

# China's VNR Report

## on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

### for Sustainable Development



**China's VNR Report  
on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda  
for Sustainable Development**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
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## **Chapter I Introduction**





China gives top priority to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over the past five years, under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has implemented the 2030 Agenda across the board with a people-centered approach and a philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. An inter-ministerial coordination mechanism comprising 45 government agencies has been set up and SDG implementation has been integrated into medium- and long-term national development strategies such as the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan. China, among the first to release its national plan for implementation, has also taken an active part in international development cooperation and achieved remarkable results.

**Eliminate absolute poverty and ensure food security.** China accomplished the task of eradicating extreme poverty in the new era by the end of 2020 as scheduled. All the 98.99 million rural residents living under the current poverty line<sup>1</sup> have been lifted out of poverty, marking the realization of poverty eradication goal of the 2030 Agenda 10 years ahead of schedule. 55.75 million of them have been lifted out of poverty in the past five years since the end of 2015. No children from rural poor families drop out of school during the compulsory education stage. The poor population is all covered by basic medical insurance, insurance for serious diseases and medical assistance and has access to safe housing and clean drinking water. The poverty-stricken areas have seen fast infrastructure development, improving production and living conditions, full coverage of stable and reliable power supply services, and over 98% coverage of fiber-optic and 4G connections. By the end of 2020, there had been 17 consecutive years of bumper harvests. The rice bowl of the Chinese people is held firmly in their own hands.

**Tackle climate change and promote global green development.** Lucid waters and lush mountains are as good as mountains of gold and silver. China has launched three environmental campaigns to preserve clear waters, blue skies and clean soil, and scored a major victory in managing mountains, waters, forests, grassland, farmland, lakes and deserts as inherent parts of one whole ecosystem. China has implemented a national strategy to respond to climate change

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<sup>1</sup> The current poverty line, involving multiple indicators, is at an income of 2,300 renminbi per person per year according to constant 2010 prices, or estimated US\$2.3 using 2011 PPP. Based on household survey, this income standard is adequate in meeting necessary nutritional needs for keeping a person healthy enough to work, as well as in meeting important non-food consumption needs, provided basic housing is already available. The basic criteria of poverty eradication are for people to have adequate food and clothing and reliable access to compulsory education, basic healthcare and safe housing. The minimum living allowance for urban residents is higher than the rural poverty line.



through mitigation and adaptation, and accelerated transition to green development. With a firm commitment to the Paris Agreement and active participation in climate governance, China is ready to increase its nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

From the end of 2015 to 2020, forest coverage rate increased from 21.66% to 23.04%, with the volume of forest reserves up from 15.1 billion to 17.5 billion cubic meters; days of fairly good air quality accounted for 87% of the year in cities at or above the prefecture level; the emission reduction targets for main pollutants were overfulfilled; water ecosystems improved significantly; carbon intensity dropped 18.8% cumulatively with clean energy accounting for 24.3% of the energy mix. China has the largest installed capacity and generation of photovoltaic and wind energy. With its 2020 carbon intensity 48.4% lower than that of 2005, China has exceeded the target on carbon emission reduction.

**Take the epidemic head on and improve public health.** Adhering to the principle of putting people and lives first, China took the strictest and most thorough measures and basically stopped the spread of COVID-19 in about three months. Regular prevention and control efforts have been in place since, together with strengthened public health facilities and emergency response to local outbreaks.

By 2020, China had established the world's largest social security system, with basic medical insurance covering more than 1.3 billion people and basic old-age pension covering nearly 1 billion. In 2020, the national maternal death rate dropped to 16.9 per 100,000, the infant mortality rate to 5.4 per 1,000, and the mortality rate of children under 5 years to 7.5 per 1,000. The levels of education, medical care, social security and other public services have continued to improve, and the gap between urban and rural areas has been narrowing.

**Steady economic growth and more resilient development.** Over the past 5 years, China's economic performance has been generally stable, with GDP growing from less than 70 trillion RMB<sup>2</sup> to 100 trillion, a historic breakthrough. The economic structure has improved; tertiary sector' value added has increased from 51.6% to 54.5% of GDP; more than 60 million new urban jobs have been created. Steady progress has been made in infrastructure connectivity as well as

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<sup>2</sup> *Translator's note:* all money amounts are expressed in Chinese Yuan renminbi(RMB), unless otherwise specified.



sustainability and new modes of transportation. In the face of COVID-19, China has maintained prevention and control measures and at the same time allowed economic and social activities to go on as much as possible. Priority has been given to ensuring stability on six key fronts and maintaining security in six key areas<sup>3</sup>. With GDP growing at 2.3 % in 2020, China was the only major economy in the world that achieved positive economic growth, which was in itself a contribution to global recovery.

**Assume responsibility as a major country and promote international development cooperation.** China stands for the values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, values shared by humanity. It is under these values and with a healthy approach to the relationship between the greater good and self-interest that China promotes the implementation of the 2030 Agenda worldwide.

We have promoted synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the 2030 Agenda, deepened South-South cooperation, and provided financial assistance through the China-UN Peace and Development Fund and the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. China has shared its experience in preventing, controlling, diagnosing and treating COVID-19 with more than 180 countries and over 10 international and regional organizations, and sent medical expert teams to more than 30 countries and assistance to more than 160 countries and international organizations, and donated or exported COVID-19 prevention and control goods to more than 200 countries and regions. China has fulfilled its commitment of giving China's vaccines as a global public good, first to developing countries. Under WHO's COVAX, China has provided vaccine assistance to more than 80 developing countries to meet their urgent needs, and exported vaccines to more than 50 countries, contributing to the global fight against COVID-19.

China's major achievements in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are attributable to the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, the deepening of reform and opening-up and the joint efforts of the people of all ethnic groups. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda around the world requires strong political leadership, a compatible vision of development, effective institutions, strong

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<sup>3</sup> The six fronts refer to employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and expectations. The six areas refer to job security, basic living needs, operations of market entities, food and energy security, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments.





social mobilization and pragmatic global partnerships.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda is a long-haul journey. Entering the new development stage, China remains committed to the new development vision and will press ahead with SDG implementation at home through supply-side structural reform, building a modern economic system, and high-quality development buttressed primarily by domestic circulation, but also by the positive interplay between domestic circulation and international circulation. We will consolidate and expand the achievements in eradicating poverty with continued input in agricultural and rural development under the Rural Revitalization Strategy. We will continue to increase our NDCs, under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We aim to reach peak emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060, and by so doing we will contribute our share to the global climate governance. We will continue to improve public health and other social programs to enhance the people's sense of gains, happiness and security. High-quality Belt and Road cooperation and deeper international collaboration in connectivity will give strong support to not only China's economic development, but also global post-COVID recovery. As the largest developing country, China stands ready to work with other countries to firm up the political will, give priority to development, strengthen means of implementation and take joint actions to advance the 2030 Agenda despite COVID-19 impact. In this process, attention needs to be paid to the special difficulties of developing countries to ensure that no country and no one is left behind.

This report, released in conjunction with China's second voluntary national review, focuses on the SDGs under discussion for 2021 HLPF and covers five cross-cutting areas: poverty reduction, climate and environmental governance, COVID-19 and recovery, food and agriculture governance, and infrastructure. It reviews China's progress and experience and looks at the next steps. Hopefully this report can be of value to the international community.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Center for International Knowledge on Development for drafting the report, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals for giving data support and the 45 member institutions of the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for their contribution to this report.

## **Chapter II Main Achievements**



## Complete Victory against Extreme Poverty and Early Attainment of the Relevant SDG

Poverty eradication is a common aspiration of humankind and the first and foremost goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the end of 2015, there were 55.75 million people in China living under the current poverty line of an annual income of 2,300 per person at 2010 prices. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the Communist Party and government of China have given top priority to the eradication of extreme poverty and building a moderately prosperous society. President Xi Jinping, personally taking charge of the nationwide effort, has called 7 central meetings on poverty eradication work and chaired many working sessions to plan out the poverty fight. The target set in the *Decision on Winning the Fight Against Poverty* adopted in November 2015 was that by 2020, all rural poor would have reliable access to food, clothing, compulsory education, basic healthcare and safe housing and all population living under the current poverty line and all poverty-stricken counties on the national list would be lifted out of poverty. Thanks to the unprecedented resolve and efforts, this target was met at the end of 2020 as scheduled, meeting the relevant goal of the 2030 Agenda 10 years ahead of schedule.

### 1. Historic achievements in poverty reduction

#### 1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty and achieve the goal of comprehensive poverty reduction

SDG 1.1: eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere

By the end of 2020, 98.99 million poor rural people had been lifted out of poverty (Figure 1) and 832 counties and 128,000 villages had graduated from their poverty-stricken status, according to the

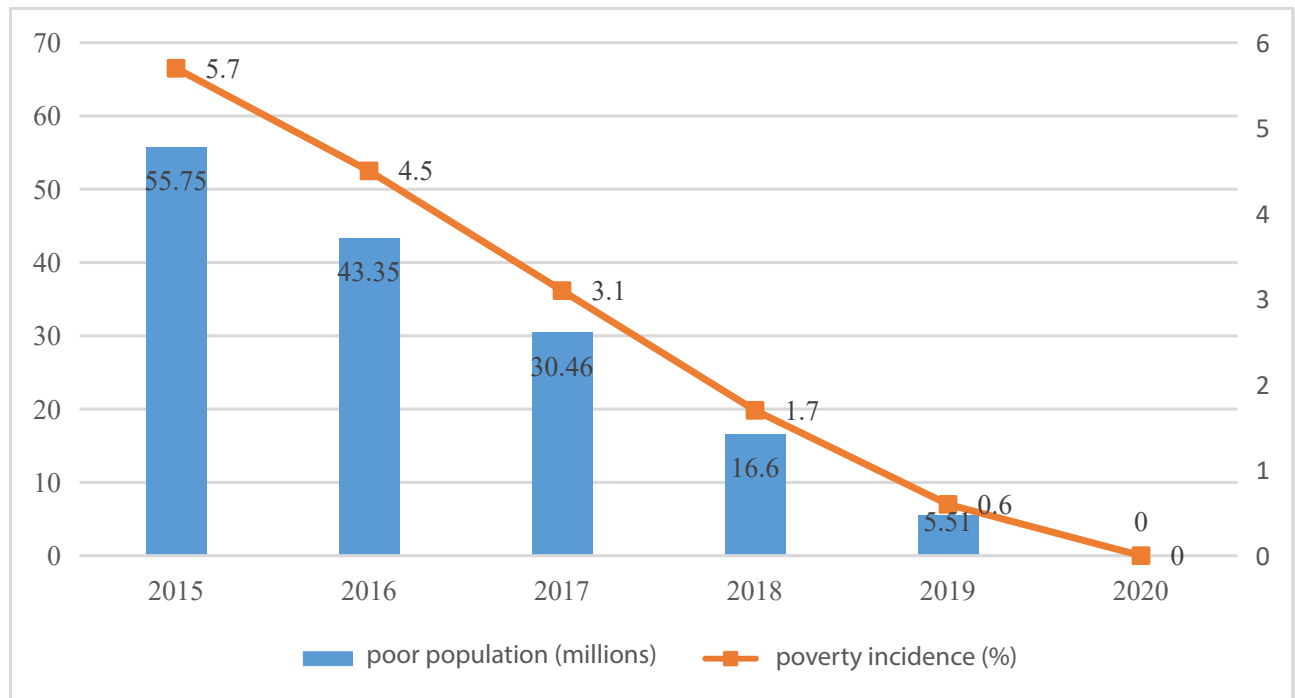
current poverty line. The people who have come out of poverty no longer have worries about food or clothing. They generally have enough food, and sometimes a nutritional diet. They can afford

SDG 1.2: reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

clothing and bedding suitable for the seasons. Their children go to school for compulsory education. They all have basic healthcare, safe housing and clean drinking water. (Table 1)



Figure 1. Rural poor population and poverty incidence from 2015 to 2020



Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2021

Table 1. Access to compulsory education, basic healthcare and safe housing and drinking water by end of 2020

	<b>Compulsory education, basic healthcare and safe housing and drinking water</b>	<b>Registered households in poor countries on national list</b>	<b>Registered households in poor countries not on national list</b>
Compulsory education	Educated at school	98.83%	99.06%
	Educated by schoolteachers at home	0.26%	0.57%
	Not in school due to physical conditions, suspension, delayed enrollment, or graduation from junior high school	0.91%	0.37%



Basic healthcare	Covered by basic medical insurance for urban and rural residents	99.85%	99.74%
	Covered by basic medical insurance for urban employees	0.14%	0.24%
	Newborns or others in the process of applying for medical insurance, people in military service or others covered by special healthcare programs or those temporarily not in need of medical insurance	0.01%	0.01%
Housing	Current housing appraised as safe, or having other safe housing	43.74%	58.26%
	Housing made safe through policy-supported renovation	42.25%	34.70%
	Safe housing acquired through relocation program	14.01%	7.04%
Drinking water	Tap water in households	93.67%	84.25%
	Easy access to water outside of households	6.33%	15.75%
	No shortage of water	99.86%	99.95%
	Basically reliable water supply, but with water shortage for a small number of days	0.14%	0.05%

Source: Based on the *National Census Bulletin on Poverty Alleviation* released by the National Bureau of Statistics in February 2021

## 1.2 Continued improvement in infrastructure

Infrastructure construction in poverty-stricken areas has progressed by leaps and bounds, and lack of roads, electricity, communications and drinking water is now a thing of the past. In 2020, in poor counties on the national list, 99.3% of administrative villages had access to industrial electricity, 99.9% of administrative villages had access to communications signals; over 98% poor villages had fiber-optic and 4G connections; garbage was collected and disposed in a centralized way in 89.9% of administrative villages; 62.7% had e-commerce delivery stations. Tap water access rose to 83 % in poor areas.

Table 2. Infrastructure indicators in poor rural areas 2015-2019 (%)

Indicators	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1. Rural households in natural villages with access to roads	99.7	99.8	99.9	100.0	100.0
2. Rural households with telephone service in their natural villages	99.7	99.9	99.8	99.9	100.0
3. Rural households with cable TV signal in their natural villages	92.2	94.2	96.9	98.3	99.1
4. Rural households in natural villages where main road to the village is hardened	94.1	96.0	97.6	98.3	99.5
5. Rural households with easy access to bus service in their natural villages	60.9	63.9	67.5	71.6	76.5
6. Rural households with broadband access in their natural villages	71.8	79.8	87.4	94.4	97.3
7. Rural households in natural villages where garbage handling is centralized	43.3	50.9	61.4	78.9	86.4
8. Rural households with healthcare stations in their natural villages	90.4	91.4	92.2	93.2	96.1
9. Rural households with convenient access to kindergarten in their natural villages	76.1	79.7	84.7	87.1	89.8
10. Rural households with convenient access to primary school in their natural villages	81.7	84.9	88.0	89.8	91.9

Source: Based on the *Report on Rural Poverty in China 2020* released by the National Bureau of Statistics





### 1.3 Major Improvement in public services

The levels of education, healthcare, culture and other public services in poverty-stricken areas have been greatly improved. Since 2013, a total of 108,000 compulsory education schools in poor areas have been renovated, making it possible for all school-age children in poor areas to attend primary schools and kindergartens in their villages. More than 8 million poor middle school and junior high school graduates have received vocational education and training. About 40 million rural students in compulsory education get nutritious meals every year. In poor areas, medical and health institutions and personnel are now available in all counties and villages and all administrative villages have hospitals and village doctors, making it possible for common and chronic diseases to be treated locally. All poor people are covered by the three systems of basic medical insurance, serious diseases insurance and medical assistance. Almost all villages have cultural facilities, and the access rate to cultural centers is 99.48% in the 22 central and western provinces.

SDG 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning

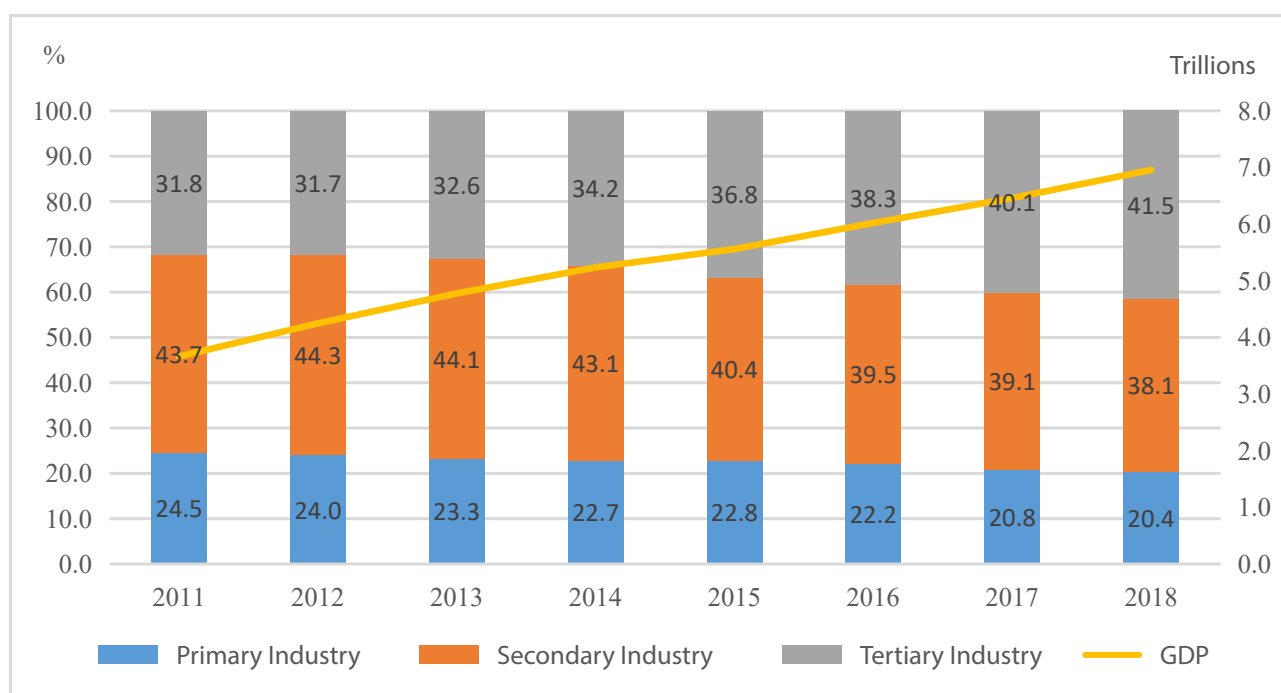
### 1.4 Fast-growing local industries, more jobs and more skillful labor force

The targeted poverty reduction efforts have broken the development bottleneck and released great potential. New industries, such as e-commerce, photovoltaic and tourism, have grown fast. By 2020, more than 15 million poor households had received more than 710 billion in micro-credit to support their businesses; 8.7 million women had increased income through micro-secured credit and micro-credit for poverty alleviation. As large numbers of migrant workers return to their hometowns to start businesses, new entities such as farmers' specialized cooperatives are becoming full-fledged, bringing more than 70% of poor households out of poverty. More people from poor rural areas are able to find jobs in towns and cities, thanks to policies that support skills training, labor services cooperation between eastern and western regions, leading enterprises' poverty reduction efforts, workshops that hire the poor, and creation of public interest jobs. Such migrant workers had grown from 12.27 million in 2015 to 32.43 million in 2020. Over 90% of poor households have received employment assistance. 10.21

SDG 1.4: by 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

million poor women and rural women leaders have received skills training. More than 5 million poor women have earned more income and thus been lifted out of poverty through handicrafts, farming and breeding, e-commerce and tourism.

Figure 2. GDP and industrial structure changes in poverty-stricken areas



Source: Based on *Report on Rural Poverty in China 2020* released by the National Bureau of Statistics

## 1.5 Relocation and ecological protection

For those living in remote areas with tough natural conditions, fragile ecosystems or frequent natural disasters where finding livelihood locally is hard, relocation is offered to them on a voluntary basis. More than 9.6 million such people have left their poor hometowns and settled down in new places, breaking free of isolation and backwardness. In poor areas, 74.5 million *mu*<sup>4</sup> of farmland has been converted to forests or grassland, and 1.102 million poor people have been hired as forest rangers. 23,000 afforestation cooperatives have been established to achieve poverty alleviation as well as ecological conservation.

