Deepening Global Development Cooperation and Improving Global Governance

Development is the ardent expectation of people all over the world and the common value of all mankind. The world today is facing the superimposed challenges of major changes unseen in a century and the once-in-a-century pandemic, and global governance is facing many new propositions and challenges. On June 24, 2022, in the face of the era of “what’s wrong with the world and what should we do,” Chairman Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the high-level dialog on global development, proposing to “jointly build a global development partnership.” This is not only a response to history and reality but also an outlook for the future prospects of global governance.

Participation in global development cooperation is the secret to China’s governance miracle

Over the past 70 years since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, we have achieved a historic change from a state of poverty to the second largest economy in the world. The people have achieved leap-forward development from poverty to nourishment and from a generally well-off to an all-round well-off society, creating one governance miracle after another. Behind this, China’s active participation in the practice and innovation of global development cooperation is inseparable.

As early as the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese government expressed its willingness to cooperate with other socialist countries. After the Bandung Conference in 1955, the scope of China’s foreign aid expanded from socialist countries to other developing countries. After the reform and opening up, based on the development and changes of the world situation, cooperation with Western countries was included. Since the beginning of the new century, with China’s accession to the WTO, China has begun to deeply participate in global development cooperation: From signing
the United Nations Convention against Corruption to fully participating in international economic cooperation under the G20 framework, from proposing the Belt and Road Initiative to signing the Paris Agreement, and from proposing to build a community with a shared future for mankind to proposing the Global Development Initiatives, China has continued to accelerate its participation in global development cooperation and put the realization of sustainable development goals into practice. China is the first developing country to achieve the poverty reduction target of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and has contributed more than 70% to global poverty reduction. China has transformed its role from an initial participant and contributor to global development cooperation to today’s leader and has been hailed by the United Nations as a “leader in the implementation of sustainable development goals.”

Decoding the miracle of China’s development, it is not difficult to find the secrets: First, we have always upheld the development concept of openness, cooperation, and mutual success, have always taken development as the top priority, have opened the door to seek development, and strive to build a new highland for opening up as global development cooperation helps to further improve our own governance level and capability. Second, while participating in global development cooperation, China has also demonstrated to the outside world our major achievements and valuable experience in advancing the modernization of national governance, providing Chinese solutions and propositions for global governance and jointly promoting global sustainable development.

Exclusion of global development cooperation is the cause of Western governance dilemma

At present, governance crises such as social polarization, intensification of multicultural conflicts, populism, and national separatism in Western governance have increasingly become major obstacles to global peace and development. One of the important reasons why Western countries are caught in a governance dilemma is the Western rejection of global development cooperation in concept and practice.

On the one hand, unlike China, which actively advocates and participates in global development cooperation, in recent years, Western unilateralism, protectionism, and egoism have been rampant, and anti-globalization voices have been rampant. On the other hand, contrary to China’s emphasis on “South-South cooperation” in international development cooperation, the international development cooperation exaggerated by the West adheres to a “Western-centric” stance, such that international cooperation is often accompanied by political and economic conditions, and the two sides of the cooperation lack equality and mutual benefit. Among them, it is particularly obvious that the West has built a relationship of hierarchy and subordination in cooperation with African countries. The real purpose of the West’s cooperation in this region is not to help them eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic and social development but to take control of Africa through cooperation and keep it attached to the asymmetric structure of dependence on the West.

History and reality have proved that the Western neoliberal governance propositions and practices under the Washington Consensus ignore the development demands of other countries and are
increasingly questioned and reflected in developing countries and regions. In contrast, the concept of global development cooperation proposed by China and the Belt and Road and other initiatives focus on the expectations and pursuits of people of all countries for peaceful development, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation, which are highly in line with the needs of all parties and the trend of the times, and they have been widely praised and widely recognized by the international community.

**Deepening cooperation and building a global development partnership**

The world today is in a period of great development, great change, and great adjustment. At the same time, peace and development are still the themes of the current era, which is in line with the trend of world historical development. Therefore, it is necessary to accurately grasp the “times” and “trends” in the great changes unseen in a century, carry forward the common values of all mankind, deepen global development cooperation, jointly build a global development partnership of solidarity, equality, balance, and universal benefits, shaping the future path of global governance.

Building a united global partnership for development: Solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons to overcome all difficulties. We must resolutely defend multilateralism, consolidate the internal solidarity of developing countries, deepen “South-South cooperation” and “North-South cooperation,” form a synergy of global governance, and join hands with other countries to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Building an equitable global partnership for development: All countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are equal members of the international community. To this end, countries should adhere to the principle of equality and non-discrimination, and respect each other’s development paths. Developing countries and least developed countries should participate more deeply in the global decision-making process. The North and the South should bridge differences through equal dialog and resolve disputes through negotiation and consultation. It is necessary to practice the concept of international relations of mutual respect and win-win cooperation in global governance and to promote equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal rules for all countries in international cooperation.

