australia upgraded the Quad mechanism, seeking formal alliance similar to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the Indo-Pacific region. The US also released its new policy on the South China Sea and tried to fan the flames, sow discord between China and ASEAN countries and disrupt the consultation process of a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea. It flexed its muscles by sending 3,000 sorties of military aircraft and some 60 naval vessels to the South China Sea in the first half of this year alone, including, in most cases,
bombers and dual carrier operations. Such acts have become the biggest factor fueling militarization in the South China Sea and the most dangerous factor jeopardizing peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Fourth, complex changes occurred in major-country relations. The US stirs up confrontation and creates division in China’s neighboring region, profoundly affecting the strategic environment of the region and relevant countries’ policies toward China. China and Japan are each other’s friendly close neighbors, and a bilateral relationship featuring long-term stability and friendly cooperation serves the interests of both countries. As the most important ally for the US in Asia, Japan is strenuously recalibrating its relations with China and the US. China and the ROK are important close neighbors and high-standard cooperative partners with extensive converging interests. In the meantime, given the alliance between the ROK and the US, China-ROK relations are inevitably affected by the US factor. China and India are both major developing countries that are rapidly revitalizing and each other’s important partners, but the recent frequent provocations by India have undermined both the situation in the border areas and practical cooperation between the two countries. ASEAN member states enjoy cooperative relations with both China and the US. They are repulsed by unilateralism, Cold-War mentality and acts that undermine regional unity and cooperation, but are also they are held hostage to these acts and faced with the dilemma of choosing sides.
III. Open up New Prospects for Neighborhood Diplomacy in Asia

Under new circumstances, China’s neighboring regions in Asia are embracing new development opportunities while confronting risks and challenges. Asia is still the world’s most vibrant region with the greatest potential for development. China and its neighboring countries become even more interconnected and interdependent, and the main theme of good-neighborliness, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation has become stronger. We will continue to conscientiously study and implement Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, take into account both domestic and international situations, strengthen strategic planning and deployment of strategies, and continuously deepen China’s friendly cooperative relations with neighboring countries, so as to make new contributions to the great revitalization of the Chinese nation and the building of an Asian community with a shared future and a community with a shared future for mankind.

First, we will follow an integrated approach to key priorities.

Always taking history as a mirror to guide the future, China is ready to strengthen communication with the new government of Japan, observe the principles reached in the four Sino-Japanese political documents and the spirit of the two countries’ consensus on the four principles, and actively work toward China-Japan relations in line with the requirements of the new era.

China and the ROK need to exemplify win-win cooperation. We are ready to strengthen high-level exchanges and strategic communication with the ROK, drive synergies between development
strategies, tap into and foster new growth drivers of bilateral cooperation, and advance international cooperation in multilateral areas, so as to further enhance China-ROK strategic cooperative partnership.

We always pay high attention to relations with India. The two countries need to stick to our leaders’ strategic consensus that China and India are cooperative partners rather than rivals, and should offer development opportunities rather than constitute threats to each other. The two countries need to properly manage and control differences, promote de-escalation in the border area, and put our differences at an appropriate place in our bilateral relations, so as to firmly steer China-India relations in the right direction.

China and ASEAN member states are strategic partners and friendly close neighbors. We need to drive close synergies between our development strategies, build consensus on cooperation, expand converging interests, strengthen ties of friendship, deepen exchanges on governance, and promote shared ideas and values. Our two sides need to strive for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and explore the use of flexible approaches to sustain the negotiation process of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, so as to effectively safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea and our region. We need to make coordinated efforts to advance our friendly cooperative relations with different neighboring countries and build a more close-knit and solid network of friends and partners.
Second, we will deepen regional cooperation in COVID-19 response.

We are ready to continue to strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries in COVID-19 response and support relevant countries in putting COVID-19 under effective control as soon as possible. We need to make good use of collective control and treatment mechanisms and other arrangements with neighboring countries, and cement a neighboring shield against case import by strengthening distant control and other measures. In addition, we will ensure necessary movement of people, deepen cooperation on resuming work and production, and support regional economic recovery. We are ready to strengthen all-round cooperation on vaccine with regional countries, give priority to our neighboring countries’ needs once COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China is in place, and strengthen information sharing and cooperation in vaccine production, research and development and deployment. We are ready to strengthen public health cooperation with neighboring countries, take real actions to support COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, set up the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies, explore cooperation in areas including biological safety, and work together for a regional community of health.

Third, we will support domestic and international circulations.

China strives to steadily achieve a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. As recent economic data show, China’s economy presents sound prospect
and is likely to overtake the US to become the world’s largest market this year. China will open itself up even wider and its development will deliver even greater benefits to neighboring countries. We need to strengthen coordination on macroeconomic policies with neighboring countries, pursue high-quality and high-standard Belt and Road development, and raise the level of connectivity and industrial cooperation. We need to explore the construction of regional networks of “fast tracks” and “green lanes” to ensure security and stability in industrial and supply chains. We need to continue to pursue innovation-driven development, deepen cooperation on digital economy and advance the development of a digital Silk Road, so as to create new growth drivers. We need to accelerate the development of a China-ASEAN Partnership on Blue Economy, continue to deepen the Lancang-Mekong sub-regional cooperation, and draw up a new blueprint for East Asian regional cooperation. We need to continue to uphold free trade, safeguard multilateralism, push for the signing of the RCEP within this year as scheduled and speed up the China-Japan-ROK FTA negotiations, so as to build a high-standard free trade network.

Fourth, we will properly handle China-US regional competition and cooperation.

The difference between China and the US is not over power and position, but a struggle between multilateralism and unilateralism, and between win-win cooperation and zero-sum game. Standing on the wrong side of history, the US made a series of provocative moves in China’s neighboring region. The US not only jeopardized China’s legitimate rights and interests, but also acted against the interests and aspirations of regional
China has no intention to drive the US out of Asia, and we are ready to strengthen friendly cooperation with the US and all other countries in the world. In his recent interview with Xinhua News Agency, State Councilor Wang Yi stated that China is ready to restart the dialogue mechanisms with the US side at any level, in any area and at any time, and proposed that the two countries draw up three lists respectively on cooperation, dialogue, and issues that need proper management.

We are ready to maintain dialogue and communication with the US on Asia-Pacific affairs, conduct coordination on regional hotspot issues, third-party market cooperation and other issues, formulate joint proposals and hold joint activities within the framework of East Asia cooperation, and conduct more practical cooperation. In the meantime, when the US interferes in China’s domestic affairs, violates China’s legitimate rights and interests, and disrupts regional peace and stability, we will resolutely safeguard national interests and regional stability, and will continue to work in solidarity and cooperation with our neighboring countries in a resolute response to these acts.

Fifth, we will play a constructive role on hotspot issues.

The current situation on the Korean Peninsula remains generally stable, but the impasse in DPRK-US dialogue persists, as the US fails to respond to the DPRK’s legitimate concerns on security and development. China supports all words and actions that can help maintain the momentum of dialogue and de-escalation on the Peninsula, and will continue to play constructive
roles in promoting political settlement of the Peninsula issue and sustaining regional peace and stability. China will continue to be a supporter, mediator and facilitator for the peace process in Afghanistan. We support the Intra-Afghan Negotiations in keeping to the fundamental direction of political settlement, upholding the basic principle of an Afghan-led process and pursuing the goal of a broad-based and inclusive framework. We also hope that the new government of Afghanistan will resolutely fight terrorism, uphold a foreign policy of peace and friendship, and truly realize peace, stability and development in Afghanistan. China proposes that Myanmar and Bangladesh should strengthen dialogue and consultation, and launch the process of returning displaced persons as soon as possible. We will continue to provide necessary support and assistance to both countries.

As a Chinese saying goes, “Having friendly and close neighbors is most valuable for a country.” Facing a global pandemic rarely seen and changes unseen in a century, China will continue to follow the principle of pursuing amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, stand with neighboring countries through thick and thin, and work with them for the sustained, stable neighborhood relations, and for a splendid new chapter in win-win development in Asia. 🥂
China and the Middle East are both cradles of splendid civilizations. For over two thousand years, the network spun by the ancient Silk Road has connected China and the countries in the Middle East at the east and west ends of Eurasia. The two sides enjoy a long history of close exchanges and friendship, with no historical grievances in the past or conflicts at present. This truly exemplifies what is meant by the saying “Good friends feel close to each other even when they are separated by vast distance.” On 30 May 1956, the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Egypt officially established diplomatic relations. That was the beginning of diplomatic engagement between New China and Middle Eastern countries. Over the past 60-plus years, the relations between the two sides have been through several stages defined by deepening mutual understanding, setbacks and adjustments, build-up of momentum, and major breakthroughs. The two sides have helped each other in an evolving world and carried out sincere cooperation.

* Zhai Jun is Special Envoy of the Chinese Government for the Middle East.
for their respective national development. In this process, they have become like-minded friends, mutually beneficial partners, and good brothers who stick together through thick and thin.

I

As the second decade of the 21st century begins, the relations between China and Middle Eastern countries have entered a new historical stage of elevated development across the board. The two sides have strengthened political mutual trust, advanced Belt and Road cooperation, stepped up coordination in international and regional affairs, and deepened experience-sharing on governance and people-to-people exchanges.

— Common understanding at the leadership level has charted the course of an ever-growing relationship. President Xi Jinping traveled to the Middle East in 2016 and 2018 on state visits to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He attended the opening ceremonies of the sixth and eighth Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing and gave three policy speeches on the Middle East. From the Middle East, heads of state or government of 19 countries visited China to explore further cooperation. China has by far established 14 strategic partnerships with regional countries and the League of Arab States, and an innovative comprehensive partnership with Israel, adding strong vitality to the friendship and cooperation between the two sides.

In 2018, President Xi proposed the building of a China-Arab states community with a shared future, an initiative warmly received and welcomed by Arab states. It was incorporated as a consensus
between China and Arab states into the outcome document of the ninth Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum held in July this year. This is an important chapter in the relations between China and Middle Eastern countries, which opens up new vistas for the future growth of relations.

— Deepening Belt and Road cooperation has put practical cooperation onto a fast track. The shared history of the ancient Silk Road has been translated into a common aspiration for broader cooperation. When China launched the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, countries in the Middle East voiced unanimous support. To date, 19 countries in the region have signed Belt and Road cooperation agreements with China. The Declaration of Action on China-Arab States Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, signed between China and the League of Arab States, is the first of its kind between China and a regional organization. Cooperation in recent years shows that the Belt and Road Initiative has facilitated participating countries’ efforts to attract foreign investment, introduce technologies, advance domestic reform and development, and better participate in globalization. This explains why the initiative has been well received in the Middle East.

Belt and Road cooperation has boosted and added more dimensions to the overall cooperation between China and Middle Eastern countries, which has expanded from traditional fields such as oil and gas, trade, and project to become more wide-ranging. In 2019, bilateral trade reached US$323.6 billion, and two-way investments continued to grow, with Middle Eastern countries remaining the biggest source, or 47% of China’s crude oil imports. China has taken an active part in building industrial parks in the region and sought greater synergy between China-built projects
and major local ports like Abu Dhabi and Port Said. China has thus contributed significantly to trade connectivity and industrial clustering in the Middle East and the impact of its development on neighboring regions.

— **Mutual support on major issues has formed a synergy for justice and equity.** Middle Eastern countries have constantly rendered their strong and invaluable support on issues concerning China’s core interests. Likewise, China has firmly supported Middle Eastern countries in safeguarding sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and pursuing independent development paths that suit their national realities.

Committed to justice and equity, China has taken a constructive part in settling hotspot issues and promoting peace and stability in the region for the good of Middle Eastern countries. On the question of Palestine, President Xi has made a suggestion that reflects international consensus and moral code. It has been widely commended by various parties. On Syria, China is committed to a political settlement and is firmly against a regime change forced against international norms. On the Iranian nuclear issue, China has stood for peaceful negotiations and defended multilateral agreements. To help solve the issue of South Sudan, in addition to providing humanitarian assistance, China has sent its first combat unit to the peacekeeping operation in the country.

**In 2002, the Chinese government appointed its first Special Envoy for the Middle East.** Over the past 18 years, five successive special envoys have made more than one hundred trips to the Middle East to promote peace talks and worked tirelessly for resolving the question of Palestine and other issues in the region.
China’s Special Envoy for Syria and Ambassador for China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) Affairs, two roles created later, have also conducted shuttle diplomacy and contributed their wisdom to resolve relevant hotspot issues. This is another example of how China upholds justice and assumes responsibility as a major country. Such efforts have been widely applauded and supported by the parties concerned.

— Fruitful people-to-people exchanges have resulted in greater affinity. Recent years have witnessed much mutual-learning and inspiration between China and Middle Eastern countries. Through the China-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development, the China-Arab States Forum on Reform and Development and other platforms, more than 100 professionals from the region have had discussions with their Chinese counterparts on such topics as economic reform and development, people’s livelihood, employment, poverty reduction and anti-corruption. Middle Eastern countries have gained deepening understanding about China, while China has also benefited profoundly from the governance experience shared by these countries.

Over the past few years, a growing number of young people from the Middle East have chosen to study in China; several thousand professionals from the region have received training in China, and Chinese language courses have become quite popular in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and many other Middle Eastern countries. Mutual visits have been made more convenient, as 17 countries in the Middle East grant visa-free treatment to Chinese diplomatic and official passport holders and 10 countries have visa-free or visa-upon-landing arrangements for Chinese with regular
passports.

II

As China and Middle Eastern countries together enter the third decade of the 21st century, the sudden attack of COVID-19 has brought a severe impact on both sides and the rest of the world, not least by disrupting many political and diplomatic agendas. Nevertheless, COVID-19 cannot stop the growing relations between China and Middle Eastern countries. The two sides have stood in solidarity and helped each other in this trying time and written a splendid chapter in building a community with a shared future for mankind. The relations have stood the test of COVID-19 and scaled a new height.

At the most testing moment in China’s fight against COVID-19, many leaders of Middle Eastern countries made phone calls or sent messages to President Xi Jinping to offer strong political support. Multiple countries and regional organizations in the Middle East issued statements in support of China’s COVID-19 response. Countries in the region donated 12 million face masks and other urgently-needed medical supplies. The Burj Khalifa in the UAE, the highest building in the world, lit up to root for Wuhan. Three world heritage sites in Egypt put on light shows featuring the Chinese national flag. People in the Middle East spontaneously sent videos and songs to wish China well. Such an outpouring of kindness shall always be remembered by the Chinese.

After COVID-19 struck the Middle East, President Xi also called or wrote to leaders of regional countries to affirm China’s
solidarity with them during the difficult times. The central and local governments in China, enterprises, non-governmental organizations and ordinary Chinese all took action. Medical supplies including 18 million masks, 1.2 million test kits, three million protective suits, safety goggles, gloves and shoe covers were sent to Middle Eastern countries. Efforts were also made to facilitate their purchases of medical supplies from China. China shared with regional countries its own experience and technologies without reservation, by holding more than 40 video conferences involving health experts from both sides and sending a total of 90 medical experts to nine countries in urgent need. Under a special arrangement to help the Palestinian people combat COVID-19, in addition to sending medical supplies and experts, China also contributed funds to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and provided health kits to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, the Gaza strip, Jordan and Lebanon.

On how to make an effective global response to COVID-19, China and Middle Eastern countries think very much alike. The two sides have worked in concert to oppose politicizing and stigmatizing the virus. This is an important contribution to building global consensus and pooling resources in fighting the virus.

III

COVID-19 has accelerated the already profound changes taking place in the world. While peace and development remain the theme of our times, instability and uncertainty have become more prominent. For China and countries in the Middle East, who cherish dreams of national rejuvenation and shoulder missions
of achieving national prosperity and bettering people’s lives, the current circumstances have brought greater difficulties and challenges than ever. **For our two sides, strengthening relations, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, and pursuing cultural mutual-learning would be the right direction in keeping with the trend of the times and the best choice in the interest of both sides.**

The two sides share similar views and aspirations on major issues. Similar experiences and stance have created a strong bond between China and Middle Eastern countries. Both sides explicitly uphold the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, call for respect for sovereign independence and territorial integrity, and advocate political and negotiated solutions to differences. Both support the UN-centered multilateral system and the multilateral order underpinned by international law, and stand committed to making globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all. More communication, solidarity and coordination between China and Middle Eastern countries will inject more positive energy into this fast-changing world and help protect the largest common interests of various parties in the world.

The two sides share complementarity and intertwined interests in practical cooperation. With rich energy endowment and vast markets, the Middle East is well placed to achieve greater development. China, the world’s second largest economy, has tested and proven experience for industrialization, cost-effective equipment and technologies, and high-level personnel training and financing support, which could meet the development needs of Middle Eastern countries as they accelerate industrialization and diversify the economy. Despite protectionism and resistance against globalization, the two sides have leveraged Belt and Road
cooperation as a way to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation. Efforts by the two sides to form greater synergy in their development strategies and endeavors and to turn shared needs into new areas of cooperation will undoubtedly contribute to an open and connected world and to the global economic recovery.

The two sides share the view that civilizations should treat each other with mutual understanding, inclusiveness and mutual learning. The Chinese, the Arab, the Persian, and the Jewish civilizations all have a time-honored history. They all stand for peaceful co-existence of different civilizations, attach importance to drawing upon other civilizations for inspiration to sustain their own development, and endeavor to make contributions to the progress of human civilization. In the face of claims about “clash of civilizations” and “cultural superiority”, closer cultural exchanges and mutual learning between China and Middle Eastern countries and their efforts to promote dialogue and inclusiveness over misunderstanding and differences and reject the association of terrorism with certain ethnicities or religions will help uphold what is right and just and foster a more fair, reasonable and diverse system of civilizations and values.

COVID-19 will be defeated. The future holds great promise for China and countries in the Middle East. The two sides may focus their efforts on the following aspects as they jointly think about how to fight COVID-19, achieve further development, and add impetus to their national rejuvenation.

First, striving for an early victory against COVID-19 through cooperation. The global fight against the virus has entered a critical period. China will continue to provide assistance to Middle Eastern
countries in need and facilitate their procurement in China. The two sides are conducting joint vaccine research and development. When vaccines are deployed, China will prioritize Middle Eastern countries in relevant international cooperation. The two sides could continue to hold video conferences of health experts to share experience in COVID-19 response and discuss ways to strengthen medical infrastructure and enhance preparedness for public health emergencies. The two sides should continue to oppose any attempts to politicize or stigmatize the virus, support the World Health Organization in playing a key role in leading the global response, and jointly contribute to global public health development.

Second, enhancing solidarity and cooperation through firm mutual support. Once the COVID-19 situation gets better, China and Middle Eastern countries could resume friendly exchanges at all levels to consolidate and develop their relations. For example, efforts need to be made to ensure the success of the China-Arab Summit and other important events. It is important for the two sides to stay committed to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, support each other on issues involving the other’s core interests, and oppose external meddling. China will continue to firmly support the efforts of countries in the region to safeguard their own political security and social stability. Given the complex regional situation, the two sides need to actively push for dialogue as a resolution to differences, resolutely oppose acts of bullying, applying maximum pressure, or ganging up against others, and explore a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable regional security architecture that could restore peace and tranquility to the Middle East at an early date.

Third, advancing Belt and Road cooperation to the benefit
of both sides. China stands ready for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with countries in the Middle East. The two sides could open “fast tracks” for two-way personnel exchanges and “green corridors” for cross-border flow of goods and put such arrangements to best use to create enabling conditions for the resumption of important cooperation projects. More efforts are needed to implement the consensus of the two sides and focus on cooperation in key areas, including industrial parks and major ports in the region; to consolidate energy cooperation, which is the anchor of the overall cooperation, and deepen clean energy cooperation in solar energy and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; to foster new growth drivers for high-tech cooperation such as 5G, satellite navigation, artificial intelligence, and big data; and to make concerted efforts and take bigger steps for FTA arrangements and investment facilitation.

Fourth, fostering popular support for an enduring friendship through more exchanges. China will work with countries in the Middle East to champion equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between cultures, enhance dialogue among civilizations and cooperation in de-radicalization, and continue to ensure the success of activities under relevant mechanisms. China will step up exchanges with Middle Eastern countries in various fields such as culture, education, journalism, tourism, health, religion, and youths; provide more scholarships to Middle Eastern countries; introduce more visa facilitation measures; open more Confucius Institutes/Classrooms and culture centers in the region; and facilitate cooperation on learning languages of China and Middle Eastern countries. These efforts will help the people of the two sides to understand each other better and forge a closer bond of friendship and cooperation.
The giant tree of friendship between China and the countries in the Middle East is rooted in the fertile soil of mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation. It would only emerge stronger from wind and rain. With solidarity and cooperation, China and Middle Eastern countries will be able to defeat COVID-19 and embrace a brighter future for their relations and, on that basis, make greater contributions to peace and development in the world and a community with a shared future for mankind.
COVID-19 has hit over 200 countries and regions in the world, leading to hundreds of thousands of deaths. It not only poses a grave threat to human health but also causes global economic recession and increases risks in social governance. With implications on both non-traditional and traditional security threats, it adds to significant changes to major-country relations and geopolitics, thus considerable rise in global instabilities and uncertainties.

