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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA
AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



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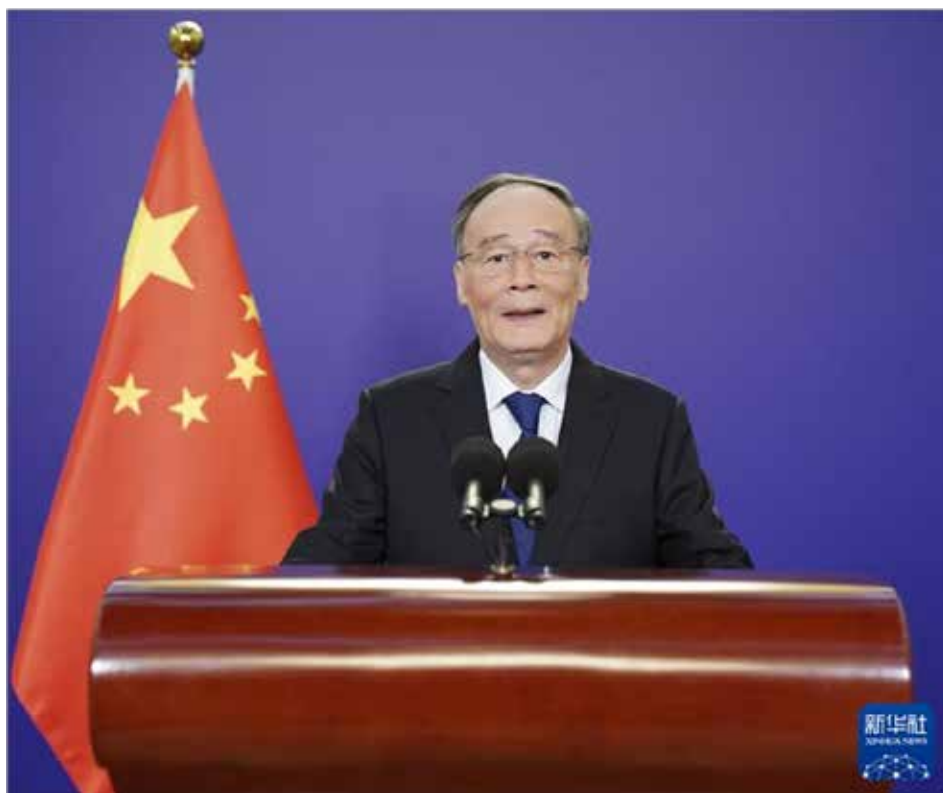
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Opening Ceremony

Video Address by H. E. Wang Qishan, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China

(10 JANUARY 2022, BEIJING)



Distinguished guests,

Human civilisations are like a luxuriant and colourful garden displaying diverse and distinctive charms. Promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations thus represents a major issue for peaceful development of the world and for the betterment of people's lives. Here, I want to share with you some of my observations.

It is imperative to keep on developing a deeper and better understanding of both our own and other civilisations. Interactions and exchanges among different civilisations are inevitable, resulting in either mutual learning and integration, or divergences and collisions. Dealings among human beings and countries, whether as friends or foes, take place invariably upon the adequate knowledge of one another. As a Chinese adage goes, knowing others

is wisdom; knowing oneself is insight. The two aspects of knowing oneself and knowing others form an endless, yet mutually complementary process. Exchanges among civilisations are not only about intensive academic researches or extensive media coverage, but more importantly, about greater emphasis on conducting reciprocal dialogues and interactions. The sharing of one amazing story after another can keep us informed of what is really happening on the ground, so that we can learn with our heart the civilisational attributes thereof. For all civilisations, advancement is achieved on inheritance and heredity is accompanied by variations. Knowing oneself and others should not only be confined to the status quo, but also be extended to the tracing of origins and sources. The further and more clearly the origins and sources are traced, the more accurate the understanding of both the present and the future will be.

It is imperative to look for the key to inter-civilisational exchanges and connectivity from the perspective of all mankind. Although civilisations vary in development trajectory and genetic traits, fundamentally they do share some common features. First, all human beings tend to endorse the true, the good and the beautiful and inhibit the false, the evil and the ugly. They all aspire for economic and social development together with stability and affluence. Second, discovery of the laws and solution of problems can only be achieved through objective rationality. In terms of epistemology and methodology, different civilisations may resort to materialism or idealism, logic or dialectics. Third, “Nature is the mother of history”. All human beings live on one and the same planet, and follow the same laws of life science and the same natural order. Inevitably, all human being are bound together by a common destiny with shared weal or woe.

It is imperative to gain confidence out of historical, cultural and philosophical considerations. Human history always moves forward with one negation after another and advances amidst setbacks and twists and turns, Misery and glory are always in each other’s company. Success and helplessness are Siamese twins. Civilisational evolution takes place like a system of slower variations compared with economic development or technological progress. “One hundred rivers take different courses, but eventually they all converge by flowing into the sea.” Past and present experiences show that it is the general trend for different civilisations to converge through exchanges and to advance together amid convergence on the basis of mutual respect and mutual learning. We need to remain tolerant and steadfast with greater confidence and patience so that consensus on the building of a global community with a shared future will grow steadily.

Distinguished guests,

In its history of over 5,000 years, the Chinese nation has fostered a splendid civilisation and made major contributions to the progress of human civilisation. The Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people in upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, and in pioneering the Chinese-style modernisation, and creating a new model for human advancement. With a strong sense of responsibility for the future of the human race, President Xi Jinping made the call to champion the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom. These values represent the broadest common ground among civilisations and the most basic and the most sublime values the human race holds dear.

Peaceful development forms the foundation for the subsistence of mankind, the guarantee for continued development of civilisations and thus the theme of

our times. Safeguarding peaceful development is in the interest of all mankind. The Chinese civilisation has always championed “peace is most precious” and “peace among all nations”. Preserving world peace and promoting shared development are the fundamental goal of China’s foreign policy. China is developing itself by securing a peaceful global environment and, at the same time contributing to world peace with its own development. We are ready to share China’s development opportunities with the rest of the world and work together to expedite the materialisation of the Global Development Initiative and deepen and substantiate Belt and Road cooperation so that human civilisation will advance on an even more solid material base.

Fairness and justice are lofty aspirations the entire human race pursues and the moral foundation for international relations. Upholding fairness and justice is the shared responsibility of mankind. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government are committed to the vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and making the global governance system fairer and more equitable. We are willing to work with all countries to stand for true multilateralism and to build a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice and win-win cooperation.

Democracy and freedom are the achievements of civilisations jointly created by human beings in their long-term struggle and a major part of modern political civilisation. The realisation of democracy and freedom is the common mission of the entire

human race. The judgement of the myriad political civilisations of the world cannot be made with a single yardstick. The whole-process people’s democracy under the leadership of the Communist Party of China integrates process-oriented democracy with results-oriented democracy, procedural democracy with substantive democracy, direct democracy with indirect democracy, and people’s democracy with the will of the state. It is a model of democracy that covers all links and dimensions of the democratic process and all sectors of society. We are ready to work with all parties to explore a new path of mankind in developing democracy on the basis of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual learning.

Distinguished guests,

Following the successful Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee last year, the Communist Party of China will convene its 20th National Congress this year. Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Communist Party of China will continue to lead the Chinese people in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects and making tireless efforts to realise the Second Centenary Goal. On this new journey, China will continue to strengthen solidarity and coordination with all other countries in championing the shared human values and gathering strength for the progress of civilisations and jointly chart a course toward a brighter future.

In conclusion, I wish the Dialogue a complete success!

Keynote Speech by H.E. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding



Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,
Greetings from Beijing!

It's a great pleasure to join you, delegates both online and offline representing various civilisations around the world, for the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations. At the outset, let me extend, on behalf of the host of this event, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU), warm welcome to all our friends and distinguished guests from various countries and heartfelt thanks for your presence.

Just now, Vice President Wang Qishan delivered a special video address to this Dialogue, highlighting the great importance the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government attach to the exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. In his address, Vice President Wang Qishan expounded on the common values of humanity for peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom put forth by President Xi Jinping, stressing that it is imperative to deepen knowledge and understanding of both our own and other civilisations, to look for the key to inter-civilisational exchanges and connectivity from the perspective of all mankind, and to gain confidence out of historical, cultural and philosophical considerations. He touches

upon three aspects, namely peace and development being the common interests of mankind, fairness and justice being the common responsibility of mankind and democracy and freedom being the common mission of mankind, reflecting his profound insight into the advancement of human civilisations. All these provide important guidance for us to acquire deeper understanding of the common values of humanity and to promote further exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.

It was in 2019 that we played host to the successful First Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations at the Forbidden City, Beijing, and issued a joint call for more bridges of mutual learning and connectivity among civilisations, closer bond of solidarity for world peace and stronger cultural basis for cooperation in building a community with a shared future for mankind. Since then, the complex and profound changes in the international situation have afforded us a deeper understanding of the major importance and immediate urgency of strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, rising above civilisational estrangement and conflict, and improving understanding and mutual trust among countries.

The combining forces of the once-in-a-century changes and the once-in-a-century pandemic has pushed the world to a new stage of volatility and transformation. What we face is a world with constant changes. On the one hand, peace and development remain the theme of our times. More than ever before, countries have become inter-connected and interdependent, together with pressing pursuit of the people for world peace and common development and a broader consensus on global governance philosophy of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. On the other hand, the world economy is in the doldrums. Economic globalisation is encountering headwinds. Unilateralism and protectionism are once again on the rise. Hegemony and Cold War mentality

are rearing their ugly heads. Traditional and non-traditional security issues are entwined. Global governance system has come under new challenges.

As President Xi Jinping has stated, we need to strengthen inter-civilisational exchanges and mutual learning so as to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. We need to champion the common values of humanity for peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom. These important expositions by President Xi Jinping, as they offered Chinese solutions for promoting human development and progress, have won extensive support worldwide.

As humanity once again finds itself at a historical crossroads, we are ready to strengthen cooperation with the rest of the international community to tide over current difficulties, remain committed to the pursuit of civilisational diversity, and champion the common values of humanity so that we are equipped with sufficient confidence, courage and sense of responsibility to answer the call of our times and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

We need to stay committed to seeking common ground and reserving differences among diverse civilisations on the basis of the principle of equality. Humanity, through the long course of history, has created colourful and diverse civilisations. No civilisation is superior to or better than other civilisations. They are only different in their distinctive geographical features. As the crystallisation of human wisdom, all civilisations deserve our respect and are worthy of learning. Diversity and distinctiveness of civilisations should not be the cause for conflict, but rather the impetus for exchanges. What we need to do is to respect each other, treat each other as equal, discard pride and prejudice, deepen our understanding on the differences between our own civilisation and other civilisations, facilitate inter-civilisational exchanges and dialogues with inclusive tolerance and broad mind, enrich the spectrum of human civilisations, and let the one hundred flowers of world civilisations

vie for glamour.

We need to stay committed to pursuing common development of diverse civilisations with mutual learning as the driving force. Diverse civilisations, only when they exchange with one another and draw on each other's strength, can they constantly enrich themselves and enjoy sustained vitality. The birth and development of the western cultural system cannot be made possible without the inheritance and regeneration of the Hellenic civilisation, which was nourished by ancient Babylon, ancient Greek and other ancient civilisations. The same applies to the Chinese civilisation, which has lasted for more than 5000 years without interruption. An important reason is that the Chinese civilisation has remained open and inclusive. It keeps evolving amid exchanges, mutual learning and integration with other civilisations. The ancient Silk Road, which had extended for tens of thousands of miles and existed for thousands of years, gives birth to the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit. Today, the Belt and Road Initiative, guided by the Silk Road spirit and the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, has once again connected different civilisations along the route and blazed a new trail for exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. Looking forward, we need to draw on the strength of all and bring forth the new through exchanges and mutual learning so as to constantly advance human civilisation and sustain world peace and development.

We need to stay committed to promoting connectivity and sharing among diverse civilisations on the basis of the people-centred philosophy. People, the creator of civilisations, are the best messengers for inter-civilisational exchanges and mutual learning and the beneficiaries thereof. To enhance people's wellbeing is the ultimate goal of exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. People's aspiration for a better life should always be what we strive for. Therefore we must work even harder to build bridges for

inter-civilisational exchanges and mutual learning by organising more events to bring people closer with stronger friendship and see to it that different peoples benefit from exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. We need to resolutely oppose all despicable actions that obstruct people-to-people exchanges, rig media discourse and stoke confrontations in the realm of public opinion. We must break all barriers that block the interconnection and integration of diverse civilisations and created a benign external environment to enhance the connectivity of civilisations for shared benefits.

We need to stay committed to promoting solidarity among diverse civilisations to overcome difficulties and champion the common values of humanity. All beautiful things have something in common. The common values of humanity for peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom serve the shared interest of people's around the world and conforms to the trend of the times for human development and progress. In the face of complex and daunting global challenges, no country or civilisation can stand aloof or deal with them alone. The COVID-19 pandemic is a case in point, showing that cooperation in solidarity is the only way to prevail over disasters. To champion the common values of humanity is the most effective way to pool consensus and build synergy of all countries to tackle challenges. Inspired by the common values of humanity, different civilisations need to draw upon each other's strength, tide over difficulties together, strive for common progress, so as to create universally accepted new forms of human civilisation.

We need to stay committed to pursuing common development of diverse civilisations in harmony with the aim of building a community with a shared future for mankind. To build a community with a shared future for mankind is not to replace one system or civilisation with another. Rather, it is about countries with different social systems, ideologies, cultures, histories and levels of development coming together

for shared interests, shared rights and responsibilities in global affairs, thus creating the greatest synergy for building a better world and promoting human progress in a holistic manner. We need to ensure that the common well-being of the entire humanity is made the vision and mission of different countries with different systems, and civilisations in their pursuit of development. We oppose the creation of exclusive blocks and “the new Cold War”, the practice of pursuing unilateral dominance, the strong bullying the weak, walking out of international organisations or decoupling. What we need is mutual respect, abandoning estrangement and enhanced solidarity in order to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world with a lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

In November last year, the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China convened its Sixth Plenary Session, which adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century. The Resolution pointed out that while pursuing happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the CPC has also contributed to human progress and world harmony. The Party has been cogitating on the future of humanity with a global vision, and has correctly understood and handled China’s relations with the rest of the world in the context of the general trend of human development, the grand scheme of things amid global changes, and the entire course of Chinese history. It champions opening up over isolation, pursues mutual benefit instead of zero-sum games, and stands up for fairness and justice. This has enabled the Party to stand on the right side of history and the side of human progress. The CPC has taken in the fruits of all civilisations created by mankind

with an open mind. It has been moving the wheels of history towards a bright future together with the peoples around the world, thus constituting a pivotal force driving the progress of human civilisation. We will continue to hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win result, uphold the common values of humanity together with all peace-loving countries and peoples, advance and enrich the political civilisation of humanity, and build community with a shared future for mankind. China will always be a guardian of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of international order, and a provider of public goods as we make even greater contribution to human development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

The Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) was founded in 1981. Over the past four decades or more, CAFIU has grown from strength to strength along with the great course of China’s opening up and reform. We are a witness of the historical changes of relations between China and the rest of the world. Our practice of helping the world understand China and helping China understand the world has made us realise that the most solid foundation underpinning state-to-state relations is built through mutual learning among civilisations and the mighty force behind it derives from people-to-people bonds. CAFIU will continue to uphold the outlook on civilisation featuring equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness and remain committed to making the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations a high-level platform for civilisations to engage with each other, and for countries to share their brilliant stories, so that diverse civilisations enjoy common development and progress through dialogues.

I wish the Dialogue a complete success.

IDCPC Minister Song Tao Presiding over the Opening Ceremony



Video Address by Mr. Ben Chhin, Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

It's a great pleasure for me to join all the statesmen and delegates at the second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding. And I feel especially honoured to be invited to deliver a speech at the opening ceremony. Convened at the right time, this Dialogue provides an important platform for strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among all nations in the world as well as enhancing the understanding of cultures and civilisations of Asia and the world at large. Please allow me to take this opportunity to share my views on the theme of the Dialogue.

Asia might be the most noticeable place when we talk about diversity of civilisations. As flowers in various colours blooming in gardens, the Asian



civilisations are diversified and colourful and have rooted deeply in Asian societies for thousands of years. It's impossible to have justified understanding or an objective view of Asian societies without correct knowledge of Asian civilisations.

