

Goal within reach

Around 5 percent GDP growth likely thanks to policy stimulus, demand

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New bond adds vibrancy to China-UAE ties

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Color of excellence

Artist brings back translucent glaze of famous Qingbai porcelain

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Hundreds of people through a night market on Saturday in Shijiazhuang, Hebei province. Since the beginning of this year, Zhengding county in Shijiazhuang has created a number of distinctive urban night economy landmarks, attracting tourists from all over the country, unleashing the potential for nighttime consumption and nurturing new economic growth points. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

CPC charts growth blueprint

Major initiatives to boost high-level opening-up, self-reliance in sci-tech

By XU WEI
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The central leadership of the Communist Party of China unveiled a sweeping plan on Sunday to deepen reform and modernize the country's governance system and capacity, detailing major initiatives to bolster high-level opening-up and self-reliance in science and technology.

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Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, three days after the leadership body wrapped up its reform-themed third plenary session in Beijing.

In addition to economic reforms, the resolution put forward detailed measures on developing whole-process people's democracy, building a

nation with a strong socialist culture, improving the quality of life for the general public, accelerating the pace of green transition and advancing the Peaceful China Initiative.

All tasks laid out in the resolution are to be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2029.

The resolution has been set out as policymakers are trying to energize the growth of the world's second-largest economy and better navigate domestic complexities and external challenges, including an aging Chinese population and protectionist moves by some major economies.

"As Chinese modernization has been advanced continuously through reform and opening-up, it will surely embrace broader horizons through further reform and opening-up," the resolution said.

The leadership body reaffirmed the country's commitment to taking greater strides in opening-up.

The policymakers underlined measures to enhance the compatibility and alignment of rules, regu-

lations, management practices and standards in areas such as property rights protection, industrial subsidies, environmental standards, labor protection, government procurement, e-commerce and finance.

China will provide more global public goods, expand its globally oriented network of high-standard free trade areas, establish compliance mechanisms that are aligned with prevailing international rules, and optimize the environment for opening-up and cooperation.

"We will develop new regulatory approaches for customs clearance, taxation and foreign exchange, and foster an institutional environment that is conducive to the development of new models and forms of trade," the resolution said.

One priority for policymakers is to shore up China's inflow of foreign investment.

"We will expand the catalog of encouraged industries for foreign investment, appropriately shorten the negative list for foreign investment... and promote wider opening with regard to telecommunications, the internet, education, culture, medical services and other sectors in a well-conceived way."

The mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative will be improved, with Beijing set to redouble efforts to develop multilateral platforms for cooperation in green development, the digital economy, artificial intelligence, energy, taxation, finance and disaster mitigation.

Another policy priority is to create an enabling environment and provide more opportunities in the reform plan for the development of nonpublic-sector enterprises, including pledges to introduce a law on promoting private businesses.

Key steps will be adopted to remove barriers to market access so that private enterprises can be guaranteed fair access to competitive infrastructure sectors, while a long-term mechanism for private enterprises to participate in major national projects will be established.

The development of new quality productive forces is set to receive greater policy support, with stronger emphasis on the generation of new sectors, business models and growth engines.

See *Blueprint*, page 2

Crucial role of reform and opening-up highlighted

By CAO DESHENG
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Turning the blueprint for Chinese modernization into a reality fundamentally hinges on further comprehensively deepening reform and continuously improving systems and mechanisms in various fields, in order to provide institutional safeguards for the country's modernization drive, said Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Addressing the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, which concluded on Thursday, Xi made explanatory remarks on the draft resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. The explanatory remarks were made public on Sunday.

Xi highlighted the crucial role of reform and opening-up in different periods of China's development, saying that on the new journey in the new era, the nation still needs to rely on reform and opening-up to create new prospects for Chinese modernization.

In the face of new circumstances and tasks, it is imperative to further comprehensively deepen reform to translate the institutional advantages of the country into the capacity for more effective governance, he said.

While emphasizing the need to resort to institutional reform to address the problems hindering high-quality growth, such as unbalanced and inadequate development, Xi said that responding to the risks and challenges on the way toward Chinese modernization requires comprehensively deepening reform.

With mounting regional conflicts and turbulence worldwide, exacerbated global issues and increasing external oppression, China's development has entered a period of strategic opportunities and challenges, marked by growing uncertainties and unforeseeable events, he warned.

Effectively addressing these risks and challenges and taking the strategic initiative amid the increasingly intense international competition require further comprehensively deepening reform, Xi said. It is necessary to use the improved institutional frameworks to prevent and mitigate risks, effectively respond to challenges, nurture new opportunities during crises, and forge new paths amid changing circumstances, he added.

Xi explained the drafting process of the resolution, which involved extensive consultations among the people within and outside the Party to ensure democratic and scientific decision-making. Xi served as the head of the group for drafting the document.

See *Drafting*, page 2

Cross-border link



The first passenger train between Bangkok's Krung Thep Aphiwat Central station in Thailand and Vientiane's Khamsavath railway station in Laos starts its maiden journey on Friday. YANG WANLI / CHINA DAILY See story, page 9

How China's tech cooperation with Africa makes a difference

The continent of Africa is closely being watched as the next big growth market — a description that has persisted for a while. There are numerous reasons for this optimism: Over 70 percent of the continent's population is under the age of 35, and by 2030, 42 percent of the world's young people are expected to be living in African countries. This data not only points to a major consumption market over the next three decades, it also underlines the continent's potential to quickly industrialize, develop itself and its economies of scale and contribute in a big way to innovative spaces in order to compete on a global scale.

However, for the continent to be able to compete in the world market and create employment opportunities for the over 20 million Africans joining the workforce each year, digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, which is strongly connected to economic growth, innovation, job creation and inclusion, will be critical. Digital technologies can help African nations leapfrog the

WORLD WATCH

By Elizabeth Michael Mitchell Omoruyi

slow and expensive grind of industrialization, reach their full potential and take their rightful place in the global economy.

Since African countries lack the comprehensive policy framework required to close the development gap in the digital economy, the African Union under Agenda 2063 has taken it upon itself to promote and encourage the digital economy and green technologies. These have been identified as vital instruments that are essential to provide new opportunities to the African people, drive business models, increase employment opportunities and also act as a universal enabler not only for realizing the aspirations of Africans but for global sustainable development goals as well.

See *Growth*, page 11

Biden drops reelection bid, endorses Harris

By HENG WEILI in New York
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US President Joe Biden, after nearly a month of mounting pressure from his own party, dropped his reelection bid on Sunday and endorsed Vice-President Kamala Harris to head the Democratic ticket in November.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your president," he wrote in a letter posted to social media. "And while it has been my intention to seek re-election, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and focus entirely on fulfilling my duties as president for the remainder of my term."

Biden's endorsement for Harris came in a subsequent post on X.

"Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year," Biden wrote. "Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump."

"I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and our nation — to defeat Donald Trump," said Harris, adding that

she was honored to have Biden's endorsement and wrote on X that "my intention is to earn and win this nomination."

The Democratic candidate, to be nominated at the Democratic National Convention, which starts on Aug 19 in Chicago, will face Trump, 78, the Republican nominee and former president.

"Should she win the nomination, the nation will watch a multiracial woman compete in a presidential general election for the first time in history," Debbie Walsh, director at the Center for American Women & Politics, said of Harris, 59, who is of Jamaican and Asian Indian descent.

Harris immediately got to work shoring up her support on Sunday and appeared to be quickly building momentum. The North Carolina and South Carolina delegates pledged their support to her on Sunday evening as did some governors and members of Congress.

While Biden did endorse Harris, her nomination is not guaranteed, and there could be a rare open convention, also referred to as a "floor

fight". There also has been talk of Democrats selecting a nominee virtually before the convention.

Harris needs the backing of 1,969 of the 3,936 Democratic delegates to secure her nomination.

Among the names mentioned as other potential Democratic presidential candidates are governors Gavin Newsom of California, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, J.B. Pritzker of Illinois and Andy Beshear of Kentucky. Some of those same people also could be considered as potential vice-presidential running mates for Harris.

Biden and Harris together had raised a massive war chest of \$240 million through various entities as of June 30, according to The New York Times.

Media reports had circulated last week that Biden, 81, would step down on Sunday, but the stories lost steam after Biden angrily dismissed them.

The president's political fortunes began to crumble after his dismal performance in a debate with Trump on June 27.

Former president Barack Obama

praised Biden, his former vice-president, in a statement on Medium.com on Sunday, saying he "wouldn't make this decision unless he believed it was right for America."

Obama said Biden "pointed us away from the four years of chaos, falsehood, and division that had characterized Donald Trump's administration."

While Trump said on Sunday that Harris would be easier to defeat than Biden, he continued to criticize Biden, telling NBC News, "There has never been a president who has done such damage to our country, from energy independence to letting in millions and millions of illegal immigrants."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, in a post on X wrote: "The Democrat Party forced the Democrat nominee off the ballot, just over 100 days before the election. Having invalidated the votes of more than 14 million Americans who selected Joe Biden to be the Democrat nominee for president, the self-proclaimed 'party of democracy' has proven exactly the opposite."

Agencies contributed to this story.

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TOP NEWS

Policies set to boost foreign investment

Measures can improve service efficiency, consolidate supply chain, experts say

By ZHONG NAN
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China's continuous reform measures and high-level opening-up will inject fresh momentum into its economic growth, creating more opportunities for multinational corporations to invest and thrive in the country, said market observers and business executives on Sunday.

They added that China's accelerated cultivation of new quality productive forces, along with its industrial transformation and upgrading, will further facilitate trade and investment globalization, and make global businesses profitable in the country.

Their comments came as China vowed to deepen reform for better management of foreign investment.

According to the full text of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, which was released on Sunday, China will expand the catalog of industries encouraging foreign investment and reasonably reduce the items on the negative list for foreign investment access.

China will fully remove the restrictions on foreign investment in the manufacturing sector and promote wider opening of sectors such as telecommunications, the internet, education, culture and healthcare, according to the resolution.

Chen Wenling, chief economist at the Beijing-based China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said that China's new round of economic reforms will effectively curb the protectionist behavior of some local governments, consolidate the global supply chain system, and create a closer synergy between foreign investment and the country's economic development.

Denis Depoux, global managing director at market consultancy Roland Berger, said the reforms in China's economic sector and the development of its new quality productive forces aim to enhance productivity through innovation.

"This, in turn, will drive higher domestic consumption and stimulate further economic growth," Depoux said.

Zhang Chundi, vice-president for China at Decathlon, said the French sporting goods manufacturer and retailer plans to open 20 to 30 new stores in China in each of the next two years.

As one of the few markets globally that are proficient in manufacturing, logistics, product design and retail, China currently accounts for 44 percent of Decathlon's global business volume.

"China's consistent opening-up measures have brought multiple benefits to foreign companies," said Zhang, adding that this not only provides wider market access, but also helps simplify administrative procedures and improve service efficiency.

Mohammed Al Ajlan, chairman of the Saudi-Chinese Business Council, said that China is making substantial efforts to help companies, especially small and medium-sized manufacturers, achieve effective industrial upgrades and transformation.

By enhancing the high-end, intelligent and green aspects of the manufacturing industrial chains across the country, these efforts will offer significant opportunities to global investors, he said.

Oliver Giersberg, senior vice-president and chief operations officer for China at BSH Home Appliances Group, a German manufacturer with 11,000 employees in the country, said that China's overall environment has fueled the company's creativity and innovation, boosting its development globally.

Amid China's vigorous push for innovation, Giersberg noted that the country's fast-growing digitalization and artificial intelligence sectors closely align with the company's growth strategy. "Now, more than ever, we are eager to leverage these factors to achieve global success," he added.

China saw the establishment of 26,870 new foreign-invested enterprises in the first half of the year, marking a 14.2 percent year-on-year increase, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

On Wednesday, the ministry emphasized that it will continue to promote high-level opening-up and improve the business environment, ensuring equal treatment for domestic as well as foreign companies.



A staff member encourages a resident during a group exercise session at an elderly care center in Hutubi county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Saturday. TAO WEIMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

China aims to strengthen elderly care

By WANG XIAOYU
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China plans to improve policies to bolster both the public and the private elderly care sectors, create diverse and personalized employment opportunities for seniors, and gradually raise the retirement age, according to a key policy document released on Sunday.

As the proportion of people in the nation who are age 60 and above reached more than 21 percent last year and is estimated to exceed 30 percent by 2035, accelerating efforts to cope with a rapidly graying society are highlighted in a resolution that was adopted last week by the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The document said that policies and mechanisms regarding the elderly care industry should be further upgraded, and more efforts should be made to develop

the silver economy, including setting up job positions that are suitable for the elderly and match their personal strengths and interests.

Lu Jiehua, a sociology professor at Peking University, said the nation has rolled out a series of policies in recent years to boost the development of affordable, government-subsidized elderly care services as well as market-oriented services, and it is now vital to ensure their implementation.

Furthermore, the nation published a guideline last year requiring all provincial-level regions to provide a list of basic elderly care services, ranging from old age subsidies and material assistance to nursing and caregiving, Lu said.

"More efforts should be made to ensure these policies are implemented and bring convenience and a sense of satisfaction to the elderly," he added.

Lu said the concept of silver economy now incorporates not

only economic activities that cater to citizens already reaching 60, but also products and services aimed at preparing for old age.

Regarding steps to accommodate seniors who seek employment, Lu said that issues such as workplace insurance plans, as well as special training to help older workers adapt to the digital world, should be addressed.

The document said that the nation plans to raise the retirement age based on a voluntary and flexible principle, and in a stable and orderly manner.

Lu said the plan is aligned with previous stances on the issue of delaying retirement, and its inclusion in this key policy document indicates a possible rollout of more specified policies in the future.

The resolution emphasizes that the nation's demographic strategy will revolve around addressing the aging population and declining birthrates.

Blueprint: Tech innovation underlined

From page 1

The resolution underlined innovation in key generic technologies, cutting-edge technologies, modern engineering technologies, and disruptive technologies, calling for stronger institutional support for emerging fields and new tracks.

Policymakers stressed the need to improve policies and governance systems for strategic industries such as next-generation information technology, artificial intelligence, aerospace, renewable energy, new materials, high-end equipment, biotechnology and quantum technology.

They pledged to boost the innovative development of the platform economy — tech-driven online marketplaces and other similar operations — and enable the establishment of a routine regulatory framework for the sector.

The nation will build and operate national data infrastructure to facilitate data sharing, and accelerate the establishment of systems for data ownership recognition, market transactions, rights distribution and interest protection. An efficient, convenient and secure mechanism for cross-border data flow will be created, the resolution said.

The policymakers have agreed on steps to address the fiscal challenges facing the nation's local governments, rolling out measures to increase local fiscal autonomy, expand local tax sources, and enhance the alignment of fiscal authority with financial resources at the city and county levels.

Regarding the financial sector, they highlighted the need to improve the financial regulatory system, by ensuring that all financial activities are subject to oversight

under the law, and to strengthen regulatory responsibilities and accountability measures.

China will continue pushing forward the high-level opening-up of the financial sector, advance the internationalization of the renminbi, and develop the offshore renminbi market, the resolution said, adding that eligible foreign financial institutions will be encouraged to take part in the piloting of financial services.

The resolution called on the whole Party to "take pragmatic, resolute and effective steps to ensure implementation."

"The implementation of major reforms will be subject to oversight and inspection, and the litmus test of reform will lie in how well it performs, what it delivers, and how much satisfaction it brings to our people," the resolution emphasized.

Drafting: Significance of resolution emphasized

From page 1

Throughout the drafting process, the seven-member Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee convened three meetings, and the 24-member Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held two meetings for review and modifications of the document, which was ultimately submitted to the third plenary session of the CPC Central Committee for discussions.

Xi said that the resolution is anchored on the goal of basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035, focusing on major reform measures for the next five years.

It emphasizes the importance of giving play to the leading role of economic structural reform, developing support institutions and mechanisms for all-around innovation and advancing reform in a comprehensive manner, he said.

Plans mapped out to accelerate green transition

By HOU LIQIANG
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China's quest for lucid waters and lush mountains will be expedited, as the nation pursues modernization fueled by new systems and mechanisms that value ecological assets and promote green transition, according to a key resolution.

"Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature," said the document, which was made public on Sunday after the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China concluded on Thursday.

To advance its modernization journey, China should further improve the institutional framework for ecological civilization and make concerted efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pollution, advance green development and pursue economic growth, it emphasized.

Ecological civilization is a concept promoted by President Xi Jinping for balanced and sustainable development that features harmonious coexistence between mankind and nature. One tenet of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization states that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets".

Lin Boqiang, head of the China Institute for Studies in Energy Policy at Xiamen University, said the resolution highlights many steps for low-carbon transition, demonstrating the country's unwavering commitment to achieving its climate goals. "This is indeed a good incentive for the domestic market."

As one of its priorities, China will improve its institutional system for environmental governance and the management of its "territorial space and natural resource assets", the document said. For example, the country will "implement region-specific environmental management systems featuring differentiated, targeted regulation" as it strives to strengthen environmental monitoring and evaluation.

A comprehensive and unified system for regulating the use of territorial space of all types across the country and for approval of territorial space plans will be put into place. Mechanisms for accountability review and performance evaluation will be established for environmental protection as well as for the protection, utilization, value preservation and appreciation of natural resources.

Wang Yi, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institutes



Tourists have fun at a wetland park in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province, on July 7. MENG DELONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

of Science and Development, emphasized the importance of interdepartmental coordination in the country's process to advance ecological civilization.

"Many environmental issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change and low-carbon development require interdepartmental coordination," he said, adding that establishing an interdepartmental coordination mechanism would help lower institutional costs.

China will make efforts to set up

integrated ecological and environmental governance systems in its major river basins, the document said, adding that it will also comprehensively advance the construction of a nature reserve system with national parks as the mainstay.

The country will further establish and enhance mechanisms to achieve its targets of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, including a system for carbon emission statistics and accounting, the document added.

Xi mourns passing of top leader of Vietnam

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, visited the Vietnamese embassy in Beijing on Saturday to mourn the passing of Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

In the hall of condolence at the embassy, wreaths sent by Xi and other members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau were laid in front of a portrait of Trong.

Xi walked to the portrait, paused to observe a moment of silence, then bowed three times before the portrait and wrote a message with his signature in the book of condolences.

Praising Trong as a staunch Marxist and a great leader of the CPV and the Vietnamese people, Xi said that Trong had devoted himself entirely to the CPV and the country, to the Vietnamese people and to the cause of socialism in Vietnam, and had been deeply respected and admired by the party, military and people of Vietnam.

Xi recalled that over the past decade, he and Trong had maintained close contact and developed a deep camaraderie, and that last year, they jointly announced the elevation of bilateral relations to a China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, a milestone in bilateral ties.

"The passing of Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong has deprived us of a promoter of China-Vietnam relations and a companion for the cause of socialism, and we are deeply saddened," Xi said.

Trong's outstanding contribution to the relations between the two parties and the two countries, and to the cause of the global socialist movement will always be remembered, he said.

Xi emphasized that the CPC and the Chinese government firmly support the CPV in uniting and leading the Vietnamese people to take a path of socialism that suits Vietnam's national conditions.

It is believed that under the strong leadership of the CPV Central Committee, the Vietnamese people will surely be able to turn grief into strength and continue to make greater achievements in the cause of reform, opening-up and socialist construction, Xi said.

He said he firmly believes that China and Vietnam will continue to work together to make profound and solid progress in building the China-Vietnam community with a shared future.

Vietnamese Ambassador to China Pham Sao Mai said the fact that General Secretary Xi personally came to express condolences and the CPC Central Committee sent a message of condolence to the CPV Central Committee without delay has reflected the great importance that the CPC and the Chinese government attach to the relations between the two parties and countries, as well as the special feelings General Secretary Xi has for Comrade Nguyen Phu Trong.

The Vietnamese side is deeply moved and deeply grateful, Mai said. Noting that Trong had attached great importance to the relationship with China and made tremendous efforts and contributions to the development of Vietnam-China friendship, Mai said the Vietnamese side will carry on the legacy of Trong.

The ambassador added that Vietnam will implement well the important consensus reached by the top leaders of the two parties and countries, adhere to the strategic choice and top priority for Vietnam's foreign policy of developing friendly cooperation with China, and push forward the building of a community with a shared future with strategic significance between Vietnam and China.

Trong passed away on Friday at the age of 80 due to age-related illness. He had been general secretary of the CPV Central Committee since 2011.

Vietnam will hold a state funeral for Trong on Thursday and Friday, Vietnam News Agency quoted a special communique as saying.

DOCUMENT

Explanation of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

Xi Jinping

Comrades,

On behalf of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, I will now brief you on the drafting of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization.

I. Considerations on the Agenda of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC)

Making reform plans and arrangements with a focus on our central task has constituted a successful experience for our Party in leading reform and opening up. In light of both practical experience and actual needs, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee decided that the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee would study the issue of further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. There is a pressing need for this, given the following considerations:

First, we need to rally support and pool strength to complete the Party's central task on the new journey in the new era.

The evidence conclusively proves that in the new period of reform, opening up, and socialist modernization, it was reform and opening up that enabled China to catch up with the times in great strides. Since the Party's 18th National Congress, it has also been reform and opening up that has ensured historic achievements and changes in the cause of the Party and the country. Therefore, if we are to break new ground in advancing Chinese modernization on the new journey in the new era, we must continue to rely on reform and opening up.

The Party's 20th National Congress established that the Party's central task is to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. At the Congress, we elaborated on the distinctive features, essential requirements, and major principles of Chinese modernization and made strategic plans for advancing Chinese modernization. At the fundamental level, to translate these strategic plans into action and turn the vision of Chinese modernization into reality, we must further deepen reform comprehensively and keep working to improve the systems and mechanisms across all sectors, so as to provide institutional support for advancing Chinese modernization.

Second, we need to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance.

Following the Party's 18th National Congress, we improved systems in various sectors by comprehensively deepening reforms, with a focus on institution building. As a result, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics was made more mature and better defined, and China's system and capacity for governance were further modernized. This provided strong institutional support for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Yet, we must be keenly aware that improving the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is a dynamic process, which will inevitably evolve with advances in practice. During this process, we need to constantly improve existing institutions and work on promoting institutional innovations and filling institutional gaps in new areas and for new practices. In the face of new developments and tasks, we must further deepen reform comprehensively to continue refining institutions and mechanisms in various sectors, so as to help consolidate foundations, leverage strengths, and shore up areas of weakness. This will enable us to better translate our country's institutional strengths into effective governance.

Third, we need to promote high-quality development and better respond to the evolution of the principal contradiction in Chinese society.

At present, unbalanced and inadequate development remains a pronounced problem in promoting China's high-quality development. For example, the market system still needs improvement; the market itself is not adequately developed; the relationship between the government and the market needs to be further straightened out; our innovation capacity falls short of the requirements for high-quality development; the

industrial system, while large in size and extensive in scope, is not yet strong or sophisticated enough; the over-reliance on key and core technologies controlled by others has not been fundamentally changed; the foundations of agriculture need to be further strengthened; wide gaps persist in development and income distribution between urban and rural areas and between regions; and weak links remain in improving the people's wellbeing and protecting the ecological environment. In essence, all of these challenges reflect the evolution of the principal contradiction in Chinese society and are the result of ongoing development. It is essential that they are addressed by further deepening reform comprehensively on an institutional basis.

Fourth, we need to deal with major risks and challenges and secure steady and sustained progress in the cause of the Party and the country.

Advancing Chinese modernization is a whole new endeavor. On the journey ahead, we will inevitably be confronted with problems, risks, and challenges. In particular, momentous changes of a magnitude not seen in a century are accelerating across the world, regional conflicts and disturbances keep cropping up, global issues are becoming more acute, and external attempts to suppress and contain China are escalating. China has entered a period in which strategic opportunities, risks, and challenges coexist and uncertainties and unpredictability are rising. Various "black swan" and "gray rhino" events have the potential to occur at any time. To effectively deal with these risks and challenges and seize the strategic initiative amid intensifying international competition, we need to further deepen reform comprehensively, so that we can create sound institutions to prevent and defuse risks and respond to challenges, strive to foster new opportunities amid crises, and break new ground amid the changing landscape.