**Cooperation is the Sure Choice in Dealing with a Crisis.**

In responding to this pandemic, China has adhered to the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind and strengthened international cooperation. Most members of the international community have put emphasis on shared human interests and responsibilities and believed that the
most urgent task now is to work together to safeguard life safety and health of the whole mankind. The international community has stepped up cooperation, with increased awareness of shared destiny. In fighting the pandemic, many countries have worked hard to turn the challenges into opportunities by enhancing information communication, policy coordination and collaborative action, in a strong effort to promote the transformation and improvement of international governance mechanism and global governance system.

The 21st century is noted for a more volatile and complicated security situation, intertwined traditional and non-traditional security threats and extended contents and implications of security issues. In terms of epidemics, the world has been hit in succession by Ebola, Zika virus, H1N1 influenza and COVID-19. International terrorist attacks, financial crisis and serious natural disasters have also occurred frequently. Non-traditional security threats have become serious challenges facing the mankind. At the same time, countries have been increasingly interconnected in their interests and destiny. No country is able to handle all by itself the various challenges faced by mankind and no country can afford to go back into isolation. To safeguard the common homeland of mankind, all countries need to work in stronger cooperation and unity to meet the challenges.

In the face of the virus, a common enemy, the international community has reviewed experiences and drawn lessons from the past efforts in dealing with non-traditional security threats and further increased solidarity and cooperation in fighting the pandemic. Such examples include the Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit on COVID-19 on 26 March this year, the Special ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Summit on COVID-19 on 14 April, the virtual 73rd World Health
Assembly on 18 May, the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 on 17 June, and the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation on 18 June. And on 1 July, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on COVID-19, calling upon all parties in armed conflicts on the Security Council agenda to immediately engage in a cessation of hostilities and achieve a ceasefire of at least 90 days to enable delivery of humanitarian assistance. All the above are significant efforts of the international community to unite against the pandemic and work together to tide over the difficulties. President Xi Jinping in his keynote speech at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 stated that “We must always put our people and their lives front and center. We must mobilize necessary resources, stick together in collaboration, and do whatever it takes to protect people’s lives and health and minimize the fallout of COVID-19.”

At the same time, the international community has demonstrated a great virtue of mutual assistance in fighting the pandemic by going through thick and thin together. Confronted with the common enemy of COVID-19, most countries in the world have shown strong sympathy for and provided sincere assistance to others hit by the pandemic. In fighting COVID-19 together, many countries have also engaged in information exchange, experience sharing, research and development of medicines, clinical treatment, construction of public health infrastructure and mutual protection of each other’s citizens. Those are touching stories of sharing weal and woe and helping each other, a reflection of shared destiny for mankind. In addition, China has announced that once the R&D of COVID-19 vaccine is completed and put to use, it will be provided as a global public good, making contribution to the accessibility
and affordability of the vaccine in developing countries. The WHO has also announced its plan to provide 2 billion doses of vaccine against COVID-19 to the world by the end of 2021, half of which will benefit low-and-middle-income countries. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, however, a small number of countries have taken a beggar-thy-neighbor attitude, withdrawn from organizations, shift blames on others, and even took opportunity to make trouble and create confrontations. Such behavior go against the trend of the times and will be abandoned by history in the end.

The Concept of Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind Becomes More Popular.

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the series of actions taken by the whole world to fight the pandemic have major implications on the current global situation and future human security and development not only in terms of international relations, but also at various levels such as ideologies and concepts.

The emerging markets and developing countries are growing fast, with rising international influence and increasingly important roles in international affairs. Under the new circumstances, power politics, Cold-War mentality and zero-sum game no longer work. It has become the consensus of the international community to uphold multilateralism, by participating in international affairs equally and resolving disputes through consultation and dialogue.

In today’s world, material wealth accumulates continuously, science and technology progress rapidly, human civilization develops towards a higher level and peace, development, cooperation and win-win are the irresistible trend of the times. To
the people of the world, life and health are the basic needs and to live a better life and share the fruits of economic globalization are their strong aspirations. The sudden onslaught of COVID-19 has put the life and health of the people of many countries under threat. In fighting the pandemic, the top priority is to protect and save lives. During the recent international conferences, a lot of countries reaffirmed their commitment to protecting their people and people’s lives. China and some other emerging economies and developing countries have focused on the tasks of development and people’s livelihoods and advocated the building of a community of common health for mankind in order to create better living standards and ensure safe and healthy lives. As President Xi Jinping stated at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19, “We must stay committed to upholding multilateralism; in the face of COVID-19, solidarity and cooperation is our most powerful weapon; China will work with Africa to uphold the UN-centered global governance system and support WHO in making greater contribution to the global COVID-19 response; we oppose politicization and stigmatization of COVID-19, and we oppose racial discrimination and ideological bias; we stand firm for equity and justice in the world. ” These initiatives have produced wide impacts and are turning into shared belief and practical actions of the international community.

Human beings live in the same global village, where countries depend on each other and are increasingly part of each other, forming a community of shared destiny. To promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind is China’s proposal to deal with common challenges. This proposition has been written into the UN documents on many occasions and is welcomed and recognized by the international community. In the interconnected
world today, the major contagious diseases will always pose a threat to the whole of humanity wherever they happen. To respond to a serious infectious disease like COVID-19, all countries must work together in consultation, strengthen information sharing, engage in joint prevention and control and bring together each other’s strengths to accelerate R&D on drugs, vaccines and testing. The UN, the WHO, G20, ASEAN plus Three (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea), and other multilateral organizations have important roles to play in sharing pandemic information, coordinating responses to the pandemic and assisting countries with weak health systems. In the face of the pandemic, what the humanity needs is cooperation instead of unilateral actions, sharing responsibilities instead of willful actions, mutual assistance instead of creating obstacles for each other.

President Xi Jinping in his congratulatory message to the Extraordinary Meeting of Dialogue between CPC and Political Parties of Arab Countries emphasized that COVID-19 pandemic is another reminder that mankind rise and fall together. As the pandemic knows no borders and races, no country or group of countries can cope all by themselves. The only way to effectively contain the pandemic is to work in solidarity and cooperation at the height of building a community with a shared future for mankind. When the whole world is at a crucial juncture of fighting COVID-19, the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind has demonstrated more than ever its great value in promoting human well-being and development. In the hard struggle against the pandemic, countries have come to realize that they are interconnected and interdependent and the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind has become more deeply rooted in people’s hearts.
Continuous Efforts Should Be Made to Promote the Reformation and Improvement of the Global Governance System.

COVID-19 has exposed some weaknesses of the global governance system. More and more countries have deeply experienced the reality and seriousness of non-traditional security threats. They have further realized that zero-sum mentality and practices cannot resolve the current challenges. So the international community needs to work hard to turn challenges into opportunities and use the opportunity of building the global public health governance mechanism to accelerate the reformation and improvement of global governance system. The international community needs to make joint efforts in counter-terrorism, cyber-security, major contagious diseases, climate change and other non-traditional security threats. It is important to safeguard the operations of the existing effective mechanisms and make continuous innovations in international governance mechanism so as to better deal with current and future global issues.

In face of the pandemic, China actively supports relevant international organizations in playing their roles and continues to use various platforms of international organizations to strengthen information sharing, experience exchange, technological cooperation and policy coordination, thus making contribution to global response to the pandemic. International summits and head-of-state diplomacy mechanism have increasingly significance. With more convenient transportation and communication, this mechanism has enjoyed continuous development in the late 20th century and early 21st century. At present, the growing global affairs and the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic have
given rise to head-of-state video diplomacy. Many international mechanisms have also held important high-level conferences via video, which to some extent has overcome the restraints of time and space and is also much more productive than usual. Such developments thus provide much innovation to international relations and global governance. As the pandemic affects the life and health of each person, in addition to channels of the governmental and non-governmental organizations, people of different countries are engaging in direct exchanges via the instant communication tools as new forms of people-to-people exchanges, thus increasing the role and influence of non-governmental exchanges. Obviously, as the forms of diplomatic activities are undergoing institutional changes, future actors of international relations will become more and more diversified.

**International Cooperation against the Pandemic is a Long and Arduous Task.**

The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government always put people’s life and health first and have fought an all-out people’s war against the virus. With extremely painstaking efforts and at a huge cost, China has achieved major strategic result in preventing and controlling the pandemic, but yet to make continuous efforts to prevent case import and domestic resurgence. At the difficult moments of fighting the pandemic, China has gained assistance from many countries and peoples and in turn, China has also given back to the international community by helping many countries according to its ability. China’s consistent commitment to cooperation has been fully displayed in the fight against COVID-19. The right approach to justice and interests China advocates and practices has also been applauded by the
international community. China’s act to work in solidarity and cooperation with other countries in jointly fighting the pandemic has enriched the contents of contemporary international relations and made clear the right way forward for the international community.

Human progress is always a tortuous journey and the building of a more just and reasonable global governance mechanism remains a long-term and arduous task. As COVID-19 pandemic spreads and evolves and our knowledge of the virus goes deeper, the international community has increasingly realized that cooperation against the pandemic will be a long-running and hard struggle, which requires mental and material preparations as well as more institutional cooperation at the global and regional levels. As we work to win the war against COVID-19 in an all-round way, the resources and wisdom of the whole international community needs to be brought together to achieve practical and theoretical innovations in win-win cooperation, the new-type international relations, multilateralism, global governance and a community with a shared future for mankind.

From the perspective of development, the precious consensus and cooperation by the international community in the fight against the pandemic is an important conceptual resource and practice for building a community with a shared future for mankind. Risks and challenges always go together with human progress. The world will come more closely together in addressing one challenge after another, and global governance system will also get better in the continuous response to the needs of the era. As long as countries join hands to build a community with a shared future for mankind, a better future for human civilization will be created.
Building on Past Two Decades of Achievements for a Brighter Future in the New Era: Marking the 20th Anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

By Wu Peng*

A Response to the Call of the Times

China and Africa enjoy a profound, long-standing friendship. In their struggles for national liberation and independence, in their endeavors of safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity and building a stronger nation, China and African countries have all along stood by each other’s side with mutual respect and mutual support. This has made China-Africa relationship a fine example of solidarity and collaboration among developing countries.

Two decades ago, as the 21st century began to unfold with peace and development as the order of the day, China and African countries jointly proposed the establishment of an innovative mechanism, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). There was often a misperception that FOCAC was entirely China’s idea. On the contrary, it was our African friends

* Wu Peng is Director-General of the Department of African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
who first made the proposal. In May 1999, then Foreign Minister of Madagascar Lila Ratsifandrihamanana visited China. Born in a family of famous writers, she is a talented, well-read and broad-minded woman, and she is friendly to China. In her talks with then Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, she said that African countries had a strong wish to establish partnerships with China and exchange views on issues of shared interest concerning peace and development, and thus suggested setting up a forum between China and Africa.

Establishing a mechanism for joint consultation and cooperation between China and Africa would help the two sides deepen mutual understanding and friendship, broaden consensus and boost cooperation. It would also be conducive to upholding the legitimate rights and interests of China and African countries, and promoting global peace, stability and development. The two sides agreed on the idea right away. After thorough preparations, the FOCAC Ministerial Conference Beijing 2000 was successfully held in October 2000, marking the birth of FOCAC and the beginning of a new chapter for China-Africa relations. China-Africa cooperation entered a new stage of rapid development.

**Mutual Political Trust**

Over the past two decades, dialogue mechanisms at different levels under the FOCAC framework have been established, and enriched and improved along the way. Three summits and seven ministerial conferences have been held. The Forum offers an effective platform for summit diplomacy between China and Africa, and has played an important role in promoting high-level exchanges, deepening the traditional friendship, enhancing
strategic mutual trust and strengthening the coordination of positions between the two sides.

Recent years have witnessed frequent high-level mutual visits between China and Africa. Africa was the first continent President Xi Jinping visited after both he took office and was reelected as President. He put forward the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and of pursuing the greater good and shared interests, chartering the course for the further growth of China-Africa relations.

The 2018 Beijing Summit of FOCAC marks a new milestone in China-Africa friendship and cooperation. The Summit set new records in terms of the scale of participation and level of representation compared with past multilateral events China hosted.

Delegates of the 54 FOCAC members attended the Summit, including 40 Presidents, 10 Prime Ministers, one Vice President and Chairperson of the African Union (AU).

President Xi had a busy schedule meeting African friends, both old and new. He attended nearly 70 events, witnessed the signing of nearly 150 cooperation agreements, and met or held talks separately with all heads of state and government attending the Summit. There was one time when he met separately with Presidents of 11 African countries in 10 hours. His leadership and charisma made a deep impression on the leaders of African countries, giving an unprecedented boost to China’s national image and appreciation of China’s vision in Africa.
Practical Cooperation

Over the past two decades, under the FOCAC framework that emphasizes equality, real results and efficiency, new measures on deepening China-Africa cooperation have been introduced and effectively implemented on a sustained basis, yielding outcomes for many African countries and benefiting the people in both China and Africa.

China-Africa trade volume has been consistently rising, reaching US$208.7 billion in 2019, 20 times of the level in 2000. China has been Africa’s largest trading partner for 11 consecutive years since 2009. China’s investment in Africa started from nil and has grown rapidly, with total investment stock reaching US$110 billion.

Over 3,700 Chinese businesses are investing and doing business in Africa, and dozens of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation zones and industrial parks are up and running, lending impetus to the sustained growth of African economy. China has built in Africa agricultural technology demonstration centers and such infrastructure as railways, highways and ports, supported Africa in its industrialization, agricultural modernization and integration, and helped African countries transform their natural resources endowment into driving forces for growth. All these efforts have generated development opportunities and concrete benefits to both China and Africa.

The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway is a signature project of practical cooperation between China and Africa under the Belt and Road Initiative. Connecting Kenya’s port city Mombasa and
its capital Nairobi, this 472-kilometer railway is an important part of the railway network in east Africa. The project was completed in just two and a half years, with China’s support in financing, construction and operation services, contributing 1.5 percent to Kenya’s GDP growth in 2018 and adding 46,000 local jobs. The freight volume of this railway grew by nearly 10 percent despite COVID-19, making it a trunk line for the transportation of anti-epidemic supplies and essential items.

**Friendly Exchanges**

The past two decades have seen continued efforts under the FOCAC framework in strengthening people-to-people exchanges, leading the way in the exchanges and mutual learning between the Chinese and African civilizations, and garnering stronger public support for China-Africa friendship.

Under FOCAC, important mechanisms and platforms for people-to-people and cultural exchanges have been established, including the China-Africa Youth Festival, the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum, the Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation, the China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Program, the China-Africa Young Leaders’ Forum and the China-Africa People’s Forum.

Cooperation in the fields of culture, education and media is in full swing, and the exchanges between youth, women, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions of the two sides are becoming increasingly close. China has set up several cultural centers, and opened 61 Confucius Institutes and 48 Confucius Classrooms in Africa. More and more African
young people choose to further their study in China. Over 10,000 African friends visit China each year for short or medium term training programs. Thirty-four African countries are now approved destinations for Chinese tourist groups, making Africa a new popular choice for outbound Chinese tourists.

There are numerous touching stories about China-Africa friendship. In 2010, when a strong earthquake hit Yushu of China’s Qinghai Province, the Republic of the Congo made donations for the building of a local primary school. President Sassou personally named the school Sino-Congolese Friendship Primary School. In 2011, the Swahili version of Chinese TV series *A Beautiful Daughter-in-Law Era* was broadcast in Tanzania and became an instant hit, giving the Tanzanian audience a glimpse of the joys and sorrows in ordinary Chinese families.

To date, over 20,000 Chinese medical workers have gone to Africa defying hardships, and treated more than 200 million African patients. These Chinese medical workers were acclaimed by the local people as “angels in white”. In 2014, when Ebola broke out in several West African countries including Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, over 1,000 Chinese health experts and medical workers rushed to the aid of the people in the affected countries. They were hailed as heroes in harm’s way.

**A New Chapter of Cooperation**

The unexpected outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to countries around the world. In the tough times of China’s fight against COVID-19, African countries, the AU and other regional organizations as well as people from
all sectors in Africa stepped up and provided China with strong support. Over 50 African leaders conveyed sympathies, and African countries and various sectors donated in kind and in cash.

When the virus hit Africa, China rushed to Africa’s aid and sent in multiple batches high-demand medical supplies to all African countries and the AU. China also dispatched medical expert teams and held video conferences with African health experts to share without reservation its experience in fighting COVID-19.

In June this year, President Xi chaired the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 in Beijing, which was attended by 13 African leaders and AU Chairperson. UN Secretary-General and WHO Director-General participated as Special Guests. Connected via video link, Chinese and African leaders discussed joint response to COVID-19 and renewed the fraternity between China and Africa. President Xi underscored the need to consistently enhance China-Africa cooperation and accelerate the follow-ups to the FOCAC Beijing Summit, with greater priority given to cooperation on public health, economic reopening and people’s livelihood.

Since the Summit, China and Africa have stepped up cooperation focusing on combating the virus while stabilizing the economy and protecting people’s livelihood. The Chinese government has signed with the AU an agreement on building the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention Headquarters, and is making intensive preparations for the start of the project.

China is pressing ahead with vaccine research and
development, and is carrying out vaccine cooperation with African countries such as Egypt and Morocco. China will fulfill its promise that once the development and deployment of the vaccine is completed, African countries will be among the first to benefit.

In addition to providing much needed containment supplies, testing reagents and medical products, China has also supported Africa in building its COVID-19 response capacity and is helping improve the accessibility of local medical products in Africa. Chinese enterprises have built face mask factories and virus testing labs in several African countries. A nucleic acid testing reagent factory jointly built by China and Ethiopia in Addis Ababa will soon start operation.

Despite COVID-19, economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa on non-medical fronts has not halted. Over 1,100 cooperation projects have kept running. Chinese investment in Africa grew by 4.4 percent between January and April, and two-way trade topped US$80 billion in the first half of the year. In support of the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, China has reached agreement on debt suspension with more than 10 African countries to help lessen their debt burden.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of FOCAC. China and Africa will hold a series of celebrations to jointly review the fruitful outcomes of the Forum over the past two decades. The Forum will again convene in 2021, where the two sides will plan for the future development of China-Africa relations.

In the post-COVID-19 era, China-Africa cooperation will focus more on forging a synergy between the development
strategies of the two sides and on enhancing African countries’ capacity for independent development. There is hope that more Chinese enterprises will carry out localized production in Africa to add more jobs, bolster Africa’s manufacturing sector and help Africa realize industrialization.

We will continue to strengthen cooperation between the two sides in infrastructure, manufacturing and other traditional areas of strength, and actively explore new space for cooperation in mobile payment, e-commerce, 5G, smart city and other emerging industries. China takes seriously the concern of African countries on climate change, and stands ready to work with Africa to pursue green development.

The two sides also need to further enrich and improve the mechanisms of the Forum. We need to jointly develop new thinking, new ways and new approaches for the Forum’s development, continuously raise the overall profile of China-Africa cooperation, make our cooperation an exemplary model in the international cooperation with Africa, and contribute more to upholding multilateralism and the common interests of all developing countries.

**Long and winding the road ahead may be, we shall reach our goal if we keep forging ahead.** In his keynote speech at the International Seminar on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on the international community to take joint action to uphold multilateralism and move in the right direction of human progress.

Facing the complex international situation, China and Africa
need to unswervingly pursue multilateralism in keeping with the theme of our times for peace, development and cooperation, pull together as partners along the path of win-win cooperation and common development, and join hands in building an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future.

Looking ahead, we are confident that with the joint efforts of China and Africa, FOCAC at a new historic starting point will show sustained vibrancy and provide a stronger underpinning for the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.
Characteristics of World Economic Recession and Momentum of China’s Growth

By Chen Wenling*

In the first half of this year, the international situation has been extraordinarily severe, full of challenges that are beyond people’s expectation; the world has changed in a dramatic way that no one has anticipated. In the same astonishing way, China combats COVID-19, reopens the economy, and stabilizes the market, making fast headway towards economic recovery. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) all revised up their forecasts for China’s economy this year, from 1.9% to 1.2% and then 1%. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and thanks to the arduous efforts of the Chinese people, the business community and the government, China has moved out of the negative territory and achieved a positive growth of 3.2% in the second quarter, which is indeed a hard-won achievement. This lays the foundation and creates conditions for the economy to

* Chen Wenling is Chief Economist of China International Economic Exchange Center.
grow in a way that the above mentioned three organizations have not anticipated.