Building a balanced global partnership for development: Unbalanced and insufficient development is a common problem faced by all countries around the world, and it is also a prominent problem among countries. To solve this problem, on the one hand, all countries need to participate in global development cooperation, improve the voice and representation of developing countries, encourage more parties to participate in development cooperation, expand the interests of participants, and draw out the largest concentric circle. On the other hand, we must promote the common development of the international community by promoting and improving global governance so that the global governance system reflects the wishes and interests of the vast number of developing countries, narrows the development gap between the North and the South, and eliminates the development deficit.

Building an inclusive global development partnership: Mankind is a whole, the earth is a homeland,
and no one or no country can survive alone. Therefore, in our global development cooperation, we must uphold the concept of global governance based on extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. We must create an inclusive and win-win model, and encourage business circles, social groups, and media think tanks to participate in global development cooperation. We must let people all over the world share the fruits of economic globalization and make development achievements more beneficial to all parties.

“By agreeing with one heart, everything is possible.” From the proposal of a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the common values of all mankind, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the joint construction of a global development partnership, we can see the common concept contained in it: Seeking cooperation and promoting development is an irresistible trend of the times and is the direction for responding to the call of the times and for strengthening global governance. Only by upholding and promoting the common values of all mankind, jointly building a global development partnership, and deepening global development cooperation, can we promote the development of the global governance system in a more just and equitable direction.
Global Development Initiative: Philosophy, Principle, Path, and Progress

全球发展倡议： 理念、原则、路径和进展

Century-old changes and the once-in-a-century pandemic are intertwined, economic globalization has encountered adverse currents, digital transformation and green transition crises coexist, and human development is at a new crossroads. People of all countries have more ardent expectations for peaceful development, stronger calls for fairness and justice, and more determined pursuit of win-win cooperation. How can we beat the pandemic? How do we build a post-pandemic world? These are major issues of common concern to the whole world, and they are also urgent questions that all countries must answer. Chinese President Xi Jinping solemnly put forward the Global Development Initiative at the 76th United Nations General Assembly, calling on the international community to place development at a prominent position in the global macro policy framework, accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and jointly promote a new stage for balanced, coordinated, and inclusive global development. The Global Development Initiative adheres to the core concept of staying committed to the primacy of people, staying committed to benefits for all, staying committed to innovation-driven development, staying committed to harmony between man and nature, and staying committed to results-oriented actions, with climate change and green development, industrialization, the digital economy, and interconnection as key areas of cooperation, and puts forward China’s plan to answer the issues of the times, to build a better post-pandemic world, and to build a community with a shared future for mankind.
The Global Development Initiative adheres to the principles of the primacy of people and development as a priority

**Staying committed to development as a priority:** People are the fundamental driving force of development, and improving people’s well-being is the fundamental purpose of development. The Global Development Initiative regards improving people’s well-being and realizing all-round development as its starting point and goal, insists that development is for the people, that development depends on the people, and that the fruits of development are shared by the people, so as to continuously improve people’s livelihood and enhance people’s sense of happiness, gain, and security.

**Staying committed to development as a priority and the drive for innovation:** Development is an important foundation for solving global challenges and the eternal pursuit of human society. We must unswervingly follow the path of prioritizing development. As the most populous country, China’s development from a relatively backward productivity level to the world’s second largest economy has proved that only by unswervingly persisting in development can a country be prosperous and strong and its people live a happy life. Whether eradicating extreme poverty around the world, responding to food security crises, responding to the impact of the pandemic, quelling conflicts and turmoil, or resolving humanitarian crises, all rely on development. The Global Development Initiative focuses on development, puts development cooperation in a prominent position in global macro policy coordination, solves prominent problems and fundamental challenges in state governance through development, seizes the opportunities of the new industrial revolution, and provides more momentum for common development and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Staying committed to leaving no country and no one behind:** Issues such as the North-South gap, recovery differentiation, development gaps, and technological gaps have become increasingly prominent. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated inequalities between and within countries. The United Nations 2022 *World Economic Situation and Prospects* report pointed out that the per capita GDP of developed economies will fully recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2023, while the per capita GDP of developing and transition economies will continue below the pre-pandemic level of 64. The Global Development Initiative is a global public product that bridges the development gap and cracks the development deficit. It is committed to promoting inclusive development, addressing imbalances and inadequacies in development among and within countries, and enhancing the fairness, effectiveness, and inclusiveness of global development, leaving no country behind. The Global Development Initiative pays attention to the special development difficulties of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries, so that all countries and all groups of people can enjoy the benefits of development equitably.

**Staying committed to harmony between man and nature:** Green and low carbon is the most sustainable development momentum, and a good ecological environment is the most conducive to people’s well-being. The Global Development Initiative advocates seizing the opportunities of
technological development and economic transformation, accelerating green and low-carbon transformation, promoting the optimization and upgrading of energy and industrial structures, and taking the road of green recovery and sustainable development. The Global Development Initiative advocates for the respect for and protection of nature. In accordance with the internal operating laws of ecosystems, equal emphasis is placed on development and protection, overall utilization and restoration, and building a community of life between man and nature. The Global Development Initiative adheres to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, fully implements the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, strengthens global climate and environmental governance, and builds a global ecological civilization.

