

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

国际交流

3

Vol. 3, 2022

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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA
AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



中国国际交流协会

CHINESE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

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International Understanding

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International Standard Serial
Number:

ISSN1002-8285

China Standard Serial Number:
CN11-2491/D

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Letters may be edited for length or content.

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[Editor's Note] On August 12th, 2022, the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative was held in a hybrid mode by China NGO Network for International Exchanges under the auspices of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee. H.E. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese President sent a Congratulatory Letter to the Conference. Mr. Liu Jianchao, Minister of IDCPC delivered the letter and made a keynote speech. With the theme of *Working Together to Build a Global Development Community and Deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the Conference received congratulations from Chairman of the Togo Union for the Republic and President of the Republic of Togo H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, Chairman of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Shahbaz Sharif, Chairman of the Dominica Labour Party and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica H.E. Roosevelt Skerrett, either through video or letter. The Conference attracted over 400 delegates including former Taoiseach of Ireland and Co-chair of the InterAction Council Mr. Bertie Adhern, former Speaker of the European Parliament and President of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Mr. Martin Schulz, former Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki-moon, diplomatic envoys and delegates from NGOs, think tanks, business communities etc. The Conference released the signed *Joint Declaration of the International Civil Society on Working Together to Implement the Global Development Initiative*. The Conference also witnessed the establishment of the Project Pool on International Civil Society Solidarity on Global Development Initiative, and the inauguration of the International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation. The Conference was chaired by Mr. Chen Zhou, Vice-Minister of IDCPC. Mr. Xu Jianguo, Secretary General of China Foundation for Peace and Development and Mme. Wang Yaping, a Chinese astronaut also participated in the Conference and delivered speeches.

Message of Congratulations from H.E. Xi Jinping General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China

Beijing, 12 August 2022

I extend my warm congratulations on the opening of the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative and sincere greetings to leaders present and all other participants across sectors from various countries.

Development is a timeless theme for humanity. It is an ardent expectation of people of all countries to realise their aspiration for a better life through development. At present, the global economy is developing under the impact of multiple factors, and the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is encountering difficulties. Faced with these difficulties and challenges, only through firming up our confidence, working in unison, staying committed to fighting COVID-19 and pooling our efforts to promote development for the earnest implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, can we ensure that people of all countries lead a better life and the humanity embraces an even brighter future.

The international community needs to build up

solid consensus on promoting development, work to create an enabling international environment for development, and actively foster new drivers for global development to jointly forge a global development partnership. I believe that the international civil society will be able to mobilise strong popular support and bring people closer to each other towards the solid implementation of Global Development Initiative. China stands ready to work together with all parties to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make even greater contribution to the building of a human community with a shared future and to the creation of a new era of prosperity and development.

I wish the Conference a complete success!

Xi Jinping

General Secretary

Central Committee, Communist Party of China

President, People's Republic of China

Keynote Speech by Mr. Liu Jianchao Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC)



General Secretary Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to this Conference, which fully demonstrates that the CPC and the Chinese government attach great importance to implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building a community with a shared future for mankind. It also shows that General Secretary Xi Jinping highly expects that the international civil society could pass on traditional friendship, stay united and promote common development through collaboration. I believe that with the concerted efforts of all parties, this Conference will be a great success, solidifying public support for building a global community of development and breaking new grounds for cooperation and development of the international

civil society.

As we speak, great changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century expound with each other. The world is in urgent need for a solution to the development deficit. Standing on the height of the welfare of the entire mankind, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward Global Development Initiative (GDI) for the first time at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, aiming to call on all countries to pay attention to development issues, forge synergy to face common challenges. The proposal of the GDI contributes Chinese wisdom and plan for adapting to the great changes of the world, the times and the history. As public goods open to the whole world, the GDI focuses on the philosophy

of putting development as the priority and people in the center and proposes thoughts and plans of cooperation in eight main fields including poverty reduction and food security, providing firm support to the reboot of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Initiative has won enthusiastic response from the international community, with over 100 countries expressing their support and 60 countries joining in the Group of Friends of the GDI established in the UN.

At the High-level Dialogue on Global Development held in June this year, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that we need to forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership. In this process, no country or individual should be left behind. It is important that we support the UN in steering and coordinating global development cooperation, and encourage business communities, NGOs, media and think tanks to take part in the cooperation. The international civil society

is an important part in building global development partnership. Let us join hands to promote the implementation of the GDI, create and share a bright future featuring peace and prosperity.

First, we should firmly put development as the priority and provide public support to form consensus on development.

Development is a significant precondition to improve people's wellbeing and the key to solving all problems. We stand ready to work together with the international civil society to bring development problems back to the core of the international agenda, effectively build consensus on unity, cooperation and advancing development, effectively build good momentum of pursuing development wholeheartedly and with our concerted efforts and oppose politicizing or marginalizing these problems, so as to promote more equal, sustainable and secure development of human society.

Second, we should stick to the philosophy of



development for the people and converge the strengths of the civil society to bring welfare to the people.

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that development is meaningful only when it is for the people's interest, and can sustain only when it is motivated by the people. The GDI lays emphasis on safeguarding and improving people's life and protecting and promoting human rights through development, so as to enhance people's sense of happiness, fulfillment and security and achieve all-round development of mankind. The Chinese people want a happy life not only for ourselves, but also for people around the world. Only when all people live a good life, can our prosperity remain sustainable, our security remain safeguarded and our human rights rooted in solid foundation. We will work with the international civil society in continuously putting people at the center, deepening cooperation in fields of poverty reduction, public health, education, digital connectivity among others, in a bid to provide qualified supply to the happy life of people around the world.

Third, we should continue our exploration and innovation in providing people's wisdom to the improvement of global governance.

Innovation is the primary leading force for development. The GDI proposes to seize the historic opportunities created by the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, foster new growth drivers in the post-COVID era and jointly achieve leapfrog development. We are ready to make joint efforts together with the international civil society to adhere to the philosophy of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and strengthen global governance, so as to ensure equality in rights, rules and opportunities for every country. We should continue to promote the global flow of innovation elements and help developing countries

accelerate the process of digital economy and green transformation. We should relentlessly cooperate to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, make more efforts in the innovative research and development and joint production of vaccine with the aim of defeating the pandemic as soon as possible. Together, we will make global development stronger, greener and healthier and jointly build a beautiful homeland for human civilization.

