

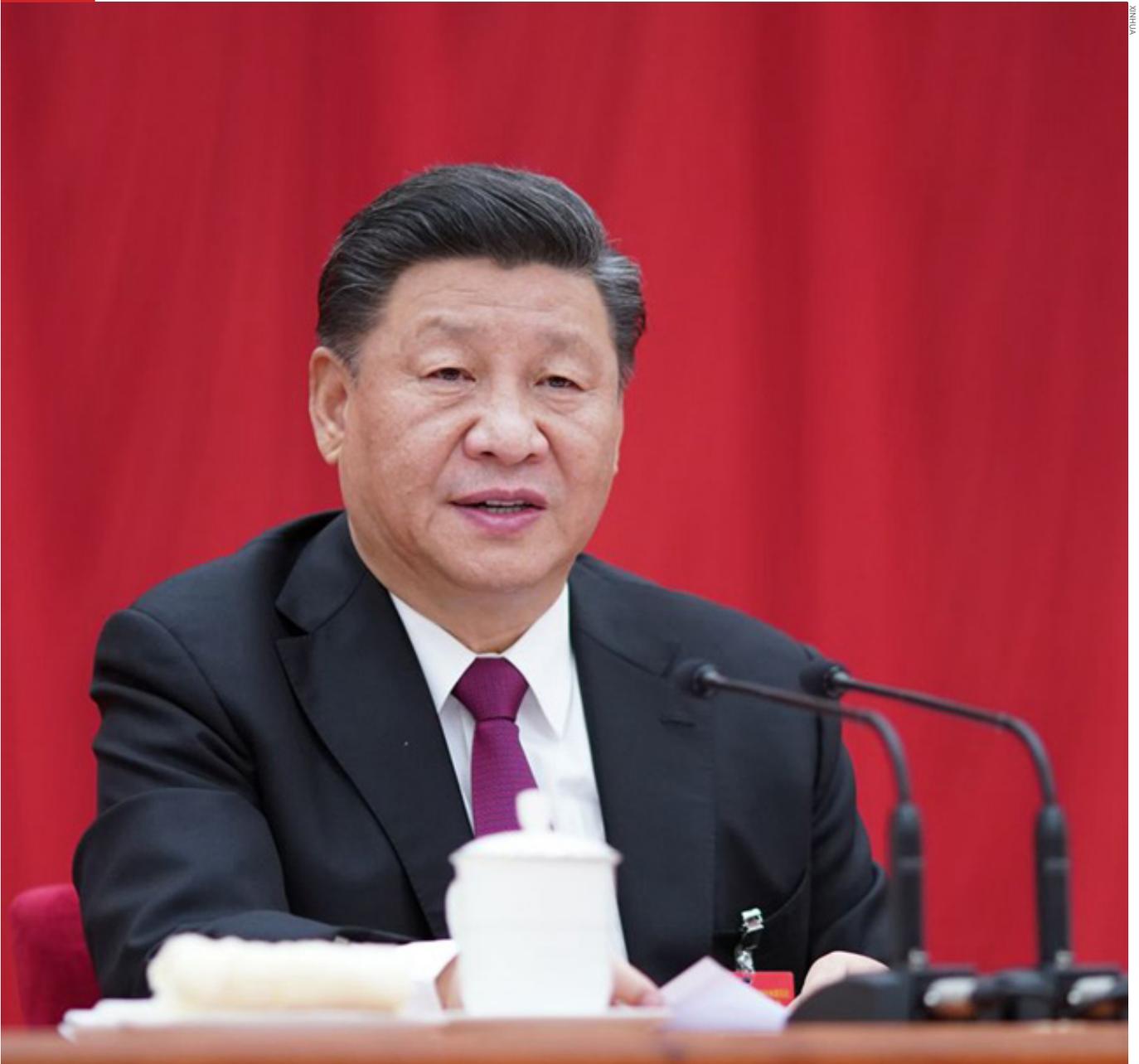
The Information Office, International
Department of the CPC Central Committee

SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE FOURTH PLENARY
SESSION OF THE 19TH CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE



China insight





Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, makes an important speech at the fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee in Beijing.