II. The Drafting Process

In November 2023, the Political Bureau decided that a document drafting group would be established for the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee under the auspices of the Political Bureau's Standing Committee. I am chief of this group, and my colleagues Wang Huning, Cai Qi, and Ding Xuexiang serve as its deputy chiefs. The drafting work started following our first meeting on December 8. Over the past seven months or so, we carried out thorough surveys and studies, extensively solicited opinions, conducted debates on major topics, held multiple discussions, and revised the draft many times.

In drafting the document, we focused on the following priorities:

First, we laid down the principles to adhere to and ensured the right political orientation on the basis of reviewing and applying the valuable experience we have gained since the launch of reform and opening up, particularly from our endeavor to comprehensively deepen reform in the new era.

Second, we stuck to a problem-oriented approach and worked out plans for further deepening reform comprehensively with a focus on advancing Chinese modernization and on implementing the major strategic plans set out at the Party's 20th National Congress.

Third, we sorted out our priorities. We have prioritized institutional reform, reforms of strategic and overarching importance, and the leading role of economic structural reform, thus underscoring the guidance of reform measures.

Fourth, we adhered to the principle of putting the people first to see that reforms are designed and advanced with the overall, fundamental, and long-term interests of the people in mind.

Fifth, we made overarching, integrated, and systematic plans to ensure that reforms in different sectors work in concert and produce desirable results.

Throughout the drafting process, we have taken a democratic approach in order to draw on a vast pool of wisdom. On November 27, 2023, the Central Committee issued a notice about soliciting opinions on the agenda of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee from all localities, departments, and sectors, as well as some officials and individuals.

There is a broad consensus among all those consulted that the 20th CPC Central Committee's decision to focus its third plenary session on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization is a

reflection of the Party's firm determination and strong sense of responsibility to carry reform through to the end and a restatement of the answers it has given to the questions of what banner to uphold and what path to take on the new journey in the new era. They believe that this decision holds far-reaching significance for building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. The localities, departments, and sectors consulted have also made many valuable suggestions on the theme and framework of the draft, as well as major reform measures to be included. This has provided us with an important reference for drafting the resolution.

On May 7, 2024, the text of the resolution was issued to select Party members, including retired senior Party officials, for consultation. Opinions were also sought from the central committees of other political parties, from leaders of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, from prominent figures without party affiliation, and from relevant enterprises, scholars, and experts.

The feedback shows that all those consulted believe that the strategic measures for further deepening reform comprehensively presented in the draft resolution closely focus on the theme of advancing Chinese modernization. The draft follows the right political orientation and sets forth reform plans for resolving the major institutional problems hindering Chinese modernization. With a distinct theme, clear priorities, and feasible measures, the document will, in their opinion, serve as an overall plan and call to action for comprehensively advancing broader and deeper reform on the new journey in the new era. They also agree that the draft evinces a historical initiative with regard to upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance, and it will provide strong impetus and institutional support for Chinese modernization.

Based on a careful study of the 1,911 opinions and suggestions received from all sides, the drafting group incorporated as many of these as possible into the draft, resulting in 221 revisions to the text.

During the drafting process, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau met three times and the Political Bureau convened on two occasions for the purpose of reviewing the draft versions. The culmination of all this is the final draft that we have submitted to this session for deliberation.

III. The General Framework and Main Content of the Document

In addition to a preamble and a conclusion, the draft resolution consists of 15 sections, which may be divided into three main parts. The first section constitutes the first part and is a general exposition on the great significance and general requirements of further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. Sections two through fourteen make up the second part, which elaborates on reform plans in specific fields such as the economy, politics, culture, society, environmental conservation, national security, and national defense and the military. Section fifteen is part three. This part focuses on strengthening the Party's leadership over reform, deepening reforms related to Party building, improving conduct, building integrity, and combating corruption. The above content is laid out in a total of 60 subsections.

With a view to achieving the goal of basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035, the draft resolution includes major reform measures for the coming five years. In terms of its layout and content, it features the following highlights.

(1) Giving play to the leading role of economic structural reform

Economic structural reform will remain our priority in further deepening reform comprehensively. The main tasks in this regard include improving the systems and mechanisms for enabling high-quality development, fostering new growth drivers and strengths, upholding and fulfilling the commitments to the public and non-public sectors, building a unified national market, and refining the systems underpinning the market economy.

Focusing on the pivotal issue of balancing the relationship between the government and the market, the draft resolution gives prominence to building a high-standard socialist market economy and makes arrangements for economic structural reform in major areas and key links. It mentions that we will strengthen strategic coordi-

nation between relevant administrative departments and work to refine the layout of the state-owned sector and adjust its structure, so as to see state capital and state-owned enterprises get stronger, do better, and grow bigger, with their core functions and core competitiveness enhanced. Targeting the development of the non-public sector, it puts forth the requirements of formulating a private sector promotion law, strengthening law enforcement and justice administration to protect property rights, and preventing and rectifying administrative and criminal interference in economic disputes. It also includes measures such as enhancing the binding force of fair competition review, reviewing and abolishing regulations and practices impeding the development of a unified national market and fair competition, and improving institutions and rules for production factor markets. All these steps will help unleash the internal driving forces and creativity of our society as a whole.

The draft resolution lays out plans for improving the systems and mechanisms underpinning high-quality development and promoting the development of new quality productive forces. To develop productive forces characterized by high technology, high efficiency, and high quality, it mentions that we will work to increase institutional supply in new areas and arenas, establish a mechanism for ensuring funding increases for future-oriented industries, elevate national standards to guide the upgrading of traditional industries, and channel various types of advanced production factors toward the development of new quality productive forces.

The draft resolution sets forth plans for refining the macroeconomic governance system. As mentioned in the document, efforts will be made to improve the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms. With a view to deepening reform of the fiscal and tax systems in a coordinated manner, the draft resolution includes arrangements to expand the sources of tax revenue at the local level and place more fiscal resources at the disposal of local governments. It proposes measures to appropriately expand the scope of use for funds raised from the sale of local government special-purpose bonds while properly granting the central government greater administrative authority and increasing the share of its expenditure in total government expenditure. Efforts will be made to refine the role and governance of financial institutions, improve the functions of the capital market with balanced investment and financing, and improve the financial regulatory system.

The draft resolution puts forward plans for improving the institutions and mechanisms for urban-rural integrated development. This involves improving the institutions and mechanisms for advancing new urbanization; consolidating and improving the basic rural operation system; improving supporting systems to strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas; and deepening reform of the land system.

The draft resolution also outlines plans for refining the institutions and mechanisms for high-standard opening up, which involve steadily expanding institutional opening up, deepening the foreign trade structural reform, further reforming the management systems for inward and outward investment, optimizing the layout for regional opening up, and improving the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

(2) Developing support institutions and mechanisms for all-around innovation

With a view to ensuring coordinated efforts to promote integrated reform of institutions and mechanisms pertaining to education, science and technology, and talent, the draft resolution places emphasis on deepening comprehensive reform in education, deepening scientific and technological structural reform, and deepening institutional reforms for talent development, so as to boost the overall performance of our country's innovation system.

In terms of reform in the education system, the document includes arrangements such as advancing reforms of higher education institutions on a categorized basis and developing discipline adjustment mechanisms and talent training models to meet the needs of China's scientific and technological development and national strategies. This will see us making extraordinary moves to plan for disciplines and majors that are in urgent demand. The document also specifies the requirements of refining the mechanisms for facili-

tating scientific and technological innovation in universities and ensuring more efficient application of advances.

With regard to scientific and technological structural reform, the document calls for efforts to boost China's strength in strategic science and technology. In this regard, it mentions that we will better define the roles and layout of our national research institutions, advanced-level research universities, and leading high-tech enterprises and improve the management of science and technology plans to ensure that they are forward-looking and play a guiding role in basic research, interdisciplinary frontier areas, and key fields. Moreover, the principal role of enterprises in innovation will be reinforced, and mechanisms for fostering leading high-tech enterprises will be established; public institutions engaged in scientific research will be allowed to implement a more flexible management system as compared to general public institutions, so that they can explore approaches to instituting corporate management; and reforms to grant researchers corresponding rights over their outputs will be deepened.

To advance institutional reforms for talent development, the document sets out requirements such as stepping up efforts to build a contingent of personnel with expertise of national strategic importance and working to improve the performance of talent of all types; improving the mechanisms for identifying, selecting, and training young innovators and ensuring better pay and benefits for our young scientists and engineers; enhancing the incentive mechanisms for talent, granting more say to employers, and creating a more accommodating environment for talent development; and improving the support mechanisms for recruiting talent from overseas.

(3) Advancing reform in a comprehensive manner

Under the framework for implementing the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy [The Five-Sphere Integrated Plan is to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement. The Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy is to make comprehensive moves to build a modern socialist country, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and strengthen Party self-governance.] in a coordinated way, the draft resolution sets forth plans for further deepening reform across the board and makes overall arrangements for both economic structural reform and reforms in other areas.

To deepen reform concerning democracy and the rule of law, the document sets out plans for refining the system for whole-process people's democracy and for improving the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics. With regard to the former, it details arrangements such as strengthening the institutions through which the people run the country, improving the mechanisms for consultative democracy, enhancing democracy at the primary level, and building a broad united front. With regard to the latter, it mentions arrangements such as strengthening legislation in key, emerging, and foreign-related areas; refining the institutions and mechanisms for ensuring that supervisory organs, public security organs, procuratorates, courts, and administrative departments for justice all fulfill their respective functions and that powers of supervision, investigation, procuratorate, adjudication, and enforcement complement and constrain each other; and improving the mechanisms for building a law-based society.

With regard to reform of the cultural sector, the document, in view of advancing modernization featuring coordinated pursuit of material and cultural-ethical progress, specifies that activities to foster ideals and convictions will be carried out on a regular and institutionalized basis and working mechanisms for raising awareness, applying principles, and developing initiatives aimed at promoting cultural-ethical progress will be innovated and improved. It also details arrangements such as refining mechanisms for supplying cultural services and products and establishing mechanisms for channeling quality cultural resources directly to the community level; improving the system for comprehensive cyberspace governance; and moving ahead with restructuring China's international communication framework and establishing a more effective international communication system.

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DOCUMENT

Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

Adopted at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on July 18, 2024

In order to implement the strategic plans made at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the 20th CPC Central Committee studied the issue of further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization at its third plenary session. On this basis, it adopted this resolution.

I. Great Significance and Overall Requirements

(1) Importance and necessity

Reform and opening up have been crucial to the cause of the Party and the people, enabling us to catch up with the times in great strides. The third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee was a landmark event that ushered in a new period: one of reform, opening up, and socialist modernization. The third plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee was also of epoch-making significance. It marked the start of a new journey of comprehensively deepening reform in the new era with systematic and holistic plans, thus paving the way for a brand new stage in China's reform and opening up endeavors.

The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has, with great historical initiative, tremendous political courage, and a strong sense of mission, united and led the entire Party, the military, and Chinese people of all ethnic groups in unshackling their thinking and breaking down the barriers erected by vested interests. We have dared to brave uncharted waters, grapple with tough problems, and navigate potential dangers and have worked resolutely to remove institutional obstacles in all areas. As a result, reform has evolved from a variety of trials and breakthroughs limited to certain areas into an integrated drive being advanced across the board. Foundational institutional frameworks have been basically put in place in all sectors, and historic, systemic, and holistic transformations have been achieved in many fields. Overall, we have accomplished the reform tasks set at the third plenary session of the 18th Central Committee and attained our objective of achieving marked results in making all institutions more mature and better-defined by the time of the Party's centennial in 2021. All this has provided strong institutional support for completing the First Centenary Goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and set China on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects.

The present and the near future constitute a critical period for our endeavor to build a great country and move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. As Chinese modernization has been advanced continuously through reform and opening up, it will surely embrace broader horizons through further reform and opening up. To deal with complex developments both at home and abroad, adapt to the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, and live up to the new expectations of our people, it is vital that we continue to advance reform. Advancing reform is essential for upholding

and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance, by putting the new development philosophy into practice and better adapting to the evolution in the principal contradiction in Chinese society, and for adhering to a people-centered approach to see that the gains of modernization benefit all our people fairly. It is also crucial for responding to major risks and challenges and ensuring steady and sustained progress in the cause of the Party and the country, for promoting the development of a human community with a shared future and winning the strategic initiative amid accelerating global changes of a like not seen in a century, and for further advancing the great new project of Party building in the new era and making our Marxist party stronger. Reform and opening up are an ongoing endeavor rather than a task to be completed. All of us in the Party must consciously give more prominence to reform and further deepen reform comprehensively with a view to advancing Chinese modernization.

(2) Guiding philosophy

We must stay committed to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development and fully implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must thoroughly study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's new ideas, viewpoints, and conclusions on comprehensively deepening reform and fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts. We must adhere to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability and continue to free our minds, seek truth from facts, move with the times, and take a realistic and pragmatic approach, as we work to further unleash and develop the productive forces and tap into and boost the vitality of our society. Keeping in mind both domestic and international imperatives, we will ensure coordinated implementation of the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy. [The Five-Sphere Integrated Plan is to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement. The Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy is to make comprehensive moves to build a modern socialist country, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and strengthen Party self-governance.] Regarding economic structural reform as the spearhead and greater social fairness and justice and increased well-being of the people as our ultimate objectives, we will channel greater energy into making our reforms integrated, focused, and effective. We will work to better adapt the relations of production to the productive forces, the superstructure to the economic base, and national governance to social development so as to provide strong impetus and institutional support for Chinese modernization.

(3) Overall objectives

We will continue to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance. By 2035, we will have finished building a high-standard

socialist market economy in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized our system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization. All of this will lay a solid foundation for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century. In particular, we will focus on achieving the following objectives:

—Building a high-standard socialist market economy. We will see that the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation and that the government better fulfills its role. We will uphold and improve China's basic socialist economic systems, achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, and promote high-standard opening up. We will build a modernized economy, move faster to create a new pattern of development, and promote high-quality development.

—Advancing whole-process people's democracy. We will uphold the unity between leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance. We will improve the institutions through which the people run the country, promote extensive, multilevel, and institutionalized development of consultative democracy, and refine the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics. We will move to a higher stage in building a socialist country under the rule of law.

—Developing a strong socialist culture in China. We will uphold the foundational system for ensuring the guiding role of Marxism in the ideological domain and improve the institutions and mechanisms for developing cultural programs and industries. We will promote cultural prosperity, enrich the intellectual and cultural lives of our people, and enhance China's cultural soft power and the appeal of Chinese culture.

—Improving the people's quality of life. We will refine the income distribution, employment, and social security systems, make basic public services more balanced and accessible, and facilitate more notable, substantive progress in promoting people's well-rounded development and common prosperity for all.

—Building a Beautiful China. We will ramp up the green transition in all areas of economic and social development and improve the environmental governance system. We will prioritize ecological protection, conserve resources and use them efficiently, and pursue green and low-carbon development, with a view to promoting harmony between humanity and nature.

—Advancing the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level. We will strengthen the national security system, enhance integration between national strategies, and improve our capacity to safeguard national security. We will create new institutions, mechanisms, and methods for social governance and build a new security architecture.

—Improving the Party's capacity for leadership and long-term governance. We will develop new and improved ways of exercising leadership and governance, deepen institutional reforms related to Party building, and improve the system for exercising full and rigorous Party self-governance.

The reform tasks laid out in this resolution shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2029.

(4) Guiding principles

On the basis of reviewing and applying the valuable experience we have gained since the launch of reform and opening up, particularly from our endeavor to comprehensively deepen reform in the new era, we will implement the following principles:

• Upholding the Party's overall leadership. We must firmly uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership and ensure that the Party fulfills its core role of exercising overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all sides. We must ensure that Party leadership is exercised in every aspect and throughout the entire process of reform so that it always advances in the correct political direction.

• Adhering to a people-centered approach. We must respect the principal position and pioneering spirit of the people and make our reform measures highly responsive to the call of the people, so as to ensure that reform is for the people and by the people and that its fruits are shared among the people.

• Upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground. Staying committed to socialism with Chinese characteristics, we must keep pace with the times, adapt to the evolution of practice, and take a problem-oriented approach, so that from a new starting point, we can promote innovations in theory and practice, in our institutions and culture, and in all other aspects.

• Strengthening institutional building as our main task. We must strengthen top-level design and overall planning, always establishing new systems before abolishing old ones while attaching equal importance to efforts in both respects. We must consolidate foundational systems, refine basic systems, and innovate important systems.

• Staying committed to law-based governance on all fronts. We must deepen reform and advance Chinese modernization under the rule of law and ensure unity between reform and the rule of law, seeing that all major reforms have a solid legal basis and that reform achievements are elevated to law in a timely manner.

• Applying systems thinking. We must properly handle the major relationships between the economy and society, between the government and the market, between efficiency and fairness, between vitality and order, and between development and security, thus pursuing reform in a more systematic, holistic, and coordinated manner.

II. Building a High-Standard Socialist Market Economy

A high-standard socialist market economy provides an important guarantee for Chinese modernization. We must better leverage the role of the market, foster a fairer and more dynamic market environment, and make resource allocation as efficient and productive as possible. We need to lift restrictions on the market while ensuring effective regulation and strive to better maintain order in the

market and remedy market failures. By doing so, we will ensure smooth flows in the national economy and unleash the internal driving forces and creativity of the whole of society.

(5) Upholding and fulfilling the commitments to the public and non-public sectors

We will stay committed to unwaveringly consolidating and developing the public sector and unwaveringly encouraging, supporting, and guiding the development of the non-public sector. We will ensure that economic entities under all forms of ownership have equal access to factors of production in accordance with the law, compete in the market on an equal footing, and are protected by the law as equals, thus enabling them to complement each other and develop side by side.

We will deepen reform of state capital and state-owned enterprises (SOEs), improving the institutions and mechanisms for management and oversight, strengthening strategic coordination between relevant administrative departments, and working to refine the layout of the state-owned sector and adjust its structure. All this will help state capital and SOEs get stronger, do better, and grow bigger, with their core functions and core competitiveness enhanced. We will clearly define the functions of different types of SOEs, improve the management of their primary responsibilities and core business, and identify the key areas and orientations for state capital investment. State capital will be steered toward major industries and key fields that are vital to national security and serve as the lifeblood of the national economy, toward sectors such as public services, emergency response, and public welfare, which concern our country's prosperity and our people's wellbeing, and toward forward-looking and strategic emerging industries. The institutional framework under which SOEs pursue original innovation will be improved, and the reform of state capital investment and operation companies will be continued. We will establish a system to assess SOEs' performance in fulfilling their strategic missions, refine the category-based SOE evaluation system, and introduce value-added accounting in the state-owned sector. While promoting independent operation of natural monopoly businesses in sectors such as energy, railway, telecommunications, water conservancy, and public utilities, we will advance market-oriented reforms in the competitive areas of these sectors and improve regulatory institutions and mechanisms.

We will continue to implement principles and policies that help foster a favorable environment and create more opportunities for the development of the non-public sector. We will formulate a private sector promotion law. We will do more to remove barriers to market access, work to see that the competitive areas of infrastructure are open to market entities in a fair manner, and improve the long-term mechanism by which private enterprises participate in major national projects. We will support capable private enterprises in leading national initiatives to make breakthroughs in major technologies and provide private enterprises with greater access to major national scientific research

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To refine the system for ensuring and improving the people's wellbeing, the document includes arrangements such as improving the income distribution system and keeping income distribution well-regulated; improving the policy environment to boost employment by encouraging business startups, and supporting and regulating the development of new forms of employment; building a sound social security system to serve people in flexible employment, rural migrant workers, and those in new forms of employment, and lifting all restrictions preventing people from accessing social security in the places where they work but do not hold permanent residency; and fostering a new development model for the real estate sector and giving municipal governments more decision-making powers to regulate the real estate market. Moreover, it calls for efforts to further reform the medical and healthcare systems and implement a health-first strategy; improve the systems for supporting population development and providing related services, refine the policy system and incentive mechanisms for boosting the birth rate, and refine the policies and mechanisms for developing elderly care programs and industries; and advance

reform to gradually raise the statutory retirement age in a prudent and orderly manner in line with the principle of promoting voluntary participation while allowing appropriate flexibility.

To further reform the system of ecological conservation, the document lays out plans for improving the basic systems for ecological conservation, improving environmental governance systems, and improving mechanisms for green and low-carbon development. It also specifies the requirements of implementing region-specific environmental management systems featuring differentiated and targeted regulation, improving the trans-regional compensation mechanism for ecological conservation, implementing fiscal, tax, financial, investment, and pricing policies as well as standards to support green and low-carbon development, and accelerating the planning and development of a new energy system.

(4) Balancing development and security imperatives

National security provides a pivotal foundation for ensuring steady and sustained progress in Chinese modernization. Giving higher priority to national security, the draft resolution puts forth a set of requirements with a focus on modernizing China's system and capacity for national

security. These requirements include creating a coordinated and highly effective system for protecting national security and better leveraging science and technology to safeguard national security; improving the response and support system for major public emergencies; instituting oversight systems to ensure the safety of artificial intelligence; exploring avenues for establishing a unified national population management system; and improving the integrated systems for maintaining law and order and cracking down hard on illegal and criminal activities that cause grave public concern. Furthermore, the draft also proposes measures such as establishing sound coordination mechanisms for promoting security in neighboring regions; strengthening mechanisms for countering foreign sanctions, interference, and long-arm jurisdiction; and improving mechanisms for preventing and controlling trade risks, improving the system of foreign-related laws and regulations and the systems for enforcing the rule of law, and deepening law enforcement and judicial cooperation with other countries.

To continue deepening reform of national defense and the armed forces, the document puts forward requirements such as improving the institutions and mechanisms for leading and managing the people's

armed forces, deepening reform of joint operations systems, and deepening military-civilian reforms.

(5) Strengthening the Party's leadership over reform

Leadership by the Party provides a fundamental guarantee for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. The draft resolution mentions that we will refine the mechanisms through which major decisions and plans of the Central Committee are implemented; further reform the management system for officials and personnel and firmly follow the right approach to selecting and appointing officials, seeing that officials who are politically committed, highly responsible, determined to pursue reform, outstanding in performance, and honest and clean must be selected and the problem of officials acting arbitrarily or lacking the willingness, courage, or ability to deliver must be addressed; make sure that officials have a correct understanding of what it means to perform well, and the "three distinctions" [The three distinctions refer to those between errors caused by lack of experience in pilot reforms and deliberate violations of discipline and law; between errors made in conducting experiments that are not explicitly restricted by higher-level authorities and arbitrary vio-

lations of discipline and law in the face of higher-level authorities' explicit prohibition; and between unwitting errors made in pursuing development and violations of discipline and law for personal gains.] are applied to encourage officials to forge ahead in a pioneering spirit and demonstrate enterprise in their work; strengthen the political and organizational functions of Party organizations; and refine the systems and mechanisms for preventing and tackling pointless formalities and bureaucratism, improve the mechanisms for investigating and addressing instances of both misconduct and corruption, and adopt more measures to effectively prevent and control new and disguised forms of corruption.

Comrades,

I hope you will gain a full understanding of the guiding principles laid down by the CPC Central Committee, hold discussions centering on the theme of this plenary session, and come up with constructive ideas and suggestions for revision, so that we can work together to make this session a great success and make well-conceived revisions to the draft resolution.

XINHUA

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infrastructure. We will refine financing support policies and systems for private enterprises to resolve the difficulties they face in accessing affordable financing. We will improve the legal framework for the long-term regulation of charges levied on enterprises and for clearing overdue payments owed to them. We will move faster to set up a system for comprehensively evaluating private enterprises' credit status and refine the credit enhancement system for small and medium private enterprises. We will support and guide private enterprises in improving their governance structures and management systems, building up compliance capacity, and better preventing corruption-related risks. We will strengthen ongoing and ex post oversight and regulate administrative inspections on private enterprises.