I. Characteristics of the world economic recession

The international situation in the first half of the year is characterized by an uncontrolled pandemic, economic downturn, policy failure, dysfunction of democracy, and governance disorder. To analyze the international situation in the first half of the year from the above five perspectives is not only to demonstrate the greatness of China, but to show that the world is stuck in a grim situation. China’s efforts should be fully recognized and its contributions respected. Some countries should do away with biases towards China and opt for global cooperation, so as to save the world economy and get it out of the grave dangers posed by the pandemic. This is what China is doing right now. We are not trying to highlight China’s superiority to others, but to show that what China can achieve through hard work is also possible for other countries by learning from China’s practices, and lessons as well.

i. An uncontrolled pandemic

There have been over 40 million confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide, and more than 1 million people have died of the virus. The pandemic is running out of control in three ways.

First, the epidemic is out of control in the US, with the most infections in the world. 101 days after the first case in the country, President Trump finally chose to wear a mask. Not wearing a mask is widely seen as politically correct in the US and some other Western countries. Politicians and some among the general
public regard mask wearing as an act of human rights violation. In my opinion, the prejudices some people in the West have shown during the pandemic reveals how distorted are the values they have thought to be beyond reproach. There have been more than 8 million confirmed cases and over 200,000 deaths in the US. It is unimaginable that some people are still anti-intellectual when so many lives have been woefully lost.

According to *Washington Post* reports, American politicians, while failing to contain COVID-19 because of their incompetence and prejudice, keep scapegoating China, the WHO, Europe, Democrats, and even Dr. Fauci, an authoritative expert on infectious diseases who has devoted a lot of efforts in the US response to COVID-19. Some American politicians gloated over a recent fare-up of infections in Beijing, expecting a second wave in China. Beijing, however, brought it under control in less than a month. China reported good economic numbers for the second quarter, something these politicians feel all a touch uneasy. I personally call on them to be fair minded. They have made the wrong way into the current mess and should reflect on how COVID-19 has gone out of control in the US, the most powerful country that boasts the best medical facilities and scientific knowhow.

Second, some developing countries have lost control of the epidemic, which has been spreading and evolving at a staggering pace. Brazil, for example, now counts the third largest number of cases from a very low ranking when the virus first broke out. The situation is very serious, with more than 5 million confirmed cases and over 150,000 deaths. The Brazilian President, also known as “Trump in Brazil”, was infected largely because of how he
approaches the pandemic. The Trump approach, wherever applied, is doomed to fail. Another example is India. India, once fairly successful in managing the epidemic, now ranks in the second place, with over 7 million cases and nearly 100,000 deaths. These emerging economies and developing countries face a grim situation and some have lost control of the pandemic.

Third, the virus is spreading fast in African and Latin American countries. Infections are now found in over 200 countries. Except for China, where infections are preventable, controllable, traceable and treatable, and some countries where the virus is basically under control, other countries are confronted with daunting challenges.

**ii. Economic downturn**

As the epidemic gets out of control, the economy tumbles. Each country must work out a delicate balance between people’s safety, epidemic response, and economic reopening. Therefore, the whole world is under extreme pressure. The economic downturn will send the world economy into the most severe recession since World War II. The IMF, World Bank, OECD, US, Federal Reserve, and European Commission, among others, have all made predictions. They have reached the same conclusion, though varying from one to another in the numbers they provided. Some say it is the worst since the Great Depression of 1929-1930, while others say it is the worst since 2008. Judging from the actual situation, it is at least the worst one since World War II.

The current recession has five characteristics:
First, the world economy enters a recession simultaneously. Advanced economies, emerging economies, developing countries and poor countries have, without exception, contracted. The World Bank predicted that 93% of the world’s economies will fall into great recession. In 2020, the economic activity of advanced economies will shrink by 7%, while that of emerging economies will contract by 2.5%.

Second, the recession is extremely deep. China’s economy grew by -6.8% in the first quarter, the only negative growth since the reform and opening-up. In 2019, China’s GDP increased by 6.1% for the whole year and by 6.4% in the first quarter. From 6.1% to -6.8% in the first quarter of 2020, it means a steep fall of almost 13%. China moved out of the negative territory in the second quarter, registering a growth of 3.2% thanks to revived investment. The OECD forecasts a global decline of 6% to 7.6% this year, the World Bank anticipates a contraction of 5.2%, and the IMF predicts a fall of 4.9%. According to the OECD, the Japanese economy will shrink by 6%, and, in the worst case, by 7.3%. The EU and the euro zone will contract by 9.1%. The US will shrink by 7.3%, and, in the worst scenario, by 8.5%. As the world is grappling with a second wave of infections, the euro zone will contract by 11.5%, in which France will shrink by 11.4% and Britain by 11.5%. Only two months after its last prediction in April, the IMF in June pointed to a deeper recession. In April, it was predicted that the global economic growth would be -3%, and -6% or more if the epidemic could not be controlled. In June, it forecast that the global growth would be -4.9% at least. The pandemic will incur a loss of as high as US$12 trillion, far more than what the world lost in 2008 as a result of the subprime mortgage crisis.
Third, the recession lasts longer. It is also a feature of the ongoing recession. Generally speaking, if the economic growth rate is less than 3% for two consecutive quarters, it should be regarded as economic recession. Since the second quarter of this year, the world economy has been in a state of recession, which will, without any doubt, last for more than two quarters or even four quarters. As the virus still rages in the US, Brazil, India and other countries, the global pandemic will certainly not be controlled by the end of this year. If so, the world economy will suffer a longer recession. As Kissinger said from a political point of view, the epidemic will affect several generations to come. From an economic point of view, the World Bank, IMF and OECD have all predicted a severe recession this year, although they forecast a return to positive growth in 2021. However, it remains to be seen whether positive growth can be achieved. Even if there is a positive growth, it will be lower than what is predicted by these institutions, as the impact of the pandemic is so deep that it is difficult to reverse the trend in the short term.

Fourth, the recession is widespread. As predicted by the World Bank, the global per capita income will drop by 3.6%. For those in poverty-stricken countries, the fall will be much steeper. In 190 countries, the per capita income will decline, and hundreds of millions of people will be stuck in extreme poverty. The income decline was not so widespread in 2008, 1929 or 1930. Massive bankruptcies and job losses will occur, making life difficult for many.

Fifth, great uncertainties lie ahead for the recovery and growth of the world economy. First, the evolving and deteriorating pandemic. Second, American unilateralism, protectionism and
populism. Third, the US election and Brexit. Fourth, competition among big powers and local wars. Fifth, natural and man-caused disasters in some countries, including locusts, floods and droughts. The economic downturn will not be arrested by a single country. Even if China brings COVID-19 under control and registers the steadiest growth, it will not be able to push for the growth of the whole global economy on its own.

iii. Policy failure

Policy failure is also a prominent problem. There is not much room for global monetary policy. The US continues to ease its monetary stance, and the liabilities of the government have risen from US$ 4.5 trillion last year to the current US$ 7.3 trillion, an increase of nearly US$ 3 trillion. Its first relief package was US$ 2.2 trillion. And now an additional US$ 2.5 trillion is in the pipeline. The US interest rate was already cut to zero in March. Following the suit, in the footsteps of America, over 40 countries have accelerated money printing, and more than 30 countries have implemented negative interest rates in real terms. When the US pursued unlimited monetary easing in March, 35 countries jumped on board. Many countries have failed in their monetary policies, with negative interest rates and negative bond yields. As so many banknotes have been printed, the economy would implode if the monetary policy is further eased. Some people in China also call for monetizing the fiscal policy, which I think will be very dangerous. Monetary policy space has been severely squeezed. If the US continues to ease without restraint, it will be a nightmare for the world economy. These cheap banknotes will spell disasters and cause heavy losses wherever they flow. After the cheap money rushed in, it acquires high-quality assets and disrupts the market
order. I believe that monetary and fiscal policies are necessary to salvage the economy. For example, a global relief fund of US$ 5 trillion was proposed at the G20 Extraordinary Summit to fight against COVID-19. But the problem now is while a massive amount of money is printed, a portion is used to bail out the economy, whereas a large part goes into various markets, including stock markets and housing markets.

The space for fiscal policy has also been severely squeezed. At present, most countries adopt fiscal policies to rescue the economy. Some economists have made an analysis of employed fiscal policies, which are worth RMB 56 trillion, or more than US$ 8 trillion. Personally, I think that RMB 56 trillion may still be a conservative figure. Some countries have already spent 40% of their GDP on economic bailouts, and India has spent 20% of its GDP. Therefore, many countries’ macroeconomic policies, including monetary policy and fiscal policy, have failed. Massive job losses and bankruptcies have become global issues, which won’t be resolved or mitigated if the economy does not recover.

iv. Dysfunction of democracy

Dysfunction of democracy has become a global issue. Although it appears not related to the economy, it has direct bearing on the economic recovery and development. For example, the Western way of dealing with the epidemic, and philosophy on governance is actually attributable to the rapid spread and sharp deterioration of the epidemic. Some Americans even said that it is a God-given right to breathe and that God breathed into me and gave me the right to breathe. You cannot deprive me of the right given by God. Along this line of thinking, herd immunity
and not wearing masks are seen as politically correct, and the virus is politicized. The Western public subscribe to such cultures and values, which leads to widespread anti-intellectualism. This is why it is difficult to control the epidemic in some countries. Some restaurants and hotels in the US put out signs on their doors saying that quarantine, social distancing and mask wearing are not required for customers and that people can hug and are welcome to stay. This echoes President Trump’s practice. When COVID-19 still rages in the US, the president continues to hold election rallies, and huge, excited crowds are gathered without wearing masks. This is what the West calls democracy. In the face of COVID-19 outbreak, dysfunctional democracy has caused catastrophes. It is not surprising that tens of thousands of new cases are added in the US every day. This is really a kind of dysfunction of democracy.

The dysfunction of democracy has aggravated the epidemic not only in the US, but also in some other countries. It appears to be a result of differences between systems that have little to do with the economy. However, differences between ideologies and systems have a direct impact on the control of the epidemic, which in turn affects economic growth.

v. Governance disorder

Governance failure, or governance disorder, is a serious problem. A Trump Death Clock was set up in New York, which is 56 feet high, to record the deaths that could have been otherwise avoided. In New York, there used to be a National Debt Clock, which was designed to monitor US debt issuance. As the US dollar is linked to gold and other countries link their currencies to the dollar, the credit of the dollar is the anchor of the stability of the
whole world. So it is necessary to control US Treasury bonds. The maximum of this clock is US$ 10 trillion, but it expired in 2008. During a long period before 2008, the US increased the printing of money by less than US$ 10 trillion. After four consecutive rounds of monetary easing in the aftermath of the 2008 international financial crisis, the US debt topped US$ 10 trillion, and now has exceeded US$ 25 trillion. By the end of this year, it is estimated that the US government debt will exceed US$ 9 trillion, and the national debt will exceed US$ 27 trillion.

As the world’s largest economy, the US has failed in its epidemic response and domestic economic governance. It does not play a leading role in international governance either. The US has exited from 13 international organizations. At a time when the world needs to cooperate to fight COVID-19, the US went its way to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), which will take effect on July 6th next year. Now the US election is going on, Democratic candidate Joe Biden stated that if he is elected, he will resume the status of the US in the WHO as soon as possible. The US not only exited from the WHO, but also forced the WTO into an impasse. It also withdrew from the Iran Nuclear Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and the Open Skies Treaty, which have served to constrain military operations. What the US has done poses grave challenges to global security governance.

The uncontrolled pandemic, economic downturn, policy failure, dysfunction of democracy, and governance disorder will prevent the world economy from turning the corner. China has made a turn for the better, and accomplished what the US and international organizations had not expected. Even we the
Chinese didn’t imagine that we could have come this far. There is something important that the world could reflect on. Western countries, especially those hit hard by the pandemic and those that suppress and contain China, should realize that there is no way to contain China. China has a huge market, a full-fledged manufacturing industry, the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and institutional advantages. China is well-placed to pursue the internal circulation of its economy, and can achieve win-win results with others.

Therefore, China is not to be contained. Any attempt to do so will only force China to accelerate its development and strengthen the weak links to build a more innovative and competitive industrial and economic structure that helps China to emerge as a winner in the next round of international competition.

II. The Chinese economy is a stabilizer for global recovery and growth

As of last year, the volume of trade in goods in countries and regions along the Belt and Road had reached US$ 6 trillion. China’s trade with BRI partner countries accounts for about 30% of its total. In the first half of this year, China’s trade with ASEAN reached RMB 2.07 trillion. ASEAN has surpassed the EU as China’s largest trading partner, while the US has dropped to the third place.

China is making plans for new infrastructure, innovative projects, talent cultivation, and opening-up for deeper reform. China has set out clear strategic goals and is taking the right steps forward. What is particularly important is that the Chinese
people have shown unprecedented patriotic sentiments. According to a recent report by Harvard University, which sampled and interviewed tens of thousands of Chinese people for 13 consecutive years, 93.1% of the Chinese people are satisfied with the Chinese government, a percentage that is higher than in any other country.

No one can stand in the way of China’s advance. Some American politicians must stop their wrongdoing. The US, which has been hard hit by the pandemic, needs all the more to cooperate with China. China is a country with a broad mind. China will cooperate sincerely with the US to help it control the epidemic, in an effort to put the world economy on track to recovery, as long as the US side can look to the future and cooperate with China sincerely. If the two economic powers can recover and grow at the same time, the whole world will be better off.

In the first half of 2020, China’s import and export were better than expected, and registered positive growth in June. In the midst of great uncertainties caused by the pandemic, China’s growth is a source of hope for the recovery of the world economy.

First, the momentum of China’s growth can be maintained. Moreover, while prevailing over the pandemic, we can also strive for long-term, stable growth. The momentum is here to stay because China remains the largest country in trade in goods, an advantage China has kept since 2013. This has not changed after the outbreak of the epidemic, and China still retains the international market shares. China has the manufacturing capacity and complete industrial chains in many sectors at home. In fact, international trade is just a means of trading. What really matters is the manufacturing capacity, how many goods a country can
produce and export, and how strong the manufacturing capacity is. China surpassed the US in 2010 to lead the world in manufacturing capacity, accounting for 30% of the global output in 2019. China had established the most complete manufacturing systems, covering 39 major categories, 191 middle categories and 525 small categories. The amount of goods that can be traded represents the manufacturing capacity, which is the basis for China to maintain the momentum of development.

Second, China is becoming a global trade center. China has been a big exporter. Since recent years, it is growing to be a big importer. With about 5,000 wholesale markets for procurement trade like the Yiwu small commodity market, China is on track to be an international trade center in a few years. Transshipment included, China is likely to become the most active international trade center with the fastest circulation.

Third, China is pursuing closer economic cooperation with its neighboring countries. The RCEP is coming close to an agreement. Progress and implementation is accelerating. The process of the China-Japan-ROK Free Trade Area is also speeding up. China’s neighboring countries have done a better job than Europe, Africa, North America and South America in controlling the epidemic. These countries are the best choice for China to foster a dual-cycle development architecture with the domestic cycle as the mainstay and with domestic and international development reinforcing each other. It is with these countries that China is most likely to form a closer industrial chain.

Digital trade, the next-generation trade, is developing rapidly in China. Digital trade through cross-border e-commerce grew
by more than 40% from January to June this year, much faster than offline trade. Up to now, there have been 105 cross-border e-commerce pilot programs in China. Cross-border e-commerce is the predecessor or the foundation of digital trade. China is the first mover in digital trade. China’s investment and trade with countries along the Belt and Road has grown the fastest.

For the above reasons, and given the fact that China is already the largest trading partner of more than 120 countries, China’s trade and investment will continue to grow steadily. Due to the impact of the pandemic, China’s GDP dropped by 6.8% in the first quarter, and its trade also fell by a large margin. As the economy reopens in the second quarter, trade and investment activities are more dynamic. And such dynamism will only grow quarter by quarter. After a feeble start, the economy is trending up and will maintain such a momentum throughout the year.

However, China is also facing severe challenges. We should be cool-headed about the following four risks.

First, countries that are hard hit by the pandemic are still under lockdown or economic shutdown. Hence orders from these countries have been substantially reduced. In some countries closely connected with China’s industrial chains, the epidemic is still worsening, and the external pressure on economic growth has further increased.

Second, the US strategic shifts towards China pose grave threats and risks to China’s development, as evidenced by a series of measures the US has taken, from trade war to technology war and to financial war. The US is pushing for economic and
technological decoupling from China, and imposing higher tariffs on trade. During the epidemic, it suspended the tariffs on 11 kinds of medical products, but soon resumed 25% tariffs. All these have put unprecedented external pressure on China.

Third, the transformation and upgrading of our high-end manufacturing sectors, especially those dependent on trade in intermediate goods, will be greatly affected. The sanctions imposed on Chinese businesses in trade have a direct impact on the transformation and upgrading of the manufacturing industry. For example, the suspension and prohibition of supply of sophisticated chips will inevitably affect China’s semiconductor industry and enterprises. On the whole, there is no problem for the domestic circulation of consumer goods, because the industrial chain is relatively short and the consumer goods manufacturing industry has already formed its own industrial advantages and capacity. Moreover, there is a huge market demand in our country, so the daily life of ordinary people and the market of manufactured goods will not be deeply affected. Some export-oriented enterprises can make a fast turn to domestic sales. As there is a huge domestic market, so long as the policies are in place, the transformation of foreign trade companies will be fast. The most important thing is that it will affect the development of the high-end manufacturing industry, the upgrading of the manufacturing industry up the value chain, and the trade in intermediate goods. All these aspects will face severe challenges.

Fourth, the US makes gross interferences in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The US proposed to cancel Hong Kong’s status as an independent customs territory and threatened to cut off the peg exchange rate system between Hong Kong dollar
and US dollar. Hong Kong’s status as an independent customs territory was not given by the US, and the US has no right to cancel it. If the US cuts off the peg exchange rate system, it will end up hurting the US dollar trading system. What the US is doing to Hong Kong SAR is to contain China. The reason for its assault on Hong Kong SAR is that the national security law will further integrate Hong Kong SAR into China. As Hong Kong SAR is more closely related to the mainland economically, the US will lose its ability to penetrate and intervene in that part of China.

Hong Kong’s trade with the US only accounts for 6.2% of Hong Kong’s total. So the US moves will only have a modest impact on Hong Kong, who mainly trades with the mainland of China. The Chinese mainland accounts for 50.2% of Hong Kong’s trade, therefore, the impact on both Hong Kong and the mainland will be slight. However, these actions still constitute a challenge for the mainland and Hong Kong.

To conclude, China will maintain a good momentum for a long time to come, a trend that will only be strengthened in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, China is confronted with severe challenges, which call for serious responses. China will take effective, strategic countermeasures against the reckless actions the US and some other countries have pursued to contain China’s development.
October 24th, 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN). As proclaimed in preamble of the UN Charter, “we the peoples of the United Nations determined 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, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.” 70 years on, great changes have taken place in the world. The socioeconomic development and especially the breakthroughs in science and technology, transportation and communications have created unprecedented conditions and made it possible for countries to guarantee and realize human rights. There have been achievements, challenges and opportunities. However, the pace of progress varies from country to country. Over the past 40 years of reform and opening-up, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has led the
Chinese people in blazing a trail to successfully promote human rights and made world-acclaimed achievements.

I. Historic achievements in China’s human rights cause

On August 22nd, 2016, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Development Research Center of the State Council jointly released the China Human Development Report 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the Report). As detailed in the Report, China had made progress in human development across a broad range of areas, including income, poverty reduction, health, education, and political and social participation.

The economic reforms launched in the late 1970s removed the constraints of the planned economy, unlocking the potential in growth and bringing about more than 30 years of high-speed growth at an annual rate of nearly 10%. This is crucial for human development in China. In 1980 when reform and opening-up began, China was at the low level of human development as calculated by the UNDP. Thanks to the reform and opening-up, China joined the ranks of medium human development in 1995 and surpassed the world’s average in 2010. Since 2011, China has been in the group of high human development. Among the 47 countries of low human development identified in 1990, China is the only one that has made it to the category of high human development. As the largest developing country, China has achieved rapid development.

The passing years stand as a record of the improved speed and quality of human rights development in China. The year 2020 will be remembered as another extraordinary year in history.
2020 is a crucial year in China’s efforts to win the battle against poverty. Poverty is a fundamental obstacle to the protection of human rights. According to the poverty standard in 2010, the number of poor people in rural China had decreased from 770 million in 1978 to 5.51 million in 2019. China is about to lift all the rural poor out of poverty, and all the impoverished counties will be poverty free. The elimination of absolute poverty for the first time will be a great contribution to the global cause of poverty reduction and a historic achievement in the history of human rights in China.

