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National People's Congress of China

PROVIDE STRONG LEGAL SAFEGUARDS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

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This is Yiwu International Trade Market in Jinhua, Zhejiang Province, the world's largest market for small commodities. VCG



Rooted in the age-old practice of bartering sugar for chicken feathers, Yiwu has grown into a globally renowned "world's supermarket".

In June 2006, Comrade Xi Jinping vividly summed up Yiwu's development as "unexpected emergence, creating something out of nothing, and turning stone into gold". In April 2026, General Secretary Xi Jinping urged efforts to further review and apply the "Yiwu development experience", so as to blaze high-quality development paths tailored to local conditions.



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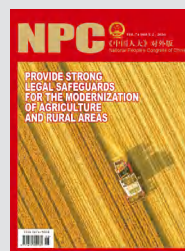
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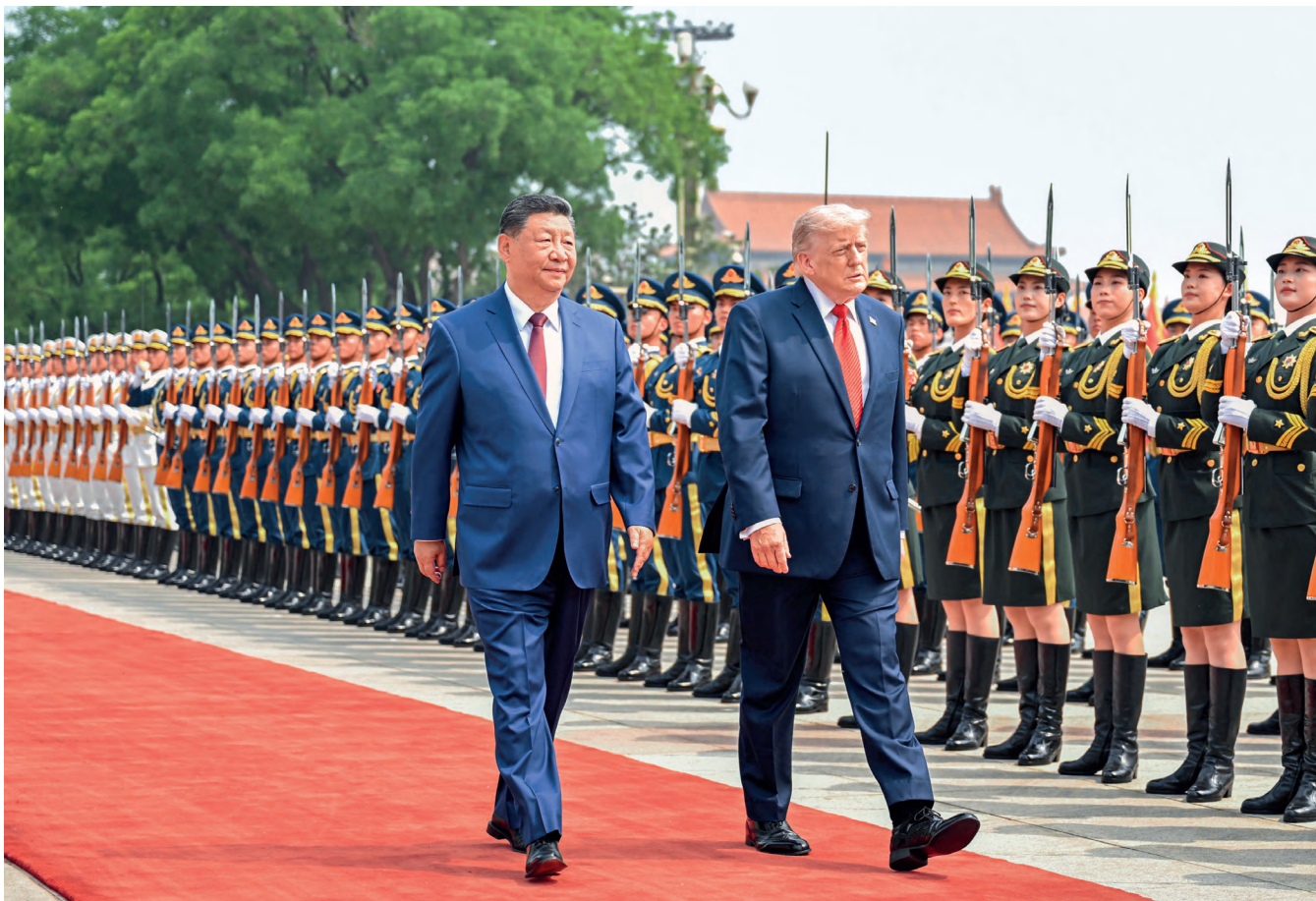
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COVER: Across China, harvest season arrives in full swing as wheat ripening sweeps vast farmlands. This aerial view captures a combine harvester operating amid golden wheat fields on the North China Plain. VCG

Chinese, U.S. presidents agree on new vision for bilateral ties in Beijing talks



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for U.S. President Donald Trump, who is on a state visit to China, outside the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, May 14, 2026. Rao Aimin



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for U.S. President Donald Trump, who is on a state visit to China, outside the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, May 14, 2026. *Li Xiang*

In a meeting on May 14 closely watched by the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed on a new vision of building a constructive bilateral relationship of strategic stability.

This will provide strategic guidance for China-U.S. relations over the next three years and beyond, Xi said during the talks in Beijing with Trump, who is on a three-day state visit to China—his first in nine years.

Xi defined the nature of “constructive strategic stability” as a positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay, a sound stability with moderate competition, a constant stability with manageable differences and an enduring stability with promises of peace.

Trump said he will work with Xi to strengthen communication and cooperation, properly handle differences and make bilateral relations better than ever before.

Both leaders agreed that China-U.S. relations are the most important bilateral relationship in the world today.

At the welcome banquet for Trump, Xi said, “Looking back at the course of China-U.S. relations, whether or not we could have mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation is the key to whether the relationship can advance steadily.”

“We must make it work and never mess it up,” Xi said, add-

Both leaders agreed that China-U.S. relations are the most important bilateral relationship in the world today.

ing that both China and the U.S. stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

New impetus for cooperation

During the two leaders’ formal talks, Xi spoke of the latest round of trade talks between Chinese and U.S. officials, lauding the “generally balanced and positive outcomes.”

“This is good news for the people of the two countries and the world,” he said, calling on the two sides to sustain the good momentum that they have worked hard to create.

On the same day, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said that China is ready to work with the U.S. to continuously expand the list of cooperation and shorten the list of problems.

Trump was accompanied by top U.S. executives, including

Apple's Tim Cook, Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Tesla's Elon Musk, whom he called outstanding representatives from the U.S. business community.

"They all respect and value China. I strongly encourage them to expand cooperation with China," Trump said. The business leaders said that the successful meeting between Xi and Trump has injected new impetus into bilateral economic and trade cooperation, and provided certainty for the world economy.

"China will only open its door wider," Xi assured. U.S. companies are deeply involved in China's reform and opening up, and the U.S. side is welcome to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation with China, he added.

Vibes of friendship and respect

Prior to the talks, Xi hosted a welcome ceremony for Trump outside the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing, featuring military band performances, a 21-gun salute and a march-past of the guard of honor.

Trump said that it was a great honor to visit China, hailing the very good relationship between the two countries.

He added that he and Xi have enjoyed friendly communication and worked out many important issues, calling Xi "a great leader" and China "a great country".

After the talks, the two leaders visited the Temple of Heaven. Impressed by the more than 600-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site, Trump said that as great nations with wise and

The business leaders said that the successful meeting has injected new impetus into bilateral economic and trade cooperation and provided certainty for the world economy.

great peoples, the U.S. and China should deepen mutual understanding and strengthen friendship between their peoples.

Addressing the welcome banquet, Xi recalled the China-U.S. Ping-Pong Diplomacy 55 years ago. Active engagement between the two sides has continued to serve as an important driving force behind the development of bilateral relations. "President Trump and I have had multiple meetings and phone calls and kept China-U.S. relations generally stable," Xi said.

Trump thanked Xi for the gracious reception and hailed the positive and constructive conversations between the two sides. "Today is a fantastic day," he said.

Bright future for bilateral relations and humanity

During their talks, the two presidents also exchanged views on major international and regional issues, such as the Middle East situation, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Korean Peninsula situation.

Chinese geopolitical experts say that if the proposed constructive relationship of strategic stability can be established and well-preserved, China and the U.S. will surely contribute a lot to global peace and development for quite a long period to come.

Now it's up to the U.S. to work with China in the same direction, given Beijing's consistent and clear policy on China-U.S. relations, said Diao Daming, vice dean of the National Academy of Development and Strategy of Renmin University of China.

Xi has stressed that the building of such a relationship should not be a mere slogan, but concrete action taken by both sides toward the same goal.

Placing emphasis on the Taiwan question, Xi described it as the most important issue in China-U.S. relations.

If it is handled properly, the bilateral relationship will enjoy overall stability. Otherwise, the two countries will have clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy, Xi told his U.S. counterpart. (Xinhua) ■



This is the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. VCG



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is on a state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, May 20, 2026. Huang Jingwen

Xi holds talks with Putin in Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 20, with the two sides agreeing to further extend the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation.

Xi noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation.

China-Russia relations have come this far step by step precisely because the two countries have kept deepening political mutual trust and strategic coordination with unyielding tenacity, expanded all-round cooperation with a drive to always scale new heights and defended international justice and fairness and advanced the building of a community with a shared future for humanity with unflappable resolve, Xi said.

As permanent members of the UN Security Council and important major countries in the world, China and Russia should take a strategic and long-term perspective, drive the development and revitalization of our respective countries through comprehensive strategic coordination of even higher quality and work to make the global governance system more just and equitable, Xi added.

China and Russia have developed the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era on the basis of equality, mutual respect, good faith, and win-win cooperation, he emphasized.

Political mutual trust has further deepened; cooperation in various areas, such as trade and economy, investment, energy, science and technology, people-to-people and sub-national exchanges has continued to advance; and the bonds between the two peoples have grown stronger, Xi added.

He stressed that the China-Russia relationship has entered a new stage of greater achievements and faster development.

Unswervingly promoting the long-term, sound, steady and high-quality development of the China-Russia relationship is a strategic choice by the two sides based on the fundamental interests of the two countries and the global trends, Xi explained.

He called on China and Russia to fully implement the important common understandings reached by the two leaders; seize the historic opportunities; and further promote the mutual trust, cooperation and friendship of the two countries.

Xi emphasized that both sides should focus on the goals of national development and revitalization, fully leverage the comprehensive and well-established mechanisms of China-Russia cooperation and strengthen overall planning for cooperation in all respects.

The two countries should also promote the upgrading of practical cooperation in trade and investment, energy and resources, transportation, science, technology and innovation, and actively explore cooperation in frontier areas, so as to create new engines of growth with new quality productive forces, he added.

Xi noted that efforts should be made to continue the

long-standing friendship between the two sides, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in education, culture, film, tourism and sports, and consolidate the social and public support for bilateral friendship.

Moreover, both sides should deepen multilateral collaboration, further enhance coordination and cooperation under frameworks such as the UN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS and APEC, Xi said.

He also underscored joint efforts to firmly safeguard the post-war international order and the authority of international law, unite the Global South and guide the reform of the global governance system in the right direction.

Putin said Russia-China relations, under joint efforts from both sides, have reached an unprecedented level, featuring close high-level exchanges and solid political mutual trust.

The two sides have seen a steady increase in bilateral trade; mutually beneficial energy supply and demand; the ever-deepening cooperation in transportation, logistics, and science and technology, among others; and sound momentum in people-to-people exchanges, he added.

Putin said Russia-China relations have withstood tests and grown stronger over time, becoming a paradigm of comprehensive strategic coordination.

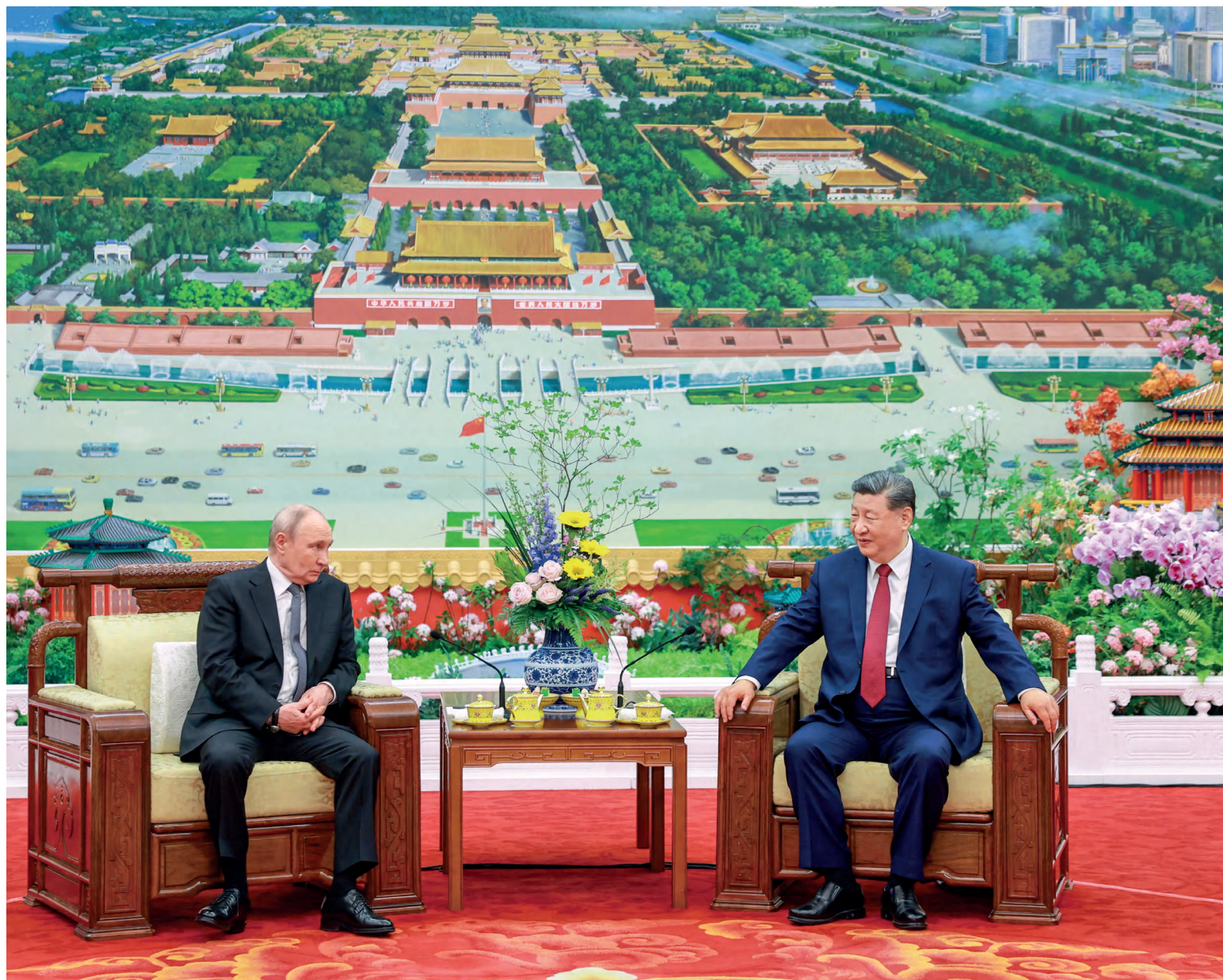
China and Russia have developed the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era on the basis of equality, mutual respect, good faith, and win-win cooperation.