Key CPC Session Highlights Strength of China's System, Governance

The 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its fourth plenary session in Beijing on October 31 with the release of a communique.

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made an important speech at the session presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The plenary session heard and discussed a work report delivered by Xi, who was entrusted by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, according to the communique.

The session reviewed and adopted the CPC Central Committee's decision on some major issues concerning how to uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advance the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. Xi explained the draft document to the plenary session.

"The system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a scientific system developed by the Party and the people through their long-term practices and explorations," the communique read.

All the work and activities of China's national governance are carried out in accordance with the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, said the document, noting that the country's system and capacity for governance are a crystallization of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and its enforcement capability.

The session fully affirmed the work of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee since the Third Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, acknowledging its endeavors that led to major achievements in various causes of the Party and the country despite complicated situations marked by increasing risks and challenges at home and abroad.

The communique said, as proven by practice, the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and China's system for governance are systems of strong vitality and huge strength.

These systems are able to push for the continuous progress of the country with nearly 1.4 billion people and ensure the realization of the two centenary goals toward the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which has a civilization of more than 5,000 years, it added.

The communique said China's state and governance systems enjoy notable strengths in the following aspects:

— Upholding the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC, following the CPC's scientific theories, maintaining political stability and ensuring that the



Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng attend the fourth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing. The session was held from October 28 to 31, 2019

country keeps advancing in the direction of socialism;

— Seeing that the people run the country, promoting the people's democracy, maintaining close ties with the people and relying on them to push forward the country's development;

— Ensuring law-based governance in all fields, building a country of socialist rule of law, and guaranteeing social fairness and justice and the people's rights;

— Ensuring the whole country works together and stimulating the enthusiasm of all aspects to mobilize resources for major undertakings;

— Upholding equality between all ethnic groups, creating a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation to work jointly for common prosperity and development;

— Upholding the dominant role of the public sector and common development of economic entities under diverse forms of ownership, the distribution system whereby distribution according to labor is dominant and a variety of other modes of distribution exist alongside it, the synergy between the socialist system and the market economy, and continuously unlocking and developing the productive forces;

— Upholding common ideals and convictions, values, and moral standards, promoting China's fine traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture, as well as inspiring the

people to embrace shared ideologies and mindsets;

— Adhering to the vision of making development people-centered, and continuously guaranteeing and improving people's livelihoods and improving people's wellbeing to achieve common prosperity for everyone;

— Continuing reform and innovation, moving with the times, and promoting self-improvement and development to build a society full of vitality;

— Selecting officials based on integrity and ability and on the basis of merit regardless of background to cultivate more talented individuals;

— Keeping the armed forces under the Party's command and ensuring that the people's armed forces are completely loyal to the Party and the people so as to safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests;

— Upholding the principle of "one country, two systems," maintaining lasting prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao, and promoting the peaceful reunification of China;

— Adhering to the unity of independence and self-reliance and opening up to the rest of the world, taking an active part in global governance, and continuing to make contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

"All these notable strengths are the fundamental basis for fostering stronger ►►

confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics," the communique said.

The session stressed upholding and improving the fundamental, basic and important institutions that underpin the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. A set of institutions that are well conceived, fully built, procedure based and efficiently functioning must be built to better transform institutional strength into effective governance, it added.

The session vowed to see that institutions in all fields are notably improved when the CPC marks its centenary before the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance is basically achieved by 2035 and realized in full as the People's Republic of China celebrates its own centenary.

The session underscored:

- Upholding and improving the system of institutions for Party leadership to improve its capacity to practice scientific, democratic and law-based governance;

- Upholding and improving the system of institutions through which the people run the country and developing socialist democracy;

- Upholding and improving the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and improving the Party's capacity for law-based governance and law-based exercising of state power;

- Upholding and improving the

government administration system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. A law-based government administration with well-defined functions and duties shall be built, it added;

- Upholding and improving China's basic socialist economic system and promoting the high-quality development of the economy;

- Upholding and improving the system to make advanced socialist culture prosperous and developed to consolidate the common ideological foundation upon which all people are united and work together;

- Upholding and improving the livelihood system for protecting both urban and rural residents and working to meet people's ever-increasing needs for a better life;

- Upholding and improving the social governance system based on collaboration, participation and common interests, as well as maintaining social stability and defending national security;

- Upholding and improving the system for developing an ecological civilization and promoting the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature;

- Upholding and improving the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and ensuring that they will faithfully fulfill their missions in the new era;

- Upholding and improving the sys-

tem of "one country, two systems" and advancing the process toward the peaceful reunification of China;

- Upholding and improving the independent foreign policy of peace and working to build a community with a shared future for humanity;

- Upholding and improving the Party and state oversight systems and strengthening checks on and oversight over the exercise of power.

