



Special Issue: CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting

Editor's Note: Over 600 delegates from nearly 300 political parties across the world gathered in Beijing from November 30 to December 3 to attend CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, during which world political parties showed their willingness to join hands with the Communist Party of China (CPC) in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

A beautiful world

By Ma Xiaowen



Political party leaders pose for a group photo at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1 (XINHUA)

The task of governing the world's most populous nation is anything but simple. The challenges China has faced during its transition toward economic development can serve as a reference for ruling parties elsewhere, especially amongst developing countries themselves. China's success comes at a time when many countries are looking for new paradigms on which to base their development, and as power gradually shifts away from traditional strongholds in the West.

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and President of the People's Republic of China said the CPC is willing to work with other political parties around the world to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and to create a better world.

Xi made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1.

Focusing on the responsibilities of political parties toward the aforementioned objective, the meeting, which took place from November 30 to December 3, was attended by the leaders and representatives of over 200 political parties and organizations from over 120 countries.

During the meeting, the CPC held routine discussions with political parties from Africa, Central Asia and the United States. The organizer, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), said the event was held right after the 19th CPC National Congress so that the Party could have a platform to exchange ideas with political parties around the world on the new guiding theory adopted by the CPC.



Song Tao, Minister of IDCPC, presides over the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting on December 1 (Courtesy of IDCPC)

Common pursuit

Xi called on all political parties from across the world to unite in the pursuit of peace, prosperity, cultural exchanges and environmental protection in his keynote speech.

Xi said China is willing to join hands with political parties from across the world to create a better world and promote humanity's common development, and that the CPC would continue to make contributions toward world peace, development and cultural exchanges.

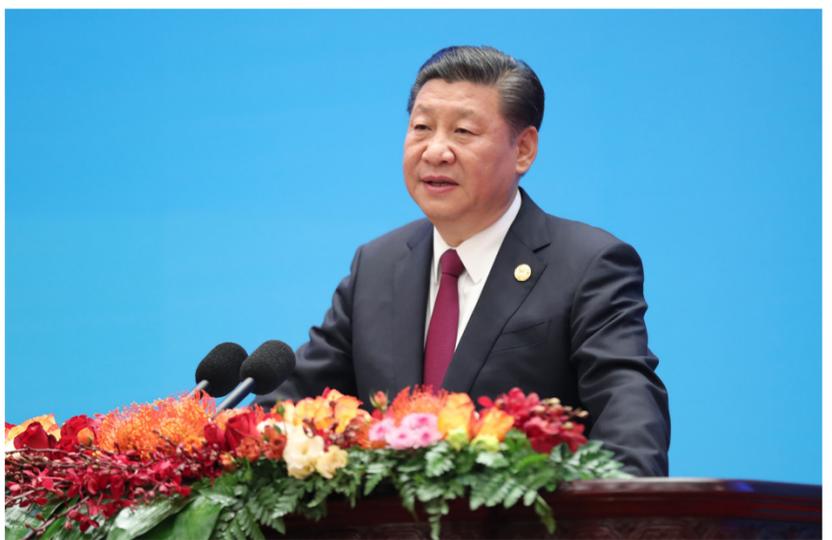
In his speech, Xi noted China transformed the initiative of building a community with a shared future for mankind from a concept into action with the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi said building a community with a shared future for mankind means closely connecting the prospects and destinies of every nation, sharing weal and woe, and turning planet Earth into a harmonious family.

Efforts should be made to build a safe world free of fear, Xi said. And he added that the security of a nation cannot be achieved at the expense of other countries. Threats facing other countries may be threats to all.

Furthermore, nations should also strive to eliminate poverty and promote common prosperity, as the world is facing challenges such as the North-South development gap, poverty, hunger and the digital gap, Xi said, criticizing the winner-takes-all mentality and beggar-thy-neighbor approach.

He noted that the world should work toward an economic globalization that is more open and inclusive, more balanced, equitable and beneficial to all, a globalization that brings



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1 (XINHUA)

common prosperity and creates comfortable living conditions for future generations.

While emphasizing the significance of an open and inclusive world, Xi urged the world to break cultural barriers and let all kinds of civilizations exist and grow. He also called for efforts to ensure harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

New party-to-party relations

The meeting is the first multilateral diplomatic event hosted by China after the 19th CPC National Congress in October and the first high-level dialogue between the CPC and world political parties.

Such a high-level meeting reflects the CPC's commitment to building a community with a shared future, which was listed as one of the fundamental principles of the new guiding theory in Xi's report to the 19th CPC National Congress. The report said the CPC promised to "strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the political parties and organizations of other countries," and it is the abiding mission of the CPC to make new and greater contributions for mankind.

Xi suggested in his speech that such inter-party conference be institutionalized and developed into a high-level political dialogue platform of broad representation and international influence.

A new model of party-to-party relations was proposed at the meeting, in which political parties seek common grounds while shelving differences, and respect and learn from one another.

Political parties of different nations should work together toward an international network of cooperation and exchanges in various forms and at multiple levels, he said.

In the next five years, the CPC plans to invite 15,000 members of political parties from across the world to China for exchanges.

The Beijing Initiative, released at the closing ceremony in the morning of December 3, called on political parties around the world to join hands with the CPC in building world peace, contributing to global development and safeguarding the international order.

