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《中国人大》对外版

National People's Congress of China

CHINA'S LANDMARK ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CODE TAKES EFFECT TO DRIVE GREEN MODERNIZATION



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The 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference and High-level Meeting on Global AI Governance, themed “AI Partnership for a Brighter Future,” features more than 140 forums, bringing together 1,400 guests from home and abroad in Shanghai from July 17 to 20. China has hosted the conference annually since 2018 as a key platform to forge global AI partnerships and share AI’s benefits with all.

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1. Visitors gather to look at the Atlas 950 SuperPoD exhibit at the World Expo Exhibition Hall. *Chen Haoming*

2. Guests exchange ideas before the opening of the conference. *Huang Jingwen*

3. A small robot is pictured during the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China, July 18. *Wang Xiang*

4. Visitors watch robots playing football during the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China, July 18. *Chen Haoming*




2026世界人工智能大会
暨人工智能全球治理高级别会议
2026 WORLD AI CONFERENCE &
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE
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COVER: This photo shows the sunrise and sea-of-clouds scenery at Lion Peak, Huangshan Mountain, Anhui Province. *VCG*



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Chief Editor: Wang Yang
General Editorial Office Address: 23 Xijiaominxiang, Xicheng District, Beijing 100805, P.R.China
Tel: (86-10)5560-4181
(86-10)6309-8540
E-mail: zgrdnpc@npc.gov.cn

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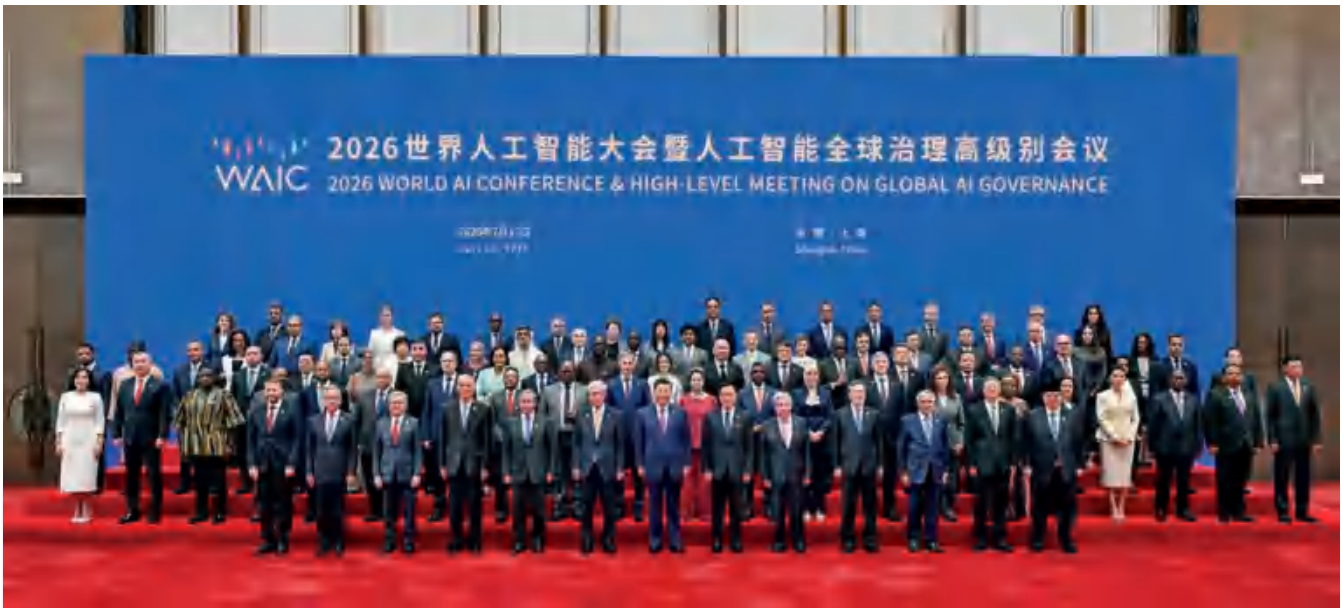
Joining hands to build a just and equitable system for global AI governance

Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance

Shanghai, July 17, 2026



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China, July 17. *Huang Jingwen*



Chinese President Xi Jinping poses for photos with foreign heads of state and government, leaders of international organizations, and heads of delegations attending the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China, July 17. *Yin Bogu*

Distinguished Colleagues and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

Seventy years ago, a group of young scholars proposed the concept of artificial intelligence (AI) for the first time at the Dartmouth Workshop in New Hampshire of the United States. In the subsequent 70 years, AI scientists and researchers from around the world ventured into this unknown territory, forged ahead through twists and turns, and made breakthroughs with persistent hard work. Seven decades later today, amid the new wave of AI development, we are gathering by the Huangpu River to discuss how to promote AI globally for the positive, for good and for humanity. All this makes our meeting highly important. On behalf of the Chinese government and people, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all.

In the course of history, the invention of the steam engine heralded the industrial civilization, the widespread access to electricity brightened up modern society, and the birth of the Internet brought the entire world together. Each of these technological revolutions has profoundly reshaped our way of work and life, and enabled a giant leap in economic and social development.

Today, major changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. The new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is advancing at a faster pace, and the world has entered an unprecedented period of active innovation on AI technologies. Intelligent connectivity, human-machine collaboration, cross-sector integration, joint creation and sharing, and other intelligent technologies are unleashing enormous power. All this carries within it great opportunities as well as challenges to governance. We human beings must answer the questions posed by our times: How to get along with thinking machines? How to ensure security when algorithm is part of decision making? How to tackle ethical challenges by technologies through adaptive governance?

"All countries should take a people-centered approach and develop AI for the positive and for good."

How to realize AI for all when the divide keeps widening? These questions demand serious consideration and real answers from the whole international community.

In China's view, all countries should take a people-centered approach and develop AI for the positive and for good. We should ensure that AI is an important driver for shared prosperity and common security. We should join hands to build a just and equitable system for global AI governance. To this end, I wish to share four observations.

First, we should adhere to the principle of openness and win-win and boost innovation-driven development. As a new engine of world economic growth and an accelerator for the shift of growth drivers, AI is moving from the digital world into the physical world. We should seize this rare, historic opportunity to encourage open source, openness, collaboration and sharing. We should facilitate technological innovation, industrial development and scenario-based application of AI. We should make coordinated advances in the transformation and upgrade of traditional industries, the cultivation and growth of emerging industries and forward-looking planning for future industries, so that all sectors and businesses can benefit from AI.

Second, we should strengthen risk-awareness and ensure that AI is secure and controllable. AI should be a trusted tool for humanity. We should take seriously the various types of inherent and secondary risks that AI may trigger. We should put in place laws and regulations, technological monitoring,

early warning and emergency response systems in order to strengthen the line of security, prevent abuses and malicious use, and ensure that AI is always under human control. In the meantime, we should jointly oppose overstretching the national security concept in the field of AI and placing one country's security over that of others.

Third, we should encourage inclusiveness and promote mutual learning between civilizations. AI development and its application should not erode or undermine the diversity of world civilizations or the uniqueness of cultures of different countries. We must shape the values of AI with humanity's common values, and make good use of AI technologies to increase understanding, tolerance, exchanges, and sharing among all civilizations. We should tend to the garden of civilizations with great care to ensure that the beauty of each civilization is appreciated and shared.

Fourth, we should advocate solidarity and improve global governance. AI is an invaluable asset that encapsulates humanity's collective wisdom. We should practice true multilateralism and recognize the important role of the United Nations. We should enhance alignment and coordination on AI development strategies, governance rules and technical standards, so as to form a consensus-based global governance framework at an early date to make this frontier technology better benefit humanity. We must carry out extensive international cooperation and help Global South countries with capacity building to bridge the AI and digital divides, promote sustainable development, and prevent creating new historical injustice in AI.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

This year marks the start of China's 15th Five-Year Plan. It maps out China's economic and social development for the next five years and provides immense opportunities for the international community. In recent years, China has embraced AI with open arms. We have promoted interplay between an efficient market and a well-functioning government, strengthened AI innovation, actively advanced the AI Plus Initiative, and built a healthy ecosystem for all entities to thrive in together. The core smart economy industries are worth at least 1 trillion yuan. Smart devices in countless homes truly improve people's livelihood. Intelligent Manufacturing in China has become another shining hallmark of Chinese modernization.



Visitors experience tongue diagnosis by traditional Chinese medicine robot at the Shanghai West Bund International Convention and Exhibition Center, July 17. *Liu Ying*

At the same time, China lays great emphasis on safety and security in AI development. With a deep understanding of the trends and logic of AI development, we are continuously improving laws, regulations, policies, mechanisms, application norms, as well as ethical principles to make sure that AI is safe, secure and controllable, and that this fine steed of AI gallops with both speed and stability.

As a responsible major country, China is always committed to providing international public goods relating to AI. Since I proposed the Global AI Governance Initiative, China has promoted the adoption of the U.N. General Assembly Resolution on Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-Building of Artificial Intelligence by consensus, published the AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All, announced the AI Plus International Cooperation Initiative, and advocated for establishing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO). China has been contributing steadily to the global AI governance.

We often say in China, "A single string cannot make music, and a single tree does not make a forest." AI development should not be a solo performance by a single country, but a symphony of international cooperation. Thanks to our joint efforts, WAICO has come into being in Shanghai. Our vision from one year ago is now a reality. This is a major move by China to answer the call of the Global South and unite the international community together to promote vigorously AI development and governance. It will be an important milestone in the history of AI development.

To further support global AI development and advance global AI capacity building, I hereby announce that in the next five years, China will provide developing countries with 5,000 opportunities in AI training and seminar programs; develop international AI application cooperation centers with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BRICS; and enable 30 countries to use the AI-powered meteorological warning system, or MAZU, to safeguard homes around the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

As ancient Chinese observed, "A man of wisdom adapts to changes; a man of knowledge acts by circumstances." With AI advancing at a staggering speed, we must ensure its development is for the positive, for good and for humanity. We must make its oversight and governance precise and effective, and constantly refine measures to forestall loss of control. We should always guide AI development with human wisdom and international consensus, so that AI can truly become a mighty force that increases the well-being of humanity and advances human civilization.

China is ready to be more open, take more practical actions, and assume a more visionary perspective. We are ready to work with all parties to seize the opportunities of AI development and meet the challenges, and join hands to create a brighter future for humanity.

Thank you! (Xinhua) ■



An exterior view of the World Expo Exhibition Hall. *Ding Ting*

China to refine AI-related legal framework

China will refine judicial rules governing issues related to artificial intelligence and data property rights over the next five years, a senior judge from the country's top court said. Liu Guixiang, a former senior member of the adjudicatory committee of the Supreme People's Court, said that Chinese courts would step up research and the formulation of new judicial guidelines covering emerging industries during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

Relevant rules will focus on new business forms in the digital economy and aim to improve adjudication standards in areas including data rights, data transactions and AI-generated content.

He added that the move is designed to promote deeper integration between digital technologies and the real economy, while helping improve the country's foundational systems for data as a factor of production.

This comes as China steps up efforts to strengthen the legal framework supporting the development of its digital economy. The nation's 15th Five-Year Plan sets targets for advancing the Digital China initiative, with efforts to ensure the efficient supply of computing power, algorithms and data, and foster a healthy and well-regulated development ecosystem.

Teng Jiguo, deputy secretary-general of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said China will step up legislation in key, emerging and foreign-related areas, while improving a fast-response legislative mechanism to address issues of urgent public concern and practical necessity.

Vice Minister of Justice Wu Zeng said the ministry will work to formulate regulations on building a unified national market, and use legal and regulatory measures to remove bottlenecks and barriers hindering the market's development. He added that comprehensive legislative work to support the healthy development of AI and legislation related to the low-altitude economy will also be accelerated. (Xinhua) ■

Jointly advocating an equal and orderly multipolar world and making global governance more just and equitable

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus Meeting
Bishkek, September 1, 2026



Your Excellency President Sadyr Zhaparov,

Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to join fellow members and partners of the SCO family in celebrating the 25th anniversary of our organization. I wish to thank President Zhaparov for his kind invitation and the thoughtful arrangements by the government of Kyrgyzstan.

The meeting today focuses on strengthening the role of the United Nations and building a multipolar world, and it demonstrates SCO's commitment to reforming and improving global governance as required by our times.

Currently, major changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the globe. Hegemonism, unilateralism and protectionism are resurging against historical trends. Nevertheless, the overwhelming majority of the world do not condone power politics, conflict and confrontation, or isolation and backwardness. What they want instead is to hold a place on the world stage through national development and international cooperation. In recent years, the rise of the Global South is driving a profound shift in the international balance of power. The trend toward a multipolar world is irreversible.

What kind of multipolarity does the world need? How are countries going to take part in and promote it? The international community should build consensus and make the right choice that can stand the test of practice and history. As a responsible major country, China advocates for an equal and orderly multipolar world.

—Sovereign equality and mutual respect are fundamental principles. The history of the world is written by all nations. Multipolarity, independent choice of development paths, and greater democracy in international relations are the right way forward. We should ensure equal rights, equal opportunities and equal rules for all countries, regardless of their size, strength and wealth. As an important part of a multipolar world and a key driving force behind it, the Global South countries ought to have greater representation and voice in international affairs.



Chinese President Xi Jinping poses for a group photo with leaders of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, September 1. Xi attended the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO on the same day here. *Wang Ye*

Multipolarity, independent choice of development, and greater democracy in international relations are the right way forward.

