

Carrying Forward the Friendship, Building on the Past, Heralding the Future, and Working Together to Build Another Golden 50 Years of China-Brazil Relations

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On August 15, 1974, with the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Brazil, the two biggest developing countries in the Eastern and Western Hemisphere respectively, started to write a new chapter of friendly exchanges. Over the past half century, with the strategic guidance and personal commitment of leaders of the two countries, strategic mutual trust between China and Brazil has deepened and cooperation has yielded fruitful results in various fields. In the spirit of making pioneering efforts and working in concert, the two countries have set a fine example of solidarity and cooperation between major developing countries, explored a path leading to mutual benefit, mutual understanding and affinity, and become close friends despite vast distance. The strategic and overarching importance and global influence of the bilateral relationship is constantly on the rise.

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Political mutual trust is deepening. Both China and Brazil are major developing countries and key emerging markets. Brazil was the first developing country to establish strategic partnership with China and the first Latin American country to establish comprehensive strategic partnership with China. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, no matter how the global environment has changed, the two countries have always rendered each other support on issues that bear on each other's core interests and major concerns, and firmly supported each other in following a development path suited to their respective national realities. In recent years, the two countries enjoy close high-level exchanges. Last year, President Lula da Silva paid a successful visit to China, and opened up a new future with President Xi Jinping for China-Brazil relations in the new era, injecting strong impetus to expand and deepen cooperation between the two countries in various fields. This year, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Brazil, and Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Special Advisor to the President Celso Amorim visited China respectively. Strategic communication between the two countries has been deepening and political mutual trust has been solidified.

Mutually beneficial cooperation has grown in an in-depth and substantive way. From space to soybeans, practical cooperation between China and Brazil enjoys great complementarity, resilience and vitality. Since 2009, China has been Brazil's largest trading partner for 15 years running, and Brazil has become China's largest trading partner in Latin America and the first Latin American country whose trade with China exceeded US\$100 billion. In 2023, Brazil's export to China surpassed US\$100 billion for the first time. Brazil is China's largest investment destination in

Latin America with close to 300 Chinese companies investing and operating business in Brazil. Cooperation between the two countries has yielded fruitful results in traditional areas including agriculture, energy, science and technology innovation, aviation and aerospace, telecommunication, finance, and infrastructure, and a bright future is ahead for cooperation in new areas such as green economy, digital economy, and clean energy.

Particularly since the beginning of this year, practical cooperation between the two countries has delivered many successful outcomes. The China-Brazil Agricultural Mechanization Cooperation Demonstration Project has been launched. China's State Grid has won the bid for the Belo Monte ultra-high-voltage direct current power transmission line project, the biggest power transmission project in Latin America. The construction of BYD's production base complex in the state of Bahia is steadily advancing. Power facilities, transport and other infrastructure invested and constructed by China have significantly facilitated local people's everyday life and created more local jobs. Brazil's high-quality agricultural products are readily available on the menu of Chinese households. Recently, 38 Brazilian meat companies have received authorization to export their products to China, and Brazilian propolis, coffee, wine and other products were in high demand at the China International Import Expo.

People-to-people exchanges are gaining momentum. The everlasting traditional friendship is the source of strength for steady and sustained China-Brazil relations. China-Brazil people-to-people exchanges can be traced back to late 16th century when the first Chinese tea farmers arrived in Brazil, crossing mountains and oceans, to grow tea and share expertise, and the seed of friendship

sown is now blossoming and bearing fruits. Recent years have witnessed increasingly active cultural exchanges between the two countries, and deeper friendship between the two peoples. The Chinese language has gained popularity in Brazil. There are now 12 Confucius Institutes and one Confucius Classroom in Brazil, making it the country with the largest number of Confucius Institutes in Latin America. Over 100 schools in China now offer Portuguese language courses. Strong interest in each other's languages reflects the interest and enthusiasm of the two peoples to know about each other's cultures. As part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of China-Brazil diplomatic relations this year, the Chinese Culture Season events, which include the "China Today" Arts Week, the Chinese Film Festival, and the photo exhibition on ecological conservation in Qinghai, are being held all over Brazil. At the 14th Beijing International Film Festival, Brazil, as the country of honor, showcased many excellent films that were immensely popular among Chinese movie fans. These rich and colorful cultural activities are bringing China into the everyday life of Brazilians and vice versa, and building bridges of mutual understanding.

International coordination is increasingly closer. China and Brazil are both committed to promoting international equity, justice and multilateralism. Under the framework of multilateral mechanisms including the United Nations, the G20, and the BRICS, the two countries have maintained close coordination and shouldered the responsibility as major countries on issues such as global governance, public health, climate change, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development. They are committed to undertaking the role of builder of world peace, contributor to global development, and defender of the international order. Last

year, with concerted efforts of China, Brazil and other countries, the BRICS achieved a historic expansion, greatly enhancing the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries in international affairs and providing a broader stage for the Global South to strengthen solidarity and cooperation. Through bilateral and multilateral channels, China and Brazil have maintained close communication and coordination on international and regional hotspot issues such as the Ukraine crisis and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and stood committed to playing an active and constructive role in cooling down the situation and promoting peace talks, in an effort to bring positive energy to the world in the midst of turmoil and transformation. In May this year, China and Brazil jointly issued a six-point common understanding on political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, which has been warmly received by more than 100 countries and reflects the common aspiration of the international community.