Stressing that the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation is ever more relevant under the current situation, Putin said Russia is ready to work with China to act in line with the spirit of the treaty, strengthen strategic coordination and practical cooperation, and promote bilateral relations to a higher level.

Noting that Russia-China bilateral cooperation is an important stabilizing factor in the volatile international situation, Putin said Russia will continue to strengthen multilateral coordination with China, support China in hosting the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting successfully, jointly enhance the status and influence of the SCO, strengthen unity and coordination within the BRICS mechanism, uphold the authority of the UN, champion the diversity of civilizations and promote a more just and equitable international order.

Xi and Putin also exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and other major international and regional issues.

They heard progress reports from the co-chairs of the deputy prime ministerial level subcommittees under the framework of the China-Russia prime ministers' regular



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have a tea chat at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, May 20, 2026. Ding Haitao

meeting mechanism regarding cooperation in areas such as investment, energy, economy and trade, Northeast China and the Russian Far East, and people-to-people exchanges.

The foreign ministers of the two countries reported on the coordination and cooperation between China and Russia in international and regional affairs.

Following the talks, Xi and Putin issued a joint statement on further enhancing comprehensive strategic coordination and deepening good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation between the two countries.

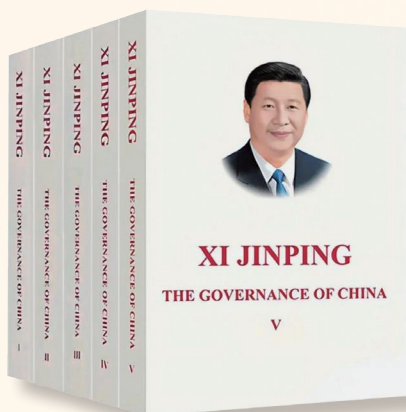
They also witnessed the signing of 20 cooperation documents in areas including the economy and trade, educa-

tion, and science and technology.

During Putin's visit, China and Russia issued a joint statement on advocating a multi-polar world and new type of international relations. The two sides also reached 20 cooperation agreements in other fields. Xi and Putin then jointly met the press.

Prior to their talks, Xi hosted a welcome ceremony for Putin outside the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing, featuring military band performances, a 21-gun salute and a march-past of the guard of honor.

Xi also held a welcoming banquet for Putin in the Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People on May 20. (Xinhua) ■



Press forward with Chinese Modernization*

December 26, 2023

The best way to commemorate Comrade Mao Zedong is to carry forward the cause he pioneered. Building China into a great country and realizing national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization is the central task of the whole Party and the whole country on our new journey in the new era. This is the uncompleted quest of China's veteran revolutionaries including Mao Zedong; it has been and remains the solemn historic responsibility of contemporary Chinese Communists. On the new journey ahead, we should stay true to our original aspiration and founding mission, boost confidence in our history, and seize the opportunity to drive forward the cause of Chinese modernization.

- We should motivate all our people to create a better future. The people, and the people alone, are the driving force in making world history. Chinese modernization is the common cause of all Chinese people. Only by firmly relying on our people and gathering their infinite wisdom and strength will we be able to achieve new and historic successes. Upholding the historical materialist view that the people are the fundamental driving force behind history, we should recognize the principal status of the people and respect the aspirations they express, the experiences they have created, the rights and interests they enjoy, and the role they play. We should make safeguarding, realizing, and developing the fundamental interests of all the people the ultimate goal of everything we do, and ensure that they all receive a fair share of the fruits of modernization.

We should improve the framework of systems that underpins the people's position as masters of the country, and promote whole-process people's democracy. We must ensure that the people always remain the masters of the country, of society, and of their own destiny, and enjoy more extensive, authentic, and accessible democratic rights and freedoms. We should improve the institutions

and mechanisms that safeguard social fairness and justice, guarantee equal rights to participation and development, and ensure that every diligent, hardworking, and innovative individual has the opportunity to realize their dream and live their best life.

We should guarantee and improve the people's well-being, promote relevant undertakings, focus on public expectations and concerns, and deliver on areas of their most immediate concern, such as employment, education, medical and health care, eldercare, childcare, and social security. Our goals are to ensure that the people have a greater and sustained sense of gain, fulfillment, and security, and to facilitate substantive progress towards common prosperity.

We should understand the dynamics of public engagement in the new era, and apply our Party's mass line with solid work. In reaching out to the people, we should deepen our bond with them, understand what they think, provide them with targeted services, meet their diverse needs, and live up to their expectations. We must engage closely with the people, accept their criticism and scrutiny, always stand together with them in one mind, and share their weal and woe. They are the most reliable, profound and inexhaustible source of strength for realizing Chinese modernization.

- We should explore new dimensions of Marxism adapted to the Chinese context and the needs of our times. Marxism provides the fundamental guidance upon which our Party and our country are founded and thrive. We must resolutely uphold Marxism and keep it up to date, promote innovative thinking based on practice, and conscientiously guide new practice with Marxism adapted to the Chinese context and the needs of our times. This holds the key to our Party's success in seizing opportunities, keeping pace with the times, and breaking new ground in

our undertakings.

There is no end to innovation in theory and practice, nor to seeking truth. Chinese modernization has opened up broad prospects for innovation in our Party's theories, and at the same time set new and more formidable tasks. We should further integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with China's realities and the best of its traditional culture, explore the laws governing Chinese modernization, respond to new challenges emerging from practice, and steer innovations in practice with innovations in theory.

The whole Party must make a concerted effort to write a new chapter in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of our times. All Party members, especially leaders at all levels, must approach Marxism with a scientific mindset and in the spirit of truth. With the courage to uphold and the motivation to explore truth, all Party members should think actively and creatively, provide insights, and contribute their wisdom and strength to driving innovation in the Party's theories.

The people's creative practice is the inexhaustible source of inspiration for new theories. We should learn from the people sincerely and review their practical experiences in a timely manner, so that our Party's theories are welcomed, recognized, and adopted by the people.

We should develop a global perspective, identify the trends of human progress, and actively respond to the common concerns of all people, contributing China's solutions to addressing the challenges facing all of humanity. With a broad and open mind, we should learn and draw from the merits of all civilizations to expand the theoretical and cultural resources for our Party's innovations.

- We should promote deeper reform and wider opening up. Reform and opening up has been essential for China to catch up with the times, and key to the success of Chinese modernization. Chinese modernization requires us to advance all-round reform and opening up, and continue to unleash and develop productive forces and to spur and boost social vitality. We should follow the new trends of global development, meet the new requirements of our national development, and fulfill the new expectations of our people. We must carry reform through to the end with firm resolve, taking solid measures to tackle tough problems, and making targeted, coordinated, and continuous efforts to remove all institutional barriers that impede the progress of Chinese modernization.

We should advance economic reform, fully leveraging the decisive role of the market in resource allocation while giving better play to the role of the government. We should move faster in fostering a new development dynamic and a unified national market, improve macro-economic governance, boost the vitality of diverse market players, and continue to build an institutional framework that facilitates high-quality development. We should advance scientific and technological structural reform, leverage the new system for mobilizing resources nationwide,

and grow our strength in strategic science and technology. To achieve greater strength and self-reliance in science and technology, we should maximize the leading role of enterprises in innovation, optimize the allocation of resources for innovation, and make breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields. We should coordinate cultural, social and eco-environmental structural reform, constantly injecting new impetus into Chinese modernization.

Modernization relies on opening up; opening up facilitates modernization. We should continue to expand high-standard opening up, and uphold a mutually beneficial strategy. Leveraging the strengths of our enormous market, we should attract global resources and factors of production with our vibrant domestic economy, and amplify the interplay between domestic and international markets and resources. We should steadily promote institutional opening up with regard to rules, regulations, management, and standards, and raise the quality and level of trade and investment cooperation, creating broader prospects for Chinese modernization.

- We should further strengthen internal Party governance. The CPC is the core leading force of all our undertakings. Chinese modernization is, in essence, socialist modernization led by the CPC. We must remain clear-headed about the challenges that we as a large political party might encounter, and stay resolute in overcoming them to make our Party stronger. This is the only way to ensure solid and steady progress in Chinese modernization.

We should implement the overall requirements for strengthening our Party in the new era, advance all our work in strengthening the Party under the overarching principle of reinforcing its political foundations, improve the systems for full and rigorous internal Party governance, and drive the Party's endeavors to cleanse, improve, renew, and temper itself. These efforts will enable our Party to stay true to its original aspiration and founding mission, remain at the forefront of the times, and maintain its vigor and vitality.

To meet the new requirements raised by Chinese modernization, we should train high-caliber and professional officials who are loyal, honest, and responsible. We should inspire all Party members, especially officials, to demonstrate a strong sense of political responsibility and urgency, keep up with new thinking and ideas, remedy their deficiencies, and improve their ability to perform duties. Our Party members should stay abreast of changing times, exhibit high competence, discard outdated ideas, thoughts, practices, and approaches, and oppose irresponsibility, nonperformance, dereliction and stagnation.

Party organizations at all levels should take a clear stance in supporting officials who assume their responsibilities, fulfill their duties, and deliver real results, thus creating a favorable environment for advancing our undertakings. We should improve Party conduct and enforce

Party discipline to the strictest standards, starting with leadership bodies and leading officials. We should value practical initiatives, solid work, and real results, combat form over substance and bureaucratism, and enable Party officials, particularly those at the grassroots, to focus on facilitating development and serving the people.

Corruption is a cancer to the vitality and ability of our Party, and our fight against corruption must not pause for a single moment. To ensure that officials do not have the audacity, the opportunity, or the desire to engage in corruption, we must adopt systematic measures to address both the symptoms and the root causes, and maintain a tough stance on punishing corruption. We must take resolute actions to investigate corruption involving both political and economic interests, prohibit leading officials from acting for any interest group or power group, and punish corruption in sectors with a high concentration of power, funds, and resources. The success of this tough and protracted anti-corruption campaign will ensure that our Party never betrays its nature and mission.

- We should adhere to and improve the policy of One Country, Two Systems, and promote national reunification. Chinese modernization requires the concerted and dedicated efforts of all Chinese nationals. We must fully, faithfully, and resolutely implement the policy of One Country, Two Systems, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy. Under the principle of law-based governance in Hong Kong and Macao, we must uphold and improve the policy framework of One Country, Two Systems, ensure that the central government exercises overall jurisdiction over the special administrative regions (SARs), implement the principle of patriots administering Hong Kong and Macao, and safeguard both the central government's overall jurisdiction and a high degree of autonomy within the two SARs. We must support Hong Kong and Macao in growing their economies, improving people's wellbeing, and resolving deep-seated problems hampering economic and social development, and we must enable them to further integrate their own development into the overall development of the country.

Realizing China's complete reunification is an irresistible trend, a just cause, and the people's shared aspiration. China must be and will undoubtedly be reunified. We must implement our Party's overall policy for resolving the Taiwan question in the new era, uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, facilitate integrated development across the Taiwan Straits in all sectors, and promote peaceful development of cross-Straits relations. The Chinese people have the resolve, the confidence, and the ability to defeat any attempt to separate Taiwan from China in any way.

- We should promote a community with a shared future for humanity. The need for a global vision has been an

important lesson that our Party has drawn from its struggle over the past century. Chinese modernization follows the path of peaceful development, benefiting the Chinese people while facilitating global modernization.

We will stand firmly on the right side of history and the side of human progress, championing peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, and promoting the common values of humanity. We will drive the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, with the goal of building an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security, and shared prosperity. We will uphold the basic norms for international relations, safeguard international fairness and justice, and always decide our position and policy on issues based on their own merits. We respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and oppose all forms of hegemony and power politics.

We will keep to the course of economic globalization, pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up, work with all countries to foster new growth drivers for global development, contribute to an open global economy, and oppose protectionism. We will promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, strengthen policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity with partner countries, and create new platforms for global economic cooperation.

We will take an active part in reforming and developing the global governance system, and act on the principle of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit. We will practice true multilateralism, promote democracy in international relations, and work for more just and equitable global governance.

China's development represents the growth of peaceful forces. No matter what stage of development it reaches, China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansion. More than one hundred years ago, Mao Zedong said, "We must make efforts! We must move forward! Our golden age, a bright and brilliant world, lies right ahead!"¹ Today, our grand undertakings, initiated by Mao and other senior revolutionaries, are thriving and prospering. Their lofty ideals are becoming realities. The rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will herald the brightest prospects ever. Let us forge greater unity, lose no time, and work harder, progressing in determined strides along the path of socialism to build a great country and advance national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization. ■

* Part of the speech at a meeting to mark the 130th anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong.

Notes

¹Mao Zedong: "The Great Unity of the People (III)", *Mao Zedong's Early Works*, Chin. ed., Hunan People's Publishing House, Changsha, 2013, p. 359.