We will refine the modern corporate system with distinctive Chinese features and promote entrepreneurial spirit. We will support and guide enterprises of all types as they work to use resources and production factors more efficiently, improve their operation and management, and fulfill their social responsibilities. Efforts will be accelerated to foster a greater number of world-class enterprises.

(6) Building a unified national market

We will work to see that the underlying institutions and rules of the market are unified, that market regulation is exercised in an impartial and unified manner, and that connectivity between market facilities is built to high standards. We will enhance the binding force of fair competition review, take stronger action against monopolies and unfair competition, and review and abolish regulations and practices that impede the development of a unified national market and fair competition. We will bring local regulations and institutions for attracting investment under regulation and strictly prohibit policy incentives in breach of laws and regulations. We will establish sound, unified, and well-regulated public resource trading platforms that facilitate information sharing. Such platforms will cover public bidding as well as procurement by the government, public institutions, and SOEs and ensure full transparency throughout the project management process. Overall market regulation capabilities will be enhanced. We will refine the national system of standards and deepen reform of local systems for standards management.

The institutions and rules for production factor markets will be improved to facilitate the smooth flow of production factors, the efficient allocation of all types of resources, and the full realization of market potential. We will develop a unified market for urban and rural land designated for construction. We will refine the underlying systems for promoting well-regulated development of the capital market and foster an integrated national market for technology and data. By refining the mechanisms whereby production factors are priced primarily based on market supply and demand, we will prevent improper government interference in pricing. We will also develop better mechanisms to ensure the contributions of production factors, such as labor, capital, land, knowledge, technology, management, and data, are determined by the market and rewarded accordingly. Pricing reforms will be continued in sectors such as water, energy, and transportation, and the tiered pricing mechanisms for household water, electricity, and natural gas consumption will be improved, as will the pricing mechanism for refined petroleum products.

We will improve the commodity distribution system, speed up the development of the Internet of Things, and further refine the integrated framework of distribution rules and standards to cut logistics costs throughout society. We will deepen reform of the energy management system, build a unified national electricity market, and improve the operation and coordination mechanisms for oil and gas pipelines.

We will step up efforts to develop a complete domestic demand system. To this end, we will set up long-term government investment mechanisms to support the development of major projects that are of fundamental and far-reaching importance and serve the public interest; refine the institutions and mechanisms that enable government investment to effectively drive nongovernmental investment; further reform the investment review and approval system; improve the mechanisms for stimulating and facilitating nongovernmental investment; and create a market-driven mechanism for ensuring self-sustaining growth of effective investment. We will refine long-term mechanisms for expanding consumption, reduce relevant restrictions, boost public spending as necessary, and actively promote the debut economy.

(7) Refining the systems underpinning the market economy

We will improve the property rights system to ensure law-based, equitable protection of the property rights of economic entities under all forms of ownership on a long-term basis and establish an efficient system for the comprehensive management of intellectual property rights. We will refine the market information disclosure system and put in place a commercial secrets protection system. All economic entities, regardless of their form of ownership, will be treated as equals when their property rights and legal interests are infringed upon or they infringe upon the property rights and legal interests of others. We will also refine the punitive

compensation system. We will work to bolster law enforcement and justice administration to protect property rights, prevent and rectify administrative and criminal interference in economic disputes, and refine the mechanisms for identifying and redressing wrongly adjudicated cases involving enterprises in accordance with the law.

We will refine the market access system to ensure greater accessibility for new forms of business and new sectors. We will deepen reform of the business registration system based on subscribed registered capital and ensure that subscriptions are paid on time as stipulated by law. We will refine the enterprise bankruptcy mechanism, explore the establishment of a bankruptcy system for individual persons, move ahead with integrated reforms concerning the deregistration of enterprises, and improve the market exit system. We will also improve the social credit system and related oversight institutions.

III. Promoting High-Quality Economic Development

High-quality development is our primary task in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects. It is essential that we apply the new development philosophy to steer reform and ground our efforts in the new stage of development. We must deepen supply-side structural reform, improve incentive and constraint mechanisms for promoting high-quality development, and strive to create new growth drivers and strengths.

(8) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions

We will work to facilitate revolutionary breakthroughs in technology, innovative allocation of production factors, in-depth industrial transformation and upgrading, and the optimal combination of laborers, means of labor, and subjects of labor as well as their renewal and upgrading. All this will give rise to new industries, new business models, and new growth drivers and promote the development of productive forces that are characterized by high technology, high performance, and high quality. A stronger push will be made to pursue innovation in key generic technologies, cutting-edge technologies, modern engineering technologies, and disruptive technologies, and institutional supply will be boosted in new areas and arenas. We will establish a mechanism for ensuring funding increases for industries of the future, improve the policy and governance systems for promoting the development of strategic industries such as next-generation information technology, artificial intelligence, aviation and aerospace, new energy, new materials, high-end equipment, biomedicine, and quantum technology, and steer emerging industries toward sound and orderly development. National standards will be elevated to guide the upgrading of traditional industries, and enterprises will also be encouraged to apply digital, intelligent, and green technologies to transform and upgrade these sectors. We will impose tighter institutional constraints for environmental protection and safety.

Relevant rules and policies will be improved to accelerate the formation of relations of production that are more compatible with new quality productive forces, and to channel various types of advanced production factors toward the development of new quality productive forces. These steps will help realize a significant increase in total factor productivity. We will encourage and regulate the development of angel investment, venture capital, and private equity investment, better leverage the role of government investment funds, and work to promote the development of patient capital.

(9) Improving the systems for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy

We will move faster to advance new industrialization, promote the growth and expansion of advanced manufacturing clusters, and make the manufacturing sector higher-end, smarter, and more eco-friendly. We will set up a number of industrial generic technology platforms, accelerate the transformation of industrial models and organizational forms of enterprises, and refine the institutions and mechanisms for enhancing our leading position in industries where we excel. We will establish better operation and oversight mechanisms for major industrial investment funds to ensure that capital is channeled toward our country's strategic needs. We will put in place a funding mechanism to see that the share of manufacturing in the national economy remains at a desirable level. We will also realize a reasonable reduction in overall costs and tax and fee burdens in the manufacturing sector.

We will move faster to establish institutions and mechanisms for promoting the development of the digital economy and refine the policy system for developing the digital industry and transforming traditional industries with digital technologies. We will promote faster application of next-generation information technology at all stages and in all dimensions, develop the Industrial Internet, and build digital industry clusters with international competitiveness. We will push forward the innovative development of the platform economy while improving the system for its routine regulation. We will build and put into operation national data infrastructure to promote data sharing. We will work faster to set up a system for data property rights concerning ownership determination, market transaction, proceeds distribution, and interests protection. We will

boost our governance and regulatory capabilities in relation to data security and put in place a mechanism to ensure efficient, convenient, and safe cross-border data flows.

(10) Refining the institutions and mechanisms for developing the service sector

We will refine the policy system for supporting the development of the service sector, improve financial accounting, and promote standardization in this sector. With a focus on key links, we will propel high-quality development of producer services on a sector-by-sector basis, invigorate industrial internet platforms, remove administrative barriers that impede trans-regional business operations, and promote the integrated development of producer services. The mechanisms for accelerating the diversified development of consumer services will be improved. We will refine the system of rules and regulations for intermediary service agencies to ensure that they operate in an honest and trustworthy way and fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with the law.

(11) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for modernizing infrastructure

We will build a planning and standards system for new types of infrastructure and improve the mechanisms for integrated utilization of such infrastructure. We will advance the digitalization of traditional infrastructure, diversify investment and financing channels, and refine the coordination mechanisms for major infrastructure construction projects. We will further reform the integrated transportation system, advancing reform of the railway system, developing general aviation and the low-altitude economy, and optimizing the policy on toll highways. We will raise the underwriting capacity of shipping insurers, help them provide better global services, and introduce new systems and rules on the arbitration of marine affairs. We will improve the mechanisms for the construction, operation, and management of major water conservancy projects.

(12) Improving the systems for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains

We will move faster to build industrial and supply chains that are self-supporting and risk-controllable, improve the institutions and mechanisms for bolstering key industrial chains such as integrated circuits, industrial machine tools, medical equipment, instruments, basic software, industrial software, and advanced materials, and strive to secure more technological breakthroughs that can be applied across entire industrial and supply chains. A mechanism will be put in place to assess and respond to industrial and supply chain risks. We will improve the coordination mechanism for industries to be relocated domestically in a progressive and orderly manner and promote interest sharing between regions of origin and destination. We will develop China's strategic hinterland and ensure backup plans for key industries. Accelerated moves will be made to improve the system for national reserves. We will refine the overall planning and linkage systems for the exploration, production, supply, storage, and sale of strategic mineral resources.

IV. Supporting All-Around Innovation

Education, science and technology, and talent function as basic and strategic underpinnings for Chinese modernization. We must fully implement the strategy of invigorating China through science and education, the strategy of developing a quality workforce, and the innovation-driven development strategy, make coordinated efforts to promote integrated reform of institutions and mechanisms pertaining to education, science and technology, and talent, and improve the new system for mobilizing resources nationwide, so as to boost the overall performance of our country's innovation system.

(13) Deepening comprehensive reform in education

We will work faster to build a high-quality education system and advance coordinated reforms in student training methods, school operation models, management systems, and support mechanisms. We will improve the mechanisms for fostering virtue through education, introduce integrated reforms and new approaches in the political education curriculum at all levels, from elementary school to university, and refine the systems for nurturing capable young people with sound moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic sensibility, and work skills. We will increase the ability of teachers to impart knowledge and bring out the best in students and improve the long-term mechanisms for enhancing their professional integrity and conduct. In addition, we will further educational assessment reforms. We will improve the layout of higher education and work faster to develop world-class universities and strong disciplines with Chinese features. We will advance reforms of higher education institutions on a categorized basis and develop discipline adjustment mechanisms and talent training models to meet the needs of China's scientific and technological development and national strategies. This will see us making extraordinary moves to plan for disciplines and majors that are in urgent demand. We will also redouble efforts to develop basic disciplines, emerging disciplines, and interdisciplinary subjects and work harder to cultivate top talent, with a strong emphasis on fostering innovative capacity. We will refine the mechanisms for facilitating scientific and technological innova-

tion in universities and ensure more efficient application of advances. Scientific and technological education and humanities education will be better coordinated. We will work faster to build a vocational education system that is well-integrated with both general education and industry and improve the mechanisms for student internships and work experience. We will better guide and regulate the development of private schools. We will promote high-standard opening up in the education sector, and encourage first-rate foreign universities of science and engineering to develop partner schools and programs in China.

With a view to optimizing the allocation of educational resources across regions, we will establish mechanisms for aligning the supply of basic public education services with demographic changes. We will improve the mechanisms for promoting high-quality, balanced development of compulsory education and explore avenues for gradually expanding the coverage of free education. The support mechanisms for preschool education, special needs education, and specialized education will be improved. We will also pursue the digitalization of education to facilitate the building of a learning society and provide greater support for lifelong education.

(14) Deepening scientific and technological structural reform

Targeting the global frontiers of science and technology, the development of the economy, the major needs of the country, and the health and safety of our people, we will refine the mechanisms under which major scientific and technological innovation projects are organized in order to mount a concerted push for breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields. We will see that the development of innovative capabilities, allocation of innovation factors, and ranks of innovators become more systematic, well-organized, and coordinated. To boost China's strength in strategic science and technology, we will refine the system of national laboratories and better define the roles and layout of our national research institutions, advanced-level research universities, and leading high-tech enterprises. We will promote closer collaboration between the central and local levels, work for coordinated development of technological innovation platforms of various kinds, and encourage and regulate the development of new types of R&D institutions. Giving play to the guiding role of China's enormous market, we will see that innovation resources are more effectively allocated and that our innovative capabilities are better organized, with a view to promoting integrated advancements in technological and industrial innovation. We will establish risk monitoring, early warning, and response systems to safeguard science and technology security, and ensure self-sufficiency in scientific and technological infrastructure. The management system for science and technology-related social groups will be refined. We will expand international science and technology exchanges and cooperation, encourage the establishment of international science and technology organizations in China, and improve the management mechanisms whereby China's universities, research institutes, and science and technology-related social groups engage in specialized exchanges and cooperation with their foreign counterparts.

We will improve the management of science and technology plans to ensure that they are forward-looking and play a guiding role in basic research, interdisciplinary frontier areas, and key fields. We will see that basic research is conducted in a better organized way, raise the share of total science and technology expenditure that goes toward basic research, and improve the basic research investment mechanisms to ensure support on both a competitive and ongoing basis. Regions, enterprises, social organizations, and individuals with the resources to support basic research will be encouraged to do so. We will also support researchers in diversifying their subjects for study and encourage high-risk, high-reward basic research. We will advance reform of the science and technology evaluation system, ensure that ethical standards are adhered to, and rectify academic misconduct.

Reinforcing the principal role of enterprises in innovation, we will establish mechanisms for fostering leading high-tech enterprises and strengthen enterprise-led collaboration between industries, universities, and research institutes. We will set up a reserve fund system for corporate R&D and back enterprises that volunteer to lead or participate in major national science and technology programs. Mechanisms will be rolled out to promote the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that use specialized and sophisticated technologies to produce novel and unique products. To encourage sci-tech SMEs to boost their R&D spending, we will raise the rate of additional tax deductions for their R&D expenses. We will encourage and guide higher education institutions and research institutes in authorizing the use of their proprietary scientific and technological advances by micro, small, and medium enterprises on a "use first, pay later" basis.

We will refine the mechanisms for allocation, management, and utilization of central government research funds and improve the institutions for the implementation of central government-funded science and technology programs and their manage-

ment by specialized agencies. We will expand application of the contract system for government-funded research projects and grant scientists a greater say in deciding on technology roadmaps, spending funds, and allocating resources. We will establish a mechanism for adopting non-consensus projects based on real-name recommendations by experts. Public institutions engaged in scientific research will be allowed to implement a more flexible management system as compared to general public institutions, so that they can explore approaches to instituting corporate management.

We will further reform the mechanisms for applying scientific and technological advances. We will enhance the national technology transfer system, move faster to plan and build a number of proof-of-concept and pilot-scale testing platforms, refine the policies for the initial application of newly-developed equipment, materials, and software, and increase government procurement of independently innovated products. The pool of technology managers will be expanded.

Scientists and engineers will have a greater say in the distribution of gains from the transfer of their scientific and technological advances. We will establish a system to place scientific and technological outputs produced on the job under separate management and deepen reforms to grant researchers corresponding rights over these outputs. We will push ahead with the income distribution reform for universities and research institutes. A greater number of eligible SOEs will be permitted to provide diverse medium- and long-term incentives to encourage innovation and creativity among their research personnel.

We will develop a financial system for scientific and technological innovation to provide greater support for major national science and technology programs and sci-tech SMEs. We will refine policies for supporting the investment of long-term capital in projects at the early stages, in small enterprises, over long time horizons, and in advanced and core technologies. We will improve the mechanisms for spreading the risks associated with the development of major technologies and introduce a policy system for technology insurance. We will facilitate foreign equity investment and venture capital investment in China.

(15) Deepening institutional reforms for talent development

Our policies on talent will become more proactive, open, and effective. To improve the mechanisms for nurturing talent here at home, we will work faster to develop national hubs for high-caliber personnel and platforms for attracting and pooling talent. We will step up efforts to build a contingent of personnel with expertise of strategic importance, with a focus on cultivating science strategists, top-notch scientists and innovation teams, outstanding engineers, master craftsmen, and highly-skilled workers, while also working to improve the performance of all types of talent. We will develop a first-rate industrial technical workforce. We will improve the mechanisms for enabling orderly flows of talent to promote a more rational distribution across regions and foster closer personnel collaboration between the eastern, central, and western regions. We will also enhance the mechanisms for identifying, selecting, and training young innovators and ensure better pay and benefits for our young scientists and engineers. Relevant systems will be refined to ensure that researchers can concentrate on research.

We will enhance the incentive mechanisms for talent, granting more say to employers and creating a more accommodating environment for talent development. We will put in place a personnel assessment system based on innovation-related capability, performance, outcomes, and contributions. We will open up channels to enable flows of personnel between universities and research institutes on the one hand and enterprises on the other. We will improve the support mechanisms for recruiting talent from overseas and create internationally competitive personnel systems. We will also explore avenues for establishing an immigration system for highly-skilled personnel.

V. Improving Macroeconomic Governance

Sound macro regulation, along with effective governance by the government, is essential for ensuring that we can fully leverage the institutional strengths of our socialist market economy. It is, therefore, vital that we improve our macro regulation systems. We must pursue coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors and work to enhance the consistency of macro policy orientation.

(16) Improving the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms

We will develop mechanisms for formulating and executing national strategies and make a stronger push to fully integrate all major strategies, so that they can provide better macro guidance and overall coordination. The systems for national economic and social development planning will be improved. This will see us enhancing the mechanisms for the alignment and implementation of plans, better harnessing the strategic guiding role of national development plans, bolstering the basic role of territorial space plans, and reinforcing the

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supporting role of subject-specific plans and regional plans. We will also improve the system by which experts participate in decision-making on public issues.

To promote the implementation of national development plans and major strategies, we will foster greater synergy between our fiscal, monetary, industrial, pricing, and employment policies, improving the allocation of newly acquired resources and adjusting the mix of existing resources. We will explore the introduction of national macro balance sheet management. Both economic and non-economic policies will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the macro policy orientation. The expectations management mechanism will be improved. We will refine the statistical indicators accounting system to better support high-quality development, expanding the coverage of statistics to include more new forms of economy and new sectors. We will promote the development of statistical infrastructure for industrial entities, optimize statistical methods for both headquarters and branches, and gradually work toward compiling statistics based on the places where market entities conduct their business activities. Steps will be taken to improve the mechanisms for international coordination on macro policies.

(17) Deepening reform of the fiscal and tax systems

We will further improve the budget system and strengthen unified management of all fiscal resources and budgets. All revenues generated on the basis of the exercise of administrative power, government credit, and state-owned resources and assets will be placed under government budget management. We will improve the budgeting and performance assessment systems for state capital operations and strengthen fiscal support for major national strategic tasks and basic public wellbeing. We will enhance macro guidance on budgeting and fiscal policies. We will strengthen performance management for public services, with a focus on conducting ex ante evaluations of their functions. Reforms for zero-based budgeting will be advanced. We will unify budget allocation powers, make budget management more unified and standardized, and take steps to boost budget transparency and enhance budget oversight. We will improve the system for comprehensive government financial reporting based on accrual accounting.

The tax structure will be improved to make taxation systems more conducive to high-quality development, social fairness, and the building of a unified market. We will also look into approaches for better adapting these systems to new forms of business. Fully implementing the principle of legality of taxation, we will regulate policies on tax breaks and improve the support mechanisms for key sectors and links. We will refine the system of direct taxes, improve the personal income tax system which is based on both adjusted gross income and specific income types, regulate taxation policies on incomes generated from business operations, capital, and property, and unify tax rates for incomes earned through work. Reform of the tax collection and administration system will be deepened.

We will establish a fiscal relationship between the central and local governments that features well-defined powers and responsibilities and the appropriate allocation of resources, with an optimum balance between regions. To place more fiscal resources at the disposal of local governments, we will expand the sources of tax revenue at the local level and grant greater authority for tax management to local governments as appropriate. To improve the system of transfer payments, we will overhaul special transfer payments and increase the scale of general transfer payments. These will help ensure that the fiscal resources of prefecture- and county-level governments are commensurate with their powers. We will establish incentive and constraint mechanisms through transfer payments to promote high-quality development. We will take steps to move excise tax collection further down the production-to-consumption chain, with the power of collection steadily being passed to local governments. We will improve the value-added tax credit refund policy and free up the channels for making tax deductions. The ratio for taxes shared between the central and local governments will be optimized. We will look into rolling the urban maintenance and construction tax, education surcharges, and local education surcharges into one single local surtax. Local governments will have the authority to set the rate for this tax within a predetermined range. We will appropriately expand the scope of use for funds raised from the sale of local government special-purpose bonds, permitting a greater share of such funds to be used as capital in more sectors and on a larger scale. The systems for managing government debt will be improved. We will establish a system for monitoring and regulating all local government debt as well as long-term mechanisms for preventing and defusing hidden debt risks. We will move faster to reform and transform local government financing platforms. In regulating the management of non-tax revenue, we will delegate, as appropriate, some management authority to local governments and allow them to tailor their practices to local conditions.

The central government will hold more

fiscal powers as appropriate and raise the proportion of central government expenditure accordingly. In principle, the expenditures commensurate with such powers should be allocated from the central government, and such powers to be delegated to local governments should be reduced. No requirements for supporting funds from local governments in violation of regulations shall be made. When it is necessary to delegate fiscal powers to local governments, the relevant funds should be arranged through special transfer payments.

(18) Deepening reform of the financial system

We will move faster to improve the central bank system and the monetary policy transmission mechanism. We will actively develop technology finance, green finance, inclusive finance, pension finance, and digital finance and work to ensure quality financial services for major strategies, key fields, and weak links. We will refine the role and governance of financial institutions and the incentive and constraint mechanisms for ensuring that they serve the real economy. We will diversify equity financing, step up the development of multilevel bond markets, and increase the proportion of direct financing. We will optimize the state-owned financial capital management system.

We will improve the functions of the capital market to give balanced weight to investment and financing. We will prevent risks and tighten regulation to promote the sound and stable development of the capital market. We will facilitate the entry of long-term capital into the market. We will improve the overall quality of listed companies, strengthen relevant regulation and delisting systems, and establish long-term mechanisms to enhance the underlying stability of the capital market. We will improve the mechanisms for regulating and constraining the behaviors of major shareholders and actual controllers. We will optimize dividend incentive and constraint mechanisms for listed companies and improve the mechanisms for protecting investors. We will encourage regional equity markets to align their rules and implement unified standards.

A financial law will be formulated. We will improve the financial regulatory system to ensure that all financial activities are placed under regulation in accordance with the law, strengthen regulatory responsibility and accountability systems, and improve regulatory coordination between the central and local levels. We will build secure and efficient financial infrastructure, unify the rules and systems for registration, custody, settlement, and liquidation for the financial market, establish binding constraints for defusing risks at an early stage, and build a robust system to effectively fend off and control systemic risks and ensure financial stability. We will improve the mechanisms for protecting financial consumers and cracking down on illegal financial activities and establish a firewall for industrial and financial capital. We will promote high-standard opening up of the financial sector, steadily and prudently advance the internationalization of the RMB, and develop offshore RMB markets. We will make steady progress in the R&D and application of digital RMB and move faster to build Shanghai into an international financial center.

We will improve the management model based on pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list and support qualified foreign capital institutions in participating in our financial service trials. We will expand the connectivity between domestic and overseas financial markets in a steady and prudent way and improve the qualified foreign institutional investor system. We will push forward the development of a homegrown, controllable cross-border payment system and strengthen financial security mechanisms as we open our doors wider to the outside world. We will establish a system for the unified monitoring and oversight of all foreign debt. We will actively participate in international financial governance.

(19) Improving mechanisms for implementing the coordinated regional development strategy

We will develop a regional economic layout and a territorial space system characterized by complementarity between different regions and territorial spaces. We will improve the institutional and policy frameworks for opening up a new vista in the large-scale development of the western region, achieving new breakthroughs in the full revitalization of the Northeast, accelerating the rise of the central region, and encouraging the eastern region to modernize more quickly. We will enable regions like the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to better play their roles as engines of high-quality development and improve the mechanisms for the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt and the ecological protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River basin. We will move forward with the high-standard and high-quality development of the Xiongan New Area. We will push for solid progress in developing the Chengdu-Chongqing economic zone. We will improve the system of institutions for functional zoning and strengthen mechanisms to support optimal development of territorial spaces. We will improve integrated regional development mechanisms, build new mechanisms for cooperative development across administra-

tive divisions, and deepen industrial collaboration between the eastern, central, and western regions. The institutions and mechanisms for promoting the development of the marine economy will be enhanced.

VI. Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Development

Integrated urban and rural development is essential to Chinese modernization. We must pursue coordinated progress in new industrialization, new urbanization, and all-around rural revitalization, facilitate greater urban-rural integration in planning, development, and governance across the board, and promote equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between urban and rural areas, so as to narrow the disparities between the two and promote their shared prosperity and development.