Fourth, we should enhance inclusiveness and mutual learning to lay a solid foundation of public support for diversified development in the world.

As history has proven, a world featuring peace and development should accommodate different forms of civilization and must accept diversified paths to modernization. People-to-people exchanges and cooperation is the significant social foundation to promote peace and development across the world. We stand ready to work with the international civil society to practice real multilateralism, support all countries to enhance exchanges and mutual learning, explore different paths to development that suit the context of different countries, so as to bring global development to a new stage with balance, coordination and inclusiveness. As General Secretary Xi Jinping instructed in his congratulatory letter, CNIE and other Chinese NGOs must act to jointly forge an enabling international environment for development and usher in a new era of prosperity and development.

Modernization is the general trend of the development of human society. There is no set model of modernization in the world, nor is there a universal criterion for modernization that fits all. Based on the analysis of domestic and international situation as well as China's development reality, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era elaborates on the important features

of Chinese modernization. It has pointed out that Chinese modernization is the socialist modernization pursued under the leadership of the CPC, the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development, which requires us to develop our country and our nation with our own strength and maintain a firm grasp on the future of China's development and progress. The Chinese path to modernization successfully discarded the old way towards modernization that puts capital at the center, widens the gap between rich and poor, foments materialism and incites external expansion and pillage. This path also diversifies the ways towards modernization for developing countries and provides brand-new options for countries and nations that want to pursue fast development while maintaining their independence.

In the next half of this year, the CPC will convene its 20th National Congress, which is a Congress of great significance to be convened at a crucial moment, as

the whole Party and the entire nation embark on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects, and advance toward the Second Centenary Goal. The Congress will make scientific plans for the goals and policies for the cause of the Party and the country in the next 5 years and beyond. On the new journey, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core will continue to unite and lead the Chinese people in relentlessly making new strides to build a modern socialist country in all respects and bravely march towards achieving the Second Centenary Goal. On the new journey, we are ready to join hands with the political parties, think tanks, media and NGOs across the world to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning, unite force for solidarity and cooperation, build global development partnership, promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and create a brighter future together!

To conclude, I wish this Conference a complete success!

Thank you all!

Speeches & Congratulatory Messages

Letter of Congratulations from H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, Chairman of the Togo Union for the Republic and President of the Republic of Togo



Mr. Adjagba Sebabe , Charge d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of the Republic of Togo in the People's Republic of China delivering the Letter of Congratulations

On 12 August, the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative is held in Beijing under the theme of working together to build a global development community and deliver on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am very pleased and honoured to congratulate President Xi Jinping and the organisers for the success of this Conference.

Both the Union for the Republic and the CPC are

important political parties committed to world prosperity and progress, peace and unity. The invitation extended to me reflects the profound friendship between our two parties.

In September 2021, President Xi Jinping put forth the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which has since been warmly received and strongly supported by more than 100 countries. On 24 June this year, President Xi chaired the High-Level Dialogue on

Global Development, where participating leaders reached an important consensus on forging a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership.

The humanity is challenged by various risks including COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and geopolitical conflicts. The world today is facing separatism, skepticism and disruption, which are the real obstacles to human progress.

Therefore, the proposal of the GDI is very relevant. It calls upon the international community to take actions and overcome difficulties through solidarity so as to realise sustainable development goals.

This great Initiative proposed by President Xi meets the urgent need of countries worldwide, especially the developing ones to accelerate their post-epidemic economic recovery, and will serve as an accelerator for the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It reflects China's unrelenting efforts to fulfil its solemn commitment to leave no country behind.

In September 2000, the UNGA adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, setting out the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ushering in a new era.

The UN then proposed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to achieve sustainable development, marking a new step towards building a world of shared prosperity. The core of this Agenda coincides with the vision of a human community with a shared future put forward by President Xi. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is of great significance to Africa. This action-oriented agenda is a major outcome of the active participation of African countries in the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 world development plan.

The Agenda 2063 of the African Union, which preceded the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, represents the continent's aspiration for development. Some of its visions for development are even more ambitious than those of the 2030 Agenda. Agenda 2063 reflects the aspirations of African countries for development and prosperity, common prosperity, solidarity and integration. It speaks out our yearning for building a fair and free continent with a promising future, and for helping women and youth get rid of fear and disease, meet their basic needs and fully realise their potential.

The world's development is being severely disrupted and the Human Development Index has regressed for the first time in 30 years. The world economic recovery is facing many obstacles, development cooperation is sluggish and the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is facing unprecedented difficulties and challenges. The two world economic downturns in a short period of time hit us hard, further reflecting the importance and necessity to pay more attention to human development.

In the current situation, inadequate institutional governance capacity has exacerbated systemic financial risks. In addition, soaring food and energy prices, increasing influence of climate change, widening gap between rich and poor, multiple epidemics, natural disasters, ongoing regional and international conflicts and high inflation have made the world increasingly vulnerable.

While the underlying causes of these problems vary, the fundamental solution lies in visionary and committed leadership, sound public governance systems and resilient social systems. Today's conference is an important and timely one to address development issues, as China has just won the battle against poverty at an unprecedented pace.

I'm convinced that the valuable experience China has accumulated in this regard will help facilitate the future development plan of the human community.

The core of sustainable development is achieving economic and social development without overexploiting natural resources. Since the natural resources are finite, development expansion without long-term planning will inevitably lead to the deterioration of the living environment for all. In view of this, the exchanges of ideas and knowledge among the participating parties will help countries to achieve ecological transformation and formulate science-based development plans.

I believe that the future of Africa relies on the autonomous action of the African people. After going through so much suffering and missing so many

opportunities, it is now a crucial moment for Africa to achieve its future development. The AU's Agenda 2063 is the full expression of the aspirations of the continent.