2020 is the year to realize the goal of building a moderately prosperous society (a xiao kang society in Chinese) in all respects. The word “xiao kang” first appeared in the ancient Chinese classic the Book of Songs. Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China’s reform and opening-up, evoked the vision of “xiao kang” in setting the goals of China’s socialist modernization, according to the reality of China. The 18th CPC National Congress drew a blueprint for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and laid down specific targets. These include: doubling GDP and per capita income on the level of 2010, basically realizing industrialization, turning China into a country of innovators, and establishing a mechanism of coordinated development among regions; fully implementing the rule of law and building a law-based government; putting in place a system of public cultural services and making the cultural industry a pillar of the national economy; ensuring equal access to basic public services, modernizing education, and providing social security for all; basically establishing a pattern of main functional areas and a system for resources recycling. Building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way is the first centennial goal set by the
CPC and will be a historic achievement brought about by reform and opening-up. It means that the Chinese people’s well-being will reach a new height.

2020 will see the completion of the 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP). A five-year plan is a long-term plan for China’s economic and social development. The completion of the 13th FYP is another milestone in China’s development and will lay a solid foundation for the formulation and implementation of the 14th FYP. Starting from the 11th FYP, the protection of human rights has been an important part of the FYP. China began to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan (2009-2010) in April 2009. Since then, the Chinese government has delivered three national human rights action plans. And 2020 will also witness the completion of the third one. In recent years, there have been many highlights in the development of human rights in China. In 2019, China’s per capita GDP rose to US$10,410, exceeding US$10,000 for the first time, which was higher than the average US$ 9,074 in upper-middle income countries. In fact, China’s per capita GDP in 1978 was only US$200. In 2019, the Engel’s coefficient of the Chinese people was 28.2%, 35.7 percentage points lower than that in 1978. In 2019, the average life expectancy in China increased to 77.3 years, ahead of most developing countries. And the Chinese people are generally healthier than the average of their counterparts in middle and high-income countries. Social security capacity is an important indicator of a country’s human rights situation. China has put in place the largest social safety net in the world, with nearly 1.3 billion social security card holders. Behind these figures are China’s real achievements in the field of human rights. China is making fast progress in human rights in a planned and step-by-step manner.
2020 is the year when China goes all out to safeguard people’s right to life and health by taking a people-oriented approach to fight COVID-19 and protect life. As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said at the meeting of the Human Rights Council on February 27th, the epidemic has seriously threatened the right to life and health of all people in the world, this health crisis is a test of the resilience of society, and the human rights framework is an important benchmark. In the face of the new virus, which mankind has little knowledge about and has caused the most extensive damage since the end of World War II, the Chinese government has taken decisive measures and united the whole society in a science and law-based response to the epidemic. China scored a victory in quickly controlling the epidemic and saving lives, and has actively engaged in international cooperation, shouldered its international responsibilities, and actively provided public products in the international health field. China’s decisions and actions have stood the test of time, as it has properly tackled the epidemic and effectively safeguarded human rights.

2020 witnesses new breakthroughs in the legal protection of human rights in China. After achieving initial success in fighting the epidemic, China convened the sessions of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), more than two months later than scheduled. As an important outcome of this major political event, the Third Session of the 13th NPC passed China’s first Civil Code on May 28th. This is a milestone in China’s rule of law and will go down in history. The Civil Code is the first law named as a code in the People’s Republic of China. Fundamental in China’s legal system, it is a basic law governing the market economy. At the same time, as an “encyclopedia of social life”, it involves the protection
of rights in different fields such as marriage, family, social and economic activities. It can be said that the Civil Code is the basic code for the protection of human rights and has far-reaching influence.

II. China’s position and proposition on human rights

China’s development is the unity of economic development and social progress, and a successful practice of people-centered and sustainable development. The protection of human rights is the mainstream value and basic goal of China’s development. Respecting and protecting human rights is not only enshrined in the CPC Constitution and the Outline of National Economic and Social Development Plan, but also codified in China’s Constitution. It is a basic philosophy in China’s national governance and an important constitutional principle.

Holistic thinking figures prominently in the Chinese culture. We do not jump into a simple conclusion that a country or a region has or does not have human rights, or that it has good or poor human rights record. Instead, we put human rights in historical perspectives and examine them in the broader context of national conditions and practices. Human rights are not isolated, but closely connected with the rule of law and social development as three basic dimensions of a country’s development path.

On November 1st, 1991, the State Council Information Office published the first White Paper on Human Rights in China. In light of China’s history and national conditions, it, for the first time, stated that “the right to subsistence and development are the primary human rights in China”. Both the right to subsistence and
the right to development are “umbrella rights”, which are dynamic, evolving and rich in substance. They should not be viewed as low-level economic and social rights protection, but are comprehensive human rights protection, covering economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. They only highlight the unique perspective and historical characteristics of human rights protection in developing countries. As it continues to develop, China is protecting and realizing broader rights to subsistence and development at a higher level. In order to increase their say in human rights and promote their political ideals and systems, some Western countries are reluctant to recognize or talk about the right to development, and even deny its legality. However, the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986 confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right. Since then, the UN has committed itself to promote the right to development.

The concept of human rights with Chinese characteristics emphasizes the unity of individual and collective human rights. Take COVID-19 for example. The Chinese government’s response manifests the strengths of China’s governance system and ability, and reflects the characteristics and advantages of collectivism in the Chinese culture. The right to health and the right to life are often seen as individual human rights, but when epidemics strike, they are manifested as public health issues and display the attributes and characteristics of collective human rights. In the process of science and law-based prevention, restricting individual freedom and rights as appropriate can guarantee the right to life and health for a whole community or an entire city. This is a typical example of taking a balanced and holistic approach to human rights, and truly promoting and protecting human rights.
Such a fine tradition of altruism and collectivism is also seen among overseas Chinese communities. On April 14th, 2020, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that the Chinese community played a role in protecting Australia, and that the Chinese are disciplined, cooperative, and active in saving lives, which should be commended. COVID-19 is a pandemic rarely seen in a century. The Chinese government puts people’s life first and does not give up any person, man or woman, old or young. Regardless of the severity of conditions and nationality, all patients in China will receive full treatment. The Chinese government and people have made united efforts to achieve great victories against the epidemic, writing a new chapter in China’s human rights cause and highlighting the characteristics and advantages of the Chinese approach to human rights and its path to realize human rights.

China is the first developing country to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, contributing more than 70% to global poverty reduction. While running its own affairs well, China is taking an active approach to and participating in global governance, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. China attaches great importance to the formulation and implementation of the UN development agenda. It champions and implements the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On the basis of equality and mutual respect, China and other countries advance development through cooperation and promote human rights through development. China’s position and proposition are constructive. It calls for dialogue and cooperation and is committed to promoting human rights by laying a strong foundation for development.

That said, as a developing country, China’s development is
still unbalanced and inadequate. While promoting the rule of law in an all-round way, China has made great achievements in providing strong legal safeguards for human rights. But there is still a long way to go. Human rights won’t be achieved overnight and once for all. It requires long and persistent efforts. As General Secretary Xi Jinping aptly put it, “There is always room to improve human rights.” This statement underscores our firm confidence in, facts-based approach to, and keen pursuit of the human rights cause.

III. China actively promotes global governance on human rights

In 2020, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, China did not only mind its own business, but has instead displayed the selfless spirit of internationalism from the very beginning. It has actively maintained communication and collaboration with the WHO, sharing information and carrying out cooperation in a timely manner.

Within the shortest possible time, China detected and identified the new virus, completed its genome sequence, and shared it with the WHO and other countries. In the face of the unexpected outbreak of a new virus, China bore the brunt and came under tremendous pressure. Yet it took decisive actions and mounted an effective response, blocking the progress and spread of the epidemic in a timely manner. China was the first country to score a preliminary and overall victory against COVID-19. At the same time, China has been pursuing international cooperation. As it accumulates more valuable experience, China has not only provided manpower and material assistance for the international community to deal with the pandemic, but also shared expertise.
and experience in science-based epidemic prevention. The pandemic is a great challenge to human rights worldwide, and China is an active and key force to cope with this challenge, mitigate the threat of the epidemic, and carry out international coordination and cooperation. From the perspective of human rights, this is China’s important contribution to the life and health of mankind and the global cause of human rights.

The world is facing unprecedented difficulties and challenges caused by the epidemic in the fields of economy, politics and culture. Peace, development and human rights advocated by the UN are all confronted with historic challenges. Apart from wars and armed conflicts, natural disasters, and pandemics, the international system and international law itself are at risk of being ignored or destroyed. The US, the strongest developed country, is becoming more and more irresponsible, brazenly advocating “America First” and withdrawing from international treaties and organizations, including the WHO and the UN Human Rights Council. This is a clear example of the threat posed by hegemony to the normal international order, international economic development, as well as sovereignty and development interests of all countries. Moreover, the US has gone to extremes on unilateralism and bullying, directly threatening the security, development and human rights of the international community including China. It is acting against the historical trend. There is no denying that we are in an era of globalization where the world is interdependent and human beings are like passengers in the same boat. China supports the provision of more international public goods to strengthen global governance that the world is in urgent need of. And China’s position and proposition on promoting a community with a shared future for mankind prove to be not only well-conceived and far-sighted, but
also consistent with the reality and future development trend of the international community.

Unquestionably, human rights are good. However, as they are abstract and hold immense appeal, human rights can be easily used as tools to exert diplomatic pressure and achieve political purposes. There have been “human rights traps” whereby the normal economic and social development of specific countries and regions is interfered with in the name of human rights. During the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which closed on July 17th, 2020, human rights were once again politicized for confrontational purposes. More than 20 countries, including the United Kingdom, made a joint intervention, unreasonably demanding that China reconsider enacting the national security law in the Hong Kong SAR. Unsurprisingly, the US permanent representative to the UN made false remarks and attacked China. The spokesman of the Permanent Mission of China to the UN made a stern rebuttal, and Cuba, on behalf of 53 countries, made a collective statement at the meeting, unequivocally supporting Hong Kong SAR on safeguarding national security. Such a prompt and forceful response overwhelmingly rejected the wrong actions of the US, the UK and other Western countries in politicizing human rights in the Council. Countries such as the UK and the US have violated the basic principle of non-interference in internal affairs enshrined in the UN Charter, and run counter to the purpose of establishing the Human Rights Council as a deliverable of the mainstreaming of human rights and institutional reform of the UN. The working rules and systems of the Human Rights Council emphasize non-politicization, non-selectivity and non-confrontation. However, some Western countries, such as the US, often take human rights as a political tool, practice double
standards, and disrespect facts and international rules, which interferes with the work of the Human Rights Council to a certain extent and prevents international human rights mechanisms from playing their due roles. At present, there are many difficulties in how UN agencies, including the Human Rights Council, and other international organizations can effectively push forward the international human rights cause. As the pandemic continues, it is difficult for international human rights mechanisms to convene meetings physically, and the lack of budget has also made things worse. Some Western countries fail to show a responsible attitude toward international cooperation, which dampens the prospect of the international human rights cause.

Safeguarding human rights is the common aspiration of people all over the world. What is needed to realize this goal and ideal is by no means simple political slogans, preaching or arbitrary accusations against other countries as the US often did, but serious efforts to effectively maintain global peace and international economic and social development. In particular, the international economic, political and legal order that embodies equality, fairness and justice must be upheld. The aspiration for international cooperation embodied in the UN Charter should not be forgotten, and the international community should never change direction in its pursuit of peace, development and human rights.

Following the adoption of the resolution “Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights” by the Human Rights Council in 2018, the resolution submitted by China was once again passed on June 22nd, 2020. This resolution advocates multilateralism and calls for building a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice,
and win-win cooperation and a community with a shared future for mankind. It emphasizes that all countries should conduct sincere dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights and share good practices and experiences in promoting and protecting human rights, and strengthen technical assistance and capacity building to achieve win-win cooperation. China’s position and proposition reflect the common pursuit and aspiration of developing countries, conform to the trend of global governance on human rights, and will surely promote the healthy development of global human rights cause.

In short, as the largest developing country, China has embarked on the right path of development in keeping with China’s national conditions through reform and opening-up. China is entering a new horizon of all-round development and approaching the center of the world stage. In the midst of major changes unseen in a century, China is facing real difficulties and problems on its way forward, with unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The Chinese government and people still need to manage their own affairs well with confidence, determination, diligence and wisdom, and deliver a better life for the people. At the same time, China should stand firm for the reform and development of the international system with the United Nations as the core, support constructive international exchanges and cooperation on human rights, and make greater contributions to world peace, development and human rights.
International Seminar on the 75th Anniversary of the UN: “Strengthening Multilateralism for a Better Future” Successfully Held in Beijing

On September 1, 2020, United Nations Association of China (UNA-China) and Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) co-hosted the International Seminar on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations with the theme of “Strengthening Multilateralism for a Better Future” in Beijing. Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China attended the High-Level Meeting and delivered a keynote video speech. Mr. Wang Chao, President of UNA-China and CPIFA presided over the seminar.

The keynote speakers include Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Ms. Amina Mohammed, Former President of Slovenia Dr. Danilo Türk, Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev, Chairman of Boao Forum for Asia and Former
Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Malta and Permanent Representative of Malta to the World Trade Organization Dr. Alex Trigona, United Nations Resident Coordinator (AD Interim) in China Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute of National University of Singapore and Former Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN Mr. Kishore Mahbubani, Senior Fellow and Co-Founder of the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Indonesia Dr. Jusuf Wanandi, Special Representative of the Chinese Government on European Affairs and Former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations Amb. Wu Hongbo, President of China Public Diplomacy Association and Former Permanent Representative of China to the UN Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland Amb. Wu Hailong, Former Ambassador of China to Malaysia and Former Director-General of Department of Treaty and Law of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China Amb. Huang Huikang, Executive Vice President of China Institute of International Studies Mr. Ruan Zongze, Executive Dean of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies Dr. Wang Wen, Professor
of Department of International Law of China Foreign Affairs University Mr. Yee Sienho. More than 100 participants, including representatives of United Nations agencies in China and prominent experts and scholars from universities and research institutions at home and abroad, joined the meeting through on-site and online participation.

Wang Yi said, over the past 75 years, the UN has traveled an extraordinary course and forged ahead despite challenges, and vigorously promoted the development of the world and human rights. The world has witnessed overall peace and stability. Most nations have come to realize that differences must be settled through dialogue and conflicts resolved through mediation. For the next 75 years, all nations should make concerted efforts to safeguard multilateralism, stand on the right side of development and progress, and bring the cause of the UN to a new level. Wang Yi proposed five suggestions: First, the central role of the UN should be upheld. Second, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be observed. Third, peace and development should be pursued. Fourth, win-win cooperation should be advocated. Fifth, the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind should be promoted. Currently, the pandemic has compounded the once-in-a-century changes unfolding in our world. It has affected every aspect of our life and reminds us once again that the wellbeing and future of all countries are interconnected.
It is time we make a choice: choose solidarity over division, cooperation over confrontation, and sharing responsibilities over deflecting them to others. Ultimately, humanity will prevail over the virus. The world may be changed because of the pandemic. Yet, peace and development are still the order of the day; cooperation and mutual benefit will remain the irreversible trend; and history will march forward despite all setbacks.

Wang Yi said, as the world’s largest developing country and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China is embracing the lofty ideals of the UN by contributing to humanity’s cause of peace and development. China has been a promoter of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order, and a provider of public goods. China will defend its sovereignty and dignity, uphold its legitimate rights and interests, and safeguard international fairness and justice. China will continue to pursue a win-win strategy of opening-up and share development opportunities with the rest of the world. China has faithfully fulfilled its international obligations and strictly honored its international commitments. China will continue to shoulder international responsibilities commensurate with its capabilities. President Xi announced a host of major initiatives in support of the work of the UN at the summit meetings commemorating the 70th anniversary of its founding. All these initiatives have been implemented. China has facilitated the UN’s efforts in different areas like peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, energy, agriculture, infrastructure and education, injected impetus for global sustainable development, and made important contribution to women’s development in the world. China will continue to shoulder its responsibilities and make its contribution as a major country, provide more global public goods and play its part to promote world peace and development. The Chinese side is willing to join
hands with all parties to uphold and carry forward multilateralism, renew the commitments of the UN, and strive toward the great goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Participants discussed topics like “Upholding Principles and Purposes of the UN Charter and Reinforcing the Role of the UN” and “Enhancing Solidarity and Cooperation to Address the Global Challenges”, recalling the original aspiration of the founding of the UN and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They shared the view that it is particularly important to adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter and support multilateralism at this critical time. The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening the world order, and no country can pull itself out of this crisis alone. Upholding solidarity and opposing division are the biggest tasks facing the international community. The pandemic should be an opportunity to strengthen global unity in the new era, build consensus, and promote cooperative and inclusive multilateralism.
World Health Organization and other UN agencies have played an important role in responding to the pandemic, which has been widely recognized by the international community.

At present, the increasing unilateralism has exerted a negative impact on multilateralism and the international order. Unilateral and hegemonic actions such as “America First” are criticized and opposed by the international community. Participants believed that global challenges can only be solved through multilateral means and international cooperation. We should take advantage of the opportunity brought about by globalization, constantly promote healthy competition, global productivity and innovation, enhance cooperation among major countries, and advance the common progress of human society. Besides, we should abandon unilateralism, promote the reform of multilateral institutions, strengthen global crisis management mechanisms and capacity building, and improve the leadership and performance of multilateral institutions.

China’s development over the past 40 years have enabled it to cope with the public health impact, effectively contain the spread of the pandemic, and save more lives, setting an example for the world. China’s influence has been continuously growing
on the world stage. In the fight against the pandemic, China has provided assistance to many countries. Cooperation in response to the pandemic has once again demonstrated the importance of practicing the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind. China is expected to continue to play an important role in promoting global sustainable development.

**Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs and US Asia Society Co-host Video Dialogue on China-US Relations**

On July 8, the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and US Asia Society co-hosted Video Dialogue on China-US Relations, which was jointly chaired by Mr. Wang Chao, President of the CPIFA, and Mr. Kevin Rudd, President of Asia Society Policy Institute and former Australian Prime Minister. Amb. Le Yucheng, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, attended the event and delivered a keynote speech entitled “The Trend Toward China-US Cooperation is Unstoppable”.

![Image of the event participants]
The participants of the Dialogue on the Chinese side include Amb. Zhou Wenzhong, former Chinese Ambassador to US, Mr. Li Junru, former Vice President of the Central Party School of Communist Party of China, Mr. Long Yongtu, former Vice Minister of Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Lieu. General Chen Xiaogong, former Deputy Commander of Air Force of Chinese People’s Liberation Amy, and Dr. Zhu Min, Chairman of National Institute of Financial Research of Tsinghua University, former Vice Governor of People’s Bank of China and former Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund. On the US side, Mr. Daniel Russel, Vice President for International Security and Diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute and former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Ms. Wendy Cutler, former Acting Deputy US Trade Representative, Amb. John Negroponte, former US Deputy Secretary of State and former Director of National Intelligence, and Amb. Frank Wisner, former US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs attended the Dialogue. Both sides had a candid and in-depth discussion focusing on the theme of “The Future of China-US Relations: Challenges and Solutions”.
The CPIFA and US-Asia Institute Cohost Video Conversation

On August 13, the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and the US-Asia Institute (USAI) cohosted a video conversation, inviting Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang to meet online with US Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA), Chairman of Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Ted Yoho (R-FL), Ranking Member of Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV), House Minority Assistant Whip. The two sides exchanged views on China-US relations and other issues. Amb. Zhao Weiping, Vice
President of the CPIFA, Ms. Xu Xueyuan, Minister of the Chinese Embassy to the US, Mr. Jing Quan, Deputy Director-General of the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Glenn Lau-Kee, Chairman of the USAI and Ms. Mary Sue Bissell, President of the USAI were present during the conversation.

**Vice President Li Huilai Meets with Director General Zhang Qian of the International Relations Department of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**

On July 3, Vice President Li Huilai of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) met with Director General Zhang Qian, Deputy Director General Wan Xuejun, Deputy Director General Pan Zhiwei of the International Relations Department and Deputy Director General Yang Zhenfang of the Human Resources Department of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The two sides exchanged views on the preparations for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and foreign-related issues.
President Wang Chao Has a Video Meeting with H.E. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Co-Chair of NGIC and Former President of Latvia

On July 17, President Wang Chao of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) had a video meeting with H.E. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Co-Chair of Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC) and former President of Latvia. The two sides exchanged views on pandemic-related cooperation, China-EU relations, “17+1” cooperation, China-Latvia relations, and further cooperation between the two organizations. CPIFA Vice President Shi Ling and NGIC Secretary-General Rovshan Muradov were present.