(20) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for advancing new urbanization

We will put in place mechanisms to foster positive interactions between the processes of industrial upgrading, population concentration, and urban development. We will implement the systems for allowing people to obtain household registration and access basic public services in their place of permanent residence. We will push to see that eligible people who have moved to cities from rural areas enjoy the same rights as registered local residents with regard to social insurance, housing support, and access to compulsory education for their children living with them. The process of granting permanent urban residency to these people will also be accelerated. We will protect the lawful land rights and interests of former rural residents who now hold permanent urban residency, protect, in accordance with the law, their rights to contract rural land, to use their rural residential land, and to share in the proceeds from rural collective undertakings, and explore avenues to facilitate voluntary, paid transfers of these rights.

We will continue to follow the principle that cities should be built by the people and for the people. We will improve urban planning to see that cities of different sizes and small towns develop in coordination with each other to form efficient and closely knit layouts. We will deepen reform of the urban development, operation, and governance systems and step up efforts to change the development models of cities. We will work to create new systems for smart and efficient governance in super-large and mega cities and establish institutions and mechanisms for the highly-integrated development of cities in metropolitan areas. We will deepen reforms to grant super-large towns economic and social management rights that are commensurate with their populations and economic sizes. We will develop sustainable urban renewal models, along with relevant policies and regulations, and strengthen the building of underground utility tunnels and the upgrading of old pipelines. These efforts will help make our cities safer and more resilient.

(21) Consolidating and improving the basic rural operation system

We will move forward with well-organized trials to extend rural land contracts by another 30 years upon the expiration of the second-round contracts, deepen the reform to separate the ownership rights, contract rights, and management rights of contracted land, and develop appropriately scaled agricultural operations. We will improve the framework for agricultural operations and refine the pricing mechanism for the transfer of contracted land management rights. We will encourage farmers to engage in cooperative operations and see that our policies for supporting new types of agribusiness serve to increase rural incomes. We will develop a system of convenient and efficient commercial agricultural services. We will develop new types of rural collective economies, establish related operating mechanisms featuring clearly defined property rights and rational income distribution, and ensure that farmers enjoy more adequate property rights and interests.

(22) Improving supporting systems to strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas

Continuing to prioritize agricultural and rural development, we will improve the investment mechanisms for rural revitalization. We will work to expand county industries that benefit local people, build a diversified food supply system, and foster new industries and new forms of business in rural areas. We will optimize the system of agricultural subsidy policies and develop multi-tiered agricultural insurance schemes. We will refine the regular mechanisms for preventing rural residents from lapsing or relapsing into poverty and establish a system of multi-tiered and categorized support for low-income rural residents and underdeveloped areas. We will improve the long-term mechanisms for managing assets formed with government inputs in the process of poverty alleviation. Applying the experience gained from the Green Rural Revival Program in Zhejiang Province, we will refine the long-term mechanisms for promoting all-around rural revitalization.

We will work faster to improve the mechanisms for ensuring the incomes of grain growers and see that the prices of grain and other major agricultural products remain at a reasonable level. We will coordinate efforts to establish an inter-provincial mechanism for major grain-purchasing areas to com-

pensate major grain-producing areas so as to make substantive headway in incentivizing the latter. We will make coordinated progress in reforming the institutions and mechanisms related to the purchase and sale of grain and the management of grain reserves and develop new regulatory models in this regard. The long-term mechanisms for conserving grain and other types of food will be improved.

(23) Deepening reform of the land system

We will reform and refine the system for offsetting cultivated land that has been put to other uses, manage all types of arable land occupation in a unified manner, and improve the acceptance inspection mechanism to make sure that newly-added arable land is of an equivalent quantity and quality. We will improve the mechanisms for developing, verifying, managing, and protecting high-standard cropland. We will refine the management system for ensuring that arable land is used for planting basic crops. We will allow rural households to put houses under their legal ownership to good use by leasing them out, contributing them in the form of shares, and engaging in cooperative ventures. We will promote orderly reforms for market-based transfers of rural collective land designated for business construction and improve the mechanisms for distributing returns realized from the appreciation of land.

We will optimize land management, refining relevant systems so that they are efficiently aligned with macro policies and regional development needs. We will give priority to the reasonable land needs of leading industries and major projects, with a view to creating greater development space for regions with competitive edge. We will establish a coordination mechanism to link increases in urban construction land quotas for cities with the growth of their permanent residents. We will explore mechanisms for using contiguous land that has been reclaimed and upgraded by the government to offset arable land being used by specific projects and regions. We will optimize land use for urban industry and commerce and accelerate the development of the secondary market for construction land. We will promote mixed land development and use and allow for changes in land use purposes when appropriate, ensuring that idle and inefficiently used land can be put to better use. Targeted steps will be taken to address land use problems in various types of industrial parks. Policies will be formulated for extending land use rights for industrial and commercial purposes and for renewing them upon expiration.

VII. Pursuing High-Standard Opening Up

Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. We must remain committed to the basic state policy of opening to the outside world and continue to promote reform through opening up. Leveraging the strengths of China's enormous market, we will enhance our capacity for opening up while expanding international cooperation and develop new institutions for a higher-standard open economy.

(24) Steadily expanding institutional opening up

We will promote alignment with high-standard international economic and trade rules and harmonize rules, regulations, management, and standards relating to property rights protection, industrial subsidies, environmental standards, labor protection, government procurement, e-commerce, the financial sector, and other areas, in an effort to create an institutional environment that is transparent, stable, and predictable. We will seize the initiative by opening China's commodity, services, capital, and labor markets wider to the outside world in an orderly manner and unilaterally opening our doors wider to the world's least developed countries. We will further reform institutions and mechanisms for foreign aid to realize full-chain management.

We will safeguard the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, actively participate in the reform of global economic governance, and provide more global public goods. We will expand our globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas, establish compliance mechanisms that are aligned with prevailing international rules, and optimize the environment for opening up and cooperation.

(25) Deepening the foreign trade structural reform

We will better coordinate trade policies with fiscal, tax, financial, and industrial policies, create a set of systems and policies to support efforts to build China into a strong trading nation, step up reforms to integrate domestic and foreign trade, and actively respond to the trends of digital and green trade. We will develop new regulatory approaches for customs clearance, taxation, and foreign exchange and foster an institutional environment that is conducive to the development of new models and forms of trade. We will develop digital trade in an innovative manner and promote the development of integrated pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce. We will build commodity trading centers and global distribution centers, support various types of entities in developing logistics facilities overseas in a well-ordered way, and facilitate the development of international logistics hubs, as well as hubs for the distribution of commodities and resources, in areas where con-

ditions allow. The mechanisms for preventing and controlling trade risks will be improved, and our export control framework and trade remedy system will be refined.

We will adopt innovative measures to boost trade in services and fully apply the negative list for cross-border trade in services. We will promote comprehensive trials and demonstrations for expanding opening up of the service sector and encourage specialized service organizations to enhance their capacity for providing international services. We will work faster to promote offshore trade and develop new types of transactions in offshore international trade. We will set up sound systems for cross-border financial services and diversify the supply of financial products and services.

(26) Further reforming the management systems for inward and outward investment

We will foster a first-rate business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized and protect the rights and interests of foreign investors in accordance with the law. We will expand the catalog of encouraged industries for foreign investment, appropriately shorten the negative list for foreign investment, remove all market access restrictions in the manufacturing sector, and promote wider opening with regard to telecommunications, the internet, education, culture, medical services, and other sectors in a well-conceived way. We will further reform the institutions and mechanisms for promoting foreign investment, ensure national treatment for foreign-funded enterprises in terms of access to factors of production, license application, standards setting, and government procurement, and support them in collaborating with upstream and downstream enterprises in industrial chains. We will improve relevant measures to make it more convenient for people from outside the mainland to live, receive medical services, and make payments on the mainland. We will refine the institutions and mechanisms for promoting and protecting Chinese investment abroad, improve the management and service systems for outward investment, and facilitate international cooperation in industrial and supply chains.

(27) Optimizing the layout for regional opening up

We will consolidate the leading role of eastern coastal areas in our opening up endeavors, promote further opening up in the central, western, and northeastern regions, and move faster toward all-around opening up through links running eastward and westward, across land, and over sea. To leverage the strengths of areas along the coasts, borders, rivers, and major transportation routes, we will optimize the division of functions for opening up among different regions in order to develop a diverse array of pacesetters for opening up. We will implement the strategy for upgrading pilot free trade zones and encourage these zones to engage in pioneering and integrated explorations. The development of the Hainan Free Trade Port will be accelerated.

Harnessing the institutional strengths of the One Country, Two Systems policy, we will work to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial, shipping, and trade center, support Hong Kong and Macao in building themselves into international hubs for high-caliber talent, and improve relevant mechanisms to see the two regions playing a greater role in China's opening to the outside world. We will encourage cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao in the Greater Bay Area by promoting closer alignment of rules and mechanisms. We will improve relevant institutions and policies to promote economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait and advance integrated cross-Strait development.

(28) Improving the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative

We will continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology, and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan and redouble efforts to develop multilateral platforms for cooperation in green development, the digital economy, artificial intelligence, energy, taxation, finance, disaster mitigation, and other areas. We will work to improve the integrated framework for land, sea, air, and cyberspace connectivity and build a multidimensional network to connect countries along the Belt and Road. We will make coordinated efforts to advance both major signature projects and "small but beautiful" public welfare projects.

VIII. Advancing Whole-Process People's Democracy

Developing whole-process people's democracy is integral to Chinese modernization. We must firmly stay on the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics and uphold and improve our country's foundational, basic, and important political systems. We will develop diverse forms of democracy at all levels and ensure that the principle of the people running the country is manifested in concrete and visible ways in all aspects of China's political and social activities.

(29) Strengthening the institutions through which the people run the country

We must uphold, improve, and implement

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the system of people's congresses to good effect. We will improve the systems under which the people's congresses conduct oversight of the administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory, and procuratorial organs, refine the Law on the Oversight by the Standing Committees of People's Congresses at All Levels and the mechanisms for its implementation, and strengthen the examination and oversight of government budgets and final accounts by people's congresses as well as their oversight of state-owned asset and government debt management. We will improve the rules of procedure for people's congresses and their debate, assessment, discussion, and hearing systems. We will see that deputies to people's congresses reach out to the public on a greater variety of issues and in more diverse ways and enhance the working mechanisms for drawing on public opinion and pooling the wisdom of the people. The roles of people's organizations, such as trade unions, Chinese Communist Youth League organizations, and women's federations, will be brought into play in connecting with and serving the people.

(30) *Improving the mechanisms for consultative democracy*

We will give play to the role of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) as a specialized consultative body. We will refine the mechanisms that enable in-depth consultations and interactions, the full expression of opinions, and the formation of broad consensus. We will strengthen the mechanisms through which the CPPCC reports on social conditions and public opinions, stays in contact with the people, and provides them with services. Moves will also be made to refine the mechanisms that facilitate democratic oversight by the CPPCC.

The system of consultative democracy will be improved, with the introduction of more diverse forms of consultation. We will enhance the institutional platforms through which consultations are carried out by political parties, people's congresses, government departments, CPPCC committees, people's organizations, communities, and social organizations, and strengthen coordination between the various channels of consultation. We will improve the mechanisms for conducting consultations prior to decision making and during the implementation of decisions. Improvements will also be made to the mechanisms for adopting, implementing, and providing feedback on the consultation outcomes.

(31) *Enhancing democracy at the primary level*

We will improve the mechanisms for conducting community-level self-governance under the leadership of Party organizations at the primary level. We will refine the institutional and working systems for primary-level democracy and create more channels to allow for the well-ordered participation of various primary-level organizations and local people in the governance of their communities. We will enhance the institutions for keeping the public informed. We will improve the democratic management systems in enterprises and public institutions, which generally take the form of workers' congresses. In addition, more effective ways will be developed to ensure that enterprise employees can participate in management.

(32) *Building a broad united front*

We will improve the policies and measures for facilitating the united front's political role in rallying the support of the people and pooling their strength. We will uphold, develop, and improve China's new type of political party system. We will see that people from outside the Party can better play their roles and improve the systems for building up the ranks of non-CPC representatives. A law on promoting ethnic solidarity and progress will be formulated, and we will take steps to improve the institutions and mechanisms for forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation so as to further strengthen our national cohesion. We will make systematic efforts to ensure that religions in China are Chinese in orientation and establish a more solid legal footing for the governance of religious affairs. We will improve the mechanisms for providing political guidance to non-CPC intellectuals and people from emerging social groups. We will continue working to cultivate a cordial and clean relationship between government and business across the board and improve the working mechanisms for facilitating the healthy development of the non-public sector and those working in it. We will refine the mechanisms for work related to Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and overseas Chinese affairs.

IX. Promoting Socialist Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics

The rule of law provides an important guarantee for Chinese modernization. We must ensure full implementation of the Constitution and uphold its authority, coordinate the reforms to promote sound legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, and observance of the law, and improve the mechanisms for ensuring that all are equal before the law, so as to promote socialist rule of law, uphold social fairness and justice, and see that all work of the state is carried out under the rule of law.

(33) *Deepening reforms in legislation*

The socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics centered on the Constitution will be improved. We will refine the systems for ensuring full implementation of the Con-

stitution and establish a system for reporting on its implementation. We will improve the legislative framework under which Party committees exercise leadership, people's congresses play a principal role, government departments provide support, and various sectors of society get involved. We will make sure that steps to enact, revise, abolish, interpret, and codify laws are well-coordinated and work to bolster legislation in key, emerging, and foreign-related areas. We will improve both the constitutional review system and the record and review system for normative documents. These efforts will ensure that the quality of legislation further improves. We will explore cross-regional collaboration on legislation. We will improve mechanisms for aligning and coordinating Party rules and regulations with state laws and regulations. A unified national information platform for laws, regulations, and other normative documents will be created.

(34) *Advancing law-based government administration*

We will keep working to establish a sound legal footing for government institutions, functions, powers, procedures, and responsibilities. We will make government services more standardized, procedure-based, and accessible and improve the integrated national online platform for government services. We will improve the legality review mechanism for major decisions and normative documents and conduct a more thorough review of the legislative work of the government. We will push forward with structural reforms regarding administrative law enforcement, improving institutions and mechanisms for coordinated law enforcement at the community level and for conducting oversight over enforcement. We will refine the system of standards on administrative discretion for matters such as administrative penalties and work to align the administrative law enforcement standards of different regions. Improvements will be made to the system for coordinating administrative and criminal penalties, the institutions and mechanisms for administrative reconsideration, and the administrative adjudication system. We will refine both the vertical management system and the tiered management system at the local level to promote closer coordination and collaboration between institutions under vertical management and local governments. Prudent steps will be taken to optimize the institutions in counties with small populations. We will further reform the management system in development zones. We will improve the structure and layout of public institutions to ensure that they better serve the public interest.

(35) *Improving the institutions and mechanisms for impartial law enforcement and administration of justice*

We will refine the institutions and mechanisms for ensuring that supervisory organs, public security organs, procuratorates, courts, and administrative departments for justice all fulfill their respective functions and that powers of supervision, investigation, procuratorate, adjudication, and enforcement complement and constrain each other. This will ensure that law enforcement and judicial activities are subject to effective checks and oversight at every link and stage in the process. We will deepen the reforms to separate adjudicatory and enforcement powers, improve the national system for law enforcement, and see that the parties concerned, the procuratorates, and the public exercise oversight throughout the process of enforcement activities. We will improve the system for providing legal remedies and protection during the course of law enforcement and judicial activities as well as the system for granting state compensation. We will increase the transparency of judicial work and improve relevant procedures. We will also enforce and enhance judicial accountability. The establishment of special courts will be regulated. We will further the reforms related to the jurisdiction of administrative cases where jurisdiction is defined by subject matter, exercised in a centralized manner, or established in another region. We will develop institutions and mechanisms for coordinated, efficient policing, advance the reform of staffing management in public security organs at the local level, and continue to reform the management systems in the civil aviation public security organs and the anti-smuggling departments of customs authorities. We will standardize the management of police auxiliaries.

Adhering to the correct outlook on human rights, we will provide more effective human rights protection through law enforcement and administration of justice. We will improve the working mechanisms for ex ante review, ongoing oversight, and ex post redress and refine the system for coercive measures that concern the personal rights of citizens as well as the sealing, sequestering, and freezing of assets. We will investigate and prosecute, in accordance with the law, the abuse of power to bend the law for personal gain, illegal detention, the use of torture to extort confessions, and other similar offenses. We will see that lawyer defense is provided in all criminal cases and introduce a system to seal records for minor offenses.

(36) *Improving the mechanisms for building a law-based society*

We will improve the public legal services system covering both urban and rural populations and further reform the systems related to lawyers, notarization, arbitration, mediation, and forensic evidence management. We will adopt more effective methods

to raise public awareness of the rule of law and refine the practice-oriented approach to law school education. We will better protect the rights and interests of minors, step up efforts to prevent and control juvenile delinquency, and formulate special regulations on correction and education.

(37) *Strengthening the rule of law in foreign-related affairs*

We will establish mechanisms for taking a holistic approach to promoting legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, observance of the law, legal services, and the training of legal professionals for foreign-related affairs. We will improve the system of foreign-related laws and regulations and the systems for enforcing the rule of law and work to deepen international cooperation in law enforcement and administration of justice. We will refine the judicial system that allows the parties in foreign-related civil lawsuits to lawfully enter into jurisdictional agreements and choose applicable extraterritorial laws. We will improve the arbitration and mediation system for international commercial disputes and cultivate world-class arbitration organizations and law firms. We will actively participate in the formulation of international rules.

X. Deepening Reform in the Cultural Sector

Chinese modernization is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement. We must boost our cultural confidence and work to develop advanced socialist culture, promote revolutionary culture, and carry forward fine traditional Chinese culture. We must move faster to stay abreast of new dramatic developments in information technology, cultivate a vast pool of talented personnel in the field of culture, and ignite the cultural creativity of the entire nation.

(38) *Improving the responsibility system for ideological work*

We will refine the working systems for arming all Party members, educating the people, and guiding our practice with the Party's new theories. We will improve the system under which the theoretical study groups of Party committees (leading Party members groups) hold regular study sessions, as well as the system for theoretical and political work. We will develop new approaches in the project to study and develop Marxist theory and promote innovation in philosophy and social sciences with a view to building a Chinese intellectual system in this field. We will improve the spokesperson system, develop content production and communication mechanisms as well as assessment systems for all forms of media, and promote a systemic transformation in mainstream media. We will improve the mechanisms for guiding public opinion and coordinating responses to public opinion incidents.

Activities to foster ideals and convictions will be carried out on a regular and institutionalized basis. We will enhance the systems and mechanisms for cultivating and practicing the core socialist values. We will improve and innovate working mechanisms for raising awareness, applying principles, and developing initiatives aimed at promoting cultural-ethical progress. We will launch projects to enhance social etiquette and civility in rural areas. We will refine the mechanisms for publicizing heroes and role models and encouraging people to learn from them and work to develop new mechanisms for promoting patriotism and organizing themed public activities, in an effort to create a social atmosphere in which people look up to heroes, pay tribute to martyrs, and strive to become pioneers. We will establish a system for carrying forward traditional Chinese virtues and improve the institutions and mechanisms for cultivating social morality, work ethics, family values, and personal integrity. We will refine the long-term mechanisms for promoting integrity and credibility and provide public education and guidance so that all members of society readily abide by the law and respect public order and moral standards. We will take firm steps to oppose money worship, hedonism, egocentricity, and historical nihilism. We will develop mechanisms to provide online theoretical and ethical education in a differentiated and targeted manner. We will establish better mechanisms for addressing serious ethical problems in a coordinated way and improve the long-term mechanisms for combating pornography and illegal publications.

(39) *Refining the mechanisms for supplying cultural services and products*

We will improve the system of public cultural services, establishing mechanisms for channeling quality cultural resources directly to the community level, improving the mechanisms through which nongovernmental actors participate in the supply of public cultural services, and advancing reforms to separate the ownership and use rights for public cultural facilities. In the cultural sector, we will continue with the reform of state capital and SOEs, deepen the internal reform of public institutions on a categorized basis, and improve the mechanisms for developing theater troupes.

We will remain committed to people-centered cultural creation and stay focused on both literary and artistic production and talent cultivation, and on both producing fine works and fostering a favorable environment for creation. On this basis, we will improve the working mechanisms for serving, guiding, and organizing literary and artistic creation and production. We will

refine the systems for cultural industries and markets as well as economic policies concerning the development of the cultural sector. We will explore effective mechanisms for integrating culture with science and technology and step up our efforts to foster new forms of cultural business. We will further reform the systems for culture-related government review and approval and record keeping so as to strengthen ongoing and ex post oversight. Comprehensive governance of the cultural and recreational industries will be advanced.

We will establish coordination agencies for preserving and passing down our cultural heritage and put in place an inspection system for cultural heritage protection to facilitate systematic protection and unified supervision. We will institute a system of the defining symbols of Chinese culture and refine institutions and mechanisms for promoting the full integration of culture and tourism. We will improve the public fitness services system and carry out reforms to refine the management systems and operating mechanisms for competitive sports.

(40) *Improving the system for comprehensive cyberspace governance*

We will deepen reform of the internet management system, combine the functions of online content development and management, and promote integrated management of media communication and online public opinion. We will improve the mechanisms for developing and managing generative artificial intelligence. We will step up the law-based governance of cyberspace, improve the long-term governance mechanisms for the online environment, and refine the system for protecting minors in cyberspace.

(41) *Establishing a more effective international communication system*

We will move ahead with restructuring China's international communication framework and deepen the reform and innovation of our mainstream media's international communication mechanisms in a bid to accelerate the development of a multi-channel and multi-dimensional architecture. We will move faster to develop China's discourse and narrative systems with a view to making our international communication more effective. Mechanisms for promoting the implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative will be established. We will work to facilitate both outbound and inbound visits to promote broader international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

XI. Ensuring and Improving the People's Wellbeing

Ensuring and enhancing the people's wellbeing in the course of development is one of the major tasks of Chinese modernization. In line with the principle of doing everything within our means, we will refine the systems of basic public services, with the focus on providing inclusive services, meeting essential needs, and providing a cushion for those most in need. We will strive to resolve the most practical problems that are of the greatest and most direct concern to the people so as to meet people's aspirations for a better life.

(42) *Improving the income distribution system*

We will build an institutional framework under which primary distribution, redistribution, and tertiary distribution are well coordinated and mutually complementary. We will work to raise the share of personal income in the distribution of national income and give more weight to work remuneration in primary distribution. We will improve the mechanisms for determining wages, ensuring that they are increased at a reasonable rate and that they are paid in full, and refine the policy system for distribution based on factors of production. We will improve the redistribution mechanisms such as taxation, social security, and transfer payments. We will support the development of public interest activities and charities.

We will keep income distribution and the means of accumulating wealth well-regulated, open more avenues for urban and rural residents to increase their property incomes, and put in place systems to effectively boost the incomes of low-income earners, steadily expand the size of the middle-income group, and properly regulate excessive incomes. We will further reform the salary-setting mechanism for SOEs and rationally determine and strictly regulate the remuneration standards, allowances, and benefits for SOE executives at all levels.

(43) *Improving the employment-first policy*

We will develop sound mechanisms for promoting high-quality and full employment, refine the related public services system, and work hard to tackle structural unemployment. We will improve the system of employment support for key groups such as college graduates, rural migrant workers, and ex-service members and the system of lifelong vocational skills training. We will coordinate urban and rural employment policies, simultaneously advance service reforms related to household registration, human resources, and personnel records, improve the policy environment to boost employment by encouraging business startups, and support and regulate the development of new forms of employment. We will improve the systems and mechanisms for promoting equality of opportunity and see that the channels for social mobility are unimpeded. We will refine the mechanisms for labor relation consultations and media-

tion and do more to safeguard workers' rights and interests.