—Balance, order and the rule of law are inherent requirements. The purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter set the basic norms of international relations, and serve as the bedrock of the postwar international order. We should promote the common values of humanity, reject double standards, exceptionalism, foreign interference, bullying and the law of the jungle, and advance the rule of law in international relations. Major countries in particular should take the lead in observing international norms and honoring the rule of law, and work together to tackle global challenges.

—Multilateralism, dialogue and consultation are essential pathways. The domination of international affairs by a few is an injustice left over from history, and global governance dictated by one, a few or a bloc of countries is not true multilateralism. World affairs should be discussed by all, and international norms should be set by all. The authority and vitality of the U.N. need to be restored. Multilateral mechanisms, global and regional, should enhance their coordination and improve their efficiency.

—Mutual benefit, win-win, and inclusiveness are the way forward for development. Countries are not isolated islands, but partners with intertwined interests and a shared future. Protectionism, decoupling and supply-chain dis-

A more united and vibrant SCO is fully capable of making greater contributions to an equal and orderly multipolar world.

ruption will lead nowhere. We should focus on the development agenda, uphold openness and cooperation, and bridge the digital and AI divides, so that technological revolution and development achievements can benefit all nations.

Colleagues,

After a 25-year journey, the SCO has successfully set a stellar example in conducting relations among big countries, among neighbors, and among countries of different sizes. It has successfully brought together half of the world's population and a quarter of the global economy, generating strong driving forces for development. A more united and vibrant SCO is fully capable of making greater contributions to an equal and orderly multipolar world.

First, we should advance common prosperity in the vast continent straddling Asia and Europe with the SCO Strength. Cooperation within the SCO has been fruitful in political, security, economic, trade, people-to-people and cultural domains, and our organization is now a key platform for Eurasian countries to jointly pursue development and tackle challenges. We should continue to leverage our strengths, unlock our potential, and connect the multiple growth poles across the continent through high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. We should empower each other, help each other succeed, and work together to create new opportunities and promote shared prosperity.

Second, we should promote the development and rise of the Global South through the SCO Wisdom. The organization takes root in the Global South, its heart beats with the Global South, and it is an important pillar of South-South cooperation. We should carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, strengthen and expand the SCO Plus partnerships, and jointly speak up for peace, foster synergy for development, build bridges for cooperation, and pave the way for win-win outcomes.

Third, we should guide the reform and improvement of global governance through the SCO Action. Our organization takes it as its mission and responsibility to make the global governance system more just and equitable. We should stay committed to building partnerships rather than alliances, and engaging in dialogue rather than confrontation. We should adhere to the principle of "planning together, building together and benefiting together" to encourage equal participation in global governance by all countries and ensure all will benefit from it.

Colleagues,

In global governance, stagnation is regression. It is important that SCO member states and partners ride the trend of history and shoulder the responsibility of our times. Let us take the people-centered and action-oriented approach, jointly advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world, make global governance more just and equitable, and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Thank you. (Xinhua) ■



A freight train pulls into the multimodal transport center of the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area. *Li Ziheng*

Jointly shouldering the responsibility of the times and striving to be a pioneering force

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At Session I of the 18th BRICS Summit
New Delhi, September 12, 2026



This photo shows the exterior view of the venue for the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India. *Yan Yan*

Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi,
Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to join you in New Delhi. I thank Prime Minister Modi and the Indian government for the thoughtful arrangements.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of BRICS cooperation. Over the past two decades, BRICS has been growing with strong vigor and vitality, and become the most influential cooperation platform in today's world for emerging markets and developing countries.

These are 20 years of standing together through wind and rain. BRICS countries have been forging ahead with an undaunted spirit. Hand in hand we tackled the global financial crisis, COVID pandemic, climate change and other challenges, and we resolutely defended the common interests of the Global South, providing the world with stability

and positive energy.

These are 20 years of fruitful outcomes. BRICS has realized a historic expansion, and now has a comprehensive, multifaceted cooperation structure with ever deepening cooperation in trade, investment, finance and technology, among others. It has entered a new stage of high-quality development of greater BRICS cooperation.

Today, changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. The Global South is gaining strength, and the trend toward a multipolar world is unstoppable. At the same time, unilateralism and power politics are surging against the tide, lashing at multilateralism and the international order. The deficits in peace, development, security and governance keep growing. For the exact purpose of addressing these deficits and building a better world, I have put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative. BRICS must stand firmly on the right side of history, strive to be a pioneer of our times, steer the international order in a direction that is more just and equitable, and work together to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

First, BRICS should be a pioneer in advancing innovation-driven development. The new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation represented by AI is bringing breakthroughs at a faster pace, shaping the global development landscape. We BRICS countries must keep the initiative firmly in our hands, strengthen cooperation in the field of AI, encourage open source, openness, collaboration and sharing, and break new grounds and scale new heights in our practical cooperation. Not long ago, China, together with various parties, initiated the World AI Cooperation Organization, and has developed international AI application cooperation centers with BRICS and others, which provide important platforms for closer AI cooperation for the world, particularly Global South countries. We welcome the active participation of BRICS countries. Here, I propose the BRICS initiative of AI-empowered new industrialization. China hopes to work with all parties for more outcomes in R&D and application



This photo shows the Xiamen Yuanhai Terminal Railway Dedicated Line (left) and a section of the fully automated terminal (right). *Lin Shanchuan*

BRICS has been growing with strong vigor and vitality, and become the most influential cooperation platform in today's world.

and deeper cooperation in industrial and supply chains. Facts will prove that decoupling and cutting off supply chains will not hold back our development process, and espousing "small yard, high fences" will only box oneself in and divide the world.

Second, BRICS should be a pioneer in upholding peace and stability. Far from being tranquil, the world today is increasingly fluid and turbulent. This is fundamentally because the postwar international order is being undermined, and the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter are not effectively observed. BRICS should stand firm, uphold justice, and strive to put an end to conflicts and defend peace. We should act on the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, oppose the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, and oppose violation of other countries' sovereignty or interference in other countries' internal affairs. We should participate constructively in the settlement of hotspot issues, and make BRICS' unique contribution to addressing both the symptoms and root causes.

The situation in the Middle East remains complex and fluid. This war has inflicted serious losses on the people of all countries in the region, and it is against the common interests of the international community. I have set out four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, which are aimed at de-escalation, ending hostilities and promoting peace. The relevant parties should keep to the direction of political settlement, and work for a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire. Attention should be paid to addressing the problems at the source, rebuilding trust between regional countries, and establishing a new security architecture. The Palestinian question is always at the core of the Middle East issue, and the fundamental way forward is to implement the two-state solution and realize peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel. China will work with fellow BRICS members to play a due role in bringing peace and tranquility to the Middle East.

Third, BRICS should be a pioneer in facilitating mutual learning between civilizations. As a Chinese adage goes, the beauty of a delicious soup lies in the blending of different flavors. With our time-honored and diverse cultures, BRICS should be a garden of inclusive coexistence that allows various civilizations to flourish. We should promote the common values of humanity, and advocate exchange, mutual learning and harmonious coexistence between civilizations. We should hold the BRICS People-to-People Exchange Forum to share experience on national governance and build up positive energy for stable state-to-state relations. We



This photo shows an E190-E2 aircraft model on display at the Brazilian booth of the 2024 BRICS New Industrial Revolution Exhibition. *Lin Shanchuan*

should deepen cooperation in culture, tourism and education, step up exchanges between our youths, and facilitate mutual visits between the people to increase mutual understanding and amity.

Fourth, BRICS should be a pioneer in reforming and improving global governance. What kind of global governance system to build will determine the future of humanity. BRICS should align with the trend toward greater democracy in international relations, work toward a more just and equitable global governance system, uphold the authority of the U.N., and oppose withdrawal from international organizations and treaties or creating rival systems. We should support the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, advance WTO reform, oppose abuse of tariffs, and reject all forms of protectionist measures. We should steer global governance in frontier domains such as cyberspace, outer space and deep sea, and increase the voice of Global South countries.

Colleagues,

During our arduous journey of 20 years, solidarity and cooperation have always been the source of strength for the cause of BRICS. We should continue treating each other with candor and sincerity, and seeking common ground while shelving differences. We should respect each other's core concerns, and commit ourselves to communication and dialogue to increase mutual understanding and properly handle disagreements, so that BRICS cooperation will continue to advance steadily.

China will take over the BRICS chairship next year, and host the 19th BRICS Summit. The Chinese side will seize the opportunity to build consensus and work with all parties to plan for the future. Together, we will usher in the third golden decade of BRICS cooperation, and open up a bright prospect of shared prosperity and progress.

Thank you. (Xinhua)



Leaders of the BRICS countries pose for a group photo during the Session I of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, India, September 12. *Wang Ye*

Cementing the foundation for BRICS cooperation and bolstering the strength of the Global South

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At Session II of the 18th BRICS Summit
New Delhi, September 13, 2026

Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi,
Colleagues,

I thank Prime Minister Modi and the Indian government for hosting this meeting.

We meet at a time when changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. The Global South, with its collective rise, has become a key driver of world multipolarity. At the same time, the international landscape is volatile and fraught with risks and challenges. To bring stability to the world and make it a better place, BRICS countries must seize the historical initiative, rally the Global South, be an active, stabilizing and positive force in international affairs, and advance the well-being of all humanity.

A world without rules is like a crossroads without traffic lights, where chaos and disorder are all but guaranteed. Fairness and justice is a universal aspiration, and international rules must be written by all countries. The logic of "might makes right" does not hold, and should have been discarded long ago. Global South countries should jointly defend the rule of law in international affairs, safeguard the basic norms of international relations including sovereign equality, noninterference in internal affairs, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and ensure that international law and international rules are applied to all, free from double standards.

All countries, regardless of their size, strength or wealth, are equal members of the international community. Global South countries should hold high the banner of multilater-



alism, uphold the authority and role of the United Nations, support multilateral institutions in advancing reform and increasing efficiency, and ensure the equal participation of all countries in international affairs. We should see to it that the reform of the World Trade Organization proceeds in the right direction, uphold such principles as the most-favored-nation treatment, and actively explore new rules for the future. We should support the operation and development of the New Development Bank to facilitate Global South cooperation. The international financial architecture must be reformed and improved to increase the representation and voice of developing countries.

"To achieve great things, one should always put the people first." Global South countries should stay committed to a people-centered development philosophy and strive to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since China launched the Global Development Initiative five years ago, we have implemented over 2,000 projects in partnership with others, and provided training for more than 200,000 professionals, benefiting people in more than 120 countries. China is opening its door ever wider to the world. We have granted zero-tariff treatment for all the 53 African countries having diplomatic relations with China. We will continue to broaden independent and unilateral opening up, and share the opportunities of China's development with other countries.

As global challenges keep surfacing, we should adopt a holistic approach to address both the symptoms and root causes. Global South countries should jointly advance security governance and tackle both traditional and nontraditional security threats. We should improve global climate governance, and urge the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. We should take a people-centered approach, develop AI for the positive and for good, and work faster to evolve a consensus-based global AI governance framework, so that new technologies can light the way toward shared prosperity.

Colleagues,

To accomplish great things and achieve major progress, the foundation of greater BRICS cooperation must be cemented. We should leverage our close ties with fellow emerging markets and Global South countries, uphold open cooperation for mutual benefit, safeguard stable and smooth industrial and supply chains, and foster a large integrated market. We should build incubators for innovation, upgrade traditional industries, develop emerging industries, and deploy future industries. To this end, I wish to put forward five initiatives:

First, the open source and inclusive AI initiative. China will be a pioneer in establishing a BRICS AI open source community, support the cooperation in developing and applying large language models, hold specialized AI seminars and training courses, and build an open ecosystem for AI.

Second, the trade and investment facilitation initiative. China proposes to establish a BRICS special economic zone partnership, under which countries can set up an intelligent portal, coordinate policies, and build a new frontier for open development. In an effort to cultivate new drivers of economic and trade cooperation, China will hold the BRICS Forum on Trade in Services next year. We welcome your active participation.

Third, the digital industry cooperation initiative. China will push for establishing a BRICS digital ecosystem cloud platform, and conduct digital skills training, technological exchange and industrial alignment, so as to jointly enable the development of the digital economy.

Fourth, the intelligent manufacturing cooperation initiative. China stands ready to assist fellow BRICS countries in building smart factories and developing standards and norms, and jointly promote manufacturing transformation and upgrading.

Fifth, the science and technology talent development initiative. China proposes to set up a BRICS engineer cultivation alliance for joint development of engineers and mutual recognition of competency standards. China will launch a BRICS youth exchange program for scientific and technological innovation, so as to cultivate more high-caliber talent.

Colleagues,

This year marks the launch of China's 15th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development. It is both a blueprint for China's development and a cooperation list for the rest of the world. China will continue to advance high-quality development, expand high-standard opening up, implement the Global Development Initiative, and promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation to share opportunities and prosper together with all countries. Let us work as one to promote greater BRICS cooperation and write a new chapter of strength through unity for the Global South!

Thank you. (Xinhua)



Build a great country and advance national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization*

August 22, 2024

The best way to commemorate Comrade Deng Xiaoping is to carry forward the cause of Chinese socialism he pioneered. We should build on past achievements, strive for new progress, and focus on the central task of building China into a great country and advancing national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization.

