

# 19<sup>th</sup> CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS | Comment

## EDITORIAL

# Building a genuinely global community

In his report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China on Wednesday, General Secretary Xi Jinping said that China will always try to be a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a guardian of the international order.

He also said that while China will never give up the interest and benefit it deserves to get, it will never pursue its own development at the expense of other countries.

He admonished that no country or individual should expect China to swallow anything that undermines its own interests.

He also said that China's defense policy is defensive in nature, and it will never pose a threat to any country, and China will never seek hegemony or follow an expansionist policy no matter how strong the country becomes.

These remarks are not only the guidelines on which China's diplomacy will be based, but also serve to explicitly tell the world what role China has been playing and what role it intends to play.

His remarks are by no means only rhetoric.

Look at the aid in various forms China has offered to countries in need. Look at the diplomatic efforts China has made in helping to settle conflicts and disputes worldwide. Look at the Belt and Road Initiative that is realizing common development with the countries along the ancient Silk Road routes spanning Asia, Africa and Europe.

By getting an increasing number of countries involved in the initiative, China has not only given substance to Xi's words, it has also innovated a development model of cooperation for mutual benefits.

That explains why China has called for countries to build a community of shared destiny for all mankind, which instead of being a zero-sum game in which the gains of one are offset by the losses of others, is a one-sum game in which everyone contributes what they can for the benefits of all.

As Xi said in his report, the Chinese people's dream of a better life is of the same nature as that of people around the world.

And since realizing that global

**“By getting an increasing number of countries involved in the initiative, China has not only given substance to Xi's words, it has also innovated a development model of cooperation for mutual benefits.”**

dream requires a peaceful and stable environment worldwide, China remains committed to its independent foreign policy of peace, steadfastly upholds fairness and justice in international affairs, and opposes any country imposing its will on other countries or interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, gainsaying the practice of the strong bullying the weak.

By so saying and so doing, China not only respects the right of the people of all countries to choose their own path of development, it is also using its growing influence and power in a responsible way and demonstrating its resolve to uphold the equality of all countries in international relations.

China is still a developing country, but it will continue to contribute what it can to the building of a better world and offer new ideas and concepts in pursuit of this goal.

This is because the Chinese leadership well knows that China's peace and prosperity will not be sustainable unless the world is also peaceful and stable.

This explains why China advo-

cates inclusiveness and mutual learning and promotes dialogue among different countries and cultures, and why China will continue to strive to guide countries to make concerted efforts to build a community of shared destiny.

As Xi's speech showed, the world is entering a new era. It is one in which China has the resolve, confidence and capability to be a banner bearer for a new type of relations.

This has ruffled some feathers, and will no doubt continue to ruffle them, but the fact that some still cling desperately to an outdated mindset will not stop the hands of the clock from turning.

Times have changed and in the face of the common non-traditional threats such as climate change and terrorism, the pursuit of a community of shared destiny for all mankind conforms to the trends of the times.

By adhering to the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, China will strive to work with others to realize the common aspiration of the people of all countries for peace, development, cooperation and progress.

# People-oriented reform a boon to society

By JIANG YU

The Communist Party of China should always stay true to its mission to serve the people, CPC Central Committee General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized in his report delivered at the opening ceremony of 19th CPC National Congress on Oct 18.

He said the people-oriented development philosophy has enabled China to achieve tremendous progress in the past five years: more than 60 million people have been lifted out of poverty, education in relatively undeveloped central and western areas, especially in rural areas, has been improved, employment has remained steady, with the creation of 13 million new job opportunities every year, the coverage of the social security and the healthcare systems has been expanded, and incomes have continued to rise, expanding the middle-income population.

Over the past five years, China has taken a people-oriented approach to economic growth, thereby advancing the philosophy of development, which is a key feature of China's new stage of development.

Thanks to almost four decades of reform and opening-up and the resultant fast economic growth, Chinese people's livelihoods have improved tremendously. But the unprecedented economic growth has also resulted in widening wealth gaps, industrial overcapacity and environmental pollution. Now that the basic needs of most of the Chinese people have been met, it's time to improve the judicial, security, healthcare systems and meet their cultural needs so that they enjoy all-round development.

China also needs to progress from getting rich to getting strong.

Xi has said the purpose of the overall reform is to enable the country to better meet people's growing needs for a better life.

The 2008 global financial crisis

made the Western world realize that wealth alone cannot ensure sustainable development. On the contrary, it created bubbles, and when those bubbles burst, it brought the entire world economy to its knees. Worse, driven by the lure of profit, many producers have exploited natural resources gravely damaging the environment.

As a result many people have been pushed to the fringes of society where they feel increasingly alienated.

The financial crisis that originated in the West has consolidated China's belief that it must always follow a people-oriented policy for economic development, as opposed to the blind pursuit of profit that distorts the distribution of resources. Such an approach means people's happiness should be the main goal of development, and all elements, including capital, technologies and systems must be fashioned to serve that aim.

In this regard, socialism with

Chinese characteristics gives China a unique advantage. Take medical reform. In the city of Sanming in East China's Fujian province, for instance, the cost of medicines have declined by about half after the introduction of medical reforms while the income of medical staff has increased, setting a good example for the whole country.

In comparison, the medical reform led by former US president Barack Obama was opposed by multiple interest groups that deeply influence US politics, and halted by incumbent US President Donald Trump. Which means the US is still the largest developed country without universal medical insurance.

Since the 18th Party Congress in 2012, the CPC has taken multiple measures, such as those to reduce poverty, improve social security and reduce the income gap, to improve people's lives and livelihoods.

Last year, China's Engel's coefficient, a major indicator of people's living standards, fell by 2.9 percent-

age points compared with the 2012 figure to reach 30.1 percent, close to the United Nations well-off line.

The average disposable income of Chinese people last year was 23,821 yuan (\$3,579), 44.3 percent higher than that in 2012.

Moreover, the urban-rural income gap has shrunk from 2012 to 2016, as the average disposable income of rural residents has grown 1.5 percentage points faster than that of their urban counterparts. And the number of people living in poverty declined from 98.99 million in 2012 to 43.35 million last year, which means about 14 million people were lifted out of poverty every year from 2012 to 2016.

All these show China's reforms over the past five years have been people-oriented and benefited the people.

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