(44) *Improving the social security system*

We will improve the system for unified national management of basic old-age insurance funds and the unified national platform for social insurance public services. We will develop sound systems for ensuring that social security funds are kept safe through supervision and their value is maintained and increased over time. We will refine the mechanisms for financing basic old-age insurance and basic medical insurance and for adjusting the benefits of both as appropriate. Basic pension benefits for rural and non-working urban residents under the basic old-age insurance scheme will be raised gradually. We will build a sound social security system to serve people in flexible employment, rural migrant workers, and those in new forms of employment and expand the coverage of unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and childbirth insurance programs. We will see to it that all restrictions preventing people from accessing social security in the places where they work but do not hold permanent residency are lifted and that policies for transferring social security accounts are improved. We will move faster to develop a multi-tiered, multi-pillar old-age insurance system, expand the coverage of the annuity system, and promote the implementation of private pension schemes. We will leverage various commercial insurance schemes as a supplementary support. We will work toward provincial-level unified management of basic medical insurance funds, further reform medical insurance payment models, improve major disease insurance and medical assistance schemes, and tighten oversight over medical insurance funds. We will improve the social assistance system, the system for protecting the lawful rights and interests of women and children, and the social security and service systems for people with disabilities.

We will move faster to establish a housing system that supports both housing rentals and purchases and foster a new development model for the real estate sector. We will scale up the building and supply of government-subsidized housing to meet the essential need of salaried people for a home to live in. We will also work to support the diverse needs of urban and rural residents for better housing. Municipal governments will be given greater decision-making powers to regulate the real estate market, and based on local conditions, some cities will be permitted to abolish or reduce restrictions on housing purchases and to scrap relevant standards for ordinary and non-ordinary housing. We will carry out reforms to change the way real estate development is financed and to improve the advance purchase system for commodity housing. Improvements will also be made to the taxation system in the real estate sector.

(45) *Further reforming the medical and healthcare systems*

We will implement a health-first strategy. We will improve the public health system, promoting public participation as well as collaboration and integration between hospitals and disease prevention and control institutions and boosting capacities for disease monitoring and early warning, risk assessment, epidemiological investigation, testing and inspection, emergency response, and medical treatment. We will support coordinated development and governance of medical services, medical insurance, and pharmaceuticals. We will do more to increase the availability of quality medical resources and see that such resources are channeled toward the community level and more evenly distributed among regions. We will move faster to develop the tiered diagnosis and treatment system, propel the development of tightly knit medical consortia, and upgrade the services of community-level medical and healthcare institutions. We will deepen the reform of public hospitals to see that they better serve the public interest, establish mechanisms whereby medical expenses are primarily based on medical services, improve the remuneration system, and set up a mechanism for making dynamic staffing adjustments. We will guide and better regulate the development of private hospitals and introduce new approaches in the supervision of medical and healthcare services. We will improve the mechanisms for supporting the development of innovative drugs and medical equipment and for promoting the preservation and innovative development of traditional Chinese medicine.

(46) *Improving the systems for supporting population development and providing related services*

We will improve the population development strategy in response to population aging and the declining birth rate. A sound system will be instituted to provide full life-cycle population services to all in order to promote high-quality population development. We will refine the policy system and incentive mechanisms for boosting the birth rate and strive to build a childbirth-friendly society. We will work to bring down the costs of childbirth, parenting, and education, refine parental leave policies, introduce a system of childbirth subsidies, improve basic public services for childbirth and pediatric medical care, and further raise the childcare-related deduction for personal income tax. We will make greater efforts to develop a public-benefit childcare service

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system and provide support for employer-run nurseries, community childcare facilities, and home-based childcare. Based on the general patterns underlying population flows, we will see that public services follow the movement of populations and facilitate the reasonable concentration of people in and their orderly flow between urban and rural areas and different regions.

To actively respond to population aging, we will refine the policies and mechanisms for developing elderly care programs and industries. We will develop the silver economy and support the creation of diverse jobs tailored to elderly people. In line with the principle of voluntary participation with appropriate flexibility, we will advance reform to gradually raise the statutory retirement age in a prudent and orderly manner. To boost the supply of basic elderly care services, we will develop community-based facilities, improve the operation mechanisms for public-run institutions, encourage and guide the participation of enterprises and other non-governmental actors in service provision, and promote mutual-aid elderly care and the integration of medical care and elderly care. We will work faster to shore up weaknesses in rural elderly care services. We will also see to it that better services are provided for elderly people with special difficulties including those who live alone, have disabilities, or suffer from physical impairment, and accelerate the introduction of insurance schemes for long-term care.

XII. Deepening Reform in Ecological Conservation

Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature. We must work to improve ecological conservation systems and make concerted efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, and boost economic growth. We must actively respond to climate change and move faster to improve the institutions and mechanisms for applying the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

(47) *Improving the basic systems for ecological conservation*

We will implement region-specific environmental management systems featuring differentiated, targeted regulation and improve the systems for environmental monitoring and assessment. We will establish sound, united, well-aligned systems for regulating the use of territorial space of all types across the country and for approving territorial space plans. To improve the property rights and management systems for natural resource assets, we will refine the mechanism for the delegation of ownership over public-owned natural resource assets and establish systems for assessing and supervising performance in terms of protecting the environment, protecting and utilizing natural resources, and ensuring that natural resource assets hold their value and appreciate. We will improve the coordination mechanism for ensuring national ecological security. An environmental code will be compiled.

(48) *Improving environmental governance systems*

We will develop responsibility, oversight, and market systems as well as laws, regulations, and policies to improve environmental governance. We will refine the institutions and mechanisms for ensuring that pollution control practices are targeted, grounded in science, and law-based, and implement an oversight system for stationary pollution sources centered on emissions permits. We will establish systems for the coordinated treatment of new pollutants and management of environmental risks and make a coordinated push to reduce the discharge of various pollutants. The reform to advance the law-based disclosure of environmental information will continue, and an environmental credibility oversight system will be put into place. We will develop systems for integrated upstream-downstream environmental governance in major river basins. Comprehensive efforts will be made to develop the national park-based system of protected areas.

We will implement the management system for ecological conservation redlines, improve the mechanisms for integrated protection and systematic governance of mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland, and desert ecosystems, and develop multiple funding mechanisms for ecosystem protection and restoration. We will enforce the system of mandatory limits on the use of water resources and replace the water resource fee with a tax nationwide. The coordination mechanism for biodiversity protection will be enhanced, and the systems for developing and protecting marine resources will be improved. We will refine the mechanisms for realizing the market value of ecosystem goods and services. We will further reform the system of paid use for natural resources. We will advance comprehensive compensation for ecological conservation, improve the trans-regional compensation mechanism for ecological conservation, and take coordinated steps to promote compensation for environmental damage.

(49) *Improving the mechanisms for green and low-carbon development*

We will implement fiscal, tax, financial, investment, and pricing policies as well as standards to support green and low-carbon development, develop green and low-carbon industries, improve incentive mechanisms for eco-friendly consumer spending, and

work toward an economy that facilitates green, low-carbon, and circular development. We will optimize policies on green government procurement and refine the green taxation system. We will improve the systems for total resource consumption control and comprehensive resource conservation, as well as the system for recycling waste and used materials. Mechanisms for ensuring clean and efficient use of coal will be refined. We will accelerate the planning and development of a new type of energy system and improve the policies and measures for promoting the absorption of electricity generated from new energy sources into power grids and for the regulation of such energy. Improvements will be made to the working systems for adapting to climate change. New mechanisms will be put in place to facilitate the transition from controlling the total amount and intensity of energy consumption to controlling the total amount and intensity of carbon emissions. We will establish a carbon emissions statistics and accounting system, a carbon labeling and certification system, as well as a carbon footprint management system. We will also improve the cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions and the trading system for voluntary greenhouse gas emissions reduction. On this basis, we will actively and prudently move toward reaching peak carbon emissions and carbon neutrality.

XIII. Modernizing China's National Security System and Capacity

National security provides a pivotal foundation for ensuring steady and sustained progress in Chinese modernization. We must fully apply a holistic approach to national security, improve the institutions and mechanisms for safeguarding national security, and ensure that high-quality development and greater security reinforce each other, so as to safeguard the country's long-term stability and security.

(50) *Improving the national security system*

The mechanisms for coordinating national security work will be strengthened. We will improve the legal, strategy, policy, and risk monitoring and early warning systems for national security, the systems for safeguarding security in key sectors, and the coordination and command systems for major projects. We will create a coordinated and highly effective system for protecting national security and better leverage science and technology to safeguard national security.

(51) *Improving the public security governance mechanisms*

We will improve the response and support system for major public emergencies, refine the emergency response command mechanisms under the overall safety and emergency response framework, bolster response infrastructure and capabilities in local communities, and strengthen capacity for disaster prevention, mitigation, and relief. The mechanisms for identifying and addressing workplace safety risks and for conducting retroactive investigations to determine liability will be improved. We will refine the food and drug safety responsibility system, as well as the systems of monitoring, early warning, and risk prevention and control for biosafety and biosecurity. We will strengthen the cybersecurity system and institute oversight systems to ensure the safety of artificial intelligence.

(52) *Improving the social governance system*

We will apply and further develop the Fengqiao model for promoting community-level governance in the new era, enhance the Party organization-led urban and rural community governance system based on self-governance, the rule of law, and the rule of virtue, and improve the social governance system based on collaboration, participation, and benefit sharing. We will explore avenues for establishing a unified national population management system. We will improve the institutions and mechanisms for social work, better guide community-level governance through Party building, strengthen the ranks of social workers, and advance the development of the volunteer service system. We will promote law-based handling of public complaints and proposals. To improve the social governance capacity of cities, steps will be taken to ensure that citizen hotlines and other public service platforms function more effectively. To advance one-stop government services, we will improve the list-based management mechanism for relevant major tasks as well as the mechanism for ensuring ongoing progress. We will improve the system for public psychological and counseling services and crisis intervention mechanisms. We will refine the mechanisms for giving full play to the role of family ties, values, and traditions in community-level social governance. Reform of trade associations and chambers of commerce will be furthered. Improvements will be made to the management system for social organizations.

We will enhance the systems for ensuring that the powers and resources of towns and townships (urban sub-districts) are commensurate with their duties, so that they are better able to provide services and conduct management. We will improve the integrated system for maintaining law and order and the mechanism for combating and rooting out organized crime on an ongoing basis, and we will, in accordance with the law, crack down hard on illegal and criminal activities that cause grave public concern.

(53) *Improving the mechanisms for*

ensuring national security in foreign-related affairs

We will establish sound coordination mechanisms for promoting security in neighboring regions. We will strengthen the institutions and mechanisms for early warning, prevention and control, and protection against risks to China's interests and investments overseas and deepen international law enforcement cooperation in the realm of security, so as to protect the lawful rights and interests of Chinese citizens and legal entities overseas. Mechanisms for countering foreign sanctions, interference, and long-arm jurisdiction will be strengthened. We will enhance the mechanisms for safeguarding China's maritime rights and interests, as well as those for China's participation in global security governance.

XIV. Deepening National Defense and Military Reform

National defense and military modernization is an integral part of Chinese modernization. We must maintain the Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces and fully implement the strategy of strengthening the military through reform, in order to provide a strong guarantee for realizing the centenary goal of the People's Liberation Army in 2027 and basically modernizing national defense and the armed forces.

(54) *Improving the institutions and mechanisms for leading and managing the people's armed forces*

We will improve the institutions and mechanisms for implementing the system of ultimate responsibility resting with the chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and continue to enhance political loyalty in the military. We will optimize the functional setup of CMC departments and improve the mechanisms for coordinated advancement of military operations, capacity building, and combat preparedness. We will refine the consultation and evaluation mechanisms for major decisions, develop new approaches to strategic management, and improve the military governance system. We will improve the working mechanisms for running the military in accordance with the law. We will refine the supporting policies and systems for military operations, combat preparedness, military human resources, and other fields. The reform of military academies will be deepened in a bid to fully harness their potential. Military-affiliated enterprises and public institutions will also undergo adjustment and reform.

(55) *Deepening reform of joint operations systems*

We will refine the functions of the CMC command center for joint operations, enhance its command functions in major security fields, and establish mechanisms for facilitating its coordination with central Party and state departments. We will optimize the composition of the command centers for joint theater operations and improve the configuration of commands for joint taskforce operations. We will better coordinate the development and application of the network information system. To develop a new framework of services and arms, we will speed up the development of strategic deterrence forces and strive to develop new-domain forces with new combat capabilities, while making coordinated efforts to strengthen traditional combat forces. The composition of the armed police force will be improved.

(56) *Deepening military-civilian reforms*

We will improve the working mechanisms for developing integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities and refine the institutions and mechanisms for military-related decision-making, deliberation, and coordination. We will improve the mechanisms for submitting and reporting on defense-related military needs and enhancing military-civilian alignment and refine the national defense mobilization system. Reform of the defense-related science, technology, and industry systems will be deepened to upgrade the layout of these areas. We will refine the system for weaponry and equipment procurement, develop reward mechanisms for designing military products, and modernize our weaponry and equipment management system. We will improve the mechanisms for coordinating standards between the military and civilian sectors. We will better coordinate development and management in aerospace, military trade, and other fields. We will optimize the institutions and mechanisms for leading and managing border and coastal defense and improve mechanisms to enable the Party, the government, the military, the police force, and the people to work together on border governance. Reform of the militia system will be furthered. The mechanisms for strengthening mutual support between civilian sectors and the military will be refined.

XV. Improving the Party's Leadership

Leadership by the Party provides a fundamental guarantee for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. We must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must be more conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture

terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership. We must stay confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must uphold Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership.

We must maintain a keen awareness of the need to use the Party's self-reform to steer social reform and continue to apply both the spirit of reform and rigorous standards in conducting Party self-governance. We will improve the systems and regulations for the Party's self-reform and continue working to purify, improve, renew, and excel ourselves. All this will enable our Party to remain the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

(57) *Upholding the Party Central Committee's centralized, unified leadership over the endeavor to further deepen reform comprehensively*

The Party Central Committee exercises leadership over the general design, coordination, and overall advancement of all our reforms. We will refine the mechanisms through which the major decisions and plans of the Central Committee are implemented, in order to ensure full compliance with its orders and prohibitions. Party committees (leading Party members groups) at all levels are responsible for implementing the Central Committee's decisions and plans, planning and advancing reforms in their regions and departments, encouraging pioneering efforts and innovations based on their own situations, and creating new experience that can be applied elsewhere. Continuing to follow the Party's mass line in the new era, we will fully incorporate social expectations, the people's wisdom, the views of experts, and primary-level experience into the design of reforms. We will set reform agendas with a focus on solving prominent problems and improve the mechanisms for drawing up key reform plans. We will uphold truth, correct errors, and discover problems and remedy failings as they arise. We will improve reform incentives and better guide public opinion so as to foster a favorable environment for reform.

(58) *Deepening institutional reforms related to Party building*

With a focus on boosting the whole Party's drive, initiative, and creativity for reform and development, we will improve the systems and mechanisms for Party building. We will further arm ourselves with the Party's new theories and set up sound long-term mechanisms for reinforcing commitment, acquiring knowledge, improving conduct, and enhancing performance through learning. We will further reform the management system for officials and personnel and firmly follow the right approach to selecting and appointing officials. Officials who are politically committed, highly responsible, determined to pursue reform, outstanding in performance, and honest and clean, must be selected; and the problem of officials acting arbitrarily or lacking the willingness, courage, or ability to deliver must be addressed. We will see that officials have a correct understanding of what it means to perform well and improve the mechanisms for effectively preventing and correcting any misguided views about achievements. We will apply the "three distinctions" [The three distinctions refer to those between errors caused by lack of experience in pilot reforms and deliberate violations of discipline and law; between errors made in conducting experiments that are not explicitly restricted by higher-level authorities and arbitrary violations of discipline and law in the face of higher-level authorities' explicit prohibition; and between unwitting errors made in pursuing development and violations of discipline and law for personal gain.] to encourage officials to forge ahead in a pioneering spirit and demonstrate enterprise in their work. We will make an ongoing effort to ensure that officials can be demoted as well as promoted and make a stronger push to replace those who are no longer suitable for their posts. We will improve the mechanisms for providing regular training, and basic training in particular, for officials, give them more professional training opportunities, and temper them through practice, in order to make them fully capable of advancing modernization initiatives. The tenure system for leading officials will be refined and fully applied, and the handover system for the heads of leadership teams will be improved. We will strengthen the political and organizational functions of Party organizations. We will look into effective ways of Party building in new types of economic and social organizations and among groups in new forms of employment. We will improve the mechanisms for guiding and managing Party members and giving full play to their roles. We will also refine Party rules and regulations, increase their authority, and fully enforce them.

(59) *Intensifying efforts to improve conduct, build integrity, and combat corruption*

Mechanisms for conducting concrete, targeted, and regular political oversight will be improved. We will steadfastly implement the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving conduct and refine our systems and mechanisms for preventing and tackling pointless formalities and bureaucratism. We will continue to streamline and standardize meetings and documents, as well as all types of demonstration initiatives, evaluations, standards inspections, festival celebrations, expositions and exhibitions, and forums; strictly control the total number of communi-

ty-level inspections, examinations, and evaluations; and raise the quality of research and studies. Great effort will be made to address the excessive frequency of all these activities. We will formulate lists of duties for towns and townships (urban sub-districts) and refine the long-term mechanisms for reducing their burdens. We will set up mechanisms for carrying out regular and intensive education on Party discipline and better exercise four forms of oversight over discipline compliance. [The four forms are: 1) criticism and self-criticism activities and oral and written inquiries, which are to be conducted regularly to ensure that those who have committed minor misconduct are made to "redden and sweat"; 2) light penalties and minor organizational adjustments to official positions, which are to be applied in a small number of cases; and 3) heavy penalties and major adjustments to official positions, which are to be applied in a very small number of cases involving serious violations of discipline and suspected criminal activity.] thus ensuring we make full use of Party discipline as a guide, restraint, guarantee, and incentive.

We will improve the mechanisms for coordinating efforts to ensure that officials do not have the audacity, opportunity, or desire to be corrupt and work hard to eradicate the breeding grounds and conditions for corruption. We will improve the mechanisms for investigating and addressing instances of both misconduct and corruption, intensify efforts to uproot corruption in sectors with a high concentration of power, funds, and resources, and strictly investigate and deal with any collusion between government officials and businesspeople that undermines the political ecosystem and economic development. We will refine the mechanisms for taking joint punitive actions against major bribe givers and adopt more measures to effectively prevent and control new and disguised forms of corruption. We will take stronger steps to handle false accusations. We will improve the mechanisms for pursuing fugitives, preventing escape, and retrieving stolen assets. We will see that a culture of integrity prevails in the new era.

Party and state oversight systems will be improved. We will ensure that principal and oversight responsibilities for full and rigorous Party self-governance are assumed. We will improve the supporting systems for more effective oversight of leadership teams and their heads. We will improve the mechanisms for applying checks over the allocation and exercise of power and oppose privilege-seeking mindsets and behavior. We will work to coordinate discipline and law enforcement with the administration of criminal justice. We will improve the working institutions and mechanisms for discipline inspection. We will optimize the functions of oversight, inspection, review, and investigation agencies, improve the discipline inspection and supervision systems for departments under vertical management, and work to see that discipline inspection and supervision teams are dispatched to all central government-administered enterprises. Institutional reforms for primary-level oversight will be deepened. Steps will be taken to advance national anti-corruption legislation, revise the Supervision Law, and formulate a law on countering transnational corruption.

(60) *Ensuring the implementation of reforms with relentless perseverance*

The whole Party must take pragmatic, resolute, and effective steps to ensure implementation of the Party Central Committee's decisions and plans on further deepening reform comprehensively. We need to work in concert from top to bottom across all departments and regions to set the tasks, timelines, and priorities for reform in a well-conceived way, and designate competent departments for implementing each reform initiative and clearly define their responsibilities. The implementation of major reforms will be subject to oversight and inspection, and the litmus test of reform will lie in how well it performs, what it delivers, and how much satisfaction it brings our people.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. In diplomatic work, China remains firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future. We will stay committed to the common values of all humanity, pursue the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and call for an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. We will deepen institutional reforms related to the work of foreign affairs and get involved in leading the reform and development of the global governance system. We will resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty, security, and development interests and foster a favorable external environment for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization.

Let the whole Party, the entire military, and Chinese people of all ethnic groups rally more closely around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. Let us hold high the banner of reform and opening up, pool all wisdom and strength, and forge ahead with enterprise. Let us work hard toward the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and strive to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

XINHUA

WORLD

High-quality development focus hailed

Experts laud Beijing's strategic shift, highlight reforms outlined at session

By YIFAN XU in Washington
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China setting high-quality development as its top mission at the recent Third Plenary Session is "entirely correct", experts say.

"The transition from high-speed growth to high-quality development is both timely and necessary," Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies in Washington, said.

Anthony Moretti, department head and an associate professor in the Communication and Organizational Leadership Department at Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania, said: "That's what China needs to move its economy forward. That's what the world needs to ensure it can get its hands on better goods, and likely at an affordable price."

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China concluded on Thursday in Beijing. Attendees discussed the economic landscape, proposed reforms and outlined key economic policies moving forward at this high-level meeting held every five years.

"It was stated that high-quality development is our primary task in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects," the session's communique said.

Gupta said no economy, without abundant natural resources and which had transitioned from middle-income to high-income status, has managed to do so without shifting focus from "extensive growth" based on quantitative increases in land, labor and capital to "intensive growth" driven by overall total factor productivity gains.

"To realize a high-quality development framework, China must continue shifting to a more balanced economic structure driven by consumption and services-led growth," he said.

"(China should) continue moving toward high-standard international openings that organically combine the domestic and international cycles. It (should) continue upgrading its industrial structure to a more science- and technology-led advanced manufacturing ecosystem. The emphasis on new quality productive forces cuts across these domestic, international and S&T (science and technology) domains."

The communique mentioned "reform" more than 50 times. Moretti said this emphasis underscores China's philosophy of shifting from exporting large volumes of cheaper goods to exporting higher-quality products suitable for 21st century consumers and beneficial for the climate.

Gupta had expected six priorities at the Third Plenary Session: building out the science and technology

"(China should) continue moving toward high-standard international openings that organically combine the domestic and international cycles. It (should) continue upgrading its industrial structure to a more science- and technology-led advanced manufacturing ecosystem."

Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies

new innovation system; preventing major economic and financial risks; calling for high-level liberalization, high-standard liberalization and opening-up to the world; balancing reform and development with economic security; promoting common prosperity; and transitioning to a greener and cleaner China and a low-carbon economy.

He said the meeting and the communique "for the most part, seem to meet expectations."

"Indeed, four of the six key areas of reform — reforming and deepening of the S&T ecosystem; deepening high-level ... opening-up; accelerating integrated rural-urban development; and sound macro regulation, effective governance and controlling risks — were listed at the front end of the communique," he said.

Brighter outlook

Recent data from China's National Bureau of Statistics revealed a 5 percent year-on-year GDP growth in the first half of the year, with the secondary industry expanding by 5.8 percent. Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund updated its World Economic Outlook on Tuesday, forecasting China's economy to grow by 5 percent this year, a 0.4 percentage point increase from its April estimate.

"There is no doubt that there has been an improvement in business sentiment, which is in no small part owed to the many large and small business operating environment reforms undertaken by (the government) over the past year," Gupta said, emphasizing the importance of government support on the demand side of the economy while continuing to deepen these reforms.



Travelers are stranded at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, after a global computer outage grounded planes and created chaos at airports. DAVID PAUL MORRIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

CrowdStrike update likely skipped checks

SAN FRANCISCO — CrowdStrike's routine update of its widely used cybersecurity software, which caused clients' computer systems to crash globally on Friday, apparently did not undergo adequate quality checks before it was deployed, security experts say.

The latest version of its Falcon sensor software was meant to make CrowdStrike clients' systems more secure against hacking by updating the threats it defends against. But a faulty code in the update files resulted in one of the most widespread tech outages in recent years for companies using Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Global banks, airlines, hospitals and government offices were disrupted. "We currently estimate that CrowdStrike's update affected 8.5 million Windows devices," Microsoft said in a blog post on Saturday.