The recognition of diversity of civilisations serves as a key foundation for the peace and development of mankind. On the contrary, mankind will be pushed to the abyss of death and destruction if the diversity of civilisations is denied. There is no question of which one is better among civilisations. Each civilisation has its own history and characteristics. Strengthening exchanges and enhancing understanding not only play an important role in our mutual respect and understanding of the shared values of the entire mankind, but also serve as a solid foundation for regional and world peace, harmony as well as the progress and prosperity of human society. The long-term peacekeeping would be merely a myth if there was no dialogue or exchanges among civilisations or communication among countries. The process of regional integration in the context of globalization closely connects all countries, and no country can do all alone. The links between culture, civilisation and economy facilitate wider and closer integration of politics into all fields. This is an inescapable law.

The characteristics of civilisation are the same as those of democracy. Today's world sees rich and colourful civilisations as well as democracy in diversified forms. Democracy is not a customised product, nor does it have only one form or one standard. There are more than one way to achieve democracy, and there is no universal model for democracy. Each country has its own history, culture, customs, traditions and national realities. Each country should proceed from its own national reality and choose and develop the path of democracy that best suits itself. Democracy is the right of the people of all countries, not the patent of a few countries. People of any country should not and cannot be restricted from the right to explore and choose its democratic model. As the saying goes, you can't tell whether your shoes fit or not until you wear them. Whether a country is democratic or not, it is the people of this country that judge, instead of some others.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to talk about Cambodia-China relations. The friendship between Cambodia and China goes back to ancient times. The two countries have similar cultures and civilisations, and the history of friendly exchanges between us can be traced back to more than 1000 years ago. On the walls of Bayon temple in Angkor Wat of Cambodia

carved vivid scenes of the contacts between ancient Chinese businessmen and Cambodian people. Since the establishment of diplomatic relationship in 1958, Cambodia and China have always been good neighbours, good friends, good partners and good brothers. Both countries have been sparing no efforts to support and cooperate with each other.

As an ancient Chinese poem says, "Like the mountain range that stretches before you and me, let's share the same trials and hardships together." Similarly, the Cambodian people often say that we share the same fate because we live under the same roof, breathe the same air and drink the same water. As neighbours and close partners, and after years of precipitation and numerous tests, Cambodia and China have established an unbreakable "steel" friendship and both sides have always committed to maintaining it. The increasingly close people-to-people exchanges between the two countries have laid a solid foundation for the development of Cambodia-China friendly cooperation, which has been continuously deepened and consolidated in various fields over the past years.

The 24th Winter Olympic Games will be held in Beijing next month. Cambodia has always been committed to defending the Olympic spirit and resolutely opposes all kinds of words and deeds inconsistent with the Olympic spirit, including the so-called "diplomatic boycott". We will continue to oppose all actions that politicise the Olympic movement and sports. We believe that China will present a streamlined, safe and splendid Olympic event to the world. We sincerely wish the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics a complete success!

I'd like to conclude by sincerely wishing the second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations a complete success and fruitful results. I truly hope that through this Dialogue, peace and harmony in the region and the world at large will continue to be consolidated, human dignity and civilisation will gain more respect, the unity among all ethnic groups will continue to strengthen, and the people of all countries living on the earth will adhere to the principle of treating each other equally and treat the diversity of civilisations with an inclusive heart.

Video Address by Mr. Evo Morales, President of the Movement for Socialism of Bolivia, former President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Brothers and sisters, thank you very much!

First of all, I have the honor to send my most sincere greetings to Mr. Wang Qishan, Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and the people of China!

Bolivia and China are both ancient civilizations with a long history of multi-ethnic integration and development. Bolivia has 36 indigenous ethnic groups and China has 56 ethnic groups, so both countries are multi-ethnic. Multi-ethnicity is the unity of diversity, which is a solid foundation for us to meet various challenges, defend national sovereignty and safeguard the dignity of our people.

Like China, Bolivia is also promoting national change and striving to create more well-being for its people. The Bolivian Movement for Socialism and the Communist Party of China have forged a deep fraternal bond in their joint efforts to promote national



liberation and people's livelihood development. I would like to take this opportunity to pay my respects to the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government and to express my sincere gratitude for your generous support and selfless assistance to Bolivia in the fight against the New Coronavirus epidemic. Finally, on behalf of the Government and the people of Bolivia, I would like to extend my most sincere greetings and highest respect to the great Chinese people who are committed to promoting the unity and development of all peoples!

Thank you all!

Address by Mr. Jose L. R. Zapatero, former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain

It is a great honour for me to address this Dialogue on behalf of Spain. I wish to extend my greetings to Vice-President Wang Qishan and all guests present.

One agenda of this Dialogue is to promote peace and exchanges. We belong to the same earth. Although we come from different civilisations, no civilisation is superior to other civilisations. Nowadays, building an international political community is an important task and mission. Because we are in the same international community and are faced with common challenges and risks, we need to build an international political community for social progress and human development. We should ensure that this international political community is based on the aims of the Charter of the United Nations, which was founded after the two world wars in the 20th century with the purpose of promoting world peace as well as eliminating differences and inequalities among countries. We should continue to strengthen the international system centred on the United Nations. In this process, dialogue among civilisations and people-to-people exchanges can provide us with multiple paths. Countries should, through learning about other civilisations, promote mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation so as to ensure the achievement of sustainable development and the formation of the common memory of mankind through building the international political community. Efforts should also be made in facilitating poverty reduction and ensuring people's



life safety, health and development in all countries. To this end, we should promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations in the 21st century based on drawing lessons from the previous century.

The leaders of Spain and many other countries in the world, myself included, do not want to see the division of the world. Nor do we want to see the world fall into the abyss of the cold war again. We need peace, dialogue and cooperation. Every historic process requires the rebuilding of the international system. Tremendous changes have taken place in global situation, with the rise of Asia, China in particular, as the most significant one. Especially since the reform and opening up, China's development has profoundly changed the process of the world, which should be well understood by other countries. We should strive to promote regional integration, and we also need China's support in this process. Besides European

integration, we should facilitate regional integration and cooperation in America, Africa and Asia. We should also help to strengthen dialogues and mutual understanding among countries, enhance consensus on peace, cooperation, poverty reduction and climate change, so as to prevent wars from happening in the 21st century.

In this process, exchanges among civilisations can better promote cooperation and dialogue among countries, pooling strength to jointly fight against the pandemic, handle financial crisis, climate change and migration, and tackle enduring social problems such as poverty and injustice. It gratifies me to see that China has always advocated peace and multilateralism and has shown support for the integration of Latin America, Europe and other continents. All regions should work in solidarity to strengthen cooperation with China.

During my tenure as Prime Minister of Spain, I have always promoted unity and cooperation with

China based on mutual respect. I am grateful with China. Meanwhile, I wish to emphasize that in various multilateral dialogues, governments of all countries should always firmly support the concept of peace, promote social progress, safeguard women's rights and interests and protect vulnerable groups in cultural cooperation. I support initiatives to maintain world peace and the initiatives of the United Nations and other international organisations to promote exchanges and common progress among civilisations. We should promote full exchanges and integration among civilisations, so as to achieve world solidarity on the basis of respecting the diversity of civilisations. As a fact, the similarities among Asia, Latin America, Africa and Oceania are beyond our imagination, and there are many similarities in their respective histories. We should be good at discovering these similarities and seek common ground while reserving differences.

Video Speech by Mr. Stephon Marbury, Head Coach of CBA's Beijing Royal Fighters

Excellency Vice-Chairperson Ji Bingxuan,

Excellency Minister Song Tao,

Distinguished delegates,

Good Afternoon!

It's a great pleasure for me to join all of you, and moreover, I feel much honored for the title "a messenger of civilization".

As a messenger, I'm supposed to deliver a message. I've been in China for years engaging in sports, with what I'd like to start with. In July 2021, the Session of the International Olympic Committee approved a change in the Olympic motto that recognizes the unifying power of sports and the importance of solidarity. The change adds the word "together" after an en dash to "Faster, Higher, Stronger". The new Olympic motto now reads: "Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together".

I fully agree to IOC President Bach's explanation about the link between the change and the original motto: "Solidarity is required more than ever for mankind to win the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic, and moreover, to deal with the many challenges we face today. In today's world, people need to rely on each other, since individuals alone can no longer handle these challenges." "We can only go faster, we can only aim higher, and we can only become stronger by standing together— in solidarity."

I've been in China for over ten years, working closely with my teammates and my colleagues, and enjoying life together with my friends and basketball fans. I enjoy staying together with ordinary people here in China and sharing the fruit of the mutual integration of the Chinese and American cultures. Over the past decade, I have been affectionately



called "Ma Zheng- Wei" in Chinese by many people, which means "Political Commissar Marbury". It is my deep understanding that solidarity not only serves as the basis for a team to make achievements and progress, but also ensures the happiness and self-fulfillment of individuals.

The theme of this Dialogue, namely "upholding diversity of civilisations and carrying forward shared values of mankind", calls on people of different races, nationalities and cultural backgrounds all over the world to stand in solidarity and jointly pursue a better future. That well interprets the Olympic spirit.

The upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics choose "Together for a Shared Future" as the slogan, which perfectly echoes the new Olympic motto and conforms to the core values and vision of the Olympic movement. It is a further interpretation of "Together". I believe that "Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together" will be better displayed at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics. I'm sure Mme. Shen Xue has got a deeper insight and experience about that.

Thank you!

Speech by Mme. Shen Xue, President of the Chinese Figure Skating Association, Olympic Champion of Figure Skating

Your Excellency Vice-Chairman Ji Bingxuan,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

Good afternoon!

I'm Shen Xue, President of the Chinese Figure Skating Association. It is so delighted for me to be invited to this Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations. The topic of my speech is: "Let sports and the spirit of sports burst out a strong force in carrying forward the shared values of mankind."

General Secretary Xi Jinping once pointed out that, "The Chinese nation has always adhered to the concept of 'being kind to each other'". As a responsible major country, China upholds the shared values of mankind, namely peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom. We adhere to the global governance concept of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and unswervingly follow the path of peaceful, open, cooperative and common development.

Diversity is the basic feature of the world and the charm of human civilisations. Sports culture plays an important role in the development of human civilisations. It is a specialized scientific field gradually established and developed with the development of human society. Sports not only serve as a key link to achieve "all-round human



development", but also perform an important function in social, political, economic and cultural exchanges in human society. Having been constantly nurtured in the human civilisations, the sports culture featuring perseverance and fighting spirit has become the major inner driving force for mankind to become the master of the globe.

As a major landmark activity at an important time in Chinese history, the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 is an important opportunity to display the national image, promote national development and inspire the national spirit. The concept of hosting Beijing 2022 in a green, sharing, open and corruption-free manner is the concrete embodiment of the new development philosophy in the preparation work and has run through the whole process of the preparation for Beijing 2022. In the seven years since the bid for the Olympic Games, we have steadily and efficiently

pushed forward the preparation work:

The coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei is transforming rural and mountainous areas into all-season tourist destinations. Many local residents in Chongli and Zhangjiakou are now involved in the ice and snow tourism industry. About 94% of the ecological restoration project in Yanqing competition zone has been completed. Chongli is becoming a highly popular ski resort.

Bidding for the Winter Olympics has effectively boosted economic recovery. There are seven large-scale ski resorts boasting 169 tracks in Chongli nowadays in contrast to four ski resorts before the bidding. Chongli achieved a tourism income of 2.05 billion yuan in the 2018-2019 snow season. The industrial transformation and upgrading has significantly benefited the local people.

The construction of the stadiums has reached the world advanced level. A new type of carbon dioxide refrigerant was adopted for the National Speed Skating Oval, bringing down the carbon emission to almost zero, which is unprecedented in the history of both China and the Winter Olympics. The Terrain Weather Protection System designed for the National Sliding Centre allows the utmost minimisation of energy consumption. In the Genting Snow Park located in Zhangjiakou, the melted snow water is recycled and stored for snow making in the next year.

The role of ground transportation played in economic and social development has been effectively strengthened. The high-speed railway linking Beijing and Zhangjiakou, the Beijing-Chongli Expressway and other intercity transportation networks not only serve the Winter Olympics, but also contribute to the forming of a “one-hour life circle”, which are of significant help to the high-quality development of regional economy.

The Ice and Snow Sports+ model will bring along the joint development of ecology, tourism, sports games, culture, education, science and technology. Take the Yanqing Park at Zhongguancun as an example. There are more than 100 sports-related enterprises in the park, which has not only increased job opportunities, but also helped with economic restoration.

People engaged in ice and snow sports have increased significantly. During the past seven years, more than 300 million people have participated in ice and snow sports and the population continues to show a spiral upward trend. After Beijing 2022, the venues and supporting facilities in the three competition zones will be open to the society, and will score more achievements in the future.

During his inspection in Beijing, IOC President Bach said that Beijing was doing an excellent job relying on comprehensive and meticulous planning. He praised China's speed and efficiency.

Sports have different functions in different historical stages of the development of human society. At present, with the help of Beijing 2022, we will strive to realise the integration of world sports culture and the development of civilisations. Meanwhile, we will always continue to work with all peace-loving countries and people to carry forward the shared values of mankind and, with a broad mind and practical measures, concretely and realistically reflect the shared values of mankind in the interests and well-being of the people.

Let's build our dream together and work for the grand event. Let's walk together for a shared future under the guidance of the Olympic spirit! I wish this Dialogue a complete success. Thank you all.

Comments by Mr. Lv Jianzhong, Vice-President of CAFIU, Chairman of the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce

I feel very glad to meet you all online. Just now, two renowned athletes shared their thoughts on sportsmanship and human civilisation. Although engaged in different sports, they have shared understanding of sportsmanship. Although coming from two different countries of China and the United States, they have shared understanding of human civilisation and progress. Although brought up in different cultures, they have shared pursuit of values.

Whether it is competitive sports, relations between major countries or mutual learning among civilisations, our consensus will always outweigh differences so long as we share the same starting point for a better future.

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will open on February 4. I believe that under the inspiration of the sportsmanship of fairness, justice, unity and striving, the Beijing Winter Olympic Games will inject stronger impetus into the joint efforts of all countries to help each other and progress into a better future. Continuously enhancing understanding and cooperation through communication and dialogue is needed for maintaining good relationship between two major countries. Fifty years ago, China and



the United States, by seeking common ground while reserving differences, started the process of normalisation of bilateral relations with “ping-pong diplomacy”. Today, we have two renowned athletes from China and the United States who had in-depth exchanges and discussions about the future, which fully demonstrates that different countries and civilisations can communicate and coexist with each other. I believe that the dialogue between the two messengers of civilisation will definitely provide helpful food for thoughts aiming at facilitating countries and civilisations to resolve differences and work together for progress. I think this is also our common wish as we meet here today.

Thank you all.

Poem Recitation in Chinese and Japanese



Comments by Mme. Yu Dan, Vice-President of CAFIU, Director of Beijing Institute of Culture Innovation and Communication of Beijing Normal University



I believe everyone has got his or her own impression and feeling about the poem recitation in Chinese and Japanese after watching the wonderful video. I'd like to take this opportunity to share my impression.

The special session of China-Japan Poetry Exchange Conference during the Li Bai Poetry Festival held in Ma'an Shan serves as a vivid demonstration of inheriting the good historical tradition of cultural exchanges between China and Japan. The two countries have maintained friendly exchanges for over 2000 years. Both Li Bai and Abeno Nakamaro mentioned in the video clip are representative figures in the history of the cultural exchanges between China and Japan. The great poet of Chinese Tang Dynasty Li Bai was known as the "fairy poet". Abeno Nakamaro came to China as a Japanese student and stayed for 50 years during the same Dynasty. As lovers of poetry, the two became close friends. With the significant contribution made by Abeno and other Japanese students in China in promoting the cultural exchanges between China and Japan, Japan has absorbed a lot of Chinese elements in its politics, culture, economy and other fields.

Since the modern times, the cultural exchanges between China and Japan, mainly carried out by the

Chinese students studying in Japan have had great impact on China. A good example is that over a century ago, a large number of Chinese vanguards including Li Dazhao, Chen Duxiu, Zhou Enlai and Chen Wangdao went to Japan to study. They were enlightened by the Marxist thoughts in Japan and later brought it back and worked to develop it in China. The earliest full Chinese version of Communist Manifesto was translated by Chen Wangdao according to the Japanese version and with the English version as reference.

The history of China-Japan cultural exchanges shows that strengthening cultural exchanges and mutual learning while abandoning discrimination, confrontation and bullying is a sound strategy to enhance friendship between countries and promote shared development and prosperity. The human society is now at the crossroad of development, facing with both opportunities and challenges unprecedented. We should be actively engaged in exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, vigorously promote the shared values of mankind, so as to provide moral impetus for solving various global problems facing mankind as well as lay a moral foundation for world peace and development.