The session was attended by 202 members of the CPC Central Committee and 169 alternate members of the CPC Central Committee.

Also present were members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), senior officials of relevant departments, a number of delegates to the 19th CPC National Congress who work at the grass-roots level as well as experts and scholars.

The plenary session decided to admit two alternate members of the CPC Central Committee -- Ma Zhengwu and Ma Weiming -- into the Central Committee as full members.

The session also reviewed and adopted a CCDI investigation report on the severe violations of Party discipline and the law by Liu Shiyu, confirming the punishment previously decided by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee that he would be placed on probation within the Party for two years. **■**



The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presides over the session

The Communiqué of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

Time: October 28 to 31, 2019

Attendees: 202 members of the CPC Central Committee and 169 alternate members of the CPC Central Committee; Members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and senior officials of relevant departments; A number of delegates to the 19th CPC National Congress who work at the grass-roots level as well as experts and scholars

Major Contents:

The plenary session heard and discussed a work report delivered by Xi, who was entrusted by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. It also reviewed and adopted the CPC Central Committee's decision on some major issues concerning how to uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advance the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance. Xi explained the draft document to the plenary session.

Prominent Advantages:

The communiqué said China's state and governance systems enjoy notable strengths in the following aspects:

- Upholding the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC, following the CPC's scientific theories, maintaining political stability and ensuring that the country keeps advancing in the direction of socialism;
- Seeing that the people run the country, promoting the people's democracy, maintaining close ties with the people and relying on them to push forward the country's development;
- Ensuring law-based governance in all fields, building a country of socialist rule of law, and guaranteeing social fairness and justice and the people's rights;
- Ensuring the whole country works together and stimulating the enthusiasm of all aspects to mobilize resources for major undertakings;
- Upholding equality between all ethnic groups, creating a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation to work jointly for common prosperity and development;

Common Prosperity and Development:

- Upholding the dominant role of the public sector and common development of economic entities under diverse forms of ownership, the distribution system whereby distribution according to labor is dominant and a variety of other modes of distribution exist alongside it, the synergy between the socialist system and the market economy, and continuously unlocking and developing the productive forces;
- Upholding common ideals and convictions, values, and moral standards, promoting China's fine traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture, as well as inspiring the people to embrace shared ideologies and mindsets;
- Adhering to the vision of making development people-centered, and continuously guaranteeing and improving people's livelihoods and improving people's wellbeing to achieve common prosperity for everyone;
- Continuing reform and innovation, moving with the times, and promoting self-improvement and development to build a society full of vitality;
- Selecting officials based on integrity and ability and on the basis of merit regardless of background to cultivate more talented individuals;
- Keeping the armed forces under the Party's command and ensuring that the people's armed forces are completely loyal to the Party and the

people so as to safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests;

- Upholding the principle of "one country, two systems," maintaining lasting prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao, and promoting the peaceful reunification of China;
- Adhering to the unity of independence and self-reliance and opening up to the rest of the world, taking an active part in global governance, and continuing to make contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Overall Goal:

Improving institutions in all fields notably when the CPC marks its centenary
Achieving the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance by 2035 basically
Realizing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance to consolidate the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and give full play to its strengths when the People's Republic of China celebrates its own centenary

Requirements:

- Upholding and improving the system of institutions for Party leadership to improve its capacity to practice scientific, democratic and law-based governance;
- Upholding and improving the system of institutions through which the people run the country and developing socialist democracy;
- Upholding and improving the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and improving the Party's capacity for law-based governance and law-based exercising of state power;
- Upholding and improving the government administration system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. A law-based government administration with well-defined functions and duties shall be built, it added;
- Upholding and improving China's basic socialist economic system and promoting the high-quality development of the economy;
- Upholding and improving the system to make advanced socialist culture prosperous and developed to consolidate the common ideological foundation upon which all people are united and work together;
- Upholding and improving the livelihood system for protecting both urban and rural residents and working to meet people's ever-increasing needs for a better life;
- Upholding and improving the social governance system based on collaboration, participation and common interests, as well as maintaining social stability and defending national security;
- Upholding and improving the system for developing an ecological civilization and promoting the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature;
- Upholding and improving the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and ensuring that they will faithfully fulfill their missions in the new era;
- Upholding and improving the system of "one country, two systems" and advancing the process toward the peaceful reunification of China;
- Upholding and improving the independent foreign policy of peace and working to build a community with a shared future for humanity;
- Upholding and improving the Party and state oversight systems and strengthening checks on and oversight over the exercise of power.

http://m.cyol.com/content/2019-10/31/content_18219448.htm

Interpreting a Milestone Meeting

Following the conclusion of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing on October 31, officials from related fields explained its different aspects at a press conference in Beijing on November 1. This is an edited excerpt of what they said:



Officials interact with journalists on the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at a press conference in Beijing on November 1



Significance of the Meeting

Wang Xiaohui, Vice Minister of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee

It is the first time in the history of the CPC that the national system and governance issues were discussed and decisions taken on them at a central committee plenary session. It will have a far-reaching influence.

It was an important meeting held at a critical juncture. The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, making the external environment for China's development more complicated.

Domestically, China is in a crucial period of achieving national rejuvenation, and has entered the final stage of securing a decisive victory in establishing a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The theme of the plenary session--upholding and improving socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing the national governance system and capacity--is vital to advancing the causes of the Party and the country, the long-term stability of China, and the wellbeing of the people.

The most important outcome is the document issued that comprehensively summarizes the historic achievements made in building a socialist system with Chinese characteristics, its advantages and the national governance system.



The CPC leadership system

Jiang Jinqun, Deputy Director of the Policy Research Office of the CPC Central Committee

The leadership of the CPC is the defining feature of socialism with

Chinese characteristics and its greatest strength. The plenary session decided that six things should be done to coordinate all efforts and improve the leadership system to ensure that the CPC will always provide the overall leadership:

First, establishing a system for ensuring all CPC members stay true to the Party's original aspiration and keep the mission firmly in

mind. The whole party must always adhere to its nature and fundamental purpose, its ideal and belief, and its ultimate goals.

Second, improving the systems for upholding the authority of the CPC Central Committee and its centralized, unified leadership. We must maintain a high degree of unity in thought, stance and action with the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, and ensure unity, solidarity and concerted action of the whole Party.

Third, improving the system for upholding the CPC's leadership over all work. We must ensure the CPC's role in "exercising overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all involved."

Fourth, improving various systems for ensuring governance for the people and by the people. Governance for and by the people is the ultimate objective and means of the CPC leadership.

Fifth, improving the system for strengthening the CPC's governance capacity and its art of leadership. We must build up the Party's capacity to govern in a sound and democratic way and in accordance with the law.

Sixth, improving the system for ensuring full and strict governance over the Party. We must advance internal reform in the CPC and increase its capacity to resolve its own problems.



The basic socialist economic system

Han Wenxiu, Deputy Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Financial and Economic Affairs

For years, China has followed a basic economic system in which public ownership

has a dominant position, with other forms of ownership existing side by side. As an innovative outcome of the plenary session, the socialist market economy has been included in the basic economic system, together with the distribution system under which distribution according to work is the dominant mode with a variety of distribution modes coexisting.

We will remain committed to consolidating and developing the public sector of the economy, and encouraging, supporting and guiding the development of the non-public sector. There is need to deepen reform of state-owned enterprises, develop mixed-ownership economic entities and form a new type of cordial and clean relationship between the government and enterprises to promote the healthy growth of the non-public sector of the economy.

We will adhere to and improve the system of distribution. Distribution according to work will be the dominant mode with a variety of other modes coexisting. We should both expand the pie of economic growth and share it fairly.