Africa's future development is a historical, developmental and moral imperative that requires urgent and practical actions. The UNIR is committed to creating the necessary conditions for the Togolese people to realise their own dreams and live a happy life. We have benefited a lot from the successful experience of the CPC, and we believe that China's valuable experience will help us to realise our vision.

Long live the friendship between the CPC and the UNIR!

Long live peace, unity and common prosperity!

Video Speech by H.E. Shahbaz Sharif, Chairman of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



I am delighted to address this important Conference to promote the goal of global development. We are grateful to His Excellency President Xi Jinping for launching the Global Development Initiative (GDI). This is yet another visionary framework of the President, following his Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Today, the world is grappling with multiple crises – relating to food, fuel and finance. These challenges have become more daunting due to severe economic shocks of the COVID pandemic, rising commodity prices, inflation, and deepening conflicts.

Climate change has emerged as a serious threat to the developing states. Due to changing weather

patterns, torrential rains, flash floods and wild fires have continued to wreak havoc in many parts of the world, including in my own country, Pakistan. These unforeseen developments have not only claimed lives and destroyed livelihoods of the many in Pakistan, but also caused infrastructure losses over wide areas of the country. The situation is further aggravated in the developing countries, as they do not have the financial capacity to respond to these grave calamities. The need for international cooperation could not be more urgent than it is now.

In that context, I welcome the Initiative to bring together a group of over 50 friendly countries to

jointly address the current economic challenges confronting the developing nations and to enable them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In this vital endeavour, China's assistance and support are invaluable for the developing countries, which are greatly encouraged by China's own unprecedented rise and achievements in the economic, social and industrial developments. The world is also deeply impressed by its success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty in just 35 years. China and Pakistan are time-tested friends, All Weather Strategic Partners, and "Iron Brothers".

As Chair of the Group of 77 and China, Pakistan is poised to steer the bloc of developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Pakistan is also committed to working closely with China, along with other members of the "Group of Friends" to promote our shared development objectives.

Eight critical areas have been identified in which progress must be made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals such as Poverty and Hunger, the COVID Pandemic, Environment, Industry, Agriculture, Trade, and Finance. In each of these 8 critical areas,

the policies and actions required to realise the SDGs are being developed. Their implementation will be promoted through national, regional and international mechanisms. It also includes mechanisms within the UN system, to mobilise finance, technology transfer and capacity building of the developing states.

In my view, the implementation of development projects as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative can provide an important avenue to the participating countries for the achievement of the GDI goals. In Pakistan, the transformational China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, is a vital framework for the realisation of our core national agenda of economic development. We, in Pakistan, have an unwavering commitment to fully realise the potential of CPEC as harbinger of a new era of progress and prosperity.

I am confident that this Solidarity Conference will make a valuable contribution to the success of the Global Development Initiative.

I thank you all.

**Video Speech by
H.E. Roosevelt Skerrit
Chairman of the Dominica Labour Party and
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica**



Let me begin by thanking President Xi Jinping for understanding the need to convene this very important forum to consolidate gains and further advance global efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government and People of the Commonwealth of Dominica share long standing friendly relations with the Government and people of the People's Republic of China. This is why I greet you in solidarity today and share with all of you without fear of being contradicted, that, for a very long time, the Government of the People's Republic of China has advocated the need for a global community with a shared future that leaves no one behind.

President Xi's announcement of China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) in September 2021 is in keeping with this shared future.

Accordingly, this proposed GDI champions the international community to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the context of an open and inclusive partnership.

I am particularly pleased that Small Island Developing States, like Dominica, will stand to benefit in areas of poverty alleviation, food security, financing for development, climate change, the digital economy and connectivity, with the hope of realizing measurable implementation of the United Nations

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This GDI maximizes the comparative advantages of multilateral cooperation mechanisms as have been promoted by the United Nations, the G20 and BRICS, among other international groupings.

Additionally, it provides an opportunity to capitalize on a diverse knowledge base, strengths, perspectives and skill-sets, from different sectors with the aim of transforming new experiences into collective action.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that cooperation across countries is needed now more than ever. We have witnessed millions of lives lost and a subsequent socio-economic meltdown, where recovery efforts remain uneven, unfair, and insufficient.

I must again, through this medium, commend China's support for the Caribbean, particularly demonstrated during the pandemic. China donated vaccines and provided medical assistance including equipment, supplies and technical support to complement the limited human resource in many of our countries.

Very early, the science was clear that vaccines are a key factor in COVID-19 recovery and control and the People's Republic of China has led the charge in making vaccines a global good by ensuring equity in vaccine distribution.

China has also been extremely supportive of the region's fight against climate change and building resilience, specifically through post-disaster relief and recovery assistance, as well as funding for the rebuilding of key infrastructure post disasters.

I have noted with interest that the GDI presents a functional lifeline for Small States, particularly at this stage of our development where climate change presents a constant threat to developmental

gains, directly delaying the urgent transition to more resilient economies. I therefore embrace new opportunities that actively chaperon our efforts to achieve a more just and sustainable world.

I join President Xi Jinping in sounding the call to all countries, the world over, to accept shared responsibility to promote global protection, growth and security and call on all partners to "jointly translate this Initiative into concrete actions and make sure that no country is left behind". As global leaders, we must together foster a new era of global development featuring benefits for all.

The Commonwealth of Dominica joins the global community in expressing gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for sharing its experiences, financial resources and expertise, with those of us who are at the frontline of climate change, to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

We applaud President Xi's commitment to add a further \$42 billion to the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, which will also be renamed the "Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund."

The Commonwealth of Dominica endorses this new, non-infrastructure-centered mechanism focusing on sustainable development through grants and capacity building, designed to infuse new impetus into the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I strongly believe that this GDI must be embraced as a critical public good and a dynamic cooperation platform that the Government of the People's Republic of China is extending to the whole world in order for it to be successful.

I urge all of us to unite to strengthen multilateralism.