Staying committed to multilateralism, openness, and inclusiveness: In today’s world, the futures and destinies of all countries are closely linked, and interests are intertwined like never before. Only by gathering the wisdom and strength of all people and mobilizing global resources can we jointly cope with global challenges and promote global development. The Global Development Initiative practices true multilateralism, adheres to the global governance concept of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and maintains the international order based on international law. It abides by the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and gives full play to the overall and coordinating role of the United Nations in the process of sustainable development and strengthening North-South cooperation. The initiative deepens South-South cooperation, promotes communication and dialogue among all parties, and understands all parties’ actual needs and advantageous resources. The initiative promotes mutual understanding, reaches basic consensus, and lays the foundation for joint action. The Global Development Initiative advocates an open and inclusive spirit of partnership. It is an important public product and platform for cooperation provided by China to the international community. It is open to the world and welcomes the participation of all countries.

2 The Global Development Initiative emphasizes action orientation and synergies with existing mechanisms

Global development requires a clear vision and goals but also pragmatic actions. The Global Development Initiative adheres to an action-oriented approach, transforming global development consensus into pragmatic actions for international development cooperation. Starting from the protection and improvement of people’s livelihood and from the most pressing issues of global development, it focuses on key cooperation areas such as poverty reduction, food security, pandemic control and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, the digital economy, and connectivity. The initiative carries out cooperation projects such as people’s livelihood development, technical cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building and meets the development needs of all parties to build a beneficial platform and promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Global Development Initiative tackles pressing development challenges such as poverty reduction, food security, pandemic control and vaccines, and creates the preconditions for a smooth post-pandemic recovery. The initiative actively supports poverty reduction in developing countries by
implementing international poverty reduction cooperation projects that benefit people’s livelihood, sharing and exchanging poverty reduction experiences, and conducting international poverty reduction training. The initiative helps vulnerable groups improve food security by promoting sustainable agricultural development, implementing agricultural aid projects, improving international food and agricultural governance, and coordinating the provision of international food aid. By increasing the availability and affordability of vaccines in developing countries, it helps them improve their vaccine deployment capabilities and carry out experience exchanges on coordinating epidemic prevention and control and economic and social development. By working together, we will build a global immune barrier and a community of health for mankind.

The Global Development Initiative also focuses on medium- and long-term development challenges and promotes a stronger, greener, and healthier global development after the pandemic. The Global Development Initiative will strengthen and improve international coordination and cooperation in sustainable development financing and enhance developing countries’ independent development capacity and resilience. By promoting the comprehensive and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement by the international community, strengthening global climate and environmental governance, promoting green and low-carbon transformation of production and consumption in all countries, strengthening green financing, and promoting green technology research and development, transfers, and sharing to achieve green recovery. The initiative will promote new industrialization cooperation by strengthening policy coordination and capacity building and promote better integration of developing countries into global industrial chains, value chains, and supply chains. By strengthening digital economic cooperation, it will provide new opportunities for countries, especially developing countries, to bridge the digital divide, improve the level of digital infrastructure and industrial development capabilities, and promote shared and inclusive development. By enhancing connectivity, using more convenient technical means of communication and cooperation, promoting technology transfer and knowledge sharing, and strengthening development partnerships, digital technology can better serve the sustainable development of countries.

The Global Development Initiative focuses on synergies with existing cooperation mechanisms, and all parties work together to build a global development community. The Global Development Initiative is neither intended to replace the existing international development agenda, nor is it a fragmentation of the existing 2030 Agenda and its goals. The Global Development Initiative is a “refocus” on development issues, a “recommitment” to the Sustainable Development Goals, a “reinvigoration” of global partnerships, and a “reactivation” of international development cooperation, aiming to arouse the international community focus on development issues, promote the strengthening of the global development partnership, form international synergy, effectively respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic to development, and help developing countries accelerate their recovery and realize the 2030 Agenda as scheduled. The Global Development Initiative will strengthen the alignment of development cooperation strategies with all parties, especially with the African Union’s Agenda 2063, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), and the Partnership for Africa’s Development Initiative. The development process of each region and each
mechanism is synergistic, promotes one another, and achieves one another. The Global Development Initiative will revolve around all 17 SDGs, relying on or linking existing multilateral mechanisms and platforms to strengthen effective actions, including the strong synergy to promote the United Nations, APEC, G20, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, “10+1” and other multilateral cooperation mechanisms and regional and sub-regional platforms to bring together a strong synergy for common development. This will encourage the role of international organizations, governments, business circles, academia, and civil society to compose a symphony for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3 The Global Development Initiative has made a series of important early gains