As we drive deeper all-round reform, we must not only uphold fundamental principles, but also break new ground. We must act on the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress and the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, and concentrate on the overarching goal of improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance. We should target economic structural reform, coordinate reform in all sectors, remove outdated mindsets and institutional obstacles, and provide powerful impetus and institutional guarantees for advancing Chinese modernization. In upholding fundamental principles while breaking new ground, we should reform what needs to be changed and keep intact what does not. We should further integrate our reforms, prioritize key measures, stress efficacy, and persevere in implementation.

We should advance Chinese modernization on all fronts by focusing on our primary task of high-quality development. We must apply the new development philosophy in full, to the letter, and in all fields, and implement the Five-sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy in a coordinated way. We should build a unified national market and advance new industrialization, informatization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization. We should press ahead with rural revitalization across the board, achieve better balance in development between regions, and move faster to modernize our economy. We should reinforce our foundations in education, science and technology, and talent development, increase our strength and self-reliance in science and technology, and foster new quality productive forces suited to local conditions. We should develop an advanced socialist culture, follow a sound development path of increased economic output, higher living standards, and healthy ecosystems, balance material and cultural-ethical progress, and ensure harmony between humanity and nature.

We must put the people first and steadily work towards common prosperity. We must expand whole-process people's democracy, advance the rule of law, and deliver social fairness in the form of equal rights, equal opportunities, and fair rules for all. This will fully motivate our citizens to create a better future. We should ensure and improve the people's wellbeing through development. We will improve basic public services, narrow the gaps between urban and rural areas, different regions, and different income levels, and make significant and substantive progress towards common prosperity.

We should expand high-standard opening up, and safeguard China's sovereignty, security, and development interests. We should pursue a more proactive strategy of opening up, optimize the planning of regional opening up, and steadily expand institutional opening up. We should promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and increase the breadth and depth of Chinese modernization through peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation. We should pursue a holistic approach to national security, coordinate opening up and security, and strengthen our ability to safeguard national security in the process of opening up to the outside world.

We must exercise full and rigorous internal Party governance in order to build a stronger Marxist governing party. We must remember that the Party's full and rigorous internal governance and its self-reform have no end. As we advance the great new project of strengthening the Party in the new

era, we must remain sober-minded and determined to deliver all that this entails. We must reinforce the Party's political foundations as the prerequisite for all other initiatives targeting Party development. We must improve the systems for full and rigorous internal Party governance and win the tough and protracted battle against corruption. The Party must continue to cleanse, improve, renew and temper itself; it must never betray its nature and mission, and it must remain the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The people's military is a great wall of steel safeguarding the Party and the country. We must implement the Party's philosophy on strengthening the military for the new era, uphold its absolute leadership over the armed forces, and step up governance over the military in all respects. We must make an all-out effort to modernize our national defense and armed forces, achieve the centenary goal of the People's Liberation Army by 2027, and move faster to build the people's military into a world-class force. It should improve its strategic capability to defend China's sovereignty, security, and development interests, and fulfill its missions and tasks in the new era.

Complete reunification of our country is a dream long pursued by revolutionaries of the older generations, including Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. It is the common aspiration of all Chinese people, and an irresistible trend. We will continue to 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. We will support and facilitate Hong Kong and Macao in pursuing greater development by further integrating themselves into the country's overall development. We must vigorously apply the Party's overall policy for resolving the Taiwan question in the new era, uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, and promote peaceful development of cross-Straits relations. We resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence" and stand firm in safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Any separatist force or act, and any external interference that sabotages China's reunification, will be met with an uncompromising response from the Chinese people.

China is a staunch force for upholding world peace. We must always uphold peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and champion the common values of humanity. We will implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, play an active role in reforming and developing the global governance system, and provide the world with new opportunities as we advance Chinese modernization.

All our endeavors since the 18th CPC National Congress have been designed to fulfill our Party's original aspiration and founding mission, to carry forward the cause pioneered by Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, and other veteran revolutionaries, and to uphold and develop Chinese socialism in the new era. As the times progress and our cause develops, we should never disengage from innovation in theory and in practice. Deng Xiaoping once said, "New things should emerge in China every year and every day."[1] It is the solemn responsibility of today's Chinese Communists to open up new prospects in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of our times. On our new journey in the new era, we must break new ground while upholding fundamental principles. We should keep to the path blazed by our forerunners, and at the same time be bold in exploring new frontiers. We should consistently renew our theories and develop our undertakings, and honor our predecessors with new progress and achievements.

At this moment, I am reminded of two statements made by Deng Xiaoping. The first one is: "If we have basically realized modernization by the middle of the next century, we shall have further reason to say that socialism has succeeded."[2] The second is: "By the middle of the next century, when we approach the level of the developed countries, then there will have been really great changes. At that time the strength of China and its role in the world will be quite different. We shall be able to make greater contributions to mankind."[3]

Now, we have just about 10 years remaining to achieve our goal of realizing basic modernization, and only around 20 years to reach our goal of building China into a great modern socialist country. Our goals demand that we forge ahead and waste no time. We must uphold socialism with Chinese characteristics, pool the collective strength of our 1.4 billion people, and stay true to our original aspiration and founding mission. Let us strive with determination and in unity to build a great country and advance national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization, and to make new and greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development for humanity. ■

* Part of the speech at a meeting to mark the 120th anniversary of the birth of Deng Xiaoping.

Notes

1 From Deng Xiaoping's talks given on January 24, 1992 during his visit to the Zhuhai Biochemical Pharmaceutical Factory, *Chronicle of Deng Xiaoping*, Vol. V, Chin. ed., Central Party Literature Publishing House, Beijing, 2020, pp. 634-635.

2 Deng Xiaoping: "With Stable Policies of Reform and Opening to the Outside World, China Can Have Great Hopes for the Future", *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping*, Vol. III, Eng, ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 1994, p. 310.

3 Deng Xiaoping: "Speech at the National Conference of the Communist Party of China", *Selected Works of Deng Xiaoping*, Vol. III, Eng. ed., Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, 1994, p. 146. ■

China's top legislator holds talks with president of El Salvador's Legislative Assembly



Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, holds talks with Ernesto Castro, president of El Salvador's Legislative Assembly, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, August 20. *Rao Aimin*

Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), held talks with Ernesto Castro, president of El Salvador's Legislative Assembly, in Beijing on August 20.

Noting that August 21 marks the 8th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and El Salvador, Zhao said that China stands ready to work with the Salvadoran side to implement the important common understandings reached by the heads of state of the two countries and elevate bilateral relations to new heights.

Both sides should deepen political mutual trust and be friends who support each other, he said, adding China appreciates El Salvador's adherence to the one-China principle and its support for China's position regarding Taiwan and human rights.

Zhao called on both sides to focus on the well-being of the people; deepen exchanges and cooperation in education, culture, media and other fields; and strengthen multilateral coordination and safeguard common interests.

The NPC of China is ready to work with the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador to enhance friendly exchanges between their special committees, bilateral friendship groups, deputies to the NPC and legislators; share experience in areas such as the rule of law and poverty reduction and development; and provide legal safeguards for practical cooperation, Zhao said.

For his part, Castro stated that developing friendly relations with China is of great significance to El Salvador. The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador is ready to strengthen mutual learning through exchanges with China's NPC, building a bridge for further developing bilateral relations and advancing practical cooperation, he added. (Xinhua) ■



This photo shows El Tunco beach, in La Libertad, El Salvador. *VCG*

China's top legislator holds talks with president of National Council of Austria

Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), held talks with Walter Rosenkranz, president of the National Council of Austria, in Beijing on August 31.

Noting this year marks the 55th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Austria, Zhao said China is ready to work with Austria to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, consolidate traditional friendship, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation.

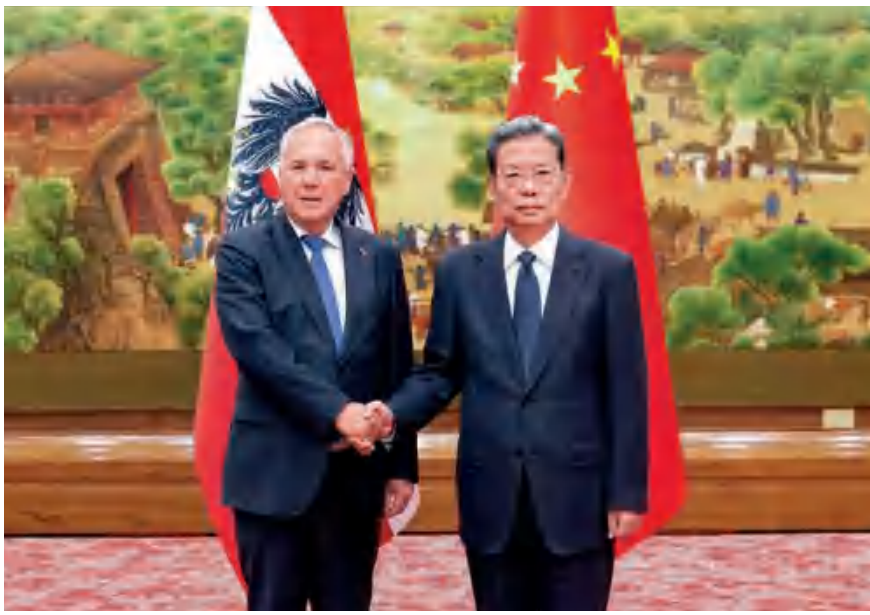
Zhao called on the two sides to maintain the sound momentum of high-level exchanges and strengthen policy communication, enhance cooperation in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital economy and green development, and adopt more practical measures to facilitate two-way travel and people-to-people exchanges.

The two sides should also jointly uphold the authority and status of the United Nations (UN), as well as free trade and the multilateral trading system, Zhao added. China is ready to properly resolve differences and frictions in economic and trade cooperation with the European Union (EU) through dialogue and consultation, and achieve a dynamic balance in the course of development, he said.

The NPC of China is ready to deepen multi-level, multi-field dialogue and exchanges with the Austrian National Council, and provide legal safeguards for the pragmatic cooperation between the two countries, Zhao noted, adding China is willing to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation and the exchange of legislative experience with Austria, and jointly seize the opportunities and meet the challenges brought by AI development.

For his part, Rosenkranz said Austria firmly adheres to the one-China policy. The delegation visiting China is composed of members from the five major parties of the Austrian National Council, and deepening cooperation with China is the consensus across Austria's party spectrum, he added.

Rosenkranz said the Austrian National Council stands ready to strengthen friendly exchanges with the NPC of China. The Austrian side is ready to make efforts to advance the development of EU-China relations and strengthen cooperation with China in multilateral platforms such as the UN, he added. (Xinhua) ■

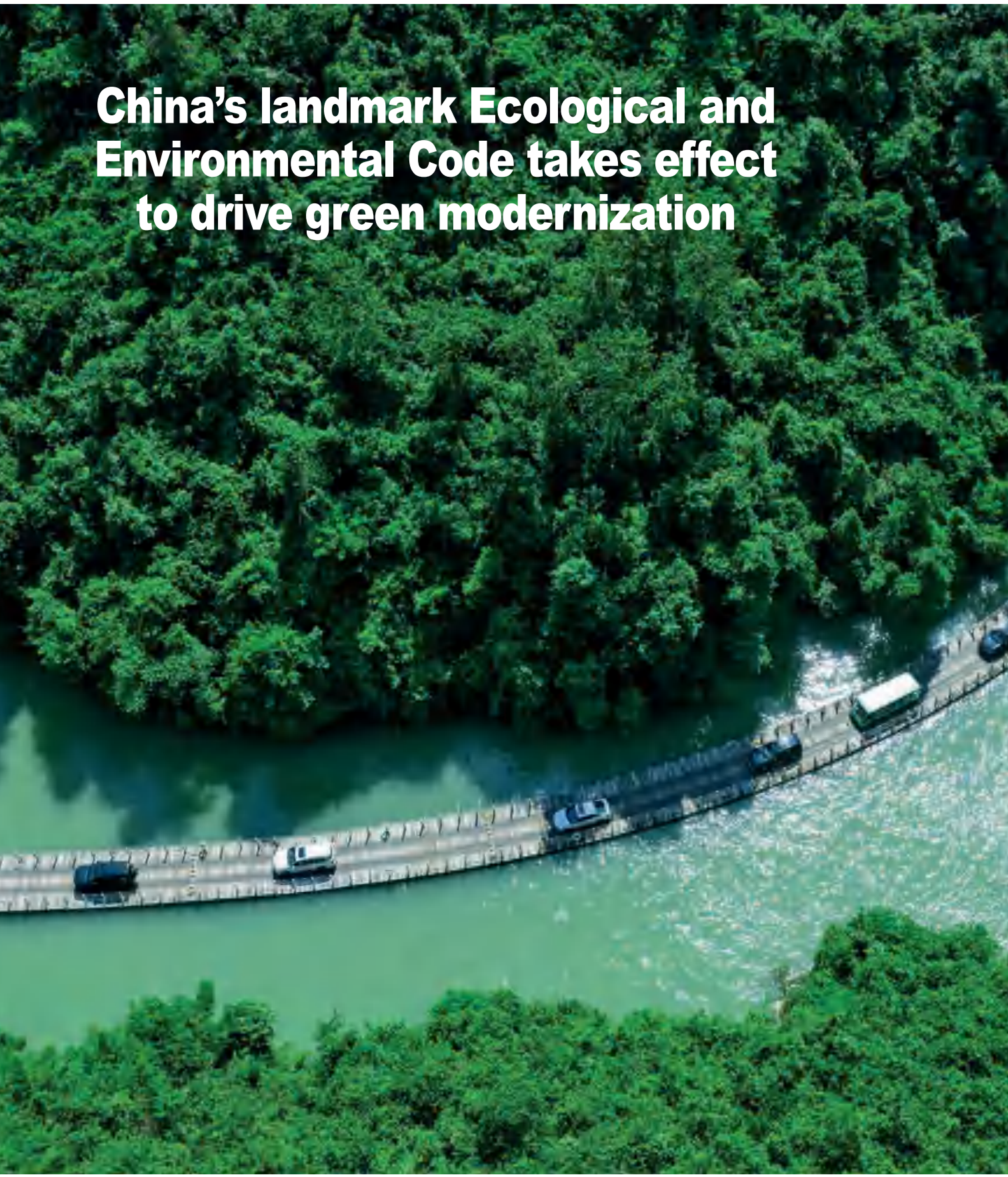


Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, holds talks with Walter Rosenkranz, president of the National Council of Austria, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, August 31. *Pang Xinglei*



This photo shows the docks by Lake Zell in Austria's Salzburg State, with the Mountains Alps. *VCG*

China's landmark Ecological and Environmental Code takes effect to drive green modernization





This photo shows the scenery of the Shiziguan Scenic Area in Xuan'en County, central China's Hubei Province. *Wang Fajun*

China took a major step toward green modernization on August 15, as its landmark Ecological and Environmental Code officially came into force, strengthening the legal foundation for more harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature. Adopted by China's top legislature in March, the code is China's second formal statutory code after the Civil Code.