Xi reiterated that the CPC strives for both the well-being of the Chinese people and human progress. Therefore, besides taking care of China's internal matters, the CPC will create opportunities for the world through China's development.

The CPC, the biggest political party in the world, will explore the law of social development and share it with other nations.

Noting that one of the founding missions of the CPC, established in 1921, was to end the plight of China, which had suffered a long period of war, and to ensure the people's survival, Xi stressed that the CPC knows deeply the value of peace and is firmly resolved to maintaining world peace.

Therefore, the CPC will, as always, contribute to world peace. He also pledged that China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansionism, no matter what stage of development it reaches, but it will keep on working for common development and contributing to exchanges and mutual learning between different peoples.

Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said on December 2 on a group meeting with visiting political party leaders that Xi's keynote speech called on political parties to play their role in view of a better future.

"To fulfill this commitment, political parties will have strengthen self-improvement and enhance their competence," Wang said. "Toward this end, the CPC is willing to communicate with world political parties and boost exchanges."

Widespread resonance

After the opening ceremony, the first plenary session of the meeting was held, in which foreign delegates had a discussion on Xi's speech, expressing their willingness to work with the CPC to build a better world.

Earlier the same day, members of foreign political parties paid a visit to the School of the CPC Central Committee and viewed an exhibition on China's achievements over the past five years.

Hundreds of delegates from international political parties were invited to tour the School of the CPC Central Committee, whose slogan is to "seek truth from the facts", one of the key theories of the CPC. The school located in the northwest of Beijing. It is the highest level of institution concerning education in the Party and it teaches Marxist theories.

Delegates also went to an exhibition of China's achievements in the last five years. The exhibition has 10 zones, focusing from everything from cultural policies to environment protection, to national defense.

Besides the plenary session, delegates also attended four panel discussions on December 2 on the role of political parties in building a community with a shared future and promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

"We believe if a country wishes to live in a peaceful, stable and better world, it should regard development as its top priority and supreme goal—just as it is proposed in the UN Charter," said Samdech Hun Sen, Chairperson of the Cambodian People's Party and Prime Minister, at the first plenary session of the meeting in Beijing.

During the meeting, "a better world" and "a community with a shared future for mankind" have become stock phrases between representatives.

Zutingta Palinzkas, Chairperson of the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania, told reporters, "One of our important purposes here is to study the new ideas and achievements announced after the CPC's 19th National Congress and learn about the international order China has proposed."

"President Xi Jinping has provided the world with a new way of cooperation, not only among governments, but also among the political parties in various countries. And his thinking gives us a better understanding of what is happening in China, where China is going, and what impact it will have on the world," said Christina Viena, Vice Chairperson of the French Socialist Party.



Delegates attending the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing visit Exhibition Center to look at an exhibition featuring China's achievements over the past five years (XINHUA)



Delegates attending the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing visit School of CPC Central Committee on December 1, 2017 (XINHUA)

Highlights of Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and President of the People's Republic of China delivered a keynote speech on December 1 at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, expressing the CPC's willingness to work with other political parties around the world to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and a better world. Highlights of his speech are as follows:

Building a community with a shared future for mankind

Xi said building a community with a shared future for mankind means closely connecting the prospects and destinies of every nation, sharing weal and woe, and turning the Earth into a harmonious family.

Xi said all nations should pursue a new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and should join hands to create fair, just and shared security to eliminate the root cause of war.

Furthermore, nations should strive to eliminate poverty and promote common prosperity, Xi said, noting that the world should work toward an economic globalization that is open, inclusive, balanced, equitable and

beneficial to all, a globalization that brings common prosperity and creates comfortable living conditions for future generations.

While emphasizing the significance of an open and inclusive world, Xi urged the world to break cultural barriers and let all kinds of civilizations coexist and grow in harmony.

Stressing the building of a clean and beautiful world with picturesque scenery, Xi called for efforts to ensure coexistence between man and nature, cherish the environment as we cherish our own lives, respect and protect nature, and safeguard the irreplaceable planet Earth.

New model of party-to-party relations

Xi proposed to develop a new model of party-to-party relations, in which political parties seek common ground while shelving differences, and respect and learn from one another.

Political parties of different countries should work together for an international network of cooperation and exchanges in various forms and at multiple levels, he said.

With an open vision and broad mind, the CPC is willing to carry out dialogues, exchanges and cooperation with peoples and political parties of other countries, he noted.

In the next five years, the CPC would like to invite 15,000 members of foreign political parties to China for exchanges, Xi said.

Xi also suggested that the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting be institutionalized and developed into a high-level political dialogue platform with broad representation and international influence.

China will not "export" Chinese model

Xi said the CPC would neither import foreign models of development nor export the Chinese model.

He reiterated that the CPC strives for both the well-being of the Chinese people and human progress. Therefore, besides taking care of China's internal matters, the CPC will create opportunities for the world through China's development.

The CPC, the biggest political party in the world, will explore the law of social development and share it with other nations.

Xi stressed that the CPC knows deeply the value of peace and will, as always, contribute to world peace. He also pledged that China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansionism, no matter what stage of development it reaches, but it will keep on working for common development and contributing to exchanges and mutual learning between different peoples.