Since its inception, the Global Development Initiative has received positive responses from the international community, with more than 100 countries expressing support so far. In January 2022, the United Nations established the “Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative,” and more than 50 countries have joined the “Group of Friends” so far. ASEAN countries endorsed the Global Development Initiative in the Joint Statement of the China-ASEAN Summit Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Dialogue Relations. In the outcome document of the China-Pacific Island Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Pacific island countries expressed their willingness to support and join the Global Development Initiative and link the initiative with the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and the Blue Pacific 2050 Strategy. African countries welcomed and supported Global Development Initiatives in the Dakar Declaration of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and believed that improving the global development partnership is the key to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. At the same time, CELAC and Central Asian countries are signing agreements with China, including the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Conference of the China-CELAC Forum, Joint Statement on the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Leaders of China and the Five Central Asian Countries, and other documents, expressing welcome and support for the Global Development Initiative.

Effectively building a political consensus on global development: More than half a year since the proposal was put forward, it has effectively gathered the consensus of the international community on solidarity, cooperation, and accelerated development and has raised the international attention on development issues. All parties generally believe that under the current situation, all countries should further strengthen their political will, push development issues back to the core of the international agenda, create a momentum of attaching importance to development and seeking common cooperation, and oppose the politicization and marginalization of development issues. It is necessary to strengthen cooperation in poverty reduction, agriculture, the digital economy, and other fields, deal with many challenges such as energy and food, and strive to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals on schedule and achieve leapfrog development. It is necessary to speed up the improvement of the global governance system, increase the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries, promote the building of an open world economy, create a favorable environment for accelerating global development, and build an equal and balanced global
It is necessary to continue to support the United Nations in giving full play to its coordinating function in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing United Nations development agencies, implementing the Global Development Initiative, and contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. State Councillor Wang Yi pointed out in his speech at the opening ceremony of the high-level meeting of the “Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative” that China will hold a high-level meeting on global development at an appropriate time to discuss development plans.

**Continuing to increase investment in development aid resources:** As a responsible major developing country, China has always tried its best to help other developing countries to the best of its ability. Since the proposal was put forward, China has further increased its contribution to international development resources. In January 2022, China launched the third China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund with a total amount of U.S. $50 million, providing considerable new resources for promoting international cooperation in areas such as poverty reduction and food security. China has actively participated in the capital increase of the International Development Association, the Asian Development Fund, and the Global Environment Facility. In October 2021, a new batch of projects under the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund to implement the 2030 Agenda Fund will be approved. They will support United Nations development agencies to meet the actual needs of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, and other regions and will carry out project cooperation to promote the development of dozens of countries in areas such as green transformation and recovery, digital technology, and capacity building. The South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund supports development projects in other developing countries in areas such as poverty reduction, food security, and pandemic control. State Councillor Wang Yi stressed that China will increase investment in development resources and further increase support for the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund.

Actively building a project cooperation platform and advocating pragmatic cooperation in eight key areas to achieve important progress: The Global Development Initiative has been transformed from concept to practice, and pragmatic cooperation has been actively carried out in the eight key areas of the initiative, with important progress made in the implementation of relevant projects. In October 2021, China will hold a high-level forum on rural development to promote exchanges and cooperation. China International Poverty Alleviation Center and the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan signed the *Memorandum of Understanding on Poverty Reduction Cooperation between China International Poverty Alleviation Center and the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan*. In January 2022, China, together with the IUCN and other relevant international organizations, successfully held the Global Coastal Forum to build a platform for international exchanges and cooperation on issues such as coastal ecology and protection of migratory birds. In February, the China-Pacific Island Countries Cooperation Center on Climate Change was established to help relevant countries improve their ability to respond to climate change and conduct related academic research. In March, under the framework of the initiative, China and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation co-
organized the Cross-border E-commerce Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development Capacity Building Training Program for Young People in Developing Countries with the active participation of more than 1,000 trainees from nearly 100 countries, well received by all parties. In the same month, UN-Habitat established the Shanghai Sustainable Development City Award to commend outstanding cities around the world that have made outstanding progress in sustainable development and encourage cities around the world to strive to achieve sustainable development goals. In cooperation with the World Food Programme, China has provided food aid to Uganda, Zimbabwe, East Timor, and other countries under the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. As of the end of March 2022, China has provided about 2.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations. State Councilor Wang Yi has announced that China will, on the basis of building consensus, promote the formation of a Global Development Initiative project library with the participation of all parties.