The Importance of Optimal Harmony

Source:China Today

Author:staff reporter ZHANG HUI

"Our civilizations are a living social, political, and cultural ecology. Civilizations are one and many at the same time, thus forming a win-win or lose-lose

model of development," Roger T. Ames, renowned American sinologist and Humanities Chair professor at Peking University, observed on January 10 at the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations.



Song Tao, minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, presides over the opening ceremony of the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations. Photo courtesy of IDCPC

Held less than one month before the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, the dialogue among civilizations, themed, “upholding diversity of civilizations and carrying forward shared values of mankind,” was hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) under the auspices of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) in Beijing. The dialogue drew the online and offline participation of around 260 attendees from home and abroad.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has emphasized on multiple occasions the need to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations in order to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Xi, moreover, confirmed at the celebration event marking the CPC’s centennial on July 1, 2021 that the Party would continue to promote the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom.

In his video speech at the Dialogue opening ceremony Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan held that promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations is a major task to achieve world peace and development, as well as a better life for the people. “We need to deepen the understanding of our own and other civilizations, find the key to inter-civilization exchanges from the perspective of all mankind, gain confidence from history, culture and philosophy, and build consensus on building a community with a shared future for humanity,” Vice President Wang said.

Solidarity, Essence of the Olympic Spirit

Sinologist Roger T. Ames believes that the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics will be an excellent platform for cultural exchanges. “I think that sports are a good way to promote education of young people from different cultures,” he told China Today. That could surely strengthen mutual understanding among civilizations, he indicated.



Renowned sinologist Roger T. Ames in an interview with China Today. Photos by Zhang Hui

The International Olympic Committee session held in July 2021 approved a change in the Olympic motto which recognizes the unifying power of sport and the importance of solidarity by adding the word “together” after an en dash to “Faster, Higher, Stronger.” Thus, the new Olympic motto reads: “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together.”

“Solidarity fuels our mission to make the world a better place through sport. We can only go faster, we can only aim higher, we can only become stronger by standing together — in solidarity,” IOC President Thomas Bach said.

American basketball player Stephon Marbury, head coach of the CBA Beijing Royal Fighters, who has lived in China for over ten years, was named the event’s “messenger of civilization.” He expressed keen endorsement of the change, saying, “I fully agree with IOC President Bach’s explanation about the link between the change and the original motto.”

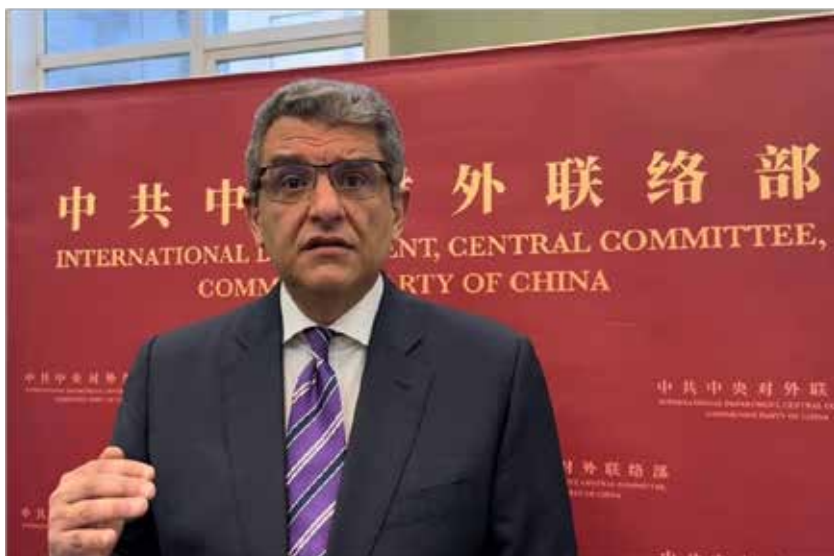
Affectionately called “Ma Zhengwei,” which means “Political Commissar Marbury,” by his teammates and colleagues, Marbury enjoys being around everyday people in China and, in his words, “sharing

the fruit of the mutual integration of the Chinese and American cultures.”

“It is my deep understanding that solidarity not only serves as the basis for a team to make achievements and progress, but also ensures the happiness and self-fulfillment of individuals,” he said.

Marbury also commended the slogan “Together for a Shared Future” of the upcoming Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. “It perfectly echoes the new Olympic motto and conforms to the core values and vision of the Olympic movement. It is a further interpretation of ‘Together.’”

Egyptian Ambassador to China Mohamed Elbadri praised China’s punctilious, well-organized preparations for the Winter Olympics, despite the still-raging COVID-19 pandemic. “The great idea of the Olympics was to bring all Greek city states together to share their greatness through competition, and so unify. I think the same Olympic concept of upholding solidarity with sports and through sports, with different peoples, and different athletes, still stands,” Elbadri told China Today.



Egyptian Ambassador to China Mohamed Elbadri answers China Today’s question in a media interview.

“I think China's approach of holding the Olympics under such challenging circumstances really stands testament to the benevolence of the values of the Chinese system of government, and to the competence of that government at the national, provincial, municipal, and even neighborhood level, in actualizing these values in ways that enable the holding of the Olympics,” Andrew Tien-on Mok, faculty member of Beijing Foreign Studies University, said in a media interview on the sidelines of the Dialogue.

Wang Huiyao, founder and president of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), spoke of the open, friendly and inclusive image China is projecting to the world as host country of the 2022 Winter Games — an indisputably important event for exchanges among civilizations.

Tracing the Cultural Roots of Chinese Proposals

As the 2022 Olympic Winter Games draws near, Beijing will become the world's sole city ever to host both a Summer and Winter Olympics, which is, however, no surprise to Andrew Mok. “If we look at it from a broader historical perspective, over the course of hundreds, even thousands of years, China has occupied a prime place — economically, culturally and spiritually — as one of mankind's

great, enduring civilizations. So to me it's no surprise that Beijing, as capital of China, should host two Olympics, and possibly even more in the future,” Mok said.

Mok emphasized the role of “benevolence,” the traditional Chinese cultural value, in the country's effective governance, for example, in containing COVID-19 and preparing for the Olympics. “Chinese culture, due to its traditional elements, is most concerned about benevolence and responsibility. This constitutes the duty of leaders to those they lead,” Mok told China Today.

Roger T. Ames highlighted the Confucian idea of “optimal harmony,” which underpins such Chinese proposals and concepts as building a community of a shared future for mankind. “I don't think there's any alternative to that concept. There's only one concept that we can have, and that's a shared future for humanity,” Ames told China Today.

“Striving for such optimal harmony is not a matter of necessity, but rather an attempt to make the most of creative possibilities in any situation,” Ames said at the Dialogue. To better understand the Confucian way of thinking, he stressed the need to respect the postulate, “the inseparability of one and many.”



The Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations is held on January 10, 2022 in Beijing.

“This Confucian understanding of achieved ‘harmony’ is not simply the mutual accommodation of difference that would attenuate dissonance. More importantly, it refers to the creative and productive consequences of coordinating such differences to optimum, superlative effect,” Ames said.

“When we bring this understanding of ‘harmony’ as an optimizing symbiosis, to exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, the mission becomes clear,” Ames said. He added, “If your neighbor does better, you do better. The mutual understanding and accommodation we can achieve is the ultimate source of a shared flourishing.”

Ames also laid emphasis on the family’s importance to Chinese society and to the Confucian cultural tradition. “Such an emphasis on family relations is because it is the single social institution to which persons will give everything they have. Family feeling is perhaps the minimalist morality that can bring solidarity to humankind as a species,” he said.

Civilizations Flourish through Mutual Learning

Fully embodying the traditional Chinese cultural idea of “optimizing symbiosis,” Chinese President Xi Jinping observed on May 15, 2019, at the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, “A civilization can flourish only through exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations.”

Echoing President Xi’s point, Martin Shulz, former

Speaker of the European Parliament and President of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES, Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany), reviewed the human history of mutual learning and exchanges among different civilizations in Europe and other parts of the world, and observed, “The advancement of cultural features – or the progress of civilization – was the result of exchanges.” He concluded, “All kinds of actual civilizations have benefitted from exchange and mutual learning.”

President Xi once emphasized that people are the best bridge among civilizations for exchanges and mutual learning. More frequent people-to-people exchanges and mutual learning are, indeed, a sure way of eliminating estrangement and misunderstanding among nations and promoting mutual understanding.

The American attendee of the Dialogue, Andrew Tien-on Mok, believes that cultural and people-to-people exchanges are vitally important to fostering a healthier U.S.-China relationship. “Many people in the United States still rely on Western media for their understanding of China, which can lead not only to misunderstanding, but also potential conflict, which is completely unwarranted,” Mok said. “I think a truer understanding among more Americans of China would influence the political leadership and lead to a healthier relationship between the U.S. and China,” he told China Today.



Attendees join the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations both online and offline. Photo courtesy of IDPCPC

Goran Durdevic, a Croatian-born archaeologist and now lecturer at Beijing Foreign Studies University, expressed to China Today his amazement at how civilizations have connected with each other. Durdevic ascribes the rise of cultural exchanges between China and Croatia to the favorable policies and sound environment the two governments have nurtured. “We have many sportsmen moving between the two countries. Chinese sportsmen come to Croatia and Croatian athletes to China,” he said. Durdevic made particular mention of the Chinese art and archaeology exhibitions frequently staged in Croatia that are drawing ever-larger audiences there. He believes that such exchanges help peoples of the two countries to know each other better and also boost the two countries’ development.

President Xi once noted that civilizations do not have to clash with each other, and all that’s needed is to see and appreciate with one’s own eyes the beauty of civilizations. Egyptian Ambassador to China Mohamed Elbadri fully espouses Xi’s view, “President Xi is right. There is no clash of civilizations. And I can tell you that this is a historically proven statement. History never recorded a clash between two civilizations, but rather clashes between different interests.” The ambassador went on to emphasize the necessity to “inculcate our young generations and make sure that our societies and peoples know that diversity is a virtue, difference

is an asset, cultures are a human legacy, and civilizations are a reflection of humanity.”

Elbadri observed that these important concepts have been agreed upon and incorporated into some international treaties. Putting them into practice is what’s important now. Today, neither peoples nor states can act like cultural pariahs living in seclusion, as mirrored in the flawed vision of cultural superiority that attempts to unify the world according to its own cultural models, Elbadri observed.



Founded in 1981, Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) is composed of prestigious people in different circles, social activists and scholars. It is committed to enhancing mutual understanding and friendly cooperation between China and other countries, promoting exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, safeguarding world peace, promoting common development, and contributing to the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

Plenary Session

Topic I

Peace and Development: Foundation of Human Survival and Guarantee of Cultural Continuity



**Presided over by Mr. Liu Hongcai,
Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
of CPPCC National Committee, former Vice-Minister of
IDCPC and Vice-President of CAFIU**

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Good afternoon!

Peace and development as the themes of today's world are not only the foundation of human survival and development, but also the guarantee of the continuation of civilisations.

The sunshine of peace, development and progress is powerful enough to drive away the haze of backwardness, poverty and war. The continuous vitality of human civilisation is only achievable in peace and development. Similarly, the progress of civilisation has also provided an important driving force for world peace and development.

Peace and development are the common pursuit of individuals, nations and countries. I believe that all friends attending this Dialogue are ready to serve as



advocators and promoters of peace and development. China will always be dedicated to maintaining the world peace, contributing to global development and safeguarding the international order.

Now, I'll give the floor to our four guests and let's listen to their views on the topic.

Speech by Mme. Irina Bokova, former Director-General of UNESCO



Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Allow me first and foremost to express my gratitude to the Chinese Association for International Understanding and the Chinese National Commission to UNESCO for the kind invitation to address the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations.

The topic of this conference resonates deeply with my experience as Director General of UNESCO. The world is undergoing today major changes. Human development has many severe challenges containing the economic and social development such as a global pandemic, rising inequalities among countries and within societies, climate change acceleration, and the challenges of achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Against this background, the theme of the annual

meeting, Upholding Diversity of Civilizations and Carrying Forward Shared Values of Mankind is more than relevant.

I remember vividly President Xi Jinping's visit to UNESCO in March 2014 and his landmark speech, affirming that we live in the world with different cultures, ethnic groups, skin colors, religions, and social systems. And the people of various countries have become members of an intimate community with a shared future.

President Xi spoke powerfully and persuasively about the growing interdependence of our world that has transformed into everyday reality. In his words, spending thousands of miles of years, the ancient Silk Road routes embodied the spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit. We should foster a new type of international relations featuring win-

win cooperation. And we should forge relations that choose dialogue over confrontation, and partnership over alliance.

Thus, UNESCO became the first UN agency where President Xi outlined his Belt and Road Initiative. It resonates deeply with the concept of the Silk Road that UNESCO started already in 1978 as a major force for exchange of ideas, innovation, promoting dialogue between cultures that connected the world.

Over millennia, the wondrous story of the Silk Road has been one of encounters between peoples, cultures, religions, and knowledge. These encounters has shaped civilizations over the ages, catalyzing inventions, fertilizing intellectual scholarship. They gave birth to literary and scientific treasures, to traditions and artistic practices that has been passed across generations.

President Xi's words about the Covid-19 pandemic were even more relevant. We have seen that the virus does not know geographical or political borders, political systems, or ethnic and religious divides. It hits everywhere and everyone. The threat is global and needs global response.

In humanity's recent history, there has never been a moment when global action and coordination

are vital for lives of people, for peace and for the development. Our time indeed requires exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, seeking common ground, while shelving differences, strengthening international cooperation and multilateralism, and jointly responding to the common challenges faced by our human family.

One of the important lessons indeed is that the world needs more multilateralism and not less. And to come back to the topic of this dialogue again, it is because of the importance of this moment today when the world is confronting this common challenge that the words of the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres are so relevant. He said, "The pandemic unleashed a tsunami of hate, speech, xenophobia, and mistrust. We need, indeed, to foster, again, the spirit of intercultural dialogue, of constant exchange, of peace and mutual respect and tolerance. We need to revisit the history of the Silk Road with its exchange, enrichment, respect that gave rise to the values of community sharing, a community of shared prosperity.

I sincerely wish a lot of success to this Dialogue. And I'm very much looking forward to its recommendations.

Thank you for your attention.

Speech by Mr. Jiang Bo, Vice-President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites

Dear guests,

I'm Jiang Bo from Shandong University.

The Maritime Silk Road serves as a link between the Eastern and Western civilisations as well as a window for ancient Eastern and Western people to observe and evaluate each other. The beginning of the 15th century witnessed the opening of the route from ancient China to the Indian Ocean through Southeast Asia, which is a very precious historic relic nowadays. Those traded along the Maritime Silk Road in old times were mainly silk, porcelain and tea. Chinese blue and white porcelain appeared in the paintings of a famous Dutch artist in 1669, while exquisite Chinese porcelain were used for decoration in the Portuguese Palaces.

Let's take a look at the tea trade along the Maritime Silk Road. Tea drinking were already very popular in China during the Tang and Song dynasties.



The tea leaves sold to Europe in 1745 were found in underwater archaeology. The popularity of tea drinking in Europe is also an embodiment of exchanges among civilisations and integration of cultures. Today, archaeologists from China and the countries along the Maritime Silk Road are working together to explore and search for ancient monuments of cultural exchanges between the East and the West.

Thank you.

Speech by Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, President of Amman TAG-Confucius Institute, Jordan

The Global Development Initiative, (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, will help countries around the world to shore up robust, green and more balanced growth amid unprecedented challenges to human existence.

Xi named eight priority areas for the global community to step up cooperation-poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity.

Our objective should be providing international development assistance with no strings attached.

And we should aim to build a global community of development with a shared future toward the common pursuit of happiness for all.

Multilateralism is the key to solving global risks and challenges such as the pandemic and climate change, which cannot be solved by individual countries but require collective action.

TAGGLOBAL is proud of our partnership with Confucius Since 2008.

We are infinitely proud that we received the Chinese Award for the Sino-Arab relations in 2016.

Peace should be based on justice.



Such peace is the foundation for: cultural and human continuity.

Let us jointly work in support of Xi's GDI to achieve its eight goals:

- (1) Poverty alleviation
- (2) Food security
- (3) COVID-19 response and vaccines
- (4) Development financing
- (5) Climate change
- (6) Green development,
- (7) Industrialization,
- (8) Digital economy & Connectivity

Thank you.