Vice President Zhao Weiping Meets with Ms. Quek Shei Ting, Political Counsellor of the Singapore Embassy

On July 17, Ambassador Zhao Weiping, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), met with Ms. Quek Shei Ting, Political Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Beijing, and both had an exchange of views on relevant diplomatic issues.
President Wang Chao Meets with President of the Korea Foundation Lee Geun via Video Link

On July 27, Mr. Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), met with Mr. Lee Geun, President of the Korea Foundation, via video link. The two sides exchanged views on China-ROK relations and further cooperation between the two organizations. CPIFA Vice President Ou Boqian was present.
Vice President Li Huilai Has a Video Meeting with Maltese Former Foreign Minister, Permanent Representative to WTO Alex Trigona

On July 29, Vice President Li Huilai of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) had a video meeting with Mr. Alex Trigona, Former Foreign Minister of Malta and Permanent Representative of Malta to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The two sides exchanged views on China-Malta relations, China-EU relations, International Cooperation against COVID-19, current international situation and other issues of common interest.

Vice President Shi Ling Has a Video Meeting with Mr. Bartosz Michalak, Chairman of the Chinese-Polish Cooperation Forum

On July 30, Ms. Shi Ling, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), had a video meeting with Mr. Bartosz Michalak, Chairman of the Chinese-Polish Cooperation Forum. The two sides exchanged ideas on
further cooperation between the two organizations amid the pandemic and other issues of common interest.

President Wang Chao Meets with New Zealand Ambassador to China

On August 5, Mr. Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), met with Amb. Clare Fearnley, New Zealand Ambassador to China and exchanged views with her on China-New Zealand relations and other issues. Amb. Zhao Weiping, Vice President of the CPIFA, was present at the meeting.
Vice President Ou Boqian Attends Roundtable with Ambassador Moin Ul Haque of Pakistan via Video Link

On August 6, Amb. Ou Boqian, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), attended roundtable with Ambassador Moin Ul-Haque of Pakistan and 12 Chinese experts and scholars via video link. Participants exchanged views on China-Pakistan relations, Pakistan-India relations, and international and regional situations.

President Wang Chao Meets with Director General of ICWA T.C.A. Raghavan via Video Link

On August 7, Mr. Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), met with Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), via video link. The two sides exchanged views on China-India relations and further
cooperation between the two organizations. CPIFA Vice President Amb. Ou Boqian was present.

President Wang Chao Meets with Australian Ambassador to China

On August 20, Mr. Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), met with H.E. Graham Fletcher, Australian
Ambassador to China and exchanged views with him on China-Australia relations and other issues. Amb. Zhao Weiping, Vice President of the CPIFA, was present at the meeting.

Congratulatory Letter on the 28th Anniversary of China-South Korea Diplomatic Relations

On the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and South Korea, Mr. Roh Jae-Heon, Director of Korea East Asia Culture Center, sent a letter to Mr. Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA).

He said in the letter that, over the past 28 years, thanks to the strategic guidance of the two leaders and the collective efforts from all sides, we have seen much progress in mutual cooperation and trust, which has promoted the well-being of our people and regional peace and stability. He pointed out that, Korea East Asia Culture Center is willing to strengthen friendly communication and cooperation with CPIFA, making further contribution to the cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

Vice President Ou Boqian Meets with President of Nakasone Peace Institute Mr. Fujisaki Ichiro via Video Link

On August 26, Amb. Ou Boqian, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), met with Mr. Fujisaki Ichiro, President of Nakasone Peace Institute and former Japanese Ambassador to America via video link. The two sides
exchanged views on the pandemic and further cooperation between the two organizations.

President of the Korea Foundation Sends a Congratulatory Letter to President Wang Chao on the 28th Anniversary of China-ROK Diplomatic Relations

On the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Republic of Korea, Mr. Lee Geun, President of the Korea Foundation, sent a letter to Mr. Wang Chao, President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA). He said in the letter that, in the past 28 years, ROK and China have been working jointly to achieve the common development in political, economic and cultural areas. Despite the pandemic, exchanges between the two countries have not been suspended. He added that, he is looking forward to President Xi Jinping’s visit to ROK and further strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

He spoke highly of CPIFA’s initiative to hold the 25th China-ROK Future Forum online and would work towards the success of the forum.
Vice President Zhao Weiping Has a Video Conversation with Canadian Scholar

On September 2, Amb. Zhao Weiping, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), had a video conversation with Professor Gordon Houlden, Director of the China Institute at the University of Alberta, Canada. The two sides exchanged views on the issues including the cooperation between the two Institutes and China-Canada relations.
Vice President Shi Ling Meets with Ms. Ingūna Vīksne, Charge d’Affairs of the Latvian Embassy in Beijing

On September 8, Ms. Shi Ling, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) met with Ms. Ingūna Vīksne, Charge d’Affairs of the Latvian Embassy in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on China’s economic and social development, foreign policy, further cooperation between the two institutions and other issues of common interest.
周边是中国安身立命之所、发展繁荣之基。中国始终将周边置于外交全局首要位置，坚持与邻为善、以邻为伴，践行亲诚惠容理念，深化睦邻互利合作，周边环境持续向好。今年以来，受百年未有之大变局、世纪罕见之大疫和中美博弈叠加影响，中国周边环境中的复杂因素上升。

在以习近平同志为核心的党中央坚强领导下，我们统筹推进疫情防控和经济社会发展，率先取得抗击新冠肺炎疫情斗争重大战略成果，率先实现经济恢复正增长。我们以抗疫外交和务实合作为主线，与亚洲周边国家团结抗击疫情，合作恢复经济，进一步增强了政治互信，拉紧了利益纽带，加深了友好感情，推动中国同周边国家睦邻友好合作关系迈上新台阶。与此同时，我们有力回击美国对我全面遏制打压，坚决维护我主权安全发展利益。

一、抗疫背景下的周边外交

高层交往把舵定向。习近平主席新年首访缅甸，中缅胞波情谊续写新篇章。新冠疫情发生以来，习近平主席同亚洲周边14国领导人17次通话，就加强抗疫及各领域合作达成重要共识，为新形势下中国同周边国家关系发展指明方向。李克强总理同越南、老挝等国总理通话，出席东盟与中日韩、澜湄合作领导人视频会议。柬埔寨、蒙古、巴基斯坦领导人在疫情期间“逆行”访华。王毅国务委员同周边17国外长37次通话，并举行中国—东盟、中日韩、中俄印、中阿巴尼等视频外长会。线下外交亦“复工复产”，杨洁篪同志访问新加坡、韩国、缅甸、斯里兰卡。王毅国务委员同印尼、巴基斯坦、越南、菲律宾外长，印尼总统特使会见会谈，并对蒙古、
柬埔寨、马来西亚、老挝、泰国等进行访问。

抗疫合作手足情深。“爱出者爱返，福往者福来”。在中国疫情严峻时期，亚洲周边国家纷纷伸出援手，以多种形式向中方提供支持。周边国家疫情扩散后，我们根据有关国家需求，提供大量医疗物资援助和抗疫经验互享，覆盖所有周边国家。我们向柬埔寨、巴基斯坦、老挝、菲律宾、缅甸、马来西亚等国派遣医疗专家组，同蒙古、东盟及南亚国家举行医疗专家视频交流会。我们还积极同周边国家开展疫苗研发和使用合作，促进疫苗在世界和地区的可及性和可负担性。各国地方政府、企业、民间机构和普通百姓等踊跃参与抗疫合作，创造了“山川异域，风月同天”的感人佳话。

复工复产锚定信心。中国发挥率先控制疫情的优势，积极推动同韩国、蒙古、新加坡、巴基斯坦、马尔代夫、阿富汗等国建立联防联控合作机制，中国有关边境省份也同邻国接壤地方建立防控机制，全力阻止疫情跨境传播。我们同韩国、新加坡、缅甸、印尼、蒙古等国开通便利人员往来“快捷通道”或货物运输“绿色通道”，确保地区产业链、供应链稳定运行，助力各国统筹推进疫情防控和经济社会发展。

经贸关系逆势上扬。上半年中国同亚洲周边国家双边贸易额6321亿美元，占中国对外贸易总额31%。同东盟国家贸易额同比增长5.6%，东盟超越欧盟成为中国第一大贸易伙伴。中国对“一带一路”沿线国家非金融类直接投资的76%流向东南亚地区。“一带一路”重大合作项目续有进展，中巴经济走廊最大交通基建项目ML-1铁路升级改造获巴政府批准，中老铁路建设基本完成线下土建工程并进入铺轨阶段，雅万高铁、中泰铁路建设等持续推进。

团结合作共抗外扰。针对美国将抗疫问题政治化、借南海问题挑拨是非、打造排他性小集团、推动经济科技“脱钩”、鼓吹意识形态对抗、破坏区域合作进程等逆历史潮流举动，我们同周边国家保持双多边战略沟通，不断排除干扰，凝聚共识，坚定支持多边主义，积极倡导开放包容合作，通过对话协商妥善处理分歧，集中力量应对好抗疫和发展两大课题。地区国家的正义感和是非感上升，和平、发展、合作的共识进一步增强。

二、当前周边外交面临的风险和挑战

当前，新冠肺炎疫情仍在全球蔓延，北半球秋冬季节来临推高疫情反扑风险。中国周边国家和地区累计确诊病例总数破千万，占全球三分之一。本地区面临疫情扩散、经济下滑和域外势力搅局干扰多重挑战。
——疫情趋严峻。东北亚、东南亚、南亚地区迄今合计确诊病例超800万，印度、孟加拉国、巴基斯坦、菲律宾、印度尼西亚五国占95%以上。其中印度确诊近700万，仅次于美国，居世界第二（截至10月9日）。日本、韩国、缅甸等疫情出现反弹，形势不容乐观。更适宜病毒生存和传播的秋冬季即将到来，周边国家疫情或将再次暴发。目前从这些国家向中国输入的病例总体占比不大，但呈迅速增加之势。考虑到中国同周边国家山水相连，人员往来频繁，外防输入的风险不能忽视。

——经济大滑坡。在疫情冲击下，地区主要经济体愁云惨雾。日本GDP连续三个季度出现负增长，今年第二季度GDP环比下降7.8%，为有可比统计以来最大降幅。新加坡、印度第二季度GDP同比下跌6.7%、23.9%，创有史以来单季度最大跌幅。菲律宾上半年GDP同比下降9%，22年来首次出现半年度负增长。印尼经济自1999年以来首次出现衰退。疫情打破地区产业链供应链稳定，地区国家贸易饱受冲击，日本、韩国、印度等国进出口大幅下滑。若疫情再度暴发，周边国家经济复苏前景将面临更大不确定性。

——美国全力搅局。美“逢中必反”，全面遏制中国。美、日、印、澳“四国机制”提质升级，向“印太版北约”发展。美国还出台南海新政策，煽风点火，挑拨中国与东盟国家关系，干扰“南海行为准则”磋商进程。美国大秀肌肉，仅今年上半年就派出3000架军机、60余艘次军舰，包括多批轰炸机和双航母编队在南海耀武扬威，已成为南海军事化最大推手，破坏亚太地区和平的最危险因素。

——大国关系复杂演变。美国在本地区煽动对抗、制造分裂，深刻影响地区战略环境和有关国家对华政策取向。中日互为友好近邻，发展长期稳定、友好合作的中日关系符合双方利益。作为美国在亚洲的最重要盟友，日本在中美之间进行艰难调试。中韩是重要近邻和高质量合作伙伴，双方利益高度融合。同时韩美是同盟，中韩关系不致受到美国因素的影响。中印同为快速振兴的发展中大国，也是重要合作伙伴，但长期印度频频生僻，致使两国边境地区局势和务实合作双双遇挫。东盟国家同中美都保持合作关系，对单边主义、冷战思维和破坏地区团结合作的行径反感，但又被裹挟其中，面临选边站队难题。

三、开创亚洲周边外交新局面

新形势下，亚洲周边地区既面临风险挑战，也迎来新的发展机遇。亚洲仍然是全球最具发展活力和潜力的地区，中国同周边国家的相互联系和依存更加紧
密，睦邻友好、互利合作的主旋律更加强劲。我们将继续深入学习贯彻习近平外交思想，统筹国内国际两个大局，加强战略谋划和策略运用，不断深化同周边国家友好合作关系，为实现中华民族伟大复兴、构建亚洲命运共同体和人类命运共同体作出新贡献。

——统筹抓好主要方向工作。中方始终坚持以史为鉴、面向未来，愿与日本新政府加强沟通，恪守中日四个政治文件确立的各项原则和四点原则共识精神，积极推动构建契合新时代要求的中日关系。

中韩要做合作共赢的典范，我们愿同韩国加强高层交往和战略沟通，推进发展战略对接，发掘和培育双边合作新增长点，加强多边领域国际合作，推动中韩战略合作伙伴关系迈上新台阶。

我们始终重视对印关系，双方要坚持两国领导人关于中印不是竞争对手、而是合作伙伴，互不构成威胁、互为发展机遇的战略共识，妥善管控矛盾分歧，推动边境局势缓和降温，把分歧放在双边关系适当位置，牢牢把握中印关系正确方向。

中国与东盟国家是战略伙伴和友好近邻，我们要深入对接发展战略，凝聚合作共识，加大利益捆绑，拉紧感情纽带，深化治理交流，促进理念相通。双方要致力于全面有效落实《南海各方行为宣言》，探讨以灵活方式保持“南海行为准则”磋商进程，有效维护南海和本地区和平稳定。我们要统筹推进同周边各国的友好合作关系，打造更紧密更牢固的周边“朋友圈”和“伙伴网”。

——深化抗疫地区合作。我们愿继续加强同周边国家抗疫合作，支持有关国家尽快稳控疫情。用好同周边国家的联防联控机制等安排，通过加强远端防控等措施，筑牢外防输入的周边屏障。同时，我们将保障必要人员往来，深化复工复产合作，助力地区经济恢复。我们愿加强同地区国家的全方位疫苗合作，在疫苗投入使用后优先考虑周边国家需求，加强信息分享和疫苗生产、研发、使用合作。我们愿同周边国家加强公共卫生合作，落实好向东盟抗疫基金提供支持，建设紧急医疗物资储备库，探讨在生物安全等领域开展合作，共同打造地区卫生健康共同体。

——助力国内国际双循环。中国致力于逐步形成以内循环为主体、国内国际双循环相互促进的新发展格局。近期的经济数据表明，中国经济前景良好，今年可能超过美国成为全球最大市场。中国开放的大门只会越开越大，发展将更好惠及周边国家。我们要加强同周边国家宏观经济政策协调，高质量高标准建设“一带一路”，提升互联互通与产业合作水平。探讨建立区域“快捷通道”和“绿色通道”网络，确保产业链供应链安全稳定。坚持创新驱动发展，深化数字
经济合作，推进“数字丝绸之路”建设，打造新的增长点。加快发展中国—东盟
蓝色经济伙伴关系，继续深化澜湄次区域合作，擘画东亚区域合作新蓝图。坚持
自由贸易，维护多边主义，推动RCEP年内如期签署，加快中日韩自贸区谈判，打
造高水平自贸网络。

——妥处中美地区竞合。中美之间的分歧矛盾，不是权力地位之争，而是多
边主义与单边主义、合作共赢与零和博弈之争。美国站在历史的错误一边，在中
国周边地区采取系列挑衅行动，不但损害了中国的正当权益，也与地区国家的利
益和愿望背道而驰。

中国无意把美国排挤出亚洲，我们愿意同包括美国在内的世界所有国家发展
友好合作。王毅国务委员前不久接受新华社采访时，表示中方随时可与美方重启
各层级、各领域的对话机制，双方还可梳理制定关于合作、对话、管控分歧的三
个清单。

我们愿意与美方就亚太事务保持对话和沟通，就地区热点问题、第三方市场
合作等开展协调，在东亚合作框架下共倡议、共办活动，开展更多务实合作。同
时，对美方干涉中国内政、侵犯中国正当权益、破坏地区和平稳定的行为，我
们将坚定维护国家利益和地区稳定大局，继续同周边国家团结合作，坚决反击。

——在热点问题上发挥好建设性作用。当前半岛形势总体稳定，但朝美对
话僵局持续，症结在于美方没有回应朝方在安全和发展方面的合理关切。中方支
持一切有利于半岛对话缓和势头的言行，将继续为政治解决半岛问题、维护地区
长治久安发挥建设性作用。中方将一如既往做阿富汗和平进程的支持者、斡旋者
和便利提供者。我们支持阿人内部谈判坚持政治解决的根本方向，坚持阿人主导
的基本原则，坚持广泛包容的框架目标。同时希望阿新政权坚定不移打击恐怖主
义，奉行和平友好的对外政策，推动阿富汗切实走上和平稳定和发展之路。中方
主张缅孟加强对话协商，尽早启动避难人员遣返进程。我们将继续向缅孟双方提
供必要支持和帮助。

“亲仁善邻，国之宝也”。面对世纪大疫和百年变局，中国将继续秉持“亲
诚惠容”理念，与周边国家同舟共济，同甘共苦，同心协力，推动周边关系行稳
致远，共同谱写亚洲发展共赢的华彩篇章。
命运与共，续写辉煌，
打造中国同中东国家关系更加美好的未来

翟 隽 中国政府中东问题特使

中国同中东国家都是璀璨文明的发源地。两千多年来，延绵如练、交织成网的古丝绸之路把地处欧亚大陆东西两端的中国和中东国家连接了起来。双方交往悠久密切，友谊深厚流长，不存在历史积怨和现实冲突，真正诠释了“相知无远近、万里尚为邻”的美好佳话。1956年5月30日，中华人民共和国同埃及共和国正式建立外交关系，拉开了新中国同中东国家外交关系的序幕。60多年来，双方关系走过了更新认知、起伏调整、积极蓄势、突破发展的几个阶段。双方在国际风云变幻中彼此帮扶，为各自国家建设真诚合作，结成了志同道合的好朋友、互惠互利的好伙伴、风雨同舟的好兄弟。

进入21世纪第二个10年，中国同中东国家关系迎来了提质升级、全面发展的历史新阶段。双方政治互信不断增强，共建“一带一路”合作稳步推进，在国际和地区事务中协调配合更趋密切，治国理政等人文各领域交流走向深入。

——高层共识指路定向，引领了双方关系持续提升。中国国家主席习近平于2016年、2018年两次到访中东，对沙特、埃及、伊朗、阿联酋4国进行了国事访问，并在京出席了中国-阿拉伯国家合作论坛第六、第八届部长级会议开幕式，先后三次面向中东发表政策讲话。地区有19国国家元首或政府首脑访问中国，共商合作。中国已同地区国家和阿盟建立了14对战略性质的伙伴关系，同以色列建立了创新全面伙伴关系，这为双方友好合作注入了强劲动力。

习近平主席2018年提出打造中阿命运共同体的倡议，受到阿拉伯国家的积极响应和热烈响应。在今年7月举行的中阿合作论坛第九
届部长会上，“打造中阿命运共同体”作为中阿双方共识被载入成果文件。这在中国同中东国家关系史上写下了重要一笔，为双方今后发展关系打开了新的前景。

——“一带一路”深入推进，务实合作驶入了快车道。共同的丝路记忆，演变为交汇的合作期许。当中国在2013年提出共建“一带一路”倡议时，中东国家一致给予了积极支持。迄今，已有19个中东国家同中国签署了“一带一路”合作文件。中国同阿盟“合作共建‘一带一路’行动宣言”成为中国在全球同地区组织签署的首份“一带一路”合作文件。近年来的合作实践充分证明，“一带一
路”为参与国引进外部投资技术、助力本国改革发展、更好参与全球化打开了便利之门，因而在中东地区广受欢迎。

在“一带一路”的强劲驱动下，中国同中东国家合作布局不断完善，合作内容也从油气、贸易、工程承包等传统领域向全方位、复合型方向迈进。2019年，双方贸易额达到3236.2亿美元，双向投资的规模稳步扩大，中东国家整体稳居中国第一大原油进口来源地，占中国同期进口原油总量的47%。中国积极参与地区产业园区建设，努力将其建设项目同阿布扎比、塞得港等当地良港形成对接，为提升中东地区贸易流通、产业聚集和区域辐射能力作出贡献。

——围绕重大问题相互支持，共同捍卫了公平正义。在涉及中国核心利益问题上，中东国家一贯鼎力相助，给予中国宝贵支持。中国也始终坚定支持中东国家捍卫主权、独立和领土完整，坚定支持中东国家走符合国情的自主发展道路。