Creating a platform for developing knowledge and experience sharing: Development knowledge is an important development resource, sharing development knowledge is an important part of international development cooperation, and promoting global development knowledge sharing is an important aspect of Global Development Initiative cooperation. China released three issues of the China’s Progress Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2017, 2019 and 2021, participated in two country-specific voluntary presentations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and issued the China’s Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Country Voluntary Statement Report, providing reference for countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, a selection of cases of the Practice of Eliminating Absolute Poverty in China will be published, detailing China’s experience and measures to win the battle against poverty. Since the proposal was put forward, China has continued to increase knowledge sharing with other countries, especially developing countries. In March 2022, the Forty Years of Poverty Reduction in China: Driving Forces, Reference Significance and Future Policy Directions, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Finance, the Development Research Center of the State Council, and the World Bank, was released, analyzing the driving forces of poverty reduction in China over the past four decades and summarizing the reference significance of China’s poverty reduction experience to other developing countries. In May, the China-ASEAN Development Knowledge Network Secretariat was established to build an effective platform for China and ASEAN countries to share development knowledge and development opportunities with each other and to provide intellectual support for building a China-ASEAN community with a shared future, implementing the Global Development Initiative, and the 2030 Agenda. The China International Development Knowledge Center is willing to regularly publish the Global Development Report, promote the exchange and sharing of international development knowledge, support countries in exploring development paths that suit their national conditions, and make due contributions to enriching and improving the treasure house of human development knowledge.
Global Development Initiative Provides a Blueprint for Responding to World Changes

“全球发展倡议”为因应世界变局擘画蓝图

At the crossroads facing the cause of international development, General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the “Global Development Initiative” for the first time at the 76th UN General Assembly in 2021: Staying committed to development as a priority, staying committed to the primacy of people, staying committed to benefits for all, staying committed to innovation-driven development, staying committed to harmony between man and nature, and staying committed to results-oriented actions. In his speech at the 2022 World Economic Forum video conference, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: “Last year, I proposed the Global Development Initiative at the UN General Assembly, calling on the international community to pay attention to the pressing issues facing developing countries.” “China is willing to work with all parties to jointly promote the implementation of the initiative and strive to not leave any country behind.” The Global Development Initiative calls for “jointly promoting global development to a new stage of balance, coordination, and inclusiveness,” which draws a blueprint for coping with the changing world and points out the direction for building a community with a shared future for global development.

Injecting ideological impetus into uniting countries for common development

General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that the Chinese people not only hope for a good life for themselves but also for the people of other countries. The Global Development Initiative adheres to the original mission of the Communist Party of China and injects a strong ideological impetus to unite all countries in the world for common development and win-win cooperation.
Staying committed to development as a priority: The initiative first clarifies the priority of development, emphasizes that development should be placed in a prominent position in the global macro policy framework, strengthens policy coordination among major economies, maintains continuity, stability, and sustainability, and builds a more equal and balanced global development partnership. This will then promote the synergy and efficiency of multilateral development cooperation processes and accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In recent years, the world as a whole has become intertwined with wars and crises, such as economic downturns, geopolitical turmoil, clashes of civilizations, and the spread of the pandemic, all of which have become superimposed upon one another. From an overall perspective, all the chaos in the world today is a reflection of the unresolved themes of peace and development. In the face of crises and challenges, China firmly believes that development is the master key to solving all problems and continues to focus on key areas of global development such as poverty reduction, infrastructure construction, education, and health. We actively promote the construction of an open world economy and help developing countries better integrate into global industrial and value chains. The new development concept of innovation, coordination, greenness, openness, and sharing will be deeply rooted in the hearts of the people.

Staying committed to the primacy of people: The initiative highlights that the goal of development is the primacy of people and emphasizes the protection and promotion of human rights and the protection and promotion of human rights in development. Development is for the people, development depends on the people, and the fruits of development are shared by the people. The goal must be to continuously enhance the people’s sense of happiness, gain, and security and to realize the all-round development of mankind. The concept of primacy of people in development solves the fundamental problem of “for whom,” which not only embodies the basic principles of Marxist historical materialism about the creation of history by the masses and also demonstrates the traditional Chinese political philosophy that “the essence of governance is livelihood; and the essence of livelihood is adequacy.” General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out: Development for the sake of the people makes development meaningful. Only when development depends on the people will development gain momentum. Only by taking the realization of all-round development of mankind as the starting point and end point and the aspiration of people of all countries for a better life as the goal, can we solve all kinds of development problems and create more development opportunities.

Staying committed to benefits for all: The initiative pointed out that the principle of development is inclusive, stressing a focus on the special needs of developing countries and supporting developing countries, especially vulnerable countries with great difficulties, through debt relief, development assistance, and other means. Efforts should also be made to solve the problem of unbalanced and insufficient development among and within countries. In the face of the crisis, mankind must help one another, coexist in harmony, and move forward in the direction of building a community with a shared future for mankind. Emphasis on inclusiveness is not the substitution of one system for another, nor the substitution of one civilization for another, but rather the fact that countries with different social systems, different ideologies, different histories and cultures, and different levels of development are all involved in international affairs. The symbiosis of interests, the sharing of rights, and the sharing
of responsibilities form the greatest common divisor for building a better world.

Providing a guide to action for promoting international development collaboration

The Global Development Initiative proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping has sent a clear signal of support for the central role of the United Nations in international affairs. China has taken initiatives and taken actions. In order to call on the international community to speed up the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China has taken the lead, set an example, and has continuously put forward feasible Chinese solutions. The Global Development Initiative not only gathers international consensus but also promotes common actions, providing an action guide for advancing the cause of global development and international development collaboration.