Zhao Leji pays an official goodwill visit to Russia and attends the 11th Meeting of the China-Russia Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation

From May 27 to 30, 2026, local time, at the invitation of Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matvienko and Chairman of the State Duma of Russia Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Zhao Leji paid an official goodwill visit to Russia. He held talks with Valentina Matvienko and Vyacheslav Volodin in Moscow respectively, and attended the 11th Meeting of the China-Russia Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation.

During his talks with Valentina Matvienko and Vyacheslav Volodin, Zhao Leji stated that under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin, the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era has maintained a high level of development.

Last week, President Vladimir Putin paid a successful state visit to China, during which the two heads of state

held in-depth, friendly and fruitful talks, signed a joint statement on further strengthening comprehensive strategic coordination and deepening good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation. The China-Russia relationship has entered a new stage of greater achievements and faster development. China is willing to work with Russia to fully implement the important consensus reached by

Under the strategic guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin, the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era has maintained a high level of development.



This is the Moskva River in front of the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. VCG



Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, and Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko attend the 11th meeting of the China-Russia committee for parliamentary cooperation in Moscow, Russia, May 28, 2026. At the invitation of Matviyenko and Chairman of the Russian State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin, Zhao paid an official goodwill visit to Russia from May 27 to 30, and attended the 11th Meeting of the China-Russia Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation in Moscow. Zhang Ling

the two heads of state. Taking the 30th anniversary of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination, and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between China and Russia as an opportunity, both sides should carry forward traditional friendship, enhance mutual strategic trust, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and integration of interests and promote higher-quality development of bilateral relations.

Zhao Leji stated that the exchange mechanisms between the legislative bodies of China and Russia have been increasingly improved, playing a significant role in optimizing the legal environment for bilateral cooperation and consolidating the public opinion foundation of the bilateral relations. The legislative bodies of China and Russia should, based on their respective functions and responsibilities, maintain the positive momentum of multi-level and across-the-board exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and trust, and strengthen communication and mutual learning so as to better serve the development of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era. The two sides should exchange legislative experience in such areas as national security, ecological and environmental protection, artificial intelligence and foreign-related rule of law.

Valentina Matvienko said the two heads of state have led the Russia-China relationship to the best in history.

The Russian Federation Council of the Federal Assembly is always committed to promoting the development of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era, and deepening the friendship between the two peoples. It is willing to strengthen exchanges with China's NPC to provide legal support for promoting practical cooperation in areas including economy and trade, investment, energy, culture, transportation and regional affairs.

Vyacheslav Volodin stated that Russia-China relations serve as a model for major-country relations in the 21st century. Promoting friendship and cooperation between Russia and China is the firm consensus of all political parties in the State Duma of Russia. He expressed the hope of working with China to enhance exchanges and mutual learning between legislative bodies in fields such as artificial intelligence. Russia firmly adheres to the one-China principle and is ready to strengthen multilateral cooperation with China to jointly defend the victorious outcome of World War II.

On May 28, Zhao Leji attended the 11th Meeting of the China-Russia Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation. He pointed out that the legislative bodies of both countries should follow the guidance of head-of-state diplomacy and keep implementing the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, cooperation documents and major projects. Both sides should promptly approve

and supervise the implementation of legal documents conducive to bilateral cooperation; create a transparent, fair and stable business environment; protect the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises; and provide legal safeguards for practical bilateral cooperation. Both sides should also actively participate in activities such as the China-Russia Years of Education to deepen cultural exchanges and consolidate the public opinion foundation for China-Russia friendship. They should make good use of existing mechanisms and platforms, leverage the active role of local legislative bodies to expand local cooperation and enhance coordination within multilateral frameworks, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to promote international fairness and justice.

During his visit to Russia, Zhao Leji toured a photo exhibition commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between China and Russia and an exhibition on the site of the 6th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in Moscow. He also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In Irkutsk, he met with Governor of the Irkutsk Region Igor Kobzev and Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of the Irkutsk Region Aleksandr Vedernikov. He expressed the hope of strengthening practical local cooperation, enhance people-to-people friendship, and inject more vitality into bilateral relations. (Xinhua) ■

China's top legislator pays official goodwill visit to Kazakhstan

At the invitation of Yerlan Koshanov, speaker of the Mazhilis, the lower house of Kazakhstan's parliament, China's top legislator Zhao Leji paid an official goodwill visit to Kazakhstan from May 25 to 27.

During the visit, Zhao, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, met with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and held talks with Koshanov and Maulen Ashimbayev, chairperson of the Senate of Kazakhstan in Astana.

During the meeting with Tokayev, Zhao said China is willing to work with Kazakhstan to firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, enhance the alignment of development strategies and further advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Zhao called on the two sides to consolidate cooperation in investment, energy, minerals, connectivity and other fields; and to create new growth areas for cooperation in new energy, digital economy, artificial intelligence, cross-border e-commerce, smart cities and other areas. Both sides should work together to make the China-Kazakhstan Year of Cultural Exchange a success, he added.

Zhao also said China is willing to work with Kazakhstan to strengthen coordination within multilateral frameworks such as the UN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the China-Central Asia mechanism to safeguard the common interests of the two countries and international fairness and justice.

For his part, Tokayev said Kazakhstan and China are truly good neighbors, good friends and good partners, stressing that Kazakhstan adheres to the one-China principle and supports building a community with a shared future for humanity and the four major global initiatives, all proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries has been continuously deepened, playing an important role in promoting friendship between Kazakhstan and China, Tokayev added.

In talks with Ashimbayev and Koshanov, Zhao said that exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies are integral to China-Kazakhstan relations. He said the legislative bodies should engage in exchanges of experience on developing democracy and the rule of law, improving legislative quality and other areas, so as to support each country's development.



Zhao Leji, chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, meets with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in Astana, Kazakhstan, May 26, 2026. At the invitation of Yerlan Koshanov, speaker of the Mazhilis, the lower house of Kazakhstan's parliament, Zhao paid an official goodwill visit to Kazakhstan from May 25 to 27. Rao Aimin

China is willing to work with Kazakhstan to strengthen coordination within multilateral frameworks.

Ashimbayev said China has become an important pillar of global stability and a powerful engine of global economic growth, adding that Kazakhstan will create favorable conditions for bilateral economic, trade and investment cooperation.

Koshanov noted that the Kazakh side firmly supports China's position on issues related to Taiwan, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Xizang, and expressed willingness to continue enhancing friendly exchanges between the legislative bodies of the two countries. (Xinhua) ■

China to revise Agriculture Law to accelerate building of agricultural powerhouse



This aerial drone photo taken on May 31, 2026 shows agricultural machineries in a wheat field at Sanhe Farm in Xuyi county, east China's Jiangsu Province. Ji Chunpeng



Farmers work at a seedling nursery of Xiejing'an Transfar Agricultural Innovation Village in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, March 29, 2026.
Chengli

A draft revision to the Agriculture Law was submitted on April 27 to a standing committee session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, for initial review.

The revision is designed to further consolidate and strengthen the fundamental role of agriculture in the national economy, uphold a holistic approach to agriculture and food, promote high-quality agricultural development, advance comprehensive rural revitalization, accelerate building up strength in agriculture and provide strong legal safeguards for the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

The law, a fundamental piece of legislation governing the agricultural and rural economy, was first enacted in 1993 and comprehensively revised in 2002. Individual provisions of the law were amended in 2009 and 2012 as minor modifications.

The draft revision specifies that the country shall keep rural land contracting stable and unchanged on a long-term basis, adhere to the national food security strategy, develop new quality productive forces in agriculture in light of local conditions and advance the deep integration of sci-tech and industrial innovation.

It proposes that the country promote an investment model which incorporates fiscal guarantees, financial support and the participation of diverse social sectors. It also adds

The revision is designed to further consolidate and strengthen the fundamental role of agriculture in the national economy.

a dedicated chapter on green agricultural development and includes provisions to support the development of underdeveloped areas and improve mechanisms for preventing rural residents from falling back into poverty.

During the NPC session, a draft revision to the Water Law was also submitted for initial review. It emphasizes strengthening the development, utilization and management of water resources; enhancing the economical and intensive use of water resources; reinforcing the management and protection of rivers and lakes; and regulating the construction and operation of water projects, among other relevant revisions.

Lawmakers attending the NPC Standing Committee session also continued deliberations on a draft law on farmland protection and quality improvement. It includes measures to fully mobilize the enthusiasm of agricultural producers and

operators in the protection and quality improvement of cultivated land and safeguard their legitimate rights and interests.

It also stipulates that China shall improve the survey and evaluation system for cultivated land quality and improve the project approval mechanism for high-standard farmland.

Moreover, the country shall utilize modern information technologies and means, such as satellite remote sensing, the internet, big data, cloud computing and artificial intelligence, to strengthen farmland protection and its quality, according to the draft law. (Xinhua) ■

Agricultural technologies help Chinese farmers stabilize production, increase incomes

"Due to a recent increase in precipitation, please ensure the rational use of fertilizers and pesticides and prevent rice pests and diseases." After receiving a warning message on his phone via a digital agricultural platform, Qi Fang, a rice grower in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, led a crop protection team into his paddy fields.

Qi introduced that he manages his paddy fields based on the application of big data and can easily check information such as the soil moisture content, temperatures, and the presence of rice pests and diseases.

"Farming has become a meticulous process and a bumper rice harvest can now be ensured," Qi said, adding that the quality of rice can also be improved.

Qi is one of the farmers that has benefited from China's efforts to leverage agricultural technologies to help farmers stabilize agricultural production and raise incomes.

After 10 years of effort, agricultural technologies have contributed over 61 percent to the country's agricultural production, helping ensure that the total grain output could be kept above 650 million metric tons for seven consecutive years.

China is now capable of independently developing over 4,000 different kinds of agricultural machinery and equipment, with over 72 percent of the country's crops being planted and harvested using machines.

China is promoting soybean-corn intercropping to ensure stable corn and soybean output in some regions.

Wang Wenchang, head of a planting cooperative in the Lingcheng district of Dezhou city in east China's Shandong Province, made further innovations with the application of this technology after adopting it to plant two lines of corn and four lines of soybean on a farm, having piloted this farming practice on 1,000 mu (66.7 hectares) of farmland.

Thanks to subsidies for agricultural machinery and the technical assistance offered by the local government, Wang was able to reduce the costs and increase the efficiency of planting.

"After the technological transformation, one kind of agricultural machinery can be used for both crops, which helps reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides while significantly cutting the costs per mu," Wang said.

Since the beginning of the year, soybean-corn intercropping has been trialed on 60,000 mu of farmland in Lingcheng district.

China has been developing modern agriculture with the support of science and technology, introduced Zhou Yunlong, director of the Department of Science, Technology and Education under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

Meanwhile, the MARA has stepped up efforts to encourage the widespread use of advanced practical agricultural technologies in

recent years. At present, 56,000 agricultural technology promotion agencies and over 480,000 agricultural technicians have been set up in rural areas to provide technical guidance and other services for farmers, helping stabilize agricultural production and raise farmers' incomes.

The MARA has also established an agricultural technology promotion platform, which covers over 2,000 counties (or individual farms), to offer guidance to farmers.

Localities and departments across China have accelerated the establishment of a specialized agricultural service system to promote third-party cultivation and introduce high-quality crop varieties, advanced agricultural technologies, equipment and organization-based support to small household farmers. So far, over 950,000 socialized agricultural service organizations across the country have provided services for about 1.7 billion mu of farmland and over 78 million small household farmers.

China has boosted the development of smart agriculture. In recent years, localities in the country have promoted the in-depth integration of new technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), big data and cloud platforms, together with agricultural production. China has built 100 digital agriculture pilot projects and nine provincial regions into paragons for the roll out agricultural IoT.

In addition, China has promoted the introduction of high-quality seeds. High-quality seeds are now used for almost all major crop varieties in the country, with the self-sufficiency rate for seed supplies for major crops exceeding 95 percent, as revealed Yang Lisheng, a MARA official. In the most recent past 10 years, China has approved the registration of 39,000 crop varieties.

China has also boosted sales of agricultural products through e-commerce platforms. At present, the combined value of online retail sales in the country's rural areas has already exceeded 2 trillion yuan (\$291.8 billion), while online retail sales of agricultural products have surpassed 420 billion yuan.

Looking forward, China will promote further technological innovation in the field of agriculture, implement strategies for sustainable farmland use and the innovative application of agricultural technologies in order to increase the productivity of farmland, make breakthroughs in agricultural core technologies, and cultivate seed companies with a strong international competitiveness, Zhou said.

Zhou added that the country will also enhance its research and development and the application of heavy smart agricultural machinery, strengthen the control of crop pests and diseases, and develop new ways to promote agricultural technologies, in addition to helping more and more farmers have the chance to enjoy an increasingly better life. (People's Daily Online) ■





Dancers welcome visitors with traditional performances in Nilka County, Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefectural People's Congress)

Xinjiang will only prosper further under new law

By Adnan Akfirat

One of the most important outcomes of this year's Two Sessions was largely ignored by the international press.

On March 12, China's National People's Congress (NPC) adopted the Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law, which will take effect on July 1. Beijing says the law is designed to strengthen interaction among ethnic groups, advance common development and place their sense of belonging to the Chinese nation on firmer legal ground.

Even before the law comes into force, Western think tanks and media outlets have returned to their familiar script. For example, the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations described the law as a shift "from autonomy to assimilation". But this says more about the West's political reflexes than Xinjiang.

The real issue is not whether ethnic differences are being erased but whether they are being placed within a stronger framework of common development, participation and shared national purpose.

Evidence points to the latter.

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is not treated as a "long-time crisis zone", as some Western politicians and scholars say. Instead, Xinjiang is an integral part of Chinese mod-

ernization. The new law matters because it shows that this is not a temporary adjustment. It is a long-term direction.

Winning the hearts and minds of the people is the key. One of the central features of the "new era" has been the effort to confront old structural problems through active reform.

In Xinjiang, this has meant moving toward a broader strategy centered on stability through development. The goal is to create stronger social foundations for long-term cohesion.

An earlier phase of policy concentrated on removing the conditions for separatism, extremism and violence. The more significant shift came afterward. The central government has emphasized that lasting ethnic unity is best supported by better schools, better jobs, better living standards, wider public participation and a stronger stake in the future of the country.

That is why the new law matters. Its aim is not just to ensure order, but also to ensure that Uygur, Kazak, Kirgiz, Hui and other ethnic groups see themselves as active participants in China's development.