Dialogue: One Dream, Shared Future

Chinese Astronaut Mme. Wang Yaping Shared Her Views on GDI



Mme. Wang Yaping, a Chinese astronaut, attended the Conference as a special representative and delivered a speech. She affectionately reviewed her two flights to the space and shared her stories about three unforgettable moments during these flights. She expressed her aspiration that, with the

consensus of the Global Development Initiative, the international civil society would strive together for the shared dream of humanity, a better future, and the smiling faces of our children with a greater vision of the space and a braver ambition of exploration.

Video Speech by Mr. Stephon Marbury, Head Coach of CBA's Beijing Royal Fighters and former NBA All-star Player

On August 12th, Mr. Marbury delivered a video speech at the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative.

Marbury said that, human beings have a shared future, and the future of human beings must also be a beautiful future. As an American who works in China with a Chinese green card, Marbury held the view that China and the United States have a shared responsibility in promoting human development and progress and creating a better future for mankind.

Marbury noted that, President Xi Jinping's Global Development Initiative aims to promote the international community to work together to meet the challenges, promote world economic recovery and accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The current development problems facing mankind are global. It is impossible for any single country to solve these problems by fighting alone. Global cooperation and global action are the most feasible solutions. The Global Development Initiative is such a solution.

Marbury added that, from an athlete to a coach, his career is always related to sports. Sports help people improve their health and enjoy life better. At the same time, it is also an important driving force for



economic and social development and an important window for displaying development achievements. "I am willing to work with all sports practitioners to better play the role of sports for development, actively participate in the implementation of global development initiatives, and make my own contribution."

Video Speeches

Video Speech by Mr. Martin Schulz, President of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and former Speaker of the European Parliament



I wish you all the best, especially for the Conference to be celebrated today – but far beyond, for all kinds of activities that aim at improving mutual understanding and fostering good international relations. Actually, this seems to be more in need than ever during our long-lasting cooperation.

Today's Conference combines the contributions of important scholars and decision-takers. It is devoted to analyzing development policies and strategies. I very much appreciate today's efforts in comparing concepts and experience. I'm sure, this will improve the quality of the work later provided.

China's contributions are based on its own rich experience. China has developed with record speed, especially during the last 40 years. It has succeeded in overcoming absolute poverty by the end of 2020. By reaching that domestic goal, China has also made significant contribution to global poverty reduction. China has clearly defined the next stages for the development of its own society- and the steps to be taken. About development, it has a plan! Now, it is only consequent to reach out and extend a helping hand to other countries in need.

Germany, my country, has started engaging in

development assistance more than 50 years ago. When starting, we called it “development aid”, but learned soon that “giving” is a pointless concept. We learned that only a joint venture in partnership with developing countries can achieve positive results. We have learned many lessons during those 50 years, some by reflection, and others the hard way- by bad experience. We learned that good intentions alone do not guarantee good results. It is all about good concepts, concepts that are empirically tried and tested. So, we are convinced, based on our own experience, that development efforts should

- 1.be based on international experience, both the good and the sorry types,
- 2.be internationally well coordinated,
- 3.target the needs of the receiving country.

Let me add one more point of my personal reflection. Development as a successful process requires a context, and can only happen when many conditions are met. Let me mention two aspects which I regard as of pivotal importance. They should be taken into account when formulating development concepts:

- 1.Peace: Peace is a precondition for every development process, or vice versa. The emergence of violent conflicts will stop development processes

immediately. So, in parallel and in addition to development efforts we must:

- aim at guaranteeing peace and foster peaceful solutions of conflicts and
- make sure that development itself will not trigger new conflicts in societies by creating better conditions only for some persons or regions- at the cost of others.

2.Sustainability: The improvement of economic conditions is an important goal. We should keep in mind that the cost of environmental conditions must be considered as well, must be internalized in our mindset, be explicitly included in our set of goals. Furthermore, we should make sure that the financial conditions for projects are sustainable, that the cost of servicing credits can be borne in the long run, even under difficult conditions.

So, a partnership in development as shaped in China’s “Global Development Initiative,” is a noble undertaking that will be considered all over the globe. Making use of other countries’ experiences can improve results and make the world a better place. I am glad that today this will be studied in this Conference by eminent persons from China and abroad. May this endeavor lead to good results! I wish you all the best!

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

I know that President Xi Jinping chaired in Beijing the High-level Dialogue on Global Development back last month. And I know that everybody are involved. All the extensive groups have been working on this, from NGOs, social partners, and interested bodies, have been looking at economic globalization experiencing the difficulties of the time, the huge issue of climate change. Hopefully we can make a lot of progress before 2030. We can see the flooding, the earthquakes, etc., all of the difficulties around the world. We have the economic difficulties, high inflation, and high interest rates. We have the conflicts. We have the movement of the people around the world, and refugees. All of these issues need international cooperation like never before.

And I know that China NGO Network for International Exchanges has been working hard with partners. I wish the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development a success. I know that working together to build a global development community and deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is going to be your focus this year. I think it's quite clear from the Paris Meeting a few years ago, what the agenda is, what the objectives are, and what the priorities need to be. And I think most of the people across the world, regardless of their political or ideological differences, know that these are issues for the mankind to



address. So I think, I just hope that your work and the work of people from so many different parts of the world can lead to this. I hope this Conference will set the blueprint. I will continue to help fold up the blueprint as we go forward. So the culmination will be the launch of the joint declaration to try and help for all of us to work together in the world.

So I wish the Conference well. Hopefully we will meet again soon.

Showcase: Working Together in Joint Action

Peace and Development Fund Launched by CFPD

Xu Jianguo, Secretary General of China Foundation for Peace and Development



Secretary General Xu Jianguo introduced that since its founding, China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) has dedicated to the promotion of peaceful development and common prosperity of the world with concrete actions. Till now, it has carried out nearly 90 livelihood projects, with total investment of over 260 million RMB, directly benefiting hundreds of thousands of people.

Xu declared that CFPD will officially launch the Peace and Development Fund, in a bid to help and support developing countries especially the least developed countries to reduce poverty and improve people's livelihood and contribute its efforts on global development. In the coming three years, 100 million RMB will be injected to the Fund with focus on three areas covering education, health care and poverty reduction.

