

The Critical Stage toward Basically Realizing Chinese Modernization

——Strategic Blueprint for China's Economic and
Social Development in the 15th Five-Year Plan Period

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Introduction

The progress China has achieved in economic and social development composes a magnificent chapter in the annals of human history. From 1953 onward, China set out on the grand journey toward the rejuvenation of the nation, trudging each mile with concrete and determined steps. More than seven decades of dedication and endeavors have paved the road behind with astonishing feats, with the 14 accomplished five-year plans each representing a milestone. Today, as China is striding toward its next goal of building itself into a great modern socialist country in all respects, the Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, shows profound significance. It will help steer Chinese modernization through critical phases, and, more importantly, offer Chinese wisdom for the human society pursuing a new model of sustainable development amid major changes unseen in a century and the ongoing sci-tech revolution. It is another grand blueprint that China draws to guide itself toward even greater progress, and to advance the reform of the global governance system.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) will mark a pivotal stage for China to reach the goal of basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035. From the very first Five-Year Plan period (1953-1957), in which the industrial groundwork was laid for China's development, all the way to today's 14th Five-year Plan period (2021-2025), which ushered in high-quality development, China's five-year planning mechanism has provided strategic resolve that guides the country through periodic fluctuations, and institutional resilience that enables stability amid transformations. With all that has been achieved during the 14th Five-year Plan period, the 15th Five-Year Plan period will enjoy a good start and gather enormous momentum. Driven by technological innovation and new quality productive forces, China will embrace development of even higher quality, and achieve decisive progress in basically realizing socialist modernization.

Today, profound changes unseen in a century are unfolding across the world at a faster pace. China, with its unique, systematic five-year plans, will contribute more of its strengths to tackling global challenges in a way that responds both to its own needs and to the world's aspirations. As Chinese President Xi Jinping put it, "China will not change its resolve to open wider at a high standard; it will not change its determination to share development opportunities with the rest of the world; and it will not change its commitment to an economic globalization that is more open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial for all." This is a solemn promise that China has made to the entire global community. In this world full of changes and uncertainties, the formulation and implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan will enable China to maintain its role as the major engine and anchor of world peace and development, and present a vision of

unwavering and enduring certainty to the world.

As the 15th Five-Year Plan period is about to dawn, we are slowly unfolding another grand picture of China's social and economic development. What deserve our contemplation are not just the progress painted with bold brushstrokes, but more importantly, the profound wisdom, lofty spirit, and unwavering commitment that China demonstrates in this great work of art as a nation with a global vision.

Chapter 1

Historical Context: A Critical Stage for Reinforcing the Foundation and Making All-around Efforts

The 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026–2030) will be critical as the country works to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts toward basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035. It will thus serve as a key link between the past and the future.

——Communique of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

From October 20 to 23, 2025, the fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was convened in Beijing. Recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2026–2030) was deliberated over and adopted at the session. It is a blueprint that builds on past achievements and lays out plans for the future.

In addition to reviewing the progress and achievements in China's modernization, the 19th CPC National Congress, held in 2017, outlined the roadmap and timetable for the country's development going forward. It set out that, from 2020 to 2035, on the basis of having achieved moderate prosperity in all respects, China will, in 15 more years, basically realize socialist modernization.

The 15 years are covered by three five-year plans: the 14th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2021–2025, the 14th Five-Year Plan), the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030), and the 16th Five-Year Plan (2031–2035). On the new journey toward basically realizing modernization, the three each corresponds to a different stage: the 14th Five-Year Plan marks the initial stage; the 16th Five-Year Plan secures the decisive victory; and the 15th Five-Year Plan, serving as the crucial link between the two, requires the country to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts to ensure decisive progress toward the 2035 goal of basically realizing socialist modernization.

I. Defining Features and Distinctive Strengths of the CPC's Governance of China

Realizing modernization has been an ongoing quest of the Chinese people dating back to modern times since 1840. Following the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, formulating well-designed five-year plans and implementing them

consecutively represent an important piece of governance experience for the CPC in leading the people in pioneering the path to Chinese modernization, as well as a major political strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Except for the national economic adjustment period from 1963 to 1965, China has formulated and implemented 14 five-year plans since 1953. Generation after generation of Chinese Communists have remained steadfast in their resolve to build a modern socialist country.

1. A Great Journey of Formulating and Implementing 14 Five-Year Plans

With the first Five-Year Plan, China initiated large-scale, planned economic development. The first to the fifth five-year plans saw that China, leveraging the strength of its socialist system in concentrating resources on major projects, rapidly established from scratch an independent and relatively complete industrial system and economic structure, improved people's livelihoods, and enhanced China's international standing, laying a solid material and technological foundation for the country's sustained self-reliant development.

From the sixth to the 12th Five-Year Plans, China strided resolutely on the historic journey of reform and opening up and socialist modernization. As economic reforms deepened, the function and role of the five-year plans under the socialist market economy were redefined, with greater emphasis on macro-level and strategic guidance. During the period of these seven five-year plans, China achieved the historic transitions from a highly centralized planned economy to a dynamic socialist market economy, which greatly released and developed the country's productive forces, improved the living standards of over one billion people, and transformed their outlook on life. China rose to the world's second largest economy, marking great progress from resolving food and clothing shortages, to achieving moderate prosperity on the whole, and then to promoting the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

As socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era and China shifted from high-speed growth to high-quality development, the five-year plans placed more emphasis on optimizing the economic structure and prioritizing the quality and benefit of development. Through the 13th and 14th Five-Year Plans, China's GDP has increased from less than 70 trillion yuan to over 130 trillion yuan; China has accomplished the historical feat of eradicating absolute poverty, and finished building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, thus embarking on a new journey to build itself into a modern socialist country in all respects. The Chinese nation has achieved the tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong and embraced bright prospects for realizing the great rejuvenation. Today, we are closer to, more confident in, and more capable than ever of reaching the goal of rejuvenating the Chinese nation.

The 14 five-year plans implemented consecutively in China have helped drive major advances in economic and social development, composite national strength, and people's living standards, bringing about the two miracles of rapid economic growth

and long-term social stability, something the world has rarely seen before. They have showcased, witnessed, and marked the extraordinary journey and remarkable achievements of the Chinese path to modernization. At constant prices, China's GDP in 2023 was 223 times that of 1952, while its per capita GDP increased by 89 times over the same period. China, once a small-scale economy with a low global share, has grown into and remained the world's second largest economy, accounting for over 17 percent of the world total. The formulation and implementation of five-year plans not only demonstrate the institutional advantage of socialism with Chinese characteristics in unleashing and developing productive forces, but embody the underlying success formula for China's modernization and the sustained, healthy, and stable development of its economy and society.

2. Valuable Experience in Formulating and Implementing Five-Year Plans

Through the formulation and consecutive implementation of 14 well-designed five-year plans, China has gained a wealth of valuable experiences in advancing economic and social development in a planned, phased, and adaptive manner.

First, we must uphold the leadership of the CPC to ensure the correct direction and objectives while reflecting its new theories, development philosophy, and vision for modernization. A complete institutional framework has been established for the formulation and implementation of five-year plans: the plenary session of the CPC Central Committee proposes planning recommendations, the State Council then drafts the plans, which are reviewed and approved by the National People's Congress, before being released to the public for implementation. Through the formulation of medium- and long-term development strategies, five-year plans, and annual plans, the CPC has set well-coordinated long-, medium-, and short-term goals and tasks, ensuring their orderly implementation and gradually turning the grand blueprint into tangible results.

Second, we must remain committed to ensuring and improving public wellbeing, stand firmly with the people in addressing issues, and focus on resolving the pressing difficulties and problems that concern the people most at each stage of development. Efforts should start from the public's actual needs in areas such as employment, education, social security, housing, medical services, eldercare, marriage, childbearing, and childcare; these needs should be, one by one, carefully examined, thoroughly studied, and addressed through targeted measures. From solving the problem of food and clothing, to achieving moderate prosperity, and now working steadily toward common prosperity, Chinese modernization has followed the rhythm and milestones of successive five-year plans, responding, step by step, to the people's aspirations for a better life.

Third, we must strengthen systems thinking by coordinating comprehensive planning with targeted priorities. This enables us to achieve breakthroughs in key areas while also securing advancements across the board, ensuring that critical breakthroughs lead to

overall progress. Reforms at all levels and across all areas should be planned in an integrated manner, with clear overall plans, timetables, and roadmaps, as well as defined strategic priorities, sequencing, and focus, while all reform measures should be made mutually supportive and effectively coordinated.

Fourth, we must integrate enhanced top-level design with broad public consultation by actively seeking public opinions and drawing on collective wisdom. In developing the five-year plans, the CPC has attached great importance to gathering views and suggestions from all provincial authorities, central departments, experts and scholars, officials, the general public, and non-CPC individuals through various channels. In recent years, online platforms have been introduced to solicit public input in formulating the five-year plans. From May 20 to June 20, 2025, more than 3.113 million suggestions were gathered through an online campaign; . Upon its issuance to solicit input from a wide range of localities, departments, and sectors, the draft document garnered a total of 2,112 proposed revisions, of which 21.4 percent were incorporated by the drafting team. The formulation process of the five-year plans has thus become a vivid embodiment of whole-process people's democracy in action.

3. Distinctive Practices in the History of Global Modernization

China's sustained formulation and implementation of medium- and long-term development plans to advance modernization represents a distinctive phenomenon in the history of global modernization. The practice of developing such plans is not unique to China: countries such as the Soviet Union, France, Japan, India, and the Republic of Korea have at various times adopted similar plans to guide their economic and social development. However few have been able to formulate and consecutively implement such plans toward predetermined goals with the remarkable success that China has achieved.