It comprises 1,242 articles in five chapters, covering pollution control, ecological protection, and green and low-carbon development, among other areas. As China advances its Beautiful China initiative, the code is expected to strengthen rule of law guarantees for ecological protection and provide fresh impetus for the country's green and low-carbon transition.

A stronger shield for nature

The Ecological and Environmental Code brings together more than 30 laws, 100 administrative regulations, and 1,000 local laws and regulations through systematic integration, compilation, revision and refinement, creating stronger legal synergy for ecological protection.

"This is a historic shift in the logic of China's ecological and environmental governance," said Qin Tianbao, a professor at Wuhan University. With the code, China's ecological protection is moving from fragmented management toward systematic governance, Qin said.

The code has also been welcomed by local judicial authorities across the country, who say it will have a major impact on their work. "As the code comes into force, we have clearer guidance and a more focused approach when handling cases related to ecological, environmental and resource protection," said Xu Xufen, a judge at the Intermediate People's Court of Huzhou city in east China's Zhejiang province.

This is because the code establishes a systematic, comprehensive and clearly structured set of legal values, which provide fundamental guidance for adjudication, Xu added. China's ecological protection legislation has made continued progress in recent years, forming a wide-ranging, detailed



This photo shows the riverside scenery of the Xin'an River at Xiong Village in Shexian County, Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province. *(Zheng Hong)*



The "Environmental Landscape of Xiong'an New Area" is on display at the Ecological Environment Monitoring Center of Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei Province. *Liang Jiayuan*

and practical legal framework. However, analysts note that some obstacles remain, including fragmentation among different laws and regulations.

The code can help resolve legal conflicts and fill gaps, making the country's ecological and environmental legal system more integrated and coordinated, and better able to keep pace with the times, said Yu Wenxuan, a professor at the China University of Political Science and Law. The strengthened legal framework comes after years of efforts that have produced key environmental gains. Some innovative explorations include the river, lake and forest chief systems, as well as central environmental protection inspections, which have all been included in the code.

These efforts have led to major changes in China's ecological preservation, with key indicators continuing to improve. In 2025, the average PM2.5 concentration in major Chinese cities fell to 28 micrograms per cubic meter, while the proportion of days with good air quality reached 89.3 percent, both the best levels since monitoring began. China has become one of the countries with the fastest improvement in air quality in the world.

The code can help resolve legal conflicts and fill gaps, making the country's ecological and environmental legal system more integrated and coordinated.

By the end of 2025, China's national forest coverage rate had exceeded 25 percent. Since the beginning of this century, about one quarter of the world's newly afforested areas have come from China. And the country has recorded the world's largest and fastest growth in forest resources.

Looking ahead, China has mapped out the next stage of its ecological protection drive. In July, the State Council issued a plan for building a Beautiful China during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), setting out the overall require-

ments, targets, key tasks and major projects for comprehensively advancing the initiative. According to the plan, by 2030, China will achieve an overall improvement in ecological and environmental quality and make significant progress toward building a Beautiful China, with green production and lifestyles largely established and the carbon peaking target reached on schedule.

Charting a greener future

By dedicating a chapter to green and low-carbon development, the code helps bring environmental protection and economic development into closer alignment, two goals often seen as being in tension, said Hou Jiaru, a professor at the China University of Political Science and Law. "It combines the philosophy of development through protection and protection through development," he explained.

In practice, China has made solid progress in advancing green development in recent years. The country has cultivated more than 8,000 national-level green factories, built the world's largest clean power supply system and largest clean steel production system, and established the world's largest carbon emissions trading market.

Echoing the spirit of the code, China's outline of its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) prioritizes accelerating the comprehensive green transition of economic and social development, calling for faster progress in shaping green modes of production and day-to-day life.

China has also sought to share its green development experience with the world, contributing Chinese solutions to global ecological protection and sustainable development. In Egypt, for example, a water-saving terraced farming model introduced from China has been replicated, helping conserve water and support agriculture in the mountainous areas of the Sinai Peninsula. In Saudi Arabia, China's photovoltaic technology is helping the country harness desert sunshine for solar power, offering a practical path toward clean energy transition.

As the code takes effect, China's green modernization drive is gaining not only a stronger legal foundation at home, but also broader relevance for global sustainable development in an era when fragmented legislation is increasingly inadequate for addressing complex environmental challenges. To this end, the code includes specific provisions on international cooperation, aiming to strengthen collaboration on ecological and environmental protection, fulfill its obligations under international treaties it has concluded or joined, and promote cooperation in addressing climate change.

Analysts say that the code marks a significant transition for China in global environmental governance from a participant to a leader, while offering a legislative model for the world, especially developing countries. In particular, the code's integrated approach to pollution prevention, ecological protection and green, low-carbon development — all key issues on the global agenda — represents an important technical contribution to global legislative practice, Qin said.

"The code sends a clear signal to the international community: China is firmly advancing ecological priority and green development in accordance with the rule of law and is willing to work with countries around the world to build a clean and beautiful world," he added. (Xinhua)

The Ecological and Environmental Code of the People's Republic of China is China's second law titled a "code" following the Civil Code and marks the beginning of the codification era for the nation's ecological and environmental protection.



The full text of the code, which comprises five books with **1,242** articles, contains over **160,000** Chinese characters. It is a comprehensive consolidation of more than **30** ecological and environmental laws, over **100** administrative regulations and more than **1,000** local regulations.

The books are arranged as follows:

General Provisions, Pollution Prevention and Control, Ecological Conservation, Green and Low-Carbon Development, and Legal Liability and Supplementary Provisions

They codify the theoretical, institutional and practical achievements in ecological civilization development since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, laying a stronger legal foundation for advancing the modernization featuring harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

It targets the acute, difficult and bottleneck problems that concern the public most, responds to the people's growing demand for a beautiful environment and highlights the systematic vision of a community of life.

In line with the holistic and systematic nature of ecosystems and their inherent laws, it promotes the development of an ecological protection system that covers all elements, all river basins and the entire chain, and charts a clear path toward green and low-carbon development.



A law-popularization activity on the Ecological and Environmental Code is held at the Nansha grassroots legislative outreach office, south China's Guangdong Province, on August 15. *Photo provided by the Nansha local legislative outreach office in Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province*

Charting a green path to development

China's Ecological and Environmental Code, for the first time enshrines Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization into law. The cvore idea of the thought traces back to a concept first expressed 21 years ago by Xi Jinping, then Communist Party of China (CPC) chief of east China's Zhejiang Province, during a visit to a small mountain village where he famously stated: "Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," or "green is gold."

Over the past two decades, the concept has evolved into a national development strategy, helping shape the country's efforts to reconcile ecological conservation with economic development.

Green path

In August 2005, Xi visited Yucun village. After learning that it had shut down polluting mines to pursue a greener path, he called their choice a "wise move" and introduced the now-famous idea that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets." In the following years, Yucun residents developed rural tourism and carbon-sink projects, which helped them raise incomes and create better lives.

"Your achievements prove that green development is the right path. Having chosen it, we must press ahead," Xi, Chinese President, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commis-

sion, said during a return visit to the village in March 2020. Yucun offers a glimpse into China's approach to green development: economic growth must not come at the expense of the environment, while environmental protection itself can become a source of development.

At a conference in 2023, Xi said China should maintain green and low-carbon development as the fundamental solution to ecological and environmental issues, accelerate the formation of green production modes and lifestyles. In June 2022, he made an inspection tour to Yibin, a city along the Yangtze River in southwest China's Sichuan province.

Yibin once suffered from severe pollution as chemical factories lined the riverfront, discharging pollutants rampantly. To address the problem, the city cleared out energy-intensive and high-pollution factories, shut down small paper mills, banned river sand mining and curbed sewage discharges, gradually restoring the ecological environment along its riverbanks. Xi praised the progress and called for efforts to prioritize conservation and pursue high-quality development in the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

That green approach has taken root across the region. Traditional industries have been transformed and upgraded, and new sectors, including automobiles and electronic information have emerged and thrived. While water quality has improved, the economic belt's GDP has more than doubled over the past decade, demonstrating how ecological protection and economic development can reinforce each other. The Yangtze River has become a vivid example of China's broader efforts to advance ecological progress.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, China has waged a sweeping campaign against pollution, while transforming its development model, significantly improving its ecological environment and fostering new, high-quality and more sustainable growth drivers.

Today, China leads the world in expanding green coverage and has built the largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system. In the first half of 2026, emerging growth drivers such as advanced manufacturing, the digital economy and modern services, which are more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly than traditional industries, contributed more than 40 percent of economic growth.

Environmental protection and economic development are not contradictory but dialectically unified, Xi has said, noting that only by protecting the ecology and tapping its strengths can high-quality development be realized.

Concrete action

The Ecological and Environmental Code brings together years of legislative and regulatory progress, further strengthening the legal framework for ecological conservation. China must have the strictest possible institutions and legislation in place in order to guarantee ecological progress, Xi has said.

Over the past decade and beyond, China has ramped up environmental legislation, strengthened enforcement and made major strides in putting environmental regulations into practice. The country enshrined ecological civilization in its Constitution, implemented what was described as the country's "toughest-ever" environmental protection law, tackled pressing environmental problems from air and water pollution to noise, and strengthened protection of key areas and fragile ecosystems, including the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and China's black soil region.

At a symposium in 2018, Xi recalled how environmental authorities had taken tough action against violations, citing what was described at the time as the largest environmental fine ever imposed in the Yangtze River basin, exceeding 27 million yuan ($4 million). The chemical company involved had been both a major taxpayer and polluter in central China's Hubei province. Faced with a huge fine for illegal emissions, it overhauled its operations and set out on a greener path. Now, the company has become a local model for green practices.

Another tough environmental mechanism is China's central environmental inspection system, which has strengthened accountability for local environmental protection and helped address long-standing problems in different regions. Thanks to effective central inspections, the Lianjiang River in south China's Guangdong Province, once heavily polluted by industrial wastewater, has seen its water quality steadily improve. Ulan Suhai Lake, the biggest lake wetland in the Yellow River basin, once plagued by ecological degradation, has restored its ecological functions and become a haven for birds. The Qilian Mountains, where mining and other development activities caused vegetation damage and ecological degradation, have begun to experience ecosystem recovery thanks to targeted restoration efforts.

China leads the world in expanding green coverage and has built the largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system.

These environmental improvements have translated into tangible benefits for local people, making a better environment part of a better life. Highlighting the people-centered approach, Xi said ecological progress delivers the strongest sense of gain to the people, who feel its benefits most keenly when the environment improves.

The Ecological and Environmental Code stresses that a sound ecological environment is the most universal form of public welfare. Specifically, its pollution prevention provisions cover not only traditional concerns such as air pollution and black, foul-smelling water, but also emerging pollutants and newer forms of environmental risks, including light pollution and electromagnetic radiation.

Global contribution

The code is significant not only for China's efforts to protect its own natural environment, but also for global ecological progress. According to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, it contains provisions on international cooperation and China's fulfillment of obligations under

international environmental treaties. "It reflects the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity and contributes Chinese wisdom and solutions to global ecological and environmental governance," an official of the ministry said.

China has long been an active participant and major contributor to global green development. While delivering video remarks at the UN Climate Summit in September 2025, Xi announced China's new Nationally Determined Contributions, including a 7 to 10 percent reduction in economy-wide net greenhouse gas emissions from peak levels and an increase in the share of non-fossil fuels in total energy consumption to over 30 percent by 2035. "These targets represent China's best efforts based on the requirements of the Paris Agreement," Xi said.

China has also been actively helping other countries pursue sustainable development. Since 2016, China has provided and mobilized more than 177 billion yuan ($26.34 billion) in funding for developing countries to address climate change and signed more than 50 memorandums of understanding on climate change cooperation with more than 40 developing countries. During the past five years, Chinese exports of wind power and photovoltaic products have helped other countries reduce carbon emissions by about 4.1 billion tons.

During a speech at the first phase of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2021, Xi highlighted the significance of international cooperation, calling for building a homeland of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, coordinated advancement of economy and the environment, and common development of all countries.