中国始终高举公平正义旗帜，建设性参与地区热点解决、促进地区和平与稳定，积极为中东国家福祉做出努力。在巴勒斯坦问题上，习近平主席提出的倡议主张反映国际共识和道义准则，受到各方普遍赞誉。在叙利亚问题上，中国致力于推动政治解决，反对违背国际关系准则强推政权更迭。在伊朗核问题上，中国坚持劝和促谈，维护国际多边协议。为解决南苏丹问题，中国在提供人道援助的同时，还首次派遣出成建制的维和作战部队。

2002年，中国设立中东问题特使。18年来，5任特使上百次出使中东，积极劝和促谈，为推动巴勒斯坦问题等中东问题妥善解决做出不懈努力。此后，中国又先后设立叙利亚问题特使、中阿合作论坛事务大使，积极为推动相关热点问题奔走斡旋、献计献策，充分展示了讲道义、负责任的大国担当，受到有关各方欢迎和支持。

——人文交流富有成效，大大深化了相互认同。近年来，中国一直积极同地区国家相互学习、相互启迪，上百位中东国家各界人士依托中阿改革发展研究中心、中阿改革发展论坛等平台，同中方就经济改革与发展、民生、就业、减贫、
反腐等议题交流互鉴。中东国家对中国的认识不断加深。中方也从地区国家分享的治国理政经验中获益匪浅。

过去几年，越来越多地区国家青年人选择中国作为留学深造目的地，数千名地区国家各类人才来华接受培训，汉语教育在沙特、阿联酋等许多中东国家广受欢迎。双方人员往来更加便利，17个地区国家对中国持外交或公务护照人员免签，10个国家对持普通护照的中国公民实行免签或单方面落地签。

二

在中国和中东国家携手迈进21世纪第三个10年之际，一场突如其来的新冠肺炎疫情，给包括双方在内的世界各国带来严重冲击，许多既定的政治外交日程都被打乱。但疫情挡不住中国同中东国家关系发展的步伐，双方患难与共，团结互助，书写了践行人类命运共同体理念的精彩篇章。双方关系在抗疫中历经淬炼、得到升华。

在中国抗疫最艰难时刻，许多中东国家领导人纷纷同习近平主席通电话、发函电，向中国表达强有力政治支持。多个中东国家和地区组织还发表声明，支持中国抗疫努力。中东国家向中方捐赠了1200万只口罩等急需抗疫物资，世界最高楼阿联酋哈利法塔亮起了“武汉加油”的字样，埃及三大世界文化遗产上演了精彩的五星红旗“灯光秀”。许多地区民众自发地制作视频、发布歌曲，为中国祈福加油。这些善行善举，中国人民将永远铭记。

中东爆发疫情后，习近平主席同地区国家领导人通电话、致信函，表达守望相助、共克时艰的坚定意愿。中国中央政府、地方、企业、民间机构到个人积极向地区国家提供了约1800万只口罩、120万人份检测试剂盒、300万套各类医用防护服、医用隔离眼罩、手套、鞋套等抗疫物资援助，积极协助地区国家在华商业采购医疗物资。中方毫无保留地向地区国家分享疫情防控经验和医疗技术，已同地区国家举行了40多次卫生专家视频会议，向9个有紧急需求的地区国家派出约90人次的医疗专家组。中方还专门为帮助疫情中的巴勒斯坦人民做出特殊安排，援助抗疫物资，派遣医疗专家组，向联合国近东巴勒斯坦难民救济和工程处捐款，向位于约旦河西岸、加沙地带、约旦、黎巴嫩境内的巴勒斯坦难民发放“健康包”。

对如何打好全球疫情防控战，中国和中东国家也理念相通，主张相合。双方齐心协力，共同反对把疫情政治化、把病毒标签化，为促进形成全球共识、汇聚抗疫力量做出了重要贡献。
三

疫情下的世界，百年未有之大变局正在加速演进，和平与发展仍是时代主题，但不稳定性和不确定性更加突出。中国和中东国家都怀有民族复兴的梦想，都肩负着强国富民的使命，也都面临着比以往更艰巨的困难和挑战。双方进一步加强彼此关系、深化互利合作、促进文明互鉴，是顺时代大势而行的正确方向，也是符合双方利益的最佳选择。

双方在重大问题上看法相似、诉求相近。相似的历史遭遇和立场选择，把中国同中东国家紧紧联系在一起。双方都旗帜鲜明地捍卫不干涉内政原则，要求尊重主权独立和领土完整，主张通过政治对话化解分歧，支持以联合国为核心的多边体系和以国际法为基础的多边秩序，都致力于推动全球化朝着更加开放、包容、普惠、平衡、共赢的方向发展。中国同中东国家加强沟通、团结协作，将为这个日新月异的世界注入更多正能量，维护好全球各方最大的共同利益。

双方在务实合作上优势互补、利益交融。中东地区能源富集、市场广阔，具备得天独厚的发展禀赋和优势。中国作为世界第二大经济体，具有成熟有效的工业化发展经验、高性价比的装备技术、高水准的人才培训和融资支持，能够满足地区国家加快工业化和经济多元化的发展需要。尽管面对保护主义和反全球化“逆流”，双方仍以共建“一带一路”为平台，大大提升了互利合作的广度和深度。中国和中东国家积极对接发展战略和行动，把双方需求契合点转化为合作增长点，必将增进全球开放融通，为世界经济复苏贡献力量。

双方文明观均强调相互理解，包容互鉴。中华文明与阿拉伯文明、波斯文明、犹太文明有着交相辉映的悠久历史，都主张让文明和谐共处，都重视从其他文明中汲取营养助力自身发展振兴，都希望通过努力为推动人类文明发展作贡献。面对国际上形形色色的“文明冲突论”和“文明优越论”，中国同中东国家加强文明交流互鉴，倡导以对话消除误解、以包容化解分歧，反对将恐怖主义同特定民族宗教挂钩，有利于激浊扬清，弘扬正道，推动形成更加公正合理、多姿多彩的人类文明和价值观体系。

疫情终将被战胜，中国同地区国家的未来大有可期。双方可从几方面入手，联合规划、并肩走好抗疫和发展之路，为各自的民族复兴事业增添助力。

（一）精诚合作，尽早夺取抗疫斗争的最终胜利。当前全球抗疫进入了关键的攻坚期。中国继续根据地区国家需要提供抗疫援助，协助在华采购。中国正同中东国家开展疫苗联合研发，在疫苗投入使用后，中国愿将地区国家作为国际合
作的优先方向之一。双方可继续举办同抗疫相关的卫生专家视频会议，分享抗疫经验，还可探讨加强各自医疗卫生基础设施建设，增强应对突发公共卫生事件能力。双方要继续反对把疫情政治化、把病毒标签化，支持世界卫生组织为全球抗疫发挥关键领导作用，共同为促进全球公共卫生事业发展作贡献。

（二）坚定互助，继续做好团结合作的大文章。疫情缓解后，中国同中东国家可重启各层级友好交往，巩固好发展好双方关系，例如下阶段办好中阿峰会等重要活动。要继续高举不干涉内政原则旗帜，在涉及彼此核心利益的问题上相互支持，反对外部插手干预。中国将一如既往地坚定支持地区国家维护自身政治安全和社会稳定的努力。面对错综复杂的地区局势，双方要积极推动以对话化解分歧，坚决反对单边霸凌、极限施压、搞“拉一派打一派”，要积极探讨共同、综合、合作、可持续的地区安全架构，争取让中东早日恢复和平安宁。

（三）互利共赢，让“一带一路”合作更多造福双方。中国愿同中东国家继续高质量共建“一带一路”，开辟并用好双向人员往来“快捷通道”和货物跨境流动“绿色通道”，为重要合作项目复产复工创造有利条件。要落实双方共识，抓好重点领域合作，包括加快产业园区建设，推进地区良港建设；巩固能源合作“压舱石”，深化光伏、和平利用核能等清洁能源合作；在5G、卫星导航、人工智能、大数据等高新技术领域培育合作增长点；在自贸和投资便利化合作领域相向而行，迈出更大步伐。

（四）久久为功，积极培养世代友好的民意基础。中国愿同中东国家一道，倡导平等、互鉴、对话、包容的文明观，增进文明对话与去极端化领域合作，继续办好相关机制性活动。同中东国家加强文化、教育、新闻、旅游、卫生、宗教、青年等各领域交流，同中东国家提供更多来华奖学金名额、实施更多签证便利化举措，在地区开设更多孔子学院（课堂）和文化中心，同中东国家开展好汉语和中东语言教育合作，增进双方人民的相互了解认知，拉紧民间友谊合作的纽带。

中国同中东国家友谊的大树根植于相互尊重、互利合作的沃土，风雨的冲刷浇灌将使其更加茁壮成长。中国和中东国家同舟共济、精诚团结，一定能战胜疫情，迎来双方关系更加美好的未来，进而为促进世界的和平与发展，为构建人类命运共同体作出更大的贡献。
新冠肺炎疫情已经波及全球200多个国家和地区。疫情不仅夺走数十万人的宝贵生命，严重威胁人类健康，还导致世界经济衰退、社会治理危机风险上升，形成非传统安全威胁和传统安全威胁的叠加冲击，并为大国关系和地缘政治注入了重要变量，世界不稳定不确定因素显著增多。

携手合作是人类应对危机的必然选择

在应对这场重大传染性疾病的过程中，中国始终秉持构建人类命运共同体理念，加强国际合作；大多数国际社会成员强调人类共同利益和责任，认为共同维护全人类的生命安全与身体健康是当前最为紧迫的任务。国际社会加强合作，增强了命运与共的意识。许多国家在抗击疫情的行动中努力化危为机，加强信息沟通、政策协调、行动配合，着力推动国际治理机制和全球治理体系变革和完善。

进入21世纪，人类面临的安全形势更加动荡复杂，传统安全威胁和非传统安全威胁相互交织，安全问题的内涵和外延进一步拓展。就流行性疾病来说，世界上相继发生了埃博拉病毒、寨卡病毒、H1N1流感、新冠肺炎等疫情。国际恐怖事件、金融危机和严重自然灾害等也多次发生，非传统安全威胁成为人类需要正视的严峻挑战。同时，各国越来越利益交融、安危与共，没有哪个国家能够独自应对人类面对的各种挑战，也没有哪个国家能够退回到自我封闭的孤岛。维护人类的共同家园，要靠各国加强合作，齐心协力应对挑战。
在病毒这个人类共同的敌人面前，国际社会总结吸取以往应对非传统安全威胁的经验教训，进一步加强抗击疫情的团结合作。今年3月26日，二十国集团召开领导人应对新冠肺炎特别峰会；4月14日，东盟与中日韩召开抗击新冠肺炎疫情领导人特别会议；5月18日，召开第七十三届世界卫生大会视频会议；6月17日，召开中非团结抗疫特别峰会；6月18日，召开“一带一路”国际合作高级别视频会议；7月1日，联合国安理会一致通过关于新冠疫情的决议，要求安理会议程上的冲突各方立即停止敌对行动，实现为期90天的停火，确保人道主义援助准入。凡此种种都是国际社会团结抗疫、共克时艰的重要努力。习近平主席在中非团结抗疫特别峰会上的主旨讲话中指出：“我们要坚持人民至上、生命至上，统筹资源，团结合作，尽最大努力保护人民生命安全和身体健康，最大限度降低疫情负面影响。”

与此同时，国际社会在抗疫中表现出强烈的休戚与共和相互帮助精神。面对新冠肺炎疫情这个人类共同敌人，世界绝大多数国家对遭受疫情的其他国家感同身受、真诚援助。围绕共同抗疫，许多国家还致力于信息交换、经验共享、药物研发、临床救护、公共卫生设施建设以及相互保护对方侨民安全等许多方面，演绎了一个个患难与共、互相帮助的动人故事，反映出人类命运的休戚相关。此外，中国宣布，一旦新冠疫苗研发完成并投入使用后，将作为全球公共产品，为实现疫苗在发展中国家的可及性和可担负性作出中国贡献。世卫组织也宣布，计划在2021年底前向世界提供20亿剂新冠病毒疫苗，其中半数将惠及中低收入国家。诚然，自疫情爆发以来，少数国家以邻为壑、退群甩锅、嫁祸于人，甚至借机生事和挑动对抗，但它们毕竟只是逆时代潮流而动，终究会被历史所抛弃的。

**人类命运共同体理念更加深入人心**

新冠肺炎疫情的发生以及全球为抗击疫情所采取的一系列行动，对当前世界局势以及人类未来安全和发展都有重大影响。这种影响不仅体现在国际关系方面，还体现在思想、理念等各个层面。

新兴市场国家和发展中国家快速发展、国际影响力不断增强，在国际事务中发挥着越来越重要的作用。新形势下，强权政治、冷战思维、零和博弈那一套已经行不通了，各国平等参与国际事务、协商对话解决分歧的多边主义成为国际社会的共识。

当今世界，物质财富不断积累，科技进步日新月异，人类文明向更高水平发展，和平、发展、合作、共赢是无法阻挡的时代潮流。对世界各国人民而言，生
命安全和身体健康是基本需求，过上更加美好的生活、共享经济全球化发展成果是热切期待。在突如其来的新冠肺炎疫情面前，许多国家的人民生命安全和身体健康受到威胁。抗击疫情第一位的是保护和拯救生命。在近期召开的一系列国际会议上，许多国家表示要做好保护人民、保护生命的工作。中国同一些新兴市场国家和发展中国家紧紧抓住发展和民生等议题，倡议打造人类卫生健康共同体，创建美好生活和安全健康人生。在中非团结抗疫特别峰会上，习近平主席指出：“我们要坚定不移践行多边主义。团结合作是抗击疫情最有力的武器。中方愿同非方一道，维护以联合国为核心的全球治理体系，支持世卫组织为全球抗疫作出更大贡献。我们反对将疫情政治化、病毒标签化，反对种族歧视和意识形态偏见，坚定捍卫国际公平正义。”这些倡议已经产生广泛影响，并且正在转化为国际社会的共同信念和具体行动。

人类生活在同一个地球村，各国相互依存、命运与共，越来越成为你中有我、我中有你的命运共同体。推动构建人类命运共同体是人类应对共同挑战的中国主张和中国方案。这一主张已被多次写入联合国文件，得到国际社会的欢迎和认可。处在相互关联的世界中，重大传染性疾病不管发生在哪里，都会对整个人类社会带来威胁。应对新冠肺炎疫情这样的重大传染性疾病，需要各国一起商量着办，加强信息共享，开展联防联控，集各国之力加快药物、疫苗、检测等方面科研攻关。联合国、世卫组织和二十国集团、东盟和中日韩等多边主义组织在疫情信息共享、协调各国抗疫行动、援助卫生体系薄弱国家等方面发挥着重要作用。疫情面前，人类社会需要的是携手合作而不是单边行动，是共担责任而不是一意孤行，是互帮互助而不是相互掣肘。

习近平主席在向中国-阿拉伯国家政党对话会特别会议所致贺信中强调：“此次疫情再次表明，人类是休戚与共的命运共同体。”应对不分国界和种族的疫情，单靠一个国家或几个国家的力量是不够的，唯有站在人类命运共同体的高度携手抗疫、共克时艰，才能有效遏制疫情。在全球抗击新冠疫情的重要时刻，人类命运共同体理念愈发显现其对维护促进整个人类生存发展的重要价值和意义，各国在与疫情的艰苦斗争中越来越意识到彼此相互联结和依存，人类命运共同体理念更加深入人心。

继续推动全球治理体系变革和完善

此次疫情暴露了全球治理体系中的一些短板。越来越多的国家深刻感受到非传统安全威胁的现实性和严峻性，进一步认识到零和博弈的思维和做法并不能解
决当前面临的挑战。因而，国际社会需要努力化危为机，以全球公共卫生治理机制建设为契机，加快全球治理体系变革和完善。国际社会需要在应对恐怖主义、网络安全、重大传染性疾病、气候变化等非传统安全威胁方面共同努力，努力维护现存有效机制的正常运作，不断创新国际治理机制，使之更好服务于处理当前和未来的全球事务。

疫情面前，中国积极支持相关国际组织发挥作用，继续用好各种国际组织平台，加强信息共享、经验交流、技术合作、政策协同，为全球抗击疫情作出贡献。国际峰会和元首外交机制的作用越来越突出。随着交通和通信的便捷化，这一机制在20世纪末21世纪初不断发展。当前，全球事务的增多和疫情的特殊情况又催生元首视频外交，许多国际机制也采用视频手段举行高级别的重要会议，在一定程度上既超越了时空的限制，还往往收到了事半功倍的效果。因此，这对于国际关系和全球治理具有创新意义。另外，由于疫情与每个人的生命安全和身体健康密切相关，在政府和非政府组织的渠道之外，世界各国政府借助即时通信工具直接交流，形成了不同国家民众之间交流的新形式，增强了民间交往的作用和影响。由此可见，外交活动形式正在发生机制性变化，未来国际关系的行为主体将会更加多样。

**国际合作抗疫任重道远**

中国共产党和中国政府始终把人民生命安全和身体健康摆在第一位，打响了一场抗击疫情的人民战争、总体战、阻击战。经过艰苦卓绝的努力，付出巨大代价，中国疫情防控阻击战取得重大战略成果，但仍需持续抓好外防输入、内防反弹工作。中国在抗击疫情的艰难时刻得到许多国家和人民的支援，中国也积极回报国际社会，对许多国家提供力所能及的帮助。中国长期坚持的合作理念在此次疫情防控中得到充分体现，倡导并践行的正确义利观也获得国际社会赞誉。中国与世界不同国家团结合作、共同抗击疫情的行动，丰富了当代国际关系的内涵，揭示了国际社会的前进方向。

人类社会往往是在曲折中前进的，建设更加公正合理的全球治理机制依然任重道远。随着新冠肺炎疫情的蔓延变化和人们对疫情认识的逐步深化，国际社会更加认识到合作抗疫将是场旷日持久的长期战斗，不仅需要做好长期抗疫的思想和物质准备，还要在全球和地区层面上进行更多的机制性合作，以此集中整个国际社会的资源和智慧，在取得抗疫全面胜利的进程中，实现合作共赢、新型国际关系、多边主义、全球治理、人类命运共同体等的实践和理论创新。
从发展的眼光看，国际社会在抗击疫情中凝聚的宝贵共识和合作行动，是构建人类命运共同体的重要思想资源和实践。风险和挑战总会伴随人类社会前行的步伐，世界会在一次次应对挑战中加强合作，全球治理体系也会在不断回应时代需求中更臻完善。只要各国共同携手、共建人类命运共同体，就一定能够开创人类文明更加美好的未来。
应运而生

中非传统友谊深厚，无论是在争取民族独立和自由解放斗争的岁月里，还是在维护主权、领土完整和建设国家的征途中，中国和非洲国家始终同心相应、同气相求，相互尊重、相互支持，中非关系堪称发展中国家团结协作之典范。

20年前，迈入21世纪之初的中国和非洲国家，面对和平与发展的时代主题，共同倡议成立了中非合作论坛这一创新机制。外界往往会有误解，认为论坛完全是中方倡议成立的，恰恰相反，最先提出创立中非合作论坛的，是我们的非洲朋友。1999年5月，马达加斯加外长丽娜•拉齐凡德里亚马纳纳访华，这位女外长出身文学世家，才华横溢，学识渊博，视野开阔，对华友好，她在与时任中国外交部长唐家璇会谈时提出，非洲国家迫切希望同中国建立伙伴关系，就共同关心的和平与发展问题进行磋商，建议成立一个中国—非洲论坛。中国和非洲建立一个集体磋商、合作机制，有利于双方加深了解、巩固友谊、扩大共识、促进合作，也有利于共同维护中国和非洲国家的正当权益，促进世界和平、稳定与发展。中非双方一拍即合，经过精心的筹备，“中非合作论坛—北京2000年部长级会议”于2000年10月成功举行，中非合作论坛由此诞生，中非关系开启了新篇章，中非合作进入了快速发展的新阶段。

政治互信

20年来，中非合作论坛建立并不断充实完善其多级别多层次对话机制，迄今已召开3次峰会和7届部长级会议。论坛为中非开展首
脑外交搭建了有效平台，对促进中非高层交往，深化传统友谊，增进战略互信，加强立场协调发挥了重要作用。近年来，中非高层互访频繁，习近平主席就任和连任国家主席后首次出访均选择非洲，并提出真实亲诚对非政策理念和正确义利观，为中非关系发展指明了方向。

2018年中非合作论坛北京峰会成功举行，成为中非友好合作的新丰碑。会议在规模和规格上开创了我国主场外交的多项纪录。54个论坛非洲成员代表与会，其中包括40位总统、10位总理、1位副总统和非盟委员会主席等。习近平主席密集会见了非洲新老朋友，共出席近70场活动，见证近150个合作协议的签署，并同所有与会的非洲国家元首和政府首脑分别会谈、会见，活动最频密时曾在10小时内先后与11位非洲国家总统举行会晤。习近平主席的领袖风范深深打动了非洲领导人，让中国形象、中国理念在非洲认可度空前提高。