A foreign statesman noted that China's five-year plans, consistently and meticulously formulated and effectively implemented, have ensured the country's sustained and stable economic and social progress. Gert Grobler, former South African Ambassador, remarked, "As adaptive instruments of strategic statecraft, these plans balance continuity with flexibility, blending central direction with local feedback to ensure long-term stability and competitiveness. They are key to understanding China's trajectory and its evolving global role." Some foreigners expressed admiration for China's government in planning development blueprints for the next five, ten, or even several decades or a century, and in implementing them step by step to bring them into reality -- something unimaginable and far less achievable under their own national systems.

Chinese modernization, with its remarkable achievements and profound impact, has reshaped the world economic landscape. Through its unique approach and course, it stands as a distinctive practice in the global modernization journey, leading humanity toward a new form of human advancement.

II. Major Achievements in Economic and Social Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period

China's development trajectory in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) has been truly momentous and extraordinary. Facing intricate and volatile international developments as well as the challenging and arduous domestic tasks of reform, development, and maintaining stability, China, rising to challenges and forging ahead against all the odds, has withstood the severe impact of a once-in-a-century pandemic, effectively addressed a series of major risks and challenges, and achieved pioneering progress, breakthrough transformations, and historic accomplishments in economic and social development. China's economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, and composite national strength have reached new heights while its cultural soft power and the influence of Chinese culture have increased significantly, marking a solid and powerful stride forward on the great journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects.

1. High-Quality Economic Development and Enhanced Composite National Strength

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's economy has managed to withstand pressures, expand in scale, and improve in quality, laying the most solid foundation for the country's confidence.

First, the economic strength has grown significantly. China's economic aggregate has successively crossed the thresholds of 110 trillion, 120 trillion, and 130 trillion yuan, and is expected to reach around 140 trillion yuan by 2025, representing an average annual growth rate of 5.5 percent and an incremental increase of more than 35 trillion yuan. In 2024, the per capita GDP reached \$13,445, placing China among the top tier of upper-middle-income countries.

Second, the industrial upgrading has yielded notable results. Traditional industries have been revitalized and upgraded, emerging sectors have expanded rapidly, and the manufacturing structure has become more advanced. New industries, new business formats, and new business models, dubbed the "three new" economy, have injected fresh impetus into high-quality development. Emerging industries such as new energy vehicles (NEVs), photovoltaics, and wind power have reached world-leading scales, and the country has built the world's largest and most extensive network infrastructure.

Third, China's global contribution has become increasingly prominent. At present, China, accounting for about 17 percent of the global economy, maintains one of the highest growth rates among major economies and contributes, on average, roughly 30 percent to global economic growth annually, serving as a key stabilizer and driver of the world economy.

2. Major Sci-tech Innovation Breakthroughs and Enhanced Innovation-driven Development

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has accelerated efforts to achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology. The innovation-driven strategy is generating increasingly strong momentum, leading to a surge in social innovation vitality.

First, the capacity for scientific and technological innovation has significantly improved. China has rapidly risen on the global science and technology innovation landscape, climbing to the 10th place in the Global Innovation Index. It now hosts over 500,000 new- and high-tech enterprises and 26 of the top 100 global innovation clusters, ranking first in the world. Zero-to-one breakthroughs have been achieved in key fields such as high-end equipment, energy, and aerospace, with major national projects -- from the deep ocean to outer space and cyberspace-- making frequent appearances. The surge of innovations in frontier areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum communication, and advanced semiconductors has elevated Hangzhou's high-tech start-ups, known as the "Six Little Dragons", to international prominence. China is making major strides from a global manufacturing hub to a global innovation center.

Second, the intensity of R&D investment has increased considerably. China has established a comprehensive mechanism to support innovation, further igniting the creativity across society. In 2024, the country's total R&D spending reached 3.6 trillion yuan, and its intensity of R&D investment increased to 2.68 percent of the country's GDP, close to the average level of the OECD (Organization for Economic and Co-operation Development) countries, ranking second in the world.

Third, the innovative outcomes have become a key driver in fostering new quality productive forces. As of June 2025, China had held 5.01 million valid domestic invention patents, with 15.3 high-value invention patents per 10,000 people. With innovation as the key driver in overall economic and social development, many of these patents have been rapidly applied across advanced, intelligent, and green sectors, driving industries to move up the value chain toward the mid- and high-end, and further nurturing and expanding new quality productive forces.

3. Comprehensively Deepened Reform and Higher-level Opening Up

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has carried comprehensive reforms to a deeper level, making breakthroughs in key fields, and advanced a broader agenda of opening up across more areas and in greater depth.

First, the market-oriented reforms have been comprehensively deepened. China has solidly carried out the building of a high-standard socialist market economy, while unswervingly consolidating and developing the public sector, and unswervingly encouraging, supporting, and guiding the development of the non-public sector. Acting in line with the Private Sector Promotion Law, it has continually reduced the negative list for market access. The business environment has been consistently improved through the refinement of the systems underpinning the market economy, such as those for property rights protection, market access, fair competition, and social credit. The efficiency of building a unified national market has been increasingly unleashed, while

reforms for the market-based allocation of production factors have been advancing more rapidly. Consequently, the strengths of China's vast market have been brought into full play.

Second, the institutionalized opening up has made key strides. Pilot zones for institutionalized opening up, such as free trade zones, have yielded fruitful results, forming a comprehensive reform and opening-up landscape across the country and producing nearly 200 institutional innovations. China has actively engaged in shaping international rules and has continued to foster a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized. The negative list for foreign investment has been significantly reduced, pilot programs for opening up the service sectors such as telecommunications, healthcare, and education have expanded steadily, and restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector have been fully eliminated. China has also, for many consecutive years, hosted major international events such as China International Import Expo, China Import and Export Fair, China International Fair for Trade in Services, and China International Consumer Products Expo. The belief that "embracing China is embracing opportunities, and believing in China is believing in a better tomorrow" is becoming a widely shared consensus among the international community.

Third, a diversified trade structure has taken shape at a faster pace. Great progress has been achieved in pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. China has become a major trading partner for over 150 countries and regions, led the world in the total volume of trade in goods for several consecutive years, and remained a major destination for global investment and a leading country in outbound investment. Its trade with emerging markets including ASEAN, Latin America, Africa, and Central Asia has grown by more than 10 percent annually. The China-Europe freight train services now connects over 200 cities in 26 European countries, with a total of more than 110,000 trips made.

4. Marked Improvement in Public Wellbeing and Thriving Social Development

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has remained committed to a people-centered development philosophy and enabled the fruits of development to benefit all the people more fairly. These fruits of economic and social development are manifested in vibrant households and abundant material wealth, continuously enhancing the people's sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security.

First, the employment and social security systems have been further improved. Maintaining stable employment has been given a higher priority, with top-level plans formulated at the central level to promote high-quality and full employment, and a series of supportive policies successively introduced. Annual urban employment has remained stable, with over 12 million new jobs created each year. By the end of 2024, the number of employed people in China had reached 734 million, and the per capita disposable income rose to 41,000 yuan. Social security reforms have continued to

deepen to develop a better multi-tiered social security system. China has brought over one billion people under the coverage of basic old-age insurance. With the coverage rates for both basic old-age insurance and basic medical insurance exceeding 95 percent, China has established the world's largest social security system.

Second, the education and healthcare resources have been expanded and improved. China has established the world's largest education and health care systems. The completion rate of compulsory education and the coverage rates of basic medical insurance have both exceeded 95 percent. The overall education attainment across all levels has reached or surpassed the average level of middle- and high-income countries; 97 percent of children of rural migrant workers are enrolled in public schools or provided with government-funded school placements; and the average years of schooling for new entrants to the labor force has exceeded 14 years. A nationwide direct settlement system for cross-provincial medical treatment has been built from the ground up, now benefiting over 400 million people. In 2024, the average life expectancy reached 79 years, ranking fourth among 53 middle- and high-income countries.

Third, solid progress has been made in advancing rural revitalization and common prosperity. China has achieved moderate prosperity in all respects and accomplished the historical feat of eradicating absolute poverty. In former poverty-stricken areas, rural residents' per capita disposable income has risen by nearly 40 percent to over 17,000 yuan. With orderly progress in reforms involving the market-based transaction of rural collective construction land for commercial use and the rural residential land system, the country's agricultural modernization has made significant strides, resulting in gradual improvements in mechanisms for integrated urban-rural development.

5. Advancement of Green Development and Building of a Beautiful China

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, green development has become an increasingly defining feature of China's development, with the vision of a Beautiful China with enduring green mountains, clear waters, and fresh air gradually taking shape.

First, China has achieved notable results in green and low-carbon transformation. It has made coordinated efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions, establishing the world's largest carbon emissions trading market and clean power supply system. It has become one of the countries with the fastest decline in energy intensity globally, with its energy consumption per unit of GDP decreasing by 11.6 percent, equivalent to a reduction of 1.1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide. China's clean energy sector has developed rapidly. The country has established the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system, with one in every three kilowatt-hours of electricity now coming from green energy sources.

Second, the ecological environment has been improved continuously. Through sustained efforts to keep its skies blue, waters clear, and lands clean, China has set a successful example, as the largest developing country, of effectively protecting the environment while achieving rapid economic and social development. With forest

coverage rising to over 25 percent, China is now leading the world in expanding green coverage, contributing one-quarter of the world's new green coverage.

Third, the green economy has emerged as a new growth pole. China has continuously enhanced the value of its development by making its industries greener, turning green development into a new engine for economic growth and a new driver for foreign trade. Advantageous industries, including the "new trio" —NEVs, photovoltaics, and lithium batteries—have continued to expand, enriching the global supply of green products. China now manufactures over 70 percent of the world's lithium batteries, 70 percent of photovoltaic modules, and 60 percent of wind turbine equipment.

6. Strengthened National Security and a Resilient Line of Risk Control

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has adopted a holistic approach to national security, ensuring sound interaction between high-quality development and high-level security and effectively reinforcing its national security shield.