Insist on the driving force of innovation. The initiative explains that the driving force for development comes from innovation and calls for seizing the historic opportunity of a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, accelerating the transformation of S&T achievements into real productive forces, and creating an open, fair, just, and non-discriminatory technology development environment, tapping new momentum for post-pandemic economic growth and working together to achieve leapfrog development. The ancients of China emphasized that “the only way to advance is to be new with each passing day.” Innovation is a decisive factor in promoting economic and social development and coping with the common challenges of mankind. The new technology revolution represented by big data, the Internet of Things, AI, quantum information, and genetic technology is booming. On the one hand, it is conducive to enhancing the common wealth of mankind; on the other hand, while making the cake bigger, we must also find a better way to slice the cake. Only by taking care of the interests of all countries, especially emerging market countries and developing countries, can all mankind be able to benefit from technological innovation. China has already launched actions to promote the deep integration of digital technology with the real economy and help developing countries bridge the “digital divide” by proposing the Global Data Security Initiative.

Staying committed to harmony between man and nature: The initiative depicts the highlight of development as accelerating green and low-carbon transformation, calling for the improvement of global environmental governance, active response to climate change, and building a community of coexistence between man and nature. The Chinese nation has always attached great importance to the balanced relationship between production and nature. Even as early as the Qin Dynasty, China had formulated a law for the land. A good ecological environment is an inexhaustible source of sustainable development, and all countries in the world should take practical actions to keep safe borders for nature. China has been actively promoting the green transformation of its economy and has continuously improved its efforts to address climate change. In the past ten years, it has eliminated 120 million kilowatts of outdated installed capacity of coal power. It also promised not to build new overseas coal power projects and actively joins hands with other countries to take the road of green, low-carbon, and sustainable development.
Staying committed to results-oriented actions: The initiative summarizes the development focus on promoting cooperation in areas such as poverty reduction, food security, anti-epidemic and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity. The initiative calls for increased investment in development resources, accelerates the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and builds a community with a shared future for global development. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that international cooperation should “become an action team, not a talk shop.” In recent years, China has formulated action plans in areas such as sustainable development, green finance, improving energy efficiency, and fighting the pandemic and is committed to turning development consensus into practical actions. Taking international cooperation against the pandemic as an example, vaccines have been provided to many countries and international organizations. At the same time, the temporarily suspended construction projects along the Belt and Road have resumed work one after another, providing a strong boost for countries to overcome the pandemic and restore their economies.

An important public product and cooperation platform for the international community

At present, the global development process is under severe impact, and problems such as the gap between the North and the South, uneven recoveries, development faults, and technological gaps have become more prominent. The Human Development Index has dropped for the first time in 30 years. There are more than 100 million new impoverished people in the world, and nearly 800 million people are living in hunger. Food security, education, employment, medicine and health, and other areas of people’s livelihood are facing more difficulties. Some developing countries have returned to poverty and chaos due to the pandemic, and many people in developed countries have fallen into difficult living conditions. The international community is facing many challenges in implementing the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative and called for “crossing the development gap and revitalizing the cause of global development,” which once again demonstrated that China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order, and a provider of public goods.

The Global Development Initiative emphasizes adhering to the concept of giving priority to development and putting people at the center. Proposing cooperation ideas and programs is another important public product and cooperation platform that China provides to the international community. The initiative will focus on addressing imbalances in development among and within countries, will clarify goals, principles, and focus areas for global development, especially international development cooperation, and will promote the international community to jointly address challenges and seize opportunities.

The Global Development Initiative is open to the world, and all countries are welcome to participate. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized in his speech at the 2022 World Economic Forum video conference that this initiative is a public product open to the world, aiming to connect with the United
Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote global common development. The initiative aims to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and synergize with existing initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The initiative builds consensus through multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as the United Nations, the G20, and BRICS, as well as various regional and sub-regional platforms and is committed to promoting interconnection and common development, not only improving the level of independent industrialization of developing countries but also contributing to the growth of trade, investment, and employment in Western developed countries. At the same time, it will promote the export of advantageous production capacity, equipment, and technology in emerging market countries including China, promote a shift in the world economy from the virtual to the real and thus form a virtuous cycle of win-win cooperation and shared destiny the world over for all its people.

Since the Global Development Initiative was proposed, it has garnered a strong response from the international community. So far, dozens of countries and many international organizations have made clear statements, not only have developing countries actively supported and echoed the initiative, but many developed countries also welcome it and agree with the ideas and areas of cooperation proposed by the initiative. All parties generally believe that this major initiative will help garner global synergy, and the core concepts and specific measures it embodies demonstrate China’s moral strength and key role in today’s world. They are willing to carry out exchanges and cooperation with China to jointly promote the implementation of the initiative. UN Secretary-General António Guterres spoke highly of the Global Development Initiative, believing that it is of great positive significance for promoting global equality and balanced and sustainable development, expressing that the United Nations fully supports the initiative and is willing to strengthen cooperation with China in this regard.