A border region of millions can be integrated when development, dignity and belonging reinforce one another.

Representation gives integration political substance. People feel more deeply connected to a common future when they can

see themselves inside the institutions of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the state. By that measure, the recent figures are important.

Official statistics from China show that ethnic minority members of the CPC rose from 5.8 million, or 6.8 percent of total membership, at the end of 2012 to 7.73 million, or 7.7 percent, at the end of 2024. That is an increase of nearly 1.93 million over 12 years.

New membership figures show the same trend. In 2021, ethnic minority new members accounted for 9.1 percent of all new Party members. In 2022, 2023 and 2024, that share stood at 10.5 percent.

Representation at the top level also matters. At the 20th CPC National Congress, ethnic minority delegates accounted for 11.5 percent of the total, with delegates drawn from 40 minority groups.

These figures show that integration is being built not only in rhetoric, but in political organization and representation.

Development creates the material basis for harmony. The strongest side of the Xinjiang policy is the scale of the development drive. The Chinese government is not offering slogans. It is reshaping daily life through infrastructure, public investment, education, social policy and political participation at all levels.

Education figures make this clear. According to a 2025 white paper issued by the State Council Information Office, the completion rate for nine-year compulsory education in Xinjiang has risen above 99 percent.

Gross enrollment at the senior secondary level reached 97.74 percent, and in parts of southern Xinjiang, children now receive 15 years of free education from preschool through high school.

The poverty record is equally important. Official figures

show that 3.06 million poverty-stricken rural residents, 3,666 villages, and 35 impoverished counties in Xinjiang had all been lifted out of poverty by the end of 2020.

These are not abstract numbers. They mean roads, water, housing, healthcare, schools and jobs.

Xinjiang is also becoming one of China's major gateways to the West. Figures show that the region's GDP surpassed 2 trillion yuan (\$295 billion) for the first time in 2024. In 2025, Xinjiang's foreign trade totaled 520.37 billion yuan (\$76 billion) and tourism revenue reached 370 billion yuan (\$54 billion).

Development on this scale does more than raise output. It gives social confidence and long-term cohesion a stronger foundation.

The new law should be read together with these broader changes. Education, poverty reduction, political participation, trade expansion and investment growth are not separate stories.

They are different parts of one strategy: building long-term stability through development, representation, belonging and integration.

This is the core of the new law. It gives institutional form to a simple idea: ethnic harmony grows stronger when people become real participants in development, governance and a shared future. That is how durable solutions are built.

For that reason, today's Xinjiang should be seen through a new lens: as an example of how the ethnic question can be addressed through national development and democratic inclusion, without allowing it to become a tool of imperialism. (China Daily) ■

(The author is chairman of the Turkish-Chinese Business Development and Friendship Association)



Deputies to Kuqa's Municipal People's Congress consult with residents about their opinions on the draft amendment to the Law on Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language in September at a village in Kuqa. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Kuqa Municipal People's Congress)



The “China (Guangxi) Geographical Indication Products Exhibition” is held at the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, November 17, 2025. Lian Yi

Trademark Law changed for fairer market

China will further regulate trademark registration and step up its crackdown on deceptive and misleading trademarks to encourage innovation and support high-quality economic development, according to a newly revised law.

The amended Trademark Law was adopted on June 26 as the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the top legislative body, concluded its 23rd session. Consisting of 87 articles across nine chapters, the law will take effect on Jan 1, 2027, in response to public concerns over trademark-related issues.

“In recent years, new situations and problems have emerged in China’s trademark field, particularly the repeated occurrence of malicious trademark applications that seriously squeeze public resources in this regard,” the NPC Standing Committee’s Legislative Affairs Commission said.

“At the same time, insufficient penalties for infringement, excessive rights enforcement by trademark registrants and disorder among trademark agencies have also become acute,” the commission added.

Malicious trademark registrations include conduct that violates the principles of legality and good faith, such as trademark hoarding and squatting, unauthorized appropriation, imitation, infringement of others’ prior rights, misuse of public resources, and large-scale or repeated bad-faith registrations.

To address these issues, stimulate the innovation vitality of market entities and effectively safeguard fair market competition, China has comprehensively revised the Trademark Law, the commission said.

It described the revision as a significant step toward implementing the national outline for building an intellectual property powerhouse and promoting the high-quality development of the socialist market economy.

The amended law adds a dedicated chapter on trademark registration. On one hand, it adapts to the growth of the mobile internet and digital technologies by expanding the scope of registrable trademarks to meet the needs of emerging industries and stimulate economic vitality. On the other, it imposes stricter requirements on trademark applicants.

For example, the law stipulates that trademark applications filed without an intention to use the mark or beyond normal business needs will be rejected. Individuals or entities that register trademarks in bad faith and cause adverse effects will receive warnings from trademark authorities and face fines of up to 100,000 yuan (\$14,710).

The law also provides that applicants who knowingly register trademarks that are deceptive or likely to mislead the public about a product’s quality, craftsmanship, raw materials or place of origin, thereby causing adverse effects, will bear legal liability.

In addition, if a registered trademark is used in a misleading manner, trademark authorities will order corrective action within a specified period. If illegal business turnover exceeds 50,000 yuan, a fine of up to five times the turnover may be imposed. If the turnover is less than 50,000 yuan, a fine of up to 250,000 yuan may be levied.

Failure to rectify the violation within the prescribed period will result in the revocation of the registered trademark, according to the law.

Noting that some trademark registrants fail to use their trademarks for extended periods, the revised law clarifies that a registered trademark that remains unused for three consecutive years without a legitimate reason will be revoked.

In addition, trademark agencies are required to register their own information and that of their employees with the trademark authority under the State Council, China’s Cabinet, in accordance with the law. (China Daily) ■



This aerial drone photo shows the construction site of the Tongjiang super major bridge, part of the upgrading project for the Jiamusi-Tongjiang Railway, in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, June 25, 2026. The Tongjiang Port is a key gateway along the eastern corridor of the China-Europe freight train service. (Xinhua)

Revised Foreign Trade Law boosts China's drive towards trader of quality

By Wang Wenzheng

China's newly revised Foreign Trade Law officially came into effect on March 1. The legislation aims to strengthen legal safeguards as China accelerates its transformation into a high-quality trading nation. The revisions are tailored to China's specific conditions while aligning with international rules and practices.

The revisions aim to advance high-standard opening up, promote high-quality development of foreign trade, maintain foreign trade order and protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign traders.

China currently ranks first in global trade in goods and second in global trade in services, with new business forms such as cross-border e-commerce and digital trade developing rapidly. At the same time, the domestic and international environment for China's foreign trade has undergone profound changes.

An official from the Legislative Affairs Commission of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee emphasized the critical importance of expanding high-standard opening up and building China into a high-quality

trading nation to advance Chinese modernization. “The rule of law and opening up are intrinsically linked,” the official stated. “Progress in opening up must be matched by corresponding advancements in the rule of law concerning foreign-related matters.”

The official highlighted that the revision incorporates reform achievements into the legal framework, optimizes the foreign trade environment and enhances China’s legal mechanisms for addressing trade challenges.

A key highlight of the revision is that it clarifies China’s foreign trade direction. The revised law adds provisions to advance the country’s efforts to become a high-quality trading nation and safeguard a fair and just international economic and trade order. It also encourages the development of international trade in services across multiple modes.

More specifically, the revised law sets out provisions on proactively aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, actively participating in the formulation of such rules, upholding the multilateral trading system and safeguarding a fair and just international economic and trade order. It mandates the establishment of a trade policy compliance mechanism aligned with internationally accepted rules.

It also integrates reform measures into the legal framework, including the implementation of a negative-list management system for cross-border trade in services, support for the construction of trade promotion platforms and international transport corridors, the development of new business forms and modes of foreign trade, the digital transformation of trade and the promotion of digital and green trade.

These changes, responding to new developments and changes in the foreign trade landscape, have drawn widespread attention from foreign trader operators, particularly the provisions on trade promotion platforms and international transport corridors.

In the Langfang Airport Economic Zone of Beijing Daxing International Airport in north China’s Hebei Province, the global cross-border e-commerce (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei) “three centers” integrate an ecosystem hub, a transaction services center and a digital supply chain center, providing comprehensive support and services for cross-border e-commerce worldwide.

Major platforms like Amazon and Shopee have already joined, fostering an ecosystem focused on platform enablement, business incubation, talent development and industrial cluster coordination. These platforms are expected to play a growing role in China’s foreign trade.

As a key node in China’s international transport corridor network, the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in east China’s Zhejiang Province has strengthened its sea-rail intermodal transport capabilities. Its services now cover 67 prefecture-level cities nationwide. The port continues to expand its global network, connecting with over 600 ports worldwide, and ranks second globally on the port connectivity index.

In northwest China’s Gansu Province, cargo volume at the Gansu (Wuwei) International Land Port surged 100 percent year-on-year in the first month of 2026, driven by accelerating construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan international transport corridor.

The revised law calls for diversified and resilient interna-

The legislation aims to strengthen legal safeguards as China accelerates its transformation into a trader of quality.

tional transport corridors, which will provide lasting support for the high-quality development of foreign trade.

As Chinese companies deepen their engagement in global trade, foreign-related intellectual property (IP) disputes have become an increasingly pressing concern. The revised law clarifies that China will strengthen IP protection related to foreign trade, build and improve a platform for early warning of international risks regarding IP rights and for providing assistance in defending rights, and enhance the IP compliance standards and risk-management capabilities of foreign trade operators.

Data from the China National Intellectual Property Administration show that by the end of 2025, the country had established 99 overseas IP dispute response guidance platforms across the country, six industry-specific platforms focusing on key sectors such as automobiles and solar power, and overseas working platforms in 11 countries. In 2025, relevant platforms provided guidance and consultation services for enterprises more than 4,800 times, addressing cross-border e-commerce IP disputes and overseas trademark squatting and helping recover losses totaling 2.75 billion yuan (\$399 million).

In response to actions by certain countries involving repeated use of “sanctions” and “investigations” targeting Chinese foreign trade enterprises, the revised law also enhances China’s legal mechanisms for addressing trade disputes. It supplements and refines corresponding countermeasures. Industry experts suggest these institutional arrangements will bolster the confidence of foreign trade entities in navigating international trade disputes and managing associated risks. (People’s Daily) ■



A buyer learns about electric drills at the China Import and Export Fair in Guangzhou, south China’s Guangdong Province, April 19, 2026. Lu Hanxin



The first plenary meeting of the 22nd session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, April 27, 2026. The draft law on social assistance is deliberated at the meeting. Tian Yuhao

Social Assistance Law builds a stronger social safety net

China's top legislature has adopted a new law on social assistance, aiming to provide more accessible and efficient support to vulnerable groups across the country. The Social Assistance Law will take effect on July 1st, 2026.

The new law was passed in April 2026, when the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress concluded the 22nd session in Beijing. After about three decades of legislative efforts, China has adopted a new law on social assistance. The law aims at strengthening basic living support and building a more comprehensive safety net for vulnerable groups. It includes measures to streamline administrative procedures, making it easier for people in need to apply for and receive assistance. It also encourages governments at all levels to support able-bodied recipients in becoming self-reliant and overcoming difficulties.

An expert who has long been involved in the legislative process says the move marks a milestone in China's social security system.

Zheng Gongcheng, Member of 14th NPC Standing Committee, Professor, Renmin University of China "In the past, social assistance mainly focused on those in extreme hardship. Now, it has been expanded to include more vulnerable groups who need essential support. We are also moving beyond purely material aid to include services. This means

the safety net is becoming more comprehensive and better able to meet people's needs."

The law also comes at a time when China is shifting from targeted poverty alleviation to a long-term mechanism aimed at preventing people from slipping back into poverty.

The expert says the new law is crucial especially for those unable to work.

Cong Bin, Member of 14th NPC Standing Committee, Vice Chairman of 14th NPC Constitution and Law Committee "A healthcare security law is key to achieving universal health coverage. It aims to address gaps identified in past reforms and build a more complete and coordinated system that benefits the entire population."

The law's provisions on improving maternity insurance and expanding its coverage have drawn public attention. This comes as China moves to build a more birth-friendly society in response to demographic challenges.

Beyond individual provisions, these laws point to a broader shift in China's legislative approach: placing greater emphasis on investing in people's well-being. For those in distress, it means greater dignity. For those planning to have children, it means more confidence. The focus is on making a social safety net that is more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable. (CGTN) ■

Revised Civil Aviation Law boosts aviation manufacturing innovation and low-altitude economy development

A revision to the Civil Aviation Law, which was passed at a session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee last December, took effect on July 1.

The Civil Aviation Law is the country's primary statute governing civil aviation activities. It sets out rules to protect national airspace sovereignty, ensure the safe and orderly operation of civil aviation, and safeguard the legitimate rights of airlines, airports, manufacturers and passengers.

First enacted in 1995, the law has undergone six partial revisions over the past three decades. Comprising 16 chapters and 262 articles, the revised law further enriches and improves various institutional measures to regulate civil aviation activities and guarantee civil aviation safety.

Moreover, lawmakers said the update is designed to align regulations with changes in the aviation industry, new technologies and emerging business models. It also aims to support the development of aviation manufacturing, air transport services and the low-altitude economy.

A major feature of the revision is tighter oversight of civil unmanned aircraft. Under the new law, entities engaged in the design, production, import, maintenance and operation of civil drones will generally be required to obtain airworthiness certification from the national civil aviation authority, unless exempted under specific regulations. Drone manufacturers must also assign a unique identification code to each aircraft, a measure intended to improve traceability and regulatory oversight.

The law also strengthens aviation safety rules. It explicitly bans the use of lasers that could interfere with airport visual navigation systems and details prohibited activities that may disrupt the electromagnetic environment around airports. In addition, airlines and airport operators are permitted to take necessary measures if their safety support capacity is deemed insufficient.

The measure targeting civil aviation manufacturing includes adding provisions to enhance the innovation system for civil aviation manufacturing led by enterprises, with a market-driven focus that integrates industry, academia and research.

It also aims to support research and development (R&D) of key technologies, improve design capabilities for large aircraft and advanced engines, and promote the industrialization of innovations to boost the civil aviation manufacturing sector, according to Huang Haihua, spokesperson for the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee.