Speech by Mr. Roger T. Ames, Peking University Chair Professor of Humanities

It is my great honor to be invited once again to this timely and important dialogue.

This dialogue takes as its mission the promotion of mutual understanding among those cultures that together make up the rich and diverse civilizations of humankind.

What I would like to focus upon in my brief remarks is to try clarify the underlying value that animates this mission.

The theme of the dialogue that brings us together today is "Upholding the Ideal of Civilizational Pluralism in Promoting the Shared Values of All Humankind."

Sometimes important meaning is lost when we move among our different natural languages.

A good example is when we conventionally translate the term 和 in the subtheme, "peace and development," into English as "harmony."

But does "harmony" as it is understood in modern English do justice to the traditional Confucian understanding of this term?

The term harmony derives from the Greek *harmonia*, meaning "joint, agreement, concord," from the verb *harmozō*, "to fit together, joined."

Harmony has a strong sense of ratio: the proper mathematical calibrations as they are expressed in music.

Harmony thus understood reflects a worldview that like mathematics assumes rational necessity, a single-ordered world.

By contrast, the Confucian idea of an achieved "optimal harmony" within its own process cosmology is an open-ended and emergent aesthetic achievement, ratio and oratio.

The striving for such optimal harmony is not a matter



of necessity, but rather an attempt to make the most out of the creative possibilities in any situation.

For me, this Confucian understanding of 和 brings to mind two of my earliest teachers, Tang Junyi and Lao Siguang.

Mr. Tang (Laoshi) insisted that in understanding the Confucian way of thinking we must respect the postulate of "the inseparability of one and many."

And Mr. Lao (Laoshi) would always say to me: Roger, we do not want to talk about "Chinese philosophy;" we want to talk about "Chinese philosophy within its context of world philosophy," also "the inseparability of one and many."

This "optimizing symbiosis" uses the historical past as its resource for analogy and projection, and draws upon human resolve and imagination to forge an always new way forward.

Our human capacity for design, purpose, and direction assumed in this Confucian sense of harmony gives humankind a prominent role in the shaping of an always evolving cosmic order.

This Confucian understanding of achieved "harmony" is not simply the mutual accommodation of difference that would attenuate dissonance.

More importantly, it refers to the creative and productive consequences of coordinating such differences to optimum, superlative effect. Harmony so conceived is the search for a human and cosmic contrapuntal “musicality.”

The etymology of the standard character is culinary, combining the graphs for “grain” (he 禾) and “mouth” (kou 口).

Throughout the early corpus, the preparation of food is appealed to as a gloss on this sense of elegant, integrative harmony.

Harmony entails the art of combining and blending two or more foodstuffs so that they mutually enhance one another without losing their distinctive flavors.

The structure of the earlier, more complex Chinese character for “optimizing harmony” (he 和) found on the oracle bones and on the bronzes is composed of a 龠 flute constructed out of reed pipes, with “grain” (he 禾) as the phonetic element.

This alludes to the playing of music as one metaphorical way of understanding this highly aesthetic sense of harmony.

He 和 as an optimizing symbiosis is a value found everywhere in the culture.

Family is the governing metaphor of the Confucian cultural tradition: country, everybody, humanity.

Xiao 孝 as family reverence is its prime moral imperative.

Such an emphasis on family relations is because this is the one social institution to which persons will give everything they have.

Family feeling is perhaps the minimalist morality that can bring solidarity to humankind as a species.

Master You said: “An optimizing harmony is the most valuable function of achieving propriety in our roles and relations.

In the ways of the Former Kings, this optimization of harmony by achieving such propriety made them refined, and was a guiding standard in all things large and small.

But when things are not going well, to pursue

harmony just for its own sake without regulating the situation through achieving propriety in family and community relations will not work.”

The menu in a European restaurant is usually only two pages: appetizers, main dishes, soup and salad, with drinks on the back.

The menu in this Chongqing Chinese restaurant is a thick book.

By combining foodstuff in terms of taste, color, season, texture, and even sound, the goal is to get the most out of the ingredients.

And next door in the Cantonese restaurant they have their own very different book. He 和 as an optimizing symbiosis is a value found everywhere in the culture.

Then in the term hehe 和 合 also translated as “harmony” there is the second character he 合. The character he 合 is often translated as “to join” or “to combine” two or more things together.

But in a Confucian ecological cosmology that begins from the primacy of relationality, relations rather than things are first order.

Philosophical claims such as “the inseparability of humankind and the cosmos” or “the inseparability of knowing and doing,” is not putting two separate things together.

Rather, it is trying to find the greatest depth in, and get the most out of, the “human-cosmos” and “knowing-doing” relationship itself.

When we bring this understanding of “harmony” as an optimizing symbiosis to the exchanges and mutual learning among civilization, the mission becomes clear.

Our civilizations are a living social, political, and cultural ecology.

Civilizations are one and many at the same time, and is thus a win-win or lose-lose model of development. If your neighbor does better, you do better.

The mutual understanding and accommodation we can achieve is the ultimate source of a shared flourishing.

Comments by Mr. Zhang Baijun, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang and Vice-President of CAFIU

I'm very glad to comment on our discussion around the topic of peace and development. During the constructive dialogue, our speakers have reached significant consensus, which is quite enlightening to me.

Peace and development are the eternal expectations of the entire human society. Global challenges are increasing in today's world, and there is still a long way to go to achieve lasting peace and promoting common development. We should have an objective and accurate understanding of the severe situation we are facing, and take positive action to constantly promote our common cause of peace and development. Firstly, we should adhere to mutual respect. That means we should resolutely resist the logic of thinking and the way of doing things as someone superior to others. By showing respect to the right of other countries to choose their own development path, we should carry out communication and exchanges on an equal footing, enhance mutual trust, and move forward side by side to achieve "harmony among differences and coexistence of all beautiful things" of different human civilisations. Secondly, we need to stay together in times of trouble. We should seek peace and development through cooperation, and jointly deal with various risks and challenges, rather than "scapegoating", shifting blame, inciting division and confrontation, or even adding insult to injury of others. Thirdly, we should seek mutual benefit and win-win result. In September 2021, Chinese



President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative at the 76th UN General Assembly, providing a Chinese plan for facilitating stronger, greener and healthier global development. We should adhere to the concept of "benefiting all", and constantly expand the convergence of interests of all parties, so as to allow the development better benefit the people of all countries.

There's an old Chinese saying that "nothing is too heavy to be lifted with combined strength". Standing at a new historical starting point, let us uphold the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, carry forward the shared values of mankind, further enhance exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, work together to deal with various global issues, and make unremitting efforts to achieve sustainable world peace and development and build the earth into a better homeland for all.

Thank you!

Topic II

Fairness and Justice: Social Ideals for Humanity and Direction of Cultural Advancement



Presided over by Mr. Ai Ping, former Vice-Minister of IDCPC and Vice-President of CAFIU

Distinguished guests and delegates,

We now come to the second topic “fairness and justice: social ideals for humanity and direction of cultural advancement”.

Fairness and justice as the basic social value pursued by mankind are also important criterions of the development of human society as well as the progress of a civilisation. Fairness and justice in international relations mean to uphold the equality of different countries and the equal treatment of different civilisations in the final analysis. Our world today is in an era of agitation and coexistence of multiple civilisations. The attempt to control the entire world and different civilisations by a few countries or a single civilisation is the greatest unfairness and injustice, a distortion of human ideals and an obstruction to the progress of civilisations.

Fairness and justice are the basic guarantee for the exchanges among civilisations, the principle that must



be adhered to for exchanges among civilisations, and the goal that can only be reached with joint efforts of different civilisations. Let's enhance cooperation in promoting international fairness and justice, so as to contribute to the prosperity and development of human society and the common progress of mankind.

Now, let's listen to our guests for their sharing of thoughts.

Speech by Mr. Erik Solheim, former Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

Good afternoon, China, Ni Hao.

I'm so honored to be able to address the Second Dialogue on Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations.

Several years ago, President Xi Jinping quoted an old poem from Shandong province of China. It's 2500 years old and is very beautiful. It says we may be modest as country officials, but we are concerned with every leaf on every branch. That's the calling in different words of all major civilizations and all major value systems and religions of this world.

In European Christianity, Jesus Christ says you should do to others what you want others to do to you, and he also says that it's more difficult for the rich young man to get into Heaven than that is for a camel to pass through the needles' eye. In India, there is an old saying in the Vedas, the whole world is one family. So from all corners of the world, throughout history, people have demanded a just, fair, and compassionate society. And it's to our peril if we don't create that in the 21st century. What does this actually mean, a fair, just society? It means justice among nations, and it means fairness within nations.

The average American CEO of big companies are now making 350 times the salary of the workers of that company. No one will claim that's fair. In basically every society of the world, the 1 % richest are rich and wealthy to an extent far beyond



everyone else in that society. And it's dangerous because it brings power to very few people, and it also brings wealth to very few individuals. We need to change this and create fairer societies. There's a simple answer to fairness within nations, the three words, tax, tax and tax. You need to tax the rich and use the money to create a better society for everyone else. The taxes are never very popular. That's why it's so important to have a good, strong state as you have in China, as we have in Europe, who can provide health, education, and infrastructure so that people can see the benefits of the taxes.

In Norway, my country, we have for the last 100 years a very strong labor movement. The slogan of the labor movement was "You should do your duty, but you should demand your right." The right is so-called a fair society. What's interesting is that the challenges of creating a fair society are very similar

with that in China, in Asia, in Europe and the rest. So let's compare notes and exchange views until we can achieve this, so that we can create a fair global society. There was a breakthrough last year when there was a global agreement on corporate tax, so that we can get money from the very rich to provide to the rest of society. We also need to do more for those developing nations which are lagging behind. We need to invest more and provide more resources for these nations. The Belt and Road Initiative is an enormous opportunity to bring other nations along with the rapid development that has happened in China over the last 40 years.

Now, after the promise to stop all global Chinese coal investments, we also have the opportunity to get it right on the environment. Not just to pray for development, but also for green development through green hydrogen, solar energy and wind energy. I'm very concerned with the environment development. In the 21st century, we need to create an ecological civilization. And then a fair transition is also key to ecological civilization, because we need to create fairness globally and fairness nationally, and really speed up the speed to a green civilization.

In Glasgow, at the climate conference, some western NGOs and western media, with fingers pointing to China and indeed to India, saying you need to come along for the environment. But how can that be fair? American emissions per capita account for 25 times of Indian emissions per capita historically and 8 times Chinese emissions per capita historically.

So obviously, we need to work along the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We all need to act based on the local circumstances. And the good news is that China and also India are now leading the charge into the green revolution in this world. So it's creating a fairer society that on the basis of the right principles. And obviously, we need to create a fair transition within every society. Maybe it's easier for the person working in the solar or wind industry in California to see the benefits of the green revolution than those working in the coal mines of Kentucky or West Virginia. It's exactly the same in China. Those working in a coal mine in Shanxi or old industrial factories in Liaoning may not see the benefits in the same way as those working in the high-tech industries in Jiangsu or Guangdong provinces.

So you need to raise the awareness of workers, you need the regional schemes, you need firms, you need states to create environment fairness, then we can leap forward into the ecological civilization, which we may make in the 21st century.

What fascinating is that the biggest challenges of our time, ecological civilization, fair world, global peace, are best illuminated with these old slogans, which never get out of fashion. "The whole world is one family", as they say in India, or "We need to be concerned for the life of every leaf on every branch", as this wise man underlined 270 years ago in Shandong province.

Let's be concerned with every leaf on every branch.

Speech by Mr. Wang Huiyao, Director of the Centre for China and Globalisation, Counsellor of the State Council of China

Globalisation has encountered many obstacles in recent years. Trade protectionism, populism and other anti-globalisation trends are surging. The continued spread of COVID-19 has exacerbated the gap between countries and caused serious losses of life and property. The problem that the global governance lagging behind global practice becomes more prominent, and mankind is also facing a civilisation crisis. Mankind seems to have suffered another world war in the midst of the raging pandemic. We need to rebuild trust, restart the economy and reshape civilisations. We need to improve and rebuild the global governance mechanism in the post-pandemic era, and promote a more inclusive globalisation.

From the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games when China made a figure in the world, to the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games when China's trade with the world has reached a new high, China is becoming one of the main drivers of globalisation. We need to further think about in what way the rising China will impact the world. We can see that China is the biggest contributor to global poverty alleviation and the most powerful driver of global economic growth in the 21st century. However, China should not be the scapegoat for the aggravation of the polarisation between the rich and the poor of the United States and other developed countries. The advantages of China's history and culture, development logic, and system and mechanism are becoming prominent. China's whole-process democracy, merit-based democracy, consultative democracy, market democracy and scientific and technological democracy have strong adaptability and vitality. Moreover, under the major challenges facing the western democratic system, the values and national governance of Chinese and Western civilisations can learn from each other through enhancing exchanges among civilisations.



There are many misunderstandings, one-sided perceptions and stereotypes about China in western countries, which need to be changed. We Chinese also need to innovate our ways of narration and build new theory of narration, so that we will be able to do a better job in telling Chinese stories, publicising Chinese ideas and contributing Chinese solutions. As President Xi Jinping put it, we should “make efforts to build trustable, admirable and respectable Chinese image.”

The community with a shared future for mankind is China's vision and expectation for the future development of the world, which also includes China's values, concept of civilisation and vision of future development direction of human civilisation. It is the common anticipation of the majority of countries including China to promote the development of the world in a more open, inclusive, beneficial-to-all, balanced and win-win direction. Compared with the previous development model in which the gap among and within countries has been widening, this is a more fair and just future development direction of civilisation. As a proponent and practitioner of the initiative, China is also playing

a more important role as a promoter.

Of course, with the significant differences of peoples from different races and regions and with different languages and cultural backgrounds, building a community with a shared future for mankind cannot be achieved overnight. However, we can start with regional communities and the economic community with a shared future with more shared interests and easier to achieve. Over the past two years, China, as the first economy to achieve positive growth amid the COVID-19 pandemic, has made remarkable achievements in carrying out international cooperation against the pandemic and in deepening its opening to the outside world. China has provided 2 billion doses of vaccine to more than 100 countries around the world. In terms of regional economic communities, RCEP, the world's largest free trade agreement, was officially signed and entered into force on January 1 this year. Meanwhile, China's formal application to join CPTPP has become a new milestone in China's opening to the outside world. As the world second largest economy, against the backdrop of sluggish world economic development and complex and changeable international situation, China can and should undertake the responsibility in the international community to promote the sustainable development of our world by deepening opening-up and deeply participating in global governance and sharing development opportunities with the world.

The economic downturn amid the global pandemic needs the support of a strong global development plan. China's Belt and Road Initiative is of global significance of forward looking for promoting the leapfrog development of the developing countries. It is China's solution for participating in global governance in the new era, greatly facilitating the infrastructure development in developing countries. It's also an international public good provided by China for the improvement of global governance. China's Belt and Road Initiative as the first of its kind in the world has attracted the attention and imitation of the developed countries in Europe and America. Since last year, the United States and the EU have also launched infrastructure development plans.

The "Build Back Better World" (B3W) launched by the US and the "Global Gateway" declared by the EU have made infrastructure the largest consensus and common denominator of global development demands.

In the above context, we could push forward the multilateral and institutionalised development of the Belt and Road Initiative as well as its cooperation with B3W, the Global Gateway and other international plans. The AIIB initiated by China has been very successful and is one of the best practices of multilateralism in global infrastructure development. We can promote the AIIB and the BRICS New Development Bank headquartered in China to cooperate with international development banks such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to build a world alliance of development banks and update global infrastructure, so as to lay a solid foundation for greater prosperity and development of the world.

The intensified inequality is the deep-seated reason for the crisis of economic globalisation since the 1990s. Therefore, the new globalisation in the post-pandemic era must be more fair, just, inclusive and sustainable. As one of the major promoters of globalisation and a defender of the world multilateralism, China will deepen its exchanges with the world with a more inclusive and open attitude. The world is looking forward to the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, which is a grand event of international exchanges as well as exchanges among world civilisations. It is our anticipation that the 2022 Winter Olympic Games will bring a special surprise and impression to the world, just as the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. We hope that we will once again show the world our warmth, friendliness, openness and inclusiveness. Once again we will display China's new magnificence through exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. The new Olympic spirit featuring faster, higher, stronger and together will be fully demonstrated.

Speech by Mr. Stephen Perry, Chairman of the 48 group club in UK

The world has come a long way in 3000 years. It has transformed the living conditions of a growing percentage of the people of the world, but over 50pc still are exposed to poverty and poor conditions. And the world has tried to progress to be civilised, or more civilised, with mixed results.