First, food and energy security has been further strengthened. China has incorporated the overall food and energy production capacity into its security benchmarks. In 2024, China's grain output exceeded 700 million metric tons for the first time, with the per capita grain possession surpassing 500 kilograms, higher than the internationally recognized food security line of 400 kilograms per capita. The production of coal, crude oil, and natural gas has maintained steady growth, while the new energy industry has achieved remarkable progress, making China home to the world's most complete and largest energy system.

Second, the resilience of industrial and supply chains has been significantly enhanced. China's advantage of possessing a complete range of manufacturing sectors has become more pronounced. Its manufacturing value-added output is expected to have increased by more than eight trillion yuan, contributing over 30 percent of global growth and ranking first worldwide for 15 consecutive years. In key areas such as semiconductors and industrial software, efforts to strengthen and extend industrial chains have accelerated, driving industries to move up the value chain, shifting from quantity to quality, from low-and mid-to high-end, and from follower to leader across many fields.

Third, the national security system has been strengthened continuously. A national security framework has largely taken shape, significantly enhancing the country's capacity to safeguard security and enabling effective responses to multiple major public safety incidents. Recognized by the international community as one of the safest countries in the world, China has solidified a firm foundation for long-term social stability. In the past two years, a growing number of foreign visitors have visited and experienced China firsthand; overseas netizens have increasingly overcome preconceived notions about China and developed greater recognition and appreciation for the country's modernity, friendliness, peacefulness, progressiveness, and security.

III. Strategic Plans for Economic and Social Development in the 15th Five-Year Plan Period

The 15th Five-Year Plan period will be critical as the country works to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts toward basically realizing socialist modernization by 2035. It will thus serve as a key link between the past and the future. During this period, China will face in-depth and complex changes in the development environment, where strategic opportunities coexist with risks and challenges, while uncertainties and unforeseen factors are rising. China's economy has a solid foundation, advantages in many areas, strong resilience, and great potential. The conditions for and underlying trend of long-term growth remain unchanged. The country is seeing the strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics, its enormous market, its complete industrial system, and its abundant human resources all coming to the fore. China will continue to pursue economic development as its central task, with high-quality development as its main focus, reform and innovation as the fundamental driving force, meeting the people's ever-growing needs for a better life as its fundamental goal, and full and rigorous Party self-governance as the fundamental underpinning for all its efforts. China will promote higher-quality economic growth while achieving an appropriate increase in economic output and make solid headway in promoting well-rounded personal development and common prosperity for all. All of this will allow China to secure decisive progress toward basically realizing socialist modernization.

The major objectives for economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period include: significant achievements in high-quality development; substantial improvements in scientific and technological self-reliance and strength; fresh breakthroughs in further deepening reform comprehensively; notable cultural and ethical progress across society; further improvements in people's quality of life; major new strides in advancing the Beautiful China Initiative; and further advances in strengthening the national security shield. Building on this, we will work hard for a further five years to ensure that by 2035 China's economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, national defense capabilities, composite national strength, and international influence will all be markedly stronger, that its per capita GDP will be on a par with that of a mid-level developed country, that its people will live better and happier lives, and that socialist modernization will have been basically realized.

1. Significant Achievements in High-quality Development

We should build a modernized industrial system and reinforce the foundations of the real economy. To this end, we should keep our focus on the real economy. A modernized industrial system should be developed with advanced manufacturing as the backbone. We should upgrade traditional industries, foster emerging industries and future-oriented industries. We should accelerate agricultural and rural modernization and take solid steps to advance all-around rural revitalization. We should enhance the

overall production capacity, quality, and performance of agriculture. We should refine China's regional economic layout and promote coordinated regional development. We should leverage synergies between the coordinated regional development strategy, major regional strategies, the functional zoning strategy, and the new urbanization strategy, improve the distribution of major productive forces, and ensure that key regions play their role as growth poles. The goal is to develop a regional economic layout and a territorial space system that enable regions to leverage their complementary strengths in the pursuit of high-quality development. We should see that the economy keeps growing within an appropriate range and achieve a notable increase in household consumption as a share of GDP.

2. Substantial Improvements in Scientific and Technological Self-reliance and Strength

We should achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology and steer the development of new quality productive forces. We should seize the historic opportunity presented by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation to boost China's strength in education, science and technology, and human resources in a well-coordinated manner. We should enhance the overall performance of China's innovation system, raise our innovation capacity across the board, and keep fostering new quality productive forces. We should promote advances in original innovation and breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, facilitate full integration between technological and industrial innovation, pursue integrated development of education, science and technology, and talent, and advance the Digital China Initiative.

3. Fresh Breakthroughs in Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively

We should build a robust domestic market and accelerate the fostering of a new pattern of development. To this end, we should boost consumption, and expand effective investment. We should move faster to develop a high-standard socialist market economy and boost the momentum for high-quality development. We should uphold and improve China's basic socialist economic systems and better leverage the leading role of economic structural reform. We should stimulate the vitality of all market entities and work faster to improve the institutions and mechanisms for market-based allocation of production factors. We should steadily continue to expand opening up at the institutional level, safeguard the multilateral trading system, and promote broader international economic flows. We should advance reform and development through greater openness and further improve the systems and mechanisms for high-standard opening up.

4. Notable Cultural and Ethical Progress across Society

We should inspire the cultural creativity of our entire nation and foster a thriving socialist culture. We must uphold the guiding role of Marxism in the ideological domain, remain firmly rooted in the broad and rich Chinese culture, and follow the trends of information technology. On this basis, we should develop a socialist culture

with Chinese characteristics for the new era that has the power to guide, unite, and inspire our people and enjoys strong international influence. Tangible steps should be taken to build China into a country with a strong culture. In such ways, we can develop stronger cultural confidence and steadily enhance our national soft power.

5. Further Improvements in People's Quality of Life

We should work harder to ensure and improve public wellbeing and steadily promote common prosperity for all. We should ensure that public services are inclusive, meet essential needs, and provide a cushion for those most in need, while working to resolve the pressing difficulties and problems that concern the people most. The channels of social mobility should remain unimpeded, and living standards should be further improved. We should promote high-quality and full employment, refine the income distribution system, develop education that meets the people's expectations, improve the social security system, and facilitate high-quality development of the real estate sector. We should also work to advance the Healthy China Initiative, promote high-quality population development, and take solid steps to ensure equitable access to basic public services.

6. Major New Strides in Advancing the Beautiful China Initiative

We should accelerate the green transition in all areas of economic and social development in an effort to build a Beautiful China. We should unwaveringly uphold the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets and put it into concrete action. Guided by our goals of achieving peak carbon and carbon neutrality, we should make concerted efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, and boost economic growth. We should reinforce our ecological security shields and strengthen our green development drivers. We should press ahead with the critical battle against pollution and the drive to upgrade ecosystems, move faster to develop a new energy system, work actively and prudently toward peak carbon emissions, further reduce the emissions of major pollutants, and accelerate the shift to eco-friendly production practices and lifestyles.

7. Further Advances in Strengthening the National Security Shield

We should modernize China's national security system and capacity and advance the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level. We should remain steadfast in pursuing a holistic approach to national security and follow a socialist path of social governance with Chinese characteristics to ensure that our society is both full of vitality and in good order. We should establish a sound national security system, build up national security capacity in key sectors, enhance public safety governance, and improve the social governance system.

Chapter 2

Fundamental Guidance: Basic Principles of China's Economic and Social Development

The CPC Central Committee established the following guiding principles for economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period: upholding the Party's overall leadership; putting the people first; pursuing high-quality development; comprehensively deepening reform; promoting both an efficient market and a well-functioning government; and ensuring both development and security.

—Communique of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

Achieving the major objectives for the 15th Five-Year Plan period and securing decisive progress toward the basic realization of socialist modernization depend on a thorough understanding and implementation of six important principles: upholding the Party's overall leadership; putting the people first; pursuing high-quality development; comprehensively deepening reform; promoting both an efficient market and a well-functioning government; and ensuring both development and security. These principles clarify the fundamental guarantee, value pursuit, primary task, core driving force, strategic approach, and key underpinning for China's economic and social development in the coming Five-Year Plan period. They also serve as a scientific summary of China's development experience since reform and opening up, particularly in the new era, highlighting the worldview and methodology of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and providing fundamental guidance for the country's economic and social development.

I. Upholding the Party's Overall Leadership

China's success hinges on the CPC. This is a truth proven time and again by history. National governance, a complex system, requires a core in exercising overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all sides. The governance of China is like a grand chessboard, with the Party as the General; only when the Chariots, Horses, and Cannons each play their part can the overall situation be clearly seen and effectively managed. The CPC's continued reign over a long period of time has helped avoid factional strife, interest-group bias, short-sighted policies, and/or frequent policy shifts often seen in Western multi-party systems, offering a crucial anchor of stability for the country's long-term economic and social development. In steering the economy, the Party emphasizes top-level design, comprehensive planning, coordination, implementation, and oversight, thereby effectively charting the course, making overall

plans, and ensuring concrete results.

Uphold the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee. To uphold the Party's leadership, we must, first of all, adhere to the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee. While matters may emerge from every direction, ultimate authority rests with the central leadership, as the CPC Central Committee sets the guiding principles and policies for the Party and the state. In the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China underwent the great challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was precisely under the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core that China swiftly launched a coordinated nationwide campaign. A strategic approach was quickly established consisting of unified command, comprehensive implementation, and multidimensional systems to contain the virus, effectively curbing its widespread transmission, maximizing the protection of people's lives and health, and securing a major victory against the once-in-a-century pandemic. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, the CPC Central Committee will continue to provide centralized, unified leadership over the country's economic and social development, refine the mechanisms for implementing its major decisions and plans to ensure cohesion across different levels and effective implementation, and chart the overall course while coordinating all efforts, thereby offering fundamental guarantee for achieving the objectives for economic and social development.