<sup>4</sup> Translator's note: mu is a Chinese unit of land measurement equivalent of 666.5 square meters.

## E-Commerce Helps Fight Poverty

In recent years, China has become the largest e-commerce market in the world. E-commerce has greatly lowered the threshold for small- and micro-businesses in rural areas to connect with large markets. It enables poor areas to lift themselves out of poverty through commerce. As a way of alleviating poverty and revitalizing rural areas, relevant government departments have promoted e-commerce demonstration projects in rural areas, focusing on the poor regions. Rural public services have been developed, supply chain fostered, markets found for products, and trainings offered, so that rural areas can embrace e-commerce as a way out of poverty.

By 2019, there had been 1,231 e-commerce demonstration counties, covering all the 832 poverty-stricken counties on the national list. At the same time, e-commerce platforms such as Alibaba, JD and Pinduoduo have actively responded to the call for poverty alleviation by coming up with innovative ways to reduce poverty through e-commerce. In 2019, online retail sales in the 832 poor counties reached 107.61 billion, up 31.2% year-on-year.

As of June 2020, there were 5,425 Taobao villages\* in China, 119 of which were located in poor counties on the national list, with an annual revenue of over 4.8 billion. According to a World Bank study\*\*, households in Taobao villages that participate in e-commerce earn 80% more than those that do not.

\*Taobao village refers to a village where the number of active online shops reaches more than 10% of local households and the annual e-commerce transaction value reaches more than 10 million.

\*\*World Bank, Alibaba Group. *E-commerce Development: Experience from China*. 2019

## 1.6 Greater resilience to disasters and various risks

Since October 2018, governments at all levels in China have invested more than 400 billion in 9 key disaster prevention and control projects, including rehabilitation of key ecological function areas, housing fortification in earthquake-prone areas, improvement of flood control and drought relief and water conservancy, geological

SDG 1.5: build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

disasters management and relocation of people away from disaster areas. Communities have improved capacity

for disaster prevention and mitigation. There is a contingent of disaster information workers, basically one in each community, urban or rural. Since 2013, 25.68 million poor



people from 7.9 million households, cumulatively, have moved out of dilapidated houses and into safe housing, and 10.75 million rural households on minimum living allowance, or in serious difficulties or with disabilities have had their run-down homes renovated through aid and thus become more resilient to extreme weather conditions and natural disasters.

### 1.7 A stronger social security system

Since September 2015, the incomes of urban and rural residents in China have continued to grow, and so has the level of social relief. By the end of 2020, there were 44.268 million recipients of minimum

SDG 1.3: implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

living allowances in the country, of whom 36.215 million were in rural areas, with women accounting

for 40.7%. Nearly 20 million people registered as living in poverty in rural areas received minimum living allowances or special poverty allowances. 60.98 million poor people were covered by the basic old-age insurance for urban and rural residents, and basically everyone eligible was covered. From December 2017, all counties in China began to provide rural minimum living allowances at or above the national standard. A fairly good digital monitoring system has been established to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

## 2. China’s experience in poverty eradication

**2.1 People-centered development and common prosperity for all.** The CPC is committed to eradicating poverty, improving people’s livelihood, and realizing common prosperity. It endeavors to build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, and in this process no one or area should be left out. This mission fits perfectly with the 2030 Agenda’s pledge of leaving no one behind. China’s poverty eradication strategy focuses on impoverished individuals, regarding them not just as recipients of assistance, but more importantly as capable of lifting themselves out of poverty. Policy measures are tailor-made to enable them to use their own intellect and resolve, together with assistance, to get rid of poverty. A strategy that is for the people, relies on the people and motivates the people to work with initiative and creativity is a



proven solution to poverty. It can release great potential and form a powerful synergy.

**2.2 A targeted strategy and a path with Chinese characteristics.** China has created the targeted strategy of poverty eradication, which has 6 clear targets<sup>5</sup>, 5 approaches<sup>6</sup>, 10 major programs<sup>7</sup>, and monitoring and support mechanisms to prevent relapse. This strategy addresses the issues of “who to help whom”, “how to help”, “how to exit” and “how to consolidate the results.” Practice has shown that poverty eradication efforts must be targeted toward localities and individuals with their particular circumstances considered as well as be suitable to the country’s national conditions.

**2.3 A clear responsibility system.** At the top, the CPC is in charge of poverty eradication. At

SDG 16.6: develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

the working levels, the central government coordinates national efforts; provinces assume overall responsibility; cities and counties work

to meet the targets. Within this system, each has clear responsibilities and perform its functions accordingly. From the central to the local governments, each signs a written pledge for poverty eradication, fulfils its part in a coordinated national effort, and is held accountable through multi-channeled monitoring and the most stringent evaluation, including that done by a third party. Practice has proved that poverty eradication requires a top-down strategy and good policy implementation throughout the system by means of accountability, sound policy-making, adequate input, support mechanisms, mobilization, monitoring and evaluation.

**2.4 Social synergy based on the broadest possible consensus and widest participation.**

President Xi Jinping chaired over 7 central poverty alleviation meetings to create a common will for joint action to combat poverty. Under China’s system which allows resources to be concentrated on priorities, the poverty eradication endeavor involves all stakeholders from government to industries and the private sector, where the eastern and western regions have collaborated, Party organizations and government agencies have paired up with poor localities,

5 Targeted recipients, projects and funding; targeted measures for individual households; government officials dispatched according to the specific needs of villages; and clearly defined results.

6 The 5 poverty eradication approaches are production/business promotion, relocation, compensation for ecological conservation, education and social security.

7 The 10 programs involve resident government officials sent to villages, vocations training, micro finance, relocation of impoverished population, e-commerce, tourism, photovoltaic, mulberry tree farming, rural entrepreneurial training, and support from leading companies.



enterprises, social organizations and the private sector are encouraged to participate. To accomplish poverty eradication, there must be a powerful synergy, with the government playing a leading role, and all the other stakeholders participating.

#### **Inter-regional Collaboration and Paired Assistance**

An important approach to poverty alleviation is to have the better-off eastern regions to help out the poor western regions. 9 provinces in the east have paired up with 14 provinces in the central and western regions, and 343 more advanced eastern counties (cities and districts) paired up with 573 poor counties in the central and western regions in a campaign to achieve common prosperity.

From 2015 to 2020, these 9 provinces channeled to their pairs more than 100.5 billion in fiscal aid and assistance funding and sent cadres and technical personnel to their pairs and also received people from their pairs, for working stints on an exchange scheme involving 131,000 people. More than 22,000 enterprises from the east invested a total of 1.1 trillion in poverty alleviation in the paired areas in the west. Officials from the central level have been sent for working stints in the western regions, old industrial bases and old revolutionary base areas.

### **3. China's main contributions to global poverty reduction**

**3.1 Bolster confidence in global poverty reduction.** In over 4 decades, with unswerving efforts, China has lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty, contributing over 70% of global poverty reduction. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, President Xi Jinping stressed, at the symposium on ensuring a decisive victory in the fight against poverty, that "lifting all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty by 2020 is a solemn promise made by the CPC Central Committee, and it must be fulfilled on time with no room for negotiation." China's resolve and action to eradicate poverty and achievement of the SDG on ending poverty 10 years ahead of schedule gives a tremendous boost to the confidence and determination of the international community in achieving poverty reduction despite COVID-19, and provides a strong impetus to the global poverty reduction effort.

**3.2 Enrich international practice and theory of poverty reduction.** China has created an anti-poverty path with Chinese characteristics, supported by both practice and theories, which enriches the international experience. China has championed a new global partnership, a more balanced and equitable one for development, with North-South cooperation as the main avenue and South-South





cooperation as a complement, actively providing China's solutions to global poverty reduction.

**3.3 Help other countries realize SDG on poverty reduction.** All the major initiatives announced by President Xi Jinping have been implemented to advance poverty reduction in developing countries,

*SDG 1.a: ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions*

including 100 poverty reduction programs, the Ten Cooperation Programs for poverty reduction and livelihood improvement in Africa, an South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and a China-UN Peace and Development Fund. By promoting synergy between the BRI and the 2030 Agenda, China has engaged in broader, higher-level and deeper regional economic and social development

cooperation. By 2030, the BRI will have lifted 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 36 million out of moderate poverty along the Belt and Road<sup>8</sup>.

Under deepened South-South cooperation, China has helped other developing countries build infrastructure and brought them agricultural technologies, benefiting poor people directly. Since 2015, 73 training courses have been organized for

*SDG 1.b: create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions*


more than 2,100 officials from over 100 countries and international organizations, where they share experience and build capacity for poverty reduction and development.

### **Technical Assistance Demonstration Programs For Poverty Reduction in East Asia**

**Exemplary of China's Cooperation Initiative on Poverty Reduction in East Asia, technical assistance demonstration programs have been carried out since July 2017 in 6 poverty-stricken villages in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. Such programs have improved conditions of production and living and the appearance of the villages by providing new infrastructure of drinking water facilities, bridges, roads and electricity, building public services facilities such as villagers' centers, clinics and schools, and building or renovating housing, toilets and environmental protection facilities for poor households.**

**With new techniques and better methods, villagers have raised beef cattle and poultry, grown corn and vegetables, bred good rice and peanut varieties, woven cloth and made handicraft from bamboo. Rural tourism and courtyard economy have developed. People have received technical**

<sup>8</sup> World Bank report, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/regional-integration/publication/belt-and-road-economics-opportunities-and-risks-of-transport-corridors>



training, and some have found jobs in the cities. Thanks to all the above, villagers in the demonstration villages have earned more from a variety of channels and enhanced their capacity for self-generated development.

These technical assistance demonstration programs in East Asia have been highly praised by ASEAN ministers and representatives of international institutions, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as “a benchmark for poverty reduction cooperation.”

## 4. Challenges and the way forward

Poverty eradication is not the end, but a starting point for a new life and new endeavors. There is still much work to do before we can address unbalanced and inadequate development, narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and among different regions, ensure well-rounded development of people and achieve common prosperity. China will work to consolidate and expand its achievements and continue to make contribution to global poverty reduction.

**4.1 Consolidate the achievements and prevent major relapse.** The current supportive policies for the counties will basically remain in place for a five-year transitional period. The monitoring and support mechanisms will be improved to detect and prevent any relapse at the earliest through intervention and assistance. Relocated people will continue to receive help. Low-income rural population will receive regular assistance based on their category and level.

**4.2 Promote development through the Rural Revitalization Strategy.** We will continue to improve the policies, working mechanisms and institutions, accelerate agricultural and rural modernization, and promote high-quality and efficient agriculture and villages where people can have jobs and live in decent conditions. We will promote the creation of stable jobs, provide more training, boost local industries and achieve self-sustaining development.

**4.3 Form an international synergy.** We will continue to urge the international community to prioritize poverty reduction in international cooperation and increase resources for development, taking the opportunity of the launch of the Decade of Action for SDGs to deliver the first and foremost goal of the 2030 Agenda. We call for a global partnership for win-win cooperation and an open world economy, so that developing countries will have a favorable external environment for their fight against poverty.



**4.4 Make international development cooperation a new driver of poverty reduction.**

We will continue to promote synergy between the BRI and the 2030 Agenda, deepen South-South cooperation in poverty reduction, promote experience sharing in and coordination of development strategies, and roll out more poverty reduction projects and demonstrations. Our goal is to build a poverty-free global community with a shared future.



## Ecological Conservation and Climate Actions

President Xi Jinping attaches great importance to ecological conservation and environmental protection. He has said that lucid waters and lush mountains are as good as mountains of gold and silver. In keeping with Xi Jinping thought on ecological conservation, China has made ecological conservation part of the five-sphere integrated plan that also covers economic, political, cultural, and social advancement. Thanks to the basic state policy of resource conservation and environmental protection, high-quality economic development has been achieved in a better protected ecological environment. Land is better used and protected. Resources and energy are utilized more efficiently. Green development and green living have become the mainstream. Regional green development layout is taking shape at a quicker pace. During the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period, historic, transformational and overarching changes took place in China's ecological conservation, in both concept and practice, and laid a solid foundation for fresh progress in the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period, and for fundamentally improving the environment and basically realizing the goal of building a beautiful China by 2035. Parallel to domestic efforts, China has contributed its share to global environmental governance as an active stakeholder firmly committed to international cooperation and the *Paris Agreement*. China's announcement to enhance its NDC has added strong impetus to global actions against climate change and for green and low-carbon development.

### 1. Remarkable progress in ecological conservation and climate action

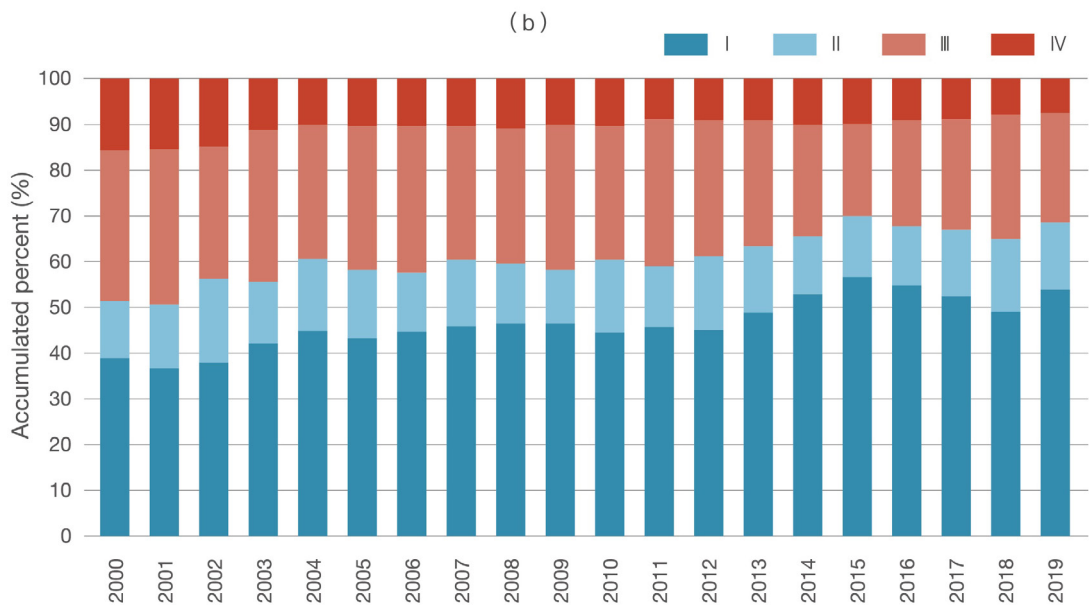
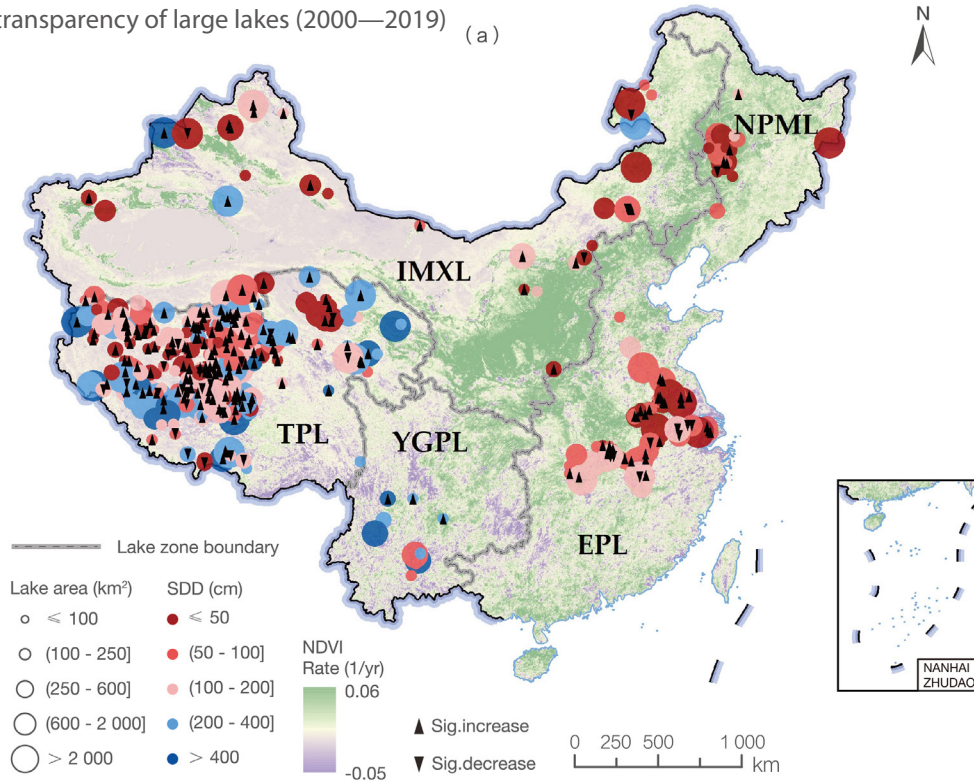
#### 1.1 Better environment for better lives

**Air quality has improved notably.** There have been significant reductions in emissions of major air pollutants. In 2020, the ratio of days with good or moderate air quality was 87 % in cities at or above the prefecture level; the national average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> was 33 micrograms per cubic meter; those of major pollutants all decreased from the previous year.

**Water quality has improved signally.** By the end of 2020, 98.2 % of the 2,914 black and odorous water bodies in cities at or above the prefecture level were cleaned up; the proportion of surface water of good or moderate quality rose to 83.4%; water quality in all sections of the trunk stream of the Yangtze River reached Category II for the first time;

82.3% of the Bohai Sea’s coastal waters were of good or moderate quality. Lakes reaching Categories I, II and III for water transparency increased from 90.1% in 2015 to 92.5% in 2019 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Water transparency of large lakes (2000—2019) (a)



Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

(a) The mean water transparency (Secchi Disk Depth, SDD) (IMXL, Inner Mongolia-Xinjiang Lake zone; TPL, Tibetan Plateau Lake zone; YGPL, Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau Lake zone; NPML, Northeast Plain and Mountain Lake zone; EPL, Eastern Plain Lake zone);

(b) Proportions of lakes with different water transparency levels



### A War against Environmental Pollution

China has declared war on environmental pollution with the adoption of action plans for the prevention and control of pollution in air, water and soil. By the end of 2020, there had been ultra-low emission coal-fired power plants with a combined capacity of about 950 million kilowatts, and crude steel production capacity of 620 million tons having completed transformation or been in a transition towards ultra-low emission. About 25 million households in the rural areas of Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and their surrounding areas and also in the Fenwei Plain had replaced coal use with natural gas or electricity.

On the front of water pollution control, efforts targeting both land and marine pollutants have been made to address the pollution in the Bohai Sea. 150,000 villages improved their environment during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period. Zhejiang Province’s eco-restoration program that involves 1,000 demonstration villages and aims to improve 10,000 villages was recognized with United Nations Champions of the Earth Award.

On the front of soil preservation, surveys were done to find out soil pollution situations on agricultural land and key industrial land. About 90% polluted land had been made safe for agriculture, and over 90% polluted land slots safe for use. A special campaign was launched to screen 60,000 enterprises and more than 250 chemical industrial parks for hazardous waste. Pilot projects of “zero-waste city” had produced outcomes that can be replicated and scaled up.

**Improvement in the supply and quality of drinking water.** Water sources at or above the county level have been cleaned up, ensuring safe drinking water for 770 million residents. By the end of 2020,

SDG 6.1: achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

there had been a fairly complete rural water supply system, with 83% of the rural population having tap water. Excess fluorine in and poor taste of rural

drinking water became a thing of the past.

**Higher rate of MSW treatment.** Municipal waste is better managed with an expanding array of laws and regulations on municipal solid waste (MSW) classification. By 2019, the amount of MSW handled nationwide had reached 242.06 million tons, 240.128 million tons, or 99.2 % of

SDG 12.5: substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

which were decontaminated with a daily capacity of 367,000 tons.