The world has not followed a plan in these two endeavours. It has developed organically, responding to pressures and opportunities. In the last 40 years two novel features have occurred.

Firstly China has embarked on a planned approach to economic development and succeeded. Secondly, china has initiated discussions between civilisations to try to create a framework to enable the world to become more civilised.

At the same time the world has grown more integrated with people wanting the best and most suitable, and at prices they can afford. The world has suffered wars ad health and climate challenges like never before. And the economies have experienced new challenges which feel quite worrying.

So the conferences that china has attended and convened have given a new stimulus in the world to create a better agenda for prosperity to grow across the world. At the same time china through the words and ideas of president xi jinping have encouraged us to look at many of the old civilisations of the world and see what we can do to develop a new and more civilised world.

We know that mankind's strengths and weaknesses have identified the fears of the world, and the hopes that we can all live more safely, better , in more harmony with nature and to treat each other better, and to help those less fortunate than us.

China has convened this conference to help us know each other better and our different ways better. From that we can find ways to improve our civilisations



and live more aligned so we can overcome challenges and help the poor to prosper and all live a healthier and more stable and prosperous life.

Our part of that agenda, today, asks us to address justice and fairness. Our leading speakers have addressed this and my fellow panellists have also addressed this subject very well.

I would say just this.

If we are honest then we know what is just and fair, and we know that we must work hard to ensure the implementation is good. That those responsible for implementation are modest people who will always eat and drink reasonably and live modestly. The true leaders of good values and inspiring others are always modest people.

We must trust that this process is succesful in harmonising our civilisations to core values so that the economic prosperity we seek for the world is balanced by the other leg of a more civilised world.

I wish to thank the organisers of this almost unique world initiative for helping me think in a very new and original way. Like all societies we know ourselves as we grow older. By coming into contact with others who help us to see. Today's conference has been a great help for me

Thank you

Speech by Mr. Indrananda Abeysekera, Chairman of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation

Good Afternoon,

Honorable Ai Ping, Vice President of CAFIU,

Respected speakers and guests.

It is a great pleasure for me to speak in the second dialogue on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, today.

Fairness and Justice: Social Ideals for Humanity and Direction of Cultural Advancement.

As we talk about this theme, we are particularly drawn to China's significant attempt to introduce new dimensions to the world by integrating social justice and culture over a period of time.

China always show multitudinous path to the world to shift the direction of social ideals and cultural development towards a fruitful juncture.

I think it is because of neglecting these ideals and cultural values that some countries today avoiding seek the truth which important to the peace of the world and boycott the international events which brings harmony to the world.

As we know, Human development and cultural advancement have to shape with Social Ideals. It is, behind its gracious civilized exterior image and the most mandatory relationship for the harmonious survival of humankind.

China has often talked about moving towards cultural



progress through humanity and justice.

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and also the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China once said that the Party will continue to work with all peace-loving countries and peoples to promote the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom, and strive to keep the wheels of history rolling toward bright horizons.

What a great statement. How valuable is the statement of a world leader on human values, justice, peace, freedom and democracy for a new era? And this statement shows us a genuine responsibility of a leader towards state diplomacy and also a practical inspiration and encouragement to the world.

Through the example that China has always given us, good governance and public diplomacy have shown us the combination of peace and development and cultural dignity too. As we explore this, we see how

the Communist Party of China thinks about fairness and justice and social ideals for Humanity in its policies and concepts.

As we see, since ancient times, the Chinese civilization has constantly developed important and fruitful ways to the advancement of human civilization. They have gained very attractive intellectual achievements and gifted rich sources of nourishment for the world regarding how to utilize social values to push cultural advancement.

It provided great contribution to the advancement of human civilization and cultural glory.

Chinese people are always respected traditional culture. They always shared human values carry on concepts from traditional Chinese culture. It reflect how China embraces principle qualities like fairness, justice, harmony, benevolence, freedom as well as democracy.

China does not hide its great wisdom and successful actions, but presents them for the betterment of the world. Through it we see that China respects the human values of the world community and provides an important ways for nurturing world culture. Just as China needs the world the world need China too.

This makes it easy to walk towards shared future for mankind.

As a people to people friendship with China organization, the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation strongly believes, all of us has to share and expand our social values and cultural experiences among each other. We need to implement more and more exchanges among us to gain positive strength to learn among each other.

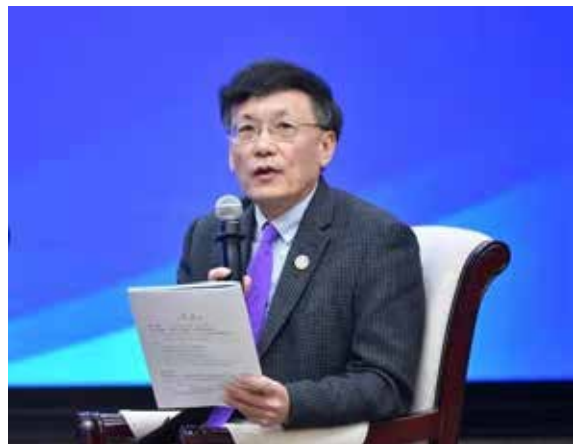
I would like to conclude my short speech with a quotation of Chinese president Xi Jinping. In 2017 January 18th at the United Nations Office at Geneva Chinese President Xi Jinping said, “Every civilization, with its own appeal and root, is a human treasure. Diverse civilizations should draw on each other to achieve common progress. We should make exchanges among civilizations a source of inspiration for advancing human society and a bond that keeps the world in peace.”

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Chinese Association for International Understanding for giving me an important opportunity to participate at the second dialogue on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Comments by Mr. Pan Qingzhong, Executive Dean and Professor, Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University

Thank you, Vice-President Ai and Vice-Minister Chen. Good afternoon, dear guests.

I would like to briefly sum up what our four speakers have elaborated into three words. The first one is “shared”. Fairness and justice are the foundation of shared morals of mankind as well as our shared responsibilities. For that reason, we should uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, which are commonly acknowledged and also the most extensively shared concept within the topic of fairness and justice. The second word is “challenge”. Our four speakers referred to the wide gap of income that is more than 150 times. They also referred to the gap between the rich and the poor, the social unrest in many places of the world and the imbalanced economic and trade development amid the pandemic. Mr. Perry talked about the challenge faced by fairness and justice that is always on the road. We need to work hard all the time, since that is a common challenge facing mankind. The third word is “future”. Our four speakers all talked about what we should do in the future. Mr. Solheim elaborated on medical education and infrastructure, while Mr. Wang Huiyao put forward that infrastructure is also a shared benefit for all whatever plan the US and



Europe put forward. In fact, the Belt and Road is also a solution for the benefit of the entire mankind. Mr. Abeysekera from Sri Lanka explained the Chinese solution in a very articulate way. He quoted President Xi Jinping’s speech for many times to demonstrate the benefit of shared development. He emphasized that, equally important as idea, implementation is a task faced by all of us. We all believe that basic values of human civilisation serves as the foundation of social development as well as the driving force for the progress of human civilisation. Mr. Wang also used the Olympic slogan of “faster, higher, stronger and together” to describe what we should do in the future. I want to add “civilised” based on fairness and justice as the common pursuit of mankind as mentioned by Mr. Perry.

Topic III

Democracy and Freedom: Political Civilisations Created by People and Political Systems Judged by People



Presided over by Mr. Gao Youdong, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-General of China Association for Promoting Democracy, Vice-President of CAFIU

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Good evening. It gives me great pleasure to preside over the Dialogue on the third topic “Democracy and Freedom: Political Civilisations Created by People and Political Systems Judged by People”. Over hundreds of years, people all over the world have carried out a series of practical explorations and created a glorious picture of human political civilisation. As the result of the development of human political civilisation, democracy and freedom are the shared value of mankind. Facts have proved that there are multitude of understandings of democracy and freedom, and there are multiple ways to realise democracy and freedom. Whether a country is democratic and free should be judged by its people. Today, we are gathered here to better explore the true meaning of democracy and freedom, so as to contribute our wisdom to the creation of the colourful human political civilisations and political systems.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

There is no best democracy, but only democracies to be improved. There is no boundary of human



exploration and practice of democracy. Based on its national realities, China has ensured that the Chinese people enjoy extensive rights and freedom according to law through implementing and developing the whole-process people’s democracy, and contributed Chinese wisdom to the enrichment and development of human political civilisation. In the face of the major changes and the pandemic both unseen in a century, we should uphold the principle of putting people at the centre, seek common ground while reserving differences, be open and inclusive, fully respect the democratic path chosen independently by the people of all countries, better promote the democratic development of all countries, better deliver happiness to the people, and jointly move towards a better tomorrow.

I now give the floor to our speakers.

Speech by Mr. Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the Sharaf Foundation for Sustainable Development

It's a great pleasure to be with you today. Let me first express my deep appreciation and thanks to the Chinese Association for International Understanding for this kind invitation. The title of my presentation today is "Thoughts on Building a Road to Human Common Values in International Relations". The ideas like peace, development, fairness, justice, freedom and democracy are all human common values that affect the international systems and international relations. However, some countries always emphasize the universality of their own values and try to transform other countries according to their own model. These countries have no respect to the development path that other countries have chosen independently, nor can they understand or accept the human common values. Political systems are rooted in culture. Culture has a great impact on international relations and international system. International relations are essentially cross-cultural relations. We should strive to achieve the harmonious coexistence of multiple civilisations and constantly improve the global governance system. Today's world suffers from a very serious trust deficit. Therefore, we should promote mutual trust through exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. When we look at the beautiful picture of human civilisations, we can find that they are composed of a lot of colours, a lot of elements and a lot of shapes. If this picture was drawn with only one colour, it would no longer be powerful and beautiful. It is in the same way that the existence of multiple civilisations makes the colourful world we live in.

No single country in this world is capable of dealing



with global challenges including Covid-19, climate change and financial crisis. We should strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and unite and converge the strength of human society through the link of civilisations. In as early as 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Since then, this important concept has been written into many important documents of the United Nations. We need to learn from each other and accept different civilisations, so as to jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. While promoting the harmonious coexistence of different civilisations, we should also attach importance to ecological civilisation by properly handling the relationship between human being and nature. The future world should be peaceful, just and sustainable in which man and nature coexist in harmony. In order to achieve the above goals, we must adhere to the concept of people-centred development, uphold multilateralism in real sense, promote global software and hardware connectivity, and advance globalisation in the direction of more fairness and justice. The future is in our hands. Let's work together for a better future.

Speech by Mr. Alexander Kallweit, Resident Representative for China, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES, Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany)

Let me, first of all, express my highest esteem for this meeting of leading intellectuals, both from China and abroad. I regard it as a privilege to contribute today to what is in fact a series of international conferences.

A thorough analysis of Chinese philosopher's contributions has been provided by eminent Chinese scholars. So, I hope that a brief look at European thinking on these issues may serve as a useful addition.

Given the narrow timeframe, I'll first undertake a journey with light-speed through eminent European philosopher's work on "democracy and freedom". Second, I'll make some remarks about actual challenges.

First stop: Plato and Aristotle. They lived about 150 years later than Confucius and can be considered to be the first European philosophers who have devoted comprehensive thought on the relation between people and the state. The main works of these two leaders of thought, influential for centuries and until today, differ widely, but both of them have influenced political theory for a long time after. The work of Plato, Πολιτεία (Politeia), describes a utopian "ideal state", which is ruled by an elite. The rulers are identified at an early age for showing superior talent, then selected, carefully educated and gradually entrusted with responsibility for public affairs. They are obliged to permanently study, so that they develop good criteria and can base their decisions for the public on best knowledge and a



sense of "love for wisdom" – the translation of the Greek word "philosophy". Therefore, this ruling elite is often dubbed as "philosopher-kings". No personal belongings, not even an own family, should distract them from their public duties. Plato's later work "Νόμοι" (Nomoi), is milder, and analytically more systematic. It analyses different models of statehood or constitutions, and it recommends the best constitution as something in between the system of a single ruler and a pure democracy, based on voting.

Aristotle, Plato's most famous student, goes even further in his systematic analysis of different systems of public ruling. In his Πολιτικά (Politiká), he eventually favors a system which is also based on the rule of a moral elite. Both thinkers, Plato and Aristotle, are skeptical of pure democracy although their hometown, Athens, is considered the nucleus of democracy in European history (albeit it excluded slaves and women from political participation). Both thinkers derive their ideas of an optimum constitution

as the one that best pursues basic moral principles: “justice” (Plato) or “wellbeing, prosperity” (Aristotle).

Second stop: Christianity. After Christianity became the dominant religion in the late Roman empire, it also dominated the relationship between People and State in Europa for a timespan of over 1000 years. People’s concept of the world was fundamentally religious. Human life on earth was seen as limited (opposed to eternity) and of minor importance, merely a test of a person’s virtue, the real meaning of existence laying far beyond our daily duties. This view is best expressed in Augustine’s “*de civitate dei*” (the City of God). Reflections on democracy and freedom have little meaning in this worldview, they are of no importance in a society that aspires at the paradise in a different world. Competition and rivalry between religious authorities and state powers were a constant feature in this period. People were subordinated to both powers, but were not seen as endowed with the right to pursue personal happiness or success. Personal freedom was limited; at best, one could find better conditions by migrating towards a rival state. European and Chinese concepts of the world have, most probably, never been more distant than during those 1000 years.

So, third stop, renaissance. The reappearance of political thought came exactly at a time, when this strictly religious concept of the world slowly faded away in Europa. Thomas Morus published his political view in the book “*Utopia*”, describing a perfect state without individual property, with public welfare to assist the poor, religious tolerance (although Morus himself was a devout Catholic and even died for his faith) and other features that made the book an inspiration even for 19th-century socialist thinkers. Thomas Hobbes also developed a concept of a community without any reference to religion. According to him, a state is necessary for the human wellbeing, because without it, competition

among free individuals would turn into such fierce general fighting, that people would have no security and thus no space to develop a decent life. So even from a starting-point of maximizing individual wellbeing, a state that limits individual rights is necessary. According to Hobbes, this state should not be just a minimum state, but well-endowed with strong powers, so strong that the author himself names it “*Leviathan*”, a biblical demon. It is a surprising conclusion: In order to give all persons of a community the best chance to develop their personal freedom, a state that limits individual space is in need, according to Hobbes.

I skip the fourth stop, Marxism, knowing that the knowledge about “state, democracy, and freedom” in this system is very well developed in this audience.

So, let me briefly reflect on the actual situation. When we revise the important work very briefly resumed here, it seems as if the leading European thinkers had been skeptical towards pure electoral democracy. That may be explained with two reasons.

First, they had made the experience that democracy was unstable at their times, always prone to be interrupted by powerful individuals (tyrants) or groups (oligarchs). So, they concentrated their ideas on a system of rules that could stabilize elite rule by ensuring broad acceptance in the public. Second, for political participation, both the access to information and the capacity of processing it into political decisions is needed. For this, knowledge and education are of paramount importance, but were not in place at a time when this literature evolved. Literacy for all and comprehensive schooling are features of modern times.

When the French Revolution and the Founding of the United States took place, general conditions had changed. A new model of democracy, based on general elections, slowly evolved. It was clear

that many individuals would base their decisions on limited knowledge or bad criteria – but on average these deviations might be tolerable because the big number of voters, every single one taking an individual choice, would mostly take sensible decisions, at least most of the time. Additionally, such public choice based on general voting offered strong legitimacy. It should be added that the system requires an intelligent design for the authorities with different and competing responsibilities, as Alexis de Tocqueville in his book “la démocratie en Amérique” (the democracy in America) had pointed out.

This system was widely successful in Western Europe and other parts of the world, replacing most other forms of political constitutions. Were Kings&Queens remained as heads of state, their political powers were reduced to formally representing their nations. At the beginning of the 90’ies, the model was so successful, that it seemed the “end of history” had come.

Today, new challenges have arisen. I’ll end my presentation, just touching two aspects, which I consider to be the main challenges.

First: information. Modern IT has brought - within a few years – a revolution regarding our access to information. Actually, it provides everyone, everywhere, at any time with all the information bits we can possibly demand. We are confronted with a new problem: how to reduce this ocean of information to the sources we can trust and the amount we can handle. So, we concentrate on sources we trust in, often based on shared views. “Information bubbles” evolve – exactly because of the unlimited quantity of information we have at reach.