Working Together to Build a Better World

Keynote Address by H.E. Xi Jinping
General Secretary of the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of China
and President of the People's Republic of China
At the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting

Beijing, December 1, 2017

Leaders of political parties from around the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Good afternoon! Today, I am delighted to have you, leaders of political parties and organizations of other countries, with us at the Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting. We are all busy as the year is drawing to an end. Yet we still gather in Beijing for this important meeting to enhance our cooperation, and this fully demonstrates that we share a common interest in the development of mankind and the future of the world.

On behalf of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and in my own name, I extend our warm welcome to all of you who have traveled long distance to China. I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the political parties, organizations and their leaders for sending letters and messages of congratulations when the 19th National Congress of the CPC was convened.

At its 19th National Congress, the CPC drew up a blueprint for China's development from now through the middle of this century and reaffirmed China's genuine desire to work together with the rest of the world to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Political parties play an important role in the political life of our countries and progress of human civilization. Here, I would like to share with you, leaders representing nearly 300 political parties and organizations of various countries, our view on this issue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Throughout the ages, to live a better life has always been the longing of mankind. Mankind has created splendid civilizations over the past several thousand years. However, wars and conflicts have never ceased. They have, together with various natural calamities as well as diseases and plagues, inflicted untold sufferings on us mankind and cost us dearly. Today, thanks to the rapid development of the internet, big data, cloud computing, quantum satellite and artificial intelligence, we the human beings are connected as never before. On the other hand, we also face global challenges unprecedented in terms of number, dimension and severity. The destiny and future of all of us across the world are increasingly intertwined.

This presents mankind with two choices. One is vicious competition or even armed conflict for power and self-interest, which may well lead to disastrous crisis. The other is for us to go along with the tide of the times and rise to challenges through global collaboration. This, in turn, will create favorable conditions for building a community with a shared future for mankind. We must seize the historic opportunity and make the right choice so as to deliver an even brighter future for mankind.

The Chinese nation has a long history and a splendid civilization, yet it was ravaged by turmoil and upheaval of blood and fire since modern time began. But we Chinese never yielded to fate. We rose up and fought our way ahead with perseverance and, after protracted struggles, we have embarked on the broad road to national rejuvenation.

History shows that it is the cultural genes in our blood that have sustained the growth of this ancient nation to this day and the uninterrupted development of its civilization over 5,000 years. Since ancient times, we Chinese have always held these beliefs dear: "All people under the heaven are of one family", "all the people are my brothers and I share the life of all creatures" and "all nations should live in harmony". We have always aspired to create a better world in which "a just cause is pursued for the common good".

Countries may have differences and even encounter problems with each other, which is to be expected. But we should not forget that we all live under the same sky, share one and the same home planet and belong to one and the same family. People across the world should be guided by the vision that all the people under the heaven are of one family, embrace each other with open arms, enhance mutual understanding, and seek common ground while setting aside differences. Together, we should endeavor to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

In 2013, I first made the call to build a community with a shared future for mankind. I am gratified to see that thanks to continued growth of friendship and cooperation between China and other countries, this call has gained increasing support, and more steps are being taken to pursue this initiative.

As a matter of fact, the Belt and Road Initiative that I have proposed aims exactly to bring about a community with a shared future for mankind. Over a span of four years, the Belt and Road Initiative has grown into a major platform of cooperation for countries concerned to attain common development. Numerous tiny streams converge to make a vast ocean, and countless radiant stars illuminate the Galaxy. I am convinced that so long as we share this goal, plan together, work together, move toward it step by step, day by day, we will surely succeed in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

As the term suggests, a community with a shared future for mankind means that the destiny and future of each and every nation and country are interlocked. So we should stick together through thick and thin and endeavor to build this planet of ours into a harmonious big family and realize mankind's longing for a better life.

We should endeavor to build a world of universal security free from fear. The evolution of human civilization shows that despite our longing for durable peace for thousands of years, the specter of war has never traveled far and has continued to haunt us. As all of us human beings live on the same planet, no country should maintain its own security at the cost of others' security. A threat to another country may turn out to be a challenge of your own. Unilateral action or blind belief in the use of force cannot cope with increasingly complex and multifaceted security threats.

Instead, we should adopt a new thinking on common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and our goal should be to build together a new security architecture that is equitable, fair and beneficial for all. We should jointly remove the root causes of war, reach out to those displaced by fighting, and protect women and children from the scourge of war so that the sunshine of peace will radiate across our land and everyone can live in tranquility and harmony.

We should endeavor to build a world of common prosperity free from poverty. Despite the level of material and technological development achieved in the world today which would be unimaginable to our ancestors, unbalanced and inadequate development still presents a major issue. There is a huge gap of development between the North and the South, poverty and hunger remain widespread, a new digital divide is emerging, and people in many countries are still living under harsh conditions. If one still sticks to the logic of zero-sum game or winner takes all, or resorts to practices of wheeling-and-dealing or beggar-thy-neighbor, one would only end up blocking his own way forward while shutting the door on others. Such practices can only serve to erode the foundation of one's own development and imperil the future of mankind.

We should work to deliver benefits to all, and promote win-win economic globalization that is more open, inclusive and balanced, thus creating enabling conditions for common development of all mankind. Doing so will enable us to pursue common prosperity for all countries, eradicate poverty and backwardness plaguing people in many countries and make sure that all our children are well taken care of. It will enable all countries to benefit from development and all people to lead decent lives.