**Improved marine environment and sustainability.** China’s coastal water quality improved



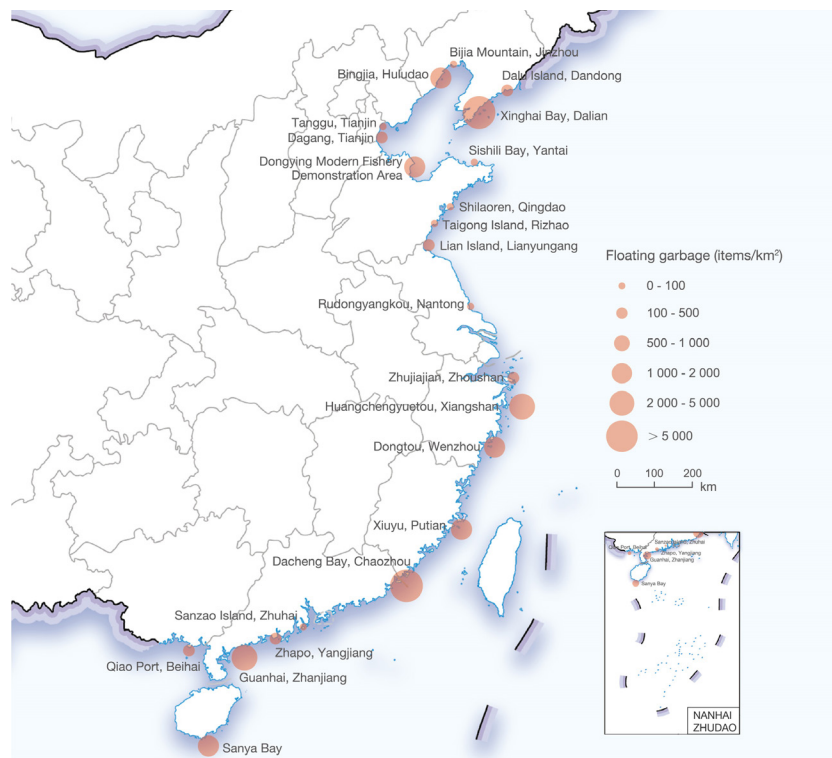


overall during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period. In 2020, 77.4% of the coastal waters were of good or moderate quality (Grades I & II), up 9 percentage points from 2015; inferior quality

SDG 14: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

water (Grade IV) averaged 9.4%, down 3.6 percentage points from 2015. According to monitoring results from 49 zones across the nation, the average floating marine debris were 27 objects/km<sup>2</sup> by sighting and 5,363 objects/km<sup>2</sup> by net sampling, with average density of 9.6 kg/km<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 2. Floating marine debris distribution in 22 typical offshore areas in China 2018



Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

## 1.2 Progress in stable ecosystems, biodiversity and climate resilience

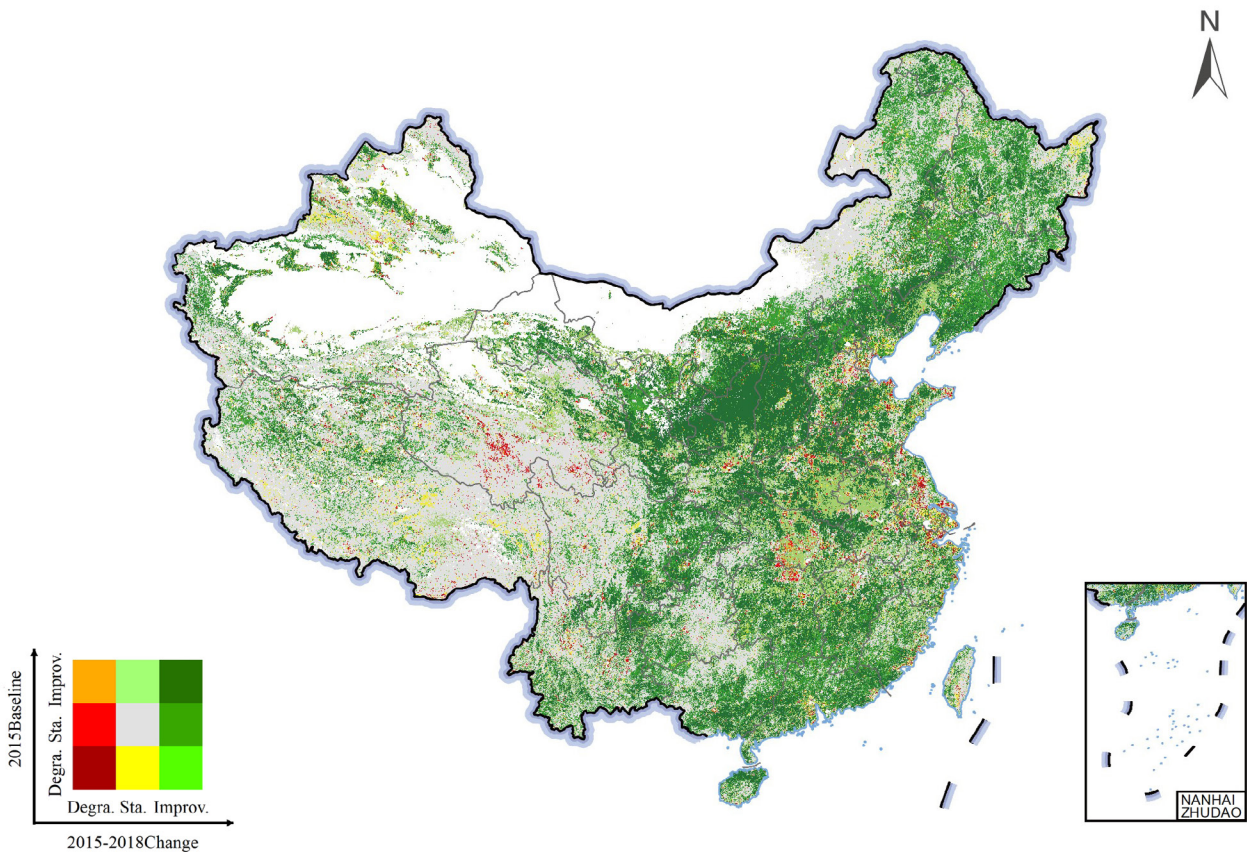
**Effective control of soil erosion.** From 2016 to 2020, additional 300,400 square kilometers of land had been put under protection from soil erosion, making the total restored areas 62,000 square kilometers. The area and intensity of soil erosion had both decreased, with the effect of protection measured up by 10-40%.

SDG15: sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss



**Continued desertification prevention and control.** Desertification has been checked across 10 million hectares, leading to a drop in both area and intensity of desertification in three consecutive monitoring periods. Compared with 2011, the area of rocky desertification has shrunk by 1.932 million hectares; the sediment in the Yangtze River basin is down by more than 40%; 61.4% of the rocky desertification areas are covered by vegetation. From 2015 to 2018, net restored land in China accounted for about one fifth of the global total, ranking first in the world.

Figure 3. Spatial distribution of land degradation baseline and dynamic change in China (2015—2018)



Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

### Six ways to transform “lucid waters and lush mountains” into “mountains of gold and silver”

On August 15, 2005, Xi Jinping, then secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, creatively proposed the vision that “Lucid waters and lush mountains are as good as mountains of gold and silver.” In 2017, this vision was written into the report of the 19<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress and the revised CPC Constitution as a guiding principle for coordinated development and conservation. In 2021, the Chinese government issued policies on accelerating the establishment of a sound, green, low carbon and circular economic system and on establishing a mechanism for realizing the

value of ecosystem products, as part of the effort to put in place a policy system to promote green development.

Based on years of experience, China has created six ways to transform lucid waters and lush mountains into “mountains of gold and silver.”

Those who conserve the ecosystems are able to benefit from:

- Ecological compensation
- Green assets in the form of improved ecosystems
- Agriculture and tourism
- New business models arising from ecological conservation
- Successful brands of ecological products
- Trade of ecological products

These models of green development are valuable pilots for the larger effort of establishing the necessary subsystems of regulations, policies, production, circulation, consumption and technological innovation for green, low-carbon, circular development.

**Continued increase in forest coverage and stock.** In 2020, forest coverage reached 23.04%, and forest reserve exceeded 17.5 billion cubic meters, continuous increase for both in 30 years, making China’s forest resource increase the largest in the world.

**Steady increase in grassland vegetation.** In 2020, the coverage of grassland vegetation reached 56.1%, up by 21% from 2015, indicating steady improvement in grassland ecology.

**Greater efforts to protect marine and terrestrial ecosystems.** A total of 1,200 kilometers of coastline and 23,000 hectares of coastal wetlands have been restored, and an additional 202,600 hectares of wetlands created. 273 marine nature reserves and special marine reserves have been established, covering a total area of more than 120,000 square kilometers. Between 2016 and 2020, 46 national nature reserves were created, making their total number 474 covering about 1 million square kilometers. China ranks among the top in the world in the collection and conservation of biogenetic resources, with 90% of terrestrial ecosystem types and 85% of key wild animal populations under effective protection.

**Stronger disaster prevention and resistance.** Steady progress has been made in infrastructure development for agricultural water conservancy and climate resilience. Pilot projects to build climate-resilient city have been rolled out in 28 cities. Comprehensive disaster monitoring and early warning,



risk assessment and community-level disaster prevention and reduction have improved significantly under an emergency response management system suited to China's national conditions.

### **1.3 Transition to green production and living**

**A green way of production.** China has been deepening the supply-side structural reform to optimize industrial and energy structures, promote energy-saving and environment-friendly industries, and improve the supply of green products. By the end of 2020, the share of non-fossil fuels had risen to 15.9 %, exceeding the target. Between 2016 and 2020, carbon dioxide emission intensity fell by a cumulative 18.8 %, exceeding the target. Compared with 2005, China's carbon intensity dropped by about 48.4 % in 2020, reversing the rapid growth in carbon dioxide emissions. For many years, China's renewable energy sector has consistently ranked first in the world in patents, investment, installed capacity and power generation. Wind power and photovoltaic installations account for more than 30% of the global total and new energy vehicles 55% of global sales.

**Higher efficiency of resource utilization.** China has put under strict controls both the total consumption and intensity of energy through more than 340 energy-saving national standards. Pilot projects to build climate-resilient city have been rolled out in 28 cities. There are national efforts to monitor energy conservation and promote water saving. The program of promoting a circular economy is underway, led by bases of resource recycling demonstration, comprehensive utilization of bulk solid waste, and green industry demonstration, eco-industrial parks, green construction and prefabricated buildings. In 2019, the use of urban recycled water reached 22.1%, and green buildings accounted for nearly 60% of new civil architecture in cities and towns. Between 2016 and 2020, China achieved a relatively fast overall decline in energy intensity, keeping the growth in total energy consumption within a reasonable range, and improving energy efficiency significantly, an equivalent of slashing 1.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

**A national carbon market in the making.** A carbon market pilot program involving 7 provinces and municipalities has led to fledgling local markets for carbon emission trading. By December 2020, these pilot carbon markets had covered nearly 3,000 key emission businesses in more than 20 industries ranging from electric power to steel and cement, with monthly cumulative



allowance transactions of about 440 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions worth about 10.26

SDG13: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

billion. The first compliance period of a national carbon market started after the Ministry of Ecology and Environment issued at the end of

2020 the *National Measures for the Administration of Carbon Emission Trading (Trial)* and the *2019-2020 National Carbon Emission Trading Cap Setting and Allowance Allocation Implementation Plan (Power Generation Industry)*. The supportive processes are well underway, including law- and policy-making, infrastructure construction, data reporting and allowance allocation and capacity building.

**A Green Way of life.** Campaigns have been launched to promote resources conserving government agencies, green commuting, as well as simplicity, moderation, low-carbon and healthy approaches in families, schools, shopping centers and buildings.

## 2. China's experience in ecological conservation and climate response

**2.1 A new development vision.** Under the philosophy that lucid waters and lush mountains are as good as mountains of gold and silver, China has pursued high-quality economic development and high-level protection of the environment and, at the same time, made climate action an intrinsic part of sustainable development. To protect the ecological environment is to protect the productive forces, and to improve it is to improve productivity. Lucid waters and lush mountains can produce huge economic, social and environmental benefits because they stand for a green economic system complete with consumption, production, circulation and finance.

**2.2 A people-centered approach.** A good natural environment is regarded as the foundation of people's wellbeing and to address major environmental concerns is a priority in raising people's wellbeing. China has launched three environmental campaigns to preserve clear waters, blue skies and clean land, to meet people's growing needs of a beautiful environment. Ecological conservation can improve people's livelihood and also offer green and ecological products.

**2.3 A systematic approach.** Mountains, waters, forests, grassland, farmland, lakes and deserts are managed as inherent parts of one whole ecosystem. Conservation efforts are systematic, integrated and collaborative, and cover all dimensions, all terrains and all processes, above- and



under-ground, in land and in sea. This is the way to obtain the best results.

**2.4 An institutional framework.** The Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Emergency Management have been created to share responsibilities for ecological conservation and environmental protection. An expanding array of important laws, regulations and standards have been issued to form a complete institutional framework where there are evaluation and accountability for implementation, clearly defined property rights, diverse stakeholders, and incentives and constrains. Ecological conservation demands revolutionary changes in how we produce, live, and think and what we value. It must be supported by the strictest laws and policies.

### **3. China's main contributions to global climate response and ecological governance**

**3.1 Add political impetus to global climate action.** China takes climate response as part of its responsibility to build a community of shared future for mankind. It has taken effective adaptation and mitigation actions and actively participated in the inter-governmental negotiation process on climate change and global climate governance. President Xi Jinping attended the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015 and played an important role in promoting the conclusion and entry into force of the *Paris Agreement*. When global climate governance encountered headwinds, President Xi Jinping shored up confidence in global climate action by clearly expressing China's firm support to the *Paris Agreement* and resolve to tackle climate change when he attended the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, the Climate Ambition Summit, the China-France-Germany Climate Summit and the Leaders Summit on Climate. He also announced China's aim to achieve a carbon peak before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060, and laid out new measures to scale up China's NDC, contributing China's share to global climate governance.

**3.2 Advance South-South cooperation on climate change.** China actively supports other developing countries, especially LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, in meeting the challenge of climate change. Since 2011, about 1.2 billion has been allocated to South-South cooperation on climate change, through assistance in the form of energy-saving and low-carbon goods, cooperation in building low carbon demonstration zones






and training on climate change capacity building, to help Belt and Road countries, small island states, LDCs and African countries build up climate resilience. Since September 2015, China has signed 39 cooperation documents on combating climate change with 35 developing countries, and provided them with much-needed low-carbon goods and equipment.

**3.3. Promote the Green Silk Road.** In his speech at the Boao Forum for Asia annual conference 2021, President Xi Jinping announced that China will build a closer partnership for green development by strengthening cooperation on green infrastructure, green energy and green finance, and by improving the BRI International Green Development Coalition, the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road Development, and other multilateral cooperation platforms. Green is a defining feature of Belt and Road cooperation. Additionally, China has launched green bonds under the BRI regular inter-bank cooperation mechanism and the Green Investment Fund, and provided technical support, capacity building and advisory services. In recent years, China has invested an average of more than US\$2 billion each year in renewable energy projects in countries that have joined the BRI. In the first half of 2020, China's investment in renewable energy surpassed that in fossil energy. Dubai's Concentrated Solar Power Plant, which is being built by a Chinese company, meets the world's highest standards for solar power and is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 1.6 million tons a year when completed.

**3.4 Participate in global environmental governance.** President Xi Jinping spoke, at the Leaders Summit on Climate, of a community of life for man and Nature, and stressed the importance of systemic governance where mountains, rivers, forests as well as farmlands, lakes, grasslands and deserts are managed as indivisible parts of the ecosystem. This is a China solution to global environmental governance. China has been active in promoting global marine governance, implementing the London Convention and the 1996 Protocol, addressing marine litter through the United Nations as the main channel, and advocating for the responsible management of oceans. China has worked to advance regional marine international cooperation, such as China-ASEAN cooperation on the marine environment, China-Japan-ROK environment ministerial meeting, the East Asia Summit, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization. In a bid to advance global effort to control desertification, China hosted COP 14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the first COP China has ever hosted in the UN environmental field, where the Chinese experience and solution were shared with other parties. As one of the earliest countries to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity,





China has actively promoted its implementation and international cooperation, and put in a lot of work for COP 15. China's endeavor has given new impetus to biodiversity conservation.

## **4. Challenges and the way forward**

Since the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress, ecological conservation has undergone historic, transformational and systemically important changes, in terms of both practice and awareness. But we still face long-term as well as short-term issues, with mounting pressure arising from the structural, underlining tensions and challenges. There are still gaps between the reality and the expectations of the people and the goal of building a beautiful China. Guided by Xi Jinping thought on ecological conservation, China will continue to strengthen ecosystem protection, respond to climate change, build a beautiful China and contribute its fair share to global climate and environmental governance.

**4.1 Press ahead with carbon peak.** We will work out a science-based roadmap for achieving carbon peak and carbon neutrality. Green transformation of traditional industries such as steel and cement will be put on fast track; backward production capacity and excess capacity will be phased out with stronger efforts; carbon intensity will come down with more use of green energy. We will accelerate work to create a national carbon market. We will continue encouraging green industries and green finance so that climate actions also contribute to socio-economic development.

**4.2 Fight the tough battle against pollution.** Efforts to improve air quality will continue. PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> will be tackled together instead of separately. Pollution on land and in sea will be treated through coordinated and systematic efforts. Tough measures will remain in place to prevent and control water pollution and pollution in key sea areas so as to conserve rivers, lakes and bays. We will take tough measures to prevent and control soil pollution and effectively manage the soil pollution risks associated with agricultural land and construction land. Emerging pollutants must not escape our attention. Awareness of ecological conservation will be promoted through education and publicity so that the green way of life will be embraced by more people.

**4.3 Advance pollution control and ecological conservation in tandem.** Ecological conservation and rehabilitation will be our top priority. We strive to achieve pollution reduction and enhancement of the environment's carrying capacity through systematic management of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grassland and deserts, a nature reserve system mainly consisting of national parks,



significantly scaled up afforestation, and large projects to protect and restore major ecosystems and biodiversity.

**4.4 Participate in global climate and environmental governance.** We will contribute our wisdom and effort by hosting COP 15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, facilitating positive outcomes at the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, and promoting the full and effective implementation of the *Paris Agreement*. We will engage in practical cooperation multilaterally and bilaterally in addressing climate change and preserving ecosystems, deepen the South-South cooperation on climate change, and join hands with other countries to build a clean and beautiful world.



## **Successful Epidemic Control and Resilient Economy**

In the face of the sudden outbreak of COVID-19, China sprang into action and effectively controlled the domestic spread of the virus in the shortest possible time by mobilizing the people and adopting a full array of measures. Then regular prevention and control have stayed in place to stamp out any outbreak, while allowing society and the economy to stay open as much as possible. China has put the people first and protected 1.4 billion citizens, effectively ensuring their rights to life, health and development. Anchored in the vision of a community of shared future for mankind, China has launched the largest global emergency humanitarian operation in the history of the People's Republic, to contribute to the global fight against COVID-19, and at the same time to give hope and impetus to the global economic recovery and achievement of SDGs.

### **1. Hard-won results in epidemic control and economic recovery**

#### **1.1 Control the spread of the coronavirus within three months and effectively ensure people's rights to life and health**

A national campaign was waged to control the outbreaks in Wuhan and Hubei. The city and then the province were placed under a lockdown; more than 42,600 healthcare workers in 346 medical teams from all over the country rushed in to help; assistance was flown in from 19 provinces; 2 hospitals were built from scratch in 2 weeks; 16 facilities were transformed into hospitals; more than 600 isolation centers were created; thorough screening was done regularly.