We will accelerate efforts to improve the socialist market economic system. It is of vital importance to give full play to the decisive role of the market in resource allocation and ensure the government plays its role better, so that the "visible hand" [of the government] and the "invisible hand" [of the market] complement each other.



The system of people's congresses

Shen Chunyao, Director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

The people's congress system is a fundamental political institutional arrangement for upholding the leadership of the CPC, governance by the people and the rule of law. It is the political foundation of the national governance system and capacity.

The main advantages of the system, a great creation of the Chinese people in the history of political systems, are five-fold:

First, it fully ensures the people to be the masters of the country.

Second, it fully mobilizes all Chinese, as the masters of the country, to devote themselves to the cause of socialist construction, pool wisdom and strength from all quarters, and advance toward the ambitious goal of national development.

Third, it effectively guarantees coordinated and efficient performance of state organs.

Fourth, it safeguards national unity, ethnic solidarity and social stability.

Fifth, it provides a powerful support for improving the national governance system and capacity.



The system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics

Yuan Shuhong, Vice Minister of Justice

The plenary session stressed that establishing a system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and building a socialist country with the rule of law are the intrinsic requirements for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. It has put forward a string of measures to strengthen the rule of law:

First, we need to improve the systems and institutions that ensure the full enforcement

of the Constitution. Greater efforts should be made to strengthen oversight to ensure compliance with the Constitution, implement constitutional interpretation procedures, advance constitutionality review, and improve the system and capacity for recording review.

Second, we need to improve both the legislative systems and mechanisms and the quality and efficiency of legislative work, so that good laws are made to ensure good governance.

Third, we need to improve the legal assurance for social fairness and justice. Strict law enforcement and impartial administration of justice are essential to ensure people can see in every judicial case that justice is served.

Fourth, we need to intensify law enforcement oversight. Efforts should be made to ensure impartial exercise of the administrative,

supervisory, judicial and procuratorial power.



Political party system and the united front

Shu Qiming, Deputy Secretary General of the National Committee of the Chinese People's

Political Consultative Conference

The system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC is part of the basic political system of China. Jointly created by the CPC, the Chinese people, non-Communist parties, and non-party personages, it is a new type of political party system rooted in China.

Under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) has played a very important role in different periods, including the founding of the PRC and the socialist revolution, construction and reform.

The decision of the plenary session emphasized the need to give full play to the role of the CPPCC as a political organization and a form of democracy, improve its capacity of political consultation, democratic oversight and participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs, and better build consensus. It put forward the following measures: improving the role of the CPPCC as a specialist consultative body, enriching the forms of consultation, and promoting sound rules for consultation.

Socialist consultative democracy, as an important way of realizing the Party's leadership, is unique to China's socialist democracy. The united front is an important mechanism to ensure the success of the Party's mission. ■

Country Lauded for Promoting World Peace



A conference on the core values of the Communist Party of China is held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province on November 21

The country's governance system not only ensures its own growth in all respects, but also helps to promote common development with other countries, political party leaders and experts from China and other nations said on November 20.

They spoke at a briefing in Nanchang, Jiangxi province. The event - jointly hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the CPC Jiangxi Provincial Committee - was on the major outcomes of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee. Over 200 representatives of political parties from some 50 countries attended.

Khamphanh Phommathath, a member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and also a member of the Secretariat of the committee, said at the briefing that China, under the strong leadership of the CPC, has contributed its solution to promoting world peace and

development while realizing its own development.

China's commitment to advancing the building of the community with a shared future for mankind demonstrates its responsibility as a major country in the world, he added.

The fourth plenum, a key Party meeting held at the end of last month, adopted a milestone document on the CPC Central Committee's decision on major issues on how to uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advance the modernization of the country's system and capacity for governance.

Su Changhe, Dean of the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University in Shanghai, said the country's institutions and governance system are designed to peacefully coexist with the rest of the world through common development with other countries.

China has never tried to seek its own benefit at the expense of other countries' independence and development interests, Su

said at the briefing, adding that the Belt and Road Initiative is one of China's grand projects to align its development strategy with those of more and more countries to realize win-win cooperation.