We should endeavor to build an open and inclusive world free from isolation. As an ancient Chinese saying goes, "All living things should flourish without harming each other; all ways of life should thrive without hindering each other." The prosperity of civilization and human progress will not be possible without enhancing common ground, openness and inclusiveness as well as exchange and mutual learning among civilizations and resolving differences among them.

Different civilizations should blossom and coexist harmoniously, draw on each other's strength to inspire and nourish human development: this is the call of history. We should always bear in mind that the world is a colorful place and that civilizations are diverse; and we should see that different civilizations enrich each other and add to the beauty of our world. We should work together to bring down cultural barriers on the ground, reject prejudices that stand in the way of human interactions, and eliminate cultural bias that prevents people from engaging with one another. We should see that different civilizations coexist in harmony and that all people enjoy cultural nourishment.

We should endeavor to build a green, clean and beautiful world. The earth is the only shared home for us mankind. Despite efforts made by some people, finding a new home for mankind in the outer space remains a distant dream. The fact is that mankind still needs to live on this planet in the foreseeable future. We should jointly protect our planet, not only for the sake of ourselves, but also for the sake of future generations. We should ensure harmony between human and nature, and cherish the environment as dearly as we cherish our own lives. We should revere nature, respect it, follow its ways and protect it. We should protect the earth, our irreplaceable home, heal wounds inflicted on the ecosystem and environment, and build a harmonious and livable home for mankind. This will enable the natural ecosystem to recover and regenerate itself

and everyone to live in a good environment with lucid waters and lush mountains.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Today, the world is undergoing changes, so is the way in which development is pursued. All the political parties should move with the tide of the times, gain a keen appreciation of the underlying trend of human progress, meet people's common aspirations, and grow ourselves while promoting the development of our countries, our nations and mankind. We should aim high and look far, fulfill our responsibilities and, in doing so, base ourselves on the realities of both our respective countries and the world.

We should keep in mind both the overall and long-term interests, and shoulder the mission placed on us by the times. We should keep in mind people's aspirations and turn them into the guiding thoughts, purposes and goals of our political parties, and adopt concrete and practical execution plans accordingly.

The building of a community with a shared future for mankind requires the participation of people from all countries. We should pool the strength of all by building consensus among people of different nations, with different beliefs and cultures and from different regions to advance this great cause.

To realize a great dream, it is imperative to draw on the vision and strength of all those involved. We should do so by approaching things from multiple dimensions and different perspectives, draw on best practices, explore new ways and thinking, and build momentum. We political parties in various countries should strengthen mutual trust, dialogue, and coordination. On the basis of a new form of international relations, we should explore the building of a new type of party-to-party relations that seeks to expand common ground while reserving differences and enhances mutual respect and mutual learning, and we should build a multi-form, multi-level international network for party-to-party exchanges and cooperation. With these efforts, we can create a mighty force for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Only by taking steps can we blaze a trail; and only by taking actions can we achieve success. Obviously, as a historical process, efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind cannot be completed overnight, nor will such a process be a smooth sailing. Persistent and arduous efforts are called for. To build such a community, we must be ready to work for the long haul. We should not give up on our dream when the reality around us is too complicated; nor should we stop pursuing our ideals when they seem out of our reach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

The CPC strives for both the wellbeing of the Chinese people and human progress. It is the largest political party in the world. As I once remarked, the CPC must act in a way as a big party should. Everything we Chinese communists are doing is to better the lives of the Chinese people, renew the Chinese nation, and promote peace and development for mankind. We must run our own house well, which in itself is a contribution to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. We must also see that China's development will create more opportunities for the world. We will draw on our own practices to explore the law governing the evolution of human society, and share with other countries what we have learned. We do not want to "import" models from other countries, nor do we want to "export" the Chinese model, still less will we ask other countries to copy the Chinese practice. We Chinese communists will stay true to the following commitments:

First, we will continue to uphold global peace and tranquility.

Nearly a hundred years ago, the CPC was born while the country was ravaged by intense upheavals. One of the CPC's founding missions was to put an end to the misery caused by turmoil and wars and suffered by the Chinese people since the mid-19th century. From 1921 to 1949, to realize peace and stability in China and secure a better life for its people, the CPC rallied the Chinese people and led them in an armed struggle for 28 years, making an enormous sacrifice.

Having gone through such ordeal, we Chinese communists know only too well how precious peace is; hence we are resolved to uphold peace. China remains committed to promoting peace, development, cooperation and delivering win-win outcomes. We will continue to pursue peaceful development, build global partnerships and take an active part in efforts to seek political settlement of international hotspot issues.

China, a major troop and funding contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, has dispatched over 36,000 peacekeepers on a cumulative basis. As I speak to you, more than 2,500 Chinese peacekeepers, braving hardships and dangers, are on active duty in eight mission areas to safeguard peace and security.

China will continue to actively engage in the reform and development of the global governance system so as to make the international political and economic order more just and equitable. No matter what stage of development it reaches, China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansion. We call on the political parties in all other countries to work with us to advance world peace, contribute to global development, and uphold international order.

Second, we will continue to promote common development for all.

As a party that has its origin in the people and has grown in strength with the support of the people, the CPC has always cared deeply about the people, both in China and around the world. We are committed to bettering the lives of both the Chinese people and people of all other nations.