Now, every citizen is trying to process this big quantity of daily information into judgements and decisions on many issues that former generations have left to specialists. In order to cope with this load

of responsibility, we tend to base a greater part of our decisions on the instinctive and emotional “fast system”, as analyzed in Daniel Kahnemann’s (Nobel-prize awarded) book “Thinking, fast and slow”. This tendency is the first challenge. It adds a big quantum of emotion and feeling to the rational choice. And it might increase the amount of biased judgement.

Second: 8 billion. This is the number of humankind on planet earth within short time from now. People leave rural areas, flock into urban environments. People gather more densely, will, after Covid, travel again. The world of 8 billion will be much more densely populated and much more interactive than any time before. This means that, of the goods we need, a smaller proportion will consist of individual goods and a bigger one of public and global public goods. Transport, energy supply, security, and health, are examples for public goods in increasing need. Guiding international migration, assisting developing countries, fighting climate change, and co-operating on international health issues are examples for global public goods that all individuals out of these 8 billion require increasingly. The basic problem with these goods is that individual rationality is not in line with collective rationality, the “externality problem”. So, the second challenge is how to internalize these collective requirements into a political process based on individual voting.

These are big challenges. Let me say that I am optimistic that they can be met. But the first step to do so is to accept their existence and second to develop strategies to cope with them. This is, in my opinion, the actual big task for Western democracies.

I hope these ideas provide reflection and debate. I once again express my appreciation and best wishes to this noble contest of ideas.

Speech by Mr. Zheng Ruolin, Research Fellow of China Institute of Fudan University, Senior Fellow of Taihe Institute

As we all know, it is the West who built and dominates the discourse system in today's world. I am a journalist. As a journalist, my understanding of this world is based on facts. Apart from the 20 years of schooling and growing when I was young, I spent over 20 years living and working in France and China as an adult. One fact I have found is that there are two realities in today's world. One is the real and true reality in our life while the other is the fictitious "reality" in Western media, Western theory and Western discourse system. In other words, there are two Chinas: real China and fictional China; there are also two worlds: the real world and the fictional world.

The most essential symbol to distinguish the real world from the fictional one in this discourse system is the so-called "democratic system", which is exactly our focus in this session of today's Dialogue. From the perspectives of the Western language, the political civilisation and political system created by the Chinese people are classified as an "autocratic" country or an "authoritarian" country. In short, it is a "non-democratic country". In contrast, the Western countries are the "democratic" ones. Today, I just want to share my personal view on this.

President Lincoln put forward in his famous Gettysburg Address that a government of the people, by the people, for the people is a democratic government in real sense. Today, in their discourse system, the Western scholars have secretly changed their concepts, turning "popular election" into the main, core and even the sole feature of "democracy", and then put forward the concepts of multi-party rotating governance, press freedom and judicial independence. Please note that these are all relevant to the "election", instead of the people's well-being



and its guarantee, that is, of the people, by the people and for the people. To have election, multiple parties are needed. With multiple parties, there should be rotation in power. To win the elections, each and every political party must have media to support it, so there should be freedom of the press. Of course, "arbitration power" is needed for elections, even a superficial one, so there should be independence of jurisdiction...

As a result, the "democratically elected system" produced totally by "election" is neither a real "democratic system" nor the one that serves the majority of the people in true meaning.

Not to mention that the "election" itself is subject to the direct restriction of money, since we are all aware that in an "electing" country, the capital controls political parties and politicians with one hand and media with the other for manipulating the result of the elections. In fact, the government "elected by majority" in essence is still partially of the people, partially by the people and partially for the people. The reason is that those elected are always representatives of only part of the voters, with the supporting capital as the cause and indispensable factor of their being elected. Therefore,

this government can only serve the capital instead of the people. What the Trump administration and the Republican Party have done amid the Covid-19 pandemic serves as a good evidence.

There are only two options for tackling the Covid-19 pandemic: saving people's lives or economic development. China has chosen the former one while Trump had to take the latter one. The result for Trump's decision is obvious: 50 million people infected and 800 thousand dead.

Is it possible for Trump to make the same choice as China? No. Trump as well as his successor Biden made choices on the basis of economic priorities, which were beneficial to the capital. And that is a typical demonstration of being partially of the people, partially by the people and partially for the people I mentioned earlier.

The Western countries with the "democratic election system" seemed to be very "stable" since the end of the World War II, and some even won the Cold War and harvested the dividend of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. But we all know that there are special historical reasons for that, such as colonialism, industrialisation, among others. Two preconditions are needed for the successful operation of the "democratic election system". One is that whoever wins the election, the sustained economic growth and development of the Western developed countries can be ensured, while the other is that the economic development level and the people's living standard in those countries are much higher than other countries in the world. However, those two preconditions have both encountered problems. As a result, the 71 million "redneck and blue-collar" voters who followed Trump no longer recognise Biden and Democratic Party's regime as one that is of the people and by the people. (How many people in the United States still consider the United States as a democracy?) Today's U.S. is on the brink of crisis.

On the contrary, the Western countries often accuse China of "one party dictatorship" and describe China as an "authoritarian" country. However, they dare not tell their people the fact that this one party has as many as 95.148 million members (by June 2021), which is far more representative than any political party in the West. The effective response of the

Communist Party of China to the Covid-19 has also fully demonstrated the essence of China's political system: ruling for the interests of the majority.

We all know that freedom, equality and fraternity are the founding motto of France, which have also deeply influenced China and have been widely recognised by the Chinese people. But the CPC has put forward another aim with only one sentence: to serve the people wholeheartedly. The difference lies in that the three words means to pursue individual rights while the sentence focuses on devotion to the whole mankind. I would like to remind many Western friends who pay attention to details that the late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, who once studied in France, always wore a badge engraved with Mao Zedong's handwriting of "Serving the People" on his clothes. That is exactly the essence of the Chinese system.

Of course there is still a lot for China to improve. There are quite a number of problems existing in the Chinese system, such as corruption, bureaucracy, imperfections and insufficient protection of individual rights. China is making efforts to solve those problems one by one. There is a very popular saying in China, which is, the founding of the new China in 1949 solved the problem of "being bullied", while today's China has solved the problem of "being starved" by eliminating absolute poverty, which is unprecedented for developing countries. The next problem for China to solve is "being condemned", mainly for its political civilisation or political system. But based on my analysis today, don't you think that the United States and some other West countries are only "democratically elected systems", while China is a "democratic system" in real sense?

My cousin Mr. Zheng Shi, an ordinary American Chinese whom I have never met face-to-face, once impressed me by saying that, "the average Chinese may not realise how 'abnormal' China's rise is. Today's major powers took their shape at the end of the 19th century. Look at the list of the major powers, they are still the same countries in the Eight-Nation Alliance, except for the Austro Hungarian Empire. China is the only new name on the list that has managed to edge in in the past 150 years. How great that is!" What he said really means a lot.

Speech by Mr. Benyamin Poghosyan, Director of SIRONET Armenia

Human rights, freedom and democracy are some of the primary pillars of modern society. They are enshrined in many international documents and universal declarations adopted by the UN and other international bodies. Despite these multiple views, the concept of democracy belongs to entire humanity. It is impossible to monopolize democracy and to declare one version of democracy as universal and mandatory for all others. However, since the end of the second world war, the collective West led by the US seeks to impose the narrow western version of democracy – so called liberal democracy, on all other states and people and has monopolized these ideas. Western countries started to reject any other forms of democracy except the model developed in the Euro-Atlantic area, which was commonly dubbed as a liberal democracy. The next stage in the West's efforts to monopolize the notion of democracy and human rights was the adoption of the "democracy promotion" policy. The West and especially the US started to use "democracy and human rights" as convenient tools to press those countries whose policy did not fit US national interests. The US declared them as non-democratic and accused them of gross violation of human rights. The next step in this policy was the launch of sanctions mechanisms. The US started to use economic sanctions against states, which allegedly violated human rights, or were non-democratic. Thus, a vicious circle emerged – despite the existence of the UN Security Council as the only international body legally entitled to



put sanctions on sovereign states, the US launched the unilateral practice of designating states as non-democratic and sanctioning them. Interestingly, some of the US allies, which are far away from any basic norms of democracy, but which supported American national interests, were spared from this sanction machine.

The millennia-long history of China is full of episodes of success and development. As one of the world's ancient civilizations, China has always been in the focus of other nations, which admired the Chinese culture, traditions, and development. In this uninterrupted journey towards realizing national dreams, the last century of Chinese history stood alone, marked by the tremendous efforts to push China further ahead. Many factors were contributing to these leapfrog achievements, but the key driver behind the Chinese miracle was the Communist Party of China. Since its founding in 1921, the Party has made seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation its mission. In the first decades after establishing the People's

Republic of China, the Chinese people led by the Communist Party of China made relentless efforts to carry out the socialist revolution, promote socialist construction, and lay down the fundamental political conditions and the institutional foundations necessary for national rejuvenation.

Based on the achievements of the past years, the Communist Party of China launched a new era of reform and opening up. The historic decision was made to shift the focus of the Party and the country's work into economic development and launch the reform and opening-up era. This new policy achieved tremendous successes, raising hundreds of millions of people from poverty and transforming China into one of the world's economic powerhouses. In 2001 China entered the World Trade Organization, becoming a fully-fledged member of the global economy.

Chinese journey towards national rejuvenation was accelerated in the first two decades of the 21 century. Chinese people continued their efforts in advancing practical, theoretical, and institutional innovation while building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The growing economic might of China, which surpassed the US in terms of GDP PPP in 2014, and the tremendous successes of the Chinese state in raising the living standards of hundreds of millions of Chinese people brought about world attention to the phenomenon of China. Given the growing social and political tensions in developed countries and the increasing income gap between different layers of society, more and more thinkers, experts, and academicians started to look to China, seeking to understand the core reasons behind its astonishing success and trying to emulate Chinese experience.

In the last decade, China continued its path towards national rejuvenation. China has achieved the First

Centenary Goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects in 2021 and started a new journey toward the Second Centenary Goal in confident strides.

China follows "whole-process people's democracy," which is based on a deeper understanding of democracy. Whole-process people's democracy covers the whole process of election, decision-making, management, and supervision to meet people's needs and solve people's real problems. Only such a democracy can be real democracy. People with little or no political experience can become national leaders by winning an election in the West. In contrast, Chinese leaders at all levels must have the experience of working at the grassroots level to be eligible for selection through many elections before becoming high-level officials.

Compared with the election-centric democracy in the West, "whole-process people's democracy"-its policy formulation process with people's participation, its implementation process which involves as many people as possible, and its results to meet the people's needs is more suited to China.

Democracy in different countries has different characteristics, and every country has its style of democracy. The Chinese people have opted to focus on economic development because no country can build democracy or guarantee human rights without development and poverty alleviation. The Chinese government has been reiterating that the right to subsistence and the right to development is the most basic of human rights. Last year, the eradication of absolute poverty shows China has a much better human rights record than the West, especially in the United States, where African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans are still fighting for their rights.

Comments by Mr. Mohammed Saqib, Secretary-General of India China Economic and Cultural Council

It is always a tough job as the last speaker, since everyone has spoken very well. We have discussed the definition of democracy and the conditions for democratic development. We also discussed China's whole-process people's democracy. Democracy in western countries relates only to political parties and elections. In many cases, it is merely a game for the rich and has little to do with ordinary people. In many so-called democratic countries, the democratic elections produce only politicians rather than real leaders, who may neither really promote national development nor improve the well-being of the people. The ultimate goal of democracy is to achieve prosperity, peace and development, and the development of everyone. The reason why we choose a certain form of government and governance system is to create a more stable society, and that is the ultimate goal of democracy. Democracy and the form of government are only concrete ways to achieve the ultimate goal. Our ultimate goal is to allow our people live a happy life. It is the democracy that can achieve this goal that we should choose, and



that is the true meaning of democracy.

Different countries have different democratic paths, and each country's democracy has its own characteristics. It is absurd and ridiculous to try to enforce a certain democratic model. The whole-process people's democracy in China includes all elements of democracy, not just political parties and elections. We should learn from each other's advantages and know which form of democracy will operate and work effectively. The realisation of democracy requires a process, and every country should make active exploration for the path of democratic development adaptable to its own reality.

Closing Ceremony

Address by Mr. Martin Schulz, former Speaker of the European Parliament and President of FES

Dear Representatives of the “Association for International Understanding”, CAFIU,

Representatives of renowned organizations in the field of culture and international relations,

It is a great honour for me to address this distinguished audience at the occasion of the opening ceremony for an international conference, organized by CAFIU.

The focus on “Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations” demonstrates the extraordinarily high level of ambition that will be pursued here. This conference is not an endeavour that starts and ends today; the project is rather a marathon than a sprint contest.

It was initiated about 2 years ago, on Nov. 28th of 2019, when Minister Song Tao and other distinguished speakers formally opened the first conference on this topic in the noble environment of the Palace Museum of Beijing. High ranking participants from China and many other countries have provided ideas and suggestions of how to further improve the cultural exchange and mutual understanding among nations. As international relations constantly evolve, it is clear, that this endeavour shall be further continued.

Ladies and Gentleman,



it might be a very European – or typically German – approach to first look at the notions we use, to make sure that our debate doesn’t start with a misunderstanding. Being a convinced European, and born in a region where Germany borders with both Belgium and the Netherlands, where foreign languages are almost at arm’s length, I have often experienced verbal “false friends”, terms that will be understood wrongly if not been translated very carefully. “Civilization” is a good example.

In British English and in French, “civilization” is used almost synonymously to “culture”; in German, we usually make a difference between both words. It is a very interesting exercise to look up the articles about “civilization” (in English), “civilisation”

(in French). “civilización” (in Spanish), and “Zivilisation” (in German), at Wikipedia, an internet dictionary widely used in Europe: You will find very different articles in these languages, each of them pointing at the specific features within these language groups. And those differences already occur in neighbouring European countries and in languages of the same family.

So, I suppose that the difficulties in the use of terms may be even bigger when initiating the dialogue with civilizations – or “cultures” – beyond Europe. I was told, that Mandarin also distinguishes between “Wen Ming” (which figures in the title of this conference) and “Wen Hua” which comes closer to our notion of “culture” (please forgive me for my pronunciation). We should not spend much time with reflections on definitions, but to make my point understood: In my country and in my mother tongue, German, we widely speak of a European civilization, which is composed of very different regional cultures. Between Sicily and Lapponia, cultural expressions vary widely, but are clearly embedded in a common framework of a shared European civilization.

Speaking of “European Civilization”: It comes to my mind what Mahatma Gandhi answered, when being asked “What do you think of European Civilization?”: “It would be a good idea!” he replied.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China is an ancient, time-honoured civilization, mentioned along with other civilizations in Egypt or the Euphrates-Tigris region. On the basis of a stable alimentary supply, technological progress including knowledge in irrigation, astronomy and basic math could be developed, and parallelly a writing system, that enabled to pass knowledge and experience onto future generations. Basic legal principles and rules for accepted behaviour within the community were

established, powerful works of art evolved. At those early times, civilization mainly emerged within certain groups of mankind.

The next step, so surely in Europe, was communication and exchange: The Roman Empire – and culture – had learned most lessons from the Hellenistic period, which itself had absorbed cultural ingredients from a wide array of different cultures in Asia and North Africa. Christianity, originated in the middle East, was the cornerstone of European culture from a timespan that dates from early Sui to the end of Ming in the Chinese timetable. Knowledge in philosophy and mathematics in Europe experienced powerful pushes from modern Arabic societies, where Islam was the spiritual compass. The advancement of cultural features – or the progress of civilization – was the result of exchange. And this is the course of history all over the world. Looking, for example, at “Zen”, in Europe often understood as being very specific for Japanese culture. But it evolved on the base of Chinese “Chan”, which itself has deep roots both in Chinese Daoism and in Buddhism, originating in Indian culture. All kinds of actual civilisations have benefitted from exchange and mutual learning.

I should not omit the dark side of European civilization: colonization, widely applied after 1492, after navigators had explored the route to the American continent. European dominance in military techniques then led to the conquest of other civilizations, and this conquest was widely supported with a narrative about the supremacy of European cultures and values. The story was repeated on African and Asian ground, most strongly in the 19th century. China has a living memory of it. History cannot be changed, but if we can learn from it for shaping a better future, then I’m sure, the lesson is that this chapter shall never be repeated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea, that modern civilizations learn from each other, brings about new questions. If civilizations increasingly share cultural features by world-wide communication: What makes an individual civilization in the modern world still “unique” or “specific” to a country, a region or a nation? Could the flow of information lead to a tendency of flattening the differences, so that civilizations tend to be less distinctive?