A staff member of Shenzhen AnTG Aerospace Technology Co., Ltd. checks the propellers of an aircraft at the company's flight test site in Dongguan, south China's Guangdong Province, May 2, 2026. Hong Zehua

When it comes to advancing the low-altitude economy, provisions include ways for the country to optimize the allocation of low-altitude airspace resources, promote the development of a regulatory platform for low-altitude flight services, establish airworthiness certification and flight management systems suited to the low-altitude economy's needs, and expand application services to foster industrial development.

According to forecasts by the Civil Aviation Administration of China, the market size of China's low-altitude economy was expected to reach 1.5 trillion yuan (\$221 billion) in 2025, and was projected to exceed 3.5 trillion yuan (\$515 billion) by 2035.

Wang stressed the importance of having a legal framework for promoting the sector's development and building up the industry's capacities, ranging from R&D and manufacturing to operations.

Wang highlighted safety under the regulation as another critical point, stressing the important role for responsible authorities to play in ensuring the safety of aircraft development, production, operation and maintenance under the legal regulation. He noted that using legal frameworks to cultivate top-tier enterprises would promote the sector's sustainable growth and ensure global competitiveness.

The latest revision comes amid the rapid expansion of China's civil aviation sector. The number of domestic commercial airports has more than doubled from just over 130 in 1995 to about 270 in 2025, with more than 40 airports handling over 10 million passenger trips annually. (China Daily) ■



The Standing Committee of the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress holds a face-to-face inquiry session on further advancing the comprehensive reform of international trade in Yiwu, August 27, 2025. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress)

The rule of law safeguards the market; democracy fosters a favorable business environment for global merchants

By Sun Mengshuang and Zhang Weiqi

Transforming from a small town of petty peddling into a globally renowned “world’s supermarket”, Yiwu has charted an extraordinary path of development. Once an obscure and impoverished county in the central region of Zhejiang Province, it has risen to become a pivotal node in the Belt and Road Initiative business circle.

On June 8, 2006, during a research visit to Hengtang

village, Xi Jinping, then secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhejiang Provincial Committee, comprehensively elaborated on the “Yiwu development experience” for the first time.

In April 2026, Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks in an instruction that Yiwu’s small commodities have broken into a vast market and developed into a major industry, forming the “Yiwu develop-

ment experience”. He said that this represents a successful model for developing county economies in line with local conditions, urging efforts to guide all regions to leverage their own resource endowments and explore high-quality development paths suited to their own conditions.

Over the past two decades, the local people’s congresses of Jinhua city and Yiwu city in the Zhengjiang Province have earnestly implemented Xi’s important instructions. By using the rule of law to safeguard reform, oversight to promote implementation and democracy to pool public wisdom, they have translated the institutional advantages of the people’s congress system into effective governance for the county economy.

Legislation as a safeguard for reform

Between 2002 and 2007, Xi visited Yiwu multiple times. He acutely observed that its rapid growth lacked matching institutional support. Reform was imperative. With his personal attention and support, Yiwu embarked on systemic reforms. In November 2006, Zhejiang issued a pilot reform plan, delegating 603 items of economic and social management functions from the provincial government to municipal authorities. This broke the administrative constraints of “small county governing a massive market”, setting the stage for Yiwu’s ongoing reform.

In March 2011, Yiwu became the first county-level city in China approved by the State Council as a pilot zone for comprehensive reform. One of its key tasks was to explore a new trade model suited for small commodity exports.

Once the approval was granted, Yiwu moved swiftly. Yiwu Customs pioneered the “market procurement” trade, opening green channels and streamlining inspection processes. Within a month of implementation, registered foreign trade companies surged by over 1,000. In 2012, \$11.93 billion worth of small commodities were exported through Yiwu Customs, exceeding the \$10 billion mark for the first time. From September 2012 to June 2013, export growth exceeded 150 percent year-on-year for 10 consecutive months, with “market procurement” trade accounting for 78 percent of exports.

To solidify and expand these gains, the Standing Committee of the Zhejiang Provincial People’s Congress passed a decision in November 2012 to support and promote the pilot reform in Yiwu. It stipulated that the provincial government should urge relevant departments to delegate approval authority to Yiwu and allowed the provincial government to adjust or suspend the implementation of certain administrative licenses relating to economic affairs with-

“Yiwu development experience” represents a successful model for developing county economies in line with local condition.

in the city. This decision served as a “legal pass” for Yiwu’s bold experiments and enabled Yiwu’s pioneering reforms to proceed steadily under the rule of law.

In April 2013, eight ministries including the Ministry of Commerce officially authorized Yiwu to conduct pilot market procurement trade. By 2024, this innovation had been replicated in 39 markets across 22 provinces, benefiting 2.1 million small, medium and micro enterprises.

In November 2019, the Standing Committee of the Zhejiang Provincial People’s Congress issued the Regulations for Yiwu International Trade Comprehensive Reform Pilot Zone, which took effect on January 1, 2020. As Zhejiang’s first local regulation tailored for a county-level city, it represented the collective effort of three levels of people’s congresses.

In 2022, the Regulations for China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone was revised, explicitly stipulating that the Jinyi Area would be built into the “world’s capital of small commodities” and formally integrating Yiwu’s opening-up and development into the provincial legal framework for free trade zones.

“The provincial legislation promptly institutionalized the



In 2023, the Standing Committee of the Jinhua Municipal People’s Congress conducts a special inquiry focused on the construction of the International Land Port Hub. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Jinhua Municipal People’s Congress)

well-proven outcomes in Yiwu's international trade reform," said Wu Enyu, deputy director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee. "It has provided a legal safeguard for further deepening reform and offered an institutional reference for county-level opening-up and development across the province and beyond."

Oversight in step with market

As commerce surged, Yiwu's inland location increasingly constrained its development. To overcome these limitations, the East China International Intermodal Port was designed to open up the city to the world.

Spanning over 63,000 mu (4,200 hectares), the port has mapped out 65 projects for the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), with a total investment of 36.05 billion yuan (\$5.34 billion). By 2027, it is expected to be a world-class land port hub and an open inland gateway, helping Yiwu evolve into a global nexus for logistics, trade, capital and information flows.

From 2022 to 2026, the Standing Committee of the Jinhua Municipal People's Congress aligned its work with the municipal Party committee's vision to build the city into a high-level inland hub city for opening up. Each year, it selected a "No 1 Motion" to define its priorities and adopted a combined approach of inspections, decisions on major matters and special inquiries to advance the implementation of the motion.

According to Chen Fengqi, deputy director of the Jinhua Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, over the past five years, the municipal legislature has conducted numerous inspections and oversight through research visits, hearings and special inquiries. Regular inspections and follow-up oversight prompted related departments to provide proactive services and work in closer coordination. Deputies have engaged extensively with industries and enterprises to reflect their concerns and aspirations, ensuring that the development of projects is rooted in solid public opinion and market needs.

At the end of 2024, an assembly center of the China-Europe Railway Express in Jinhua (Yiwu) was approved, accelerating the development of the East China International Port. Yiwu thus took a critical step in integrating into the Belt and Road international logistics network.

Over the past two decades, the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee has conducted multi-faceted oversight on market planning, development, management, logistics and digital transformation. Its sustained oversight has remained in lockstep with the market's growth every step of the way.

Feng Kang, deputy director of the Budget Working Committee of the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, said that over these 20 years, the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress has conducted 190 oversight activities related to the market, heard 36 special reports, organized 29 themed inspection tours by deputies and held 11 sessions of face-to-face governance inquiries. Launched in 2014 during the annual session of the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress, this signature face-to-face governance inquiry program has since expanded from TV studios to grassroots liaison sta-

Yiwu's leapfrog development is a vivid example of translating the strengths of the people's congress system into effective grassroots governance.

tions, totaling 35 sessions to date.

Beyond the local level, the Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee has targeted practical challenges facing Yiwu's businesses, such as the international expansion of SMEs and financing against overseas assets, promoting the introduction of supporting policies to address them.

The Jinhua Municipal People's Congress has conducted special oversight on the building of a law-based government for seven consecutive years, building a system of "special oversight plus legal safeguards plus upgraded services", while strengthening budget performance supervision on the implementation of policies supporting the private sector. Meanwhile, the standing committees of the provincial, municipal and county-level people's congresses jointly carried out enforcement inspections on the regulations of Zhejiang province on optimizing the business environment. Through these coordinated efforts, a solid legal shield has been built to safeguard the business environment.

Democracy building a home for global merchants

In Yiwu, the "world's supermarket", one in every three people is a non-local worker. Though their backgrounds differ, they share a common sentiment: In this city, voices are heard, opinions can be voiced and problems get solved.

In 2001, Yiwu's 570,000 non-local population made up nearly half of the city's total population. Acting in accordance with the provincial rules for elections of deputies to the county and township people's congresses, the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee decided to include eligible non-local residents in the electoral roll.

That year, seven non-local workers from Jiangxi, Anhui and Guizhou were elected as deputies to the 13th People's Congress of Dachen Town, the first group of township-level deputies directly elected from the migrant population in Zhejiang, and indeed a pioneering move nationwide. At the end of 2002, 11 non-local workers were elected as deputies to the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress, a number that has remained steady at around 10 each term ever since.

In 2003, Yiwu established a system allowing citizens and foreign residents to sit in on the sessions of the municipal people's congress. This was expanded in 2006 to include non-local workers. To date, 232 non-local workers, 221 local residents and over 80 foreign businesspeople have attended the sessions of the municipal people's congress as non-voting participants and submitted more than 830 suggestions. These have been categorized, assigned to relevant depart-



In July 2025, over 40 students from countries including Germany and Italy visit the legislative liaison station in Jimingshan community during a summer exchange tour to learn about the practice of whole-process people's democracy. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress)

ments and reported back within a set timeframe.

In January 2026, delivery drivers were invited to sit in on the session for the first time, engaging in discussions on community delivery access, courier station services and workers' rights.

Expats have also settled down in Yiwu. In Jimingshan community of the Jiangdong subdistrict, 1,388 foreign residents from 74 countries and regions live alongside people from 30 different ethnic groups among a population of just 30,000, forming a "United Nations-like community". Mfadi Diab Al Shara, a Syrian businessman who has been in Yiwu for over 20 years, actively participates in legislative research and consultation. "In Yiwu, I have found a home and built everything I have. I am willing to contribute to making this big family even better," he said, echoing the feelings of many foreign merchants.

In July 2020, the Standing Committee of the Yiwu Municipal People's Congress was designated by the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress as a national grassroots legislative outreach office, the first of its kind in Zhejiang. It has built an extensive network of 37 legislative liaison stations, 47

consultation units and over 12,000 information collectors, spreading across towns, villages, communities and industries.

To date, Yiwu's grassroots legislative outreach office has solicited opinions on 67 drafts, involving 145,000 participants and gathering over 5,100 suggestions, of which 303 had been adopted. It has also collected opinions on 71 provincial regulations, submitting 1,291 suggestions, with 113 adopted.

In 2024, after visiting the Yiwu legislative outreach office, Nelly Mutti, speaker of Zambia's National Assembly, remarked with admiration, "It is truly remarkable that grassroots citizens can participate so extensively in making the laws and govern their country. This practice is worth learning from."

Yiwu's leapfrog development is a microcosm of the rise of China's county economies and a vivid example of translating the strengths of the people's congress system into effective grassroots governance. Here, respecting market principles goes hand in hand with safeguarding people's well-being, and a correct understanding of governance performance is reflected in the effective functioning of the city. (NPC) ■

Building mutual trust and safeguarding stability



Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Shalva Papuashvili (front row, third from left) visits the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress)

T rue friendship transcends distance; shared aspirations bridge mountains and seas. From May 18 to 20, at the invitation of China, Shalva Papuashvili, Georgian Parliament Speaker, led a delegation to China. It was his first visit to the country, and also the first official visit by a Georgian parliamentary speaker in 21 years. In an exclusive interview with the Journal of National People's Congress of China, he elaborated on prospects for deepening legislative engagement and advancing bilateral cooperation.

You have stated that the friendship between China and Georgia is built on the foundation of mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation, and that the upgrading of our relationship to a strategic partnership helps Georgia better leverage its role as a hub connecting Europe and Asia. In the process of deepening and developing bilateral relations, what role do you believe the legislatures of our two countries can play?

Strengthening bonds between the legislative bodies is an important component of the broader strategic partnership between our two countries. Our legislatures play a significant role by providing long-term political support and by strengthening legal and institutional cooperation. In order to translate our common understandings into tangible results, we plan to intensify parliamentary exchanges, strengthen

cooperation between parliamentary administrations, special committees and friendship groups, and promote regular sharing of legislative experience and best practices.

Particular attention will be given to supporting cooperation in areas such as trade and connectivity, infrastructure development, education, innovation, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. We also see strong potential for expanding dialogue on the development of the Middle Corridor.

Georgia was one of the earliest countries to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and has been actively promoting the alignment of the "Middle Corridor" with the BRI. Under the framework of Eurasian connectivity, how will China and Georgia leverage their respective geographic advantages to strengthen pragmatic cooperation across various fields? Furthermore, how can the legislatures of both countries better fulfill their roles in legislative leadership and protection to create a stable, fair, transparent, and predictable rule-of-law environment for cooperation?

In light of the current global developments, South Caucasus is offering brand-new opportunities for sustainable development.

With the newly achieved peace dynamic between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the South Caucasus gains a greater perspective as a bridge of peace between Europe and Asia. We

did our best to facilitate peace process between our brotherly nations and we look forward to greater peace and stability in the region.

Being located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia has long served as a reliable partner for Asian and European countries for reaching their key markets. Still, the transport and transit potential of Georgia and that of the region remains largely untapped in light of expanding international trade. Georgia is committed for the development of transport infrastructure, which shall facilitate new cargo volumes through Georgia and increase the effectiveness of transport systems.

The development of transport and logistics infrastructure is the key priority for Georgia. This is reflected in particularly large infrastructural projects, such as the Railway Modernization Project, Black Sea Underwater Electricity Transmission Cable Project, and construction of Anaklia Deep Sea Port, Baku-Thilisi-Kars new railway line, East-West Highway project, and the development of Logistics Centers.