The code is significant not only for China's efforts to protect its own natural environment, but also for global ecological progress.

Many of these cooperation projects have already delivered tangible results in different parts of the world. In Mauritania, a livestock technology demonstration center built with Chinese assistance has helped local communities improve their livelihoods while also guaranteeing environmental protection.

The "Africa Solar Belt" project, supported by China, is expected to bring electricity to tens of thousands of households without access to power in countries like Chad and Burundi, helping advance a green and low-carbon development path. The integration of economic development and ecology championed by Xi has offered valuable ideas for the world, former UN Under-Secretary-General Erik Solheim said. (Xinhua) ■



During the 2026 "Jianghuai Law-Popularization Tour" organized by the Standing Committee of the Anhui Provincial People's Congress, staff members explain the provisions of the Ecological and Environmental Code to the public in east China's Anhui Province. *Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Anhui Provincial People's Congress*



Medical staff are performing a remote robotic surgery in an operating room at Miyun District Hospital in Beijing. As a national comprehensive pilot zone for primary-level healthcare, Miyun actively channels high-quality medical resources to the grassroots level to safeguard public health. *Zhang Yuwei*

China adopts new law to strengthen healthcare security

Chinese lawmakers voted to adopt a new law on healthcare security on August 28 to improve healthcare services and strengthen the country's healthcare security system. The law, passed at a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), will take effect on January 1, 2027.

Consisting of 56 articles in seven chapters, the law covers the healthcare security system, healthcare security funds and services, supervision and administration, and legal liability. It is part of efforts to implement the country's health-first strategy and advance the Healthy China initiative, according to the new law, which also states that the level of healthcare security should be commensurate with the level of economic and social development. The draft healthcare security law has undergone three rounds of review by the NPC Standing Committee, with the first in June last year and the second in April this year.

Improved system

The 2010 Social Insurance Law and the 2014 interim measures for social assistance contain provisions on basic medical insurance, maternity insurance and medical assistance, with further reforms following amid economic and social development. Experts noted that a healthcare security law is needed to keep up with the healthcare security system reform and address problems such as fragmented regulations and a lack of integration.

"A multi-tiered healthcare security system for all shall be established and improved, with basic medical insurance as its mainstay," the new law reads, adding that the basic medical insurance consists of schemes for both urban workers and rural and non-working urban residents. The law stipulates that basic medical insurance shall provide fair and appropriate benefit coverage for insured people, while encouraging the development of commercial health insurance, healthcare-related charitable donations and medical mutual aid programs to meet diverse healthcare security needs.

The law also has a dedicated chapter on healthcare security services, specifying provisions for a sound public service system and a standardized list of public services. China has built the world's largest basic healthcare security network, with more than 1.33 billion people covered by basic medical insurance as of the end of 2025, according to official data.

Balanced population development

To address an aging population and close gaps in the social security system, the law specifies that a long-term care insurance system should be established and improved. Long-term care insurance is a social insurance program that provides services or financial support for basic daily care and related medical nursing for people who have partially or completely lost the ability to care for themselves. By the end of 2025, this insurance had covered 308.55 million people, with 1.93 million beneficiaries.

The scheme is a priority in the country's five-year plan to improve medical security. At the end of 2025, the country had 323.38 million people aged 60 or above, accounting for 23 percent of the population. The figure is projected to exceed 400 million around 2035. Lou Yu, a professor at China University of Political Science and Law, said the growing number of elderly people with disabilities has led to increased demand for long-term care, while existing medical insurance mainly covers expenses related to medical treatment. "Writing long-term care insurance into law will turn years of local pilot experience into a statutory system and help meet the care needs of people with disabilities, extending the coverage of the healthcare security system," Lou said.

To promote balanced population development over the long term, the law stipulates that the country shall improve the maternity insurance system and steadily expand its coverage. For the first time, it specifies that the maternity insurance fund and the basic medical insurance fund for employees should be consolidated into a single accounting system.

Experts noted that the two types of insurance have similar arrangements in terms of enrollment, financing, administration and benefits, and that unified accounting will help address fragmentation in the social insurance system, making enrollment more convenient without reducing benefits. (Xinhua) ■



Jia Feng (first from left), an expert from Renji Hospital affiliated with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, holds a consultation with physicians of Yixing People's Hospital to discuss treatment plans in Yixing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on July 15. *Xinhua*



New laws to safeguard food security and boost agricultural modernization

The Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, wrapped up its 24th session on August 28 with two landmark agricultural pieces of legislation adopted: the revised Agriculture Law and the new Law on Farmland Protection and Quality Improvement. Both laws will take effect on January 1, 2027, forming a coordinated legal framework to guarantee food security, raise farmers' wellbeing and drive modern-oriented rural development.

The revised Agriculture Law, made up of 14 chapters, sets core objectives for agricultural and rural economic growth. It targets higher overall agricultural productivity, better product quality and improved efficiency. Priority goals include stable supplies of grain and other key farm produce, higher farmers' incomes and living standards, and diversified job opportunities for rural laborers. The law also stresses narrowing urban-rural and regional gaps, advancing integrated urban-rural development and pushing forward gradual modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

As a fundamental statute governing China's agricultural economy, the Agriculture Law was first enacted in 1993, comprehensively revised in 2002 and partially amended in 2009 and 2012. The latest revision strengthens protection of farmers' rights and interests. It requires governments at all levels to build long-term mechanisms to fight formalism and ease burdens for grassroots officials. New clauses support technology-driven, green, high-quality and brand-centered



Farmers work at the Longji Rice Terraces in Guilin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. *VCG*

agriculture. It encourages wider application of emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence across farming production, business operations and management.

The newly-passed Law on Farmland Protection and Quality Improvement contains eight chapters and 72 articles. It lays down detailed rules covering farmland layout, arable land occupation control, farmland quality upgrading, ecological conservation, supervision and legal liabilities. The law specifies that farmland shall be mainly used for grain, cotton, oil crops, sugar crops, vegetables, as well as forage and feed crops. China will keep enforcing the strictest farmland protection systems and firmly defend its farmland protection red line, pursuing integrated protection of farmland quantity, quality and ecological functions.

The law mandates public awareness efforts. Governments, schools and news media are expected to promote knowledge of farmland conservation and to monitor and address illegal activities that harm farmland.

Modern digital tools, including satellite remote sensing, big data, cloud computing and AI will be deployed for smarter farmland governance. According to the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission, agricultural production faces natural disaster risks, while grain supply-demand tension will persist in the long run. The new law introduces rigorous measures to consolidate the foundation of national food security, guarantee basic grain self-sufficiency and absolute safety of staple foods.

Jointly, the two laws connect land resource protection with industrial upgrading. They offer solid legal backing for China to stabilize domestic grain output, empower rural residents and press ahead with building a stronger agricultural sector. (China Daily) ■



This photo shows high-standard farmland in the Saibei Management Area, Zhangjiakou City. To date, the area has developed 81,800 mu (5,453 hectares) of high-standard farmland, with an agricultural mechanization rate exceeding 95 percent. *Yang Shiyao*

China enhances legal framework for autonomous vehicles in draft road safety law revisions

China has set a dedicated chapter on autonomous vehicles in its draft revisions to the Road Traffic Safety Law, seeking to strengthen the legal framework for its rapidly developing autonomous driving sector. The draft defines autonomous vehicles and driver-assistance functions, clarifies the conditions for autonomous vehicles to operate on public roads, sets principles for handling traffic violations and outlines insurance arrangements for these vehicles.



This photo shows traffic flow on the Wufengshan Yangtze River Bridge in Zhenjiang, east China's Jiangsu Province, May 5, 2026. *Ren Fei*

It specifies that when a road traffic safety violation occurs while an autonomous vehicle's autonomous-driving function is activated, the vehicle's manufacturer or importer shall be responsible for handling the violation. The draft stipulates that autonomous vehicles operating on public roads with their autonomous-driving functions not activated, as well as vehicles equipped only with driver-assistance functions, will be subject to the same rules as non-autonomous vehicles.

Experts say the revision of the Road Traffic Safety Law clarifies liability for autonomous vehicles under different operating scenarios, laying a solid legal foundation for expanding pilot programs and advancing commercial applications. The drafting of the new rules is also seen as a move to balance road safety, the development of the autonomous driving industry and traffic efficiency.

The draft specifies that the state supports safe, orderly and well-regulated road testing, demonstration and operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads. The rapid growth of China's new energy vehicle (NEV) industry has also accelerated the evolution of intelligent driving systems, with advances in technologies such as high-performance chips and advanced LiDAR sensors supporting increasingly sophisticated functions.

China's intelligent and connected vehicle industry has emerged as an international front-runner, driven by policy support, technological innovation, cross-sector collaboration and strong market demand, said Fu Bingfeng, executive vice president and secretary-general of the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. These advantages have helped China accelerate the development and application of autonomous-driving technologies, he said.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, passenger vehicles equipped with Level 2 combined driver-assistance functions had a penetration rate of 70.5 percent this year. Meanwhile, the first batch of Level 3 conditional automated-driving vehicles has begun operating on public roads in designated areas.

The drafting of the new rules is also seen as a move to balance road safety, the development of the autonomous driving industry and traffic efficiency.

More than 57,000 km of roads across China have been opened for autonomous-driving testing and demonstration, with vehicles having accumulated more than 220 million km of testing mileage, according to the ministry.

The draft was submitted for its first reading to the ongoing session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, which ran from August 25-28. The current Road Traffic Safety Law took effect in 2004, with individual provisions amended in 2007, 2011 and 2021. The latest draft represents a more substantial revision, aimed at keeping pace with economic and social development, addressing people's needs and enhancing road safety.

Other changes include raising the maximum speed limit for electric bicycles on non-motorized vehicle lanes from 15 km/h to 20 km/h, as well as new provisions prohibiting drivers from making or answering calls on handheld phones or watching videos while driving. The draft prohibits abandoning motor vehicles on public roads, as well as the production, import, or sale of vehicles that do not meet mandatory national standards.

By the end of June 2026, China had 476 million registered motor vehicles and 567 million licensed drivers. NEVs accounted for 13.19 percent of the country's total car fleet. China has set a target for NEVs to account for about 30 percent of the country's car fleet by 2030. (Xinhua) ■



Traffic police officers inspect electric bicycles in accordance with the procedures under the new national standard in Xiangyang City, central China's Hubei Province. *Xie Yong*



Traffic police officers guide children to properly wear helmets at Yuejin Community in Jiang'an District, Wuhan City, central China's Hubei Province. *Zhao Jun*

China's law on ethnic affairs bolsters legal basis for ethnic unity

The Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law, China's fundamental law on ethnic affairs, entered into force on July 1, strengthening law-based governance in the country's ethnic affairs. Adopted in March by the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, the law is designed to enhance cohesion and common prosperity among all 56 ethnic groups. This comes as the country enters the final decade of its drive to basically achieve modernization by 2035.

China's ethnic minority population exceeded 125 million, accounting for 8.89 percent of the country's total, according to the 2020 census. The degree of exchange and integration among different ethnic groups has reached an unparalleled level, authorities say, driven in part by efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and advance urbanization. As the law comes into effect, governments at all levels will need to rigorously implement its key priorities, such as promoting extensive exchanges, interactions and integration among all ethnic groups, and advancing their common development, said Yan Qing, a professor at Minzu University of China. "This will help raise the level of law-based governance in ethnic affairs," Yan said.

The law is designed to enhance cohesion and common prosperity among all 56 ethnic groups.



Ethnic minority residents dance at the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on July 23. *Yang Wenbin*

For the first time from the perspective of legal theory, the law elaborates on core concepts such as forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation and advancing the building of the community of the Chinese nation. It stipulates that upholding national unity and ethnic solidarity is the responsibility of all Chinese citizens and prohibits discrimination and suppression against any ethnic group. It also combats violent terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism, holding organizers, planners, perpetrators, instigators and financiers of such activities criminally liable.

The law can be seen as a summary of China's practical experience in countering separatism, terrorism and radicalization, while also focusing on ethnic unity and progress, said Hu Haifeng, director of the Institute of Ethnology at the Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences. Implementation of the law provides more enduring and standardized legal support for stability and cohesion in regions with diverse ethnic populations, he added.

Experts believe that the law represents a legitimate sovereign measure to protect the Chinese people from disruption by separatist forces as it establishes clear boundaries for all actors, including overseas institutions, in line with widely accepted international norms. It also offers a practical reference for multi-ethnic countries around the world, demonstrating that they can effectively narrow development gaps and safeguard cultural diversity, while avoiding the pitfalls of ethnic conflict, said Li Xuan, a professor at the Center for Tibetan Studies of Sichuan University.

The law sets out supportive measures on cultural integration, social intermingling and economic development in ethnic minority regions. Specific provisions direct central and local governments to strengthen infrastructure, foster industrial growth, ensure better access to public services and intensify efforts to protect the environment, among



At the "Ili People's Milk Tea Gathering," representatives of township- and village-level officials and villagers sit together under a grape trellis, sipping milk tea and chatting about daily life and village affairs in Kalayagaqi Village, Kalayagaqi Township, Yining County, Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. *Hu Huhu*

other measures. Li said that the law provides equal legal guarantee for employment, entrepreneurship and cultural rights for all 56 ethnic groups in China, while ensuring that no ethnic group is left behind in the country's modernization process.