Financial and personnel resources were made available to save lives. As of March 21, 2020, 121.8 billion had been invested by governments at various levels. A people's campaign was going on nationwide, with more than 4 million community workers working around the clock in 650,000 urban and rural communities. In about 3 months, we were able to basically stamp out local cases in Wuhan and Hubei province and stopped the spread of the coronavirus in the nation with in-patient cases dropping to zero.

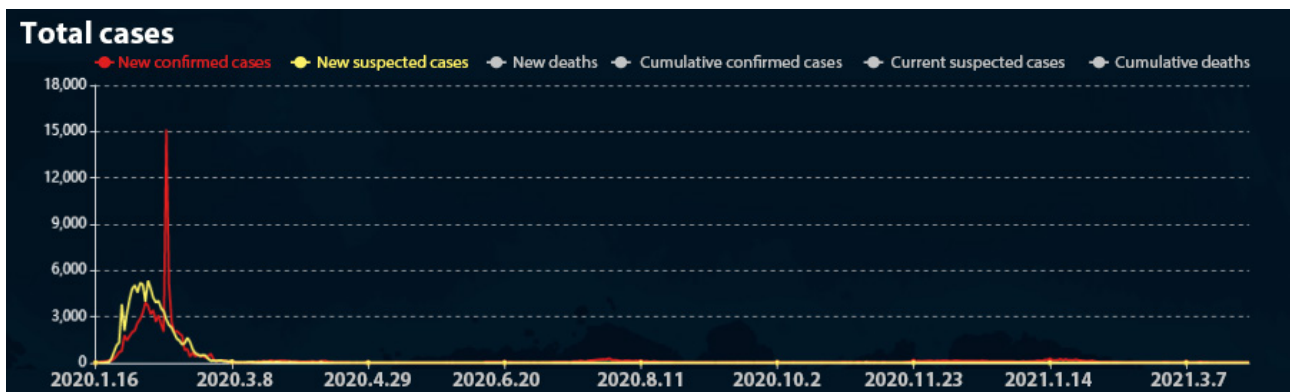


Figure 1. Trend of new cases in China

Source: China Center for Disease Control and Prevention

### Never Give Up on A Life

From a baby born just 30 hours before to a centenarian, from a women 7 months pregnant to someone with a disability, China does everything it took to save every life. Effort was made to find ECMO, a life support system, to treat the critically ill. Hospitals in Wuhan designated for severe COVID-19 cases admitted over 9,600 patients, and the ratio of cured cases rose from 14% at the beginning to 89%, exceeding the average level of cured viral pneumonia cases. Elderly patients with pre-existing conditions were treated with personalized medicine.

Any resources, personnel, drugs, equipment, or financial, was made available as long as lives could be saved. More than 3,000 octogenarian patients and 7 centenarians were cured in Hubei province. Of the over 2,500 octogenarians diagnosed with COVID-19 in Wuhan, nearly 70% were cured, with the oldest being 108 years old. The very high cure rate among the elderly is thanks to the principle of “putting life above everything else.”

## 1.2 Effectively prevent a rebound

The overall COVID-19 strategy has been reoriented, since after the initial 3 months, from extraordinary emergency response to regular prevention and control. COVID-19 advisories have been issued; so have been 8 editions of prevention and control guidelines and 8 editions of diagnostic and therapeutic guidelines. There have been targeted measures for various regions, levels, and categories, including different protection guidelines for 73 population groups and scenarios and 55 technical programs, prioritizing medical institutions, schools, nursing homes and orphanages. The Health Code, generated by a cell phone app with the individual’ authorization, has become a pass for people to return to work or school or move around. Prevention and control measures are enforced for travelers bound for China before they take the flights, and a quarantine period at designated locations is required of them immediately after their entry, to minimize imported cases. For



emerging local clusters, guidelines are issued, and a central steering group is sent in to curb them within 1-3 incubation periods. People are encouraged to get vaccinated through social mobilization and vaccine rollout programs, while continuing to follow safety precautions. The number of people vaccinated increase steadily, with 945.15 million vaccine doses administered cumulatively as of June 16, 2021.

### 1.3 Stabilize employment and livelihood

Supply and funding for prevention and treatment have been secured through better allocation, faster approval for medical goods production, and strengthening of industrial chains both upstream and downstream.

SDG 10: reduce inequality within and among countries

There has been stable supply of necessities at stable prices. Priority has been given to securing jobs for key groups, through employment subsidies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, transfer of migrant workers to new jobs, support to entrepreneurship, innovation and fast reopening of sectors vital to poverty alleviation, massive expansion of unemployment insurance coverage, and timely assistance to people in need due to COVID-19. In 2020, the central government allocated 54.7 billion in employment subsidy, and 166.453 billion in subsidies for people in need. 11.86 million new urban jobs were created. By year end, the national surveyed urban unemployment rate had dropped to 5.2%, consumer prices risen by 2.5%, additional 6 million people put on minimum living allowance, and more than 8 million people received temporary relief.

#### Help Migrant Workers Impacted by COVID-19

In response to the impact of COVID-19 and to secure employment, the Chinese government has encouraged the transfer of migrant workers to new jobs.

First, a worker supply mechanism is established for key enterprises, through which more than 1 million migrant workers have been able to either return to their jobs or find new jobs in a different locality.

Second, there is point-to-point or one-stop service to return workers to their jobs by means of chartered coaches, trains and flights between the labor exporting and importing localities.

Third, workers who have returned to or stayed in their hometowns are given support to find jobs closer to home or hometown. 13 million of them have now been employed in agriculture, by construction projects or new businesses, in public interest jobs or self-employed.

Fourth, social safety net has been strengthened. The unemployment insurance coverage was temporarily expanded in 2020 to make unemployed migrant workers who had been insured for less than one year eligible for benefits, thus effectively securing their basic livelihood under COVID-19.

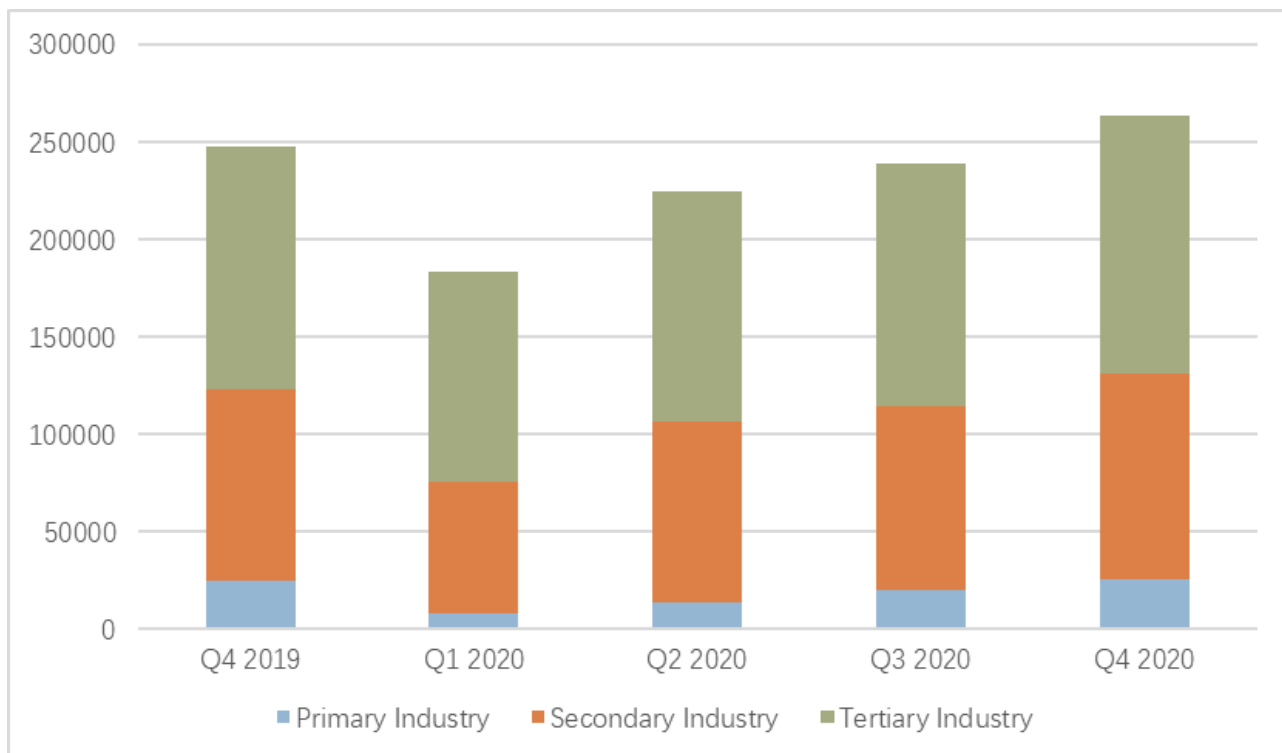
## 1.4 Economic resilience amidst COVID-19

Macro-economic policies aimed at addressing the immediate concerns of market players have stabilized the economic fundamentals. During the height of the outbreak, migrant workers in key sectors were able to return to work by chartered trains and flights. After the initial outbreaks were curbed, regular prevention and control measures allowed reopening where possible. With major projects, key sectors and low-risk regions being first to return to normal, others quickly followed suit. Large-scale tax and fee cuts were implemented temporarily, reducing a burden of more than 2.6 trillion for market players for the whole year. Additional 2 trillion of central funding was allocated, together with provincial funding, to trickle down to benefit enterprises and people in cities and counties. Banks were supported in increasing certain loans and lowering interest rates. 1.5 trillion stayed in the real economy as a result of the financial sector reducing charges. Freight transportation first fully resumed, followed by the gradual resumption of passenger transportation after barriers were removed. Both relief and incentives were given to businesses. The digital transformation of public infrastructure and public services has further accelerated. New business forms and models such as online education and telecommuting have seen explosive growth. Internet penetration has risen significantly. The economy has become more resilient. In 2020, China's GDP stood at 101.5986 trillion, up 2.3% from the previous

SDG 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



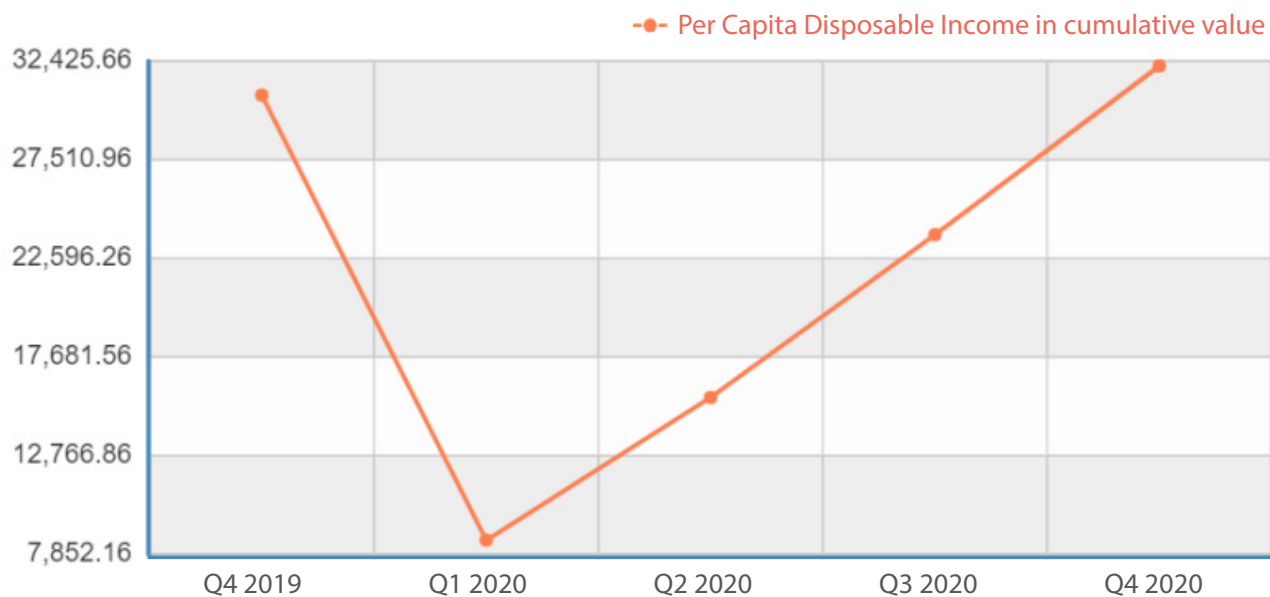
Figure 2. China's GDP Q4 2019–Q4 2020



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

year, making China the only major economy to achieve positive growth.

Figure 3. Per capita disposable income in China Q4 2019–Q4 2020



Source: National Bureau of Statistics





## **2. China's experience in securing both COVID control and socio-economic resilience**

**2.1 People First, life first.** China has put the safety of the people first and adopted the most comprehensive, strict and thorough prevention and control measures. Medical workers strove to treat and cure every patient and reduce infection rate and mortality rate. Confirmed and suspected cases were treated without charging upfront fees and the unreimbursed medical expenses were covered by the government. In the face of a raging virus, there is no higher principle than people first, nor is there a higher priority than saving lives.

**2.2 Respect and rely on science.** China has based its entire response on science, from decision-making, treatment, key technological breakthroughs to social governance. Through intensive research informed by clinical treatment and prevention and control practice, the pathogen was identified in 8 days and detection reagents were successfully developed in 16 days. Effective drugs were quickly selected from Chinese as well as Western medicine. Multiple vaccine constructs were developed at the same time. New technologies such as big data and AI were used to study epidemiological trends and carry out epidemiological surveys. The Health Code clearly indicated the risk levels of different populations and regions. Prevention and control is a scientific issue, and policies and strategies must be informed by science.

**2.3 A responsible government and a united people.** A unified central command system was promptly established, under which all local authorities and central government departments have their own clearly defined responsibilities and at the same time coordinate with each other. The Chinese people worked with one heart and one mind and scored a major strategic victory in fighting COVID-19. The Standing Committee and the CPC Politburo held 21 meetings to deliberate policy decisions. President Xi Jinping, who personally led the Central Leading Group for COVID Response, called 20 meetings in the first three months after the outbreak to lead and coordinate the prevention and control work. The State Council established multiple mechanisms for the resumption of work and production, macro-policy coordination, joint prevention and control effort, and national epidemic information release, through which it guided, coordinated and supported nationwide prevention and control and economic recovery. A strong political leadership is proven vital when faced with a pandemic. China was able to mount an extraordinary response to the extraordinary situation caused by the coronavirus, thanks to the



strong leadership, decisive actions and national unity.

**2.4 A shared community for mankind.** Throughout this pandemic, China has worked hand in hand with other countries to overcome difficulties. In the wake of the initial outbreak in China, leaders of more than 160 countries and international organizations sent messages to China to express their firm support. The international community also provided valuable material assistance to China. In an open, transparent and responsible manner, China fulfilled its international obligation by voluntarily reporting information on the outbreak as soon as possible, sharing its experience in prevention, control and treatment without reservation, and doing its best to provide assistance to the international community. The biggest revelation of the pandemic is that as mankind lives a community of shared future, public health in all countries is closely connected and solidarity and cooperation is the most powerful weapon to defeat the pandemic.

### **3. China's main contributions to global pandemic control and economic recovery**

#### **3.1 Timely sharing of information and experience**

After the outbreak, China immediately notified the World Health Organization and relevant national and regional organizations of the situation, and shared information on the genome sequence of the novel coronavirus and the sequence of its nucleic acid detection probe. Since then, information release to WHO and relevant countries has become regular and China has organized over 150 international exchanges on pandemic prevention and control. An online knowledge center opened to all countries. A white paper, *China's Action to Fight the Novel Coronavirus Epidemic*, was published and translated into multiple languages and shared with more than 180 countries and 10 international and regional organizations. China has cooperated with WHO's expert team in scientific research on origin tracing, and hosted the joint WHO-China experts mission.

#### **3.2 Help international community especially developing countries to the best of China's ability**

China has done its best to contribute to the global effort. President Xi Jinping announced a donation of additional US\$50 million to the United Nations COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, the establishment of a UNHRD hub in China, and the pairing up of Chinese hospitals with 30 African



hospitals for cooperation. China has provided WHO two cash grants of US\$50 million each to help developing countries enhance their COVID response capacity, and assisted the WHO Solidarity Response Fund to raise funds in China. China has actively provided medical assistance to other countries. By May 2021, China had provided US\$2 billion in aid to developing countries, assistance in kind to 150 countries and 13 international organizations, medical supplies such as over 280 billion masks, 3.4 billion PPEs and 4 billion test kits. Between China and Africa, there had been 41 paired hospitals; the headquarters building of the African CDC that China helped to build broke ground at the end of last year. Progress has been made in establishing the UNHRD hub. Through the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, China has lessened the debt burden of poor countries by over US\$1.3 billion, the largest sum by a G20 member.

### **3.3 Provide developing countries Chinese vaccines as a global public good**

At the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly, President Xi Jinping announced that China's COVID-19 vaccine, once developed and put into use, will be made a global public good and this will be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries. He also announced in May 2021 at the Global Health Summit that China supports its vaccine companies in transferring technologies to other developing countries and carrying out joint production with them, supports the World Trade Organization and other international institutions in making an early decision on waiving intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, and proposes an international forum on vaccine cooperation to explore ways of promoting fair and equitable distribution of vaccines around the world. China has backed up the promises with actions. After all-out efforts in vaccine research and development, five Chinese vaccines have received conditional approval or emergency use approval. Chinese vaccines have been widely recognized for their safety and efficacy and approved for use in more than 80 countries. Over 30 foreign leaders received Chinese vaccine shots. Sinopharm vaccine produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products has been granted WHO emergency use approval.

The pledges made by President Xi Jinping are being honored with active efforts. By May 2021, a total number of 300 million vaccine doses have been provided in the form of assistance to over 80 developing countries with urgent needs or exported to 43 countries. The Chinese vaccines have been developed in collaboration with over 10 countries and are being produced also in Indonesia, Brazil, UAE, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey. Leveraging its strength in industrial chain, China has helped other countries in processing and producing their vaccine products in China or locally. Under WHO's COVAX,



China announced the provision of 10 million doses of vaccine to developing countries on a priority base. Being among the first to join the WHO-sponsored Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator initiative, China maintains that vaccine is a public good and should be distributed equitably across the world. China has donated vaccine to UN peacekeepers and offered to provide vaccine to Olympic athletes in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee.

#### **Chinese Vaccines Highly Praised by International Partners**

While meeting domestic demand, China has overcome difficulties to provide vaccines to other countries, especially developing countries. More than 30 leaders, including from Cambodia, Thailand, Serbia, Hungary, Peru, Chile, Egypt, Turkey, Zimbabwe and Gabon, have received Chinese vaccine shots. Developing countries have great trust in and put great value on China's vaccines. Serbian President Vucic, Philippine President Duterte and many other foreign leaders personally went to the airport for the arrival of the first batch of Chinese vaccine. China has made positive contributions to improving vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

### **3.4 Add strong impetus to global economic recovery**

China has pursued a new development model. In the past 5 years, its contribution to global economic growth has averaged over 30% annually and it might be over 40% in 2020. In the wake of the outbreak, China was the first country to resume production, thus effectively stabilizing the global industrial chains and supply chains. The recovery of the Chinese economy has led to growth in consumption and imports. Positive growth has been registered in imports since June 2020, with the volume of imports of goods for the whole year reaching 14.22 trillion, a powerful impetus for the world economy. China has continued to open up, improve its business environment, and substantially cut the overall level of tariffs. Despite the impact of COVID-19, the China International Fair for Trade in Services and China International Import Expo went ahead, where China's development opportunities were shared with other countries. According to the OECD, China will contribute more than a third of the world's growth in 2021.