For education, it is planning to build new schools

equipped with modern educational facilities in developing countries, with the goal of improving their education level and providing solutions to the imbalanced education.

For health care, in order to improve the medical and sanitation condition, CFPD will provide medical materials and supplies to countries in need.

For poverty reduction, CFPD will strengthen communication and exchanges by sharing China's experience on poverty reduction, deepen international collaboration on poverty reduction and contribute to common development and shared prosperity.

Xu called on joint efforts in addressing common challenges and in sharing opportunities with openness, thus making greater contribution to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Convenient Medical Device Benefiting People in Need

Pan Xiangbin, Assistant President of Fuwai Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science, Laureate of WHO Prize for Science and Technology Innovation

国际首创单纯超声引导经皮介入技术
The world's first ultrasound-guided percutaneous intervention technique

- 用超声完全替代放射线进行介入治疗
Ultrasound replaces radiation for interventional therapy
- 保护患者、保护医生、节约费用、适合推广
Protect patients, protect doctors, save costs, suitable for promotion
- 消除医源性损伤、降低设备依赖程度
Eliminate iatrogenic injuries and reduce equipment dependence
- 实现门诊手术治疗常见心血管疾病
Outpatient surgery for common cardiovascular diseases

Pan Xiangbin, Assistant President of Fuwai Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science, also Laureate of WHO Prize for Science and Technology Innovation, is highly devoted to international medical assistance. According to Pan, his team developed the world's first ultrasound-guided percutaneous intervention technique, which makes it easier to perform

operation with a laptop sized ultrasound apparatus instead of expensive ones, with lower side effects. It even enables doctors to operate in poor conditions such as makeshift hospitals. Apart from that, his team has carried out onsite training in 21 countries so far, sowing the seeds of friendship around the world.

Humanitarian Program of Volunteer Vessel Aid Launched by Beijing Peaceland Foundation

Liu Zhihua, Secretary General of Beijing Peaceland Foundation



Secretary General Liu Zhihua introduced that the Foundation is purchasing a vessel and planning to upgrade it with medical aid equipment for humanitarian aid purpose. According to Liu, under the support and guidance of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Beijing Peaceland Foundation has carried out a series of work in

response to humanitarian crisis and environmental crisis in many countries in recent years. It is projected that the vessel will dock at countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia and Africa, stop by stop, during which volunteer doctors will provide medical service to local patients, and each stop will last about 3 to 4 months.

Declaration: Same Appeal, Shared Aspiration

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



On August 12th, the then Ambassador Mohamed Elbadri delivered a speech at the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative.

The Ambassador noted that, the Covid-19 pandemic has seriously hindered development in all countries, pressed the pause button on the global economy, and blocked the promoting process of governments in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In face of multiple challenges, we need to strengthen multilateral cooperation and promote common development more than ever. In such a perilous moment, China proposed the Global Development Initiative and restored the hope for world economy. This Initiative covers eight major areas in proactively promoting economic and social development of all countries and effectively

safeguarding the wellbeing of people all over the world. The Initiative was proposed by China, but its spirit belongs to the world.

According to Ambassador Elbadri, China has successfully eradicated absolute poverty, accumulated rich experience and made remarkable achievements, playing a leading role in development globally. Egypt also aims at promoting poverty reduction and improving people's wellbeing. As a member state of the United Nations, Egypt is willing to actively cooperate with other countries in promoting the implementation of Global Development Initiative. "We also hope to carry out more exchanges and cooperation with the international civil society, and make unremitting efforts in achieving common goals."

Video Speech by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations



On August 12, former UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon delivered a video speech at the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative (GDI).

Ban said that the humanity is facing multi-faceted challenges, including climate change, COVID-19 pandemic, and unequal development among countries. All these challenges are not possible to be addressed by any country alone in the world. We need to mobilize common wisdom, collective will and power. In this regard, the initiative of the Chinese side for this event should be appreciated and the theme “Working together to build a global development community and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is quite relevant and timely. I am convinced that the efforts of

the Chinese government under the leadership of His Excellency President Xi Jinping will bring about fruitful results in the process of implementation of Global Development Initiative.

Ban stressed that President Xi Jinping announced the Global Development Initiative in September 2021 at the United Nations. Since then, it has been warmly received and strongly supported by the United Nations, as well as more than 100 individual countries and international civil societies. If we draw attention to the achievement of the Chinese government in the fight against absolute poverty, hunger and public health, we can highly value the efforts and important role of the Chinese government to approach fast Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

Ban said that the GDI is considered as important international public goods. It is pursuing a due stage of development that is balanced, coordinated, and inclusive in this process towards Sustainable Development Goals. It has also offered effective solutions for tackling development challenges and promoting common development. Therefore, the international community should cooperate with each other to promote the implementation of the GDI. Then it will foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, common prosperity, and inclusiveness.

Ban called on all governments and international organizations to support the United Nations in steering and coordinating global development

cooperation and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is important that all countries forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership. It is equally important that we focus on poverty reduction, public health, education, digital connectivity and industrialization. Then we can realize sustainable development for all. Every country must recognize that the only way to overcome global challenges is through knowledge sharing, multilateralism and regional cooperation, which is ultimately in everyone's interest. Re-invigoration of cooperation and solidarity based on multilateralism can guide us for a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.

Joint Declaration of the International Civil Society on Working Together to Implement the Global Development Initiative

[Editor's Note] The Joint Declaration of the International Civil Society on Working Together to Implement the Global Development Initiative has witnessed warm welcome and active participation since its launching. By August 12th, 2022, over 1280 NGOs, think tanks, media, business communities, international organizations, government agencies and leading personages from all sectors had signed up for the Declaration, covering 106 countries in six continents and eight major areas of the Global Development Initiative, which demonstrates the great significance of the GDI in resolving global development issues following the trend of history. The delegates from international civil society expressed their full support and best wishes to the GDI by reading the declaration and sending messages.

Development is a timeless theme for humanity. In September 2021 at the United Nations, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forth the Global Development Initiative (GDI) with the aim of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and striving for stronger, greener and healthier global development. This initiative has been warmly received and strongly supported by the United Nations and other international organisations as well as more than 100 countries.