Over the years, China has provided a huge amount of grants and concessional loans as well as technical, personnel and intellectual assistance to other developing countries. It has launched numerous projects in these countries to support their economic and social development and improvement of the lives of their people. In these countries, thousands of Chinese scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, technicians, doctors and nurses, teachers, workers and volunteers are working hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with the local people to help them change their lives for the better.

As envisaged by the CPC at its 19th National Congress, a moderately prosperous society in all respects will take shape in China by the year 2020. Socialist modernization will be basically realized in China by the year 2035 and, by the mid-21st century, China will turn itself into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful. This will deliver a better life not only to us Chinese, but also to the people of other countries. We call on the political parties in other countries to work with us to create more cooperation opportunities for the world and promote common development and prosperity for all.

Third, we will continue to promote mutual enrichment among civilizations.

As a Chinese saying goes, a stone taken from another mountain may serve as a tool to polish the local jade. The CPC values the importance of developing a global perspective for itself. We are eager to draw on the achievements of other cultures and apply them in the Chinese context. Indeed, Marxism is the scientific truth we have learned from other countries. We have adapted Marxism to China's conditions, kept it up to date and enhanced its popular appeal. As a result, Marxism has become the scientific theory guiding the CPC as it leads the Chinese people on the march forward.

The CPC will embrace and approach the achievements of other cultures with an open mind and a broad perspective. We stay committed to engaging in dialogue, exchanges and cooperation with the people and political parties of other countries and supporting cultural and people-to-people exchanges between countries.

Over the next five years, the CPC will invite political parties from around the world to send to China exchange visitors totaling 15,000 for more interactions. We propose that the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting be institutionalized as a platform for high-level political dialogue with broad representation and international influence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

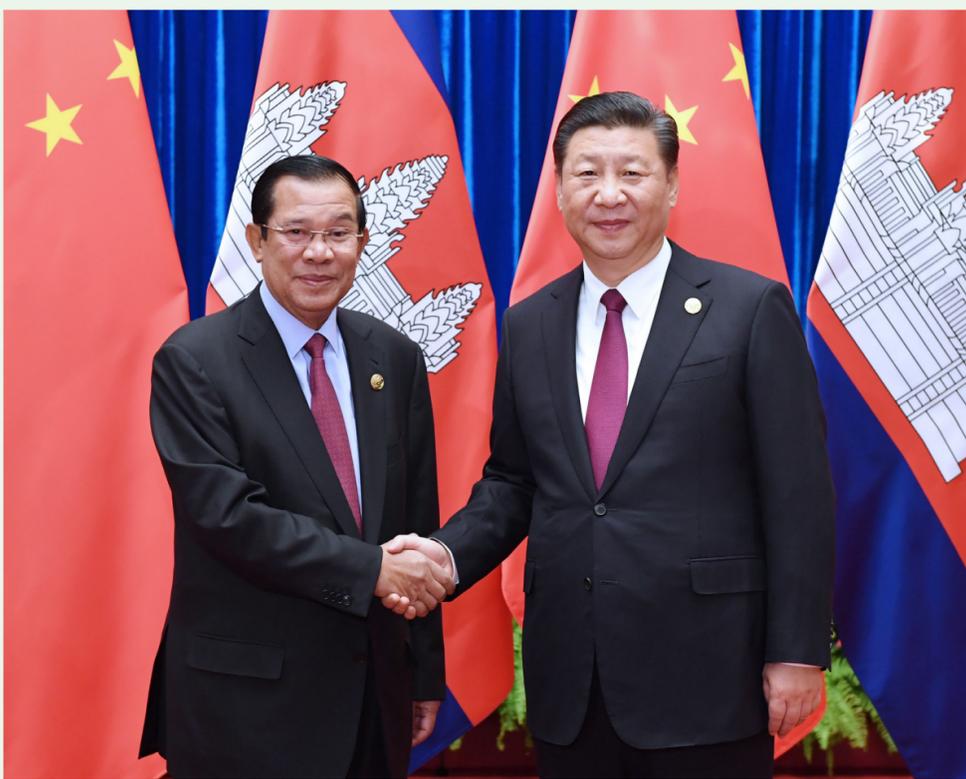
Over two thousand years ago, the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius observed that one should make friends with people who are upright, sincere and well-informed. The CPC is ready to make more friends across the world. Over the years, we have maintained regular contacts with more than 400 political parties and organizations in 160-plus countries and regions, and our circle of friends continues to grow.

Going forward, the CPC will enhance exchanges with political parties of other countries to share practices of party-building and enhancing state governance, and conduct more exchanges and dialogue among civilizations so as to improve our strategic mutual trust. Let all of us, people of various countries, join hands to build a community with a shared future for mankind and a better world.

In closing, I wish the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting every success!

Thank you all.