Such a tendency can be observed in popular music, where mutual exchange is easiest: African rhythms, originally being brought to Latin America via slave trading, then transformed into popular music in Cuba and Puerto Rica (as “Son”) later conquered the music halls of New York, USA, re-invented there as “Mambo” or “Salsa”, have found their way back to Senegal and to the rest of the world, inspiring popular music around the world. Modern Korean pop-music mixes all kinds of ingredients from everywhere and is a big success even in Europa.

In the opposite direction pulls a tendency, which I would call “back to the roots”. People want to know what makes them specific, create bonds with people alike and define a time path that links history to presence. That is why local habits, music, dressing codes, literature and architecture are studied and preserved. Collective identity, beyond individual

identity, is in urgent need.

So, I’m sure that a wide array of important topics waits to be explored here. Given the high-ranking participants in this forum, I know that we shall enjoy the exchange of ideas and intellectual stimuli, and that the discussions will be conducted in the spirit of mutual respect.

I wish this conference a lot of push forward for the exchange between civilizations, contributions that help us to better understand the cultural roots of each other. The modern world has one dominant feature: The flow of information, goods, services, people, and most important: ideas, cannot be fully restricted. And it would not be useful to try so: It is beneficial for all of us to increase mutual learning and understanding! We need to find ways of doing so while, at the same time, maintaining our collective identities. It is a dialectic approach to seek mutual understanding, to foster tolerance and mutual learning of other cultures while keeping our distinction. To explore this ground, seems to me the aim of this series of conferences!

So, in order to conclude: My best wishes to the organizers! CAFIU has been an excellent partner for us over a period of more than 35 years. Let me express my wish to re-establish our personal contacts as soon as the conditions allow for it. And may today’s conference harvest all the fruit of success that this endeavour well deserves!

Address by Mr. Bertie Ahern, former Taoiseach of Ireland, Co-chair of the InterAction Council

I want to wish the conference all the best. The Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) has organised that conference back on 28th of November 2019. It was exchanging and looking at mutual learning among civilisations. And this time we focus more on diversity of civilisations and carrying forward shared values of mankind. So this second Dialogue is an important gathering and important meeting. I very much agree with the view of CAFIU that by taking peace and development as a common cause and watching mankind and civilisations to try to deal with the diversity that there is across the world as well as basing our concepts on fairness and justice being our common aspirations and democracy and freedom as common pursuit, we can work together to deal with the problems.

Since your last conference two years ago, the world has changed that so many difficulties with the COVID-19 pandemic, so many economic difficulties are going on, and so many other international



problems. But it is by working together, it is by cooperation, it is by sharing the difficulties that we have, can we overcome all of them. And that is what your organisation is doing. I commend you for your on-going work. The peace issues and the development issues and cooperation are all on the agenda. Likely I wish to have opportunities next time to join you on site.

Address by Mr. Mohamed Elbadri, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the People's Republic of China

We started this 21st century with the legacy of Prof. Huntington's theory of the "Clash of Civilisations", whereby our cultural differences will become the fault lines for future conflicts. So far, Clash of Civilisations is merely a theory begging destruction, but suffice to say that it was incompatible with history, our greatest mentor. History indicates that civilisations do not clash, however interests do. Cultures and civilisations were merely pretexts to cover up political interests.

We still face the danger of the Clash of Cultures and Civilisations thesis. In other words, it could become a self-fulfilling prophecy if we allow certain socio-cultural-political malice to continue without serious efforts to curb them. We have to inculcate our young generations and make sure our societies and peoples know that: Diversity is a virtue. Difference is an asset. Cultures are a human legacy. And civilisations are a reflection of our humanity

Clash of cultures is an anomaly not only to history but to globalisation and new international trends of interactions among states and peoples. As a result of IT, transportation surge and global socio-economic trends, peoples and states today cannot become a cultural pariah living in seclusion. Today all international instruments have adopted the norms of diversity, tolerance, mutual acceptance, etc. They are in every treaty or resolution at the UN or multilateral



fora, but we have to move from concept to an active belief from a value stated to a value practiced.

There is always a sense of morality and value system that has been protected by civilisations across time. Yet among some groups a minority keeps insisting on neglecting these common denominators in favour of unilateral views of how others should be modelled. This has to stop. And there is no other statement except that "this has to stop".

Egypt substitutes theses like clash of civilisations, with integration and dialogue, and entrenches the respect of cultural diversity instead of attempts to force certain visions and ideologies by force.

Thank you very much.

Wrap-up Remarks by Vice-Minister Chen Zhou as the Presider of the Closing Ceremony

Apart from our guests who delivered speeches just now, we also received written speeches from organizations including Australia Women United Association, Chinese Cambodian Evolution Researcher Association, Japanese NPO ISei Shoin, The Philippine Association for Chinese Studies, Nay Oke Foundation of Myanmar, University of Yangon, Malta China Friendship Society, Junior Achievement of the United States, among others.

It is agreed by all speakers as well as in all the written speeches submitted to the Dialogue that strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations is the common aspiration of all people around the world, and the shared value of mankind is the common pursuit of all people around the world. They called on the international community to work together in addressing all kinds of risks and challenges and jointly promote human development and progress.

After heated discussions, we have reached broad consensus and achieved fruitful results in this Dialogue. In order to better reflect the common wishes of the representatives from different countries, we hereby release the outcome document of the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations-Beijing Vision.

With all its agendas successfully completed, the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning is now coming to its conclusion. On behalf of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the Chinese Association for International Understanding, I wish to express



heartfelt thanks to all guests participating in the Dialogue and friends from different countries who have contributed to the success of the Dialogue.

Today's world is in an era of globalisation, in which the multiple civilisations coexist and the human beings have a shared future. We should work together to overcome difficulties. The Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations will continue to serve as a platform for people from all walks of life in all countries to have dialogues on equal basis and to seek common development through pushing forward the progress of human society, promoting world peace and development and making joint efforts to meet global challenges. We will host the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning at a right time. We look forward to meeting you again on the occasion.

Now I declare the conclusion of the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations.

Thank you all!

THE BEIJING VISION



We, the over 260 delegates from more than 40 countries, gathered in Beijing, China on 10 January 2022 for the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding.

We are of the view that no civilisation in the world is better than or superior to others, as all civilisations are different from one another in their distinctive and local features. Civilisational diversity constitutes the defining feature of the world and a fountainhead of human progress. Exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations represent an important driving force behind the progress of human civilisations as well as peace and development of the world.

We underscore the view that greatly varied as they are, different social systems, historical experiences, cultures and values are what the colourful and magnificent spectacle of civilisations is composed of, just as a Chinese adage goes, delicious soup is made by combining different ingredients. We need to foster an outlook on civilisation featuring equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness so that civilisational exchanges will replace civilisational estrangement, mutual learning among civilisations will replace civilisational clashes and civilisational coexistence will replace the sense of civilisational superiority.

We cherish the hope that exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations serve as a bridge of friendship among peoples of all countries, a driving force behind human progress, and a bond of world peace. Concerted efforts are needed to uphold and

carry forward the common values of humanity, namely peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, and discard ideological bias so that the world will become more open and inclusive and a global community with a shared future will come into being.

We cherish the aspiration that efforts are devoted to promoting exchanges and interactions in various fields among countries in the spirit of dialogue on an equal footing. With a view to developing the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations into a showcase of the glittering charms of diverse civilisations, a platform for bringing closer the hearts of all peoples, and a shining example of staying true to the common values of humanity.

We pledge to uphold the principles of mutual respect and equality, to uphold the beauty of each civilisation and the diversity of civilisations in the world, to uphold openness, inclusiveness and mutual learning, and to advance with the times and break new ground, so as to jointly promote the development and progress of human civilisations with a broad vision.

We hereby make the appointment to meet again at the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations. As the Chinese adage goes, “a single flower does not make spring, while one hundred flowers in full blossom bring spring to the garden”. May the rich and colourful civilisations peoples of the world have created shed brighter light on the way forward and provide powerful inspiration to all mankind.



[Editor's Note] On the eve of the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games, non-governmental organisations and friendly people from many countries sent congratulatory messages (letters) praising China's concept and preparations for hosting the Olympic Games and expressing their best wishes and ardent expectations for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games.



Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Bertie Ahern, former Taoiseach of Ireland ,Co-chair of the InterAction Council

In 776 BC, a cook named Coroebus of Elis became the first Olympic champion in ancient Greece when he won the foot-race known as the stadion. Since that time, sport has been one of the most exciting, enjoyable, and health promoting aspects of life.

In Ireland, the entire country cheered when we won six medals at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. We take tremendous pride as a sporting nation with football, rugby, hurling, and racing among our favourite pastimes.

To see young women and men train hard, train long, and overcome significant challenges to achieve

excellence is an inspiration to us all. The Olympic motto of “Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together” highlights another important aspect of the games: It is not just about athletes competing at the highest level, it is an opportunity for the global community to celebrate our shared humanity.

The InterAction Council applauds all the athletes on their journey to the games. As the Olympic Creed reminds us, “the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle.”

Best wishes in your pursuit of victory!

Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President of the Sharaf Foundation for Sustainable Development



Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Erik Solheim, former Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

It gives me great pleasure to send you my warmest greetings for the upcoming 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing.

At a time of great global uncertainty and anxiety, sports is an important arena for global cooperation, dialogue and friendship. I wish you complete success of the Games.

Coming from one of the worlds foremost winter

sports nations, Norway, I appreciate all the hard work by the thousands of people involved in organizing this remarkable sporting feast.

Its brilliant that the games will be an unprecedented opportunity to showcase green technologies to the world - in transport, energy use and more.

Best of wishes for great games!

Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Kassem Tofailli, President of ACCDA



Beirut 28/1/2022

Attn: **China NGO Network for International Exchange**
C/O Silk Road NGO Network SIRONET

On the occasion of Spring Festival and Chinese New Year, we are happy to share our sincere wishes for all of you and you families for a happy, healthy and prosperous year of the Tiger.



We also extend our congratulations and support on the upcoming opening of 2022 Beijing Olympics Games. We trust that the Olympics be a dazzling event that we are all waiting to watch and we trust the games would be an exceptionally successful event.

We sincerely appreciate working together with you and looking forward to enhancing our relationship in the new year!

Best Wishes and Regards

On Behalf of ACCDA members and friends

Kassem Tofailli

President



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Congratulatory Letter from AWUA



澳大利亚妇女联合会
Australia Women United Association (AWUA)

401/276 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000
Tel : 02 99499269
ABN : 98 617 098 894

Sydney, 14 January, 2022

Congratulatory Letter to Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

Distinguished China NGO Network for International Exchanges

Best wishes for Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games and work together towards a better future.

Beijing is the world's first "Double Olympic City" that has hosted both the Summer Olympics and the Winter Olympics. Just like the name of the Beijing Winter Olympics medal "Tongxin", it is a celebration stage for creating a better future, and it is hoped that the Olympic spirit of pursuing a peaceful world will spread to every corner of the global village.

Against the backdrop of the strenuous battle against the pandemic, Beijing honored its commitment and fully demonstrated the confidence of Olympics, brightening the way out of darkness for the entire world. Let us light the fire of confidence in our heart, embrace the kindness and friendliness of Olympic Winter Games, pass on love and hope and make wishes for a greener, a newer and a better Beijing 2022.

Recently, in Sydney, I participated in the theme activity of "Welcome to the Beijing Winter Olympics and Create a Better Future" organized by China and Australia, which has enhanced the mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries.

With shared dreams, our friendship keeps deepening as the Beijing 2022 gets closer and closer. Bing DwenDwen and Shuey RhonRhon are waving their cute round hands to us. With immense confidence, universal participation, prevailing kindness and unbreakable solidarity, we stand together for a share future.

Ice and snow brighten our path towards hope and dream, and endeavors make sure we get there. Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games is about to start. In this momentous occasion, we would like to make our best wishes for Beijing 2022. We advocate that all people across the world, standing shoulder by shoulder under the Olympic rings, join hands to face challenges and work together towards a better future!

Yours sincerely
Yeting Wang
President of Australia Women United Association



Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Zamir Khan, Reporter, Independent News Pakistan(INP)

I really appreciate the Government of China for holding an amazing event of 2022 Winter Olympics in these challenging times when the international community is facing the ravaging impacts of COVID-19.

These winter Olympics are going to be hosted at a time when international community is exploring for the leisure time and are in a dire need of connectivity.

These Olympics are definitely going to spread the happiness on the faces of billions. Those who will participate may become a source of unity, enthusiasm and connectivity.

It is definitely going to be a big event of sports in the international history and those who are going to become a part of winter Olympics will be enjoying a great experience of hospitality in China.

Chinese government deserves appreciation for

holding the upcoming winter Olympics in these difficult times and it is a message for all that you can find the happiness from the complicated situation.

The hospitality of Chinese government shows the commitment of Chinese nation and it is the best expression their governance that they can handle all of the challenges as there is a famous quotation that challenges cannot be bigger than opportunities.

The commitment and will of China have shown the world that Olympic spirit needs to be uphold and every kind of negativity regarding the sports must be rejected.

At the end, I again congratulate Chinese government and Chinese nation for their commitment towards Olympics and their commitment for holding the successful winter games. Best Luck China.

Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Asif Noor, Director, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies of Pakistan

On behalf of the Pakistani Nation and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, we would like to extend the heartiest best wishes to the outstanding Beijing Winter Olympics. Games are beyond politics, and games help to strengthen the bonds of friendship. Sports is beyond any divide where athletes show their spirits to strive for a healthy and prosperous future. Inspire change and healthy living. This is the real essence of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

Together for a shared future. The games will pave the way for deeper cooperation and understanding amongst nations. We all must collectively support such great initiatives and events. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Winter Olympic Games reflect that humanity is ready to take the challenge and nothing comes what may, through sportsmen spirit, we all together will win at the end. I wish you all the success of the games.

Congratulatory Letter from Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Center



មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលកម្ពុជាសម្រាប់ស្រាវជ្រាវផ្លូវសមុទ្រសតវត្សទី២១
柬埔寨二十一世紀“海上絲綢之路”研究中心

China NGO Network for International Exchanges:

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics are about to start. On this important occasion, we extend our best wishes to Beijing 2022.

In the context of fighting against the epidemic, the Chinese government has kept its promises, fully demonstrated its confidence in hosting a successful Olympic Games, and illuminated a path out of darkness for the world. The Beijing Winter Olympics will convey love and hope, ignite the fire of confidence in the hearts of peace-loving people around the world, and unite the kindness and friendship of people around the world.

All human beings live on the same earth and are a community with a shared future. When faced with the same challenges, all mankind can only overcome the difficulties by standing together. Only peace and love can take us further. We appreciate China's breaking down the boundaries of countries and cities, transcending differences in race, culture and political system, building mutual trust with enthusiasm, honesty, simplicity and sincerity, meeting challenges, and jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind.

We believe that with a common dream, Cambodia-China friendship will continue to deepen along with the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. Here, we wish the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics a complete success!

Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Center

Phnom Penh, January 13, 2022

Congratulatory Letter from Dr. Nay Lin, Chairman of Alinyaung Foundation, Myanmar

Greeting Message for the Winter Olympics 2022

Date 13 January 2022

Dear CNIE,

I would like to convey the congratulatory message for the Winter Olympics 2022 by the Outstanding preparation of Olympics Committees in the Chinese organization bringing the world "together for the shared future." The biggest sports activity is the way forwards to the mutual exchanges, peaceful coexistence and upholding the traditional spirit of solidarity, peace and friendship among the people of the world.

I wish that China will have a moment of pride for successful hosting of the Winter Olympics 2022.

Thank you



Dr. Nay Lin

(Chairman of Alinyaung Foundation, Myanmar)

Congratulatory Letter from Prof. Upendra Gautam, PhD, Secretary General, China Study Center Nepal

We wish all the best to our special neighborly friendly Chinese people in the Spring Festival, the New Year 2022. May the New Year bring them the double family happiness of merry-making and red longevity, full perfection and all advanced innovativeness in governance, national strength, technology, international cooperation and fairness in world order.

The New Year of 2022 is the year of the tiger that is also going to commence with Beijing Winter Olympics- a global Olympian Spirit reflecting global

strength and unity which can only be beautifully sustained by the good health of the people, the younger generation. Even the primary level Nepali students are grateful to the China Charity Federation for the gift of "Love Kits" with materials that help prevent the impact of the pandemic. Thank you China for sharing your good things with the children of Nepal on the eve of the Spring Festival and the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

Please enjoy the Spring Festival and the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Congratulatory Letter from President Akinobu Itoh of Japan-China Workers' Association for Exchanges

I'd like to start by wishing the Beijing Winter Olympic Games a complete success.