务实合作

20年来，中非合作论坛坚持平等务实高效特点，不断推出深化中非合作的新举措并推动有效落实，合作成果遍及非洲各国，惠及中非人民。中非贸易额逐年攀升，2019年达到2087亿美元，是2000年时的20倍，2009年以来中国连续11年保持非洲第一大贸易伙伴地位。中国对非投资从无到有、快速增长，各类投资存量已达1100亿美元，3700多家中国企业在非洲各地投资兴业，数十个中非经贸合作区和工业产业园区在非洲落地，为非洲经济的持续增长提供助力。中国在非洲兴建农业技术示范中心和铁路、公路、港口等基础设施，支持非洲推进工业化、农业现代化和一体化，帮助非洲国家将自然资源优势转化为发展动力，带给中非双方发展机遇和看得见、摸得着的实惠。

蒙内铁路就是中非开展务实合作，共建“一带一路”的标志性工程。这条铁路连接肯尼亚港口城市蒙巴萨和首都内罗毕，全长472公里，是东部非洲铁路网的重要组成部分。项目由中方提供融资、建设和运营服务，短短2年半完成建设，带动肯尼亚GDP年增长1.5%，累计创造就业岗位4.6万个。疫情中，蒙内铁路货运量逆势增长近10%，成为运输防疫物资和其他必需品的“大动脉”。

友好交往

20年来，中非合作论坛不断加强人文领域合作、引领中非文明交流互鉴，中非友好的民意基础持续巩固。论坛框架内，中非青年大联欢、智库论坛、媒体合
作论坛、联合交流计划、青年领导人论坛、民间论坛等重要人文交流机制和平台陆续创立，中非双方在文化、教育、新闻领域合作全面开花，青年、妇女、民间组织和学术机构间的交流日益频繁。中国在非洲设立多个文化中心，并创办了61所孔子学院和48个孔子课堂，越来越多非洲青年选择来华留学深造，每年上万名非洲朋友来华参加中短期研修培训。中国公民组团出境旅游目的地非洲国家已达34个，非洲已成为中国公民新的出境旅游热点。

中非友好有着数不胜数的生动故事：2010年中国青海玉树发生强烈地震后，刚果共和国向灾区捐建了一所小学，萨苏总统亲自将其命名为“中刚友谊小学”。2011年，中国电视剧《媳妇的美好时代》斯瓦希里语版在坦桑尼亚热播，坦桑尼亚观众了解到中国老百姓家庭生活的酸甜苦辣。中国援非医疗队员不畏艰苦，累计赴非超2万人次，医治病患2亿多人次，成为当地广受欢迎的“白衣使者”。2014年，几内亚、利比里亚、塞拉利昂等西非国家暴发大规模埃博拉疫情，1000多人次中方卫生专家和医护人员前往疫区为当地民众提供医疗保障，成为“最美的逆行者”。

合作新篇

突如其来的新冠肺炎疫情给世界各国带来巨大冲击。在中国抗疫斗争的艰难时刻，非洲国家、非盟等地区组织和非洲各界挺身而出，50多位非洲领导人向中国送来慰问，非洲各国和社会各界筹款捐物，给予中方有力的支持和声援。非洲疫情暴发后，中方率先驰援，多批次向所有非洲国家和非盟提供了大量紧缺抗疫物资，积极向非洲国家派遣医疗专家组，同非方举办专家视频会议，毫无保留地分享抗疫经验。

今年6月，习近平主席在北京主持召开了中非团结抗疫特别峰会，13位非洲国家领导人以及非盟委员会主席出席，联合国秘书长和世界卫生组织总干事作为特邀嘉宾与会。中非领导人在线上相聚，共商团结抗疫大计，共叙中非兄弟情谊。习近平主席在中非团结抗疫特别峰会上强调，要坚定不移推进中非合作，加快落实中非合作论坛北京峰会成果，并将合作重点向健康卫生、复工复产、改善民生领域倾斜。

峰会以来，中非双方以“抗疫情、稳经济、保民生”为主线加强合作。中国政府与非盟签署了援建非洲疾控中心总部项目协议，正在抓紧进行开工准备。中方全力以赴推进疫苗研发，并同埃及、摩洛哥等非洲国家开展疫苗合作，中方将信守承诺，疫苗研发完成并投入使用后，率先惠及非洲国家。除了向非洲国家提
供急需的防疫物资、检测试剂和医疗产品外，中方还着眼帮助非洲提升自主防控能力，促进非洲本地医疗产品的可及性。中国企业已在非洲多国建设了口罩生产工厂和病毒检测实验室，中国同埃塞俄比亚合作的核酸检测试剂工厂将于近期在亚的斯亚贝巴落地投产。中非其他领域的经贸合作也未因疫情中止，1100多个合作项目坚持运行，1-4月中国对非投资逆势增长4.4%，上半年双边贸易额超800亿美元。中方积极响应二十国集团“缓债倡议”，已同十多个非洲国家达成缓债协议，努力帮助非洲国家减轻债务负担。

今年是中非合作论坛成立20周年，中非双方将开展一系列的庆祝活动，共同回顾20年论坛取得的丰硕成果。2021年新一届论坛会议将召开，对中非关系发展作出新的规划。 “后疫情时代”的中非合作将更加重视双方发展战略的对接，更加注重提升非洲自主发展能力，希望有更多中国企业在非洲进行本地化生产，为非洲创造更多就业机会，带动非洲制造业发展，帮助非洲实现工业化。我们将继续深耕基础设施、生产制造等传统优势领域，并积极在移动支付、电子商务、5G通讯、智慧城市等新领域拓展新的合作空间。中方重视非洲国家关于气候变化问题的关切，愿同非洲一道采取行动，实现绿色发展目标。我们还要进一步丰富和完善论坛机制，共同探索推动论坛发展的新思路、新途径、新手段，不断壮大中非合作的集体影响，推动中非合作在国际对非合作中发挥示范作用，为维护多边主义和发展中国家共同利益作出更大贡献。

道阻且长，行则将至。王毅国务委员兼外长不久前在纪念联合国成立75周年国际研讨会上发表主旨讲话，呼吁国际社会共同行动起来，坚决捍卫多边主义，维护人类发展进步的正确方向。面对纷繁复杂的国际形势，中非双方需要顺应和平、发展与合作的时代主题，坚定不移践行多边主义，戮力同心，在合作共赢、共同发展的道路上结伴前行，携手构建更加紧密的中非命运共同体。展望未来，我们相信，在中非双方的共同努力下，站在新的历史起点上的中非合作论坛必将继续保持旺盛生命力，为构建人类命运共同体提供更为强大的支撑和助力。
世界经济大衰退的特点和中国经济增长的态势

陈文玲  中国国际经济交流中心总经济师

今年上半年，我们面临的国际形势非常严峻，挑战之大超出所有人的预期；世界的变化之巨，超过所有人的预期；中国抗击疫情，复工复产、复商、复市，经济恢复的速度和取得的成就，也超出了所有人的预期。世界银行、国际货币基金组织（IMF）、经济合作与发展组织（OECD）今年对中国经济的预期，最高时达1.9%，后来调到1.2%，再后来调到1.0%。在疫情和复杂严峻的国际形势面前，在中国共产党带领下，经过全体中国人民，包括企业、政府的努力，中国经济已经实现了正的3.2%增长，来之不易。这为全年的经济实现正增长和超出三大组织预期，奠定了基础、创造了条件。

一、世界经济大衰退的特点

从国际形势来看，今年上半年可以概括为5个“失”，即疫情失控、经济失速、政策失灵、民主失真、治理失序。围绕这五个方面对上半年国际形势展开分析，不只是为了说明中国伟大，而是说明世界现在面临着如此严峻的形势，应该肯定中国做出的努力，应该尊重中国做出的贡献，其他国家应该转变对中国的变态心理，走向全球通力合作，挽救世界经济，使世界经济包括疫情，能够转危为安，这是中国努力的目的。我们不是为了凸显中国比别人伟大，而是为了凸显中国经过努力可以做到的事情，其他国家参照中国的方法，吸取中国的经验教训，也是可以做到的。

（一）疫情失控

全球新冠肺炎疫情确诊病例超过4000万人，死亡超过100万人。
疫情失控表现在三方面：

首先是美国疫情的失控，美国感染人数稳居世界第一位。从美国发生第一例疫情，到特朗普总统戴上口罩，竟然经历了101天。现在不戴口罩在美国和其他一些西方国家成为“政治正确”，从政客到一些民众，认为戴口罩侵犯了人权。我认为，在疫情中暴露出来一些西方国家的偏见，表明他们原来认为无限正确的价值观有多么扭曲。现在美国确诊人数超过800万人，死亡超过20万人。20万人的生命都不能换取一个常识，可见反智主义有多么严重。

据《华盛顿日报》报道，美国政客自己的低能与偏见导致疫情抗击不利，不断甩锅给中国、WHO、欧洲、国内民主党甚至在抗击疫情中功劳最大的美国传染病权威专家福奇。前一段北京出现了疫情，美国一些政客心理稍微有点平衡，他们希望中国疫情再度来袭。结果北京不到一个月就控制住了，二季度中国的经济数字还这么亮眼，他们的心理又有点失衡。我个人认为，美国政客的心理不要失衡，实际上是你们选择的道路错了，才导致自己国家疫情失控。美国是世界上最强大的国家，医疗条件最好、科研水平最高，但美国疫情却失控了，这一点也超出所有人的预料，发人深思。

第二，一些发展中国家的疫情突飞猛进，已经失控。比如说巴西，巴西开始的时候是排在全球100多位之后，现在是居高第三位，它的疫情非常严重，确诊病例已经超过500万例，死亡病例超过15万人。巴西总统率先患上了新冠，这也和他的理念有很大的关系，巴西总统被称为是“巴西的特朗普”，所以，不论哪个国家，按照特朗普这样的路子走，疫情失控是必然的。再比如说印度。印度原来是控制比较好的，但现在已经排到第二位了，印度确诊病例已经超过了700万，死亡病例超过10万人。这些新兴经济体和发展中国家，疫情非常严重，有的已经失控。

第三，原来远离新冠疫情的一些板块和地区，如非洲和拉美国家，目前疫情也急剧蔓延，全球200多个国家已经出现疫情。除了中国疫情可防、可控、可追踪、可治疗，一些国家基本控制，其他国家都面临着极其严峻的挑战。

（二）经济失速

疫情失控以后，经济肯定是要停顿。各国必须要在人的生命、抗击疫情和恢复经济之间加以平衡。因此，全球面临着极其严峻的挑战，这次世界经济失速，使世界经济陷入了二战以来最严重的大衰退。IMF、世界银行、OECD、美联储、欧盟委员会相关机构，以及各个国家的相关机构都做出了判断，尽管数字不一样，但是它们的结论都一样，就是世界经济进入了二战以来、有认为是1929年、
1930年大萧条以来，有认为是2008年以来，经济最糟糕的时刻。从实际情况看，起码是二战以来最严重的经济大衰退。

这次经济大衰退有五个特点：

第一，世界经济陷入同步性衰退。即发达经济体、新兴经济体和发展中国家、贫困国家同步进入衰退，无一例外。世界银行预测，全球占93%的经济体陷入经济大衰退。发达经济体2020年经济活动萎缩7%，新兴经济体将收缩2.5%。

第二，经济大衰退的程度极深。中国一季度经济增长-6.8%，程度可以说是很深的，是改革开放以来唯一的一次负增长。中国2019年GDP增长6.1%，一季度是6.4%，从6.1%到一季度-6.8%，等于一下子差了13%。当然，中国经济增长二季度已经由负转正了，增长3.2%，但主要靠投资拉动。按照OECD预测，全球经济今年将下滑6%至7.6%以上，世界银行预测将下滑5.2%以上，IMF预测将下滑4.9%以上。OECD预测，日本经济将萎缩6%，在最坏的情况下会萎缩7.3%；欧盟、欧元区将萎缩9.1%；美国将萎缩7.3%，最坏的情况下萎缩8.5%。现在全球第二波疫情又开始蔓延，欧元区经济将萎缩11.5%，其中法国会萎缩11.4%，英国会萎缩11.5%。IMF6月份对世界经济的预测和4月份仅差两个月，但对世界经济的预测，转衰的程度更深了，4月份预测全球经济增长是-3%，疫情控制不住会-6%以上，而6月份预测，全球经济最低-4.9%以上。这次疫情带来的损失高达12万亿美元，比上一次2008年次贷危机给世界经济带来的损失要严重得多。

第三，经济衰退时间持续长。这是这次经济大衰退的一个特点。一般来说，经济增长速度低于3%持续两个季度，就应该视为经济衰退。今年以来，实际上从二季度世界经济就进入了衰退，今年经济衰退肯定不只持续两个季度，也不只持续四个季度。照现在美国疫情的发展速度，巴西和印度等国家的发展速度，今年年底全球疫情肯定还不能控制得住，如果疫情控制不住，世界经济衰退的时间会更长。按照基辛格从政治角度的说法，这场疫情会影响到几代人。从经济角度来说，世界银行、IMF和OECD三大机构同时预测，今年肯定是经济大衰退，虽然预测2021年世界经济会转为正增长。但是能不能真正实现正增长还有待观察。即使转为正增长，也会低于这几个机构预测的经济恢复数值，因为这次疫情的影响程度之深，短期内难以扭转颓势。

第四，这次经济大衰退波及面宽。世界银行预测，全球人均收入预计下降3.6%。这是按照全球人均的水平，还算极端贫困的国家，如果算上就下降得更多了。190个国家人均收入下降，数以百万人会陷入极端贫困之中。不论是在2008年，还是在1929年、1930年，收入下降的面都没有这么宽。全球性企业破产潮、失业潮会像潮水般涌来，很多人的生存、生活会非常困难。
第五，世界经济恢复增长具有极大的不确定性。第一个变量当然就是当前的疫情继续发展与恶化；第二个变量是美国的单边主义、保护主义、民粹主义；三是美国大选、英国脱欧；四是世界上大国的竞争博弈，一些地方的局部战争；五是一些国家的天灾人祸，包括蝗灾、水灾、旱灾等。经济失速不是靠哪一个国家的单一力量可以解决的问题，即使中国控制住了疫情，现在是世界经济唯一最稳定的根据地，但是仅凭中国一国之力，也难以使整个全球经济恢复增长。

（三）政策失灵
政策失灵也是当前非常突出的问题。当前全球货币政策已无太大空间，美国连续实行货币放水，政府财务报表负债，从去年的4.5万亿美元，上升到现在的7.3万亿美元，增长了近3万亿美元。其中第一次救助经济、纾困2.2万亿美元，现在再准备出台2.5万亿美元。3月份美元利率已经降为零利率。效仿美国采取宽松货币政策，加快印钞的国家已经超过40多个，实行负利率的国家已经超过了30多个。今年3月美国实行无限量宽松货币政策时，跟进的就有35个国家。所以，现在全球很多国家货币政策已经失效，利率负利率，国债负收益，印了这么多钞票，货币政策如果再加码，经济就一定会崩盘。我国也有些人提出财政政策货币化，我认为这种思路如果转换为政策，将是非常危险的。货币政策空间被严重挤压，如果美国继续无底线宽松，对世界经济是一种灾难。这些廉价的钞票，印出来的钞票，将来流到哪里，哪里就是灾难，流到哪个市场，就会给哪个市场带来重创。这种廉价钞票冲进来之后，它收购的是优质资产，搅乱的是市场秩序。我认为，作为救助经济纾困的货币政策和财政政策，是必要的，例如G20抗击疫情特别视频会议倡议，全球拿出5万亿美元纾困。但现在的问题是大规模印钞，一部分确是纾困，很大一部分进入各种市场，包括股市和房市。

财政政策的空间也被严重挤压。现在各国采取的绝大部分是财政政策救助经济，有经济学家对财政政策做了一项分析，估算全球用财政政策救助经济，合计56万亿人民币，即8万多亿美元。我个人认为，全球56万亿元可能还是保守的数字，一些国家救助经济财政支出已经占到GDP的40%，印度占到了GDP的20%，等等。所以，原来各国的宏观经济政策，包括货币政策、财政政策均已经失灵，就业更是束手无策，大量的破产失业，这个全球性问题，只要经济不恢复，就很难缓解或者解决。

（四）民主失真
民主失真也是全球性的问题。这个问题虽然看起来和经济关联度不大，但
实际上它也直接影响了经济的恢复和发展。比如说西方对待疫情的方式、西方的执政理念，实际上导致了这场疫情的迅速蔓延和急剧恶化。有的美国人在辩论的时候甚至说，我的呼吸是上帝给我的权利，上帝向我呼吸了一口气，使我有了呼吸的权利，你们不能剥夺上帝给我的权利。从政客的这种执政理念，将群体免疫和不戴口罩作为政治正确，将病毒政治化，到西方一些民众形成的这种文化价值观，反智主义蔓延和泛滥，所以，在一些国家疫情就难以控制。比如，美国一家饭店店铺门口公开写着，到本店不用隔离、不用保持距离、不用戴口罩，可以拥抱，欢迎入住等。这是与特朗普总统相呼应的一些做法，在美国疫情这么严重的情况下，总统大选演讲照样进行，而且群情激扬，很大部分民众都没有戴口罩，人员非常密集，这就是西方所谓的民主。在新冠疫情这个大考中，这种民主的失真真的导致了一场大灾难。美国一天新增确诊数万人不足为奇，这真的是一种民主失真的结果。

这种民主失真导致了疫情的加剧，当然不仅是美国，也包括其他一些国家。所以，看起来这是一个制度之争，好像和经济关系不大，但是意识形态以及制度的差异，直接对疫情的控制产生了影响，而疫情的控制又直接关系到经济的增长。

（五）治理失效

治理失效，或者叫治理失序，也是比较严重的问题。现在有人在美国纽约建立了一个特朗普死亡时钟，56英尺高，时钟每天显示本来可以不必死亡的人数。在纽约原来有一个美国国债时钟，国债时钟就是为了控制美国发债，因为美元和黄金挂钩，各国货币跟美元挂钩，美元的信用就是全世界的稳定之锚，所以要控制美国国债。这个时钟的极点是十万亿亿美元，但到2008年就已经失效了，因为在2008年之前的很长时间内，美国增加印钞不到10万亿美元，2008年国际金融危机之后连续四轮宽松货币政策，就已经超过了十万亿美元，而现在已超过了25万亿美元。到年底，预计美国政府债务报表会超过9万亿美元，美国国债会超过27万亿美元。

作为世界第一大经济体，美国在抗击疫情和本国经济治理上已经失效，在全球治理上，它也发挥不了领导者的作用。美国目前已经从13个国际组织“退群”。在全球需要合作抗击疫情的时候，美国毅然退出了世卫组织（WHO），明年7月6日正式生效。现在美国大选正在进行，民主党候选人拜登已经表态，如果他当选美国总统，他将第一时间恢复美国在WHO的地位。美国不仅退出了WHO，WTO也被美国基本上搅得停摆了。美国还退出控制军事行动的《伊核条
约》《中导条约》《开放天空条约》等。美国的相关行为，在国际安全方面给全球治理带来了极大的挑战。

疫情失控、经济失速、政策失灵、民主失真、治理失序这五大问题，是世界经济难以很快出现转机的重要原因。中国出现了重大的转机，取得了美国以及国际组织也没有预料到的成就，当然，连我们自己也没有预料到。这就给世界一个非常重要的启示，即世界的西方国家，特别是疫情严重的国家，特别是以美国为首的打压、遏制、围堵中国的国家，应该深刻地反思，中国是围堵不住的。中国有规模巨大的市场，有完善的制造业体系，有中国共产党的领导，有制度的优势，中国具备可以形成国内内循环的条件，能够“达则兼济天下，穷则独善其身”。

所以，中国是挡不住的，遏制中国、打压中国，围堵中国，其后果必然是倒逼中国加快发展，加快补短板，加快形成更为配套、更具创新能力、更具核心竞争力的产业结构和经济结构，使中国能够在下一轮国际竞争中真正胜出。

二、中国经济是全球经济恢复增长稳固的根据地

到去年为止，“一带一路”沿线相关国家和地区货物贸易总额已经达到了6万亿美元，中国与“一带一路”沿线相关国家的贸易，已经占到贸易总额的30%左右。今年上半年，我们和东盟的贸易额达到2.07万亿元人民币，已经超过了欧盟，东盟成为中国第一大贸易伙伴，美国下降到了第三位。