Georgios Georgiou, Vice-President of the Democratic Rally Party of Cyprus, said China's economic growth has contributed remarkably to regional development as it strives to boost connectivity and mutually beneficial cooperation through various frameworks, especially the BRI.

Han Zhen, Director of the Academic Committee at Beijing Normal University, said China's development path is unique but has global significance as its success is not an accidental occurrence but is backed by the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Helal Helal, Deputy General Secretary of the Baath Arab Socialist Party of Syria, said China's development does not copy other countries, but is a creation of the CPC and based on its national conditions. **C**

The Path Forward

The Communist Party of China's plenary session charts the country's future

By William Jones

The Fourth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) received more attention than usual this year, an event that is much smaller than the more publicized National People's Congress, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee or the CPC National Congress.

The session gathered 202 members and 169 alternate members, who discussed a work report presented by CPC General Secretary Xi Jinping, followed by review and adoption of the Central Committee's decisions contained in a draft document on upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's governance system.

While the draft decision contained no dramatic developments, the plenum took place under stressful conditions for China and the world. The China-U.S. trade dispute has created some financial turmoil and political uncertainty in the world. The U.S. demands to dismantle some of the key elements of China's economic system would, if implemented, significantly affect the functioning of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

In addition, events in Hong Kong have created a great deal of concerns as to the viability of the formula of one country, two systems, which was worked out by Deng Xiaoping to integrate Hong Kong and Macao under the Central Government. Moreover, they are clearly not simply a matter of local conditions, but are being fueled by forces in the West opposed to China's entry on the world stage as a major power.

Thus, everyone was looking to the CPC plenary to see how China would react in the face of these new pressures.

The response was quite firm and unequivocal. While China is clearly prepared to continue the process of reform and opening up with bold new measures to allow foreign capital to invest more, the country is also determined to follow the path that has allowed it to accomplish amazing progress over the course of the last 40 years.

The characteristic Chinese form of governance with the guiding role of the CPC will be modernized and made more effective. The campaign against corruption will be more rig-

orous, while strict standards will be placed on officials in Party and government positions. At the same time, the Chinese system of socialist consultative democracy will be expanded with greater involvement by non-party members of the CPPCC. In addition, the stress on Xi Jinping Thought at the plenum clearly indicated that the new direction staked out by the general secretary since being elected will continue to flourish and be instrumental in bringing China to its second Centenary Goal in 2049.

The guiding role of the CPC will continue to be paramount, and the role of state-owned enterprises will be made more effective. While the documents coming out of the four-day plenary did not elaborate on discussions regarding the destabilization of Hong Kong, they clearly indicated that the one country, two systems policy will remain in force and that China will not allow any threat to its national sovereignty.

While Western critics continue to belabor the point that China is not conducting any reform in line with some envisioned transformation to some form of liberal democracy, it is difficult for anyone to assert the superiority of the liberal model while the Chinese model has proven so successful and liberal democracies are presently in the throes of a variety of crises for which they still have no solutions.

Brexit and populism are wreaking havoc on Europe, all fueled by a growing economic crisis. And in the United States, the 2020 election campaign has been hijacked by an impeachment procedure, which is bound to fail, except with its ultimate effect on voters. While Western media pundits will continue to conduct their campaigns of criticism against China's so-called "authoritarianism," China in fact serves as a model of stability in a very unsettled world. And while no country may be prepared to follow the Chinese model, many may well look at China's success in rapid economic development and unprecedented poverty reduction and utilize lessons from a country which has succeeded far better than most in resolving its problems and creating conditions of happiness for most of its people. **C**



The author is Washington bureau chief of the Executive Intelligence Review news magazine

Institutions Crucial to Growth, Party Stresses

China will focus on leveraging its institutional advantage and creating a more consistent and institutionalized rule of law to upgrade its growth model and build a high-standard and open economic system. It's a focus that became more clear after a recently concluded key Party meeting laid out the goal of modernizing the country's socialist market economy and its economic governance capacity, experts said.

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee held last month sent a clear and strong message from the central leadership that building systems and institutions has been the key to the country's economic success, they said. Building such systems will continue to be the cornerstone and a critically important factor that matters for China's future development, given that the country's growth is seeing rising headwinds, they added.