No matter the wind or the rain, humans must always move forward. The Global Development Initiative has drawn a beautiful blueprint for coping with the changing world. No matter what difficulties we encounter, we must adhere to the development philosophy of the primacy of people, follow the action guideline of pragmatic cooperation, advocating an open and inclusive partnership spirit, put the promotion of development and the protection of people’s livelihood in a prominent position in global macro policies, promote balanced global development, and contribute more Chinese spirit, Chinese wisdom, and Chinese strength to international development cooperation.
Synergies Between the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative

全球发展倡议与“一带一路”协同增效

On September 21, 2021, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative during the general debate of the 76th United Nations General Assembly. This is another major public product that China has provided to the international community.

Development is the master key to solving all problems, and it is also the aspiration of all countries. As a contributor to global development, from the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013 to the Global Development Initiative in 2021, China has contributed Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions, and Chinese strength to solving development problems and development deficits.

China Power: Driving a New Transformation from International Development to Global Development

At present, developing countries are still the “prone areas” of global development problems and face severe challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The World Bank’s 2022 Global Economic Outlook pointed out that the risk of a “hard landing” in developing countries is rising. Not only is the debt problem of developing countries far from resolved, some countries and regions have even returned to poverty and chaos as a result of the pandemic, and the failure of governance in some developing countries has added complexity to the global development deficit. Under the existing development framework, North-South cooperation is progressing slowly, and ODA to developing countries from developed countries is less than half of the pledged amount. In particular, the least developed countries are still far behind the global pace in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
Not only has the original development process of developing countries stagnated and regressed, but developed countries are also facing new development challenges. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the development achievements accumulated by the international community over the years have been severely eroded, and developing countries have faced unprecedented shocks and tests. In July 2021, UN Secretary-General Guterres said: In 2020, there will be 720 million to 811 million people facing hunger in the world, an increase of about 161 million people compared with 2019. The data shows that in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the world is “largely off track.” The post-pandemic recovery of the world economy is struggling, with inflation in some developed countries rising to multi-year highs, and interest rate hikes in the United States and Europe posing stagflation challenges to the global economy. There are also many people in developed countries who are living in dire predicaments, and social problems frequently occur. The ongoing turmoil in Ukraine has had a serious impact on the economy of the eurozone, international energy and food prices have continued to rise, and global supply chain disruptions have intensified. The North and the South still have a cognitive mismatch with regards to the global development deficit, and the fragmented global consciousness has become a major obstacle to global development cooperation.

The great changes unseen in a century and the COVID-19 pandemic are intertwined and superimposed, calling for global development to move towards a new stage of balance, coordination, and inclusiveness. According to the United Nation’s 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report, the pandemic has slowed down the progress of 17 goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and even reversed in some areas, with the Human Development Index declining for the first time in three decades. In the past, the mechanism of international development was still centered on the West, with a few developed countries holding the power to formulate rules and set agendas. President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative, emphasizing the achievement of “stronger, greener, and healthier” global development to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries in international affairs, fully demonstrating the great practical significance of China’s firm determination to attach importance to common development and promote the realization of global development.

The China Plan: Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative

It is against the background of this era that the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative, as dual programs provided by China for the world, place the promotion of common development in a prominent position and form a new force and a new point of integration. It can be seen that the development dimensions of the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative are highly compatible, the processes are connected, and the platforms are mutually reinforcing, which are in line with their respective development stages and tasks, and conform to the laws of global development. Based on the theory of Marxist internationalism, this provides strategic guidance and fundamental compliance for development and cooperation in the new era.

In terms of cooperation, the Belt and Road and Global Development initiatives, as innovative concepts, provide strategic guidance and fundamental compliance for development cooperation in the
new era. The 2030 Agenda is a negotiation consensus of 193 countries around the world, fully expressing the concerns and cares of all countries in the world, and providing a common discourse system for South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue under the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative. The core concepts of the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative are people-centric, adhere to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and combine Chinese concepts with the needs of the world. In 1994, China was the first among more than 190 countries in the world to release its own sustainable development action plan – *China’s Agenda 21*. Entering the 21st century, China’s status as a major developing country has not changed, nor has its empathy for the concerns and needs of other countries. The core of the Global Development Initiative is to promote common development, with the undertones of development priorities, upholding the primacy of people, inclusiveness, innovation, harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and the action-oriented “Six Commitments” and the goal of building a community with a shared future for global development. “The destiny of all mankind is closely related, and the interests of all countries are closely linked.” We ultimately must promote the construction of a community with a shared future for all of mankind.