Xi Jinping (R), General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of People's Republic of China, meets with Chairperson of the Cambodian People's Party and Prime Minister Hun Sen at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1, 2017 (XINHUA)



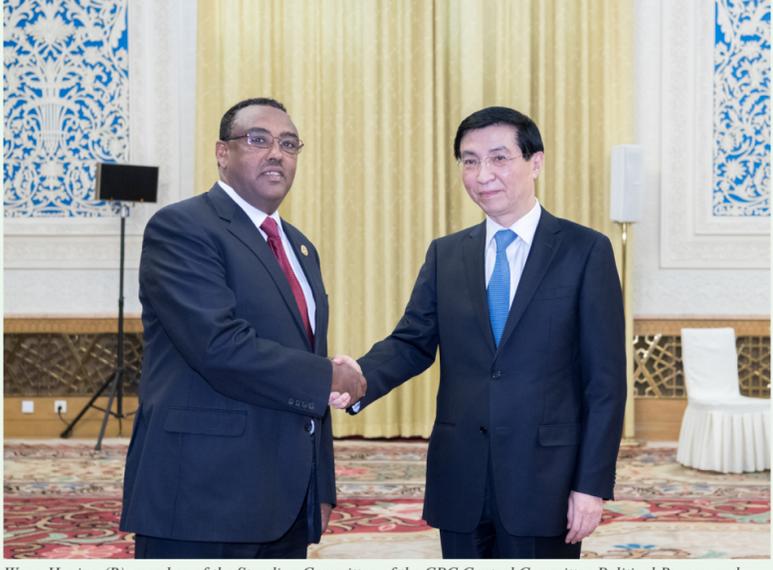
Xi Jinping (R), General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of People's Republic of China, meets with Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 1, 2017 (XINHUA)



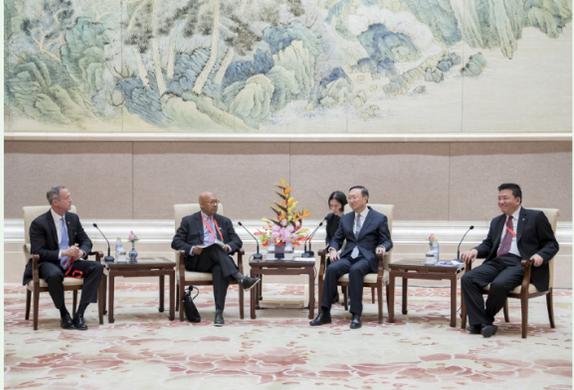
Zhang Dejiang (R), Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, meets with visiting delegates at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 2, 2017 (XINHUA)



Vice Premier Wang Yang (R), also member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, meets with Natsuo Yamaguchi, leader of Japan's Komeito Party, on December 1, 2017 (XINHUA)



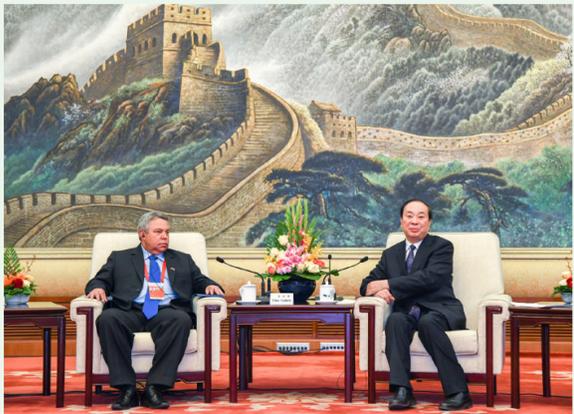
Wang Huning (R), member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, meets with visiting delegates at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 2, 2017 (XINHUA)



Yang Jiechi (second R), State Councilor and member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, meets with delegates from the Republican and Democratic parties of the United States in Beijing on December 2, 2017 (COURTESY OF IDCPC)



Yang Xiaodu (second R), member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, Deputy Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, Minister of Supervision, and Director of the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention, meets with delegates at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing (COURTESY OF IDCPC)



Huang Kunming (R), member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, meets with delegates from left-wing political parties at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing on December 2, 2017 (COURTESY OF IDCPC)



Du Qinglin, member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat and Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with delegates at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing (COURTESY OF IDCPC)



Song Tao (R), head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, meets with Ulises Guillarte de Nacimiento, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and Secretary General of the Cuban Workers Federation, on December 3, 2017 (XINHUA)



Song Tao (R), head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, meets with Natsuo Yamaguchi (left), leader of Japan's Komeito Party, at the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting on December 2, 2017 (COURTESY OF IDCPC)

Taking the stage

The CPC's political party dialogue meeting and China's role in a global future

By Song Luzheng



Bearing the name Working Together Toward a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity and a Better World: Responsibilities of Political Parties, the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting was held from November 30 to December 3 in Beijing. With the leaders of more than 200 political parties and organizations from more than 120 countries descending on Beijing for the meeting, the event broke a record in keeping with its theme by becoming the most diverse and highly attended global political party dialogue to date.

The broader context, namely that of China's recent history, provides the necessary backdrop for understanding the historic nature of the event. China's new leadership is moving forward, full of confidence as the country's reform and opening up enters a new era. This confidence is the effect of a Chinese path that has created an economic miracle over the past 40 years since China first adopted the principles of reform and opening up, and which began 70 years ago with the founding of the People's Republic of China. China has elevated itself to a position where it is now considered an equal in its interaction with the West and with the world, rather than a class outsider, anxious for approval at the table of powerful nations.

Today, with the CPC the inheritor and custodian of Chinese civilization, China plays the dual role of importer and exporter, in terms of ideas as well as products. The convening of this meeting is the expression of a traditional belief in China that everyone knows something which is worth learning about.

The meeting poses an opportunity for the CPC to share its approaches and experiences of governance, by way of stories which depict the history of both China and the Party, whilst also hearing the stories and lessons of others. Today, standing at the forefront of the global stage, China wields a profound influence in the modern world in a way it has never done before.