We, the international civil society, representing civil society organisations, business communities, media and think tanks from various countries, highly commend and express our support for the GDI.

We are of the view that our world is faced with drastic changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century. Economic globalisation is experiencing



headwinds. There are unprecedented challenges in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Meanwhile, people of all countries cherish even stronger yearning for peace, development and cooperation. There is an urgent call from the international community for development with a higher level of equity, sustainability and security.

We wish to stress that the GDI, as a public good shared by the entire world, has injected a vigorous impetus to bringing global development forward to a new stage that is balanced, coordinated and inclusive, and has offered effective solutions for tackling development challenges and promoting common development. The international community needs to seize opportunities and meet challenges in promoting the sound implementation of the GDI, and jointly fostering a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation and common prosperity.

We call on all governments and international organisations to support the UN in steering and coordinating global development cooperation, put development front and centre on the international agenda, deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build political consensus to

ensure that everyone values development and all countries pursue cooperation together, forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership, and promote cooperation in a wide range of areas such as poverty reduction, public health, education, digital connectivity and industrialisation, so as to significantly improve the livelihood of peoples worldwide and realise sustainable development for all.

We undertake to actively participate in global development cooperation, so as to garner public support for forging international consensus on development and cultivating enabling international environment for development, leverage wisdom and strength of the people to foster new drivers for global development and to build a global development partnership.

We look forward to the day when no single country or individual is left behind in the process of global development. The problems of unbalanced and inadequate development between and within countries are gradually resolved one after another. People's sense of happiness, fulfilment and security keeps growing and the accomplishment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals gets expedited.



Concluding Remarks by Mr. Chen Zhou, Vice-Minister of IDCPC



The International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative has successfully accomplished all agenda, reached broad consensus and delivered fruitful results with our concerted efforts. I now announce that as a part of the practical results of this Conference, CNIE together with cooperative partners from different countries officially establish the Project Pool of the International Civil Society in Implementing Global Development Initiative, which includes at least 30 projects for public welfare in fields related to sustainable development, in a bit to improve people's livelihood. In the meantime, CNIE and 32 NGOs in China and other countries officially launch the International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation.

This Network is also one of the 32 deliverables of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, which will carry out Joint Action of Civil Society on Poverty Alleviation so as to make positive contribution to global cause of poverty reduction.

The success of today's Conference reflects the strong will of the international civil society to jointly pursue development and share prosperity and forms the international civil society's extensive consensus to promote development and progress. The congratulatory letter of General Secretary Xi Jinping is of great significance and lights up the way forward to implement the GDI. In his keynote speech, Minister Liu proposed measures in four aspects to

learn, publicize and carry out the essence of General Secretary Xi's congratulatory letter. We should take this Conference as an opportunity to contribute the wisdom and strength of the international civil society to advancing the implementation of the GDI and the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and promoting the building of a community with a shared

future for mankind.

Now I announce the conclusion of the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative.

Thank you.



CAFIU Organized Field Trips of China's Ecological and Environmental Protection Development

From July 21st to 22nd, 2022, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) organized series of field trips with the theme of *First-Hand Experience of China's Ecological and Environmental Protection Development*, in which around 30 foreign students from Beijing Normal University and young staff from CAFIU participated.

In Mangshan National Forest Park, the participants listened to the briefing of a forestry expert on the development path of China's afforestation and observed the plant monitoring system in the park. At the end of the trip, they took a group picture in front of the white-bark pine, Chinese pine, rosa xanthine and Japanese cherry planted by Comrade Deng

Xiaoping in 1983 and 1984. Through the visit, they had a deeper and more visualized understanding of the philosophy of China's afforestation, which has evolved from afforestation afforesting the country to building a healthy forest ecological system and protecting biodiversity.

In Asuwei Integrated Garbage Treatment Center, the participants visited the exhibition hall of waste classification and watched field operation of waste processing. Through the visit, they gained first-hand experience of the highly efficient waste processing procedure and the modern technology adopted in this process, which helped them get to know the great importance that China has attached to



environmental protection, drawing people's attention from observing the nature itself to restraining human behaviors such as waste classification.

In Nanhaizi Milu Park, the participants observed Milu (aka. the David's deer) and listened to the introduction of an expert on animal protection about China's biodiversity preservation. They better understood the ideology of China's environmental protection, i.e. building a community of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and bringing the philosophy of preserving ecological balance to

every household.

In his article *Planning the Socioeconomic Development from the Perspective of the Harmonious Coexistence between Human and Nature*, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that humanity and nature are a community of life. We must respect her, protect her and follow her laws. The purpose of these field trips is to promote the philosophy of a community of life between human and nature and call on people's action on protecting the environment, the nature and the earth.



CAFIU Vice-President Liu Hongcai Attended Seminar in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Normalization of China-Japan Diplomatic Relationship

On September 12, 2022, Mr. Liu Hongcai, Vice-President of CAFIU, attended the seminar in commemoration of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relationship themed *Staying True to the Original Mission, Forging ahead for a Better Life*. In his speech, Vice-President Liu emphasized that rising above differences in ideology and system is an important premise to the enduring friendship, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation between the two countries. In terms of China-Japan relations,

consolidating the friendship and safeguarding political consensus are the keys to its future development, honoring its commitment and properly managing sensitive issues are the bedrocks of its long-term stability, regional peace and stability and common development are its essential requirements, and people-to-people friendship and cooperation foundation are its traditional advantage. Both China and Japan should review the starting point of the normalization of the diplomatic relationship, from





which we can study its development path, draw lessons and gain experience from history. We should follow the trend of history and the good will of our people, thus contributing to the healthy and stable development of China-Japan relationship in the coming 50 years. Amity between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. Liu expressed that it is our good wish that both sides make good use of the traditional advantage of people-to-people friendship and actively booster communication and cooperation in different areas, particularly among the young people, through whom the enduring friendship and good tradition could live long and be passed on from generation to generation.