Many ethnic minority communities reside in mountainous areas, far off regions or other historically underdeveloped parts of China. Benefiting from China's poverty alleviation drive and ongoing rural revitalization efforts, these regions have enjoyed rapid economic and social development. During China's eight-year campaign to eliminate absolute poverty, which was declared victorious in 2021, all 420 poverty-stricken counties in ethnic autonomous areas and all 28 ethnic groups with relatively small populations shook off poverty.

The combined GDP of the five autonomous regions, which are home to large ethnic minority populations — Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Xizang, Ningxia and Xinjiang — grew at an average annual rate of 5.6 percent from 2020 to 2024, outpacing the national average.

In addition, the law stipulates that the state shall promote the standard spoken and written Chinese language, while also respecting and safeguarding the right to study and use ethnic minority languages. "The law elevates into institutional norms both the promotion of a common language among different ethnic groups and the preservation of their respective cultural roots, enabling the cultures of all ethnic groups to flourish within the big family of the Chinese nation," said Zhu Yafeng, an associate professor at Xinjiang University.

Authorities have promised to strengthen public education regarding the legislation and follow up on the formulation and revision of local-level regulations. "The National Ethnic Affairs Commission is working with relevant departments to formulate a five-year plan for promoting ethnic unity and progress," said Chen Ruifeng, head of the commission, adding that efforts to fully implement the law will figure prominently in the plan. (Xinhua) ■



Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Tomio Okamura (second from right, front) leads a delegation to visit Shanghai Electric Group. *Photo provided by the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress*

"Exchanges of experience always bring inspiration"

From July 20 to 24, Tomio Okamura, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, led a delegation to China upon invitation. During the visit, he gave a written interview to the People's Congresses Journal, expressing his hope to advance Czech-China relations for the greater benefit of both peoples.

People's Congresses Journal: This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-Czech strategic partnership. During this visit, you attended the China-Czech Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference. In your view, in what areas can the legislative bodies of the two countries leverage their functions to support practical cooperation?

Tomio Okamura: In 2016, Czech President Milos Zeman and Chinese President Xi Jinping jointly announced the establishment of the strategic partnership. For the current coalition government and for me personally, this is an important pillar of bilateral relations. The Czech Republic firmly adheres to the one-China policy, viewing it as the unshakable foundation for the sound and steady development of Czech-China relations.

Parliaments not only perform legislative functions, but

also bear the mission of fostering a favorable environment for international cooperation. Parliamentary diplomacy can build platforms for dialogue, enhance strategic mutual trust, expand shared interests and promote closer people-to-people exchanges and deeper friendship.

Czech-China cooperation enjoys broad prospects, spanning such areas as trade and investment, culture and tourism, education and science, healthcare, transportation and people-to-people exchanges. Parliaments can help create a stable and predictable environment for enterprises, universities, local governments and various institutions engaged in bilateral cooperation.

People's Congresses Journal: On April 23, the Chinese embassy in the Czech Republic successfully hosted a symposium with the Czech Parliamentary Group for Friendship with China themed "Consolidating friendly consensus and discussing a future of cooperation." How will the Czech Chamber of Deputies support the Friendship Group in carrying out its activities?

Tomio Okamura: Parliamentary friendship groups are an important vehicle for parliamentary diplomacy. Compared with formal diplomatic consultations, day-to-day exchanges among parliamentarians offer a more effective way to deepen mutual understanding.

Both the current coalition government and the leadership of the Chamber of Deputies support the Friendship Group in carrying out exchange activities. Group members actively fulfill their duties and maintain regular face-to-face exchanges, which often yield more tangible results than a one-off international conference. Cooperation within friendship groups should be built on mutual respect, candid communication and a shared pursuit of solutions. By sharing experiences, we can eliminate misunderstandings and expand cooperation in areas where we have convergent interests and strong mutual willingness to cooperate.

To that end, we will continue to promote deeper exchanges among legislative personnel, experts, enterprises, universities and cultural institutions. I firmly believe that the better our peoples know and understand each other, the stronger the foundation of our bilateral relations will become.

People's Congresses Journal: You have previously advocated for public participation in national decision-making. During this visit, you visited the legislative outreach office in Shanghai's Hongqiao subdistrict to observe firsthand the practice of whole-process people's democracy. What are your thoughts on this?

Tomio Okamura: Every country develops a system of public governance and mechanisms for citizen participation in decision-making that suit its own national conditions, based on its historical experience, cultural traditions and constitutional order. During my visit, I learned about China's specific practices of extensively soliciting public opinion in the legislative process. Mutual learning of experience can provide new ideas for those engaged in legislative work.

I have always advocated that citizens should be fully involved in public decision-making, and I have championed the model of direct democracy in the Czech Republic. At the same time, I respect the right of every country to independently choose its own development path in light of its historical context, constitutional order and the will of its people.

People's Congresses Journal: On June 24, 2024, Hainan Airlines resumed direct flights between Beijing and Prague, building an aerial bridge for people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. During this visit, you also met with the head of China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In your view, how can the legislative bodies of the two countries engage in dialogue and cooperation to further unleash the vitality of cultural and tourism cooperation?

Tomio Okamura: This topic has a deep personal connection with me. Before entering politics, I spent many years working in international tourism, and to this day I still regard Czech-China cooperation in culture and tourism as an important part of our bilateral relations.

The value of cooperation in culture and tourism goes far beyond the economic dimension. Getting to know each other through travel is an effective way to understand different civilizations. Firsthand experiences help our peoples build deeper respect, trust and friendship. A convenient and well-connected transportation network is a solid guarantee for cultural and tourism exchanges, trade and economic ties and people-to-people interactions. That is why I was delighted to see the resumption of direct flights between Beijing and Prague and I look forward to more direct routes in the future.

The Czech Republic, with its historic cities, cultural heritage, spa resorts, natural scenery and distinctive cuisine, has attracted a large number of Chinese tourists. Likewise, China's long history, splendid culture, and remarkable achievements in modernization hold great appeal for Czech citizens. Parliaments can inject momentum into bilateral cooperation by facilitating experience-sharing, supporting cultural programs, promoting youth exchanges, deepening university partnerships and improving cultural and tourism infrastructure. (NPC) ■



Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Tomio Okamura (second from right) leads a delegation to visit the Shanghai-based travel agency Spring Tour. *Photo provided by the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress*

Anchoring deputy liaison stations in industries for targeted empowerment of high-quality development

Shenzhen, in south China's Guangdong province, is a vital window into China's reform and opening up and one of the country's earliest special economic zones (SEZs). Upholding the spirit of SEZs — daring to venture, break new ground and be hard-working pioneers — the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee has explored the establishment of deputy liaison stations for specific sectors and industries in areas with high industrial agglomeration, industrial clusters, as well as areas with pressing development needs. This initiative has shifted deputies' duty performance from being geographically dispersed to industry-focused, enabling deputies to perform their duties on professional platforms, thereby transforming institutional strengths into momentum for industrial development.

Recently, Shenzhen held a conference on developing deputy liaison stations for sectors and industries. Participants reviewed the achievements of the liaison stations and shared practical experiences from their frontline work. Through their exchanges, the distinctive features and advantages of the liaison stations, as well as their priorities for future efforts, became increasingly clear.

According to the conference, the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee adheres to the principle of "building liaison stations wherever industries cluster." Since the first deputy liaison station serving specific sectors and industries was established in 2019, the city has set up 25 municipal-level and 36 district-level liaison stations, achieving full coverage across all 10 districts, all four levels of people's congress deputies, and all key industries.

"Deputies are selected for the liaison stations through various channels, including self-nomination, targeted invitations and cross-district coordination — with final choices favoring those who possess deep professional expertise, strong industry influence, and a strong sense of duty. This truly ensures that industry insiders handle professional matters, which is the biggest difference between sector-specific liaison stations and other grassroots stations," said an official from the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee.

On this basis, the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress has established a "1+2+5+N" organizational framework: one leader of the district-level people's congress standing committee oversees the liaison station's work; one deputy to the people's congress and one director of the working committee of the sub-district people's congress serve as co-conveners; at least five deputies from the relevant industries and sectors serve as resident deputies at the liaison station; and "N" deputies to people's congresses at all four levels are involved in the liaison station's work. This forms a well-structured organizational system with clear division of labor, collaborative efforts and broad participation.

At the same time, the liaison stations actively bring in industry associations, industrial parks, leading enterprises, and experts and scholars for in-depth participation, creating a multi-dimensional collaborative model. Currently, Shenzhen's deputy liaison stations for sectors and industries have partnered with more than 60 industry associations and over 1,000 enterprises.

The biomedical industry is one of Shenzhen's strategic emerging industries. Guo Huiqin, a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) who has served at the station for years, noted that the liaison station regularly conducts research, special inspections and enterprise visits, allowing her to go deep into industrial parks, gain firsthand understanding of the industry's development and the difficulties faced by enterprises, and hear authentic grassroots voices.

This approach has strengthened ties between government and enterprises and helped companies resolve practical difficulties. "It has made my work as a deputy more focused and effective, and given me a greater sense of fulfillment and motivation in performing my duties," Guo said.

In September last year, Min Qishuang, a deputy to the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress and convenor of the smart home industry liaison station, joined forces with several fellow deputies and industry heavyweights to host a live-streaming session themed "Deputies talk: What makes a better home," which attracted over 560,000 online views and further boosted the visibility of the "Sungang Smart Home" industry brand.





Deputies at the port and logistics industry liaison station of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress organize a research activity on the application of battery-swap models for new-energy heavy trucks and innovative practices in the green and low-carbon transformation of ports, and formulate relevant suggestions on May 27, 2025, which are to be handled by the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress. *Photo provided by the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress*

Reflecting on the founding of the liaison station, which was established last year, Min said that "go to Sungang for furniture" was a shared memory for many Shenzheners. However, as consumer demand evolved and technology advanced, the shortcomings of the traditional home furnishing business, including limited adoption of smart technologies and scenarios for consumers, have become increasingly evident.

Leveraging the opportunity of urban renewal and with the support of the liaison station, Sungang has been striving to transform from a traditional warehousing cluster into a smart and high-end home furnishing hub. Today, more than 250 upstream and downstream enterprises have settled here and the once-declining industry has been revitalized.

"Through the liaison station, we have truly integrated the deputies' research, supervision and suggestion offerings into every link of industrial development," Min said. With the sustained efforts of the liaison station, the Sungang smart home industry has been incorporated into Shenzhen's industrial development plan, while Luohu district has issued policies such as Several Measures of Luohu District to Support the Agglomeration and Development of the Smart Home Industry, offering much-needed reassurance to related enterprises.

Liaison stations serve as both a booster for industrial upgrading and a detector of sector-specific bottlenecks. As a leading hub for China's gold and jewelry industry, Shenzhen boasts a complete industrial chain spanning design, processing, testing and trading. However, during field research, Huang Xiqin, an NPC deputy and other deputies at the liaison station found that the development of Shenzhen's gold and jewelry industry still faces certain obstacles.

In response to the industry's development challenges, the deputies at the liaison station submitted nearly 30 suggestions on issues such as consumption tax reform, digital transformation and financing relief to people's congresses at various levels. In recent years, Huang has also submitted multiple suggestions at the annual NPC sessions, including on establishing an international jewelry and jade comprehensive trading center in Shenzhen and accelerating the shift of the consumption tax on jewelry and jade to the retail stage, bringing the voices from the industrial frontline to the Great Hall of the People.

The rule of law underpins the best possible business environment. Drawing on their close industry ties and deep understanding of on-the-ground realities, the liaison stations have contributed legal expertise to the development of multiple sectors. Working with Futian's national-level grassroots legislative outreach office, the legal services industry liaison station routinely participates in legislative consultations and has provided critical input to the drafting and revision of more than 60 laws and regulations, including the Private Economy Promotion Law. The gold and jewelry industry liaison station has conducted industry-tailored legal awareness initiatives, reaching over 100,000 participants both online and offline.

In 2025, Shenzhen's 25 municipal-level deputy liaison stations for specific sectors and industries conducted a total of 613 activities, including inspections, research and study sessions; produced 59 research reports; and put forward 295 suggestions. Of these, 118 suggestions concerning legislation and policy were adopted, helping resolve 349 industrial bottlenecks. Behind these efforts lies the dynamic momentum with which the liaison stations empower industrial development, serving as a vivid example of whole-process people's democracy in the industrial context.

Institutional development provides the fundamental safeguard for the standardized and long-term operation of liaison stations.

At the conference, the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress, in collaboration with the Shenzhen Institute of Standards and Technology, unveiled the country's first official standard for deputy liaison stations for specific sectors and industries. The standard establishes a comprehensive perfor-

mance management system covering organizational structure, duty performance systems, operational oversight and performance evaluation and iteration, offering a replicable model for other regions.

"This marks a new phase of standardized and regulated operations for Shenzhen's deputy liaison stations for specific sectors and industries," said an official from the Deputy Affairs Commission of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee. The official emphasized that Shenzhen has prioritized institutional building throughout the development of these stations, continuously refining the framework to ensure steady progress, from establishing clear rules to achieving efficient and standardized performance.

To break down industry silos and regional barriers, the Standing Committee of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress has pioneered a joint meeting mechanism, grouping the city's 25 municipal-level deputy liaison stations serving specific sectors and industries into four major categories. It regularly organizes collaborative research and cross-sector forums, and the liaison stations actively pursue intersectoral cooperation.