Promoting openness

High on the CPC's agenda is the opportunity to showcase China's openness. Since the outbreak of the global financial crisis in 2008, Western politics has experienced a steady rise in populism, and significant electoral gains have been recorded by voices championing policies hostile toward globalization and free trade. Nations considered as major Western powers are becoming increasingly closed and concerned primarily with the promotion of self-interest. The same trend sees trade protectionism prevailing around the world. And so it falls to China, in its newly refurbished role as a major global power, to represent an alternative to the trends taking place in the West. In the context of this international atmosphere, this meeting is as an indication that the CPC is signaling a need for greater openness to the world.

A mantra of openness is further reflected in the schedule and arrangement of the meeting. In three previous CPC and the World Dialogue events, participants from other countries were provided with opportunities to exchange views face to face with members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, such as Wang Qishan and Liu Yunshan, on the Party's ideas for national governance, and to learn more about grassroots governing practices. These participants were also granted the opportunity to visit the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and its online reporting center. They observed trials in Beijing's courts and visited villages in



Some foreign participants of the CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting attend an exhibition on China's achievements over the past five year in Beijing on December 1 (XINHUA)

east China's Shandong and Zhejiang provinces, in order to gain a greater understanding of rural governance.

The CPC in Dialogue With World Political Parties High-Level Meeting continues in this tradition. Aside from the attendance of high ranking CPC leaders, participants also had the opportunity to visit the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC, where they held discussions, and attended an exhibition on China's achievements over the past five years at the Beijing Exhibition Center. The itinerary was intended to help participants better understand China's complex make up, all the while espousing the Party's focus on the principles of honesty and openness in the global arena.

Embracing new responsibility

Another defining aspect of the meeting was China's sense of international responsibility. In an era considered by some to be the most turbulent since the end of the Cold War, many nations are looking for global leadership to cope with the interminable political, environmental and economic crises taking place around the world. Drawing on its 5,000 years of experience, China is not only working hard to appease tensions and conflicts in the world, but is also ready to share its own experience of success with others. By approaching dialogue with other nations as a conversation between equals, China is seeking to avoid the pitfalls of a hubristic foreign policy, and the temptation to impress its own political-economic model onto others. This approach signals a deviation from the global governance model practiced for so long in the West.

Learning from its own history the West worries that China, as an emerging power, seeks to challenge the established world order dominated by Western nations in a manner similar to the challenge mounted by Germany and Japan that ultimately led to World War II.

The view from China, however, is that there is no need for alarm, and that throughout its long history there is a conspicuous absence of the same modes of colonial expansion which placed Western powers atop the global pecking order. History demonstrates that a strong China is an assurance of peace in Asia, whilst periods coinciding with a weakened Chinese state have been marked by conflict and instability. The meeting provides a platform from which to reassure the world of China's peaceful and inclusive nature.

China's embrace of global responsibility was demonstrated in 1997, during the outbreak of the Asian financial crisis, when the government refused to devalue its currency in order to

provide stability in the crisis-hit region, despite the resulting effect on the competitiveness of its own exports. This feat was repeated amid the global financial crisis of 2008.

Whilst China continues to contend with the challenge of realizing its own modernization, it is embracing the responsibility of its role as a regional leader. Central to its efforts is the concept, incorporated as part of a UN resolution in February, of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and successful transnational schemes such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative are key components in achieving this mission. The enhanced climate of cooperation in the East stands in stark contrast to the growing wave of anti-globalization and protectionism in the West.

In the spotlight

Shifting global power structures are not the only new feature of this year's meeting. In October, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era was established as the Party's long-term guiding principle at the 19th CPC National Congress, an event with ramifications for not only China, but the world at large. Attendance of the event in Beijing suggests an enthusiasm on the part of foreign parties to better understand China's plan for the future, and an acknowledgement of the effect it will likely have on them.

Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, said during a media briefing on November 24 that "the international community attaches great importance to this meeting. Political parties in different countries reached us through inter-party exchange channels to tell us that they hoped to know more about the spirit of the 19th National CPC Congress, particularly the content of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and the CPC's proposals on the building of a community with a shared future for mankind."

It is not often that a political party's national congress has received so much attention around the globe. As China steps up to fulfill its growing international duties, meetings such as this provide an opportunity to showcase a confident, open and responsible China to the world. Together, alongside the participants in this meeting as well as other actors in the global community, China will continue to look for approaches with which to tackle global challenges, steadfast in its pursuit of a better world.

The author is a researcher with the China Institute of Fudan University in Shanghai

Pool of thoughts

Experts offer their views on the 19th CPC National Congress

An International Think Tank Symposium themed 19th CPC National Congress: Implications for China and the World was held on November 16 in Beijing. More than 240 scholars and former political heavyweights from China and 31 other countries, regions and international organizations exchanged views on the major achievements of the Party's national congress, which closed on October 24. Edited excerpts of their opinions follow:

Inspiration from the report



Fernando Reyes Matta, Director of the Center for Latin American Studies on China, Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile, and former Chilean ambassador to China

The most important achievement in the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was the defining of medium and long-term strategies for the future of China. This is important not only for China, but also for the rest of the world.