Uphold the Party's leadership across all aspects and through all the work. Upholding the Party's overall leadership is not an empty or abstract notion; it is manifested in progress across the economic, political, cultural, social, and eco-environmental fields. In steering the economic and social development, the CPC emphasizes top-level design, comprehensive planning, coordination, implementation, and oversight, thereby charting the course, making overall plans, and ensuring concrete results. In the first year of the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China announced the full victory in its fight against poverty, creating a miracle in human history. The CPC Central Committee formulated a targeted strategy for poverty eradication, with Party secretaries at all five administrative levels—province, city, county, township, and village—working toward the same goal. A total of 255,000 village-based working teams, and over three million first secretaries of CPC village committees and village-based officials were selected and dispatched, with Party members consistently serving on the frontline of poverty eradication. It was precisely by upholding the Party's overall leadership that the Party members, officials, and people were able to complete this arduous task through dedication and perseverance. Looking ahead to the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will maintain the Party's leadership across all aspects and through all the work of economic and social development, strengthen the education, training, and practical experience of its officials, and continue to improve the capacity of Party organizations and Party officials at all levels, especially leading officials, in planning reform and promoting development.

Unswervingly advance the Party's self-reform. The defining features of the CPC lies in its courage to engage in self-reform. Bearing the historical mission of building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation, the CPC constantly examines itself against the demands of the times, stays vigilant to potential risks, and forges ahead through continuous self-reform to enhance its leadership and governance. Steering social transformation with its own transformation is not only a hallmark of the CPC, but the secret to its enduring vigor and vitality. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue to advance the great new project of Party building in the new era, stay committed to strengthening full and rigorous self-governance, and persevere with self-reform. Efforts will be made to deepen the reform in Party building, improve conduct, build integrity, and combat corruption while reversing all form of unhealthy tendencies. It will refine mechanisms for conducting political oversight in a more concrete, targeted, and routine manner, establish systems for carrying out regular and intensive education on Party discipline, and enhance the integrated mechanism that ensures officials do not have the audacity, opportunity, or desire to commit corruption. Through these efforts, the oversight system of the Party and the state will be improved, with enhanced mechanisms for regulating and supervising the allocation and exercise of power.

II. Putting the People First

The people are the true heroes, for it is they who write history. This is a basic tenet of historical materialism and also the fundamental law governing the advance of history. As a Marxist party, the CPC has no special interests of its own apart from the interests of the people, and standing with the people represents its fundamental political stance. Historically speaking, the CPC came from the people, was born for the people, and has prospered because of the people. It has always empathized with the people and stood with them through good times and testing times. Looking ahead, all governance activities of the CPC and all aspects of China's development must remain grounded in the principle of putting the people first.

Respect the principal position of the people. The people are the most active element in the productive forces, and the people's creativity is the most valuable asset. In the final analysis, the two miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability in contemporary China are both created by the people. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will remain standing firmly with the people, responding to their wishes, respecting their creativity, and pooling their wisdom, and will act on the principles of respecting work, knowledge, talent, and creativity. Efforts will be made to invigorate the entire society's dynamism for undertaking initiatives and pursuing innovation, and to bring into full play the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of the people in promoting economic and social development. It will improve the systems and mechanisms for whole-process people's democracy, strengthen institutions that

guarantee the people's running of the country, refine socialist consultative democracy, enhance democracy at the community level, and improve the policies and measures that enable the united front to rally the people's support and pool their strength.

Ensure and improve the people's wellbeing through development.

Fulfilling the people's aspirations for a better life and deliver them a decent life is the CPC's long-cherished goal. China is committed to ensuring that the fruits of development are shared by the people, so that the country's big picture of development aligns with the people's individual aspirations. It has put in place the world's largest social security system, where 328 million elderly receive monthly pensions, effectively preventing the widespread "old-age poverty" seen in some other countries. China has also established the world's largest healthcare system, channeling high-quality medical resources to community-level and rural institutions while promoting more balanced regional distribution of the resources, so that over 90 percent of households can reach the nearest healthcare facility within 15 minutes. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China, in line with the principle of doing its best within its means, will strengthen efforts to ensure and improve the people's wellbeing, refine the systems of basic public services, enhance services that are inclusive, meet essential needs, and provide a cushion for those most in need, while working to resolve the most practical problems that are of the greatest and most direct concern to the people—employment, healthcare, education, and eldercare. Also, it will advance the Healthy China Initiative, further raise the average life expectancy, improve the people's health, and provide the people with fair, accessible, systematic, continuous, high-quality, and effective health services.

Steadily advance common prosperity for all. Development, unfolding on a different timescale, can never be fully concurrent. China has chosen not to turn a blind eye to this seemingly natural course, as some other nations have, but instead to extend a helping hand with firm resolve. Under the leadership of the CPC, all 98.99 million poor rural residents have been lifted up and out of poverty, leaving no household or individual behind. The defining feature of Chinese modernization is common prosperity for all, setting it apart from Western modernization featuring capital supremacy and wealth disparity. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will further improve its income distribution framework under which primary distribution, redistribution, and tertiary distribution are well coordinated and mutually complementary. Efforts will be made to improve the mechanisms for determining wages, keeping them increasing at a reasonable rate, and ensuring their full payment; to promote further redistribution by means of taxation, social security, and transfer payments; and to keep income distribution and the means of accumulating wealth well-regulated. It will leverage multiple channels to increase the property income of both urban and rural residents, and effectively increase the earnings of low-income people, steadily enlarge the middle-income group, and make reasonable adjustments to excessive incomes. China will accelerate agricultural and rural modernization while making coordinated efforts to establish regular mechanisms for preventing rural residents from

lapsing or relapsing into poverty. Solid steps will be taken to advance all-around rural revitalization, enhance the overall production capacity, quality, and performance of agriculture, and ensure that policies aimed at strengthening agriculture, benefiting farmers, and achieving rural prosperity deliver greater outcomes. Ultimately, these efforts will help build a beautiful and harmonious countryside for people to live and work in.

III. Pursuing High-quality Development

Economic development is a process of spiral escalation, rather than linear. Once quantitative growth has accumulated to a certain degree, we must turn to qualitative improvement. This pattern constitutes the fundamental law for economic growth. Since the 1960s, only a handful of the over 100 middle-income economies have joined the high-income group, and the core reason is that most failed to transition from scale expansion to quality upgrading after periods of rapid growth. China's economy is now moving from pursuing speed to enhancing quality, a transition essential to the broader goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects.

Employ the new development philosophy to drive economic growth. High-quality development begins with the full, accurate, and comprehensive implementation of the new development philosophy. Since the advent of the new era, the CPC has put forward a new development philosophy of pursuing innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, predicated upon previous experience gained, lessons learned, and analyses of trends both at home and abroad. This philosophy offers adequate answers to a range of theoretical and practical issues as to China's development. It defines innovation as the primary driver of development, coordination as the intrinsic requirement for sustained and healthy growth, green development as the essential condition for sustainability, opening up as the necessary path to national prosperity, and shared benefits as the key requirement of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Powered by the new development philosophy, China has witnessed remarkable progress in economy. Its GDP surged from 54 trillion yuan in 2012 to some 135 trillion yuan in 2024, marking a six percent year-on-year growth—nearly twice the world's average annual economic growth rate during this span. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue to implement the new development philosophy and allow it to drive all reforms and development, and thereby to accelerate the formation of the new development pattern. By upgrading key traditional industries and expanding advanced manufacturing, China is estimated to create an additional market space of around 10 trillion yuan in the next five years. China will also foster emerging pillar industries and expedite the growth of strategic emerging industry clusters, a move set to open up several trillion-yuan markets. Beyond the emerging industrial sector, an initiative to expand and upgrade the service industry is designed to reshape and improve the economic landscape at a faster pace and create new space for

economic expansion. Moreover, China will strengthen infrastructure planning and develop appropriately future-oriented facilities to build an interconnected, synergistic, safe, and efficient infrastructure system.

Develop new quality productive forces tailored to local conditions.

Developing new quality productive forces is an intrinsic requirement and an important focus of promoting high-quality development. With innovation playing the leading role, new quality productive forces mean advanced productivity that is freed from traditional economic growth modes and productivity development paths, features high-tech, high efficiency and high quality, and comes in line with the new development philosophy. Formed in practice, new quality productive forces are demonstrating their potent role in propelling and underpinning high-quality development. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will improve its institutions and mechanisms to foster new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, promote revolutionary technological breakthroughs, innovate allocation of production factors, and deepen the transformation and upgrading of industries. China will also seize the historic opportunities presented by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation to enhance its new whole-nation system. Solid steps will be taken to improve the country's key generic technologies, cutting-edge frontier technologies, modern engineering technologies, and disruptive technologies. Concrete actions will be implemented to strengthen original innovation, achieve breakthroughs in core technologies, and deepen the integration of scientific and industrial innovation. A forward-looking plan will be laid out for future industries to foster new economic growth drivers in key fields such as bio-manufacturing, hydrogen energy, nuclear fusion, brain-computer interfaces, embodied AI, and sixth-generation (6G) mobile communication. 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 moves will help realize a significant increase in total factor productivity. China will continue to advance the Digital China Initiative, bolster the integration of the real economy and the digital economy, and implement the "AI Plus" initiative to empower different industries comprehensively.

Demonstrate high-quality development in various domains. High-quality development is, and will continue to be, the theme for China's economic and social development, and it bears on the broader context of China's efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects. High-quality development transcends the economic sphere to encompass all aspects of socioeconomic progress; it moves beyond developed regions to become a universal requirement for every locality; it rises above short-term measures to function as an enduring principle to be upheld. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China, guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Economy, will advance high-quality development by improving its institutional frameworks, removing obstacles to progress,

and refining the relevant performance evaluation systems. This means embedding the requirements of high-quality development in all pertinent domains, including the economy, politics, culture, society, and ecology.

