



TWO SESSIONS

Xi: Keep poverty-reduction promises

With 2020 deadline on the near horizon, president calls for greater efforts to help the country's remaining poor

By AN BAIJIE
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China's poverty-alleviation work faces tougher challenges with the approach of the 2020 deadline for the nation's ambitious poverty-eradication plan, President Xi Jinping said on March 8, while calling on officials to make greater efforts to help poverty-stricken people.

The Communist Party of China has made a solemn promise to lift all remaining poverty-stricken people out of that status by the end of 2020, said Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xi made the remarks at a panel discussion with lawmakers from Southwest China's Sichuan province during the annual session of the National People's Congress, the top legislature. The 10-day NPC session runs until March 15.

Mountainous Sichuan, with many ethnic groups, has 3.8 million people living in poverty. By a standard set in 2011, China categorizes those with an annual income lower than 2,300 yuan (\$335) as poverty stricken.

The number of people living in poverty in rural areas was reduced by 12.4 million last year to 43.35 million. The government will lift another 10 million people out of poverty this year, according to the Government Work Report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang on March 5.



PRESIDENT XI JINPING receives *qianghong*, a piece of silk used as a gift of greeting by the Qiang ethnic group, from an NPC deputy who is a member of the group, as he joined a discussion with NPC deputies from Sichuan province on March 8 in Beijing. LAN HONGGUANG / XINHUA

The whole process of poverty reduction requires tailored poverty-relief policies and precision measures, and sometimes patience and accuracy, like "doing embroidery," Xi said.

The government should continue to dispatch officials to live in poor rural villages to focus on the poverty-reduction work there, Xi said, adding that the authorities should

make full use of poverty-alleviation funds.

The president called for continuous measures to prevent those who have already escaped poverty from falling into that status again. Formalism should be stopped resolutely in poverty-reduction work, he emphasized.

During the discussion, Xi also urged local authorities to push for-

ward with supply-side structural reform in agriculture, improve quality and produce more green, organic and pollution-free farm products.

The integration of military and civil industries should speed up, Xi said, adding that a high-tech industry base should be built for military-civil integration.

The president also stressed the importance of clean governance.

Government officials should stick to their beliefs, safeguard the authority and leadership of the CPC Central Committee and abide by political discipline and rules.

During the talks, the Sichuan lawmakers gave their suggestions on issues including pushing forward reform, reconstruction work after the 2013 earthquake, and Tibetan inhabitants' livelihoods.

China to remain 'anchor of stability'

Foreign minister highlights nation's goal to build new partnerships and contribute more to the world

By XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on March 8 that China will continue to be an anchor of international stability, an engine of global growth, a champion of peace and development, and a contributor to global governance.

Wang made the remarks at a news conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, Chinese diplomats have risen to challenges and broken new ground under the strong leadership

of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, Wang said.

"We have accomplished a great deal and opened a new chapter in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics," he noted.

Wang summed up Chinese diplomacy with three key words: Vision, initiative and consistency.

China's vision is evident in a series of new ideas and thoughts put forward by Xi, including forging partnerships that replace confrontation with dialogue, and alliance with partnership, building a new type of international relationship featuring

win-win cooperation, and jointly building a community with a shared future for all mankind.

These new ideas and thoughts "reject the old concepts of alliance and confrontation, rise above the old approach of zero-sum games, and have distinct Chinese characteristics and major implications for the world," according to the foreign minister.

"They are guides to action for Chinese diplomats in the new era and will have far-reaching implications for human development and progress," he said.

Wang also said China hopes to contribute more to the world rather

than becoming a "global leader", and believes the United Nations should play an effective role in handling international affairs.

"China believes in the equality of all countries, large and small. We don't believe some countries should lead other countries," Wang said.

"Rather than talking about leadership, we should really be talking about responsibility," Wang said, when answering a reporter's question whether China will play the role of a leader under the current international circumstances.

Noting that large countries should shoulder more responsibilities,

Wang said that China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, will fulfill its obligations for international peace and security.

As the world's second-largest economy and the largest developing country, China will make due contribution to global economic growth and play a bigger role in upholding the rights of developing countries, he added.

The foreign minister also said the UN, "the world's most authoritative and credible intergovernmental organization", should play an effective role in coordinating international affairs according to the purposes and principles of its charter.