The achievements of the Congress defined four key issues: first, the country's progress will depend on how it identifies the new demands that come from a society with a higher quality of life; second, development is directly related to superior knowledge, more innovation and more training of high-level cadres; third, never again can growth and development be achieved by punishing the environment and the lives of people; last, the ideological bases underpinning the People's Republic of China are in need of a new reading consistent with the national and global realities of the 21st century.

It is a new time for China, but at the same time, this process is looked at with special interest by socialists and progressives from the rest of the world. Here is a path that the theoreticians of Marxism did not imagine. It is an original path, where modernity and tradition go hand in hand. A space where market instruments and collective political work can open theoretical windows for new currents of socialist thought.

It's another path that can lead to a world with more equality, more development, and more opportunities for the participation of all sectors of society in the construction of a better future.



Peter Kagwanja, Chief Executive of the Africa Policy Institute of Kenya

China has been modest about its growing international influence and power as a new global power. However, in President Xi Jinping's report to the 19th CPC National Congress, he acknowledged the "rise in China's international influence, ability to inspire, and power to shape," which has greatly contributed to "global peace and development" in the last five years.

Driving China's diplomacy is the vision to "champion the development of a community with a shared future for mankind, and encourage the evolution of the global governance system." China is pursuing new "soft power" diplomacy to allay the world's fears of a "clash of civilizations" with the West resulting from its rise as a power with a view to creating "a favorable external environment for [its own] development" and realizing the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. China's new diplomacy, based on the idea of "developmental peace" to build "a moderately prosperous society" and rid the world of poverty, is ushering in a new dawn for Africa-China strategic partnership as part of the shared dreams of two ancient civilizations.



Elena Avramidou, Former Educational and Cultural Attaché of the Greek Embassy in China

China is entering a new era in which it pays more attention to the gap between rich and poor and how to narrow it, as well as to address imbalances and inadequacies and give priority to the spiritual and cultural needs of the people. Thus, a new awareness and sensibility for sustainable development is emerging, and also a new approach to the needs of a civil society that is growing rapidly.

These principles, however, are not only related to the protection of the natural environment and transformation of both the modes of production and the development model. They also require changes of lifestyle, worldview and values; hence, they are also related to education and culture.

Culture is an effective tool to give Chinese soft power a greater profile, though it depends on how China communicates its message to the world. Indeed, if we want to succeed in delivering a good narrative, it is important to first understand the characteristics of the local culture in each country where we aim to spread our message. Then, it is essential to find a proper way to communicate it; a way that at times is completely different from one country to another.

It is a way to support China's culture and also extend the nation's influence and boost cooperation in ambitious projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative. Indeed, misunderstanding, fears, and scarce communication, all due to cultural differences, can do serious harm, while understanding and admiration of values produce attraction and success in both world politics and business investment.

Shared future



Sergei G. Luzianin, Director of Institute of Far Eastern Studies of Russia

President Xi's idea for building a community with a shared future contains several new approaches to comprehending global and regional development and security.

At the global level, having taken important foreign policy steps including the Belt and Road Initiative, China was able to launch a new Eurasian wave of globalization based on the principles of mutual benefit and co-development.

In the future, the updated, Eurasian version of globalization within the Belt and Road Initiative can replace the deadlocked Western globalization model of the 1990s. The Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union project offer an opportunity to activate the processes of economic integration, opening up and liberalization, through the recently established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

China's intensified diplomatic activeness clearly signals that it intends to facilitate the building of a closer community with a shared future along the Eurasia corridor. In the world that complicated situation, Eurasia finds itself at a new crossroads. All Eurasian countries should understand better the opportunity to unify within the framework of the "shared future" concept and, by making joint efforts, counter the risks of the continuing economic recession as well as properly settling conflicts and problems so as to avoid repeating past mistakes.



Rudolf Fürst, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations of the Czech Republic

The Chinese "going global" shift, which has been attracting attention everywhere, is a crucial theme of domestic policy, as confirmed recently at the 19th CPC National Congress by President Xi's declaration of the new era under the current political leadership.

In Europe, China is becoming an economic priority, even though the existing EU-China strategic partnership to date remains behind expectations.

However, globalization brings about positive opportunities for China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC). China is a lategamer and a new stakeholder in the whole of Europe. In the Czech Republic the Chinese investment flow soared five times in 2016 (according to Rhodium Group statistics) on an annual basis compared with 2015.

The booming agenda of China and the CEEC is being observed there as a testing period which will show to what extent the booming and plans come true. This is a comparative advantage of China, as it has so far no tradition of playing a game-changing role in either regional or domestic policy in the CEEC, and people there have no direct negative experience [of China], as they did in the past with Russia and Germany.

China represents a new moderate opportunity for economic stimulation both as an additional source of investment and by providing access to an alternative trade destination beyond the EU, U.S. and other BRICS markets.



Pan Wei, Director of Center for Chinese & Global Affairs, Peking University

The concept of building a community with a shared future is a view raised by the CPC to the world in recent years. The concept indicates China's call for opening up and inclusiveness of the whole world, a basis on which peace and development can be achieved. It also shows China's call for dialogue between members of the international community, instead of confrontation, as well as for establishing partnerships rather than military alliances.

We should have the consensus that to build a community with a shared future and promote world peace, we should not impose one nation's social values on other countries, a practice which has resulted in several wars since the end of the Cold War.