The Government of Georgia is particularly interested in further development of railway-based multimodal transportation and intensifying regular block trains through the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route ("Middle Corridor"). We also hope that the Middle Corridor will be included in the China's priority routes for trade with Europe.

The legislatures of Georgia and China can better fulfill their roles in legislative leadership and legal protection by focusing on institutional stability, regulatory transparency, and practical cooperation mechanisms that support long-term bilateral relations. In particular, it means regularly improving the legal framework for economic cooperation and investments, supporting digital and technological governance, facilitating infrastructure and connectivity projects, utilizing parliamentary oversight that ensures that laws are implemented effectively.

This March, China's National People's Congress reviewed and approved the outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan. Georgia will also formulate and implement its national development plan for the next decade. In your view, how will the legislature exercise its functions to serve the overall national development goals?

The Parliament of Georgia plays a central role in ensuring that the country's national development strategy is implemented effectively, consistently, and in a way that benefits society as a whole. Parliament's functions in legislation, oversight, representation are essential to achieving long-term national development goals.

The Parliament is providing strong legislative foundation that supports the priorities of the national development strategy, including economic modernization, infrastructure, education, healthcare, digital transformation, environmental protection, and regional development. Parliament plays a crucial role in aligning public spending with national priorities. Through budget approval and financial oversight, the legislature ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to key development sectors and that public funds are used transparently. The Parliament ensures effective oversight and accountability.

Moreover, Parliament of Georgia actively utilizes parliamentary diplomacy. Through promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue, friendship groups, committee exchanges, and participation in international parliamentary platforms, the Parliament of Georgia expands political, economic and cultural cooperation, and promotes Georgia's national interests abroad.

China and Georgia share extensive common interests within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Given the profound evolution of the current international situation, how will the legislatures of our two countries strengthen cooperation to jointly uphold multilateralism, international fairness, and justice?

The legislatures of our countries can strengthen cooperation within multilateral frameworks by deepening parliamentary dialogue, enhancing policy coordination, and jointly supporting an international order based on the principles of international law. In the context of profound changes in the global political and economic landscape, parliamentary cooperation can contribute to greater stability, mutual trust, and constructive international engagement. Parliamentary diplomacy can help build consensus on addressing global challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and economic development. (NPC) ■



Shalva Papuashvili, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia (right), is interviewed exclusively by journalists from the Journal of National People's Congress of China. (Lyu Jingjing)



Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Shalva Papuashvili (front row, second from left) visits BYD Co., Ltd. with a delegation. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress)



In April 2026, a publicity event on the Environmental Code was held at the Hongqiao local legislative outreach office of the National People's Congress, located in Changning District, Shanghai. (Liu Ying)

How China's legislature turns public concerns into policy

By Feng Yilei

What happens when a village teacher's concern about a struggling student reaches the country's top lawmaking body? How does the plea of a rural family for clean water turn into a cross-provincial ecological compensation mechanism? And can an individual's observation on a factory floor spark a nationwide push for industrial innovation? In China, this all becomes a catalyst for legal reform.

The National People's Congress (NPC) has released a series of cases showcasing how deputy suggestions are being transformed into national action ahead of the 2026 Two Sessions—China's most important annual political gathering.

These cases offer a window into Chinese governance moving from paper proposals to real-world implementation.

Juvenile crime drops following teacher's concern

For NPC deputy Wu Meifang, the story began with a simple conversation with a teacher about a left-behind child whose parents worked far from home.

Concerned that the boy was falling in with the wrong crowd yet unable to intervene, the teacher's dilemma spurred Wu to devote eight years to studying the root causes of juvenile crime.

She didn't just take notes, she took it to the Great Hall of the People. In 2025, her proposal to the Supreme People's Procuratorate demanded a systemic overhaul of juvenile crime prevention.

The impact was measurable and swift. Within 90 days, top prosecutors held multiple consultations with Wu to refine the policy. By late 2025, China recorded a double decline—a 9.8 percent drop in juvenile crime suspects and a 2.2 percent drop in crimes against minors.

A win-win for ecology and development through joint efforts

In the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, deputy Zhou Jingyu heard the frustrations of local officials who had shuttered factories to protect water quality but were losing the tax revenue needed to sustain public services. In response, he proposed a cross-provincial ecological compensation mechanism under which downstream beneficiaries would share the costs incurred by upstream regions.

The Ministry of Finance did not just respond to Zhou's proposal. It integrated his field research into a new policy: the 2025 Opinions on Enhancing Horizontal Ecological Compensation. This transformed a local struggle into a nationwide mechanism, ensuring those who protect nature are fairly compensated for their economic sacrifices.

Breakthrough from factories to global market

Deputy Cao Tianlan, a lead engineer at Dongfang Turbine Co., spends her days at the heart of China's high-end manufacturing. She spearheaded the industry's first 5G-connected lights-out production line, with factories so automated that they don't require lighting for human workers.

However, Cao noticed a gap. Although the technology was available, high-end "Made-in-China" equipment still lacked market recognition and suffered from fragmented data standards. She turned these pain points into a strategic proposal for new quality productive forces. Her insights were incorporated into the 2025 Guidelines on High-Quality Energy Equipment. Following these policy adjustments, China's self-developed G50 gas turbine secured its first major overseas orders by late 2025, marking a breakthrough in the international market.

Why legislators' voices matter amid 15th Five-Year Plan

These cases cover multiple aspects, such as agriculture and rural areas, artificial intelligence, service consumption, ecological protection, healthcare, protection of minors, adolescent mental health, emergency management, flood control and judicial fairness. They are a true portrayal of how China practices whole-process people's democracy and how the handling of deputies' suggestions is shifting from response-oriented to implementation-oriented outcomes.

According to the Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, representatives submitted a total of 9,160 suggestions on various aspects of work during the 2025 legislative cycle. They were handed over to 211 governmental



At the local legislative outreach office in Shapingba, Chongqing, legislative informants upload residents' opinions on legislation via a legislative consultation mini-program. (Photo provided by the Shapingba local legislative outreach office in Chongqing)

What happens when a village teacher's concern about a struggling student reaches the country's top lawmaking body? In China, this all becomes a catalyst for legal reform.

bodies for inspection and handling before replying to the representatives.

Commission member Guo Zhenhua stated that each department has been promoting the transformation of the handling of suggestions from completion to excellence. This means deepening and expanding the connection system and mechanism, where state organs maintain close ties with representatives and representatives maintain close ties with the people. This includes continuously deepening joint consultation, research and handling, and communication from one-off responses to regular dialogue. Meanwhile, efforts have been made to ensure the implementation of the handling of key supervision suggestions. The heads of the special committees of the NPC have respectively organized supervision symposiums and special research to promote the implementation of the suggestions and enhance the effectiveness of supervision.

During the Two Sessions this year, NPC deputies once again brought proposals and suggestions reflecting public opinion to the central government after gathering opinions and demands from the people. Guo said that the Deputies Affairs Commission looks forward to the lawmakers giving full play to their professional expertise, performing their duties in accordance with the law and putting forward higher-quality suggestions to offer advice and strategies for achieving a good start to the 15th Five-Year Plan. (CGTN) ■

China's grassroots democracy: Governance practice embedded in life

By Feng Yiter



Several deputies to people's congresses receive constituents under an ancient banyan tree. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress)

To understand democracy in China, one must shift the focus to the most basic units of social life: communities, villages, enterprises and public institutions. It is here that China's grassroots democracy operates in a distinctive and pragmatic manner, offering the most vivid and direct expression of whole-process people's democracy.

At its core, China's grassroots democracy aims to ensure that the people can lawfully and continuously participate in governance in their everyday lives. It is, in essence, a form of "democracy in governance", focused on solving practical problems and improving people's wellbeing rather than revolving around periodic political mobilization. Based on the system of self-governance by the people, it takes shape mainly through villagers' self-governance in rural areas, residents' self-governance in urban communities and dem-

ocratic management in enterprises and public institutions. Under the leadership of grassroots Communist Party of China organizations, it forms a complete governance cycle through five closely interconnected stages: democratic elections, democratic consultation, democratic decision-making, democratic management and democratic oversight.

Democratic elections lay the foundation. Members of villagers' committees and urban residents' committees are directly elected by local residents through ballots and open vote-counting. This is not a mere formality, but the primary source of legitimacy for grassroots governance authority, determining who will be responsible for serving the public and managing local affairs.

Democratic consultation builds consensus. At the grassroots level in China, "matters discussed through consultation" is the common practice. Whether it is installing ele-

vators in older residential buildings, reallocating parking spaces in urban communities, deciding on industrial projects or allocating collective funds in rural areas, issues are typically deliberated through urban residents' or villagers' consultative meetings and forums. Diverse opinions are fully expressed and proposals are refined through discussion. These regular, face-to-face consultations ensure that democratic participation runs throughout the entire process of advancing public affairs.

Democratic decision-making ensures standardized procedures. Major matters follow rigorous processes to guarantee sound and transparent outcomes. A widely adopted model in rural areas is the "Four Discussions and Two Disclosures" mechanism: proposals are put forward by the Party branch, discussed by the Party Organization Committee and Villagers' Committee, reviewed by the Party members' meeting and finally decided by the villagers' representatives meeting or the villagers' assembly. Both the decision and its implementation results are made public. This process integrates Party organizations, Party members and public representatives into a structured decision-making chain, effectively preventing arbitrary personal decisions.

Democratic management promotes co-governance. After decisions are made, residents participate in daily management through norms jointly formulated by the community, including village rules and urban residents' conventions. Public sanitation, maintenance of shared facilities and dispute mediation are handled through these collectively agreed norms. Community initiatives such as waste sorting and volunteer services often operate effectively within this framework of self-management and self-service.

Democratic oversight ensures effectiveness. Villagers' and urban residents' supervisory committees are specifically tasked with overseeing finances, projects, subsidies and the performance of local officials, with relevant information disclosed in accordance with the law. With the expansion of digital technologies, many localities have extended the disclosure of Party, government and financial affairs to online platforms, enabling residents to access information, exercise oversight and provide feedback at any time, ensuring that power operates in the sunshine.

These institutional arrangements are far from theoretical constructs; they are deeply embedded in grassroots governance and translated into tangible results. In provinces such as Zhejiang, the system of deliberating and voting on livelihood projects by people's congress deputies allows the public to propose projects, deputies to decide through voting, governments to implement them and people's congresses to oversee the process. In cities such as Beijing, digital platforms have enabled the model of "handling complaints immediately upon receipt", ensuring prompt responses to community concerns. Together, these practices point to a shared objective: ensuring that democracy serves to address the issues people care about most.

From a broader perspective, the vitality of China's grassroots democracy lies not only in safeguarding the people's rights to be informed, participate, express their views and exercise oversight, it also enhances governance efficiency and promotes the resolution of social disputes at the grassroots level. It offers a different lens through which to understand democracy; its effectiveness ultimately depends

on whether it enables sustained public participation in daily life and delivers meaningful responses to real concerns. China's experience suggests that while democratic models may vary, their vitality ultimately depends on serving and benefiting the people. (CGTN) ■



Market regulation officers learn about the business operations of vegetable sellers at a roadside "tidal market" in Jiujiang, east China's Jiangxi Province, May 12, 2026. *Wan Xiang*



A teacher interacts with children at a temporary childcare center set up at the Meihe community service center in Futian District of Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, April 17, 2026. *Mao Siqian*



Deputies to people's congresses take part in community outreach activities at Xingren township in Tongzhou district of Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, listening to residents' views and conveying their concerns to help address public demands more efficiently and improve grassroots governance. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Nantong Municipal People's Congress)

Grassroots voices key to crafting law

Shanghai deputy advocates for public participation in legislative processes

By Zhou Wenting

Sheng Hong, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) and Communist Party of China secretary of a residential compound in Hongqiao subdistrict of Shanghai's Changning district, has been at the forefront of an innovative democratic practice in China.

The community Sheng works with was among the first four grassroots legislative outreach offices established by the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission in 2015. This was a pioneering effort aimed at directly involving citizens in the legislative process. As of December 2025, there were 60 such legislative outreach offices nationwide.

As a participant and witness to whole-process people's democracy, Sheng said her experience has taught her that the practice of democratic legislation extends beyond the written law to enrich people's capabilities and democratic awareness.

Over the past decade, numerous legislative consultation meetings have been held at Hongqiao involving grassroots government units and social stakeholders. These meetings foster both consensus and debate, ensuring that authentic voices from the grassroots are conveyed to the country's legislative body.

As of January, the Hongqiao legislative contact point had reviewed 117 draft bills covering areas such as environmental protection, urban governance, livelihood security and ethnic unity, among others; 5,800 suggestions had been submitted, with more than 430 adopted.

In late January, a legislative consultation meeting on the draft of the country's law regarding childcare services was held in Hongqiao and was attended by representatives from relevant local government departments, childcare institutions, kindergartens, as well as lawyers and experts.



Sheng Hong (first from right), a deputy to the National People's Congress, introduces the working mechanism and practices of local legislative outreach office to a delegation headed by the speaker of the National Congress of Honduras, December 4, 2023. (Photo provided by the Hongqiao local legislative outreach office in Shanghai)



Sheng Hong (second from left), a deputy to the National People's Congress, attends and presides over a public consultation event organized by the Hongqiao local legislative outreach office in Shanghai to solicit opinions from Chinese and foreign residents as well as teenagers on the protection of minors in November 2019. (Photo provided by the Shapingba local legislative outreach office in Chongqing)

As a participant, Sheng diligently recorded public opinions before the meeting to ensure that grassroots voices were incorporated into the legislation.

During the meeting she highlighted a crucial point regarding care and education that required explicit definitions, spotlighting the importance of public participation in the legislative process.

"It is not only me, but also the resident representatives around us and people working in various industries who are gaining a stronger sense of democratic participation and an increasing sense of happiness through such participatory processes," Sheng said.

"From understanding legislation to participating in it and then promoting it, a broad network of public opinion is formed," she added.

Having worked in the community for 14 years, Sheng sees her primary role as a bridge between the government and the people, extensively gathering opinions and suggestions from the public and bringing the most genuine voices and critical expectations of the people to the ongoing sessions of the country's top legislative and political advisory bodies.

On the sidelines of the sessions, Sheng proposed improving the mechanism for collecting and responding to public opinions, advocating for a more comprehensive feedback loop that turns good ideas from the people into effective governance measures.