### **3.5. Build the Health Silk Road**

In June 2016, President Xi Jinping proposed the Health Silk Road, which will deepen medical and healthcare cooperation focusing on epidemic information sharing, disease prevention and control, medical rescue and relief and traditional medicines. In June 2020, in a written statement delivered at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, President Xi Jinping called for efforts to turn the Belt and Road into a platform where countries work together to overcome



challenges, protect people's health and safety, promote economic and social recovery and tap development potential. The Health Silk Road will bolster international confidence and cooperation, and contribute to a global health community. China has so far provided COVID-response assistance to more than 120 BRI partner countries, and dispatched teams of medical experts to more than 30 countries. China has established a fast-track channel for convenient entry to China for citizens of nearly 10 countries, including the Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Italy, and a green channel for smooth cross-border movement of goods with Mongolia, Luxembourg and other countries. Under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, 70 projects are going on unimpeded and several projects have been completed and gone into operation. Trade in goods and non-financial investment between China and its BRI partner countries have increased instead of decreased, giving powerful impetus to these countries' economic recovery.

#### **4. Challenges and the way forward**

Globally the coronavirus is still spreading and more infectious variants have emerged in multiple countries. In China, the virus has been curbed on the whole, but as the risk of rebound is still present, the task of prevention and control remains arduous. The Chinese government will continue to enforce prevention and control measures on a regular basis, prevent both imported cases and rebound from within, and strive for economic and social development in parallel to COVID response. China will continue to contribute to the global effort against COVID and for economic recovery.

**4.1 Accelerate vaccine rollout among all population groups.** We will make every effort to ramp up vaccine production, continue to vaccinate the population free of charge in order of priority, under the principles of informed consent and voluntarism. The top priority groups are people working in key sectors such as healthcare, transportation and education. People over 60 years of age will receive vaccine shots in a steady and orderly way. We will promote regular prevention and control measures and vaccination in parallel to create an immune barrier against COVID-19.

**4.2 Combine regular prevention and control measures and local emergency response.** We will focus on key areas and key links and improve capacity of taking science-based and targeted



measures so as to consolidate the hard-won achievements and prevent large scale incidence of imported cases and domestic rebound.

**4.3 Maintain sound economic and social development.** We will continue the necessary macro-policies to support market players facing difficulty and adjust such policies to changes, with a view to shoring up the economic fundamentals. Support will increase for dynamic and creative market players, new business forms and models spawned by the epidemic, emerging industries, and new drivers of growth, as they play a key role in improving people's lives. We will leverage the flows of the domestic economy and promote positive interplay between domestic circulation and international circulation, and in this way contribute to steady recovery and growth of the global economy.

**4.4 Build a global health community.** This vision is manifested in China's active participation in international cooperation against COVID-19, in our support to the United Nations and WHO, which play the central role in coordinating such cooperation, in our sharing of information, useful experiences and practices, and in our collaboration with other countries in detection methods, clinical treatment, vaccine and drug research and development. President Xi Jinping announced at the Global Health Summit that China will provide an additional US\$3 billion in international aid over the next 3 years to support COVID-19 response and economic and social recovery in other developing countries. In keeping with this pledge, China will continue to supply countries, especially developing ones, vaccines through assistance or exports, and collaborate with countries where certain conditions are satisfied in joint vaccine production. We will continue to take part in COVAX and promote equitable distribution of vaccines worldwide. We will work closely with all the other countries to tide over the difficulties together towards the final victory over COVID-19.

## Food Security and Rural Revitalization

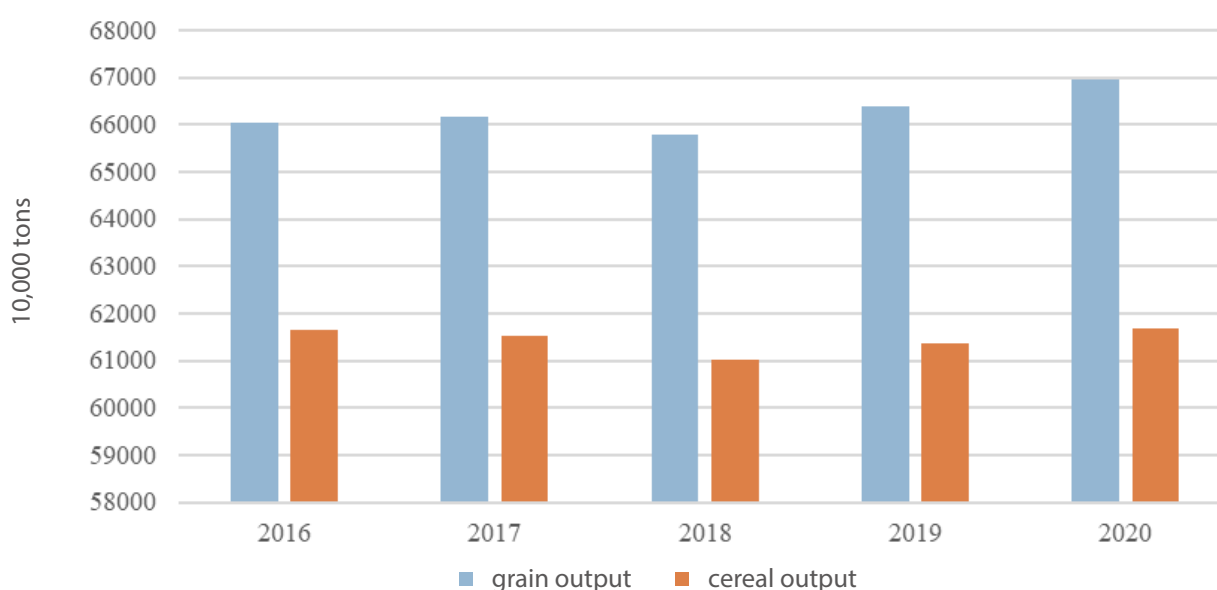
Food security is a top priority for China. It has been achieved through self-reliant agricultural production, self-sufficient food supply, the strictest farmland protection, supply-side structural reform and innovation in rural systems and mechanisms. China launched the Rural Revitalization Strategy in 2017 to promote the development of agriculture and the countryside and the wellbeing of the rural population. Steady progress has been made toward the goal of ensuring that rural communities enjoy effective governance, a robust economy, good living conditions, a culture of civility and a sound environment. China has actively participated in global governance of food and agriculture, provided assistance to other developing countries for their sustainable agricultural development under the framework of South-South cooperation and made important contributions to the realization of global food security and multiple SDGs.

### 1. Food security and sustainable agriculture

#### 1.1 Greater food security for the 1.4 billion Chinese

**There is fairly ample supply of food with improved varieties.** Total grain production in China reached 669.49 million tons in 2020, up by 1.4% from 2016, staying above the level of 650 million

Figure 1. China's grain and cereal output 2016--2020

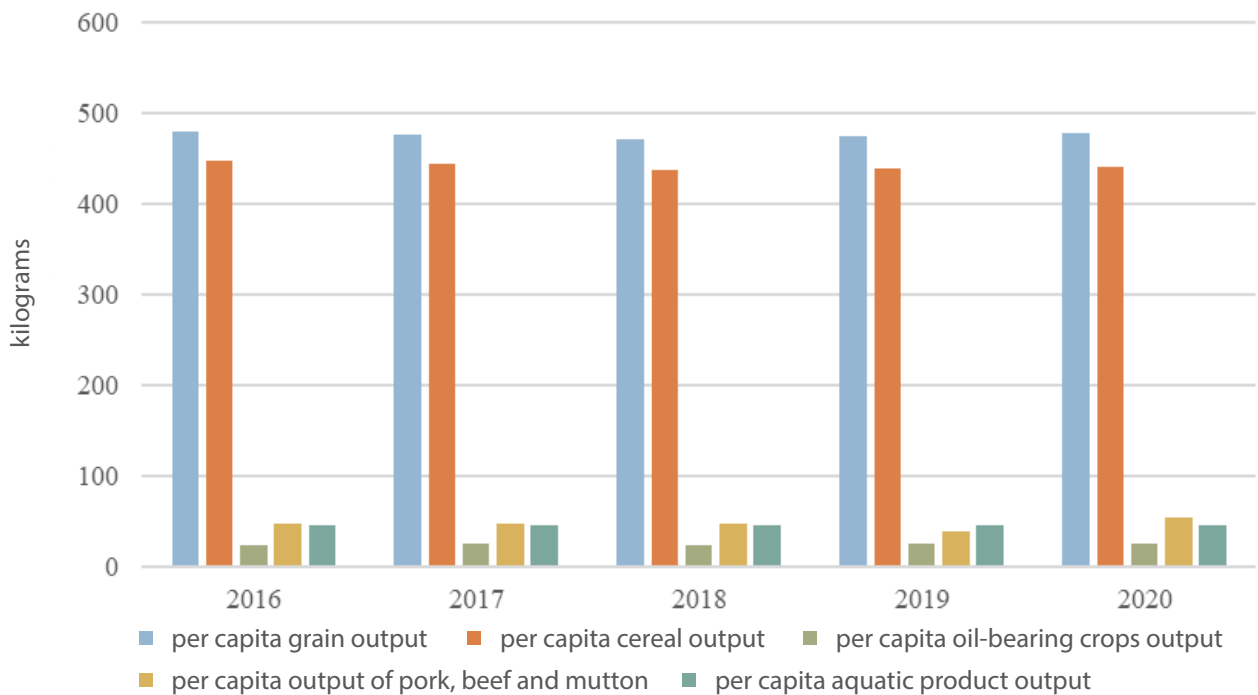


Source: China Statistical Yearbook 2020; Statistical Communiqué of the People's Republic of China on the 2020 National Economic and Social Development



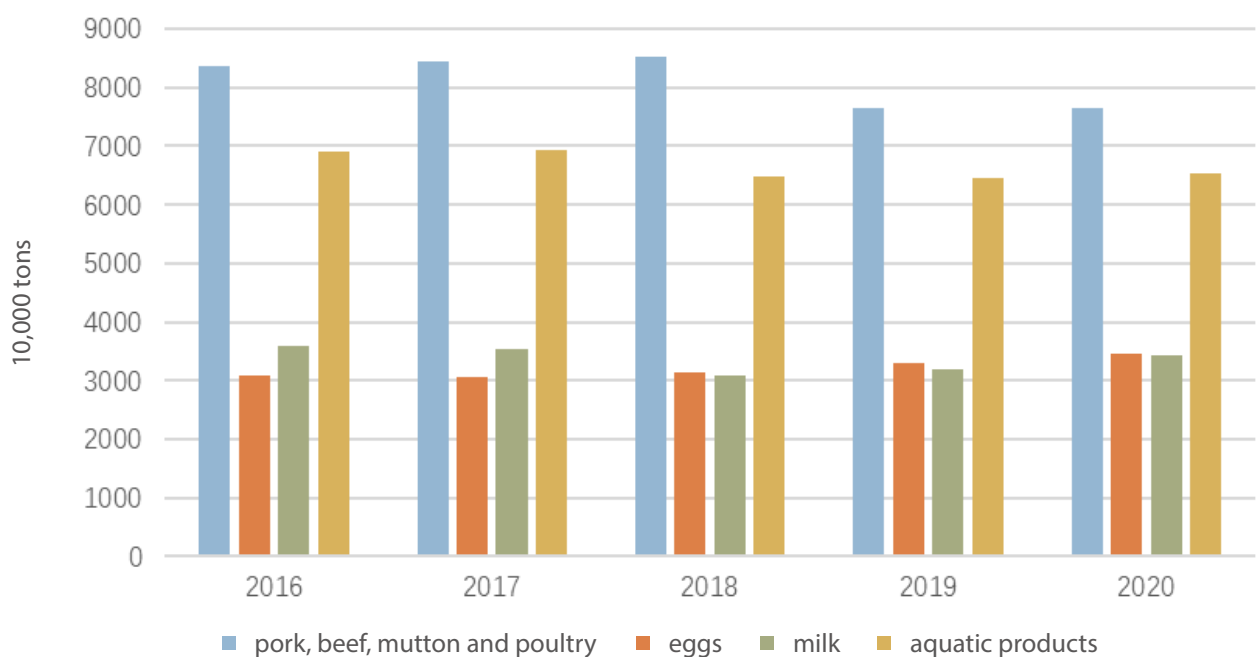


Figure 2. Per Capita Output of Main Agricultural Products in China 2016--2020



Source: China Statistical Yearbook 2020; Statistical Communiqué of the People's Republic of China on the 2020 National Economic and Social Development

Figure 3. Output of meat, eggs, dairy and aquatic products in China 2016--2020



Source: Statistical Communiqués of the People's Republic of China on the National Economic and Social Development 2016--2020



tons for 6 consecutive years. Per capita share of grain is steadily above the world level of 400 kilograms; staple food production is completely self-sufficient; over 95% of cereal demand is met with domestic production. Output of meat, eggs, dairy and aquatic products has been increasing steadily. There is a marked increase in the supply of green, quality agricultural produce. In the farming sector, a ternary structure consisting of food, economic crops and animal feed has basically taken shape.

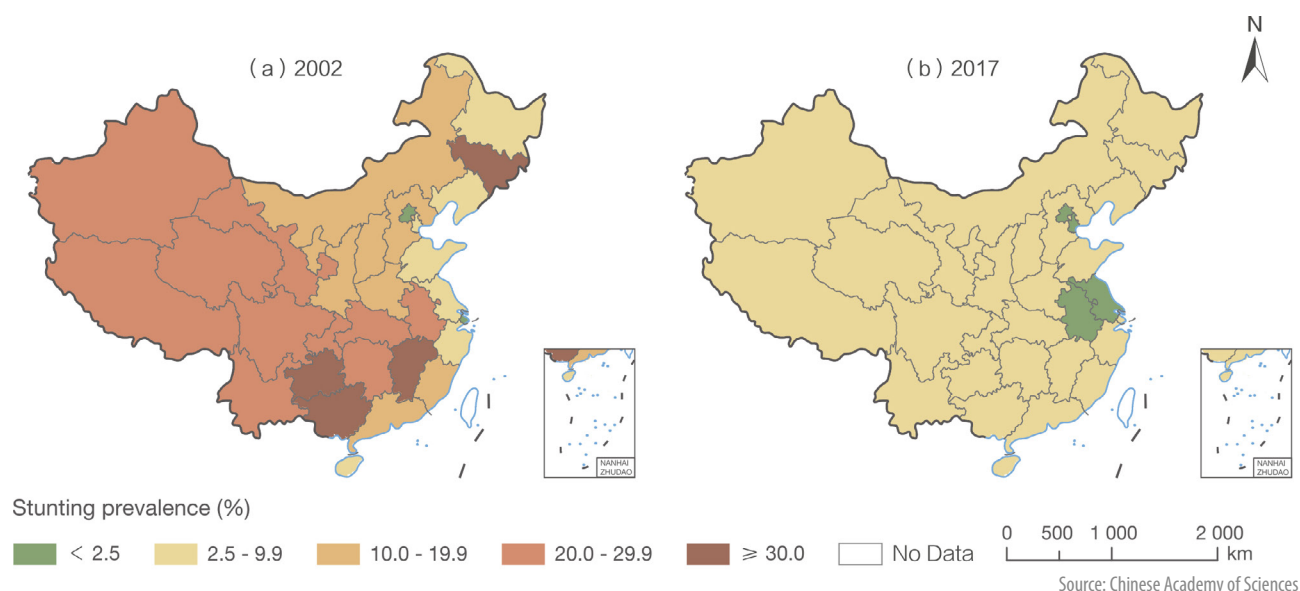
**There are a greater dietary variety for and nutritional improvement among Chinese.** The per capita direct consumption of staple food has decreased while non-staple food consumption has increased. Diet has become more diversified and healthier. The average height of adults has continued to increase, and there has been continuous improvement in the growth and development of children

SDG 2.2: end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

and adolescents. The national targets of stunting and wasting in children under 6 years of age were met in 2020, with the two rates dropping below 7% and 5% respectively. Between 2002 and 2017, stunting in children under 5 years of age dropped from 18.8% to 4.8%, with the rate decreasing from

7.8% to 3.4% in cities and from 25.6% to 5.8% in rural areas and the gap between urban and rural areas narrowing significantly (Figure 4). The anemia rate is 8.7% among Chinese aged 18 and above, 6.1% among children and adolescents aged 6 to 17 and 13.6% among pregnant women, all of which are significantly lower than in 2015.

Figure 4. Distribution of stunting in children under 5 years of age by province in 2002 (a) and 2017 (b)

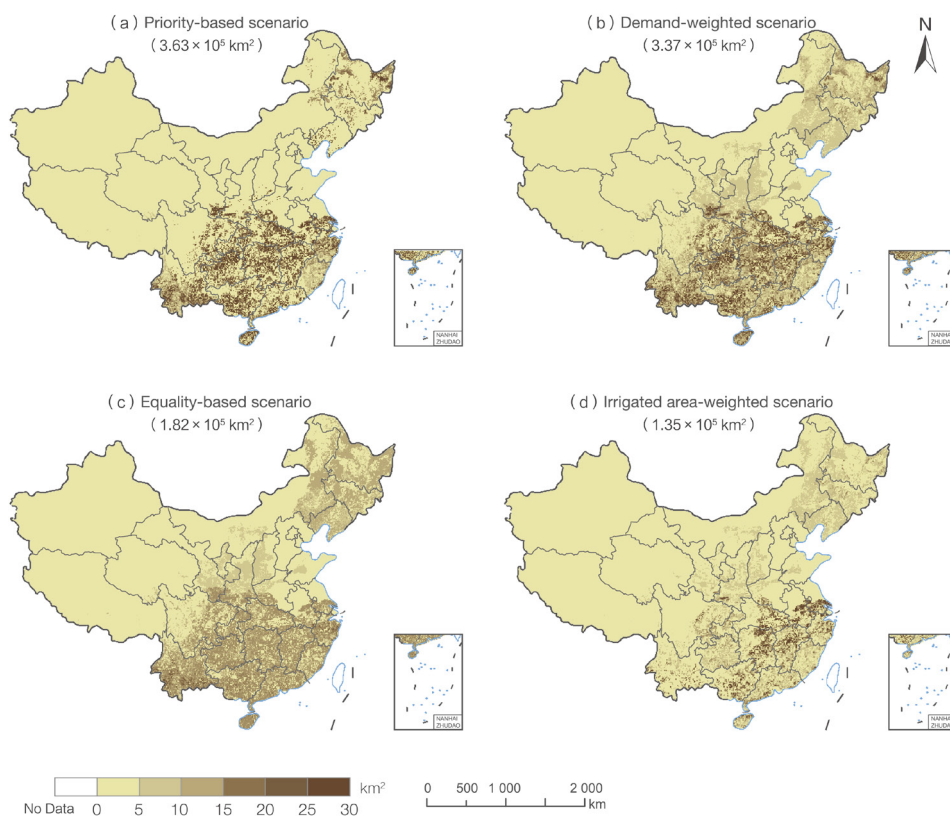


## 1.2 Agricultural modernization on fast track

**Production factors are distributed in a more equitable and efficient way.** Over 200 million farmers have got certificates confirming their right to contract land for agricultural production. The current contract period, expiring in a few years, will be extended by 30 years. This land contract responsibility system has enabled intensive

SDG 2.3: by 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Figure 5. Harvested Area Increase Potential and Water Resource Distribution Scenarios in China



Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

use of arable land and protected land as a resource. More credit has been issued to rural areas, where increasing number of farmers have access to basic financial services and credit. By the end of 2020, the balance of inclusive rural credit stood at 7.56 trillion, up 17.84% from the beginning of the year. 91.92 million rural households have taken bank loans, accounting for 34% of all rural households.



**Comprehensive production capacity has risen steadily.** The cumulative areas of high standard farmland are above 800 million *mu*; over 1 billion *mu* of farmland is effectively irrigated; yield per *mu* has increased about 100 kilograms; half of farmland is resistant to drought and water logging through irrigation or drainage facilities. There is enhanced capacity for producing improved varieties; 95% of farmland is sown to domestically developed varieties; all the main crops sown are of good varieties. In 2020, the contribution rate of scientific and technological progress to agriculture was above 60%, and the total power of agricultural machinery reached 1.028 billion kilowatts. The agricultural mechanization rate was more than 71%, and that for wheat, rice and corn above 80%. The mechanization rate in animal husbandry and aquaculture were 34% and 30% respectively.