The comments came as China's economic activity softened in October. Industrial and investment growth as well as retail sales all registered a slower pace of growth and the consumer price index, a main gauge of inflation, rose 3.8 percent year-on-year on surging pork prices. Still, a positive factor is that China continued to see strong capital inflow in October, with foreign direct investment rising 7.4 percent year-on-year to 69.2 billion yuan (\$9.87 billion).

Xu Hongcai, Deputy Director of the Economic Policy Commission at China Association of Policy Science, said a significant portion of the Party meeting's communique was devoted to the idea of optimizing government functions and responsibilities in economic regulation, market supervision, social management and public service. That is the core of modernizing the country's governance and achieving the goal of deepening reform and ensuring stable and high-quality growth, he said.

"China has been exploring the relationship between government and market by carrying out a series of pilot reforms," Xu said.

"The Party meeting acknowledged the advantage of China's socialist market economy system, which is to let the market play the decisive role while emphasizing the positive roles of the government and public sector," he said.

"The goal is to further utilize the institutional advantage to build a fair, competitive and efficient market governed by rule of law and a service-oriented and clean government, which is key to ensuring sustainable and high-quality economic growth," he added.

The Party meeting highlighted several key tasks of the leadership, including improving the country's macroeconomic adjustment system with monetary and fiscal policies being two major pillars, optimizing medium- to long-term national strategic planning for economic and social development and building a modern central bank system and better legal protec-

tion for private and foreign businesses.

Also for the first time, the meeting called for optimizing the economic governance database to improve the government's decision-making process.

"The database can help provide a richer and more accurate reference for economic governance, helping guide market expectations and promoting a more efficient allocation of resources, which will allow market players to make better business and operational decisions," Li Chao, an analyst at Huatai Securities, said in a research note.

Improving the governance system to unleash the country's technological and innovative strength is another important goal laid out by the leadership in the meeting's statement. For instance, the meeting called for efforts to build a new national system to push technological progress and breakthroughs.

"This is in line with the country's goal of developing an innovation-driven economy. We can expect a greater role for government in nurturing technological development and more investment from both public and private sectors in basic scientific research. This is also crucial for China to build a modern and advanced manufacturing industry, especially against the backdrop of the country's growing frictions with the United States," Xu said.

Liu Shijin, Deputy Director of the economic committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the top political advisory body, said it is important to improve China's socialist market economy as global competition in the era of globalization boils down to the competition between different market economy systems.

"Supply-side structural reform remains the focus. The key is to open up and improve the resource markets, as well as to effectively protect all kinds of property rights, especially intellectual property rights, so as to accelerate the formation of a high-standard market system outlined by the fourth plenary session," Liu said.

Modernizing the economic system to facilitate

higher-level opening and better integration with the global economy is also underscored by the statement of the fourth plenary session. For example, the meeting decided to promote better international coordination in drafting macroeconomic policies, improve the negative-list management system for foreign investment and accelerate the development of free trade zones and ports.

Liu said that pilot free trade zones could implement "more visionary and imaginative major measures" as the nation's spearhead of a high-standard market system and high-level opening-up. That can achieve reciprocal arrangements for zero tariffs, zero barriers and zero subsidies between China's FTZs and overseas counterparts, Liu added.

Zhang Bin, Director of the Global Macroeconomy Research Division at the Institute of World Economics and Politics, a research institution, called for efforts to improve the socialist market economy in terms of ensuring fair competition and the free flow of resources.

The fourth plenary session has pledged reforms to better ensure fair competition between domestic and overseas companies and fully implement the negative lists for market access while pushing further and comprehensive opening of services, manufacturing and agricultural sectors to foreign businesses.

"Great growth potential lies in consumption upgrades, as people's demand for services of a wider range and higher quality continuously rise," said Zhang, who is also a senior researcher at China Finance 40 Forum, a think tank.

To realize that potential, the government could further lower the barriers faced by private and foreign capital to access some service industries — such as medical care, education and cultural industries — leveling the playing field of various types of enterprises, Zhang said. 



The fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee is held in Beijing from October 28 to 31, 2019