Another of her suggestions was to improve graded protection for minors accessing the internet. For instance, on-

As an NPC deputy, Sheng said she learned to view issues from a higher level and with a broader perspective.

line platforms should have clear grading prompts and assume pre-screening responsibilities, requiring that films, games and livestreams indicate appropriate age levels, while barring any unlabeled content from being shown to minors.

She added that virtual top-ups and features enabling interaction with strangers should be unavailable to users under eight, and that users under 16 should face limits on daily usage time and caps on per-transaction amounts.

As an NPC deputy, Sheng said she learned to view issues from a higher level and with a broader perspective. Last year, with a view to boosting consumption, she suggested optimizing outdoor seating arrangements for small restaurants and cafes, which received positive responses from relevant government departments.

"Shanghai has introduced corresponding supporting plans. Now, we see more unique shops with increased outdoor seating, which is done in a very standardized manner. This is in line with people's expectations for a better life," she said. (China Daily) ■



Officials and villagers gather to discuss local matters and legislative items in Hudiyayuz, a town in the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, April 28, 2026. (Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture People's Congress)

Ethnic groups use “express line” to national lawmakers

By Cao Yin

Under the lush canopy of a mulberry tree in a village in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, over 20 villagers from various ethnic backgrounds—including Uygur, Kazak and Han—gathered this month to chat about local matters over milk tea and nang bread.

Leading the discussion was Zhao Jianquan, the village head, who introduced the newly adopted Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law which will take effect on July 1.

Zhao recalled how during a review of the draft law the previous year, villagers had proposed expanding volunteer teams to look after left-behind children, take the elderly to see doctors and maintain public sanitation. They thought these activities could enhance interaction and mutual support among different ethnic groups in their village.

To their surprise, this simple suggestion from Hudiyayuz, a remote area in the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture, swiftly reached China's top legislative body through an “express line” and was incorporated into the final law.

In March, the National People's Congress (NPC) passed the law, which encourages and supports volunteers and volunteer service organizations in fostering exchanges, cooperation and mutual assistance among all ethnic groups.

“Our suggestion was adopted nationally and became part of the law. We're proud of this achievement,” Zhao said.

The “express line” that carried their suggestion is a legislative outreach office established by the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission in Hudiyayuz township in July 2022. It was Xinjiang's first national-level outreach office.

Grassroots voices

The legislative outreach office is an initiative launched by

the commission in July 2015. It acts as a bridge between the public and lawmakers to effectively solicit a wide range of opinions and suggestions on legislation from all walks of life, putting whole-process people's democracy into practice.

To date, the commission has established 60 such offices across the country, with 16 located in border ethnic regions. Between July 2015 and April 2026, over 77,000 opinions were collected on 224 legislative documents, with nearly 11,000 of those coming from border areas.

Following the establishment of the office in Hudiyayuz, the standing committee of the people's congress in Kuqa of Aksu Prefecture, became the second location in Xinjiang to open an outreach office. Both have played a major role in soliciting legislative ideas from the public.

In 2024, Fan Linsong, a 30-year veteran of the energy industry from Xinjiang Kuqa Green Hydrogen Co., Ltd., saw his suggestion regarding hydrogen energy incorporated into the Energy Law.

“This was a huge encouragement for me and my team,” he said, adding that he plans to continue sharing new ideas through the office to ensure that policies and laws better support industrial development.

The national-level outreach office model is being replicated in local legislation as well. The standing committee of the Xinjiang people's congress has expanded the initiative by establishing similar offices in subdistricts, industrial zones and communities. This expansion has helped gather input from a broader range of people during the formulation and revision of local regulations.

Unifying legislation

Ye Jianxun, deputy head of the legislative affairs commission of the standing committee of Xinjiang people's congress, said

outreach offices in border ethnic regions are instrumental in fostering a strong sense of community.

Adil Rehmet, an official from Qiman township in Kuqa, said information collection stations have been established in many villages to teach residents how to provide suggestions through the Kuqa outreach office and improve officials' understanding of grassroots concerns.

In Baiyang village, for example, efforts to make legislative participation more accessible include posting draft laws in plain language and organizing discussions on legal issues relevant to villagers, such as land transfers, and marriage and family matters. In addition, QR codes and officials' phone numbers are made public to enable villagers to report urgent problems at any time.

"These measures break down barriers, making it easier for people, especially those from minority ethnic groups who are not proficient in Putonghua or standard spoken and written Chinese, to provide suggestions, thereby protecting their right to be informed about the law and to express their views," Adil said.

This process unites all ethnic groups and strengthens the "community spirit of the Chinese nation," he said. "As an ethnic minority official who was raised here, I believe ethnic unity is key to ensuring long-term stability and prosperity," Adil added.

Zamira Hopurjan, an outreach officer from a multi-ethnic tourism village in Ili, led left-behind women in establishing a tea factory after discovering their eagerness to start businesses. Currently, 44 women work at the factory, learning new skills and earning an income.

"Outreach offices provide a platform for me to better understand local people's needs and fulfill their aspirations for a better life," Zamira said. The Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law will encourage local governments to take employment and entrepreneurship measures to promote ethnic integration, she said.

"Our experience has been workable. I believe more people will contribute to strengthening ethnic unity and their lawful rights will be better protected," she added.

Mirigul Memet, a judge from Shuimogou District People's Court in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, has integrated legislative consultation with legal education in her work.

To help implement the Law on Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language, she conducted community and school lectures using real-life cases to explain how standard Chinese enhances exchanges, job opportunities and shared development. She also patiently listened to people's expectations regarding language, culture, public services and rights protection that were relayed through an outreach office.

In her courtroom, she upholds the principle of equal protection for all ethnic groups and focuses on strengthening ethnic unity while handling disputes.

Last year, while reviewing the draft law on ethnic unity and progress promotion, she suggested schools integrate the fostering of "a sense of community for the Chinese nation" into classroom teaching and social practices, which was ultimately incorporated into the final version of the law.

"The teenage years are critical for shaping values and national identity. It's essential that fostering a sense of community starts from childhood," she stressed. "Schools should introduce the ethnic unity law in ways that children can easily understand, thereby helping to enhance their legal awareness."

She also highlighted the significant role of the rule of law, "I will continue to be a guardian of the rule of law for ethnic unity."

Spreading awareness

While encouraging people to participate in legislation through outreach offices across the autonomous region, Xinjiang has also stepped up efforts to use these sites to provide legal education.

At a night school for farmers and herders in a Kuqa village, training sessions are held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Village head Gulpiya Turdi said the classes are determined on standard Chinese proficiency. Each two-hour class includes one hour of Putonghua learning and one hour of legal education.

She said most villagers are from ethnic minorities, with some participants older and others less educated.

"Combining language learning with legal cultivation fits their needs and makes laws more relatable," Gulpiya said. "Only when they understand what the law means can they offer targeted suggestions, leading to better law-based governance."

Ma Ziyang, head of Guangming community in Kuqa, agrees with this approach. "Law is not just text—it is a pillar that solves problems. Only when legislation directly addresses people's real needs can it be effectively implemented," he said.

A former police officer, Ma uses real-life scenarios like flight delays, school bullying and self-defense to explain legislation, such as the Civil Aviation Law and the Public Security Administration Punishment Law, to residents.

He also conveys the public's concerns through the Kuqa outreach office, contributing to legislative changes. This establishes a positive cycle of effective legal education and responsive law-making.

In Horgos, a city at the forefront of China's westward opening up, collecting input on legislation is also progressing in an orderly manner, supporting both grassroots governance and opening up.

The standing committee of the people's congress brought together 84 people—including law enforcement officials, legal professionals, residents and business representatives—to form a legislative input collection team. The team also integrated legislative consultation with foreign-related legal services.

Zhu Xuejie, a lawyer from Horgos, said she and other collectors concentrated on common legal issues related to contracts, labor and foreign trade. This helped introduce laws to people, with legal services also provided for enterprises aiming to go global.

"Our efforts are focused on promoting Xinjiang's high-level opening up and improving grassroots governance of foreign-related disputes by strengthening the prevention and resolution of conflicts at their source," Zhu said.

Ye, the deputy head of the legislative affairs commission, said that outreach offices and information collection stations in Xinjiang serve not only to widely gather public opinions, but also to enhance legal awareness among the populace. "Only when legislators and ordinary people move toward each other can we better protect people's rights and ensure that law-based governance takes root at the grassroots level," he said. (China Daily) ■



Zheng Peikun (fourth from right) speaks at the open group meeting of the Guizhou delegation to the third session of the 14th National People's Congress, March 6, 2026. *Qu Honglun*

Rooted in Guizhou, serving the people

By Zheng Peikun

Zheng Peikun

Deputy to the 14th National People's Congress
Party branch secretary and head of the villagers' committee of Tashan village in Dayou town, Cengong county of Qiandongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture, Guizhou province

Whole-process people's democracy at the grassroots starts with hearing, respecting and responding to people's voices. In Tashan village, we use cultural corridors, courtyards, field ridges and livestock sheds as our meeting venues. I encourage all villagers to openly and frankly discuss

any matter, big or small.

I am a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) from the grassroots, currently serving as Party branch secretary and head of the villagers' committee of Tashan village, in the town of Dayou, Cengong county of Qiandongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture in southwest China's Guizhou province.

Since assuming my role, I've been pondering how a grassroots deputy like me can turn whole-process people's democracy into tangible practices in rural areas. Drawing on my four years of experience as a deputy, I would like to share the following three takeaways.

Communicating public opinion to higher-level authorities, delivering policies to the grassroots

NPC deputies should act as a vital bridge linking the Party,

the country and the people. I realize that a deputy's core duty is to bring the heartfelt voices of the villagers to higher-level authorities and deliver favorable policies of the Party and the government to grassroots communities.

I have submitted 22 suggestions over the years, focusing on livelihood issues and local industrial development.

For example, after villagers reported that rising annual medical insurance premiums were putting heavy pressure on families, I conducted in-depth research and recommended optimizing the premium structure, increasing government subsidies, and exempting people aged 70 and over from individual contributions. The relevant authorities responded promptly, which I found both encouraging and inspiring.

This March, I looked into ways for small-scale farmers to integrate into modern agriculture. I exchanged views with villagers at neighborhood gatherings and with fellow deputies in and outside Guizhou, then put forward a suggestion on innovating the mechanism for agricultural commercial services at the annual NPC session.

Specifically, it includes building a four-level service network covering county, township, village and village group, alongside a risk compensation fund. The authorities have recognized its value and are now working on further steps to implement it.

At this year's Two Sessions—the annual meetings of the NPC and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference—I connected with my fellow villagers from a studio at the residence of the Guizhou delegation to share the guiding principles of the sessions with them.

When I got back to the village, I explained national policies in plain language. I told villagers that the government is handing out red envelopes again—subsidies for hog breeding, insurance for grain-growing. The words are easy to understand and follow. An elderly villager held my hand and said he now understands these policies.

Practicing democracy through collective deliberation

Grassroots communities keep us closest to the public. Whole-process people's democracy at the grassroots starts with hearing, respecting and responding to people's voices.

In Tashan, we use cultural corridors, courtyards, field ridges and livestock sheds as our meeting venues. I encourage all villagers to openly and frankly discuss any matter, big or small. The year before last, many households in the village took up livestock breeding. Most reaped decent profits, yet poor management left some with meager earnings and discontent. I gathered villagers to discuss how to further optimize the industrial structure and increase profit. They shared views frankly, and eventually problems were identified and future plans took shape.

In our village, all matters involving collective interests go through full deliberation. In 2025, the village planned to build a new duck farm, and site selection involved the contracted land of nine households. Instead of merely adopting a majority rule, we held multiple talks and adopted a land-share plan with guaranteed dividends. The move settled land concerns and turned villagers into project shareholders.

We also set up management committees in all nine ham-

lets in the village. Acting as grassroots hubs, they boost environmental improvement and cultivation of civic virtue, and address bottlenecks in local governance.

The practice of friendly consultation and inclusive discussion integrates democracy into daily life, making it visible, tangible and accessible to all villagers.

Shouldering responsibility for common prosperity

Rural revitalization hinges on cultivating locally adaptive industries to boost villagers' income. I graduated from university in 2005 and engaged in hog breeding in Hubei province. When I came back to my hometown for a family visit in 2012, I found the village in decline, with fertile farmland left fallow. Born and raised there, I decided to move back and serve my hometown.

I quit my job in Hubei and returned to start my own business. Meanwhile, I completed a master's in veterinary medicine, strengthening my expertise so I could help lead our villagers to prosperity through industrial development.

I later took office as Party branch secretary and villagers' committee head, and was then elected as an NPC deputy. For more than a decade, we have upheld Party leadership and given full play to deputies' role. We pioneered the "Party building + deputies + industries" model. Taking the lead in the provincial campaign of high-quality development—deputies in action, we blazed a distinctive path for rural industrial revitalization.

We strive for not only personal wealth but also collective prosperity. Leveraging the "four links and double increases" mechanism, we joined nine adjacent villages to build modern crop and livestock bases, distributing a total of 11.26 million yuan (\$1.66 million) in dividends and benefiting over 2,000 residents across more than 500 households.

We pursue steady income growth and enduring affluence. We set up the Tashan Vocational Farmer Training Center, delivering regular practical training on hog breeding, cattle rearing and crop cultivation. This aims to turn villagers into seasoned local specialists and skilled technicians. By mobilizing villagers to take part in feed growing, marketing, intensive processing and direct sales, we have expanded diverse income sources.

The village now boasts nine specialized farmers' cooperatives, eight agricultural enterprises and 14 family farms, with total agricultural output exceeding 80 million yuan (\$11.76 million). I have been awarded the title of National Model Worker and nominated as a candidate for National Outstanding Party Affairs Worker this year.

Reflecting on my role as an NPC deputy, I fully acknowledge that whole-process people's democracy underpins residents' better-off lives. Rooted firmly at my post, I shall perform my duties in accordance with the law and remain committed to rural revitalization. I will pursue down-to-earth and scientific progress, bring grassroots aspirations to higher-level authorities and guarantee thorough execution of national agricultural policies. With earnest efforts and tangible results, I shall live up to the trust and expectations placed in me by the Party and the people and help guide our villagers toward ever more promising lives. (NPC) ■



Li Cuili (first from right) poses for a group photo with children at the reading corner in her convenience store. (Photo provided by Li Cuili)

Turning a new page for village readers

Li Cuili is a National People's Congress (NPC) deputy from Lishi village, Neihuang county, Anyang, Henan province. She runs a rural grocery store in her hometown. In 2008, she made an unusual decision that surprised many locals: transforming the most eye-catching front shelves of her shop into a free village library, replacing liquor bottles with books. The project started as a quiet personal pursuit and gradually grew into a vital cultural hub for the whole village.