For instance, the smart home and green industry liaison stations jointly host public lectures by deputies; the gold and jewelry and coastal eco-cultural tourism liaison stations co-organized deputies' deliberation sessions; and the digital entertainment and specialty cultural tourism and eyewear industry liaison stations collaborate on field studies to assess development needs of the cultural tourism industry. These efforts have pooled strength for high-quality development of the industries.

Grounded in the broader context of coordinated regional development across the province and expanding the space for industrial synergy, Shenzhen's deputy liaison stations for specific sectors and industries have also proactively reached out. Since last year, deputies to people's congresses and industry delegations have traveled to cities like Shantou and Heyuan to explore industrial partnerships, resulting in dozens of industrial cooperation projects.

After more than seven years of exploration, practice and improvement, the development of Shenzhen's deputy liaison stations for specific sectors and industries has not only effectively enhanced the professionalism, relevance and effectiveness of deputies' duty performance, empowering high-quality development, but also provided a vivid "Shenzhen model" for upholding and improving the people's congress system and advancing whole-process people's democracy. (NPC) ■





A regular reception day featuring "deputies + mobile desks" is held at Nanli Subdistrict in Xiangshan District, Huaibei City, east China's Anhui Province. *Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Huaibei Municipal People's Congress*

How China's whole-process people's democracy works at the grassroots level?

By Chen Qiaoshen

In Hongtang subdistrict in Ningbo of east China's Zhejiang province, residents, deputies to people's congresses and local business owners often gather together for what they call a "night chat." Through candid discussions on solutions to issues such as fire safety in unattended venues and parking disputes, the event serves as a vital platform for addressing the actual needs and concerns of the people.

Over the past eight years, more than 900 sessions have been held, helping resolve over 5,000 practical issues concerning people's livelihoods. With more than 2,600 deputies participating in the event, democratic consultation has become an integral part of daily life and work.

Democracy is a universal value, yet it takes different forms across civilizations. While Western democracies often equate



democracy with elections, China has developed a distinct model — whole-process people's democracy — tailored to its national conditions and historical traditions.

As the name suggests, whole-process people's democracy ensures public participation throughout the entire process of governance, ensuring that governance decisions reflect the people will and evolving needs of high-quality economic and social development.

Extensive participation

China's whole-process people's democracy integrates democratic practices at all government levels and policy making stages — election, consultation, decision-making, implementation and oversight.

It is embodied in the Two Sessions — the annual meetings of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), and the top political advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Thousands of NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members convene in Beijing to deliberate on and discuss major policies and governance matters, representing a broad cross-section.

In recent years, innovation and creativity in grassroots democracy across urban and rural areas nationwide have been more active than ever before, unleashing great vitality. From "courtyard meeting halls" and "bench meetings" to offline "roundtable meetings" and online "deliberation groups," these pragmatic practices of democracy, based on local characteristics, have injected a steady stream of impetus into the development of China's democracy.

For example, in Beijing's Dongcheng district, the "courtyard meeting hall" in Caochang community has become a regular venue for residents to deliberate on renovation projects, elderly care services and public space management, encouraging residents to actively participate in community building and governance.

Another important institutional innovation is the establishment of local legislative outreach offices. The mechanism has ensured the representation of public opinion in lawmaking, a highlight of the whole-process people's democracy. As of September 2026, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee had established 60 outreach offices across the country, with more than 7,800 offices established by provincial or municipal legislatures. Since the 14th NPC, more than 70,100 opinions were solicited on 80 draft laws, legislative plans as well as filing and review work.

A different emphasis in democratic practice

Unlike election-centric Western democratic models, China's system is rooted in the country's unique cultural, historical and societal context, emphasizing social harmony and collective wellbeing.

"I think China's concept of whole-process people's democracy presents a different model of governance compared to Western liberal democracy. It is outcome-driven, which means that its legitimacy is measured by improvements in people's livelihoods," said Naing Swe Oo, senior advisory board member of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

As the story of China's whole-process people's democracy reaches the world, this comprehensive, authentic and open set of criteria for evaluating democracy grounded in successful practice — has enriched democratic theory and practice for humanity, and made contributions to global peace, development and the progress of human civilization. (CGTN) ■



The Working Committee of the Duji District People's Congress at the Kuangshanji Subdistrict in Huaibei City, east China's Anhui Province, addresses grassroots governance challenges through "bench meetings". *Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Huaibei Municipal People's Congress*

Milk tea helps nourish grassroots governance, ethnic unity in Xinjiang



Officials and villagers gather to drink milk tea and discuss local matters and legislative items in the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. *Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture People's Congress*

> **"When we sit together and talk together, it helps bring us closer."**

In a community in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, milk tea is more than a drink. As a pot simmers in a courtyard, residents gather with cups in hand to talk through everyday matters from faulty streetlamps, alleys repairs to minor neighborhood disputes.

Kunqi Maili community in Yining, Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture, is home to more than 2,100 residents from nine ethnic groups, including Uygur, Han, Hui, Kazak, Mongolian and Uzbek. United by a shared love of the local beverage, these "milk tea gatherings" replace dreary formal meetings, offering a relaxed space for residents to sit down and speak their minds.

At one of these meetings in late July, regular attendee Batnasun Badma raised her concerns about child safety during the summer break. "Many children swim in the nearby river to escape the summer heat, which is quite dangerous," she said. The community took notice. Later, a large inflatable pool was bought and installed, and college student volunteers were invited to provide childcare and tutoring services, ensuring a safer and happier summer for local kids.

For others, the milk tea gatherings have given business a lift. Local craftsman Abduxukur Abdukadir faced a challenge: despite a steady flow of peak-season tourists, his finely made leather boots weren't selling. Neighbors suggested turning the boots into souvenir key chains, and gourd-painting artist Zulayat Nurat offered to help. Zulayat also requested broader promotion of her traditional craft. The community responded quickly, showcasing her work on official platforms and providing a rent-free, 30-square-meter studio. "The community truly values our efforts," she said.

The milk tea gatherings started in 2023 and have been held monthly ever since, according to Nijat Parhat, Communist Party of China chief of the community. "Our aim is to sit down with residents from all ethnic groups, hear their concerns, and help address them so they can enjoy a better living environment," he said. The meetings have already delivered tangible results: after residents raised issues about parking and the lack of children's play spaces, the community built a parking lot and a small football pitch.

From January to May this year, 4,260 gatherings were held in Yining across its 24 townships and sub-districts, with 127,800 residents participating. Over 2,000 suggestions were collected and nearly 1,000 livelihood issues were resolved. The approach is not unique to Xinjiang. In Wuyishan, a county-level city in east China's Fujian province, the local people's congress in Wufu town has set up a tea lounge on an ancient street, inviting residents to share tea and, more importantly, their opinions and concerns.

Nationwide, China is promoting the "Fengqiao Experience," a community-level social governance model that originated in Fengqiao, a township in east China's Zhejiang province in the 1960s. Under this model, social disputes are resolved at the grassroots level, among the people themselves and without escalation to higher authorities.

In Xinjiang, this community-level self-governance model specifically has been promoted to all villages and communities across the region. Over 85 percent of matters for decision-making at grassroots self-governance organizations come from public proposals, demonstrating the effectiveness of primary-level democracy. "When we sit together and talk together, it helps bring us closer," said Nijat Parhat. (Xinhua) ■

Legislation safeguards two-way commitment between youth and rural areas

Huzhou city, the birthplace of the concept that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," has in recent years leveraged its ecological resources and urban-rural integration advantages to build a full-chain mechanism for attracting, nurturing, empowering and retaining young people.

The city, in east China's Zhejiang province, has continued to expand its pathways linking the younger generation, the new economy, new culture and new industries — fostering a virtuous cycle of a two-way commitment between young people and rural communities.

"Formulating legislation on youth rural engagement is a concrete action to implement the decisions and deployments of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the requirements of the provincial Party committee. It is necessary to translate effective practices into local regulations, so as to build a solid institutional guarantee for young people to pursue their careers in Huzhou," said Sun Xianlong, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Huzhou Municipal People's Congress.

The Standing Committee has formulated and issued China's first local regulation specifically designed to support youth development in rural areas. It consists of 33 articles in six chapters, with key provisions on industrial guidance, employment and entrepreneurship, public services, and support and safeguards. Adopted at the 23rd session of the Standing Committee of the 14th Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress, it went into effect on May 20, bringing Huzhou's work on youth rural engagement to a new stage, shifting from policy incentives to law-based guarantees.

The regulation applies to people aged 18 to 45 who are actively engaged in innovation and entrepreneurship in districts and counties across Huzhou. It defines youth rural engagement as young people playing a constructive role in modern industrial development, new-type urbanization, comprehensive rural revitalization, and grassroots governance, thereby promoting common prosperity across urban and rural areas while advancing their own growth and development.

This consensus breaks the traditional dual structure that separates urban and rural areas. It means that as long as young people come to Huzhou — whether conducting technological research and development in Wuxing district or ecological farming in Changxing county — they all fall within the scope of "rural engagement" defined by the regulation.

"We are at a critical stage of moving from urban-rural integration to urban-rural convergence," Sun said. "Legislation should not sever the intrinsic link between young people and urban-rural areas, but rather consolidate and advance the achievements of urban-rural integration," he added. "Whether you want to go to the city or the countryside, Huzhou welcomes you," he said.



This shows the release ceremony of the Regulations of Huzhou Municipality on Promoting Youth Development in Rural Areas. *Photo provided by the Standing Committee of the Huzhou Municipal People's Congress*

In ancient Ganglang village in Nanxun district, rows of old houses once stood empty and the area fell silent. After environmental remediation and holistic village-wide revitalization, 38 new business forms, such as handicraft art museums and natural dyeing studios, have now taken root, with some 200 merchants creating 2,000 jobs.

This achievement would not have been possible without the youth return program initiated by Chen Yuanyuan, chief operator of Ganglang village. The plan targeted young people in surrounding cities like Shanghai and Hangzhou and leveraged a "one-hour living circle" connected by high-speed rail. As a result, the plan has attracted 78 young people who commute freely between urban and rural areas for work and life — transforming the village into an ideal habitat for young people in the Yangtze River Delta.

"Seven years ago when I started working in rural areas, young people faced a binary choice: city or countryside," Chen said. "Today, thanks to institutional guarantees and optimized infrastructure, we have multiple options: living in the city while working in the countryside, living in the countryside while working in the city or living and working in the countryside. Young people are now better positioned to embrace rural areas!" Chen added.

Listening to young people is the core principle of the regulation. "We must not only consider how the city develops, but also study with genuine commitment how to guarantee the development of young people," Sun said. During the legislative process, the Standing Committee of the Huzhou Municipal People's Congress extensively solicited opinions and suggestions from all sectors of society.

Through various means, including establishing a WeChat group for youth representatives to share their views, and distributing questionnaires and convening symposiums, over 6,000 suggestions were collected, which were thoroughly analyzed and incorporated into the regulation.

In addition to "listening," the regulation also strives to "respond" with care. Centering on the goals of "having a career during work hours, a life after work, and a promising future," the regulation elevates supportive policies — which may change over time — into an inclusive, consistent and predictable legal framework.

To ensure that young people have a career during work hours, the regulation dedicates a chapter to "development guidance," fully opening up fields such as modern industries, sci-tech innovation, common prosperity and ecological civilization practice. It requires local authorities at all levels to sort out information on innovation and entrepreneurship and make it public in a unified manner, shifting the model from youth searching for policies to policies reaching out to youth.

At the same time, it introduces entrepreneurship services to facilitate in-depth matching of information, resources, venues, supply and marketing, policies, financing and capacity building, as well as tailor growth plans for young entrepreneurs.

To make sure young people have a fulfilling life after work, the regulation clearly stipulates the implementation of a youth housing program, promoting policies such as rental support and housing subsidies. It also promotes access to high-quality and balanced urban and rural education and medical care, ensuring that children of non-local residents enjoy the same after-school care services and facilitating more convenient cross-regional medical treatment for young people and their families.

The regulation also focuses on small but important matters such as daily necessities, travel, shopping, entertainment, education, medical care, marriage and social interactions, seeking to tangibly improve the living conditions of young people and address their concerns. It emphasizes granting young people more political status, enabling them to play an important role in comprehensive rural revitalization.

To enable young people to pursue a promising career, the regulation promotes the establishment of youth entrepreneurship funds and sci-tech innovation funds, providing policy and financial support. It implements diversified land supply policies to reduce land costs for youth entrepreneurship projects. The regulation also provides for the systematic integration of policies on industry, investment and finance, offering support like free spaces and training. And it includes dedicated provisions on land supply to meet the resource needs of young entrepreneurs.

At the same time, focusing on promoting youth employment, it makes specific institutional designs for full-process services ranging from career guidance and skills training to protection of labor rights and interests.

On June 10, at a deputy liaison station in Zhili town in Wuxing district, a face-to-face consultation event was held to collect opinions on a suggestion about responding better to youth concerns and building a preferred destination for youth rural engagement. Representatives of young people who have come to live or work in rural areas shared their insights, while heads of relevant departments responded to their concerns. The suggestion, jointly initiated by 13 deputies to people's congresses, was listed as a key suggestion for 2026, the handling of which is supervised by Chen Hao, secretary of the Huzhou municipal Party committee.

In recent years, the city has launched 2,771 youth innovation and entrepreneurship projects in rural areas, cultivated more than 35,000 modern new farmers and over 2,680 agri-entrepreneurs, and created more than 39,000 local jobs, according to statistics. In 2025, the operating income of village collectives across the city exceeded 800,000 yuan, making youth rural engagement a highlight of Huzhou's high-quality development.