The seminar was jointly held by the Chinese Embassy in Japan and Japan Business Federation. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi and the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Hayashi Yoshimasa delivered a video speech respectively. Mr. Kong Xuanyou, the Chinese Ambassador to Japan and Mr. Fukuda Yasuo, former Japanese Prime Minister made keynote speeches. Over 200 delegates from China and Japan participated in the seminar in Beijing and Tokyo, and had in-depth discussions on the topic of Inspiration from the 50th Anniversary of the Normalization of China-Japan Diplomatic Relationship and the Development of China-Japan Relations and Bilateral Cooperation Outlook.

Countries Urged to Advance Right to Development

Zhang Yunbi, China Daily

All countries should practice true multilateralism, contribute to the new vision of security, put development front and center on their international agenda, promote the right to development, and remove development barriers, a senior Chinese diplomat has said.

Wang Chao, president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and president of the United Nations Association of China, made the comment on Monday when addressing a general debate for the 51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council via video link.

At the debate, focused on follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Wang warned that "global development and world peace are facing more uncertainties and instabilities".

COVID-19 is still threatening people's rights to life and health, and the implementation of the UN 2030

Agenda is off track, he noted.

Human development has fallen back to its 2016 levels, reversing much of the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, he said.

"Peace and development are the common cause of mankind," he said, noting that China has proposed the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, providing public goods for the global response to development and security challenges.

The GDI aims to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to build a global community of development, while the GSI seeks to offer a new approach to eliminate the root causes of international conflict, and promote the establishment of a balanced, effective, and sustainable security architecture, achieving durable stability and security, he said.

Livelihoods of Ethnic Groups Improved

Cui Jia, China Daily



Local people perform dancing for tourists in the Kazanqi folk tourism village, a popular scenic spot in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

China has attached great importance to improving the livelihoods of people from different ethnic groups and their human rights since 2012. Attempts to use ethnic and religious issues to create conflict in China will never succeed, said the deputy director of a Chinese association for promoting exchange in ethnic affairs.

In recent years, the United States and some other Western countries have worked closely with ethnic separatist forces to cook up a series of lies about

China's ethnic affairs including that the Chinese government intends to wipe out ethnic cultures in the Xinjiang Uygur, Tibet and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions, Yang Yucheng, deputy director of China Ethnic Minorities' Association for External Exchange, said on Thursday.

"Their goal is to stir up ethnic and religious issues to create conflicts in China. Such attempts are doomed to fail as people from different ethnic groups understand that they all belong to the community of

the Chinese nation," Yang said at an online side event of the ongoing 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on China's efforts to protect the development of people of different ethnic groups.

In fact, people from areas with large ethnic populations have all been lifted out of poverty while continuous efforts have been made to protect their cultures and languages. Furthermore, the central government will increase support to those areas in the process of rural vitalization, Yang added.

In October 2019, Kiryl Rudy, a professor of economics at the Belarusian State Economic University and former ambassador of Belarus to China, said that he had spent some time with people from the Miao ethnic group in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and learned about China's moves to help locals achieve high-quality development.

Through infrastructure projects, such as airports, high-speed railways, highways and 5G telecommunication networks, people from the Miao ethnic group have been brought closer to major markets. This also helps attract big companies to

regions with large ethnic populations, Rudy said.

"Also, you can't take minorities from self-employment in low-productive services and agriculture industries without proposing something better for them in exchange. Industrial parks and special economic zones could be an answer to upgrade the business climate and industrial base in underdeveloped territories," Rudy said.

Jiang Wei, a researcher at the China Institute for Vitalizing Border Areas and Enriching the People, said that since November 2021, all villages in China, including those in border areas with large ethnic populations, have had access to broadband services.

"Improved infrastructure has greatly boosted the development of border areas with large ethnic populations and has improved livelihoods," Jiang said.

From 2016 to 2020, the disposable incomes of people in eight provinces and regions with large ethnic populations have seen average annual growth of 8.7 percent, which is above the national average, Jiang said.

Efforts Made to Protect Rights of the Disabled

Cheng Si, China Daily



Job seekers consult employers at a career fair for disabled people in Cangzhou, Hebei province, in May, 2022. [Photo by FU XINCHUN/FOR CHINA DAILY]

China has made continuous efforts to protect the human rights of disabled people, especially disabled women, by securing their right to work and securing legal protections.

Liu Xiaonan, a professor from the Institute for Human Rights with the China University of Political Science and Law, said at an online side event to the ongoing 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, that according to World Health Organization figures there are over 1 billion disabled people

across the world, roughly 15 percent of the global population. However, their average employment rate is only 44 percent.

"Research shows that disabled women are subjected to worse treatment in the job market compared with disabled men, including in job opportunities, promotions and payments," she said.

"Disabled women are also in a worse situation when it comes to employment quality."

She said that as the international community stresses

the protection of the human rights of disabled women, China has its advantages in securing those rights.

"We have specific laws and regulations in protecting disabled women and we also have organizations such as the China Disabled Persons' Federation and the All-China Women's Federation," she said.

Zhou Lulu, Party secretary of the Guangzhou University Institute for Human Rights, said at the side event that China has about 85 million disabled

people.

"In order to help disabled people enjoy a better life, it's necessary to encourage companies to shoulder their social responsibilities and give them job opportunities," she said.

"From my perspective, companies can develop vacancies tailored for disabled people. It's important that the group has equal opportunities in terms of job seeking and competition, which requires the elimination of discrimination in these areas."

Seminar Highlights Spirit of Harmony in Diversity

Zhang Yunbi, China Daily

Leading scholars and officials around the world have called on nations to respect the diversity of human civilization, uphold the spirit of harmony in diversity, and follow the path of exchanges and mutual learning based on equality, dialogue, and inclusiveness.

They made the urge at an online international seminar hosted by the United Nations Association of China on Tuesday, in parallel to the 51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Wang Chao, president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and president of UNA-China, addressed the seminar titled "Promote Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations, Build an Open and Inclusive World".

Wang stressed that mutual respect and equality should be upheld, and global human rights governance should be promoted based on respecting differences among civilizations.