中国现在也正在布局面向未来的新基建、创新工程、人才培养、对外开放，推动进一步深化改革。中国迈向未来的战略目标是清晰的，战略步骤是正确的，特别重要的是，全国人民出现了空前的爱国热情。哈佛大学最近发布报告，连续13年抽样调查和采访几万名中国人，结论是93.1%的中国人对中国政府是满意的，这个比例超过了所有的国家。

中国前进的步伐是任何人也挡不住的，美国一些政客必须回头是岸。其实，疫情严重的美国更需要和中国合作。中国是一个有胸怀的国家，只要能够面向未来、真诚合作，中国仍然会真诚地帮助美国从疫情中走出来，使世界经济恢复动力。如果两个经济大国能够同时实现经济复苏和增长，整个世界就会好很多。

2020年上半年中国外贸进出口好于预期，6月份当月进出口双双实现正增长。在当前国际疫情还有很大不确定的情况下，中国经济增长的态势是世界经济恢复增长的最大希望。

首先，中国经济增长的态势是可以保持的。而且，战胜疫情的同时，还可以
实现稳中求进、稳中求好、稳中求远。之所以说中国发展态势没有问题，客观地看，中国已经是货物贸易的第一大国，从2013年一直保持到现在，疫情之后这个优势仍然在，来自国际市场的份额仍然在。中国具有制造业的配套生产能力，很多制造业领域有国内完整的产业链供应链。其实，国际贸易只是一种交易手段，实质上是一个国家的制造业生产能力，看一个国家能生产多少可输出的商品，看一个国家的制造能力是否强大。中国制造能力在2010年超过美国，成为世界第一位。2019年占全球制造业产值的比重分别为30%左右，中国制造业的配套能力，具有全球的39个大类、191个中类、525个小类，是全球产业配套体系最完备的国家。可贸易的商品实际上就是制造业的能力，这是我们保持良好发展态势的基础。

第二，中国正在成为全球性贸易中心。原来中国是出口大国，近年来，我们向着进口大国迈进，加上类似中国义乌小商品市场5000个左右批发市场的采购贸易，经过若干年后，中国将会成为国际贸易中心。再加上转口贸易，中国有可能成为最活跃和流通速度最快的国际贸易中心。

第三，中国和周边国家的经济合作的关系越来越紧密。一个是RCEP基本上已经达成了协议，正在加快推进和落实；中日韩自贸区进程也在加快。中国周边国家对于疫情的控制好于欧洲、非洲、北美、南美，是我们形成国内大循环为主体、国内国际双循环相互促进的最优选择，最有可能形成更为紧密的产业链链接。

下一代贸易方式——数字贸易，在中国发展很快。通过跨境电商的数字贸易今年1-6月份增速高达40%以上，比线下贸易增速要快得多。到目前为止中国已经有105个跨境电商试点。跨境电商就是数字贸易的前身，或者说是数字贸易的基础，中国数字贸易在世界上已经形成了先发优势。特别是在“一带一路”沿线相关国家，是投资和国际贸易增长最快的。

综合上述这些因素，加上中国已经是全球120多个国家的第一大贸易伙伴，中国贸易与投资将会稳定增长。由于国内疫情的影响，中国一季度GDP大幅度下降6.8%，贸易也大幅度下降。二季度中国复工复产复商复市，贸易投资的活跃度比一季度大大增强，三季度会比二季度强，四季度会比三季度强，全年总趋势是先抑后扬，越来越好，这一态势会保持下去。

不过，中国也面临着非常严峻的挑战，我们要有危机意识和忧患意识。最大忧患主要来自四个方面：

第一，现在疫情严重的国家还是处于停工停产或者经济停摆阶段，订单大幅度减少，我们产业链链接比较紧密的一些国家，疫情还在加重，经济增长外部
输入性的压力进一步增加。

第二，美国对中国的战略调整，从贸易战到科技战到金融战等一系列政策手段给中国带来了很大的威胁和外部风险。美国力图推动与中国经济脱钩、科技脱钩、贸易加征高额关税。疫情期间暂时取消了11种医疗产品的关税，很快又恢复了25%的高额关税。这些都使中国面临空前严峻的外部压力。

第三，我们的高端制造业，特别是中间品贸易为主体的高端制造业转型升级会受到很大的影响。虽然体现在贸易上对我企业的制裁，直接影响的是制造业转型升级。比如，美国停止提供高端芯片，势必影响中国半导体行业和企业。总体上看，日用消费品形成国内大循环是没有问题的，因为产业链比较短且消费品制造业已经形成既有的优势，已经形成了产业优势和配套能力。而且，我们国内有巨大市场需求，因此老百姓的日常生活、日常的工业制成品市场不会受太大影响。一部分外销的企业转内销，转的速度比较快，因为国内有市场，只要政策到位外贸企业转型升级还是很快的。最重要的是会影响到以高端制造业发展、以制造业转型升级迈向中高端、以中间品贸易为主体的贸易发展，这些方面会受到非常严峻的挑战。

第四，美国对于中国香港的粗暴干涉。美国提出要取消香港面向全球的独立关税区的地位，威胁切断港元与美元的联系汇率制度等。当然，香港独立关税区不是美国给的，美国也没有权利取消。美国如果切断美元与港元联系汇率制度，也会伤及美元交易体系。美国现在对于香港特别行政区一系列的打击，目标是遏制中国，打击中国。之所以加大打击香港，是因为香港有了“国安法”保障之后，香港特区与内地经济联系将更加紧密，美国就会失去对其渗透和干预的强大能力。

香港和美国的贸易仅占香港贸易总额的6.2%，所以美国这些打击，对香港贸易会有影响，但影响不会太大，香港贸易主体部分还是在中国境内。香港和内地的贸易已经占到50.2%，所以，总的来看，贸易上对香港特区和内地的影响不会太大，但是这些打压行径，对中国和中国香港是挑战和不利因素。

总之，中国将长期保持良好的态势，而且这个态势还会更好，这是我们可以看得见的未来。与此同时，中国也面临着极其严峻的挑战，需要我们认真地应对，对于美国为首的一些国家的无理遏制中国发展的行径，中国必将有效地进行战略反制。
2020年10月24日，是联合国成立75周年的日子。《联合国宪章》的序言开篇立即宣称“欲免后世再遭今代人类两度身历惨不堪言之战祸，重申基本人权，人格尊严与价值，以及男女与大小各国平等权利之信念”。70多年来，国际社会发生了巨变，而随着经济发展、社会进步，特别是科学技术、交通通讯等领域的突破性发展，各国保障和实现人权的条件和可能性是前所未有的，成就、挑战和机遇并存。但是各国前进的步伐并不相同。改革开放40多年来，中国共产党领导中国人民，逐渐走出了一条成功的中国人权发展道路，令世人瞩目。

一、中国人权事业取得的历史性成就

2016年8月22日，联合国开发计划署和国务院发展研究中心联合发布《中国人类发展报告2016》（以下简称《报告》）。《报告》指出，中国的人类发展体现在收入与减贫、健康、教育和政治社会参与等各方面。

20世纪70年代末的经济体制改革打破了计划经济的束缚，极大地释放了增长潜力，带来了持续30多年的年均近10%的高速经济增长，这对促进中国的人类发展至关重要。1980年时，中国处于改革开放之初。根据联合国开发计划署的测算，当时中国还属于低人类发展水平国家。伴随着改革开放，中国在1995年成为中等人类发展水平国家，在2010年后中国的人类发展指数开始超过世界平均水平。从2011年开始，中国成为高人类发展水平国家。在1990年还属于低人类发展水平组别的47个国家中，中国是唯一跻身高人类发展水平组的国家。中国是世界上最大的发展中国家，并且取得了高速
发展。

不同年份作为时间节点的重要意义彰显的是中国人权事业发展的速度和质量。2020年则又是一个必将载入史册的不平凡的年份。

2020年是中国脱贫攻坚决战决胜之年。贫困是保障人权的根本性障碍。按照2010年的贫困标准，中国农村贫困人口已由1978年的7.7亿人减少至2019年的551万人。中国即将实现农村贫困人口全部脱贫，贫困县全部摘帽，第一次消除绝对贫困，这是对世界减贫事业的巨大贡献，是中国人权史上的历史性成就。

2020年是实现全面建成小康社会发展目标之年。“小康”一词最早见于中国古代《诗经》。中国改革开放总设计师邓小平结合中国实际，在设计中国社会主义现代化目标中，引用了“小康”这一概念。党的十八大为全面建成小康社会绘制了蓝图，提出了更加具体的要求，包括：国内生产总值和人均收入比2010年翻一番、基本实现工业化、进入创新型国家行列、基本形成区域协调发展机制；全面落实依法治国方略，基本建成法治政府；基本建成公共文化服务体系，文化产业成为国民经济支柱型产业；总体实现基本公共服务均等化和教育现代化，社会保障全面覆盖；基本形成主体功能区布局，初步建立资源循环利用体系。全面建成小康社会，是中国共产党确定的第一个百年目标，是改革开放带来的历史性成就，意味着中国的民生福祉达到新境界。


2020年是中国坚持以人民为中心，生命至上，积极、有效应对新冠肺炎疫
情，保障人民生命权和健康权之年。联合国人权事务高级专员巴切莱特2月27日在人权理事会会议上指出，疫情严重威胁着全世界所有人的生命权和健康权，这一健康危机是对社会坚韧程度的考验，而人权框架是一个重要的标杆。面对这一人类未知的、自二战结束以来影响最大的新型流行性疾病，中国政府采取果断措施，全社会团结一心、众志成城，通过科学战疫、依法战疫，取得了重大的阶段性胜利。中国迅速控制了疫情，挽救了病患，并积极开展国际合作，承担国际责任，积极提供国际卫生领域的公共产品。中国的决策和行动经得起实践的检验、时间的检验，妥善应对了疫情，有力保障了人权。

2020年是中国人权法律保障的新突破之年。在抗击疫情取得阶段性胜利之后，中国2020年的“两会”在推迟两个多月后顺利召开，这是中国政治领域的大事。“两会”的一个重要成果，是第十三届全国人民代表大会第三次会议于5月28日通过了新中国第一部《民法典》。这是中国法治事业的里程碑，必将载入史册。《民法典》是新中国第一部以法典命名的法律，在法律体系中居于基础性地位，是市场经济的基本法。同时，作为“社会生活的百科全书”，全面涉及婚姻、家庭、社会生活、经济活动等不同领域的权利保障问题。可以说，《民法典》是人权保障的基本法典，影响深远。

二、中国的人权立场和主张

中国的发展是经济发展和社会进步的统一，是以人民为中心、以人为本、可持续发展的成功实践；人权保障则是中国发展的主流价值和基本目标。尊重和保障人权，不仅写入《中国共产党党纲》、《国民经济和社会发展规划纲要》，也写入了中国《宪法》，是中国治国理政的基本理念，是重要的宪法原则。

中国文化有显著的整体性思维的特征，我们不会简单地去讲一个国家或者一个地区“有没有人权”、“人权好还是不好”，而是把人权置于特定的历史发展阶段，在具体的国情和实践中去考察。人权不是孤立的，而是在特定的社会背景下，与法治、发展密切联系在一起的一国发展道路的三个基本维度。

1991年11月1日，国务院新闻办发表首个《中国的人权状况》白皮书，从中国的历史和国情出发，首次确立了“生存权、发展权是中国的首要人权”。生存权和发展权都是“大概念”（umbrella rights），有着动态发展的、丰富的内涵。我们不能简单地将生存权、发展权仅仅理解为低水平的经济和社会权利保障，它们实际上包括了全面的人权保障的内容，既包括经济、社会和文化权利，也包括公民权利和政治权利，只是更加突出了发展中国家实现人权的独特视角和历史特
随着发展水平的提高，中国正在更高水平、更高层次上保障和实现更加丰富的生存权和发展权。一些西方发达国家为了推广其人权话语、政治理念和制度，不愿承认、不愿意谈发展权，甚至否定发展权的法律性质。但是，1986年联合国大会通过的《发展权利宣言》确认发展权是一项不可剥夺的人权，此后联合国一直在坚持推动发展权的实现。

中国特色的人权观中强调个体人权与集体人权的统一。以应对新冠肺炎疫情为例，中国政府的应对举措彰显了中国治理体系和治理能力的优势，也体现了中国文化中集体主义观念的特点和长处。健康权和生命权往往表现为个人人权，但是在流行性疾病来袭的时候，它们更多的体现为公共卫生问题，体现为集体人权的属性和特点。在科学防疫和依法防疫的过程中，适当限制个人的自由和权利，为整个社区或者城市带来生命权和健康权的保障，这是典型的以整体性观念平衡和全面理解人权、真正促进和保障人权的实例。中国人优秀的利他和集体主义传统，在海外华侨华人身上也有生动的体现。2020年4月14日，澳大利亚总理莫里森表示，华人社区起到了保护澳大利亚的作用；华人遵守纪律，充满协作精神，积极行动起来挽救生命，值得所有人感谢。新冠肺炎疫情是世纪性的流行性疾病，中国政府坚持生命至上，以人民为中心，不放弃任何一个，不论男女老幼，不论患病严重程度，不论国籍，只要在中国，都给予全力救治。中国政府和人民团结努力，不仅在战胜疫情方面取得阶段性重大胜利，更生动书写了中国人权事业新的历史篇章，彰显了中国特色人权观和人权道路的特点与优势。

中国是第一个完成联合国千年发展目标的发展中国家，对全球减贫贡献率超过70%。中国在办好自己的事情的同时，也积极思考并参与全球治理，积极推动构建人类命运共同体。中国高度重视联合国发展议程的制定和实施，是联合国《2030年可持续发展议程》的倡导者和践行者。在平等和互相尊重的基础上，中国与其他国家以合作促发展，以发展促人权。中国的立场和主张是建设性的，是通过开展对话和合作，通过夯实发展基础来真真切切地关心和促进人权。

当然，作为发展中国家的中国，发展不平衡、不充分的现象仍然存在。推动全面依法治国的进程中，全面加强人权的法治保障，取得了很大的成就，但仍然还有较长的一段路要走。人权发展不是一蹴而就的，也不是一劳永逸的，实现人权是一个长期的、坚持不懈的进程。用习近平总书记的话来说，就是“人权没有最好，只有更好”。这句话体现了我们对于发展人权事业的坚定信心、客观态度和执着追求。
三、中国积极推动全球人权治理

2020年，在新冠肺炎疫情面前，中国没有“自扫门前雪”，而是从一开始就以无私的国际主义精神，积极与世界卫生组织保持联系与合作，及时分享信息、开展合作。

中国在第一时间检测出病毒、确认了新型病毒的出现、完成其全基因测序，并与世卫组织和其他国家分享。面对突如其来的新型病毒，中国首当其冲，承受了巨大的压力，果断决策，有效应对，及时扼制了疫情的发展和蔓延，率先取得战疫的阶段性、整体性胜利。同时，中国的国际合作一直是进行时，而且随着难能可贵的经验的增多，在不断为国际社会应对疫情提供人力和物力帮助的同时，更提供了科学防疫的知识和经验。疫情是对世界范围内人权事业的巨大挑战，而中国是应对这一挑战、缓解疫情威胁、开展国际协调和合作的积极和关键的力量。从人权的角度看，这是中国对人类生命健康、世界人权事业做出的重要贡献。

世界正在前所未有地面临疫情以及由疫情引发的经济、政治、文化等多领域的困难和挑战。联合国所倡导的和平、发展和人权，都面临着历史性的挑战，除了原有的战争和武装冲突、自然灾害、流行性疾病等之外，国际体系和国际法本身也同时面临被漠视或者破坏的情况。综合国力最强的发达国家美国越来越不负责任，大言不惭地鼓吹“美国至上”，不断退出国际条约和国际组织，包括世界卫生组织、联合国人权理事会等，明显地表现出霸权主义对正常国际秩序、国际经济发展、各国主权与发展利益等的威胁。而且，美国的单边主义、霸凌行径正在走向极端，直接威胁包括中国在内的国际社会的安全、发展和人权，可以说是逆历史趋势而动。世界一体，人类在同一艘船上，这已是全球化时代一个不争的事实。中国支持为亟需加强全球治理的世界提供更多的国际公共产品，中国积极推动构建人类命运共同体的立场和主张被实践证明是科学、有预见性的，是符合国际社会的现实和未来发展趋势的。

人权是个好东西，而正因为其抽象性和感召力，容易被利用成为外交施压、政治斗争的工具，也会产生一些借人权之名、干扰特定国家和地区正常经济与社会发展进程的“人权陷阱”。2020年7月17日闭幕的联合国人权理事会第四十四届会议期间，再次出现了人权政治化和政治对抗的情况。英国等20多个国家发表一个联合发言，无理要求中国重新考虑是否推行香港特别行政区国家安全法；美国常驻联合国代表也毫不意外地发表了涉华错误言论，攻击中国。中国常驻联合国代表团发言人做了严词驳斥，古巴代表53个国家也在会上做了共同发言，明确支持中国香港特区维护国家安全立法，及美国对华回击，压倒式驳回美国等
西方国家在理事会搞人权政治化操作的错误行径。英美等国违背了《联合国宪章》规定的不干涉内政的基本原则，与作为联合国人权主流化和机构改革成果而成立人权理事会的初衷和设想背道而驰。人权理事会的工作原则和制度强调非政治化、非选择性、非对抗性，但美国等部分西方国家将人权作为政治工具、搞双重标准、不尊重事实和国际规则的情况屡屡出现，相当程度上干扰了人权理事会的工作，影响了国际人权机制应有的作用的发挥。包括人权理事会在内的联合国各机构、其他国际组织如何有效推动国际人权事业向前发展，目前看来困难重重。疫情之下，国际人权机制现场开会变得困难，财政预算不足又雪上加霜，个别西方国家缺乏开展国际合作的负责任的态度，令国际人权事业发展前景堪忧。

保障人权是世界各国人民共同的愿望，实现这一目标和理想需要的绝不是单--的政治口号、说教或者像美国那样动不动妄自尊大地对他国横加指责，而是有效维持国际持久和平、保持国际经济和社会持续发展，尤其是维护体现平等、公平、正义的国际经济、政治和法律秩序。《联合国宪章》体现出来的国际合作的初心不能忘记，国际社会追求和平、发展和人权的方向不能改变。

2020年6月22日，继2018年推动人权理事会通过“在人权领域促进合作共赢”决议后，中国再次推动联合国人权理事会通过中国提交的“在人权领域促进合作共赢”决议，继续倡导坚持多边主义，呼吁构建相互尊重、公平正义、合作共赢的新型国际关系，构建人类命运共同体，强调各国应在人权领域开展真诚对话与合作，分享促进和保护人权的良好做法和经验，加强人权技术援助和能力建设，实现合作共赢。中国的立场和主张反映了发展中国家的共同心声和愿望，符合全球人权治理发展大势，必将有力推动全球人权事业健康发展。

总之，作为最大的发展中国家，中国通过改革开放，走出了一条符合国情的正确的发展道路。中国正在进入全面发展的新境界，正在走近世界舞台的中央。在百年未有之大变局的背景下，中国前进道路上的困难和问题实实在在地存在着，挑战和机遇都是前所未有。中国政府和人民，仍然要以自信、定力、勤奋和智慧，做好自己的事情，更好地为人民创造幸福美好的生活，同时，坚决地支持以联合国为核心的国际体系的改革与发展，支持国际人权领域的建设性交流与合作，为世界和平、发展和人权做出越来越大的贡献。
BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE CPIFA

The Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) was established on December 15, 1949, the same year of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. As the first institute devoted to people-to-people diplomacy of the PRC, CPIFA was founded at the initiative of the late Premier Zhou Enlai. Premier Zhou Enlai and the late Vice Premier Chen Yi both once served as the Honorary President of the Institute.

The purposes of CPIFA are to enhance people-to-people friendship, to facilitate state-to-state relations, and to pursue world peace, development and cooperation. To this end, CPIFA takes the initiative to establish and maintain relations with prestigious political and social activists, parliaments, think tanks, media, etc., to carry out dialogues and communications on bilateral relations, major international and regional issues based on the exchange mechanism of Track II diplomacy, to conduct public diplomacy activities by hosting and organizing some major forums and conferences, to study international situation and foreign policies, and to publish the English quarterly journal, Foreign Affairs Journal.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, CPIFA is committed to “making friends for the country” by taking concerted actions with China’s overall diplomacy, expanding foreign exchanges, telling Chinese stories, promoting interaction between China and the rest of the world, and facilitating the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

To date, CPIFA has hosted the visits of over 30,000 guests of 4,000 plus delegations including foreign prestigious statesmen, parliament members, think tanks, media, etc. The Institute maintains contacts with famous statesmen, diplomats, social activists, entrepreneurs, experts and scholars on international studies from over 120 countries and has established more than 20 bilateral dialogue and exchange mechanisms.