At present, Huzhou has developed a youth entrepreneurship support network. The city's comprehensive service platform for youth rural engagement development was launched, and serves some 60,000 participants. In addition, Huzhou has renovated and upgraded seven youth communities and more than 3,700 youth apartments, and helped resolve over 230 issues concerning schooling for the children of young people in rural areas and their housing needs.

With the implementation of the regulation, the development of young people in rural areas now enjoys an all-round legal protection, making it more institutionalized and law-based.

Sun said that the Huzhou Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee will take the implementation of the regulation as an opportunity to fully leverage the functions of the people's congress, help deliver tangible results in supporting youth rural engagement and development, and drive Huzhou's urban-rural integration and all-round rural revitalization. (NPC) ■



A deputy from a cliff village: "We enjoy the tangible outcomes of rural revitalization"

Zheng Wangchun is head of the village committee and secretary of the Party committee of Gulu village, and a deputy to the National People's Congress. His hundreds of fellow villagers have witnessed and benefited from China's rural revitalization strategy in recent years.

In the past, the village, located atop a cliff about 800 meters from the ground and 1,400 meters above sea level, had no road access at the time. To reach the closest village, Gulu residents needed to climb down from their own mountaintop, cross the roaring Dadu River below and climb to the top of the neighboring mountain.

"Our life was very hard. We used to climb down from the village using ladders and holding onto vines and then climb up the other side," Zheng said. In 2003, the village built a narrow path, less than one meter wide, which made the trip less perilous but it still took villagers more than three hours to make the crossing. In 2018, as part of the country's poverty alleviation and rural revitalization drive, a 750-meter cableway was built to access the village. Since then, it only takes the villagers a few minutes to cross. Additionally, every household can now access tap water, electricity and network signals.



This photo shows the National People's Congress Deputy Zheng Wangchun. *Xinhua*

With life becoming more convenient, Gulu's people can explore the outside world and increase their incomes. In addition to traditional farming, the village is also developing tourism. The long cableway, the natural scenery and local Yi ethnic customs and traditions, which have a history of over 400 years, have attracted tourists from across the country.

In 2013, China proposed the concept of targeted poverty alleviation, that is, giving differentiated guidance and assistance to poverty-stricken people in line with local conditions. More government support has since been given to villages like Gulu. "Before 2013, the annual per capita income of our villagers was less than 2,000 yuan ($287), while now it exceeds 10,000 yuan ($1,435), with more infrastructure in place and more industries developed," Zheng said.

"Previously, many young people in Gulu left their homes to work in large cities to make a living. Now, more of them are willing to come back to live because they can earn more money right at their doorsteps," he added.

Over the past years, Zheng has led villagers in developing a new path of integrated agricultural, cultural and tourism development, breathing new life into the Yi ethnic community. Villagers have opened homestays for visitors and multiple scenic photo spots to enhance visitors' experience. At the same time, the village has expanded characteristic industries such as walnuts, Sichuan pepper and goat farming.

Thanks to continued nationwide efforts, close to 100 million poor rural residents and a total of 832 impoverished counties have risen above the poverty line, including more than 9.6 million poverty-stricken people relocated out of inhospitable areas. China has, once and for all, resolved the problem of absolute poverty.

In 2023, Zheng was elected, for the first time, as a deputy to the NPC. He was excited about sharing the story of Gulu with deputies from all around the country during this year's NPC session. More importantly, he has a mission--to express villagers' concerns and hopes as a national lawmaker. He has suggested increasing the special funds for infrastructure construction and the development of industries in remote areas and ethnic minority areas, helping rural development and the expansion of industry, increasing employment and encouraging entrepreneurship, so that more villages can become prosperous.

Since taking office, Zheng has submitted suggestions, including expanding internet access in rural areas and strengthening wildlife protection, while minimizing its impact on farmers' livelihoods. "The smiles of villagers are the most valuable rewards for grassroots work," Zheng said.

Zheng said Gulu will follow the country's policies to consolidate and build on the achievements in poverty alleviation and to continue to promote revitalization. "We will upgrade our services and products for tourists, catering to different needs and improving their travel experience," he said.

For example, the village will improve the packaging and quality of its distinctive agricultural products, which include cured meat, walnuts and honey. It will also host festivals and activities for visitors to experience the traditional culture of the Yi ethnic people, such as colorful clothes, unique music and dances, as well as delicate embroidery. (Beijing Review) ■

Tong Mingquan: Focusing on breaking bottlenecks in technology commercialization

As a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) and head of the Technology Management Department at Huayang New Material Technology Group, Tong Mingquan has made removing long-standing pilot-scale testing bottlenecks — the "last mile" in the transfer and commercialization of scientific and technological achievements — the focus of his legislative agenda.

Serving as a critical bridge between laboratory research and large-scale industrial production, pilot-scale testing verifies technical scalability, economic feasibility, safety and environmental compliance, and core process parameters. It fundamentally determines whether cutting-edge academic research can be stably, safely and cost-effectively transformed into marketable industrial products, and is widely regarded as the most fragile yet decisive link in the entire innovation chain.

However, this pivotal innovation link has long been constrained by prominent systematic barriers. Through months of intensive field research, visiting manufacturing enterprises, university laboratories and professional research institutions, Tong has summarized prominent industry pain points restricting technological progress. Traditional industrial approval procedures are strictly designed for mature and fixed production projects, which are incompatible with the iterative, exploratory nature of pilot trials, resulting in lengthy review processes and ambiguous regulatory standards for innovative experiments.

Meanwhile, disjointed university research and industrial demands, insufficient public pilot platform capacity, uneven resource allocation and shortages of specialized funds and professional technical teams have severely hindered efficient technology commercialization and slowed down industrial upgrading of new materials and energy technologies.

In view of these systematic dilemmas, Tong submitted proposals at the third session of the 14th NPC in 2025. He advocated institutional innovation, public pilot platform upgrading and refined policy support, aiming to build a standardized, full-chain mechanism for translating laboratory breakthroughs into industrial value.

Continuing his in-depth research in 2026, Tong further optimized his legislative propositions to adapt to high-quality industrial development. He proposed establishing unified national management norms for pilot projects, simplifying redundant approval procedures for exploratory tests and launching differentiated safety and environmental assessment standards tailored for pilot research, so as to resolve the longstanding dilemma of unsupervised and unregulated pilot innovation. To address resource imbalance, he suggested accelerating the expansion and opening of shared public pilot platforms to serve small and medium-sized enterprises and university research teams.

In addition to institutional improvement, Tong's 2026 proposals focus on empowering emerging strategic industries. He called for preferential tax and policy support to boost the industrialization of sodium-ion batteries and advanced energy storage technologies, and expand the application of high-performance new materials in low-altitude economy and commercial aerospace sectors. He also stressed optimizing industry-university-research cooperation mechanisms to eliminate information barriers and realize precise docking of innovation and market demands.



Tong Mingquan, a deputy to the National People's Congress, is at his workplace. *Photo provided by the deputy*

> **Tong's two-year continuous legislative efforts have formed a complete and systematic solution for whole-chain technological transformation.**

Tong's two-year continuous legislative efforts have formed a complete and systematic solution for whole-chain technological transformation. He emphasizes that breaking through pilot-test bottlenecks is essential to connecting basic research, technological innovation and real industrial development. Optimizing the pilot testing system can effectively reduce innovation risks, shorten transformation cycles and lower industrialization costs, enabling more high-value research achievements to move steadily from laboratories to production lines. Such practical proposals are conducive to fostering emerging industrial momentum, accelerating the upgrading of advanced manufacturing industries and continuously fueling long-term high-quality economic growth. (CGTN) ■

Organizing deputies to conduct investigation and research on specific subjects

By Du Lei

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has emphasized the importance of deputies to people's congresses reaching out to the public on a greater variety of issues and in more diverse ways, broadening channels of contact and actively responding to public concerns, so as to stay closer to the grassroots, understand the people's conditions, pool their wisdom and improve their wellbeing. Conducting investigation and research on specific subjects is an important way for deputies, as prescribed by the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels, to practice whole-process people's democracy and maintain close ties with the people. It is also an important channel for deputies to perform their duties in accordance with the law during the intersessional period, submit high-quality motions and suggestions, and fully exercise their role as deputies.

In 2005, the leading Party members group of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, in Several Opinions on Further Giving Play to the Role of Deputies to the National People's Congress and Strengthening the Institutional Development of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, made it clear that deputies' participation in the activities of the NPC Standing Committee should be expanded and that deputies should be organized to take part in law enforcement inspections as well as investigation and research on specific subjects, so that they could understand how relevant laws were being implemented and how other work was progressing.

In 2015, the leading Party members group of the 12th NPC Standing Committee set requirements for improving the mechanism for deputies to people's congresses at county and township levels to maintain contact with the people through research and other means, broadening the ways and channels for such contact, and ensuring smooth channels for expressing and reflecting social conditions and public opinions. At the legislative level, the standing committees of the 11th and 12th NPC amended the deputies law separately, stipulating that deputies to people's congresses at all levels shall, as arranged, conduct investigation and research on major issues concerning economic and social development, the vital interests of the people and of widespread public concern. The Law on Supervision by the Standing Committees of the People's Congresses at All Levels and the Organic Law of Local People's Congresses and Local People's Governments also contain provisions on deputies conducting investigation and research activities.

In March 2025, guided by Xi's important thoughts on upholding and improving the people's congress system, particularly his important expositions on deputies affairs, the 14th NPC, based on a comprehensive summary and embodiment of the achievements in improving and developing work related to deputies affairs in the new era, amended the deputies law for the fourth time. The amended law stipulates that actively participating in uniformly organized investigation and research on specific subjects is a statutory duty that deputies shall perform; deputies shall, as arranged, conduct investigation and research on specific subjects concerning economic and social development, the vital interests of the people, issues and matters of widespread public concern and the key work of the people's congresses standing committees at the corresponding levels, and may bring up suggestions, criticisms and opinions to the relevant organs or organizations, but shall not directly handle the matters; reports prepared by deputies based on their investigation and research on specific subjects shall be forwarded by the offices or working bodies of the standing committees of the people's congresses at corresponding levels to relevant state organs or organizations, and the relevant state organs or organizations shall provide feedback to deputies on the handling of the opinions and suggestions raised in the reports in time.

The 14th NPC Standing Committee has expanded and deepened the institutional mechanisms for maintaining contacts between state organs and deputies to people's congresses, and between deputies and the people, and has made deputies reach out to the public on a greater variety of issues and in more diverse ways. The NPC Standing Committee's annual work priorities and deputy work plan make arrangements for NPC deputies to conduct investigation and research on specific subjects. Every April, the Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee issues notices of investigation and research on specific subjects to all electoral units, making overall arrangements and putting forward specific requirements for organizing NPC deputies to conduct investigation and research on specific subjects in the current year in a law-based, orderly and standardized manner. The standing committees of provincial-level people's congresses, in accordance with the unified arrangements of the NPC Standing Committee, organize NPC deputies from their respective electoral units to conduct investigation and research on specific subjects.

The relevant departments of the Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots and the Central Military Commission respectively organize NPC deputies from the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, NPC deputies from Taiwan province and NPC deputies from the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force to conduct investigation and research on specific subjects. The Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, in conjunction with the NPC Standing Committee's deliberation of their work reports, respectively organize some NPC deputies to conduct investigation and research on specific subjects.

From 2023 to 2025, a total of 5,721 participants were organized to conduct 535 investigation and research projects on specific subjects, resulting in 372 research reports. The reports were forwarded to relevant state organs and organizations for study and handling in accordance with procedures, with feedback provided to the deputies. At present, the investigation and research on specific subjects by NPC deputies in 2026 are being carried out in an orderly manner.

Under the leadership of the leading Party members group of the NPC Standing Committee and the leading Party members group of the NPC Standing Committee's organizational body, the Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee has thoroughly implemented Xi's important thoughts on upholding and improving the people's congress system, fully and accurately implemented the amended deputies law, conscientiously acted on and strengthened guidance for standing committees of provincial-level people's congresses and relevant units in implementing the NPC Standing Committee's annual work priorities and deputy work plan, and summarized the practical experience of deputies' investigation and research on specific subjects in a timely manner, so as to enhance the planning, organization, standardization and effectiveness of such activities.

First, it has closely followed the major decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee and integrated them with major issues concerning regional economic and social development, protection and improvement of people's wellbeing, and development democracy and the rule of law, as well as issues of widespread public concern.

Second, it has carried out such activities in line with the NPC Standing Committee's annual law enforcement inspection work and the implementation of relevant laws, conducted comprehensive analysis and provided suggestions from the institutional and legal perspectives for reference by NPC Standing Committee members and relevant special committees.

Third, it has strictly implemented the guiding principles of the CPC Central Committee's eight-point decision on improving conduct and the detailed rules for its implementation; organized deputies to go deep into the grassroots and the front line, engage in face-to-face exchanges with the people, gain a firsthand understanding of local conditions and listen to candid views; resolutely guarded against formalism and bureaucratism; upheld principles of pragmatism and efficiency and a simple and low-key approach; and refrained from increasing burdens on the grassroots or organizing research activities across the boundaries of their original electoral units without approval.

Fourth, it has strengthened overall coordination; ensured, in accordance with the law, that deputies had the time and support to participate in research activities; proactively addressed the difficulties faced by grassroots deputies in performing their duties; and entered deputies' participation in thematic investigations and studies into their performance records. ■

(The author is the director of the Liaison Bureau, Deputies Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee)

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