**Market players are diverse and big ones are growing stronger.** Producers and managers of new kinds have come to the fore in agricultural production, marketing and sales, together with new business models. Large food processing enterprises have multiplied, with improved product mix and a growing proportion of deep-processing. In 2020, there were over 1 million family farms, 2.241 million rural cooperatives, over 80,000 large-scale agro-industrial businesses, 893,000 providers of agricultural services, and food manufacturers with annual sales revenue of 1.96 trillion.

**Food loss and waste is cut across all stages.** At best, it is lower than 1%, thanks to a large number of storage facilities built to high standards and introduction of new technologies<sup>9</sup>. There has been improvement in grain handling and delivery facilities, storage and efficiency of transfer, special railways and level of professionalization. With a higher concentration ratio of logistics, food loss has been effectively reduced during transportation. Efforts to stop food waste, such as the “Clean Plate” Campaign, have nurtured a culture of saving food.

### 1.3 Enhanced agricultural sustainability

**A fast transition is happening toward green production.** New models and approaches have been promoted, such as circular agriculture, water-saving agriculture, fish farming in paddy field, pig manure being turned into methane gas and fertilizer for fruit trees, and farming in forests. Water-saving techniques have been promoted including dry farming and highly efficient

<sup>9</sup> mechanical ventilation, grain cooling, circulation fumigation and grain situation monitoring and control.



irrigation facilities like sprinkler, drip irrigation and rainwater collecting cellar. The coefficient of effective water utilization in farmland irrigation exceeded 0.56 in 2020. Fertilizer use is tailored to soil situation and chemical fertilizer is replaced by organic fertilizer. Specialized services for crop disease and insect pest control are being promoted, as well as adoption of non-hazardous control measures. As a result, the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has decreased for 3 consecutive years, and their use in rice, wheat and corn has dropped to 40.2% and 40.6% respectively. The utilization of livestock and poultry manure has been promoted at the county level, with more facilities built for this purpose. Remarkable results have been achieved in using manure as fertilizer.

**Agricultural ecosystems preservation has produced tangible results.** Trials have been carried out on the system of farmland rotation and fallow. Agricultural ecosystems in fields, forests, grassland and seas are preserved with greater efforts. Forest coverage has exceeded 23%, and 56.1% of grassland is covered by a variety of vegetation. The comprehensive utilization rate of straw has reached 86.7% through action plans and the experimental subsidies on a regional basis. The use of agricultural film is regulated, with the goal of putting the whole life cycle of such film under oversight. 80% of agricultural film is recycled through the promoted use of standard mulch film, recovery machinery and recycling services. Progress has also been made in the comprehensive prevention and control of agricultural non-point source pollution and coordinated conservation of whole river basins. Fish stocks are being replenished, and a 10-year ban on fishing in key sections of the Yangtze River Basin has begun. Livestock and poultry genetic resources and agricultural and wild plant resources have been effectively protected.

#### **1.4 A good start for rural revitalization**

**Farmers' income has doubled ahead of schedule.** The per capita income of rural residents reached 17,131 in 2020, with a real annual growth rate of 6% on average during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period, hitting the doubling target one year ahead of schedule. The income growth rate has been faster than that of urban residents for 11 consecutive years, and the income gap between urban and rural residents has narrowed further.

**Rural industries have boomed.** Agricultural processing industry generated 23.2 trillion in



revenue in 2020; 10.1 million people have started their own businesses in the countryside as returnees or new comers; leisure agriculture and rural tourism have flourished; new types of agricultural business actors have come to the fore; and important steps have been taken in the transition to green agriculture.

**The living environment has improved markedly.** The three-year action plan has successfully improved rural conditions, raising the rate of access to hygienic toilets to over 68%, the proportion of administrative villages where household garbage is collected and treated to over 90% and the rate of access to tap water to 83%.

**Rural residents enjoy a rich cultural life.** Good rural customs have been preserved and practiced. 118 important items of agricultural cultural heritage have been designated, 15 of which have been designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the largest number from a single country in the world. The Chinese farmers' Harvest Festival has been celebrated for three consecutive years to promote agricultural culture. 6,819 villages have been recognized as traditional villages and 1,057 as villages with ethnic minority characteristics.

**Rural livelihood has been markedly improved.** Hardened roads have been built and bus services made available to connect all administrative villages where possible. Almost all administrative villages are covered by fiber optic and 4G networks. The weak links in public services such as education, medical care and social security have been strengthened, contributing to improved rural governance.

### **Each Village Offers a Unique Product**

The One Village One Product Project aims to help villages, or towns and counties, develop one or a few unique products and brands based on their resources or advantages. Each village will specialize in certain small and unique products that they can make well on a commercial scale and build their own brands. Such villages will become demonstrations and have a radiating effect on neighboring villages. Between 2016--2020, a total of 1,759 Chinese villages and towns were identified as demonstrations, of which 26%, or 463, were located in poverty-stricken counties on the national list. The project has effectively raised the influence and popularity of specialized villages and towns in poverty-stricken areas, and led the rapid development of local industries. In the next 3 to 5 years, China expects to see a number of specialized villages each with an output value of over 100 million. This project will further enhance the efficiency and comprehensive competitiveness of agro-business, and promote rural revitalization and agricultural modernization.



## **2. China's experience in food security and sustainable agriculture**

**2.1 Ask land for food and focus on self-reliance.** China implements the strictest policy of farmland protection and intensive use, and keeps acreage sown to grain crops stable. Farmland has been improved through agricultural infrastructure projects, sound regulation and protection, and rotation and fallow. The black soil is under special preservation. Priority is given to home-grown agro-technologies, which, together with a combination of measures, contribute to better capabilities of grain supply and disaster prevention and resistance. We strive to fill people's bowls with food made from domestically grown grain. The key to China's food security, even to economic and social development, lies in effective use of agricultural resources and food supply self-reliance.

**2.2 Ask technology for food to promote quality and efficiency.** China places great importance on scientific and technological innovation in agriculture. Support has been given to large-scale application of biological breeding, deep integration of producers, universities, academia and business, mechanization in the entire process of grain crop production, integration of agricultural machinery and agronomy, and the matching of improved varieties with better techniques. We encourage research and innovation in green technologies, and demonstration areas for integrated agricultural green technologies have been established. We are putting in place a system for preventing and controlling major crop diseases and insect pests, and putting more effort into the R&D and demonstration of key technologies and equipment for grain transportation and processing. Science and technology is proven a productive force, vital for disaster and loss reduction and production increase.

**2.3 Promote green agriculture to enhance resilience.** China has implemented the Five Major Actions to achieve a transition toward green agriculture. Equal attention is given to protecting and using agricultural resources effectively and fixing outstanding environmental problems in agriculture. Ecosystems must be preserved and rehabilitated for circular agriculture. Environmental protection must be stepped up in areas of origin so that high-quality agricultural products and food brands can develop and food safety can be ensured. We are developing a circular grain economy and green grain industry. It is unsustainable to drain the pond to get all the fish. The only path to sustainable and high-quality agriculture is the green path that balances





production, livelihood and environmental needs.

### **Promoting Green and Sustainable Agriculture**

**The Chinese government took a suite of measures to promote sustainable agriculture during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period.**

**First, the Five Major Actions were launched, including recycling of livestock and poultry manure and waste, replacing chemical fertilizers with organic fertilizers for growing fruit, vegetable and tea, treatment of straw and mulch film pollution in northeast China, and aquatic life protection especially in the Yangtze River.**

**Second, the quality and safety of agricultural products was prioritized with the establishment of a system of standards for the production of edible agricultural products and a certification system. The rate of agricultural products passing quality and safety inspections has steadily stayed over 97%. There are more than 49,200 certified green, organic or GI-tagged agricultural products.**

**Third, the first batch of 40 national agricultural sustainable development pilot demonstration zones and agricultural green development pilot areas were launched.**

**Fourth, the “Good Grain” projects were implemented, which include three sub-projects--the after-production service system, grain quality and safety inspection and monitoring system and “quality grain and oil” action plan. Since their launch in 2017, the projects have covered 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, with a total investment of more than 75 billion. They have boosted grain production, benefited farmers, nurtured a number of grain and oil brands, such as “Jilin Rice” and “Tianfu Vegetable Oil”, and addressed the problem of insufficient supply of high-quality foodstuffs.**

**2.4 Vitality through reform.** Under the accelerated supply-side structural reform of agriculture, China has improved agricultural support policies, implemented the system of holding local governments responsible for doing their share for national food security, developed agricultural markets and industries, fostered new actors in agricultural business, diversified and appropriately scaled up operations, vigorously developed market-based services for grain production, improved the grain trading system, and promoted the transformation and upgrading of the agricultural industry. Appropriate reforms and innovations that smooth out the agricultural processes are proven effective in improving the quality of food supply and increasing farmers’ income.



**2.5 Synchronized development of agriculture, rural areas and rural lives.** China has given top priority to issues concerning agriculture, the rural areas and the rural population, and regarded them as fundamental to the nation and people's wellbeing. The Rural Revitalization Strategy is an overall effort launched in the new era to bring solutions to these issues. Preference will be given to the rural areas in appointing competent officials, distribution of factors, investment and providing public services. Farmers play a big role in the Strategy which aims to safeguard their fundamental interests, promote common prosperity, accelerate agricultural modernization, boost rural industries, improve rural environment, enrich rural cultural life, improve rural governance, and raise the living standards of farmers. Food security can only be achieved when agriculture has a sound foundation, rural areas enjoy harmony and stability, and farmers live in peace and work in contentment. And these targets can only be achieved through coordinated and well-planned efforts.

### **3. China's main contributions to global food security**

**Offer a China solution.** China has actively participated in global governance in the field of food and agriculture. We have worked through such multilateral platforms as the United Nations, the G20 and BRICS to draw greater international attention to food security in developing countries and more equitable and effective global governance. President Xi Jinping called for an International Conference on Food Loss Reduction to be convened at an appropriate time, to generate the necessary political will in the international community. China has taken an active part in the UN Food Systems Summit through all of its five action tracks. A national dialogue has been convened to build consensus and contribute a Chinese solution to the Summit. We have also been deeply involved in the formulation of international agricultural trade rules, including the Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention, as well as more than 10 international standards, ranging from pesticide residues to international transportation of grain and food quarantine measures in international trade, under the World Organization for Animal Health and the International Organization for Standardization.

**Deepen the South-South Agricultural cooperation.** In 2020, President Xi Jinping announced the contribution of USD 50 million to Phase III of China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund. With the support of USD 50 million from Phase II of the Fund, more than 10 national, regional and global projects were implemented from 2015 to 2020, benefiting people in 61 countries.



By the end of 2019, China had dispatched 81 groups involving 808 agricultural technology experts to 37 Asian and African countries through multilateral and bilateral channels, built 22 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa, and rolled out cooperation projects, to train the agricultural technical force in those developing countries, and improve their capacity for food production, processing, warehousing, breeding, equipment, sustainable agriculture, and agricultural development planning.

### **Deepening South-South Cooperation**

Over the years, China has continued to deepen the South-South cooperation, not only providing large amounts of agricultural assistance to relevant countries, but also building developing countries' capacity for agricultural development. By the end of 2019, China had dispatched 81 agricultural technology missions involving 808 experts to 37 Asian and African countries, and built 22 Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centers in Africa. China helped Cambodia draw up a modern agricultural development plan. Chinese experts went to Fiji to help with fungus grass farming and Timor-Leste to improve coffee varieties. Through assistance projects, China helped Cuba, Cape Verde, Zambia and Timor-Leste improve grain storage capacity, reduce food waste after production, and increase the value added of agricultural products and farmers' income. China shared experience in integrated agricultural management with Tonga and Samoa through pilot projects on circular agriculture and sustainable development. Chinese agricultural enterprises have also done a large number of pilot projects and demonstrations to promote techniques such as variety breeding, field management, application of pesticide and fertilizer, use of agricultural machinery, processing and storage. The cotton variety Chinese developed in Sudan has passed national evaluation and is sown to more than 10 million *mu*, accounting for 93% of the cotton planting area in Sudan, benefiting 230,000 farmers. Sudan's lint output increased from less than 10,000 tons in 2009 to 130,000 tons in 2019.

**Provide emergency agricultural assistance.** Since 2016, China has provided emergency food aid to more than 50 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, benefiting over ten million people in disaster-hit areas. By the end of 2019, China, in cooperation with the World Food Program and through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, had provided food aid to 24 countries, helping ensure food security of the most vulnerable groups there. China has also provided timely assistance to Laos, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Iran and other countries to help them overcome natural disasters such as locust plague and rapidly restore agricultural production.

**Promote high-quality development of agricultural trade.** We have gradually expanded market access for agricultural imports and investment, strengthened coordination with our



agricultural trading partners on technical trade measures, and promoted mutual recognition of non-tariff measures and technical standards, with a view to making agricultural products and factors of production flow more smoothly. Leveraging China's enormous agricultural market, plus the great potential, we have promoted two-way investment in agriculture, expanded trade in agricultural services, and made the economic and trade aspect and scientific and technological aspect more balanced in agricultural cooperation.

## 4. Challenges and the way forward

China's agriculture is defined by a large population, limited land and scarce water. It is constrained by and also puts strain on resources and the environment, very seriously in some regions. It will take strenuous, long-term efforts to address these issues and fully achieve green agriculture. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the external uncertainties and instability China faces. Given these difficulties, China must blaze a new trail of high-quality agricultural development, thus ensuring food security and rural revitalization. In this way, China will also contribute to global food and agriculture governance and the achievement of relevant SDGs. To this end, China will take the following steps.

**4.1 Improve food supply and quality through farm land protection and technology.** We will keep grain output above 1.3 trillion *jīn*<sup>10</sup> on the strength of well-maintained farmland and technologies, giving priority to seeds and land. We will improve water conservancy facilities, mechanization, and deepened supply-side structural reform in agriculture. We will press ahead with the Good Grain projects<sup>11</sup>, coupled with an improved system covering grain production, purchase, storage, processing and sales, to promote agricultural varieties, enhance quality, create successful brands and advance standardized production.

**4.2 Accelerate green agricultural development to enhance sustainability.** We will continue to implement the Five Major Actions, accelerate technological innovation, build pilot areas for green agriculture, develop water-saving and dry farming, protect and restore agricultural ecosystems, reduce agricultural carbon emission and promote green, high-

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<sup>10</sup> *Translator's Note:* "jīn" is a weight measurement unit equal to 0.5 kilogram.

<sup>11</sup> They include giving priority to high-quality grain in production, purchase, storage, process and sales; coordinating the industry chain, supply chain and innovation chain; and upgrading green storage, improvement of supply quality, marketing of grain and oil brands, traceability, processing and equipment and emergency response.



quality development. A long-term national storage of crop germplasm resources and a medium-term germplasm resources nursery will be built to raise the level of national breeding and seed production bases.

**4.3 Consolidate results in poverty alleviation and promote rural revitalization.** Agriculture and rural areas will modernize at a faster pace through deepened rural reform and an improved rural governance system. More support will be given to industrial upgrading, employment and public services in rural areas that have gotten rid of poverty, to prevent their return to poverty on any significant scale. Such support will also boost rural industries, preserve rural environment, and promote the integrated development of urban and rural areas.

**4.4 Step up international agricultural cooperation.** We will continue to participate in global food and agriculture governance and promote positive outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit and the International Conferences on Food Loss and Waste. We will deepen the South-South agricultural cooperation, promote the making of international trade rules for agriculture, and achieve high-quality development. China will continue to do its utmost to support and help other developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, in food security and sustainable agricultural development, building a community of shared future and development without hunger.

# Infrastructure Connectivity and Sustainable Transportation

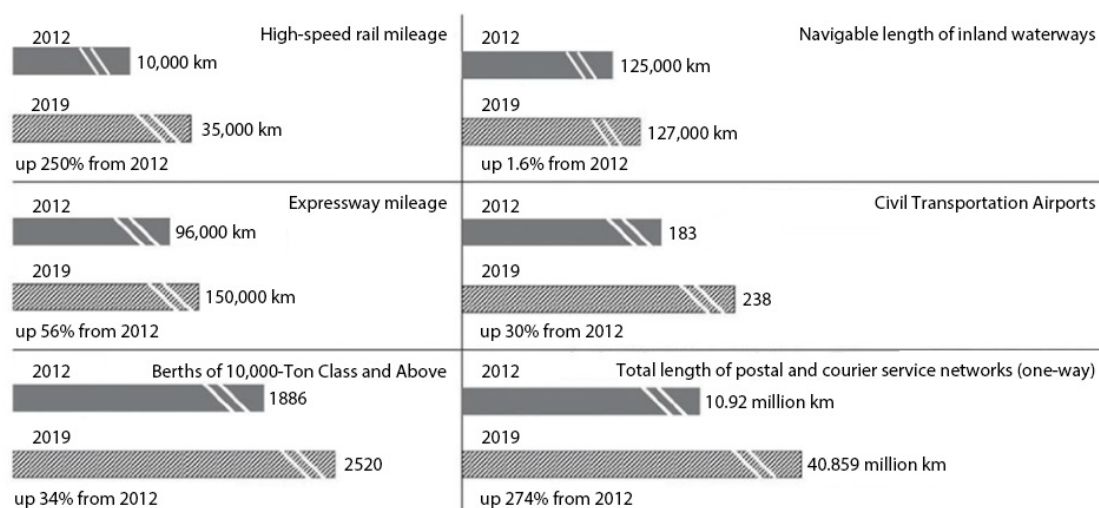
China attaches great importance to infrastructure connectivity. Through top-level design and planning, and increased investment, infrastructure has constantly improved, become resilient and played a bigger role in serving economic development and livelihood. It has expanded to even outlying areas, ending patchy coverage and forming a network accessible to the masses. Transportation service in particular has leapfrogged. President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, twice attended its high-level Forum for International Cooperation and drew a blueprint for it. It has become a well-received international public good. Through the BRI, China has helped countries to break their infrastructure bottlenecks, improve regional trade and investment environment, and create drivers for development. This has added strong impetus to the achievement of relevant SDGs in the world.

## 1. Progress in infrastructure connectivity

### 1.1 More complete infrastructure networks

**A comprehensive, three-dimensional transportation network.** Transportation infrastructure has been developing fast (Figure 1) into a comprehensive, three-dimensional network that plays a big role in supporting the sustained, rapid and healthy economic and social development. China ranks first in mileage of expressways and the number of berths at 10,000-ton wharves,

Figure 1. Rapid development of Transportation infrastructure



Source: White Paper on Sustainable Transportation Development in China, 2020



and among the first in the volume of passenger and cargo transportation as well as turnover by railway, highway, waterway and civil aviation. Seamless connection is available between modes of transportation, such as high-speed rail, urban passenger transport, rail transit, and civil aviation. The main framework of the comprehensive transportation network is taking shape, linking east with west, north with south, China with the world, making the flow of people and goods convenient and smooth.

**Improved urban transportation infrastructure network.** By the end of 2019, China's urban roads had totaled 459,000 km, with a per capita road area of 17.36 square meters. A well-structured urban road network, consisting of expressways, arterial roads, and auxiliary roads, is being developed. Green mobility has been promoted through the spatial layout of roads, special operations to clean up sidewalks, and designation of bike lanes.

**Accelerated development of communications infrastructure and Internet applications.**

China has consistently ranked first in the number of internet users. Every village in the country has telephone services, and every township has Internet access. By the end of 2020, the three basic telecommunications operators had 484 million fixed broadband subscribers and 1.35 billion mobile broadband subscribers, the latter accounting for 84.6% of mobile phone subscribers.