IV. Comprehensively Deepening Reform

Reform and opening up are defining features and historic achievements of Chinese modernization. At a critical historical juncture in 1978, when China confronted the question of which path to take, the 11th CPC Central Committee at its Third Plenary Session initiated a new era of reform and opening up, and socialist modernization. At its Third Plenary Session in 2015, the 18th CPC Central Committee launched a new drive to deepen of reform comprehensively through systematic and holistic design and implementation in the new era, ushering in a new stage of reform and opening up. In 2024, at its Third Plenary Session, the 20th CPC Central Committee charted the grand blueprint for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. Seizing the opportunities of profound transformation, China has advanced bold experimentation and sustained reform, promoting institutional and structural changes across all sectors and achieving notable results. In several decades, China has attained industrialization that took some developed countries centuries to achieve. The 15th Five-Year Plan period is a crucial stage for fully implementing the decisions on further deepening reform comprehensively adopted by the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee. China will unswervingly employ the means of comprehensive deepening of reform and opening up to address development challenges, remove institutional and structural barriers, and continuously unleash and develop social productivity, thereby providing sustained and robust momentum for Chinese modernization.

Emphasize economic reform as a priority. Comprehensively deepening reform is a complex, systemic endeavor, with economic reform at its core. Economic reform exerts broad and far-reaching influence on reforms in other fields, and the direction and pace of major economic restructuring largely determines the rhythm of transformation across sectors, as a small move made may affect the bigger picture. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will seize the pivotal leverage of structural economic reform and advance reforms in strategic areas and key links. It will uphold and implement the policy of developing both the public and the non-public sectors, and prioritize the building of a unified national market, the improvement of fundamental institutions for a socialist market economy, and the establishment of effective mechanisms to foster new quality productive forces adapted to local conditions. China will deepen reforms of the fiscal, taxation and financial systems; refine comprehensive support systems that strengthen, benefit and enrich agriculture and farmers; and steadily expand institutional opening up.

Establish institutional mechanisms to enable comprehensive innovation.

Innovation is the primary driver of development, and comprehensively deepening reform must highlight its central role in advancing modernization. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will focus on building institutional mechanisms that foster innovation, advancing coordinated reforms across education, science and technology, and talent systems to strengthen the overall performance of the national innovation ecosystem and enhance innovation capacity in all aspects. In education reform, China will move ahead with reforms of higher education institutions on a categorized basis, establishing mechanisms for discipline adjustment and talent cultivation guided by technological progress and national strategic needs. Efforts will be made to accelerate the development of urgently needed disciplines and specialties, improve university innovation mechanisms, and enhance the transformation of research outcomes into practical applications. In science and technology reform, China will reinforce its strategic scientific and technological strength, optimize the layout and functions of research institutions, high-caliber universities, and leading tech enterprises, improve the organizational mechanisms on major scientific and technological innovation and improve program management and coordination, with greater emphasis on forward-looking and strategic planning in basic research, interdisciplinary areas, and key emerging fields. Enterprises' central role in innovation will be strengthened, supported by mechanisms to cultivate and expand leading science and technology firms. In talent system reform, China will accelerate the development of strategic talent resources and raise the overall quality of its workforce. Mechanisms for identifying, selecting, and nurturing young innovative talents will be improved, alongside better protection and benefits for young professionals in science and technology. Incentives will be enhanced through increased autonomy for employers and reduced institutional constraints, while support systems for attracting and retaining international talents will be strengthened.

Comprehensively and coordinately advance reform across all sectors. Reform and opening up constitute a profound and comprehensive transformation of society, and deepening reform comprehensively requires coordinated progress across multiple dimensions. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will center its efforts on economic reform while driving forward comprehensive reform in political, cultural, social, ecological, and other spheres. In the areas of democracy and rule of law, China will enhance the institutional framework for whole-process people's democracy and improve the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics. In cultural reform, efforts will be made to institutionalize and deepen education on ideals and convictions, optimize mechanisms for the delivery of cultural services and products, strengthen the system for comprehensive cyberspace management, and move ahead with restructuring China's international communication framework. In improving institutions that safeguard and enhance people's wellbeing, China will refine income distribution systems, foster policy environments that promote employment through entrepreneurship, improve social security systems covering flexible employees, migrant workers, and those in new employment forms, accelerate the development of new

models for housing and real estate, deepen reforms in healthcare and public health, and strengthen support systems for population development and related services. In ecological conservation reform, China will continue to improve the fundamental institutions supporting ecological advancement, enhance environmental governance systems, and establish sound mechanisms for green and low-carbon development.

V. Promoting both an Efficient Market and a Well-Functioning Government

For many years, some observers have attributed China's remarkable achievements solely to the adoption of a market economy. Yet if this were the case, one may ask: market economies exist worldwide, why has no other nation maintained such sustained, stable, and dynamic growth that China has? The answer lies not simply in establishing a market economy, but in China's integrating the strengths of a market economy with those of the socialist system, thus developing a system of socialist market economy that both gives full play to the decisive role of markets in resource allocation and enables the government to better play its role. This has profoundly unleashed and advanced the nation's social productivity.

Prioritize the proper handling of government–market relations. How to balance the roles of government and the market remains a fundamental question in national development. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will place high priority on handling government – market relations. On one hand, China will respect and leverage the decisive role of the market in resource allocation, foster a fairer and more dynamic business environment to enhance efficiency and maximize economic vitality; on the other hand, China will let the government better perform its functions, safeguarding market order, addressing market failures, and promoting smooth national economic circulation to build an economy that is both liberalized and well regulated. The Chinese government will uphold the principle of acting where necessary and refraining where appropriate, focusing on correcting regulatory gaps and avoiding excessive intervention. It will proactively strengthen the rule of law and credit systems in the economy, improve market regulations and enforcement, and combat corruption and safeguard public security to improve the market environment. It will strive to address market failures, promote fair competition, and make the unified national market a level playing field for all types of market entities. Meanwhile, the government respect and leverage the decisive role of the market in resource allocation, will refrain from undue interference in microeconomic activities and curb local protectionism and economic fragmentation. Ultimately, the more standardized and transparent government conduct becomes, the more effective market mechanisms will be.

Build a unified national market. The market is among a nation's most valuable resources. Building a unified national market is essential for developing efficient market and advancing China's new pattern of development. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period,

China will focus on addressing the most important and challenging issues and adopt stronger, more effective reform measures to remove obstacles that hinder the creation of a unified national market, and strive to foster a robust domestic market. China will adhere to the strategic foundation of expanding domestic demand, closely integrating the improvement of people's livelihood with the promotion of consumption, and combining investment in both people and physical assets. It will guide new demand with new supply and create new demand through new supply, promoting positive interaction between consumption and investment, and between supply and demand, in order to expand the dynamism and reliability of the domestic economy. China will promote unified basic market institutions, ensuring consistency in property rights protection, fair competition, quality standards, and related regulatory systems. It will standardize market infrastructure to facilitate the smooth flow of goods, capital, and information, while improving the modern commercial circulation networks. Efforts will also be made to establish uniform standards for government conduct, clearly defining what is permissible and impermissible in promoting economic development, particularly in attracting investment. At the same time, China will harmonize market supervision and law enforcement, clarifying administrative discretion standards in penalties and applying consistent regulatory standards nationwide. China will further unify factor and resource markets, promote the free flow and efficient allocation of production factors, while reducing resource misallocation and structural waste. It will continue to expand opening up, fostering deeper integration between domestic and international markets and avoiding insular or fragmented operations.

Improve the macroeconomic governance system. Scientific macroeconomic regulation and effective state governance form the foundation for building a well-functioning government. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will strengthen the macroeconomic governance system, refine the institutional framework for macro regulation, expand policy space, innovate governance instruments, strengthen the consistency of macro policy orientation and enhance the overall effectiveness of macroeconomic governance. China will establish sound mechanisms for national strategy formulation and implementation, improve the national economic and social development planning system, and refine the system by which experts participate in decision-making on public issues; it will deepen reforms for the fiscal and taxation systems, improve budget system, optimize the taxation system to make it conducive to high-quality development, social equity, and market unification, and establish central-local fiscal relations with clear rights and responsibilities, well-aligned financial resources, and balanced regional development. China will also advance financial system reform, improve the central banking framework, strengthen the capital market to better link investment and financing functions, formulate comprehensive financial legislation, and refine the pre-entry national treatment plus a negative list management for foreign investment. In addition, it will improve mechanisms for implementing regional coordinated development strategies, fostering an integrated and complementary

regional economic layout and a well-ordered system for territorial spatial development.

VI. Ensuring both Development and Security

Security is the foremost prerequisite for human survival and progress. A review of global experience shows that national development is impossible without national security. Many countries, afflicted by social unrest and political instability, have not only lost development opportunities but plunged their people into immense hardship. Development cannot exist without security, and security cannot endure without development. They are two wings of one body and two wheels of one mechanism. Development provides the driving force, serving as the foundation for a nation's continuous advancement, while security provides the guarantee, ensuring that such advancement proceeds steadily and sustainably. Like two sides of the same coin, development and security are mutually reinforcing and inseparable, together forming the enduring basis upon which nations pursue long-term stability and prosperity.

Resolutely maintain comprehensive social stability. National security and social stability are indispensable foundations for the steady and sustained advancement of Chinese modernization. China remains firmly committed to building a modern society that is both dynamic and well-ordered. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will resolutely safeguard national security and overall social stability, with greater focus on deepening institutional and structural reform, improving the social governance systems based on collaboration, participation, and benefit sharing, and fostering sound interaction among government administration, social regulation, and community self-governance. China will strengthen primary-level governance and try to resolve conflicts and disputes at the community level and foster harmony and stability at the foundation of society. It will uphold social equity and justice, protecting citizens' personal rights, property rights, personality rights, and fundamental political rights against infringement. At the same time, China will maintain social stability through rule of law, advancing the integrated development of a law-based country, government, and society. It will enforce strict accountability mechanisms for safeguarding social stability, prevent and resolve social tensions through institutional means, and protect the safety and lawful rights of foreign nationals in China in full accordance with the law.