Japan-China Workers' Association for Exchanges is an organisation engaged in promoting the friendly exchanges between Japan and China. In my view, the Beijing Winter Olympic Games should not be involved in such weird politics as political boycott

or diplomatic boycott. I hope to see its opening and success as a grand sports event in pursuit of peace.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the normalisation of diplomatic relationship between Japan and China. I look forward to the renewal of the everlasting friendship between our two countries.

Video Congratulation by President Aizawa Yaichiro of the JC Friendship Association of Japan

I am President of the JC Friendship Association of Japan. I am warmly anticipating the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games. Last year, many Chinese athletes took part in the Tokyo Olympic Games, and many Chinese people showed their support for the Games. I am very grateful with that.

I cordially wish the Beijing Winter Olympics a success!

2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, Together for a Shared Future!

Cheers!

Congratulatory Letter from Chief Director Sen Nakata of the Japanese NPO “the World”

I sincerely wish the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games a success. This will be another Olympic Games held by Beijing after the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, making Beijing the first city in the history of Olympics to have hosted both the summer and the winter Olympics, which can be named a magnificent feat. It is our hearty wish that the Beijing Winter Olympics, which has attracted worldwide attention, will be a complete success.

Japan and China are in two different time zones just next to each other. Therefore, many Japanese people including myself would usually watch the games on-site. However, it is very unfortunate that the spread of the COVID-19 stops us from going to China. Otherwise, I still look forward to watching the games on TV at prime time.

There is no doubt that many of the games athletes

participate in will help defeat the pandemic and will impress young people and others around the world, which has been well demonstrated by the Tokyo Olympic Games held in the midst of the pandemic.

On the occasion of the first Olympic Games hosted in 1896, the famous French educator Coubertin designed the emblem of the Olympic Games as the five rings. He also published the idea of hosting the Olympic Games, which goes, “through physical exercise, we can overcome various cultural and ethnic differences, and contribute to the realisation of a peaceful and beautiful world in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair competition.” This concept, instead of being outdated, is highly relevant to today’s reality.

Once again I wish the Games a great success.

Congratulatory Letter from the Junior Chamber International Japan

We wish to express our sincere congratulations on the grand opening of this year's Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Winter Paralympic Games.

On the occasion of the great event for both sports and peace that brings together outstanding athletes from all over the world, we look forward whole-heartedly to the wonderful performance of the athletes on the field. At the same time, we also expect that the athletes will learn about the local customs and deepen

their exchanges with people from other parts of the world. It is our hope that this Winter Olympic Games will be a grand event with far-reaching significance to convey the message of peace to the world through friendly sports exchanges.

Finally, we cordially wish the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Games great successes.

Congratulatory Letter from Dr. Ivona Ladjevac, Deputy Director of Institute of International Politics and Economics, Serbia



INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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ipe@diplomacy.bg.ac.rs, <http://www.diplomacy.bg.ac.rs/>

Belgrade, January 17th, 2022

China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE)/
Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU)

Dear friends,

Herewith we'd like to share with you our excitement towards soon to be opened the Olympic Games.

Like many times before when the capital city of the People's Republic of China, hosted an outstanding event, the eyes of the whole world will be directed towards Beijing. And like always the world will stay breathless experiencing the announcement of starting the Winter Olympic Games.

It is true that such event always requests hard work and long preparations, but due to the current pandemic it is bigger challenge than usual. Still, knowing the responsibility of Chinese authorities and devotion of Chinese people to this remarkable festival of sports it is out of any questioning that this event will be held as smooth as planned.

Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games will be an great opportunity for the entire humankind to stand under the flag of friendship and mutual cooperation.

Best wishes to the organizers and the attendees! Wishing great achievements and new Olympic records!

Dr. Ivona Ladjevac

Deputy Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivona Ladjevac', is written over the printed name.

Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Indrananda Abeysekera, Chairman of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation



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Registration No: DN/ED/55/96/JAN/214

Make Best Wishes for Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games and Work Together towards a Better Future

Ice and snow brighten our path towards hope and dream, and endeavors make sure we get there. Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games is about to start. In this momentous occasion, we would like to make our best wishes for Beijing 2022. We advocate that all people across the world, standing shoulder by shoulder under the Olympic rings, join hands to face challenges and work together towards a better future.

Together for a shared future with confidence in Beijing 2022 in our hearts

Against the backdrop of the strenuous battle against the pandemic, Beijing honored its commitment and fully demonstrated the confidence of Olympics, brightening the way out of darkness for the entire world. Let us light the fire of confidence in our heart, embrace the kindness and friendliness of Olympic Winter Games, pass on love and hope and make wishes for a greener, a newer and a better Beijing 2022.

love will lead us further. Let us break the boundaries of states and cities, go beyond the limits of race, culture and political system, build mutual trust with enthusiasm, honesty, simplicity and sincerity, stand up to challenges and jointly build a community with a shared future.

Together for a shared future with the spirit of Beijing 2022 in people's mind

With a view to encourage 300 million people to practice winter sports, let us all make concrete and concerted efforts to lead public sports with competitive sports, so as to inherit Olympic spirits, promote cultural exchanges and integration, and deepen people's friendship. Not far away the blazing Olympic flame awaits. Let us start running from now on, with speed, with passion, with dream and with perseverance, across myriad mountains and rivers, to finally meet each other half way.

Together for a shared future with the strength of Beijing 2022 in unity

Let us keep our feet on the present and eyes on the future. Aiming at the common goal of unity, peace, progress and inclusiveness and upholding the Olympic spirit of "Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together", each of us will make our bit and contribute our wisdom and strength to make a green, inclusive, open, and clean Beijing 2022.

With shared dreams, our friendship keeps deepening as the Beijing 2022 gets closer and closer. Bing DwenDwen and Shuey RhonRhon are

waving their cute round hands to us. With immense confidence, universal participation, prevailing kindness and unbreakable solidarity, we stand together for a share future. Let us make best wishes for Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games and work together towards a better future!

Congratulatory Letter from Mr. Mohammed Saqib, Secretary-General of India China Economic and Cultural Council

Dear China!

We are all looking forward to a great and successful Olympic Winter Games 2022, Beijing. The simple fact that China is hosting the Winter Olympics in these difficult times of COVID 19 is a big success in itself.

Moreover, Beijing will write history as the first ever city to organize both editions of the Olympic Games, Summer and Winter. Beijing, from the bottom of my

heart, I send you my best wishes and good luck.

We wish that there will be a great Winter Olympic Games, probably one of the best Games organized in the Olympic History like in 2008, and we in India will celebrate with the Chinese people a great festival of sport and winter sport.

India sends you love and positive energy for a great success of the Winter Olympic 2022, Beijing.

**Mohammed Saqib
Secretary General**



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Enhancing Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, Building Consensus on a Community with a Shared Future

On January 10, 2022, the Second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among civilisations was held at the International Department of Central Committee of CPC (IDCPC) both online and offline. H. E. Wang Qishan, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China delivered a video speech, addressing that promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations represents a major issue for the peace and development of the world and for the betterment of people's lives. It is imperative to keep on developing a deeper and better understanding of both our own and other civilisations, to look for the key to inter-civilisational exchanges and connectivity from the perspective of all mankind, and to gain confidence out of historical, cultural and philosophical considerations, so that consensus on the building of a global community with a shared future will grow steadily. Participants of the Dialogue all agreed that it is of the shared aspiration of all countries, and of the common value and pursuit of all humans to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. We should start from a deep understanding of the roots of traditional Chinese culture, diversity of civilisations of the world, and the connotation of a community with a shared future for mankind, and then work together to promote exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations, so as to build consensus on the building of a global community with a shared future. With these efforts, we will promote cooperation in the international community on the basis of mutual

respect on cultural traditions and developments paths, jointly address risks and challenges and push forward human progress in a concerted way.

I. Tracing the Roots of Traditional Chinese Culture, Searching for the Cultural Foundation of Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations

Looking back into the history of the ideological and cultural development of mankind, we can see that every culture boasts its own origin and root. Traditional Chinese culture originated from integration and harmony, which were summarized through myriads of practices by scholars of the past. Though enriched in cultural integration along with the development of history and vicissitudes of times, traditional Chinese culture is imbued with the culture of integration and harmony in the whole process. Over-5,000-year-old splendid culture of the Chinese nation reveals that what's lying behind traditional Chinese culture is Cosmopolitanism, caring about the development of the country and the future of mankind. Such a view encouraged ancient Chinese to devote themselves to realizing the ideal of "good neighborliness and harmony with all nations", from which also derives the concept of a community with a shared future raised by President Xi Jinping, and provides a solid cultural foundation for exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.

The culture of unity and harmony, as the root of traditional Chinese culture, is characterized by the

following aspects:

(1) A social view of unity without uniformity. Confucius said in his *Analects*, “When walking with two other people, I can always learn something from them. I will emulate their good qualities and avoid their shortcomings”. This is a vivid example of ancient Chinese respecting differences, i.e. the strong inclusiveness in the culture of unity and harmony. “Harmony is the universal path which we all should pursue”, another quote from Chinese classics, also reflects that despite the diversity and contradictions of human society, mutual learning and win-win cooperation still prevails.

(2) A moral view of kindness and friendship. As a line in the *Book of Changes* reads, “As heaven maintains vigor through movements, a junzi (Confucian scholar) should constantly strive for self-perfection; as earth’s condition is receptive devotion, a junzi should hold the outer world with broad mind.” It showed the kindness and inclusiveness to understand others in one’s social commitment, as well as achieving one’s self-discipline in win-win cooperation and common development.

(3) A world view of harmony between humanity and nature. In their pursuit for the belief of “all nations should live in harmony”, ancient Chinese have held tiered life ideals of self-cultivation, running one’s family well, governing the state properly, and bringing peace to all under heaven. Such a philosophical concept of “harmony between man and nature” brings human and the world closer.

(4) An international view of coordination and cooperation among all countries. Such a view transcends the inherent boundaries of countries or nations, boasting a global outlook and a holistic perspective. Mr. Feng Youlan, a well-known philosopher, believed that “when ancient Chinese spoke of Tianxia (All under Heaven), they meant the world.”

Speech by President Xi Jinping at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2017 mentioned, “Amity with neighbors, harmony without uniformity and peace are values cherished in the Chinese culture.” As an ancient Chinese adage goes, which was raised again by H.E. Xi at the General Debate of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, “The greatest ideal is to create a world truly shared by all”. This is a deep concern for the country and the people, inherited and demonstrated by today’s Communists in China. It also reflects the sense of responsibility and development of traditional Chinese culture, providing cultural support for the building of a global community with a shared future.

II. Recognizing the Diversity of Civilisations, Comprehending the Importance of Harmonious Coexistence and Development of Different Civilisations

Human society is where civilisations constantly develop and advance in full bloom and in a varied manner. In the long history of human society development, the diversity of civilisations was formed due to differences in regions, ethnicities, languages, cultures and production methods. How to understand and treat the diversity of civilisations, however, remains a major issue that plagues human beings.

Diversity not only defines the law of nature that adapts to the whole universe, but also represent the fact of global civilisation development. In this colorful world, civilization diversity has given birth to different ethnic groups, cultures, histories, national conditions, social systems and development patterns. From a cultural point of view, ancient civilisations of Greece, Egypt, India and China still exerted huge impact on today’s world. For religions, Catholicism, Christianity, Islam and many other religions still exist in the world.

The self-styled superiority and inferiority among civilization is caused by the “superiority of western

Civilisation”, a thought of hegemony. Since the end of the Cold War, our world has still been far from being tranquil, witnessing an intensified competition between uni- and multi-polarity and the resurging of “the clash of civilisations theory” in some western countries. In the face of major changes unseen in a century in the world, some of the developed countries still held tight the talk of “superiority of western civilisation”, attributing their contradiction with the developing countries to a clash between superior civilisations and inferior ones, which in its essence is an attempt to prove the rationality and necessity of neo-hegemonism.

We should respect the diversity of civilisations and call on dialogues and exchanges among them. China firmly opposes stirring up contradictions or clashes of civilisations. We should always bear in mind that the world is a colorful place and that civilisations are diverse, endeavoring to build a harmonious world. President Xi delivered an important speech during his visit to the UK in 2015, stressing that “despite differences in history, culture and systems, countries in this big family of human civilisations need to live together in harmony and as equals in the 21st century. We should respect and learn from each other, and reject any pride and prejudice. This is the only way leading to common development and shared prosperity.”

As President Xi Jinping emphasized, it is the diversity of civilisations that sustains human progress. He also pointed out at the General Debate of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, “The world is simply more colorful as a result of its cultural diversity. Diversity breeds exchanges, exchanges create integration, and integration makes progress possible.” In the report delivered at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, it is echoed that “we should respect the diversity of civilisations. In handling relations among civilisations, let us replace estrangement with exchange, clashes with mutual learning, and

superiority with coexistence.” Therefore, we must recognize the diversity of civilisations and adhere to the principle that no civilisation is superior to others, and exchanges among civilisations will only happen in the environment of mutual respect and equality, which is inevitable for the harmonious coexistence and development of civilisations.

III. Understanding the Civilisational Connotation of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, Seeking Practical Approaches for Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations

The concept of a global community with a shared future reflects the idea that China proposed considering the development and progress of the whole humanity. It’s the China’s plan that China shares with the world for the development and progress of human society. At the General Debate of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, President Xi Jinping called upon to renew the commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation, and create a community with a shared future for mankind, proposing to make efforts from the following five aspects: to build partnerships in which countries treat each other as equals, engage in mutual consultation and show mutual understanding; to create a security architecture featuring fairness, justice, joint contribution and shared benefits; to promote open, innovative and inclusive development that benefits all; to increase inter-civilisation exchanges to promote harmony, inclusiveness and respect for differences; and to build an ecosystem that puts mother nature and green development first. These principles, while mapping out the connotations of the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind in new political path, new security architecture, new economic prospects, new civilisation forms and new ecological system, also delivered the direction and goals of such a concept.

Another quote from H.E. Xi was what he stressed at UNESCO Headquarters, that “civilisations have come in different colors, and such diversity has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations relevant and valuable”; that “civilisations are equal, and such equality has made exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations possible”; and that “civilisations are inclusive, and such inclusiveness has given exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations the needed drive to move forward.” Revealing the essence of human civilisations, these statements also explained in depth the meaning of and offered a practical path for “promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations”.

(1) Adopting the principle of inclusiveness as the foundation. The community with shared future for mankind stressed on fostering a harmonious coexistence by shelving differences, which is a new type of civilisation outlook. “Civilisations have become richer and more colorful with exchanges and mutual learning,” President Xi clearly made his stand at UNESCO Headquarters, calling for integration and progress of civilisations in an equal and harmonious environment. Through civilisational exchanges, people would realize that they will swim or sink together, urging them to pursue common development under the premise of civilisational harmony.

(2) Extending the span of exchanges as the support. For any civilisation, during its development, it's hard to avoid to communicate with, or learn from other counterparts, which would boost the progress and spread of civilisations. “Different civilisations should have dialogue and exchanges instead of trying to exclude or replace each other,” as President Xi Jinping pointed out. Therefore, we should take the initiative to understand other civilisations and

promote exchanges and communication in the context of mutual respect and mutual learning.

(3) Pooling strengths of all parties as the guarantee. First, enhancing cultural mutual trust. Countries should take the initiative to get rid of the influence of cultural monism and the talk of “clash of civilisations”, strengthen the recognition of cultural diversity and pluralism, and advocate active exchanges of cultures in an environment of equality. Second, strengthening cultural mutual learning. The development and prosperity of culture is a process of cultural exchanges and mutual learning among countries and ethnic groups. Countries should learn from each other in cultural exchanges and enhance mutual learning through cultural events. Third, expanding channels of cultural exchanges. In addition to the government level, it is also necessary to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and think tanks in the cultural field, so as to conduct extensive communications at all levels and in various aspects and form a people-to-people exchange pattern involving multiple parties.

In this ever-changing and colorful world, countries need to maintain an open mind and broad vision. As H. E. Wang Qishan pointed out at the Dialogue, in its history of over 5,000 years, the Chinese nation has fostered a splendid civilisation and made major contributions to the progress of human civilisation. We will continue to advance together amid convergence through exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations, so that consensus on the building of a global community with a shared future will grow steadily, gathering strength for peaceful development of the world and for the betterment of human society.

(Provided by Liu Haiying, Translated by Luo Xiao)