CrowdStrike released information

to fix affected systems, but experts said getting them back online would take time as it required manually weeding out the flawed code.

"What it looks like is, potentially, the vetting or the sandboxing they do when they look at code, maybe somehow this file was not included in that or slipped through," said Steve Cobb, chief security officer at Security Scorecard in New York, which also had some systems affected by the issue.

Problems came to light quickly after the update was rolled out on Friday and users posted pictures on social media of computers with blue screens displaying error messages.

Patrick Wardle, a security researcher specializing in studying threats against operating systems, said his analysis identified the code responsible for the outage.

The update's problem was "in a file that contains either configuration information or signatures," he

said. Such signatures are code that detects specific types of malicious code or malware.

"It's very common that security products update their signatures, like once a day ... because they're continually monitoring for new malware and because they want to make sure that their customers are protected from the latest threats," he said.

The frequency of updates "is probably the reason why (CrowdStrike) didn't test it as much," he said.

It is unclear how that faulty code got into the update and why it was not detected before being released to customers.

"Ideally, this would have been rolled out to a limited pool first," said John Hammond, principal security researcher at Huntress Labs in Maryland. "That is a safer approach to avoid a big mess like this."

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

New bond adds vibrancy to China-UAE friendship

By CUI HAIPEI and PAN JIE
in Qingdao, Shandong

"Mom, if I excel in my exams next year, could we visit the United Arab Emirates?" asked 11-year-old He Yuda at the May Fourth Square in downtown Qingdao on Saturday.

The boy was among Chinese tourists taking pictures with UAE performers showcasing the traditional Al-Razza dance, a popular art featuring about 20 performers clad in white robes, brandishing delicate bamboo canes and replica rifles, moving in sync to the rhythmic beat of drums.

"Sure we can," said the mother as her son enters sixth grade in September. They are interested in the UAE's exotic culture and intrigued by such content on Douyin, she said.

Omar Alshehhi, an Emirati performer, said: "Everyone I met in Qingdao was nice; it will be an unforgettable experience. I like the cool weather in this modern city with many skyscrapers."

Their performance marked one of the festivities commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the UAE, with Qingdao as the inaugural venue. The three-day event concluded on Sunday.

The UAE has emerged as China's largest trading partner in the Arab region. Since 1984, the two countries have made significant advancements across various sectors, with non-oil trade soaring nearly 800-fold, according to the UAE embassy.

"Qingdao, a captivating coastal city, holds a special allure for Emiratis," said Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, the UAE's ambassador to China. He highlighted the extensive exchanges between the UAE and Qingdao in trade, tourism and culture.

The state visit by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to China in late May has paved the way for further strengthening UAE-China ties, he said, as the joint statement vows a bilateral trade volume of \$200 billion by 2030.

He credited the countries' successes to visionary leadership, efficient governance and the unwavering commitment of both people toward a prosperous future.

"Our collaboration has reached unprecedented heights, with these shared values serving as the pillars of our achievements and future partnership," he said. He also said similar celebrations will be held this year in various Chinese cities, including Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing.



UAE dancers perform the traditional Al-Razza dance with bamboo canes in Qingdao, Shandong province, on Saturday. CUI HAIPEI / CHINA DAILY

Noting that both countries are participants in the Belt and Road Initiative, Zhang Hui, deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China Qingdao Municipal Committee, said Qingdao will leverage its status as a cultural and tourism hub to bolster exchanges with the UAE.

With the strengthening ties, there has also been a growing enthusiasm among Emiratis for Chinese culture. Zhuo Jiameng, chief representa-

tion of Dubai Chamber's Shanghai office, noted a growing trend of her UAE colleagues studying Chinese and using it on social media platforms such as WeChat.

"We aim for a sustainable exchange and such mutual cultural understanding is vital for our business endeavors," she said.

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New Bangkok-Vientiane passenger train boosts connectivity across region



Passengers line up for customs and immigration procedures before crossing the border at Nong Khai station in Thailand on Saturday. YANG WANLI / CHINA DAILY

By YANG WANLI in Vientiane, Laos
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The inaugural direct international passenger train between Bangkok and Vientiane was launched on Friday and is expected to enhance connectivity between Thailand and Laos, as well as bolster ties with China and other ASEAN countries.

Departing Bangkok's Krung Thep Aphiwat Central Station at 9:25 pm, train No 133 carried about 400 passengers, arriving in Laos' capital Vientiane the following Saturday.

The journey went smoothly with efficient cross-border customs checks and passengers reboarding at Nong Khai station in northeastern Thailand.

Thai immigration officers and relevant agencies ensured a swift process, taking about 30 to 40 minutes. After completing these procedures, passengers resumed their

journey, reaching Khamsavath station in Vientiane within the final 20 minutes of the 12-hour trip.

Upon arrival at the Khamsavath station, passengers could transfer via taxi to Vientiane Station of the China-Laos Railway. From there, they were able to board trains to destinations such as Luang Prabang in Laos, and Xishuangbanna and Kunming in China's Yunnan province.

"I booked a ticket immediately after the news on this international train being released," said Thanaphong Khadram, 28, who traveled with friends. "It's a fantastic trip with convenient cross-border services and wonderful views along the route."

He planned to spend a night in Vientiane for the weekend getaway and return on Sunday on train No 134 from Khamsavath station back to Bangkok.

Thanaphong has a bigger plan to visit China by train in the near

future. "I'd love to go to Shanghai and Kunming. The former represents modernity, while the latter is my dream destination that I've heard a lot about it, such as its nice weather, delicious cuisine and amazing natural scenery," he said.

A welcoming ceremony was held in Vientiane on Saturday for passengers of train No 133. At the event, Daochinda Siharath, managing director of Lao National Railway Authority, said the service will enhance connectivity and foster closer ties between Thailand and Laos.

"We are very excited to see that our service is warmly welcomed by tourists, and so many passengers took the train today. The service offers a convenient and scenic travel option for passengers heading to Laos and even China," he said.

"The direct train will support and boost tourism, bringing convenience to passengers from Laos,

Thailand and the whole region. It will also help to speed up the construction of the China-Laos-Thailand railway in response to surging demand for cross-region train services following the launch of the Laos-Thailand direct train."

The Thai Ministry of Transport estimated the direct train will have about 200,000 passengers annually, creating an income of at least 67 million baht (\$1.85 million).

"Operation of the new train is an important step in strengthening the relationship and cooperation in tourism between Thailand and Laos," said Thai Deputy Transport Minister Surapong Piyachote. "It will also help to strengthen travel links within the ASEAN region."



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Two participants at the 2024 Summer Davos Forum exchange views in Dalian, Liaoning province. YAO JIANFENG / XINHUA

On track to attain 2024 growth goal

Around 5% GDP expansion likely on new quality productive forces, demand recovery

By OUYANG SHIJIA

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China is on track to reach the 2024 GDP growth target of around 5 percent given the strong policy stimulus, continued recovery trend and gradual recovery in domestic demand, experts and entrepreneurs said.

Despite facing challenges from a sluggish real estate market, still-weak demand and mounting external uncertainties, China still enjoys favorable conditions and capabilities to boost steady growth and tackle structural issues, they said.

They expressed optimism about the country's long-term growth, saying technological innovation, notably emerging fields like artificial intelligence and green industries, will serve as a new growth driver, propping up the world's second-largest economy.

Such optimism may grow in coming months on the back of the latest stance adopted by China's top leadership at last week's four-day third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

A statement released after the plenum said China will promote high-quality development, build a fairer and more dynamic market environment, improve the existing institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces, and further enhance high-standard opening-up.

Svein R. Tyldum, chief executive officer, Marsh McLennan North Asia, a consultancy, said China's economy has made a good start this year with positive factors, laying a foundation for achieving its annual growth target of around 5 percent this year.

"China is a significant source of innovation and talent, and a future competitive global competitor," he said on the sidelines of the 15th Annual Meeting of the New Champi-



An employee oversees a photovoltaics production line in Wuzhong, Ningxia Hui autonomous region. YUAN HONGYAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

ons, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, which concluded in late June in Dalian, Liaoning province. "China's pursuit of high-quality drivers of production and its economic development created greater cooperation space for companies around the world to work together in a more harmonious way."

He expressed optimism about China's economic prospects and the company's operations in China this year and beyond, saying China is Marsh McLennan's second-largest operation in Asia. The company is committed to the China market, with more investment plans in the pipeline.

Tyldum noted the broader economy is still facing mounting uncertainties from the external environment and the structural challenges. "The foundation for economic stability and improvement is not yet so solid."

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that China's economy grew by 5 percent year-on-year in the first half of this year, which is consistent with the government's around 5 percent annual growth target set at the beginning of the year. But in the second quarter, Chi-

na's GDP grew by 4.7 percent year-on-year, cooling from 5.3 percent growth in the first quarter.

China's economy is still facing pressures from lackluster demand, mainly due to a market correction in real estate, still-weak retail spending and the modest growth in infrastructure investment, said Sun Xuegong, director-general of the department of policy study and consultation at the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research, which is part of the National Development and Reform Commission.

China's property investment in the first half fell 10.1 percent year-on-year but was flat relative to the figure for the first five months. Sales area of new properties slumped 19 percent year-on-year in the first half, narrowing from a 20.3 percent decline in the first five months, NBS data showed.

Retail sales, a key measure of consumer spending, grew by 2 percent year-on-year in June, down from the 3.7 percent growth in May.

Against such a backdrop, the policy focus should be placed on boosting domestic demand, spurring consumer sentiment and expanding



Employees work on an electronics production line in Taizhou, Jiangsu province. TANG DEHONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

effective demand, including moves to further stabilize the housing market and strengthen the social security system, Sun said.

More efforts should also be made to stabilize employment, increase personal incomes, further unleash the services consumption potential and increase investment in areas related to the new quality productive forces, green development and people's livelihood, he said.

China has already announced a series of measures to boost demand, including the issuance of 1 trillion yuan (\$138 billion) worth of ultra-long-term special treasury bonds this year as well as driving large-scale equipment renewal and trade-in deals for consumer goods.

On the property front, Thursday's plenary session statement vowed to implement well certain measures to resolve real estate risks.

Policy makers have pivoted toward more aggressive rescue measures, including more direct corporate balance sheet support and a step-up in nationwide demand-side easing, to bail out the sector.

Despite facing many headwinds, China still enjoys favorable condi-

tions to foster steady economic growth this year, as the country's domestic demand will likely pick up further in the remainder of the year with a series of supportive policy measures taking effect gradually, Sun said. "China will likely achieve its annual growth target this year."

Looking ahead, Sun said he is optimistic about China's long-term economic outlook, saying there are several positive factors supporting the country's high-quality development.

"China is moving from a middle-income country to a higher-income economy. But we still see a gap between China's per capita income and that of the developed economies," he said. "That means we still have the potential and space to grow further."

Sun said China's economy is still in the stage of transformation of growth drivers toward new quality productive forces.

"Although some of the traditional drivers are indeed weakening, such as the real estate and some traditional manufacturing sectors, we are seeing robust growth and huge potential in emerging fields including renewable energy, new energy, electric vehi-

cles, photovoltaics and artificial intelligence," Sun said. "Those booming sectors are gradually becoming new growth drivers supporting China's long-term growth."

Foreign institutions have recently raised their forecasts for China's economic growth this year amid the country's continued economic recovery trend, strong policy stimulus and resilience in exports.

Joe Ngai, chairman of management consultancy McKinsey China, said he believes China's 2024 growth target is achievable, which will contribute to around one-third of the global economic growth this year.

While dismissing some pessimistic views on the Chinese economy propagated by some Western media, he said he "definitely does not think that the Chinese economy has peaked."

Ngai noted China's economy will not repeat Japan's experience three decades back, when it down the path to recession and very low growth, saying China still has huge growth potential in terms of urbanization and more productivity growth.

"I think we're very, very far from a stagnant productivity level. What we are looking at is that the nature of the economy needs to continue to shift," he said.

Ngai highlighted the importance of fostering new quality productive forces, saying innovation and technology will drive future high-quality growth.

"I believe that innovation will remain the biggest growth driver of China's economy. And China can be a global leader in innovation."

Looking ahead, Zhang Xiaoyan, associate dean of Tsinghua University's PBC School of Finance, said technological innovation, notably artificial intelligence and green industries, will serve as a new growth driver, boosting China's growth.

It's a summer of content, services boom in Dalian

REPORTER'S LOG

By Ouyang Shijia

This year marked the second instance of my reporting on the high-profile Summer Davos Forum. The experience proved to be remarkable. Let me explain why.

The 15th Annual Meeting of the New Champions — the annual event's formal name — was held in Dalian from June 25 to 27. It brought together over 1,600 representatives from nearly 80 countries and regions. This year's theme was "New

Frontiers for Growth."

The forum has been a melting pot of ideas and innovations, aimed at exploring new dynamics and paths to global economic growth.

The Summer Davos Forum has always been a hub for innovators and a stage for the collision of ideas. This year, the spotlight was on the Chinese economy, particularly the recovery of China's domestic demand and consumption. Against the backdrop of sluggish global economic recovery, these topics became the buzz phrases at the forum.

During the meeting, I had the privilege of witnessing and participating in numerous brainstorming sessions on economic hot spots and trending topics. There was more than just intellectual stimulation. I had the chance to

immerse myself in the charm of Dalian, a beautiful coastal city that never ceases to amaze me.

Having visited Dalian over a decade ago for a memorable holiday, I was pleasantly surprised by the new attractions that have sprung up all across the city since then.

The Dalian Oriental Venice Water City, inspired by the Italian city of Venice, is a marvel. Walking through this area, with its winding waterways, European-style buildings, swaying gondolas and the pigeons from the clock tower of Dalian's St. Mark's Square, I felt transported to Europe. The ancient, romantic and mysterious essence of Venice, it seemed, has been seamlessly integrated into Dalian's natural landscape.

A gondola ride past hundreds of

European-style castle-like buildings offered me a leisurely glimpse into the languid elegance of Dalian Donggang Business District. At the same time, the district is also hip and creative. It bustles with coffee shops, restaurants, pubs and cultural and creative stores, teeming with life and activity.

As night fell, Dalian's vibrancy didn't wane. I found popular seafood barbecue restaurants were packed with diners, with many waiting in line, creating a lively and warm atmosphere. All signs pointed to a consumer market that is "boiling hot", brimming with vitality and potential.

Data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism showed the domestic tourism market saw stable growth during this year's Dragon Boat Festi-

val holiday — a three-day break in early June, as domestic scenic spots received 110 million tourism visits over the holiday, up 6.3 percent year-on-year.

These visits generated about 40.35 billion yuan (\$5.55 billion) in tourism expenses, which increased by 8.1 percent year-on-year, according to the ministry.

Zhu Min, former deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said during the Summer Davos Forum that he noted a shift in consumption from people's needs in basic consumer goods like clothes and transportation to advanced consumption in services, including entertainment and tourism.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that despite the low growth of retail sales, a key measure of consumer spending, which stood at 3.7 percent year-on-year in the first half, retail sales of services registered

relatively strong growth, expanding by 7.5 percent year-on-year.

Daniel Zipser, senior partner of global consultancy McKinsey & Co, said although China's consumption sector is in a "mid-single-digit growth" phase, the rate is still "remarkable" compared with other markets in the globe.

He said the recovery in the consumer services sector, including domestic and international tourism, food services, dining out and entertainment, is robust.

Zhu expressed confidence that China still has big potential to further spur domestic consumption, given the potential growth in consumption of services and the future development of the consumption sector.

"We need to focus on policy to spur service consumption and service development, such as reforms in the services sector, and expand opening-up in the services sector," he said.

COMMENT

Editorials

Country will open door wider as it remains committed to higher standard opening-up

The Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization approved by the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee upon its conclusion in Beijing on Thursday sends a clear message that China will not give up eating for fear of choking.

Some in the West are trying to substantiate their countries' China-containment strategy by hyping up the lie that China is shutting its door on the world. But the rise of external uncertainties and risks has not affected China's confidence and determination to advance high-standard opening-up. As the Resolution makes clear, adhering to opening-up remains China's basic national policy. Reform and opening-up complement each other and are the two sides to China's development coin.

As set out in the Resolution, the opening-up efforts will now focus on expanding institutional opening-up, foreign trade system reform, foreign investment and outbound investment management, optimizing the regional opening-up layout, and improving and promoting high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road mechanism, with relevant policies, action plans and measures to be made and implemented.

To attract foreign investment, China will actively connect with international high-standard economic and trade rules, realize the interoperability of rules, regulations, management and standards in the fields of property rights protection, industrial subsidies, environmental standards, labor protection, government procurement, e-commerce and finance, establish an efficient, convenient and safe cross-border data flow mechanism, and create a transparent, stable and predictable institutional environment.

Recently, the country has implemented a unilateral visa-free policy for some countries, which has been widely welcomed and achieved good results. It will further improve the convenient systems for residence, medical care and payment for business and tourism personnel coming to China.

China will implement the "zero" requirement for measures on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector as soon as possible, expand the catalog of industries encouraging foreign investment, and reasonably reduce the negative list for foreign investment access. It will further expand the opening-up of the service industry, fully implement the negative list of cross-border service trade, and promote orderly opening-up in the fields of telecommunications, the internet, education, culture, and medical care. It will also accelerate the development of offshore trade.

At the same time, China will effectively protect the national treatment and legitimate rights and interests of foreign-funded enterprises. It will take concrete measures to support the development of domestic and foreign-funded enterprises equally and protect the national treatment of foreign-funded enterprises in terms of factor acquisition, qualification licensing, standard setting and government procurement, etc.

At present, economic globalization is facing huge challenges. To maintain the security and stability of the global economic order and industry supply chains, governments and enterprises should oppose unilateralism and protectionism. China is still a fertile ground for investment from all countries, and will continue to improve its market-oriented, rule-of-law, and internationalized first-class business environment.

Neither the country's pursuit of high-quality development nor its cultivation of the new quality productive forces can be divorced from the country's high-standard opening-up to the world. Not to mention the building of the community with a shared future for mankind.

The country is willing to share with foreign-funded enterprises the huge opportunities for it to develop new quality productive forces and promote Chinese-style modernization. In the process of further integrating into the world system, China is also committed to promoting global economic governance reform, and sharing its development opportunities with countries around the world to create a better future.

Opening-up has been a defining feature of China's rapid development and it remains a hallmark of Chinese modernization, despite any allegations to the contrary.

For US, relationship a zero-sum game

Citing catastrophic global consequences of potential missteps, former US treasury secretary Larry Summers told the 2024 Aspen Security Forum that "managing successfully the relationship between the United States and China is our most important global challenge".

Summers' remarks reflect the growing global concerns about the recent trajectory of the fraught China-US relationship, which appears to be in an unsalvageable nosedive.

Yet Washington doesn't seem to have the patience for caution. As both US State Secretary Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan indicated at the forum, the present US administration is not in the mood for that kind of crisis management, let alone fence-mending. It is not only making its own "all-of-government" efforts to counter China, but also doing everything possible to isolate it internationally.

China featured heavily in Aspen, but mostly as a prevailing security threat. According to Blinken and Sullivan, Beijing is enabling Russia's military operation in Ukraine and threatening to "invade" the island of Taiwan.

The US secretary of state claimed that China was "working closely" with Moscow to enable Russia to work around Western sanctions. While Sullivan sought to plant the Stars and Stripes in the moral high ground by saying "We think China should stop because we think it is profoundly outside of the bounds of decent conduct by nation states".

Which is rich given the US' culpability for the conflict. While Beijing has repeatedly reiterated neutrality regarding the ongoing conflict and appealed for a negotiated end to it, the US and its allies have sought to prolong the hostilities engineered by Washington and decried China's normal trade with Russia as support for its military.

They have been trying to build an image of China as the leading supplier of dual-use goods that sustain Russia's military industrial base. They are hence extending the so-called "small yard with a tall fence" Washington originally designed for its technological blockade against Beijing to the security realm.

And, not for the first time, the chief US diplomat tried to take advantage of the Ukraine conflict to drive a wedge between Beijing and Brussels, by disingenuously saying that China cannot say it wants better relations with Europe "when it is actually helping to fuel the greatest threat to European security since the end of the Cold War".

Sullivan, for his part, sought to do the same with India, cautioning it against deepening ties with Russia and China. "Russia is getting closer and closer to China and as the junior partner to China is not necessarily going to be a great reliable friend to India in a future contingency or crisis," he said.

In the meantime, he announced greater US support for the Philippines in the latter's standoff with China in the South China Sea. The US will do what is necessary to see that the Philippines is able to resupply a ship on Ren'ai Reef that Manila uses to reinforce its claims to the atoll, he declared. The priority given to the Philippine resupply missions runs counter to his correct observation that "de-escalation" of the tensions between China and the Philippines is "the most important thing right now", since those missions will inevitably be escalatory.

The remarks of the two US officials at the forum only serve to show that for the current US administration managing the relationship with China means stepping up confrontation with Beijing by means of its allies. To that end it wants them to have no cooperation with Beijing, whatever the cost they might have to bear for their enabling efforts to help the US to gain a competitive advantage.

Li Min



Opinion Line

Responsive economic policies have mitigated risks and shock waves

The International Monetary Fund has released an update to its World Economic Outlook, predicting that China's economic growth will be 5 percent in 2024. That is 0.4 percentage points higher than its forecast in April. It also slightly lowered its expectations for the economic growth in the United States and Japan. IMF economists believe that China and India will account for nearly half of the global economic growth this year.

The report warned that the slower-than-expected cooling of inflation in developed economies may force central banks, including the Federal Reserve, to maintain higher borrowing costs for a longer period of time, which will put overall growth at risk, with emerging and developing economies suffering adverse spillover effects.

In addition, the IMF specifically mentioned that the US, under full employment, continues to maintain a fiscal stance that is steadily pushing up its debt ratio, and its deepening reliance on short-term financing is creating risks for the world economy as a whole.

The IMF, as well as other international institutions such as Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and UBS, all raised their forecast for China's economic growth this year, mainly because of the overall performance of the Chinese economy in the first half of the year and the effectiveness it has displayed in preventing and resolving risks.

The Chinese government has always been able to come up with appropriate policies to handle the relationship between promoting transformation and stable growth. By implementing various measures the risks in key areas such as real estate, local government debt, and small and medium-sized financial institutions have been further reduced. China achieved its growth target in the first half of the year, indicating that the Chinese economy has the ability to digest the challenges of its transition from old to new drivers of growth.

At the same time, it has continued to promote the process of structural optimization and continuously enhanced the quality of its development, while adopting a series of policies to expand domestic demand. Since March, China's policies to expand domestic demand have mainly focused on consumption and manufacturing investment, encouraging equipment renewal and the trade-in of consumer goods to cultivate new growth points for consumption. In addition, the ultra-long special treasury bonds

issued by the Ministry of Finance have been and will be invested in the construction of scientific and technological innovation, urban-rural integration, regional coordinated development, food and energy security, and high-quality population development.

At present, new policies to expand domestic demand are being formulated to ensure that they play a positive role in stabilizing growth, promoting transformation and adjusting the country's economic structure. High-tech manufacturing investment and exports have grown rapidly, and the trend of high-end, intelligent and green manufacturing has been obvious, which continues to enhance the global competitiveness of the country's manufacturing industry.

However, in the second half of the year, the Chinese economy may still face some external factors, namely the fluctuations in the global financial system caused by the shift in the Federal Reserve's monetary policy and the uncertainty caused by the US election in related economic fields. So, the country must be prepared to stabilize and expand domestic demand and respond to various external risks and shock waves.

— 21ST CENTURY BUSINESS HERALD

Partnership: Tech innovations making progress

From page 1

China has always been a willing and reliable partner helping African countries address their pressing socioeconomic challenges. Based on this belief, the African Union believes that as China aims to develop a comprehensive partnership with African nations in an era when China is building an Africa-China community in cyberspace and technology with a vision of pursuing common development and shared prosperity and promoting the huge rollout of the Belt and Road Initiative, joining hands with China to speed up the development of the digital economy will help close the continent's development gaps. It will also inject more impetus into Africa's economic recovery.