Ensure security and reliability in emerging domains. Development in emerging domains stems from technological innovation and application, representing new frontiers of national security. China attaches high importance to technological advancement and risk prevention in these areas, emphasizing anticipatory regulation and prudent guidance. It will strengthen the legislative and regulatory frameworks and continuously improve the mechanisms for agile governance, tiered management, and rapid response. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will reinforce security safeguards for cyberspace, data, and artificial intelligence (AI), strengthen the construction of cyber security systems, enhance the laws and regulations for cyberspace

governance, and refine the comprehensive mechanisms for cyber security classification, critical information infrastructure protection, and data security. It will guard against and repel cyberattacks, building solid firewalls for cyber security. China will also strengthen the governance on artificial intelligence, and introduce rigorous oversight systems for AI, accelerate AI- related legislation, improve frameworks for ethics supervision in science and technology, conduct multi-level categorized regulation, and strengthen risk- related dynamic analysis, assessment and early warning, and technological breakthroughs. These efforts aim to ensure that artificial intelligence develops in ways that continuously improve people's wellbeing and societal progress.

Optimize institutional mechanisms for safeguarding national security.

Institutional mechanisms for safeguarding national security form the foundation of the nation's overall security capacity. In the 15th Five- Year Plan period, China will fully implement a holistic approach to national security, focus on improving institutional mechanisms, and advance the modernization of the national security system and capabilities. China will strengthen the national security system, enhancing the coordination mechanisms, the systems that safeguard security in key sectors, and the coordination and command systems for major projects. Mechanisms for cross-departmental collaboration in dealing with major risks will be refined. Improvements will be made in the legal, strategy, and policy systems for national security as well as the risk monitoring and early warning systems. The endeavors in national security will be grounded in a more robust legal framework. It will optimize the strategic configuration of national security forces, build a coordinated and effective national security protection system, and promote technological innovation and digital empowerment in national security management.

Chapter 3

Enabling Global Progress: China as a Bedrock of World Peace and Development

Guided by the principle of win-win cooperation, China is ready to continue to provide new opportunities for world development with the new achievements of Chinese modernization, promote global modernization featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity, and bring more benefits to people of all countries.

— Xi Jinping

Today, momentous changes of a magnitude not seen in a century are unfolding across the world at a faster pace. A profound shift is taking place in the international balance of power, and breakthroughs are accelerating in the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation. Meanwhile, the changes we see in the world are intertwined with disturbances and mounting turmoil, and geopolitical conflicts flare up all too easily and frequently. Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise, and hegemonism and power politics pose greater threats. The international economic and trade order is facing grave challenges, and global economic growth lacks steam. Major-country rivalry is becoming more intricate and intense than ever. Nevertheless, what will remain unchanged are the overall direction of human development and progress, the overall dynamics of world history moving forward amid twists and turns, and the overall trend toward a shared future for the international community. China will stay confident and self-reliant, promote openness and inclusiveness, uphold fairness and justice, and pursue cooperation for mutual benefits. It will hold high the banner of peace, development, and win-win cooperation, and focus on building a community with a shared future for humanity. China will strive for a favorable external environment for advancing Chinese modernization, and at the same time contribute more to world peace, global development, and shared prosperity.

I. Bringing New Opportunities for Global Development

Development, a word that carries profound longings of all human beings for better lives, has always been the theme of human society, and the key to all challenges confronting humanity. In 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), calling for a global consensus on pursuing development, promoting shared growth, and helping accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China, as the world's largest developing country, anchors its own development into the broader context of human development, and

provides new opportunities for global progress through each and every progress of its own.

Continue to be the anchor of global economic growth. In the next five years, the world will still stay within a phase where major transformations unseen in a century keep evolving, with changes and turbulence increasingly interwoven with one another. China, the anchor of global stability amid tremendous uncertainties, will apply undivided attention to realizing more progress of its own, and thereby enable greater stability that is vital for global growth. As the most powerful engine driving the world economy, China contributes approximately 30 percent each year to global economic growth, and trades as a major partner with more than 150 countries and regions across the world. According to research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), every 1-percent rise in the Chinese economy leads to a 0.3-percent increase on average in other economies' outputs. Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the IMF, said that China's stable economic growth had truly benefited the whole world. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will provide broader space for global flows of goods, services, and capital with its complete industrial system, continuous high-quality development, and enormous market. It will keep on walking steadfastly on the path toward healthier development of economic globalization.

Open up new space for global innovation. As artificial intelligence (AI) and a bunch of other emerging high technologies are increasingly reshaping global development, China continues to unlock new possibilities for the world by infusing constant vitality into global innovation. China is one of the world's fastest growing innovators, whose ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) leapt from the 34th in 2012 all the way up to the 10th in 2025. The European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) 2025 released by the European Commission in July reported that China gained an increase of 31.6 percentage points in its score this year from that in 2020, significantly outpacing its Western competitors. China's journey from the "world's factory" to a hub of global innovation epitomizes its transition from a sheer importer of technologies into a real source of innovation. On October 9, 2025, Chinese automaker BYD held a ceremony to mark a milestone as its 14 millionth new-energy vehicle (NEV) rolled off the line at its passenger-car plant in Brazil. At the ceremony, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva expressed profound appreciation to the Chinese NEV giant for introducing new automotive technologies into Brazil and breathing new life into the country's industries through its large-scale NEV plant converted from a former Ford factory. A growing number of multinational enterprises now view China as a manufacturing base, a target market, and more importantly, a frontier of global research and development. They leverage China's vast market for instant application and rapid refinement of new technologies, as a way of serving their worldwide strategies. As a leading innovator, China in the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan period will deliver more surprises to the world by pursuing innovative development of digital trade, expanding opening-up in the digital domain in a well-ordered way, and enhancing the overall

performance of its innovation system.

Maintain high-level openness to the world. China will steadfastly expand high-level opening-up and share the benefits of its super-sized market with the global community. For eight consecutive years China has been the world's largest goods trading nation, signing a total of 23 free trade agreements with 30 countries and regions. As China opens up wider to the outside world, its enormous market, constituted by over 1.4 billion people and particularly by more than 400 million middle-income consumers, is facilitating more positive spillover effects. Michael Schumann, chairman of the Board of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA), observed that as the global economy grew increasingly divided, China's openness fueled its own progress while paving a clear and dependable path for partnership with the rest of the world. The world needs an open China, as China's opening-up contributes to a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable world. The 15th Five-Year Plan period will see China's steady steps to advance its opening-up at the institutional level, which means greater openness of its rules, regulations, management, and standards. The country's pilot free trade zones and free trade port will serve as test-grounds for such reforms, through which China will step up to align with high-standard international trade rules, and thereby establish a top-tier business environment that is defined by market principles, ruled by law, and measured by international benchmarks. In the meantime, well-coordinated moves will be made to build major platforms for opening-up and cooperation in areas such as technological innovation, trade in services, and industrial development. Through higher-level opening-up, China is set to bolster more open cooperation across the globe, and provide powerful impetus for an open world economy.

Expand practical cooperation with the world. China will keep embracing the trend of economic globalization, and enhance cooperation that is based on equal-footed consultation and mutual benefits among nations of different sizes and with different social systems and cultures. It will, as always, firmly resist the attempts of "decoupling" made by certain countries, and their so-called "small yard, high fence" approach, while taking the lead in the global efforts for building new platforms of international cooperation and new highlands for joint contribution and shared benefits. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and other financial cooperation platforms that China has launched, have provided key support for global connectivity; the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has become a widely welcomed international public good; China-led landmark projects, including the China-Europe freight train services and the China-Laos Railway, have significantly driven the infrastructure upgrades for transportation, energy, and telecommunications in countries and regions along their routes. These initiatives are crucial pillars propping up the accelerated modernization of many developing nations. When inaugurating the Novi Sad-Subotica section of the Hungary-Serbia high-speed railway in early October, 2025, Aleksandar Vucic, both the Serbian President and a passenger on the very first train running on this Chinese-built

high-speed rail, expressed enormous appreciation to China, saying that cooperation, large scale or small scale, would yield fruits as long as it was based on sincerity. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue the "Eight Major Steps" for a new era of Belt and Road cooperation, and advance both major signature projects and "small and beautiful" public wellbeing projects. It will work to consolidate cooperation in traditional fields while steadily expanding collaboration in the emerging areas, and at the same time join hands with world partners to paint the grand picture of global connectivity and shared prosperity.

Share its valuable experience of development with the world. As a member of the Global South, China has always worked to deepen South-South cooperation and bridge the gap between the Global South and the Global North. It established the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and increased its capital to four billion U.S. dollars—a concrete step for the practical cooperation within the framework of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Through the Fund, China has led over 170 projects in more than 60 nations, collaborating with more than 20 international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). These projects have directly improved the lives of more than 30 million people, and offered a powerful boost to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will expand its global network of partnership. Through platforms like South-South cooperation, it will share with the developing world, without any political string, more of its experience in infrastructure construction, agricultural development, industrialization, and other aspects. China will, with utmost sincerity, help developing countries in promoting self-driven development, and strive for shared prosperity among nations of the Global South through tangible outcomes of global cooperation.

II. Promoting Global Security for All

Security has an important bearing on world peace, global development, and the destiny of humanity. China, a determined pacifist, is the only country to have embedded peaceful development into both its national constitution and the constitution of its ruling party, and thereby elevated it into a will of the state. China's Global Security Initiative (GSI), proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2022, has presented the world with new approaches to addressing the root causes of international conflicts, tackling global security challenges, and improving global security governance. With the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, China seeks its own development through an unwavering commitment to global peace, and better safeguards global peace through its own development. It will remain a steadfast guardian of global peace and stability, undaunted by turbulence or uncertainties.