SDG 5.B: enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

**Faster progress in energy infrastructure networking.** There is basically a multi-wheel system for energy production, encompassing coal, oil, gas, electricity, nuclear, new and renewable energies (Figure 2). Power supply capacity has continued to grow, with a cumulative installed

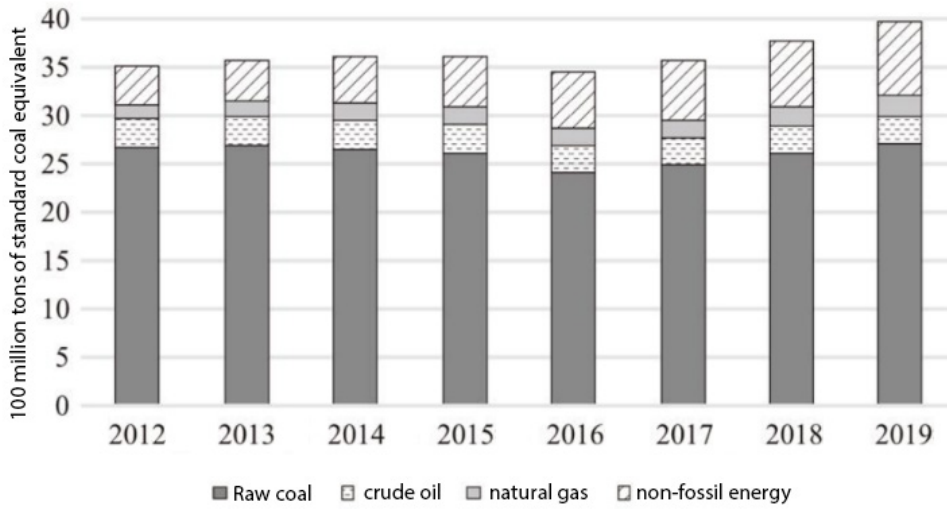
SDG 7.1: ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

SDG 7.2: increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

capacity of 2.01 billion kilowatts and 7.5 trillion kilowatts generated in 2019, representing increases of 75% and 50% respectively over 2012. Energy transmission capacity has improved significantly, with expanding grid coverage. By the end of 2020, all counties had been connected to large power grids, and basically all rural areas had access to stable and reliable power supply.



Figure 2. Power production in China (2012-2019)

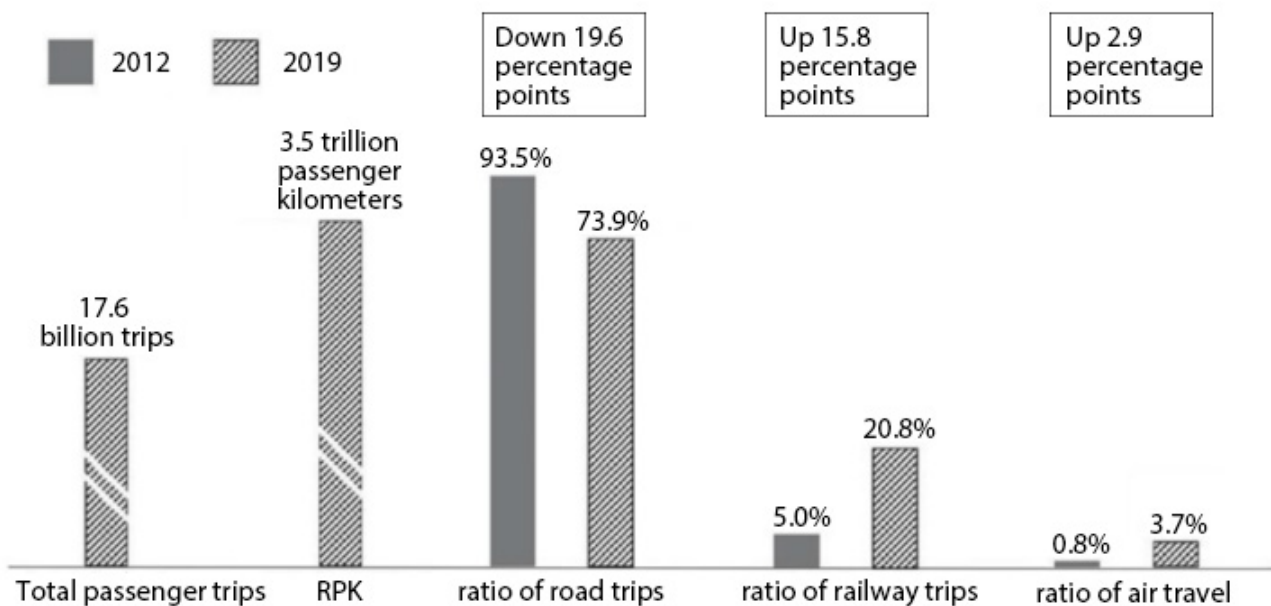


Source: White Paper on China's Energy Development in the New Era, 2020

## 1.2 Better Infrastructure Services

**High-quality public mobility needs are met.** Passenger transportation has become more specialized, capable of providing personalized services, and become better structured, with medium and long-distance passenger flow gradually shifting from roads to high-speed rail and flights (Figure 3). By the end of 2019, 12 billion passenger trips had been made by EMU trains, accounting for 65.4% of railway passenger trips, up from 4.5% in 2007.

Figure 3. Current passenger transportation services



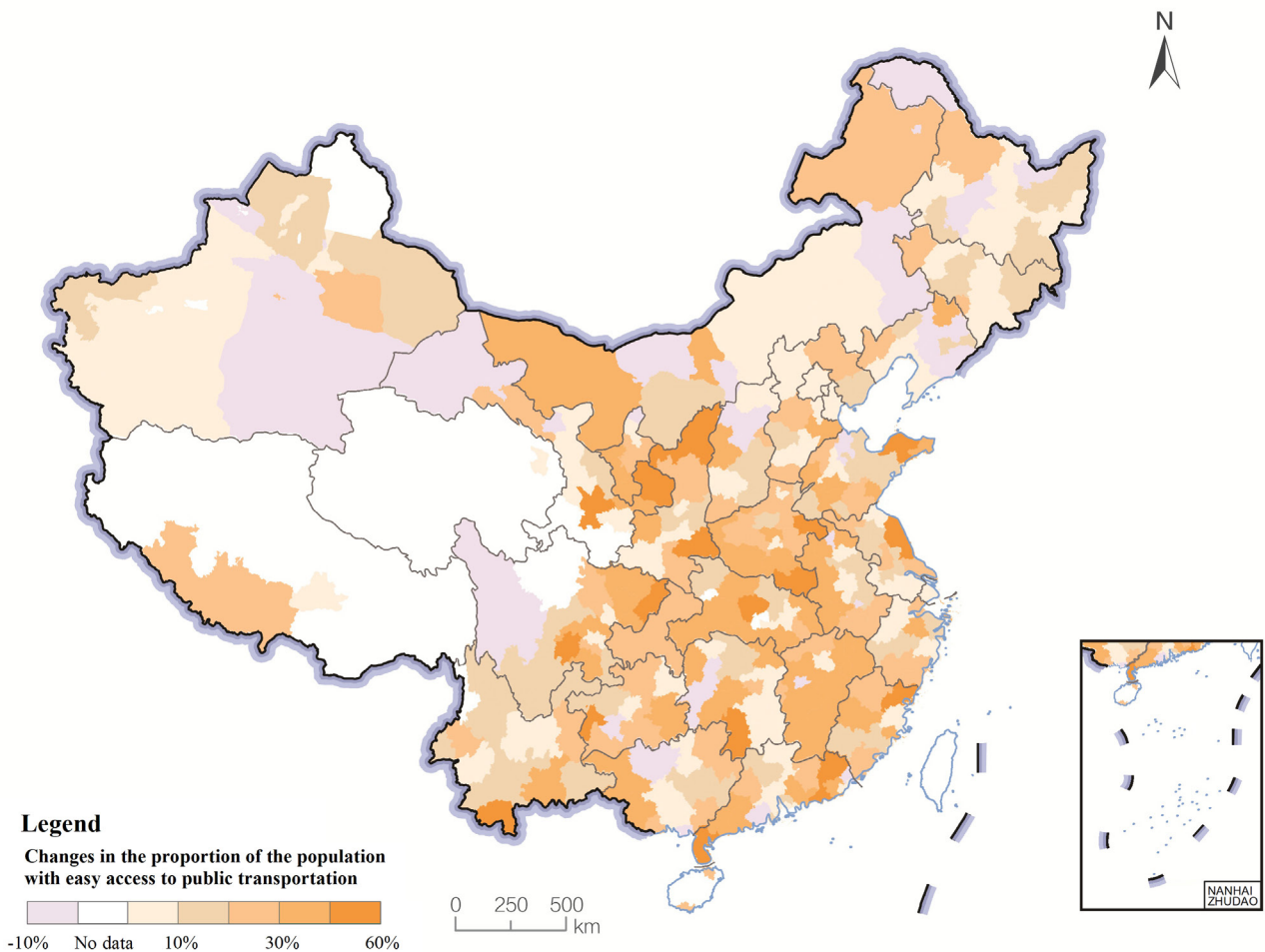
Source: White Paper on Sustainable Transportation Development in China, 2020



**Urban public transportation continues to strengthen as a priority.** In 2018, 80.56% of the population in urban built-up areas had access to convenient public transportation (Figure 4). By the end of 2019, 40 cities nationwide had urban rail transit lines, with an operating length of 6,172.2 km (figure 5).

SDG 11.2: by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Figure 4. Changes in SDG Indicator 11.2.1 in prefecture-level cities 2015-2018

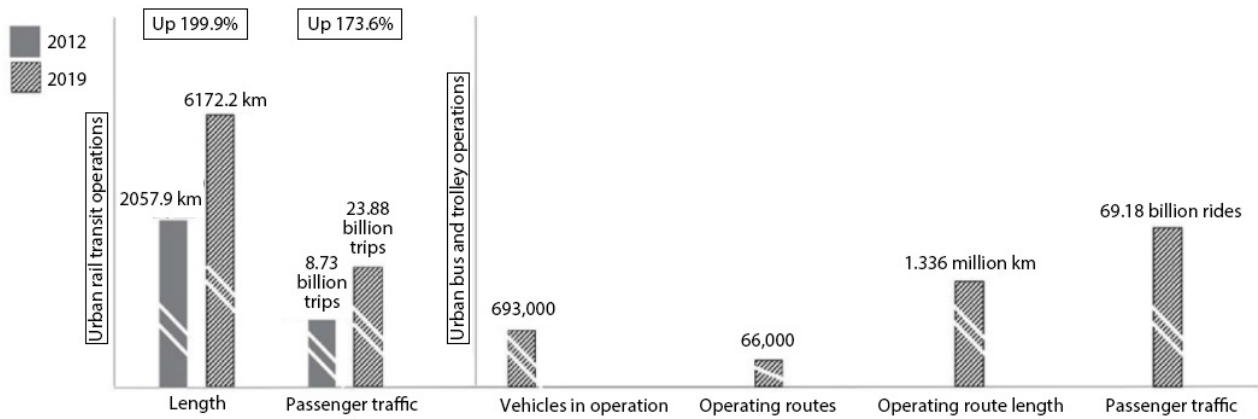


Source: Chinese Academy of Sciences

**Stronger cargo transportation capacity.** The freight transportation has become better structured, more efficient, less costly, and more environment-friendly. Railway traffic volume as a share of total transportation volume has been increasing. Port cargo throughput, container throughput and courier service volume all rank first in the world. (Figure 6)

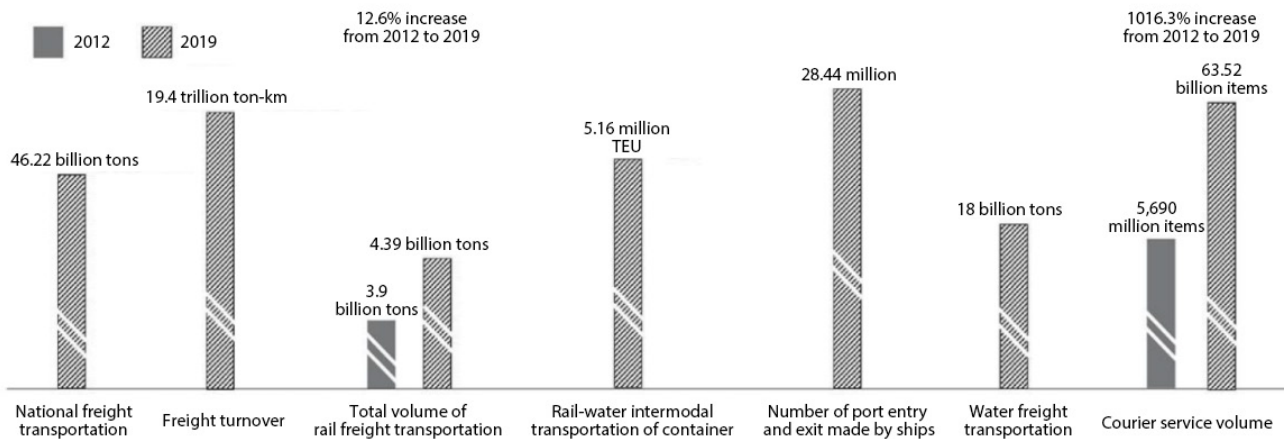


Figure 5. Current urban public transit



Source: White Paper on Sustainable Transportation Development in China, 2020

Figure 6. Current freight transportation service



Source: White Paper on Sustainable Development of Transportation in China, 2020

### China's High-Speed Rail

China has developed a complete system of high-speed rail technologies that is overall advanced in the world, with leading technologies in some areas. By the end of 2019, China's high-speed rail network had a length of more than 35,000 kilometers, accounting for over two-thirds of the world's total, reducing travel time between adjacent large- and medium-sized cities to between 1 and 4 hours and travel time within a city cluster to between half to 2 hours. This network has 8 north-south trunk routes and 8 east-west ones. Under this structure, major cities are connected by world class high-speed rails, such as Beijing-Tianjin, Shanghai-Nanjing, Beijing-Shanghai, Beijing-Guangzhou, and Harbin-Dalian, with a designed speed of 350 kilometers per hour, on which a total length of 7.5 billion kilometers of safe trips have been made. In 2019, 2.36 billion CRH train trips were made. China's high-speed rails not only represent the "China Speed", but also drive high-quality economic development, and make people's lives better.



### 1.3 Enhanced infrastructure innovation and level of green development

**Major breakthroughs made in infrastructure and transportation equipment.** China has leading technologies in building high-speed railways, building highways under special geological conditions, constructing offshore deep-water ports, managing waterway systems, and constructing large-scale airports. The intelligent high-speed rail technology, fully domestically developed, is used on all CR trains with speed ranging from 160-350 km/h. A breakthrough has been achieved in 300-meter saturation diving. China's first large jetliner C919 has successfully completed its maiden flight.

**New modes of transportation burgeoning.** The Internet+ model has profoundly changed the way of mobility. By the end of 2019, ride-hailing services were available in more than 400 cities nationwide, with an average daily use of 20 million times; on average bicycle sharing services were used 45.7 million times a day. Internet applications have changed freight transportation, helping with the handling of 85% of rail freight operations. In 2019, more than 3.57 billion passenger tickets were sold through the 12306 Internet ticketing system, and electronic passenger tickets were accepted basically in all stations.

**Low-carbon transportation promoted.** China's railway electrification rate is 74.9%. The annual consumption of locomotive fuel oil has dropped from a peak of 5.83 million tons to 2.31 million tons, equivalent to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 12.56 million tons per year. The stock of new energy vehicles accounts for more than half of the world's total. All major container terminals have completed the shift from petroleum to electricity. During the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period, carbon dioxide emissions intensity of transportation decreased by 7.5%.

## 2. China's experience in infrastructure development

**2.1 Make transportation a priority.** Given the role of transportation as a prerequisite for economic development, China has made it a priority and made sure that its development is appropriately faster than the economy so that any additional demand in the future can be met readily. New forms of internet-enabled business are made a new driver of economic development. Experience has proven "building a road is the first step toward becoming better-



off". Infrastructure development should be aligned with a country's major development strategy, and happen early and at a faster pace so that it will be able to support and even drive economic and social development.

**2.2 Follow the new development philosophy.** China is building a modern comprehensive system that provides safe, convenient, efficient, green and economical transportation, in the context of supply-side structural reform, the rule-of-law and encouraging new business forms. China is also working to increase connectivity with other countries and facilitate international transportation mainly through the BRI. China's experience shows that infrastructure and sustainable transportation can add strong impetus to economic and social development, when their potential is unlocked through reform and opening-up, by the joint functions of the market and government, and via international cooperation on infrastructure connectivity.

**2.3 Meet people's needs through participatory social governance.** In China, it is the needs of the people that determines how infrastructure is planned, designed, constructed and used. Transportation management involves the public, balances equity and efficiency, gives full consideration to the needs of various groups and promotes equal access to basic public services in both urban and rural areas. Infrastructure is proven vital to the well-being of the people. We should focus on strengthening areas of weakness so that people can fully enjoy the dividends of infrastructure development.

**2.4 Achieve sustainable transportation through innovation.** China has made continuous effort to improve the policy environment and foster talent for innovation, in order to upgrade the construction and technology level of transportation infrastructure, and make the transportation systems more resilient. We have also been promoting industries of the digital economy and sharing economy, building new, smart transportation ecosystems, developing both traditional and new infrastructure as new drivers for the digital economy. In the digital economy era, it is essential to build innovatively a modern infrastructure system that is highly efficient, economical, intelligent, green, safe and reliable.

### **3. China's main contributions to global infrastructure connectivity**

**3.1 Add impetus to "hard" connectivity in global transportation infrastructure.** Under the BRI, international cooperation has boomed. The Mombasa-Nairobi railway and Addis Ababa–



Djibouti railway went into operation. By the end of 2020, there had been over 33,000 freight train trips between China and Europe, connecting 98 cities in 21 European countries, effectively raising the level of infrastructure and connectivity. A connectivity structure composed of 6 corridors, six types of routes, multiple countries, and multiple ports has essentially taken shape. A comprehensive and multi-tiered infrastructure network focusing on railways, highways, shipping and aviation is emerging fast, contributing to lower transaction and logistics costs and more smooth flow and allocation of resources across regions.

### **A Golden route that connects hearts**

The China-Europe freight trains are operated by China Railway, with fixed train numbers, lines, and schedules, running between China and Europe and countries along the Belt and Road. Between 2015 and 2020, a total of 33,184 train trips had been made, giving a strong impetus to China's economic and trade cooperation with the countries along the routes and receiving warm praise from the countries along the routes.

Thanks to the China Railway express train service, since 2014 the number of Chinese companies has increased from 40 to more than 100 in Duisburg, Germany, creating thousands of jobs, according to Johannes Pflug, Duisburg's representative for China affairs. Many jobs related to China-Europe trains, such as truckers, have become popular and places in Duisburg associated with the trains have even become tourist attractions, says Pflug.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 disrupted international air routes, highways and water transportation, the China Railway express has become the main channel of imports and exports, playing an important role in promoting international anti-COVID cooperation, maintaining stable supply chains and promoting global economic development. In 2020, the China Railway express offered safe and reliable services, transporting 1.135 million TEU of goods on 12,406 trips. Both volume and number of train trips were up 56% and 50% respectively on the year despite the negative impact of COVID-19. Special trains were launched to deliver COVID prevention and control materials, transporting 9.39 million such items weighing 76,000 tons.

**3.2 Effectively promote “Soft” connectivity in international transportation.** China has been working for connectivity in 3 particular aspects: policies, rules and standards of transportation. China has signed 22 international road transportation facilitation agreements with 19 countries to remove non-physical barriers that impede international transportation and trade, and 70 bilateral and regional maritime transportation agreements with 66 countries and regions, with maritime transportation services covering all coastal states along the routes. There are agreements with 26 countries and regions on unilateral or bilateral recognition for seafarers’



certificates, an international railway cooperation mechanism for China-Europe freight train service, and postal cooperation documents with 22 countries. China has signed bilateral governmental air transportation agreements with 100 countries, and signed regional air transportation agreements with ASEAN and the EU. China and the countries along the Belt and Road are closer, with more exchanges and converging interests. Soft connectivity has enabled countries and regions to make the best use of their resources and achieve shared development through full integration into global supply chains, industrial chains and value chains.