He called upon nations to stick to exchanges and integration to promote mutual progress, adhere to integrity and innovation to keep pace with the times, pursue peace and development through dialogue among civilizations and promote people-to-people exchanges.

"There is no superior or inferior path to human rights, only its own characteristics. People of all countries have the right to independently choose the path of human rights development best suited to their



JIN DING/CHINA DAILY

national conditions," he said.

"The Chinese people have never accepted the logic that a strong country is bound to seek hegemony. Instead, they advocate that all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are equal members of the international community and participate in international affairs on an equal footing," he added.

China has provided the international community with public goods such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and China adheres to the common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom for mankind, he said.

Nation always Upholds People-centered Rights

Yang Zekun, China Daily



Farmers enjoy a light moment with chilis harvested in Zunyi, Guizhou province.

China has always upheld the people-centered perspective on human rights and takes the path to effectively meet the people's ever-growing need for a better life, experts said at an online meeting on Monday.

The online meeting was a side event of the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, with the theme of the People-Centered Philosophy — the Value Adherence of the Contemporary Chinese Perspective on Human Rights, which was

sponsored by the China Foundation for Human Rights Development and hosted by Minzu University of China.

Zuo Feng, vice-chairman and secretary-general of the foundation, said the starting point and foothold of contemporary China's perspective on human rights are for the people's happy life.

Over the years, China has promoted economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress in a coordinated manner and worked hard to address

problems, enabling its people to feel more fulfilled, happy and secure, said Zuo.

The contemporary Chinese perspective of human rights follows the people-centered philosophy, promotes human rights through development, and constantly realizes and safeguards the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people, he said.

"China respects the principal position of the people, promotes their all-around development and persists in developing the cause of human rights according to our national conditions and people's demands," he said.

In promoting the development of China's human rights cause, the people have truly become the main participants, promoters and beneficiaries. China's path of human rights development has the broadest and most solid public support and has won the heartfelt support of the people of all ethnic groups in China, he said.

Li Yunlong, a professor at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, said that the people-centered concept of human rights is the core of China's perspective of human rights.

"In China, all power belongs to the people. The people are the masters of the country and they manage the state affairs, economic and cultural undertakings and social affairs through various channels. The country's development relies on the people and the development results are shared by the people," Li said.

Western human rights emphasize individuals as being the main subject of human rights, while the Chinese perspective of human rights emphasizes the unity of collective and individual human rights and advocates safeguarding both individual and collective human rights at the same time. "China's path is consistent with the spirit of the United Nations human rights instruments and even clearer," he said.

Decade of Efforts to Strengthen Environmental Laws

Cheng Si, China Daily



A file photo shows a wind power plant in Zhangjiakou, North China's Hebei province. [Photo/Xinhua]

China has made consistent efforts to bolster environmental legislation and awareness of environmental rights in recent decades in a bid to improve human rights.

On July 28, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

Tang Xianxing, deputy director of the Human Rights Center at Fudan University, said at an online side

event to the ongoing 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council on Friday that China has included environmental rights into its system of human rights protection, which is of benefit in giving people their environmental rights.

He said the country clarified environmental rights in the first issue of the National Human Rights Action Plan, which was released in 2009, before International law, and China's Constitution or laws, officially recognized environmental rights as human

rights.

In the three subsequent State-level action plans released in 2012, 2016 and 2021, China continued to improve people's knowledge of environmental protection, as well as their ability to join in and supervise.

"In the fourth plan, which runs from 2021 to 2025, environmental rights protection has been placed on a par with economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights," Tang said.

Wu Weixing, a professor at the law school of Nanjing

University in Jiangsu province, told the event that over the course of the last decade, the people have been able to enjoy better environmental rights as a result of the attention placed on what the government calls "the development of ecological civilization", health issues and procedural environmental rights.

He added that academicians have pushed for the compilation of an environmental code, and that a number of experts have added suggestions on environmental rights protection to the draft code.

Politicization of Human Rights Denounced

Yang Zekun, China Daily

Experts at an online human rights event called for eliminating the negative impact of the politicization of human rights and promoting the healthy development of international human rights causes through cooperation and dialogue.

The online event, with the theme of Risks and Problems of Politicization of International Human Rights, is an event held on the sidelines of the United Nations Human Rights Council 51st Session. It was hosted by Jilin University on Monday.

The politicization of international human rights is not a new trend. The United States has repeatedly attached human rights issues to economic and military issues to maintain its world hegemony through economic sanctions, technological blockades and even military invasion, said Liu Hongzhen, deputy director of the Human Rights Center of Jilin University.

The politicization and instrumentalization of human rights erode the value of human rights, and the solution to resolve such issues should be equal dialogue and sincere cooperation under the UN system, she said.

"There should be universal respect for human dignity, human rights conventions and the right of each country to choose its own human rights path," Liu said.

The Western concept of human rights contains the elements of political confrontation, and Western countries tend to observe human rights issues from a political perspective from the very beginning, and have interfered in other countries' internal affairs with human rights issues, said Mao Junxiang, executive director of the Human Rights Center of Central South University.

The theory, system, practice and culture of human rights are always rooted in the economic, social and cultural traditions of a specific region. The diversity of human rights is natural, but Western countries often impose their human rights concept on others with a sense of cultural superiority, which hinders international human rights exchanges, said Mao.

Human rights have been used to serve national interests and provide justification for violations of international law, and were considered an ideal excuse to justify military intervention in foreign countries, Mao said.

"As a basic principle of the working mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council, cooperation and dialogue, rather than confrontation, are the right way to promote human rights," he said.

Tang Yingxia, deputy director of the Center for Human Rights Research of Nankai University, said that the politicization of human rights is inconsistent with the purpose of the international human rights law and also undermines the universality of the international law.

The essence of the politicization of human rights is to use human rights as a tool to realize foreign policy, implement unilateralism and promote human rights diplomacy, she said.

Universality is the foundation of the concept of human rights, and inclusiveness is what gives the concept of human rights vitality and should be the solution to the differences in the field of human rights that we are dealing with today, Tang said.