China's cooperation with Africa in tech innovations has made progress in recent years, with China proactively implementing tech innovation action plans under the BRI and sharing sci-tech feats and experiences with numerous African nations.

China has committed to 10 digital economy projects for the continent in areas such as communication networks, data centers and smart cities. China has also pledged to set up hubs for cooperation in satellite remote-sensing applications and support the development of joint laboratories, partner institutes, and scientific and technological innovation cooperation bases as well. The China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035 passed at the eighth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Ministerial Conference, reaffirmed the digital collaboration

and expanded the collaboration to areas such as spectrum management, 5G technology, satellite internet, big data, e-commerce, smart cities, drone technology and financing.

Based on the above, China's role in the continent's technology sector could be seen from the perspective of a financier and infrastructure provider. As a financier, between 2000 and 2020, China invested over \$13.5 billion in Africa's information and communication technology sector. As an infrastructure provider, China has played a significant role in supporting Africa's upsurge internet access, making the Chinese key funders of ICT infrastructure in Africa, where Chinese firms are actively investing in African countries to build digital infrastructure, provide vocational training for local people

and provide internet service. China's approach is unique in that it encourages Chinese majors such as Huawei and ZTE to develop local experiences in Africa's ICT space by building relationships and partnering with domestic internet service firms. For instance, Huawei partnered with MTN to provide the first 5G service to mobile phone users in Nigeria, enabling users of Huawei and Xiaomi phones to be the first users of the services, before other brands such as iPhone or Samsung. In Mozambique, China's drone technology has empowered the development of smart agriculture; as a result, the Wanbao Mozambique Agricultural Park has seen a 13.6 percent rise in crop yield.

The above evidence indicates that Africa has not only experienced practical benefits from partnering with China in the building of digital infrastructure, the application of new technologies, promoting smart agriculture, e-commerce trade, and training African digital talents for the future of work, there is also evidence that China has kept up with building related infrastructure in Africa because the Chinese government believes that digitalization can foster the creation of new meaningful employment opportunities while also developing the human capital base in the continent, thereby helping the continent attain its demographic dividend and avoid its demographic curse.

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COMMENT



China and the World Roundtable | Urban-Rural Integrated Development

Editor's note: The third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee adopted a resolution on further deepening reform to realize Chinese modernization, which, among other things, will narrow the urban-rural development gap. Four experts share their views on the issue with China Daily.

Fan Shenggen and Feng Xiaolong

Innovations can boost farm productivity

The Communiqué of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China emphasized the importance of consolidating the basic rural operation system, improving supporting systems to strengthen agriculture, benefiting farmers and enriching rural areas.

In fact the agricultural sector has been experiencing a new round of biotechnology and information technology revolutions, with technological innovations facilitating agricultural growth in China. Government data show that in 2021, improved crop varieties were grown on 96 percent of the total cultivable land, plots used for domestic crop varieties accounted for over 95 percent of the total, and the self-sufficiency rate of core breeding of major livestock species was 75 percent. In 2023, scientific and technological progress accounted for 62.4 percent of agricultural growth, while in 2022, the share of IT's agricultural value was 27.6 percent and smart agriculture's market size 74.3 billion yuan (\$10.22 billion).

Information and communications technology (ICT) including the internet of things, intelligent equipment, remote sensing monitoring, and artificial intelligence have been applied to all agricultural sub-sectors and segments. For example, the digitalization levels of facility cultivation, livestock and poultry breeding, aquaculture and crop farming have increased to 41 percent, 32.8 percent, 16.4 percent and 21.8 percent respectively, with an increase of 30 percent in economic benefits.

Nationwide, about 2.2 million agricultural machines equipped with Beidou terminals are in use to increase operational efficiency, and the total number of plant protection drones has reached nearly 200,000, with their operational area being more than 1.4 billion mu (93.33 million hectares). The application of these innovative tools not only ensures the stable and secure supply of grains and other essential farm products but also increases the incomes of farmers.

But despite these successes, challenges remain. First, the management mechanism for innovations in agricultural science and technology is not robust, with a conversion rate of research results being only 30-40 percent, which is lower than the 70-80 percent of the United States and Japan.

Second, the investment in agricultural science and technology in China, measured as agricultural research expenditure as a percentage of agricultural GDP, is



MAXUEJING / CHINA DAILY



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low, at only 0.77 percent, far below the roughly 2 percent of developed countries. Also, 85 percent of agricultural R&D funds come from the public sector, with the private sector's investment and innovation capability remaining relatively low.

Third, China's investment in agricultural science and technology is primarily focused on staple grain and feed crops (that is, rice, wheat and corn) and livestock, with relatively low investment in

emerging areas such as non-staple food production, nutritious and healthy foods, green and low-carbon agriculture, and AI equipment and facilities.

There is a need therefore to promote innovations in agricultural science and technology to better meet the diversified strategic development needs, such as rural revitalization and the dual climate goals of peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and realizing carbon neutrality

before 2060.

Guided by the government, market-oriented resource allocation, effective interaction among entities promoting innovation, and coordinated development of government, industry, academia and agricultural science and technology innovation systems should be encouraged.

By accelerating the process of enacting and improving laws, regulations and supporting policies, the government can better protect agricultural intellectual property rights.

Besides, the public sector should increase investments to promote innovations in the agricultural sector, and the agricultural enterprises should play leading roles as promoters of innovation. And the government can advance agricultural science and technology by leveraging public-private partnerships, government funding, tax incentives and financial support. This will be conducive to integrating social resources, accelerating the construction of a diversified agricultural science and technology funding system, and increasing investments to boost agricultural science and technology R&D.

The focus must be shifted from merely ensuring food grain security to achieving multiple goals including overall food security, nutritional health, and green and low-carbon development. While increasing investments to boost food grain production and livestock breeding, funds should also be allocated to increase the output and enhance the quality of relatively minor grain crops, which are often more nutritious and sustainable, as well as fruits, vegetables and aquatic products.

Moreover, ICT should be used to improve food storage, transportation, and processing with the aim of reducing food waste and losses.

Based on the recommendations of the World Agrifood Innovation Conference and Expo held annually in Pinggu district of Beijing, an open and inclusive global cooperation and exchange platform could be built to promote dialogue among research institutions, universities and agricultural enterprises from various countries in areas such as breeding technology, biotechnology, smart AI agriculture, sustainable agricultural practices and ICT.

And concerted global efforts should be made to overcome common global challenges such as climate change and degraded natural resources, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

Nie Jianliang

Eldercare services essential to rural revitalization

The Communiqué of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China stressed that integrated urban and rural development is essential to Chinese modernization, and all-around rural revitalization should be pursued.

The rural social security system provides greater economic security for elderly people today thanks to government policies such as the basic pension insurance program for urban and rural residents and subsidies for senior citizens. Despite this, elderly people in rural areas do not get adequate care and medical services. In fact, both market-oriented and non-market-oriented eldercare services in rural areas are the weak link in China's rural social security system.



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Therefore, it is necessary to improve the resource and multi-level service structures to meet the various needs of the elderly people in rural areas.

Most elderly people living in rural areas prefer to stay in their own homes rather than old people's homes, and an increasing number of disabled people in rural areas need regular eldercare and healthcare services.

However, there is a lack of at-home eldercare providers in rural areas due to the shrinking of household size, higher labor costs, migration of working age people from rural areas and non-farming rural population. The problem has become even more complicated because the rural population is aging at a faster pace due to the drastic increase in life expectancy in China.

Hence, the government needs to take measures to ensure rural areas get enough eldercare providers. This can be done, for example, by encouraging people aged between 60 and 69 to take care of their older relatives, and those with higher self-care ability to take care of those with lower self-care ability. Another option is to form small-scale mutual-aid eldercare groups based on geographical proximity and amiable relationship to provide necessary eldercare services to the needy.

Apart from the government and the market players providing different eldercare services in rural areas, efforts should be made to build nursing homes for the extremely poor people, and daycare facilities to provide food and entertainment activities for senior citizens. Also, privately-owned nursing homes can provide more professional and varied services to the elderly people.

The elderly population in rural areas can be divided into four categories: people short of both resources and self-care ability, people well-off but lacking self-care ability, people lacking resources but with self-care ability, and people who are both well-off and have self-care ability.

While "younger" elderly people can take care of their older relatives who lack both resources and self-care ability, those who are affluent but lack self-care ability can choose to live in commercial nursing homes. Elderly people who lack resources but have self-care ability can turn to neighbors and friends for help. And elderly people who are well-off as well as have self-care ability can seek the services of daycare facilities.

The disabled elderly people require greater attention and regular medical care, but usually they cannot afford to pay for them. Such people can seek the services of younger relatives if they cannot turn to their children or spouses for help.

Although commercial nursing homes can provide professional and higher-quality eldercare services, they are expensive, which means only the affluent disabled and semi-disabled elderly people can pay for their services. And since most daycare facilities charge for their services and may be located far from the villages, not all elderly people can access or afford to pay for their services.

Against such a backdrop, it is necessary to strike a balance between supply and demand in the rural eldercare system by introducing an array of policies. First, the government should shoulder greater responsibility in providing effective eldercare services, and work out detailed plans to optimize related policy systems and institutional frameworks.

Second, a mechanism of collaborative resource supply should be established to provide different types of eldercare services for rural residents.

Third, the authorities should also establish a regulatory system to provide efficient eldercare services in rural areas, improve the monitoring system and cross-department supervision, and standardize specific service supply patterns to ensure the healthy development of rural eldercare services.

Fourth, steps should also be taken to increase the funding channels, and establish a stable fiscal mechanism in order to boost investment in rural eldercare facilities.

And fifth, the authorities should create a friendly environment for the elderly people by increasing public awareness about senior citizens, directing grassroots officials to pay more attention to the elderly population and encourage people to take proper care of their elderly parents.

The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Victor Meijers

Income redistribution ensures social harmony

The Communiqué of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China vows to promote integrated urban-rural development, ensure the people's well-being, and improve the income distribution system.

The main objective of any income distribution policy is to maintain social stability and harmony. Most modern societies regard promoting their middle classes as fundamental to maintaining social stability. It is also necessary to help hardworking people achieve their relatively modest goals in their lifetime, that is, owning, not renting, a house and a car, and sending their children to university.

The instruments of effective income distribution policy are therefore twofold. They promote upward mobility from the lower- to the middle-income group. This is the bulk of the job at hand. Education, minimum wages, job security, proper pensions for the elderly, and child support are often seen as important. In Western countries with large immigrant populations, discrimination on ethnic grounds is also a factor to be considered, because that could significantly hamper these groups' upward mobility.

Also, the concentration of excessive wealth in a handful of people will prevent the lower and middle-income groups' upward mobility because, for example, the housing market is dominated by a few rich people owning hundreds of properties each, as is the case in Western capitals such as Amsterdam. An individual's extreme success in itself



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does not call for government action. The actual use of such wealth, however, can lead to perverse outcomes. For example, in developed countries when it comes to the owner of a large number of houses, it is the use of money to push others out of the housing market that forces many to live in relative poverty, because available houses will only be used for rich Airbnb

tourists, not for reasonably priced long-term lease to students or migrant workers.

The concentration of extreme wealth in the hands of a rich group of people in a country alongside abject poverty calls for better redistribution of national wealth. Many use the so-called Gini coefficient to determine income inequality. But this is a better method than simply looking for expensive cars such as Ferraris and Bentleys in a specific place to determine income inequality. It turns out that in the European Union, despite many unsatisfied voters from lower-income groups voting for parties with destabilizing objectives in elections, income redistribution is stable.

Apparently, income is not the only important factor for stability. In the United States, the Gini coefficient has risen substantially, as in China. A related

issue is wealth redistribution, that is, inherited wealth. US business magnate and investor Warren Buffett once said: "I want to leave my children enough so that they can do anything, but not so much that they can do nothing."

But proper income redistribution is not taxing the middle class to subsidize the poor. The bigger support of the poor should come from the strongest, richest persons.

Many rich people have made their fortunes by exploiting global corporate structures and avoiding tax. According to a 2021 White House study quoted by Oxfam earlier this year, the wealthiest 400 billionaire families in the US paid only 8.2 percent in tax, and the 25 richest Americans paid only 3.4 percent! In comparison, people like this writer pay 49.5 percent tax on their income in the Netherlands, leaving him enough for a comfortable life.

In the past, arguments were made in favor of free market economy and liberalization. In many fields, probably a free market can help more efficiently to put resources to work. The change of State-owned enterprises, such as Volkswagen, into listed companies, has significantly promoted the German economy.

At a certain point, the free market was seen as a solution to all the financial and fiscal problems, almost became a religion for administrators. Besides, "the free market" was then used as a strategic component in places, such as universities and hospitals, where profit maximization is very difficult, the religious

aspect for many also meant that being rich was equal to being good. Unfortunately, many people nowadays do not see wealth as an asset or a means to a goal, but in itself as the main objective in life.

In order to increase their fortune, money is used for making more money. The so-called family offices professionally invest and guard the hoards of the truly rich, and those investments are usually not made for the general good, but for profit maximization.

Interestingly, the pension funds in Western countries often work along the same lines as private family offices. What the West did wrong is that without realizing, it replaced the moral compass by our bank statements.

Voltaire's saying that "with great fortune comes great responsibility" is not known by the nouveaux riches and their lackeys. This issue is being faced by governments, which has constrained the free market in certain sectors, while housing and internet platforms and international tax structures are scrutinized to avoid more perverse stimulus.

The lesson for us in the West is that not one single tool, such as the free market, should become the overall objective in society. Even in considering free market or liberalization as a useful tool, diligent research by the government into the practical consequences for each sector and general topics such as income redistribution in society, can be useful.

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GLOBAL VIEWS



WANG XIAOYING / CHINA DAILY

ENRIQUE DUSSEL PETERS

Trade fortification

China and the LAC countries cannot turn a blind eye to the 'security-shoring' of the US

Latin American and the Caribbean countries have substantially improved their cooperation with China since the beginning of the 21st century. Since 2015, the CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States)-China Forum, particularly its working and cooperation plans, has been an important platform for the broad cooperation between the two sides, from culture and sports to trade, investments, technology, infrastructure, tourism, and telecommunications. But this cooperation is now being questioned by the measures the United States is taking against China. LAC and China should prepare for new scenarios to continue their long-term cooperation.



At the start of his administration in 2017, President Donald Trump acknowledged the increasing competition with China and coined the concept of "great power competition"; initially expecting to face alone China's increasing global presence. Since 2021, the Joe Biden Administration not only has maintained all of the Trump administration's measures against China, including all the additional tariffs imposed on Chinese imports, but has intensified the policies against China. Under the heading of "invest, compete, align", the US passed three laws (including the Inflation Reduction Act) in 2022 with the support of both the main political parties that call for less than 15 percent of the GDP to counter China's competitiveness. In addition, since 2022, the Biden administration has made clear that containing China is the main focus of its national security strategy, for example socioeconomic and international relations with China and third countries will be subordinated. This means that trade, investment, culture, educational exchanges, as well as other aspects of its relations with other countries will be viewed from a national security perspective and thus subject to "security-shoring". The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen have all stressed this several times since 2022.

What are the implications of this

new US strategy against China for third parties?

First, given the aggressiveness with which the US is pursuing "security-shoring" in all fields of international relations, the cooperative relations between China with other regions and countries will not return to "business as usual". In aligning third parties against China, the US is inviting and blackmailing them to copy and paste the US' regulations and instruments to limit their engagement and cooperation with China. Second, the US is openly discussing its "security-shoring" strategy with other parties so they align with the US against China, with specific trade and investment incentives to be accepted, otherwise there will be a price to pay and exclusion from the US circle. Third, the substantial anti-Chinese sentiment in the US, and its fueling by both candidates in their campaigning ahead of the presidential election in November mean the Biden administration is increasing the pressure on other countries to fall in behind the US against China. The US is requiring them to limit China's presence, following the US' decoupling efforts in recent years. In doing so, the US is increasingly sidelining the institutions of its own creation after the World War II, such as the World Trade Organization and its principles of reciprocity and Most Favored Nation. They constitute the basis of the current international commerce and investment system. The unilateral decisions of the US under its "security-shoring" strategy are undermining these principles.

The implications are profound for the LAC countries. On the one hand, the US is increasingly requiring countries such as Mexico to emulate the US' legal and institutional actions, such as under the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, to limit and prohibit Chinese investments under the criteria of "security-shoring" in the US. Most of the LAC countries do not have the instruments for such scrutiny. On the other hand, the US' "security-shoring" measures are very concrete. If Mexico wishes to continue being the US' number one trading partner, as it was in 2023, it should not include Chinese value-added parts in its exports to the US, otherwise it will face general tariffs on Mexican exports. Bilateral existing agreements between the US and Mexico, such as the USMCA (US-Mexico-Canada Agreement)

signed in 2020, explicitly foresee these kinds of situations. It is a similar situation for other countries in the LAC region.

As a result, "security-shoring" and US-China confrontation are generating massive challenges to the existing LAC-China cooperation, particularly in socioeconomic fields: trade, financing, investments and infrastructure projects have been extremely dynamic in the 21st century, but also affecting other fields such as culture and even Confucius Institutes, which have been closed in the US as a result of the existing confrontation.

The LAC countries and China cannot turn a blind eye to these challenges, in regions such as the LAC, the US is still the main point of reference in most of the discussed items above, notwithstanding China's increasing presence. Not only regional institutions such as the CELAC-China Forum, but also other bilateral institutions with all countries in LAC (from Argentina to Mexico) should explicitly discuss options to current and future cooperation schemes, explicitly integrating the impact of "security-shoring" in the region. In most of the cases these regional and bilateral institutions were created several decades ago, and before "security-shoring". From trade to infrastructure, investments and cultural activities, they will have to modernize their effective potential and new challenges in light of the US' "security-shoring".

Not doing so will not only continuously increase the pressure on LAC governments and Chinese companies operating in the region, but will also generate unnecessary uncertainties in the short, medium and long-run, such as Chinese investments in Mexico and the Chancay port in Peru, among many others. They do represent new forms of LAC-China cooperation that can increase in the future, explicitly integrating new global challenges. Expectations on business as usual for LAC-China cooperation is not an option today.

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SU QINGYI AND GUI ZIHAO

The selfish intervener

US' harmful approach to global trade is aimed at shaping a system that excludes China

Step by step, the United States is shifting the way it cooperates with others in the economy and trade. It has set up a variety of new frameworks, including regional comprehensive agreements such as the "Indo-Pacific" Economic Framework for Prosperity, the

US-EU Trade and Technology Council, and the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity; as well as alliances or agreements in specific key sectors, such as the Next G Alliance, the Semiconductors in America Coalition, and the Minerals Security Partnership.

In total, the US has spearheaded 37 agreements in high-tech, infrastructure investment, minerals, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace, involving 80 countries and regions. As more agreements have been signed, their characteristics and purposes have become increasingly clear.

In general, the US is striving to build groups that exclude China, from fostering allies in Europe, the Americas, and the "Indo-Pacific", to assembling the Quad comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia, and establishing regional exclusive agreements or cooperation frameworks such as the IPEF. In particular, the "Indo-Pacific" region has a central role in the US strategy toward China and the IPEF is specifically designed to exclude China.

There are three main approaches that the US is using to try to squeeze China out of the global system. This includes reshaping regional supply and industry chains, especially in the chip and semiconductor sector; conducting multiple rounds of negotiations in digital trade and the digital economy, in order to lead the formulation of digital economy rules in the "Indo-Pacific" region; doubling down on infrastructure investment in the "Indo-Pacific" region and encouraging nongovernmental forces to collectively resist the Belt and Road Initiative, so as to construct a strategic coalition against China.

However, the US' way of international economic and trade cooperation is unlikely to achieve its intended goals. With limited benefits being offered, if any,

Looking ahead, the US may eventually succeed in shaping a 'secure' international economic and trade system in certain key areas where it has dominant influence.

some countries are reluctant to take sides. While the US model aims to compete for relative benefits, other countries' policies are based on a different set of principles and goals: They seek absolute gains and call for economic cooperation through market access and other commonly used approaches.

Moreover, without market access and tariff negotiations, it is difficult to assess the benefits of the new US model compared to traditional free trade agreements. Its direct impact is certainly less significant due to the lack of tariff reductions. It is also foreseeable that, in the short term, these agreements will generate much less trade creation than trade diversion, because trade and value chains have been transferred unnaturally as a result of government intervention in the business decision-making process, which will inevitably distort the market.

The US' changes in international economic and trade cooperation will also have a negative impact on the global economic and trade system and rules.

Globally, this new US model will exacerbate the division of the international system into blocs. Unlike a multilateral arrangement for a globalized world, the US model is based on selective multilateralism, covers a small group of countries, and is aimed at reshaping the global trade system and rules centered on the World Trade Organization. Highly targeted and exclusive, the model selects partners mainly from the European Union, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific region, with the overt aim of marginalizing China.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and India are rising in the economic and trade system, and cooperation in the region continues to fragment. Since the Asian financial crisis in 1997, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have actively promoted

regional economic cooperation, eventually forming the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. On top of that, there are a lot of other trade pacts in the region, including the IPEF, which is in the negotiation process, the effective Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership led by Japan, as well as numerous bilateral free trade agreements and subregional cooperation. With a "spaghetti bowl" of cooperation frameworks that are hard to integrate, the Asia-Pacific region can expect more challenges in economic integration with more fragmented economic and trade cooperation patterns.

With this all-around transformation of the international economic and trade cooperation model underway, the US, once a powerhouse of economic globalization since the end of the Cold War, has abandoned its principle of advancing global trade integration by reducing tariff and lifting non-tariff barriers. Instead, it has adopted other flexible framework agreements, with the aim of establishing a set of international economic and trade rules designed to ensure the security of its own supply chains and contain the development of countries such as China.

Looking ahead, the US may eventually succeed in shaping a "secure" international economic and trade system in certain key areas where it has dominant influence. Given the size of the US and its allies, this new model will impact not only the trade benefits of other countries, but also the existing international economic and trade system and rules.

Meanwhile, global industry chains and China's participation in them may also fall under the influence of the change, shaking China's high-tech industries and lower-end manufacturing, as well as the bilateral economic and trade ties between China and the US as a whole.

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LIFE

LIVING HERITAGE

If Qinghua (blue and white) porcelain is the crown jewel of porcelain capital Jingdezhen in East China's Jiangxi province, Qingbai (bluish white) porcelain is its hidden gem. Though their names may be similar, the finished results are vastly different.

A far cry from the vibrantly contrasted coloring of Qinghua porcelain, Qingbai porcelain has a more reserved quality.

"It is blue as the sky, bright as jade, thin as paper, and resonant like a chime," says Wang Shangbin, who for decades has been committed to restoring the Qingbai porcelain, which dates back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

"In appearance, it is characterized by its translucent glaze, which glows white with a hint of green here, and green with a hint of white there, giving it a jade-like quality," he says.

The porcelain is also known for its hidden relief patterns, which become visible from both inside and out, when held up to the light, he adds.

Historical records show that during the Song Dynasty, Qingbai porcelain was widely produced in most parts of southern China. As one of the first varieties of porcelain, it laid a technical foundation for the development of others, including Qinghua, as well as red underglaze, red and green overglaze, and famille rose (*fencai* or *yangcai* in Chinese, a kind of porcelain painted mostly in shades of pink).

The artisan, who is in his early 60s, leads a tranquil life that mainly revolves around Qingbai porcelain. He drives to his workshop in Jingdezhen after breakfast to begin making porcelain with a group of like-minded masters of the craft.

They have reproduced many Song Dynasty-style porcelain items, some of which have been collected by domestic museums and purchased by collectors from abroad.

Born and raised in Jingdezhen, Wang has been immersed in ceramics and its culture and history for most of his life.

During the 1980s, he followed cultural heritage and museology expert Gong Mingxun in studying ancient porcelain, and at first, focused on studying and appreciating porcelain from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

That was until 1989, when two Qingbai porcelain cups at an antique market in Shanghai caught his eye. They were being sold by a fellow Jiangxi native, and were a revelation to Wang, who wasn't aware of the existence of Qingbai at that point.