Uphold the authority and standing of the United Nations. The conflicts and injustice plaguing the world today stem never from the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, which are falsely alleged by some to be outdated, but rather from a lack of effective compliance with them. The UN's role as the core of the international system must be consolidated, not weakened. China is a founding member of the UN, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and the first country to sign the UN Charter. Over the decades, it has concluded over 27,000 bilateral treaties, acceded to more than 600 international conventions, including their amendments, and participated in almost all inter-governmental organizations. China is the top contributor of the UN's peacekeeping personnel among the P5 members and the second-largest funder of both the UN's regular budget and its peacekeeping operations. An active participant in the UN peacekeeping for 35 years, China has deployed altogether more than 50,000 soldiers as UN peacekeepers, and these Chinese "Blue Helmets" are now a key force in UN peacekeeping operations. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue to champion the authority and standing of the United Nations. It will work to ensure the UN's function as a platform for enhancing global dialogues and coordinating effective actions, and its central role in international affairs.

Play the distinct part of a major and responsible country. Major-country relations have direct influence on global strategic stability. China always adheres to a strategic, forward-looking approach in cultivating relations with the world's major countries, and fulfills its due responsibilities for safeguarding global peace and stability. Guided by an independent foreign policy of peace, it is committed to building the major-country relations featuring peaceful coexistence, overall stability, and balanced development. As a staunch defender of multilateralism, China rejects hegemony and power politics of any form, and champions the development of the international system toward greater fairness and justice. It facilitates political settlements of international and regional hot-spot issues, and endorses all peace-driven endeavors. On October 20, 2025, the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) was officially inaugurated in Hong Kong, marking the start of the world's first inter-governmental organization dedicated exclusively to resolving international conflicts through mediation. This treaty-based inter-governmental organization was led by China and pushed forward in collective consultation among all participating parties. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue its efforts in defending international fairness and justice, and safeguarding the common interests of people around the world. It will keep seeking peaceful resolutions of global conflicts and playing its role as a major, responsible country by offering wisdom to efforts from all existing organizations dedicated to global conflict resolving.

Deepen all-round cooperation with neighboring countries. A country may never prosper without good relations with its neighbors. China's basic policy of diplomacy with neighboring countries is to treat them as friends and partners, and to foster a neighboring environment characterized by amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and

inclusiveness. Through increased cooperation and exchanges across various fields, and joint efforts for peace and stability with its neighbors, China has established a practical and efficient framework for its diplomatic work associated with neighboring countries. By March 2025, a consensus has been built between China and its 17 neighbors on forging a community with a shared future. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will stay committed to upholding the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness and the vision of a shared future, and working with regional countries to build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful, and amicable home. Guided by the Asian values of peace, cooperation, openness, and inclusiveness, facilitated by the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and supported by the Asian security model that features sharing weal and woe, seeking common ground while shelving differences, and prioritizing dialogue and consultation, China will forge ahead on the pathway toward a community with a shared future with neighboring countries.

Safeguard the shared interests of the developing world. China, a developing country and a member of the Global South, has been committed to promoting the development of the developing world. It always holds the conviction that all countries, big or small, strong or weak, developed or underdeveloped, are equal members of the global society, with shared interests, rights, and responsibilities in international affairs. In its pursuit of global partnerships based on equality, openness, and cooperation, China has been enhancing cooperation with other developing countries while safeguarding their shared interests. The 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) formulated a grand blueprint for all-round cooperation between China and Africa, and the 2025 China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) pushed the China-Arab partnership onto new heights. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will actively respond to risks and challenges, heed the call of the vast developing world, and work to bring development back to the core of the international agenda. It will support the Global South in building strength through unity, step up aid to other countries, and provide the world with more public goods.

III. Leading the Reform of the Global Governance System

As the world today has entered a new phase of transformations and uncertainties, the global governance system with the UN at its core is once again standing at a crossroads. At the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus" Meeting held on September 1, 2025, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI)—another significant international public good China has contributed to the world. The initiative will steer the reform of the global governance system onto the right path, and demonstrate China's responsibility and resolution as a leader of this great reform. Drawing upon its own development philosophy and practical experience, China will adhere to the GGI principles, spearhead the reform in the global governance

system, and contribute China's proposals to advance the global governance system along the right direction.

Provide fresh impetus to the global economic and trade governance system. The institutions and mechanisms of the global economic and trade governance are witnessing profound transformations, and China is poised to offer new paradigms and make major contributions to a stable governance system. On September 23, 2025, when attending the High-Level Meeting on the Global Development Initiative at the UN Headquarters, Chinese Premier Li Qiang told the world that China, as a responsible major developing country, will not seek new special and differential treatment in current and future negotiations at the WTO. This again demonstrates China's commitment to building a global trading system that is more balanced and equitable. China is playing an increasingly bigger role in today's global financial governance system, with renminbi (RMB) now ranking among the top three international currencies for global trade finance and on a full-caliber basis. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will promote reform in global economic and financial governance, and work toward establishing and preserving an international economic order based on fairness, justice, openness, inclusiveness, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Set a new example for global ecological governance. China will continue to play a pioneering role in the global efforts for a greener Earth. In his video remarks delivered to the UN Climate Summit held on September 24, 2025, President Xi Jinping announced that one of China's new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) was to reduce economy-wide net greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent to 10 percent from peak levels by 2035. The forthcoming 15th Five-Year Plan period will see this pledge translated into more robust actions. China will improve the basic systems for ecological conservation and environmental governance, and the mechanisms for green and low-carbon development. Meanwhile, it will enhance cooperation with all countries—particularly those from the Global South—in developing and utilizing new energies, curbing desertification, and preserving bio-diversity, while sharing experience with all partners on green development. China will keep supporting the global ecological governance mechanism with the UN at its core, and upholding the authority of international rules such as the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), thereby adding stronger momentum into global ecological governance. China will continue holding hands with all nations in tackling global ecological challenges and in safeguarding the Earth as humanity's home, thus creating greater synergy for a greener and more sustainable planet.

Make new contributions to global governance of emerging areas. China will keep playing a leading role in developing a sound system of global governance of emerging areas. For better AI global governance, China put forward the Global AI Governance Action Plan, aiming at broader global cooperation on AI development. Besides, it has provided assistance to the Global South in AI infrastructure construction

and technological development, in an effort to narrow the gap between the developing and the developed world in emerging technologies. For better global governance of the cyberspace, China proposed the International Strategy of Cooperation on Cyberspace and the Global Initiative on Data Security, calling for a global governance system of the cyberspace that is based on multilateralism, and featured by democracy and transparency. China is always walking hand in hand with the world on the path toward a community with a shared future in cyberspace. For better global governance of outer space, China supports the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in fulfilling its role, and adheres to all international space laws based on the Outer Space Treaty. It will seek broader partnership with the world in areas like space station development and deep space exploration, as a way to bring greater benefits to humanity, and particularly to the Global South. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will keep saying no to the self-conceited mentality of certain countries, and to any attempt to monopolize the emerging areas through unilateralism and the so-called "small yard, high fence" approach. China will contribute more of its strength and wisdom to the world in addressing problems facing the global governance of emerging areas, and thereby ensure that the fresh fruits of human progress are shared by all.

IV. Composing a New Chapter of Shared Prosperity for All Civilizations

Advancing cultural exchanges and integration and the mutual-learning among civilizations is what humanity must stick to in its pursuit of a more prosperous and beautiful world and of a better life. The world today is becoming a closer-knit community where the futures of all nations are intertwined. The inclusive coexistence and mutual-learning among diverse civilizations are crucial for driving the modernization of human society and building a garden of world civilizations. In 2023, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), sounding a clarion call for more respect to diverse global cultures, greater regard for humanity's common values, further efforts on cultural inheritance and innovation, and closer exchanges and cooperation among world cultures. China will keep contributing wisdom to advancing dialogues between cultures and promoting the progress of human civilization, thereby to compose a brand-new chapter in the annals of human history where countries with different histories, cultures, social systems, and in different stages of development coexist in peace and harmony.

Respect diverse global cultures. Cultural diversity is an inherent feature of human society and one of the most fascinating parts of human civilization. Equal and respectful dialogues are key to eliminating bias and enhancing understandings. The International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations, observed on June 10, was proposed by China and unanimously adopted by the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. June 10, 2025 saw various activities of celebration held by countries across

the world. This was a vivid demonstration of how the GCI unites the world in dissolving misunderstandings and building closer bonds, and also a clear evidence that respecting diverse global cultures—the most important call from the GCI—has become a consensus shared by the whole global community. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will keep on facilitating dialogues between civilizations. It is considering hosting the Global Forum of the 2028 United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), so as to further leverage the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations and other global platforms for harmonious coexistence and shared prosperity of all civilizations.

Advocate humanity's common values. Based on humanity's common values of peace, development, equality, justice, democracy, and freedom, the GCI demonstrates the shared aspiration of people from all countries for a better life. President Xi Jinping once pointed out, "Peace and development are our common cause, equity and justice our common aspiration, and democracy and freedom our common goal." Guided by these shared values, the international community has come to a growing consensus: peace and development are the only viable path to ending global conflicts and tackling security dilemmas; equality and justice are the prerequisite for closing development divides and protecting the rights of the Global South; democracy and freedom are the foundational values that enable dialogues between civilizations and ensure equal rights to development. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue to uphold humanity's common values through its own progress and common progress for humanity, defend them through safeguarding peace and security, promote them through cultural exchanges and mutual-learning, and protect them by improving global governance. It will work to enhance the global awareness of these values, join hands with all nations for translating them into concrete benefits for all, and thereby build a community with a shared future for humanity that lasts for long.