In key areas, the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda are highly compatible with the five areas of the Belt and Road’s policy communication, facility connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds. The Global Development Initiative and the 2020 UN Decade of Action plan echo one another, focusing on the most pressing issues currently facing developing countries, such as poverty alleviation, food security, economic recovery, education and health and offering “21st century solutions.” Focusing on a series of basic issues, such as why development is needed, for whom development is needed, whom development relies on, and how to develop, the two initiatives promote one another in key areas and jointly contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. By giving play to the important platform role of the Belt and Road Initiative, we will focus on building a healthy silk road, a green silk road, a digital silk road, and an innovative silk road and will jointly build large-scale key projects and “small but beautiful and effective” projects. When promoted alongside the Global Development Initiative, we can focus on the development needs of developing countries and continuously enhance the sense of happiness, gain, and security of local people. The World Bank’s *Belt and Road Economics* report predicts that by 2030, the Belt and Road Initiative is expected to help 7.6 million people in related countries escape from extreme poverty and 32 million people escape from moderate poverty, injecting new impetus into global development cooperation.

In agenda setting, the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative are the main drivers of global South-South cooperation. On the one hand, China has incorporated specific sustainable development goals into its national mid- and long-term development plans and has made them clear and detailed in key special plans to promote the effective alignment of the sustainable development agenda with the 14th Five-Year Plan and the 2035 vision. China has also vigorously carried out foreign aid and international development cooperation in the new era and has provided an important cooperation platform for building a community with a shared future for mankind. On the other hand, China works with international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations system and has translated documents such as the *Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing the*
Belt and Road Initiative and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Initiative to Support Industrialization in Africa and the Least Developed Countries into practical action; China has also strengthened strategic cooperation with emerging market countries and has coordinated with the development process of small island, landlocked, and least developed countries. China has formed a consensus on the Belt and Road Initiative with two-thirds of the world’s countries and one-third of major international organizations. The launch of the Friends of the Global Development Initiative marks an important step in the construction of the initiative’s cooperation mechanism.

**Chinese Wisdom: Sustainable development is good development, and development together is true development**

The Global Development Initiative countdown has already begun, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets that must be achieved by 2030. The Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative were proposed by China and belong to the world. They grasp the pulse of global development and urgent needs and have received positive responses and extensive support from the international community, showing strong resilience and vitality. To further achieve mutual promotion and synergy between the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative, it is necessary to promote implementation from three dimensions.

The first is to unite developing countries and further unleash the potential of South-South cooperation. Within the framework of South-South cooperation, we will help other developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within our capacity and respect the equal development opportunities and rights of developing countries. We will follow the action guidelines for pragmatic cooperation, seize development opportunities in the fields of digital economies, vaccine cooperation, connectivity, and green development and carry out joint self-improvement. We will adhere to the principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities” and require developed countries to live up to their words and deeds and support developing countries in their green and low-carbon transformations. We will explore new economic forms and new development models to help developing countries promote economic and social recovery and development.

The second is to unite with developed countries to further narrow the development gap between the North and the South. On July 1, 2015, China became a member of the OECD Development Center. OECD Secretary-General Gurría called it an “historic and transformative opportunity for mutual benefit and knowledge sharing.” The economic development model of “promising government and effective market” explored by China’s reform and opening up has achieved both economic growth and economic development. At the same time, it has also exerted its late-mover advantages and first-mover advantages with great appeal. As the largest developing country, the largest emerging country, and the second largest economy, China plays the role of bridge and link in the G20. This is the driving force behind the Belt and Road Initiative as it develops third-party markets. The measures taken by developed countries to accelerate economic recovery and international development commitments will determine the development path in the next five or even ten years and will directly
affect the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We urge developed countries to implement their development aid commitments, implement responsible macroeconomic policies, curb the global spread of high inflation, and reduce negative spillover effects on developing countries. We will jointly oppose any country or individual engaging in technological blockades, technological divides, and decoupling of development. While refuting the West’s containment, suppression, attacks, and smears, we must promote North-South cooperation and trilateral cooperation.

The third is to strengthen and give play to the role of the United Nations and practice multilateralism. We will continue to push the United Nations to put development at the core of its agenda and practice multilateralism in all aspects of international development cooperation. We will take a clear stand against unilateralism and protectionism and oppose ideological demarcation and politicization of development issues. We will insist that international affairs be discussed by everyone, continue to adhere to the international development cooperation pattern with North-South cooperation as the main channel and South-South cooperation as the supplement, and promote and lead the construction of discourse systems, knowledge construction, and paradigm research for global development cooperation under the multilateral development framework. We will promote the active participation of the private sector, NGOs, expert think tanks, and the media in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In a word, by “refocusing” on development issues, “recommitting” to the sustainable development goals, “reboosting” global partnerships, and “reactivating” international development cooperation, China is trying to narrow the gap between the North and the South and break the development imbalance. A “roadmap” has been proposed, providing an “accelerator” for advancing the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and bringing together a strong synergy to promote a stronger, greener, and healthier global development and build a community with a shared future for mankind. The Global Development Initiative and Belt and Road Initiative have continuously contributed Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions, and Chinese strength to the improvement of the global governance system, the promotion of global common development, and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.