"No one showed any interest as they all mistakenly thought they were new pieces," Wang says. "The seller was desperate as he didn't have enough money to return home, so I bought the cups from him to help him out."

When he later showed his purchases to Gong, the expert immediately identified them as Qingbai porcelain from the Song Dynasty kiln in Jingdezhen. "This sparked my interest in Qingbai and prompted me to start paying attention to it in the market," Wang says.

He began frequenting museums across the country to study examples of the porcelain, cementing his lifelong love for the style. "I saw many beautiful pieces in museums and gradually, I began to understand and appreciate them," he says.

Experts say that the aesthetic of Song Dynasty Qingbai porcelain is more elevated than that of Ming and Qing ceramics, due to its simplicity, elegance, exquisite craftsmanship and naturalism.

Influenced by the refined tastes of Song scholars, the style embodies tranquillity and harmony, making it both a pinnacle of ceramic art and a significant influence in the history of porcelain.

Wang also started to look into ancient kiln sites, conducting examinations both inside and outside the kilns to improve his knowledge of the history and characteristics of Qingbai porcelain. "There were still many well-preserved examples in the Nanhe and Xiaonan river basins in Jingdezhen," Wang says.

His investigations were extensive, including detailed analyses of kiln structures, production processes, material collection and preparation, as well as workshop layouts. It laid a strong foundation for his effort to restore the crafting process of Qingbai porcelain.

Since the original Qingbai porcelain workshops had long disappeared, and the techniques for making it were lost during the Ming and Qing dynasties, there were almost no traces left in terms of the techniques used to mold, carve and sculpt the clay.

Wang dug into historical documents, such as the *Tao Ji* (Records on Ceramics), from the Song Dynasty, that elaborated on the raw materials and formula for Qingbai porcelain, and used what he learned to practice, trying over and over to re-create pieces based on the characteristics of Song artifacts.

He also sought out natural weathered porcelain stone, clay, and other materials from Jingdezhen, such as burned wood ash and limestone, that were recorded in the ancient books, to further his experiments.

"Using what I learned from museums, kiln site investigations,



The color of excellence

Dedication of one man sees translucent glaze of Qingbai porcelain make a comeback, **Yang Feiyue** reports.



From top: A Qingbai porcelain tea cup with floral patterns and a Qingbai porcelain cup with lotus flower patterns made by Wang Shangbin. Wang sculpts a clay model at his workshop in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“

It is blue as the sky, bright as jade, thin as paper, and resonant like a chime.”

Wang Shangbin, artisan

and ancient ceramic samples I found, I practiced the refining techniques used to make Qingbai porcelain," Wang says.

Through trial and error, Wang was able to come up with an equivalent of the original formula.

In 2001, Wang built a Song-style stepped bricked kiln on a sloped hill, with an inclination of around 21 degrees. Using pine and other miscellaneous wood as fuel, the kiln can reach a maximum temperature of 1,330 C, and remains in use today.

Then, he found a source of premium clay several meters beneath the surface of the mountains surrounding the Xiaonan River, based on his knowledge from his research and readings of the historical documents concerning the related ancient kilns.

The crushing of clay is generally done using stone wheels, but for finer processing, manual work is still required.

"The size of the glaze particles is crucial," he says.

If they are too small, the glaze will fail to stick properly to the surface, resulting in patches, where it flakes off or "jumps" away, Wang explains. "If they are too coarse, it is difficult to achieve a translucent texture.

"The glaze material must also be free of impurities, so magnets and fine filters are used to remove them. This helps prevent the appearance of black spots and iron marks after firing," he adds.

When the porcelain clay is dewatered and filtered, it has to be stored in a cool, sealed environment for aging, which is crucial to its plasticity.

The clay generally needs to be stored for at least six months before it can be used and then must be properly kneaded by hand to ensure it is evenly prepared.

Additionally, Qingbai porcelain requires much higher standards for throwing, compared to other types of porcelain. Throwing is a crucial step in the process of creating pottery, where clay is shaped on a pottery wheel.

"If it isn't thin enough, it won't achieve the desired translucency. Soft, wet clay can easily be ruined during the shaping process, if it isn't handled carefully, requiring the potter to execute precise movements with great delicacy," Wang says.

Once a piece is made, it is trimmed, a demanding process due to the extremely thin shell. Other key steps include half-carving, a decorative technique from the Song Dynasty, as well as glazing, and firing.

Using small iron or bamboo knives, designs are carved into the dried clay, creating patterns of varying depths — deep on one side, shallow on the other. Each line has a gradient, alternating between solid and hollow, giving the impression of a raised design.

"This technique demands a high level of skill. If the carving is not deep enough, the design lacks dimension and life; if it is too deep, it risks breaking the clay," Wang says, adding that for glazing, the thickness and immersion time are key.

To bring Qingbai porcelain to a wider audience, he and his brother Wang Shuibin established a research society in 2011 that has brought together Qingbai porcelain collectors and experts.

Over the past decade, he has organized 10 Qingbai porcelain and porcelain tool exhibitions, which have attracted young craftsmen to the art.

Local authorities have become involved with the revival of Qingbai porcelain, and the Jingdezhen Ceramic University now offers classes.

The brothers also started a business making scale production that has added to the tapestry of porcelain culture in the city.

"The Wang brothers successfully revived traditional Qingbai porcelain techniques that had been lost for over 700 years," says Li Feng, deputy director of the Jiangxi artistic ceramics standardization technical committee. "This achievement is a miracle in the preservation of Jingdezhen's traditional intangible cultural heritage."

However, the path to preserving and passing down these techniques still faces many challenges and bottlenecks, Li says, adding that the public has a low awareness of Qingbai porcelain, and mass production has yet to be realized.

This all leads to relatively higher costs for pieces, making it difficult to promote Qingbai porcelain sustainably.

"Additionally, handcrafted Qingbai porcelain requires precise control of shape, carving techniques, glaze thickness, and firing conditions. Variations in artisans' skills and methods significantly affect the consistency of quality," Li says, adding that standardization should be introduced to codify techniques.

"By standardizing techniques and archiving them for educational purposes, more young people and ceramic artisans can learn from them and reference them. This will lay a solid foundation for the dissemination and passing on of Jiangxi porcelain culture," Li says.

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Guangdong exhibition celebrates iconic Qing Dynasty artist

By ZHENG CAIXIONG

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An exhibition featuring Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) artist Hua Yan, which opened at Guangdong Museum on July 10 in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, allows audiences to sense and appreciate the essence and beauty of landscape paintings from the dynasty. It also offers a chance to understand the painter, a representative figure of Yangzhou School, a loose artists' group in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province.

Hua (1682-1765) was known for his flower-and-bird, figure and landscape paintings, according to Chen Xun, director of the collection management department of Guangdong Museum and the exhibition's curator.

The exhibition, *Elegance, Refinement, Style: Paintings of Hua Yan*, runs until Oct 7 and displays more than 70 pieces or sets of Hua's exquisite works, with precious cultural relics, accounting for more than 90 percent of the total, collected by eight units from Guangdong, Liaoning, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces and Tianjin municipality, Chen says.



Visitors at the exhibition, *Elegance, Refinement, Style: Paintings of Hua Yan*, in Guangdong Museum. More than 70 pieces or sets of exquisite works by Hua Yan, a painter from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), are on display. PHOTOS BY ZHENG ERQI / CHINA DAILY

Many items are being displayed to the public for the first time.

It is the first systematic and concentrated exhibition of Hua's paintings in Guangdong and also the first domestic exhibition of original works with his paintings

as the theme, Chen adds.

Digital technology helps display and create an immersive experience, allowing viewers to delve into his paintings to explore the beauty of mountains and rivers, as well as the poetic and picturesque scenery in his works.

The exhibition has received sup-



port from the School of Chinese Painting, the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. The cooperation between the museum and the academy and their in-depth analysis of Hua's painting techniques guides visitors into his world from multiple dimensions.

"With the help of the exhibition, visitors learn the characteristics of

the painter and can better understand the ancient Chinese paintings, thus appreciate more of the creative transformation and innovative features that originated in traditional Chinese culture," Chen says.

Hua, a native of Shanghang in East China's Fujian province, was born into a poor family. But his pur-

suit of art was not curtailed by his modest circumstances, according to Chen. His painting first followed the traditional track, but he later pushed boundaries with greater creativity. He became an outstanding painter in the mid-Qing Dynasty, excelling in poetry, calligraphy and painting.

A video was also recorded to enhance knowledge and awareness of the exhibition, analyzing traditional Chinese painting techniques and restoring the creation process of some of his paintings to the public.

During the exhibition, Guangdong Museum has organized a series of expert lectures, on-site guided tours and other related educational activities, along with a series of usable, playable and enjoyable cultural and creative products, to help promote his paintings in various forms and directions.

Yang Jie, a local resident who took her child to the exhibition, says that she now better understands the key features of Chinese landscape paintings, thanks to the help of the guide, and she was also moved by the life story of Hua.

LIFE

Reality show appearance opens up new paths

Despite not getting through to second round, Kazakhstan singer decides to stay in China to further her career, **Chen Nan** reports.



Rukhiya Baidukenova performs during an episode of the reality TV show, *Singer*, produced by Mango TV, which aired on June 28. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

In 2017, Rukhiya Baidukenova was 18 years old as she watched Kazakhstan singer Dimash Kudaibergen perform on *Singer*, a popular talent show for professional vocalists produced by Hunan TV.

Better known in China as Dimash, Kudaibergen developed a wide fan base. Baidukenova, as a singer herself and a big fan of Chinese TV shows, found herself hoping to take part in *Singer* one day.

Seven years later, the 25-year-old fulfilled her wish, appearing onstage at the reality show.

As the first of the international competitors in the latest season of the show, launched in 2017, Baidukenova stood onstage bathed in the glow of anticipation. As a hush fell over the audience, she took a deep breath and her voice resonated with raw emotion as she began to sing the late American singer-songwriter Eric Carmen's 1975 smash hit, *All by Myself*, which was also covered by French-Canadian singer Celine Dion.

Her vocal range and emotional rendition quickly captivated the audience.

"I was very nervous. I had only three days to prepare for the performance," says Baidukenova, who performs in China under her given name of Rukhiya.

Although she failed to get into the next round of the competition, inspired by the warmth and generosity of the audience, Baidukenova made a sudden decision to stay and immerse herself in Chinese culture.

"I planned to return home after per-

forming on *Singer* but later changed my mind. I've been living in Beijing for about two weeks. I'm learning Mandarin, taking music lessons and expanding my repertoire, especially with Chinese songs, as well as making new friends," says Baidukenova, adding that she is drawn to the sound of the *guzheng* (the ancient Chinese zither) and is keen on learning to play.

She adds that when she was in Changsha, Hunan province, where the reality show was recorded, she felt at home as it reminded her in some ways of her hometown.

The day of the interview, Baidukenova had just recovered from a fever and her throat was still sore. Her music teacher, Lan Tianyang, a singer and voice coach, played a few notes on the piano and asked her to sing the Mongolian folk song, *Mu Ge* (Song of the Herdsmen).

"She is a very talented singer and from our first class, I could tell that she would become a star," says Lan, who also coached Kudaibergen. "In my teaching approach, I use lots of methods borrowed from traditional Chinese operas. She learns very fast. In operas, there are different roles, such as *qingyi* (young female roles) and *laodan* (senior female roles), and performers use different voices to interpret them. I have my students learn these techniques."

Born and raised in Taldykorgan in southeastern Kazakhstan, Baidukenova has displayed a passion for singing since she was a child.

She says that when she was young,



Baidukenova in a music studio in Beijing on July 9.

she was shy and quiet and loved singing because it was her way of expressing herself.

Her grandfather played the *dombra* (a traditional two-stringed plucked instrument) and her grandmother was a singer. When she was born, her grandfather named her after her grandmother, Rukhiya. Rukhiya means "persevering" in English.

From the age of 9, she began to receive vocal training at an art school in her hometown and in 2015, she moved to the

capital Astana to study music at the Kazakh National University of Arts.

However, her father did not support her singing dream at first. "My father works in a factory and my mother is a full-time mother. They wanted me to have a stable job and apparently being a singer was not what they wanted me to do," says Baidukenova, who also has an elder sister.

Before she went to university to study music, she promised her parents that she would prove herself as a singer.

In 2021, when she was 22 and still a student, Baidukenova won the Grand Prix at the International Arts Festival Slavianski Bazaar, the largest arts festival in Belarus.

Launched in Vitebsk in 1992, the event propelled her to fame and brought her opportunities to perform abroad.

It also persuaded her parents that she could have a career as a singer.

"Now my parents have changed their minds and encourage me to pursue my music dream. They are the best role models. They taught me to be independent and pursue my goals," she says.

Before appearing on *Singer*, Baidukenova visited China four times, including to perform at the opening gala of the Kazakhstan Tourism Year in Beijing in March.

"China and Kazakhstan are neighbors and we share lots of things in common. For example, the people of both countries are hardworking and value tradition, especially showing respect for our parents and taking responsibility for our families," Baidukenova says. "I am looking forward to my journey in China unfolding."

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Boosted by tradition, Yao village rides high on tourism

NANNING — In the height of summer, the normally tranquil village of Dazhai in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region becomes a bustling hub for tourists seeking to experience its ethnic appeal.

The Clothes Drying Festival, one of the most important celebrations of the Red Yao ethnic group, a subgroup of the Yao, fell on July 11 this year. Every year, on the sixth day of the sixth lunar month, they hang their signature red clothes in the sun to be blessed.

To accommodate the growing number of visitors this year, the one-day festival was extended to a three-day holiday, lasting from July 10 to July 12. Festivities included toasting songs, wine and folk performances.

"The village has a stunning environment, fresh air and it's clean. Here, we feel not only connected to nature but also

immersed in the traditions of local ethnic groups," says a tourist named Nicolas, who visited the village with his friend Austina, both from Argentina.

Located in the core area of the famous Longji Rice Terraces tourist attraction, the hamlet was named among the Best Tourism Villages of 2022 by the World Tourism Organization for its breathtaking agricultural views.

"I brought my children here during their summer vacation to experience the customs of ethnic groups," says Chen Haijuan from Fujian province.

"This is my ideal countryside, with beautiful landscapes and modern amenities. Seeing villagers in their red clothes in the green hills is striking. It leaves a lasting impression for the contrast of colors," Chen adds.

Deep in the mountains, Dazhai

was once difficult to reach, accessed by a narrow mud path that zigzagged through the hills. Daily necessities and farming items had to be delivered by cart, says Yu Qiongtong, Party chief of Dazhai.

Faced with challenging living conditions and a deteriorating environment, the villagers turned to their mountains, vast lands and culture.

Working with tourism companies from Guilin, Guangxi, they transformed their surroundings into a terraced landscape that delights in all seasons and became stakeholders in its development.

The influx of tourists encouraged young people from the village who had previously sought work elsewhere to return and start businesses.

According to Pan Dexiong, who returned in 2018 and now runs a guesthouse with 10 rooms, a cof-

fee shop and a restaurant, tourists love the village's coffee and milk tea shops, which become lively social hubs.

"I'm improving my English skills so that I can share our stories and customs with foreign visitors," Pan says.

In 2023, the village welcomed 708,000 domestic and international tourists, generating a total income of 7.25 million yuan (\$1 million), according to Pan Ligao, deputy Party chief of Dazhai.

Thanks to the development of tourism, more and more villagers have realized the importance of preserving the culture of the Yao people. "Many young people from the village have begun to learn our traditional skills. Tourism has given Yao culture a new life," says Yu.



Residents of Dazhai village in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region hang their signature red clothes in the sun to be blessed during the Clothes Drying Festival. TANG GUANGDONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

XINHUA

CULTURE

Just as many young moviegoers in the United States aspire to be a superhero — like Superman, Iron Man or Wonder Woman — many Chinese youngsters dream of becoming *wuxia*, or a martial arts hero.

In fact, the Emei Kung Fu Girls, a group of Generation Z members, is bringing new passion to traditional Chinese martial arts, sparking a “super craze” across the country.

Gen Z refers to the generation that was born between the mid-to-late 1990s to early 2010s.

The Emei Kung Fu Girls certainly pack a punch — in a promotional video released in early May, nine of its members demonstrated the signature weapons of the Emei martial arts school, with fluid movements and fine technique.

Wang Wenbin, who was China's Foreign Ministry spokesman at that time, reposted the video on his overseas social media account and wrote: “Heroines out of Chinese Martial Arts novels! See how Emei Kung Fu Girls present stunning moves.”

The video has received more than 1 billion views and is trending on various social media platforms.

“We didn't expect to receive so much attention and love right after our debut,” said Mazhao Lingyun, better known as Lingyun, a core member of the group. “The compliments and encouragement are an honor and inspire us to make more progress in inheriting and promoting Emei kung fu and traditional Chinese culture.”

As an inheritor of Emei kung fu, a national intangible cultural heritage, Lingyun rose to internet fame in 2020 because of a short video in which she depicts a young woman in casual clothes taking out garbage. She suddenly tosses a sword into the air and wields it with blinding swiftness in a series of Emei flourishes.

Emei, named after Emei Mountain in Southwest China's Sichuan province, is one of the three major schools of Chinese martial arts, along with Shaolin and Wudang.

Through the Emei Kung Fu Girls, which is said to be the first female martial arts intellectual property of its kind to be created in China, 26-year-old Lingyun hopes to lead more young people to appreciate traditional culture.

“We are not satisfied with simply being an ordinary idol group. Instead, we hope to make breakthroughs in cultural innovation and expression to promote and carry forward more culturally profound elements,” she said.

Li Jieyu, who manages the group, said its members receive daily training on Emei Mountain from inheritors of the Emei school martial arts.

In addition to basic skills and characteristic Emei moves, they also take specialized training courses, including horseback riding, archery and performing arts to improve their performances on stage, Li said.

Chen Yufei, another group member, said the young women usually train for three hours in the morning, take a short break at noon, and continue training for another four hours.

“The training is so draining ... But once the music starts, everyone cheers themselves up and quickly gets into the training routine,” she said.

Li Nuofei, another member, said she enjoys the strength and beauty that come with martial arts, despite the tough training. Perseverance and patience are key to learning the skills, which will bring more joy and a sense of achievement, she said.

Group manager Li Jieyu said its latest plan includes offering content for a Paris program in July to coincide with the Summer Olympics, with the group showcasing the unique charm of traditional Chinese kung fu on the international stage.

The group also looks forward to exchanging ideas with various international martial arts practitioners, as well as with different regional cultures around the world, to create new works in different forms, such as short plays and variety shows, she said.

“With the increase in China's overall national strength in recent years, Chinese people, especially the young people of Gen Z, are more and more confident in their own traditional culture. This has led to a revival of traditional Chinese culture and the popularity of *guofeng* or *guochao*,” said Professor Cai Shangwei, director of the Culture Industry Research Center at Sichuan University.

He said the profound cultural heritage of Emei martial arts, which boasts a history of nearly 3,000 years, provides a solid foundation for the popularity of the Emei Kung Fu Girls.

Cultural vitality

Emei kung fu is featured in the works of modern martial arts fiction writers such as Li Shoumin (better known by his pen name Huanzhu Louzhu) and Jin Yong or Louis Cha Leung-yung, making Emei a highly influential martial arts school, he said.

Cai said every culture must evolve with the times and incorporate innovative elements by integrating other outstanding cultures to maintain its vitality and appeal and meet the spiritual needs of people in the new era.

By blending martial arts with other cultural elements, such as dance, music and costumes, the Emei Kung Fu Girls exhibit a strong sense of modernity and fashion. This approach allows intangible cultural heritage to enter the realm of cultural consumption and giving it sustainable vitality, he said.

Wang Chao, a national-level inheritor of Emei martial arts, said people have been flocking to Emei Moun-

Kung Fu Girls know how to pack a punch

Popular Gen Z kung fu group helps fuel nationwide passion for traditional martial arts, building bridges across cultures, Huang Zhiling and Peng Chao report in Chengdu.



“The compliments and encouragement are an honor and inspire us to make more progress in inheriting and promoting Emei kung fu and traditional Chinese culture.”

Mazhao Lingyun, from Emei Kung Fu Girls

Above: The Emei Kung Fu Girls, a group of Generation Z members who are skilled in traditional Chinese martial arts, have sparked a “super craze” across China. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tain to study kung fu in recent years, especially after the Emei Kung Fu Girls made a name for themselves around the country.

He said the inheritors of Emei martial arts are striving to promote the cultural heritage by organizing international competitions, running training courses, holding activities in schools, and developing martial arts-themed tourism products.

The inheritors are also in talks with movie directors about making films based on the Emei school, Wang said.

“The Shaolin school earned a great reputation thanks to the kung fu movie *Shaolin Temple*, while Wudang benefited from *The Tai-Chi Master*. The Emei school also deserves a representative movie,” he said.

Zou Wenxi, deputy director of Emeishan city's culture, sports and tourism bureau, said the Emei Kung Fu Girls group showcases a vibrant practice of reviving traditional culture.

“The popularity of the kung fu group has triggered young people's interest in learning about and studying Emei martial arts,” he said. “In addition to enjoying the natural scenery and appreciating Buddhist culture, an increasing number of tourists have included experiencing martial arts culture in their travel plans.”

Zou said the city will carry out more policies and measures to promote and support the development of Emei martial arts and the martial arts industry.

It plans to build a major Emei martial arts experience base to serve tourists visiting Emei Mountain, he said.

Strong inspiration

Wuxia is one of the most influential aspects of traditional Chinese culture and most Chinese people have grown up reading *wuxia* novels and watching *wuxia*-related movies and TV dramas. There is a saying that goes, “wherever you find Chinese, you will find Jin Yong's novels.”

Jin Yong (1924-2018) is one of the most popular authors in China, having raised martial arts fiction genre to such an artistic level that readers and academics launched a petition in the 2010s for him to become a Nobel Prize candidate.

Emei Kung Fu Girls member Li Nuofei said that, under the influence of her mother, her favorite female *wuxia* character is Huang Rong, a protagonist in Jin Yong's novel *The Legend of the Condor Heroes*.

“My mother especially likes the TV drama version in which actress Barbara Yung plays the role of Huang Rong,” she said. “I remember having watched it countless times with my mother since I was a child.”

The portrayals of martial arts heroines, by Michelle Yeoh in Ang Lee's Oscar-winning film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and Liu Yifei in Disney's live-action movie *Mulan*, have also inspired Li.

“I want to follow in their footsteps to promote Chinese martial arts on the international stage, and my first small goal is to make the world aware of Emei martial arts,” she said.

Fellow member Chen Yufei said she strongly admires Liu Yifei's portrayal of Hua Mulan and particularly likes the character's image.

“From her appearance to acting skills, she completely impressed me by fully demonstrating the unique charm of Oriental women,” Chen said.

In Chen's mind, the Oriental martial arts heroines not only possess exceptional martial arts skills and exhibit a heroic spirit, but also love fearlessly and hate fiercely, refusing to be defined by social norms.

“Girls can also become whoever they want to be, or do whatever they like to do, regardless of gender stereotypes,” she said.

Zhan Xun, a professor specializing in journalism and communication at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, said the Chinese Gen Z, who grew up in the era of globalization, are injecting new vitality and new meaning into Chinese cultural icons.

“China's Gen Z share more common topics and are more empathetic with their peers from around the world, which will facilitate exchanges and mutual learning between China's traditional culture and foreign cultures,” she said.

Zhan said Wang Wenbin's repost of the Emei Kung Fu Girls' video received rave reviews from netizens abroad, indicating that it is a good example of cross-cultural communication.

“It provides new ideas and opens up imaginative space for promoting China's outstanding traditional culture overseas,” she said.

Short-form dramas and videos, which are well-suited to new media platforms, have become increasingly popular in the era of mobile devices and small screens. They have the potential for faster dissemination and greater impact than traditional media, Zhan said.

“Meanwhile, the makeup and stage effects that are youthful, trendy, and visually appealing are ideal for cross-cultural communication,” she said.

“It will be much easier to resonate with international audiences.”

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Holding the Emei thorn, a signature weapon of the Emei martial arts school, nine members of the Emei Kung Fu Girls are ready to demonstrate their skills.