**3.3 Digital Silk Road promotes leapfrog development.** President Xi Jinping proposed in 2017 to strengthen cooperation in such frontier areas as digital economy, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and quantum computing, and to promote big data, cloud computing and smart cities and turn them into a Digital Silk Road of the 21st century. The Digital Silk Road has created new demand and supply and stimulated consumption along the Belt and Road. After a few years' efforts, international cables now connect over 70 countries and regions, forming an information superhighway linking Eurasia, Central Asia, Russia, Mongolia, Southeast Asia and South Asia. China has been building the Information Harbor with ASEAN and cross-border cable with Russia, Pakistan and other countries, with steady progress in practical digital cooperation. China and relevant countries have jointly launched the Belt and Road Digital Economy International Cooperation Initiative. The Silk Road e-commerce cooperation platform has continued to expand, with partner countries across five continents. UnionPay mobile payment is available at more than 15 million businesses from nearly 40 BRI countries and regions, making it possible for more people to enjoy the benefits of and seize the opportunities from the digital economy.

**3.4 Green Silk Road promotes sustainable transportation and green development across the world.** Green infrastructure is a key component of the Green Silk Road President Xi Jinping has proposed, and also an area where China's effort has led to significant progress. The Mombasa-Nairobi railway was built with minimum impact on ecosystems and the environment; the Nairobi-Malaba railway, in its first phase, has followed a green approach and produced both environmental and economic benefits. China, together with the UNDP and UNIDO, has launched the Belt and Road Green Lighting Initiative and Green Cooling Initiative. The renewable energy power plants built by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan, Kazakhstan and other countries have



produced positive effect.

### Promoting the Green Silk Road

With a strong commitment to green development, China has worked with BRI partner countries to build a Green Silk Road, as part of the effort to implement the 2030 Agenda.

First, there have been strong policy incentives with the adoption by the Chinese government of *Vision and Actions on Jointly Building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road* in 2015, which calls for strengthening cooperation on the environment, biodiversity and climate change, *Guidance on Promoting Green Belt and Road* and *Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan* in 2017. In 2019, China announced that green is to become a defining feature of Belt and Road cooperation.

Third, green investment is promoted. The BRI Green investment principles adopted by Chinese and UK organizations in 2018 has expanded its membership. As of April 2021, it had 39 signatories and 11 supporters from 14 countries around the world.

Fourth, we have strengthened capacity-building in relevant countries. The Green Silk Road Envoy Program provides training to developing countries in green development. The Belt and Road Climate Change South-South Cooperation Program establishes low-carbon demonstration zones in relevant countries to raise their ability to cope with climate change.

Fifth, we cooperate through projects, such as the Mombasa-Nairobi railway that China built with minimum impact on ecosystems and the environment, and the Nairobi-Malaba railway in the first phase that produces both environmental and economic benefits thanks to a green approach. China, together with multilateral institutions such as the UNDP and UNIDO, has launched the Belt and Road Green Lighting Initiative and Green Cooling Initiative. The renewable energy power plants China has built or invested in in countries such as Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates have produced positive effect. Green financial instruments are making a greater impact with the issue of the world's first green Belt & Road Inter-bank Regular Cooperation bond and the Belt and Road Green Finance Investment Index developed by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and the Belt and Road Green Investment Fund jointly initiated by China Everbright Group and foreign financial institutions.

**3.5 Energy connectivity "expressway" benefits people of multiple countries.** Effort is accelerated to construct a global smart grid that focuses on UHV transmission and also comprises power grids at different levels. China's electricity grid is already connected with those of neighboring countries such as Laos, Russia, Myanmar and Vietnam. By the end of 2020, the interconnected power grid between China and neighboring countries had a total capacity of about 2.6 million kilowatts. The north and middle sections of the China-Russia eastern oil and

gas pipeline have been completed and put into operation, further boosting the interconnection of regional pipelines.

## 4. Challenges and the way forward

China has entered a new stage of development where the new development philosophy and pattern require better transportation and they also provide new room for its development. As people have diverse, multi-tiered and multi-faceted aspirations for a better life, the demand for transportation services is more robust and diversified. Transportation faces revolutionary changes brought by new waves of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. China will continue to develop infrastructure in a coordinated way, promote sustainable transportation, and deepen international cooperation on connectivity in order to give strong support to China's economic development and post-COVID global recovery.

SDG 9.C: significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in least developed countries by 2020

**4.1 Build advanced transportation.** Our goal is to build a modernized comprehensive transportation system that integrates various means of transportation into efficient networks. City clusters will be conveniently linked by intercity railway, commuter rail, expressway loops, and urban rail transit. Postal facilities will be strengthened to extend courier services to villages, factories and overseas.

**4.2 Develop new infrastructure.** We will speed up large-scale deployment of 5G network and start developing in advance 6G technologies. Basic networks in medium and small cities in central and western China will be improved. There will be an all-out effort to develop the Internet of Things and to allow access by both fixed-line and mobile devices through narrowband as well as broadband. We will accelerate the building of a national integrated big data center system, build a number of national hub nodes and clusters of big data centers, and build exascale and 10x exascale supercomputing centers. Traditional infrastructure such as transportation, energy and municipal services will be digitalized at a faster pace.

**4.3 Promote international connectivity.** We will promote high-quality Belt and Road



cooperation and foster a global connectivity partnership. An interconnected network will emerge, encompassing at the very top economic corridors such as the New Eurasian Land Bridge, then trunk routes such as the China-Europe freight railway and the new western land-sea corridor and the information superhighway and at the bottom railways, ports and pipe networks. The focus will be on key corridors and key cities, major cooperation projects and the Green Silk Road and the Digital Silk Road, to promote connectivity and sustainable economic and social development in the relevant countries and regions.



## **Chapter III Main Experience**



China's tremendous achievements in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are attributable to the strong leadership of the CPC, the superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and the comprehensive deepening of reform and opening-up. They are also ascribable to the joint efforts of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups. Meanwhile, China firmly supports multilateralism and works actively to foster a new type of global development partnership that is more equitable and balanced. We have taken an active part in international development cooperation, deepened South-South cooperation and contributed to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. What China has achieved over the past five years may provide useful reference to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## **1. A firm political will**

A firm political will is a prerequisite for implementation. With a people-centered development philosophy, the CPC has always made its goal to work for the aspirations of the people for a better life, with strong political will to provide all people with better education, more secure jobs, more satisfactory incomes, more reliable social security, better healthcare, more comfortable living conditions and a better environment. To implement the SDGs is part of the effort to meet this goal.

The 2030 Agenda had been fully integrated into China's 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan and other medium- and long-term national development strategies, broken down into concrete tasks of economic and social development and environmental protection. This national implementation effort was then translated into provincial 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plans. The 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan has again made SDGs an important part of China's economic and social development, giving strong policy support to their implementation in the next five years.

Globally, China has promoted the 2030 Agenda through international cooperation, such as an action plan under the G20, a synergy between the BRI and the 2030 Agenda, efforts within the BRICS, APEC, China-ASEAN, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and other multilateral mechanisms.

To implement the 2030 Agenda, the international community must also demonstrate a firm political will, give priority to development, strengthen means of implementation, push for synergy between implementation and multilateral and regional development strategies, and take joint actions. In this process, developing countries must be given attention to for the special difficulties they face, so as to



strive for the best result that no country is left behind. Countries should align their implementation with their national development strategies, and take a whole-of-government approach where horizontally all government departments are involved and vertically central and local governments are well coordinated.

## **2. A development philosophy highly compatible with the 2030 Agenda**

China's development philosophy is in harmony with the 2030 Agenda, and it is the solid foundation for China's implementation effort. Proposed by President Xi Jinping in October 2015 at the fifth plenary session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the CPC, this philosophy is about innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. It has ushered in a new journey toward high-quality development. It has also become the guiding principle in China's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China prioritizes innovation as a driver for development. Innovation has been promoted in theory, system, science and technology, culture and many other areas, to improve the quality and efficiency of development.

China strives for holistic, balanced development, by coordinating different regions, balancing urban and rural areas, placing equal importance on material wealth creation and a rich cultural life, and synchronizing new industrialization, informatization, urbanization and agricultural modernization.

China pursues green development. A basic state policy is to conserve resources and protect the environment. We have mounted an active response to climate change and endeavored to improve the environment and ecosystems, in a comprehensive green transformation.

China is committed to openness and win-win development. Through the BRI and other initiatives, we have helped other countries, especially developing countries, with their implementation. Development should be shared. China has worked to provide its people with equal opportunities, better lives and common prosperity. At the same time, China has shared development achievements, as well as experience, with other countries, with a view to jointly



building a community of shared future for mankind.

The new development philosophy is in keeping with the trend of our times — sustainable development, consistent with the way the economy and society develop, and highly compatible with “People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership” that the 2030 Agenda focuses on. It is a useful experience for other countries to draw on when choosing a path toward the 2030 Agenda implementation that is suited to their national conditions and development experiences.

### **3. Effective implementation mechanisms**

Political will and development philosophy cannot be translated into results without effective implementation mechanism. China was among the first to establish an inter-ministerial mechanism to ensure implementation of the 2030 Agenda through coordination among 45 ministries. For the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, relevant ministries are lead agencies, and local governments assume the main responsibility of implementation, thus forming an effective structure comprising the central, local and primary levels.

China has created a favorable overall environment for the implementation by deepening the supply-side structural reform, and pressed ahead with reforms to streamline administration and delegate power, improve regulation, and upgrade services. We have established the world’s largest social security system, and provided living allowances for impoverished persons with disabilities and nursing allowances for persons with severe disabilities, so as to ensure that no one is left behind. We have been working to establish SDGs innovation demonstration zones to accumulate scalable and replicable experience for implementation.

China has continuously improved policies and laws for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A series of important policy documents have been issued, including on poverty eradication, agricultural and rural development, Healthy China 2030, ecological conservation reform, and ecological and environmental protection during the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan period. These national policies have been supported by sectoral and local policies. New laws have been adopted, such as the Civil Code, the E-commerce Law, the Law on the Protection of the Yangtze River and the Vaccine Administration Law; several laws have been amended, including the Drug Administration Law, the Environmental Protection Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of





Atmospheric Pollution and the Law on the Protection of Minors. Together they form a supportive legal environment for economic and social development.

To implement the 2030 Agenda, countries should adopt working mechanisms suited to their national conditions and create favorable policy and legal environments by removing barriers. Decisions should be well thought out. Efforts should be made to ensure cross-sectoral and cross-agency coordination as well as top-down policy implementation.

#### **4. A broad social consensus**

To implement the 2030 Agenda, countries should adopt working mechanisms suited to their national conditions and create favorable policy and legal environments by removing barriers. Decisions should be well thought out. Efforts should be made to ensure cross-sectoral and cross-agency coordination as well as top-down policy implementation.

China encourages all types of businesses to fulfill their social responsibilities through participation in poverty alleviation and public interest programs, and to accelerate transition to a green and low-carbon economy. A larger part of the business sector has embraced sustainable development in their operations. More and more enterprises issue social responsibility reports and sustainable development reports on a regular basis. The Global Compact Network China, with the China Enterprise Confederation as the lead organization, has nearly 400 member enterprises that have incorporated SDGs into their business strategies and actively fulfilled their environmental, social and governance responsibilities. Chinese companies have already begun drawing up their own carbon plans in a positive response to the government's carbon targets. China has initiated the Belt and Road green investment principles to encourage investors to take into full account of environmental, social and governance responsibilities. The Center for International Knowledge on Development hosted the first Sustainable Development Forum, which issued an initiative by which Chinese and foreign enterprises jointly pledged to create the position of Chief Sustainability Officer.

China encourages charitable organizations, foundations, societies and other social organizations to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. More than 8,000 foundations have compatible missions with SDGs, with their relevant funding expenditures increasing from 29 billion in 2015 to 56.2



billion<sup>12</sup> in 2018. Leading social organizations, such as the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, the China Ecology Civilization Research and Promotion Association, the China Environmental Protection Foundation and the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization, have been working actively and productively on sustainable development.

China has engaged the public in realizing SDGs. Through poverty alleviation demonstration, there has emerged a public awareness of buying products made in poor regions, help the poor and participate in poverty alleviation actions. There has been a steady increase in the supply of green products and services. New forms and models of business, such as sharing economy, service leasing and second-hand goods transactions, have come to the fore. Initiatives such as the “Clean Plate” Campaign and low-carbon mobility have received positive responses from the whole society, and a green lifestyle has gradually been embraced by Chinese people.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda calls for the government to play the role of coordination, mobilization and implementation, and it also calls for a favorable environment, enabled by policy continuity, media support, and strong incentives and oversight, where all stakeholders are engaged through an effective public-private-civil society partnership.

## **5. Close global partnerships**

Strong global partnerships are essential to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. China endeavors to building a community with a shared future for mankind, and has contributed to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda through deepened international development cooperation. We hold that the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration applies to global governance. We stand for greater democracy in international relations and support the United Nations in playing an active role. Development should be an important issue in global macro-policy coordination. We advocate for trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and work for an open world economy and a better international environment for development. We adhere to the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” in collaboration on climate change to protect planet Earth.

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<sup>12</sup> UNDP and CFC, *Philanthropy for Sustainable Development in China 2020*.



As a staunch supporter of, active participant in and important contributor to the South-South cooperation, China has long provided substantial assistance to the best of its capacity to developing countries. China has established the China- United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, the China South-South Climate Cooperation Fund, the Center for International Knowledge on Development, and Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development. Through practical South-South cooperation, China has provided assistance to other developing countries' implementation efforts. China has vigorously promoted high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation, contributing to accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, President Xi Jinping announced his support for the UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center and a UNHRD hub, both to be established in China by the United Nations. He also announced the establishment of an International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals. These institutions will give new impetus to COVID control and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Under the vision of a global health community, China has actively engaged in international cooperation and made important contributions to the global fight against COVID-19 and economic recovery.

In implementing the 2030 Agenda, each country should be respected for choosing its own development path. North-South cooperation should be the main channel of global development cooperation, supplemented by South-South cooperation. Developing countries should have a bigger voice and representation in global development affairs, so that there can be a new global development partnership that is more equitable and balanced.



## **Chapter IV Outlook**



Looking ahead, China will remain committed to people-centered development and innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. Under the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan and other national development strategies, where the SDGs have been integrated, we will maintain a high level of openness, initiate new win-win cooperation, and continue to build a community of shared future for mankind. Through these efforts, China will continue to contribute to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 1. Implement the 2030 Agenda through the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan

China's 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 covers the immediate next five years and also outlines a medium-term vision. It is essentially compatible with the SDGs which integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions and cover five key elements: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. During the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan period, China will strive to achieve high-quality development, balanced social progress and harmony between man and nature through economic growth, innovation, improvement in people's well-being and ecological conservation.

**Promote high-quality development.** As China enters a new development stage, our goal is to achieve sustained and healthy economic development through improved quality and efficiency, guided by the new development philosophy. We will comprehensively deepen reform, energize market entities, build a high-standard market system, modernize the fiscal, taxation and financial systems, and improve the government's ability to manage the economy. We will continue to give priority to agricultural and rural development through the Rural Revitalization Strategy, improve agricultural quality, efficiency and competitiveness, carry out village development actions, and improve the systems and mechanisms for urban-rural integrated development. We will pursue the strategy of new, people-centered urbanization, move faster to grant permanent urban residency to people who move to cities from rural areas, and improve the spatial layout of urbanization. We will improve regional economic structures and implement the major regional strategies for the purpose of promoting coordinated regional development.

**Accelerate innovation and digitalization.** We will enhance the capacity of enterprises to make technological innovation, unlock the creativity of talent, and improve the systems and mechanisms supporting scientific and technological innovation. We will accelerate



modernization of the industrial system, make manufacturing more advanced, intelligent and green, and turn emerging industries such as information technology, new energy, new materials and green environmental protection into new drivers of industrial development. We will accelerate the construction of new infrastructure and build a modern infrastructure system that is efficient, practical, intelligent, green, safe and reliable. We will accelerate digitalization, promote the deep integration of digital technology with the real economy, use digital technology to promote innovation in public services, and improve the efficiency of government.

**Improve people's well-being and all-round development.** We will improve the public service system, prioritize employment promotion, optimize income distribution, improve the multi-tiered social security system and protect the basic rights and interests of women, minors and people with disabilities. A new structure will emerge for primary-level social governance that lets more people to share in both the work and results. We will develop a high-quality education system, advance the Healthy China Programme across the board, and implement the national strategy for population aging.

**Boost green development.** We will improve the quality and stability of ecosystems, intensify pollution prevention and control efforts, continue to improve environmental quality, improve the system of eco-functional zones and take solid steps to restore the ecosystems of the Yangtze River basin and protect the ecosystems of the Yellow River basin. We will accelerate the green transformation, increase the efficiency of energy, water, land and mineral resources, and build a multi-tiered system for efficient and circular use of resources. As an active response to climate change, we strive to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and realize carbon neutrality before 2060. We will promote marine environmental and ecological conservation together with marine economic development so as to promote marine sustainability.

## **2. Build a community with a shared future for mankind as a way of promoting implementation of the 2030 Agenda worldwide**

COVID-19 poses a grave challenge to global implementation effort. No country is immune to a crisis of this magnitude, as mankind lives in a community of a shared future. The approach to any global issue should be to proceed from the common interests of mankind, engage in win-win cooperation, and build a better planet for all countries to share. China will steadfastly build





a community of a shared future for mankind and work with other members of the international community to tackle the ever-growing global challenges and contribute to the common prosperity of mankind.

**Uphold multilateralism for equity and justice.** China firmly supports multilateralism, upholds the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, abides by the basic norms governing international relations, and works to maintain the authority and status of the UN and its central role in international affairs. China maintains that the sovereignty of all countries should be respected and all countries, whether big or small, should be equal. Given the diversity in the world, we should respect all countries' legitimate right to development and to choosing their own paths of development. China maintains that world affairs should be handled based on consultation among all and international relations should be democratized. We are opposed to closed bloc politics or imposing on the international community rules made by a few countries under the pretext of multilateralism. China is opposed to the ideologization of multilateralism or values-based alliances targeting specific countries. China is firmly committed to the path of cooperation for mutual benefit and win-win results, and to true multilateralism.

**Foster an open world economy for sound international development environment.** Efforts will be made to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and sustain economic globalization and make it more open, inclusive, balanced and win-win. Under the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration, we will work with other parties to promote high-quality development along the Belt and Road, and jointly turn the BRI into an avenue for poverty reduction and growth.

**Deepen South-South cooperation and global partnerships.** China will actively develop new global partnerships for development and promote coordination and cooperation among major countries. With a healthy approach to the relationship between the greater good and self-interest, China will continue to fulfill its international obligations commensurate with its national strength, and strengthen external cooperation and assistance in such fields as healthcare, science and technology, education, green development, poverty reduction, human resources development and emergency humanitarian work, and provide more assistance to developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries, in their implementation efforts. China will continue to share, without reservation, its development experience and applicable technologies





with other developing countries, in light of their resource endowment, level and aspirations of development, and do its best to foster their local talent and technologies, so that they can achieve diversified, independent and sustainable development and their people can share in more tangible development outcomes.

**Support international post-COVID recovery.** China supports the international community, especially developing countries, in combating COVID-19, and will continue to honor its commitment of providing developing countries, on a priority bases, vaccines as an international public good. We will deepen international cooperation in the prevention and control of major infectious diseases to build a global health community. Continued efforts for infrastructure connectivity will be made to boost the economy and contribute to post-COVID recovery. We will work with all parties to seize new development opportunities in new business forms and models and emerging sectors, vigorously develop the digital economy, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in such fields as artificial intelligence, biomedicine, and new energy, with a view to letting people of all countries benefit from the achievements of scientific and technological innovation and mitigating the negative impact of COVID-19 on implementation.

**Advance global green and low-carbon transformation and enhance global climate response.** In keeping with the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, China will continue its constructive participation in international cooperation to combat climate change. We will continue to deepen South-South cooperation, and promote the full and effective implementation of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* and the *Paris Agreement*. China will continue its deep engagement in global environmental and energy governance, and advance global ecological conservation and the building of a clean and beautiful world. China will work with other countries to build the Green Silk Road and forge closer partnerships in green infrastructure, green finance and green investment, with a view to boosting global green development.