Promote cultural inheritance and innovation. The traditional cultures of countries and nations need to be passed down to one generation after another and innovated to keep pace with times. China has been making efforts on both inheritance and innovation of its cultural legacies by exploring new values of ancient cultures for the contemporary times, and promoting innovative transformations and development of quintessential traditional cultures. An active participant in UNESCO's work, China has been throwing its weight behind the protection of world cultural and natural heritages. It engages in various cooperative projects with countries worldwide on archaeological research and on translation of classic works. Furthermore, China has established platforms such as the Sino-Greek Civilization Center and the China-Hungary Joint Research Center, which play quite big roles in promoting the inheritance and innovation of world civilizations. Today, China is seeking greater integration of its traditional cultures with new technologies and business models. The country's first AAA game *Black Myth: Wukong* caused a global gaming sensation, while *Ne Zha II: The Demon Child Churns the Sea* became a real blockbuster that topped the global

box office of animated films. Such cultural products, with their ever-growing popularity worldwide, are showcasing the unique charm of a more vibrant China to the world. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will encourage efforts to build the presence of more cultural enterprises and fine cultural works on the world stage, while deepening cooperation with global partners in archaeological practice and studies, conservation and restoration of historic sites, research on ancient civilizations, and combat against illicit trafficking of cultural properties. It will further cultural innovations through new technologies, products, and business models, and thereby contribute more of its strength to the inheritance and innovation of world civilizations.

Strengthen international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

It is the people who play the major role in cultural exchanges, and it is their close bond that enables mutual-learning among civilizations. During his visit to the United States, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced an initiative to invite 50,000 young Americans to China over the next five years for exchange and study. During a visit to France, he expressed that China looked forward to hosting more than 10,000 French students in the next three years, and doubling the number of European youth exchanges in China. At the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China- Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China announced to implement 10 partnership action plans, giving priority to the joint actions for cross-cultural exchanges and mutual-learning among civilizations. During the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China- CELAC Forum, China, together with partners from the community of Latin American and Caribbean states, launched the Civilization Program, announcing a series of measures for further exchanges. In the first half of 2025, China recorded 38.053 million inbound trips by international tourists, a 30.2-percent rise year-on-year, with visa-free arrivals hitting new highs with a 53.9-percent surge. China has truly become a popular destination for global tourists. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will render the GCI into more concrete actions by launching more programs for cultural exchange, introducing more effective measures to advance global publicity for its cultural and tourist resources, and providing more convenient and foreigner-friendly services for inbound tourists. It will also deepen international exchanges and cooperation, establish an immigration system for highly-skilled personnel, improve policies to attract more outstanding students worldwide to study in China, and introduce and cultivate talents from around the world. It will work to connect the hearts and minds of people from all parts of the globe, and ensure that the progress of cultural exchanges brings benefits to all.

V. Building a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity

From the first day it was put forward up until now, "building a community with a shared future for humanity" has developed from a conceptual proposition into a

systematic framework, from an expression of aspiration into diversified practices, and from an initiative proposed by China alone into a consensus shared by the whole world. The vision has maintained its presence in the UN General Assembly resolutions and the SCO Summit declarations for eight and nine consecutive years respectively, and appeared in the BRICS Summit declarations for eight times. Its core tenets have been incorporated into the UN's Pact for the Future. It has truly become a significant international public good that is exerting growing influence on global development. China will stay committed to building such a community through efforts that are more in line with the fundamental interests of all nations and with the shared aspirations of the people. It will push for more progress in the community-building process, and co-create with all global partners a better future for humankind.

Enrich the contents of a community with a shared future for humanity as a systematic framework. A community with a shared future for humanity has already matured into a systematic framework with the major contents as follows: it pursues an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity, and it should be realized through the global governance featuring shared growth through discussion and collaboration; it is based on humanity's common values, backed up by efforts for promoting a new model of international relations, pushed forward by actions echoing the GDI, GSI, GCI, and GGI, and put into practice through high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Within this framework China proposed the five goals for the world, which are well aligned with the five unique features of China's modernization drive. This fully demonstrates that building Chinese modernization and building a community with a shared future for humanity are closely inter-connected and inseparably intertwined. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China, based on both domestic and international situations, and drawing on theories and experience of Chinese modernization, will further enrich the contents of a community with a shared future for humanity as a systematic framework, and adopt better approaches to ensure greater influence of this framework as a key force guiding and driving human progress.

Promote multi-tiered and multifaceted development of a community with a shared future for humanity. Through concerted efforts from China and its global partners, the building of a community with a shared future for humanity has achieved fruitful results. In bilateral cooperation, dozens of countries, including Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Cuba, Brazil, and Serbia, have reached consensus with China on building bilateral communities with a shared future. In regional cooperation, China has pursued the vision of building a community with a shared future with its neighboring countries, joined hands with Africa to build an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future, and advanced the co-construction of other regional communities with Central Asia, the ASEAN, the Arab League, and Latin America. In global governance, cooperation has been deepened in building a series of communities, including those of cyberspace, nuclear security, health

of humanity, life for mankind and nature, global development, and human security. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will continue holding hands with all other countries and regional organizations willing to be a part of the community-building process to pursue better governance of global commons like resources at the Poles and in outer space, expand the community-building to encompass broader regions and more diversified fields, and thereby achieve more solid progress on the path toward a community with a shared future for humanity.

Pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Over the 12 years since it was presented, the BRI has functioned as an important platform for concrete practices of building a community with a shared future for humanity. It has already proven itself as a pathway toward greater partnership, opportunities, and prosperity for China and other countries participating BRI. In 2024 at its Third Plenary Session, the 20th CPC Central Committee set the goal of strengthening mechanisms for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and developed new strategic frameworks covering various aspects like specific action plans, overall planning, and project implementation. With aspirations for peace and development of people from more than 150 countries, high-quality Belt and Road cooperation today has matured into the world's largest and most wide-reaching platform for global cooperation. Suai Nihan Arçakal, a Turkish scholar of international affairs, pointed out that through the construction of railways, roads, digital networks, and other infrastructure facilities in participating countries and regions, the BRI has deepened global collaboration, promoted economic development, trade connectivity and regional economic integration, and thus allowed developing economies to be better engaged in the global market.

Today, the BRI has yielded amazing fruits. A bunch of major signature projects such as the China-Laos Railway, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, the Chancay Port, and the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway have been accomplished, solidifying the BRI connectivity framework comprising "six corridors, six routes, and multiple countries and ports". The China-Europe freight train services, which have now completed over 110,000 trips, play a vital role as a "steel camel caravan" boosting Eurasian connectivity. On October 13, 2025, the China-Europe Arctic Express shipping route, known as the "Polar Silk Road", was officially launched as the very first vessel on this route departed from the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in East China's Zhejiang Province for its destination in the UK. Furthermore, a multitude of "small and beautiful" public well-being projects have been launched in agriculture, education, healthcare, poverty reduction, water conservation, and disaster prevention, which have largely enhanced the people's well-being in all participating countries. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will strengthen strategic alignment with Belt and Road partner countries, and better coordinate and manage cooperation programs. It will enhance connectivity in terms of both infrastructure and rules and standards, and foster closer bonds with the people in these countries. It will work to refine the multidimensional network connecting partner countries, and advance both major signature projects and "small and

beautiful" public well-being projects. Rail freight transportation between China and Europe and between China and other parts of Asia will be improved, and construction on the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor will pick up speed. China will deepen practical cooperation in areas of trade, investment, industrial development, and people-to-people exchanges, and launch new cooperation initiatives across fields such as green development, AI, digital economy, health, tourism, and agriculture, so as to bring more benefits to the people in all BRI participating countries and regions. With tangible outcomes delivered by high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity will resonate more deeply with the global society. With concrete actions and fruitful results, the BRI will unite global efforts for building a community with a shared future for humanity by garnering greater global understanding and support for this vision.

Conclusion

The journey toward building a great country and realizing national rejuvenation advances with each generation carrying forward the torch of progress.

For more than a century, every struggle led by the Communist Party of China has been dedicated to one great cause, namely the building of a great modern socialist country. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, from the First Five-Year Plan to the 14th one, each plan has marked another stride in one of the grandest modernization endeavors in human history. Steering economic and social development through these Five-Year Plans reflects the unique strengths of China's system and governance and serves as the key to understanding Chinese modernization. As the 14th Five-Year Plan reaches its close, the landscape of a nation alive with vigor and renewed in confidence and hope has unfolded in its full grandeur. Now, as the 15th Five-Year Plan is about to be launched, history will turn a new page, and the world will once again witness the vitality and splendor of Chinese modernization.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period stands as a pivotal bridge between past and future, a decisive stage for laying a solid foundation and pressing forward toward the basic realization of socialist modernization, and to advance a two-step strategic plan to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Economy and grounded in the historic achievements and transformative progress of the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China will move into this new stage with confidence, composure, and inexhaustible strength, and properly plan and implement the goals, tasks, and strategic initiatives of the 15th Five-Year Plan, securing decisive progress toward the basic realization of socialist modernization.

To chart the right course is to ensure safe passage. For China's steady, long-term development, the grand journey of the 15th Five-Year Plan must be steered by six fundamental principles: upholding the Party's overall leadership; putting the people first; pursuing high-quality development; comprehensively deepening reform; promoting interplay between an efficient market and a well-functioning government; and ensuring both development and security. These principles, as the fundamental guarantees, guiding values, key tasks, driving forces, strategic paths, and important safeguards of the 15th Five-Year Plan, together ensure that China, like a great vessel, navigates challenges undaunted by wind or wave, steadily advancing toward the goal of basically achieving socialist modernization.

With a global vision, the Communist Party of China seeks benefits for the people and strive for the common good of humanity. Chinese modernization is a story of harmony rather than hegemony, of shared futures and common dreams. In the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will remain bound to peace, openness, cooperation, and justice. It will continue to contribute its wisdom to the cause of global development, security, governance, and civilization, making sure that the results of modernization will benefit people of all countries in a more equitable way. As President Xi Jinping has

said, "Embracing China is embracing opportunities, and believing in China is believing in a better tomorrow."

Successfully realizing economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period not only carries the dreams and aspirations of the Chinese people on their path toward modernization, but bears profound significance for creating a new model for human civilization and exploring the future path of humanity development. The journey ahead is long, and the momentum is strong; the responsibilities are weighty, and the mission calls anew. China will ride the tide of history and steer the current of global cooperation, injecting inexhaustible energy into the progress of human civilization. Together with the world, China will paint a magnificent scroll of a shared future for humankind.

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