At the very beginning, Li seemed odd to her fellow villagers. While most people focused narrowly on making a living, Li thought far beyond day-to-day subsistence. Her original inspiration came from a mother's deep concern for her children's growth. After watching a vulgar village performance with her son, she worried that youngsters would be adversely influenced by such surroundings. Firmly believing that books are a force for good, she made up her mind to introduce a positive reading culture and enrich the spiritual life of rural residents.

In the early days of the library, conditions were simple and difficult. Li rode her tricycle around the county to collect second-hand books to enrich the shelves. At first, due to the weak reading environment in the countryside, few villagers borrowed books even though they were free. To transform the situation, Li chose to attract children first. She offered candy to kids who came to read, borrow books and write book reviews. Slowly, more children were drawn to the small library. Parents soon noticed obvious changes: after school, children no longer wandered and played casually on the streets, but voluntarily went to read books.

Gradually, villagers' doubt turned into recognition and support. What started with merely 200 books has now developed into a comprehensive village cultural activity center with a collection of 5,000 to 6,000 volumes. Many locals began borrowing books regularly and even volunteered to help manage the library in their spare time.

Li named the library weiguang, meaning "glimmer". She once explained that the name reflects her original modest wish of placing a few books on the shelves of a rural store. Yet she firmly believes that no matter how faint a glimmer is, it can keep the flame of culture burning steadily in the countryside.

Beyond running the library, Li has expanded her dedication to public welfare and grassroots governance. She organizes legal literacy classes for rural women and records life stories of elderly villagers, quietly preserving precious local memories and history. Now 45 years old, she not only serves as the founder of Glimmer Library and a shop owner, but also as president of Lishi village women's federation and a deputy to the 14th NPC.

Serving as an NPC deputy and attending important events at the Great Hall of the People has made Li cherish her rural roots even more and strengthened her determination to serve her hometown. "No matter what identity others have given you, you should always believe that being a good ordinary person is the most important thing," she said in an interview. With a quiet glimmer of persistence, she has turned a small village bookstore into a beacon of culture, grassroots warmth and heartfelt public service. (CGTN) ■

NPC deputy urges action on student mental health in China

Shortly after returning to her high school in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Huang Huachun slipped back into her classroom routine, carrying with her a renewed mission from Beijing to push for stronger mental health support for millions of Chinese students.

Huang, the school's vice-principal, was among nearly 3,000 deputies who attended this year's session of the National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature, in Beijing earlier this March.

During the session, Huang submitted a suggestion calling for mental health checkups to be integrated into regular health examinations for primary and secondary school students. As an NPC deputy, she had spent months researching and refining the submission before bringing it to the national stage.

The plenary session of the NPC, held once a year, is widely seen as an important occasion for reviewing China's development priorities and policy direction. During the session, deputies submit proposals and suggestions reflecting public concerns and contributing to policymaking.

As concerns grow over youth mental health in China, Huang sees an opportunity to bring her front-line experience to the country's top legislature.

"Children call me 'Mother Huang,' and this title is more precious to me than any honor. It is my duty to convey their voices and demands," she said.

In 2025, Huang launched a pilot mental health screening program at her high school to identify and help students in need. The results were striking, as about 15 percent of students showed signs of psychological distress. One boy wrote in his response, "I can't sleep every night, but I'm afraid to tell others about it."

The findings echoed a national study. According to a mental health survey involving more than 30,000 adolescents conducted by the Institute of Psychology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2022, 14.8 percent of respondents showed risks of depression to various degrees.

"Children and adolescents are in a period of rapid development in terms of mental health. Their mental health is easily affected by biological, psychological, social and environmental factors, among others," said Zheng Yi, chief expert on child psychiatry at Beijing Anding Hospital affiliated to Capital Medical University, highlighting the importance of early detection, early diagnosis and early intervention.

"Mental health is just as important as physical health. So why not have regular checkups for it, just as we do for our bodies?" This concern prompted Huang to take action.

Over the following months, she visited hospitals, consulted experts, crunched data and finally shaped her findings into the formal suggestion that she brought to Beijing this month, aiming to push for a change.

During her nine years as an NPC deputy, Huang has submit-



Huang Huachun (second from right) talks with students to learn about their studies and daily lives. Zhao Gaoxu

ted more than 50 suggestions to the legislature, some of which have influenced the formulation of national policies and regulations.

"I used to think national policies were something distant and out of reach," she said. "But through my work over the years, I've come to see that the suggestions we make as deputies can truly shape policy, whether by establishing new measures or refining existing ones."

Huang is not alone in raising concerns about student mental health. Last year, a similar suggestion on improving the mental health education and service system for youngsters was selected by the NPC Standing Committee as a priority, with the Ministry of Education tasked with following up.

The ministry subsequently conducted research with hospitals and experts and held discussions with NPC deputies and officials.

In October, based on the NPC's suggestion and its previous work, the ministry rolled out 10 new measures to enhance the mental health of primary and secondary school students, addressing key stressors such as overwhelming academic pressure, inadequate physical exercise and limited sleep time.

"These measures are extremely timely and could be a turning point for student mental health," said Yu Sumei, a senior researcher of the China National Academy of Educational Sciences.

The handling of the suggestion reflects how societal concerns can be translated into national policy.

"The state truly values our input," Huang said. "Every March, after submitting suggestions, I receive calls from ministries explaining how they plan to proceed, what can be adopted, what cannot, and why. Every suggestion and proposal gets a response."

"Year by year, policy changes in education have been real and visible. This gives me confidence and faith, both in myself and in my country," Huang said. (Xinhua) ■



Cheng Weidong is working at Tianjin Port. (Photo provided by Cheng Weidong)

Pioneering innovation in port industry

Cheng Weidong, deputy head of a trailer service team in Tianjin Port No. 1 Stevedoring Co., Ltd. and a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), participated in the deployment of the DeepSeek large model at Tianjin Port.

Honored as the "Craftsman of the Year" in 2022 by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and China Media Group, Cheng has dedicated 27 years to driving towing vehicles between the docks and cargo yards.

Yet Cheng's role has transformed beyond that of an excellent operator in recent years. Embracing the wave of technological advancements, he now mentors the Artificial Intelligence Robot of Transportation (ART) by imparting his wealth of experience to these machines.

"What I do is to diligently digitize, standardize and program human experience into robots. We continuously test, train and optimize programs to empower artificial intelligence (AI) with human-like skills to unleash their full potential," he said.

Through meticulous data analysis, standardization and programming, Cheng has witnessed these ART "apprentices" reach new heights of efficiency. Today, Tianjin Port's ART vehicles can achieve autonomous driving at Level 4 and above, performing with agility and precision in real-world port environments.

Amid a rapidly changing work environment, Cheng said that he recognized the growing urgency to enhance capabilities for continuous innovation and understands the significance and value of innovation. Over the years, he has led his team in spearheading more than 200 technological innovations and securing more than 40 national patents. In 2024,

his team was selected as the first group of AI trainers for the national port sector.

One recent innovation success of the team came with the introduction of environmentally friendly electric towing vehicles to the port. Facing challenges such as battery performance in winter, Cheng and his team worked out an innovative solution by integrating cameras and radar systems into the towing platforms, enabling intelligent power supply.

As Tianjin Port Group starts developing the PortGPT model, a large model tailored for the port industry, Cheng remains deeply involved in this initiative. The AI-powered technology strives to advance the automation and intelligence of port operations.

With the accelerated innovation and optimization of automated and intelligent technologies like the PortGPT in the port industry, workers will transition from hands-on jobs to more supportive roles and embrace broader opportunities, he said.

At the NPC session in 2026, Cheng Weidong submitted a suggestion on building Tianjin Port into a northern hub of the new Eurasian Land Bridge and a key maritime gateway for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states.

The suggestion was inspired by the impressive performance of his "robot apprentices" at the 2025 SCO Transport Ministers' Meeting, which greatly boosted Tianjin Port's profile among SCO member states.

"I am currently focusing on nurturing and developing new quality productive forces in ports," Cheng said. "We will continue to expand and explore more innovative approaches to develop Tianjin Port into a world-class, intelligent and green hub." (NPC) ■

Upholding symposium mechanism for deputies attending meetings as non-voting participants

By Fu Wenjie

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has on multiple occasions urged closer contacts between State organs and deputies to people's congresses, as well as between the deputies and the people (Two Contacts). These important remarks have provided fundamental guidance for advancing the high-quality development of deputy-related work in the new era. The National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee has earnestly implemented the guiding principles of Xi's important speeches and instructions, deepened and expanded the "Two Contacts" and improved relevant institutional mechanisms such as inviting deputies to attend meetings as non-voting participants, setting an example for and guiding the members of the NPC Standing Committee, as well as its special committees and working commissions to continuously deepen and solidify the work to maintain close contact with NPC deputies.

I. Strengthening the institutional mechanism for contacts between the NPC Standing Committee and NPC deputies to ground the NPC's work in the will of the people

Strengthening contacts with deputies has been a consistent priority of the NPC Standing Committee. In June 1987, the Sixth NPC Standing Committee issued the Several Opinions on Strengthening Contacts Between the National People's Congress Standing Committee and Deputies, explicitly proposing to invite deputies to sit in on the sessions of the NPC Standing Committee. Starting from the 21st session of the Sixth NPC Standing Committee, NPC deputies have been invited to sit in on sessions of the NPC Standing Committee and this practice has gradually been institutionalized. The 14th NPC Standing Committee attaches great importance to giving full play to the professional expertise of deputies. In light of the agenda of the NPC Standing Committee sessions, particularly key legislative and supervisory items, it has made coordinated efforts to invite deputies from relevant professions and backgrounds, as well as those who had submitted relevant motions and suggestions, to sit in on the sessions of the NPC Standing Committee. During the sessions, members of the Council of Chairpersons, members of the NPC Standing Committee as well as members of special committees and working commissions engage in in-depth exchanges with the deputies as non-voting participants and listen to their opinions and suggestions through joint group meetings and group meetings.

Since the fifth session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee, the NPC Standing Committee has established a mechanism for holding symposiums for deputies sitting in on NPC Standing Committee sessions as non-voting participants. Since the 14th NPC, a total of 755 deputy attendances have been recorded at 14 such symposiums. At every symposium, NPC Standing Committee Chairman Zhao Leji attended and delivered remarks; Vice-Chairman Li Hongzhong presided and Secretary General Liu Qi was also present. Through these symposiums, the leading officials of the NPC Standing Committee engaged in regular and face-to-face conversations with the deputies sitting in on NPC Standing Committee sessions, making the meetings an important platform for the NPC Standing Committee to strengthen contacts with deputies, pool public opinion and wisdom and practice whole-process people's democracy.

Drawing on practical experience, the newly revised Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels, adopted in March 2025, added a provision stating that "The standing committees of the people's congresses at and above the county level and the presidiums of the people's congresses of townships, ethnic townships, and towns shall maintain close contact with deputies", thereby elevating the institutional mechanism for strengthening the contacts between the standing committees of the people's congresses and the deputies to a national law.

II. Keeping channels open for reflecting social conditions and popular sentiment to better collect public opinion and wisdom

The resolution adopted at the third plenary session of the 20th CPC

Central Committee proposed improving the working mechanisms for drawing on public opinion and pooling the wisdom of the people. Deputies to people's congresses come from various regions, ethnic groups and sectors of society. They listen to and reflect people's opinions and suggestions through various forms and channels. The Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee closely follows the major decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee and carefully sets the themes of the symposiums for non-voting deputies in light of the key tasks of the NPC Standing Committee and the session agendas. Since the 14th NPC, a total of 663 opinions and suggestions have been put forward through 267 deputy attendances at such symposiums on issues including strengthening the NPC's work of legislation, supervision and deputy-related affairs, ensuring national food security, strengthening patriotic education in the new era, formulating the Energy Law, revising the National Defense Education Law, revising the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels and advancing economic and social development. This has broadened the channels and means for deputies to reflect public opinion and put forward suggestions to State organs.

The Deputies Affairs Commission has established and improved a working mechanism for receiving, assigning, studying, adopting and providing feedback on opinions and suggestions proposed at symposiums by deputies sitting in on NPC Standing Committee sessions as non-voting participants. It promptly compiled and analyzed the opinions and suggestions, proposed a division of responsibilities for follow-up actions, and, in accordance with legal procedures, referred the suggestions to relevant departments for consideration and handling. All relevant departments attached great importance to the handling of the suggestions, promptly communicated with the deputies who had put forward opinions and suggestions, studied and improved relevant work and responded to deputies through face-to-face meetings, telephone calls or written replies. They also promptly reported feedback to the Deputies Affairs Commission on the communication and follow-up responses. The opinions and suggestions put forward by deputies sitting in on such meetings have continuously promoted relevant departments to refine systems, improve work and solve problems, serving as a vivid illustration of whole-process people's democracy in action.

III. Reinforcing political guidance to enhance the capacity for deputy-related work

The report to the 20th National Congress of the CPC called for deputies to people's congresses to better carry out their work and strengthen ties with the people. At the symposiums of non-voting deputies, leading officials of the NPC Standing Committee, together with the deputies, studied the guiding principles of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, important meetings of the CPC Central Committee, On Upholding and Improving the System of People's Congresses by Xi and the newly revised Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels. They humbly listened to opinions and suggestions on the NPC's work, economic and social development, issues closely related to the people's vital interests and of widespread social concern. They also put forward requirements for NPC deputies to enhance their capability to perform their duties and better play their role. After the meetings, the deputies further publicized and implemented the major plans of the Party and the State to the grassroots level through lectures and performance of their duties. This has promoted the building of ideological and ethical standards among deputies to people's congresses at all levels and the improvement of the capabilities in work related to deputies among the standing committees of people's congresses at all levels, fully demonstrating the significant political advantages of the system of people's congresses. ■

(The author is deputy director of the Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee)

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