Right now, China is further deepening reforms comprehensively, nurturing new quality productive forces at a faster pace, making steady progress in pursuing high-quality development, and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. The Brazilian government has launched a series of national development strategies and plans, such as the Growth Acceleration Program, New Industry Brazil policy and Ecological Transformation Plan. In the process of modernization, common visions and pursuits keep drawing China and Brazil closer, bringing important opportunities for the two countries to increase synergy between strategies and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation. At the important historical moment of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, China is ready to work with Brazil to cultivate the next “golden 50 years”

of bilateral relations with priorities in the following areas:

First, we should enhance strategic mutual trust with our leaders guiding the way forward. There are no conflicting interests between China and Brazil, either in geopolitical term or in terms of realistic interests. Instead, China and Brazil are highly complementary economies, have deeply integrated interests, and hold identical or similar positions on major international and regional issues. All this represents the most valuable strategic asset and the most important common interest between China and Brazil, and provides a solid political foundation for deepening mutual trust and cooperation. During President Lula's visit to China last year, President Xi pointed out that China will work with Brazil to create a new future for their relations in the new era, deliver greater benefits to the two peoples, and play an important and positive role for peace, stability, prosperity and development in their regions and beyond. President Lula said that Brazil is committed to building closer relations with China from the strategic height of shaping a just and equitable international order. We should continue to be guided by the important consensus reached by the two presidents, keep consolidating strategic mutual trust, and seize the time in promoting the continuous development of bilateral relations.

Second, we should upgrade high-quality practical cooperation. With a focus on developing new quality productive forces, China is building a modern industrial system with technological innovation playing the leading role, pursuing the twin goals of carbon peak and carbon neutrality through green transformation, and promoting universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization through high-standard opening up. This process will keep unlocking strong demand and vigorous impetus from China's super-sized market

and bring more opportunities for Brazil and other countries. With a stream of new products and new business models emerging in the Chinese market, and continuous growth in the export of new energy vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic products, the enthusiasm of Brazil for cooperation with China in relevant fields continues to rise. Many Brazilian business delegations have paid visits to China, with high expectations for the new opportunities presented by Chinese modernization. China is ready to further step up synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Brazil's development strategies. On the basis of deepening cooperation in traditional sectors, we should foster more fields of cooperation in frontier areas such as energy transition, digital economy, low-carbon and smart agriculture, biotechnology, information technology, artificial intelligence, aviation and aerospace. In doing so, we will fully unleash cooperation potential and create new momentum for development, so that China-Brazil cooperation can bring more benefits to their peoples and boost their respective process of modernization.

Third, we should promote close international cooperation. Facing a fluid and turbulent world, China and Brazil share extensive common interests and responsibility for promoting development. We need to speak out with a just, balanced and constructive voice on international hotspot issues. China is ready to continue to work closely with Brazil on major international and regional affairs in international organizations and multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the G20, the BRICS, and the China-CELAC forum. Together, we will safeguard true multilateralism, make the international order more just and equitable, and bring about more positivity to international fairness and justice and common

development. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the beginning of the second decade for building a community with a shared future for mankind. China is ready to work with all countries, including Brazil, to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, uphold the common values of humanity, advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world, and join hands in building a community with a shared future for mankind, so as to enhance the common interests of all peoples.

Fourth, we should cement public support. To improve people's well-being is the immutable goal of growing China-Brazil relations. With the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Ten (10) Years Multiple-Entry Visas for Business, Tourism and Visiting Purposes, the resumption of the Beijing-Madrid-São Paulo flight route, and the extension of visa-free policy to Chinese holders of passport for public affairs under the Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Mutual Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Service (Official) Passport Holders, it will be more convenient for people to travel between the two countries and further unlock the potential of cooperation in various fields. We would like to take this opportunity to jointly organize a range of cultural and people-to-people exchange programs celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations to carry forward our everlasting friendship and cement the foundation of public support. Though thousands of miles apart, we should always be good friends and partners, and work together to push China-Brazil friendship to new heights.

General Secretary Xi Jinping observed that standing at a new historical starting point, the Global South should be more open and more inclusive, and join hands to take the lead in building a community with a shared future for mankind. China and Brazil are both important members of the Global South. China stands ready to work with Brazil to promote the building of a China-Brazil community with a shared future, and act as the staunch force for peace, the core driving force for open development, the construction team of global governance, and the advocates for exchange among civilizations. Together, we will make greater contributions to the cause of peace and development of mankind, and usher in a better future for China-Brazil relations in the new era! 🇨🇳🇧🇷