

# Relations with Argentina on an upswing

Xi, Macri sign a series of trade deals, agree to map out a bilateral blueprint with broad vision

By AN BAIJIE in Buenos Aires  
anbaijie@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Argentina, both influential developing nations, should jointly support multilateralism and build an open and inclusive world economy, President Xi Jinping said on Dec 2.

Xi made the remark while meeting with Argentine President Mauricio Macri in Buenos Aires during a state visit to the South American country after he attended the G20 Leaders' Summit on Nov 30 and Dec 1.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of a series of cooperation deals after their talks. China would like to increase its imports of products and services from Argentina and facilitate bilateral trade, Xi said.

He noted that it was the fifth meeting between the two presidents in the past two years, setting a record in China-Argentina relations.

The two leaders agreed to map out a blueprint of bilateral relations with a broad vision and to make joint efforts to create a new era for the China-Argentina comprehensive strategic partnership.

Saying that the international situation is undergoing complex changes and facing new challenges, Xi said

the two countries should deepen practical cooperation in all areas and make new contributions to global peace, stability and prosperity.

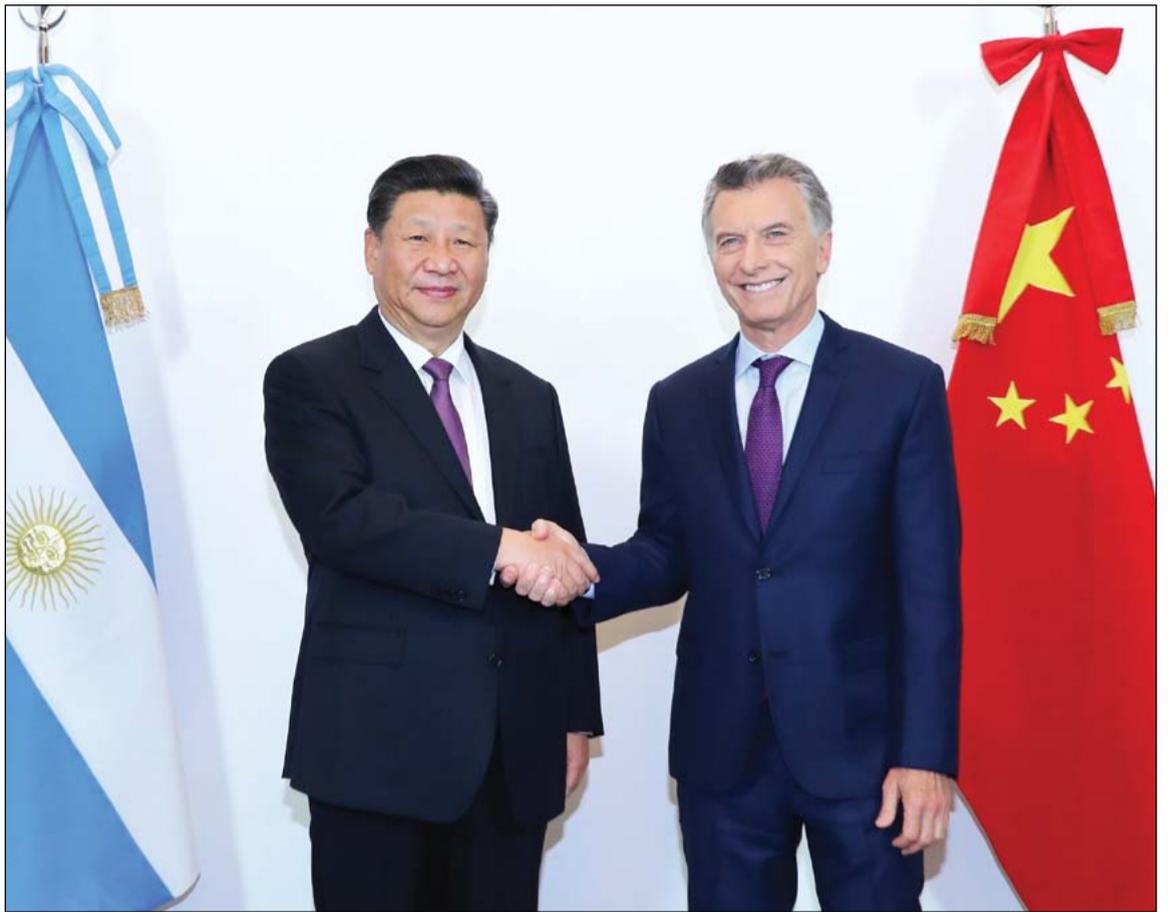
They should continue to support each other on issues related to core interests and major concerns, and firmly support each other's development path, Xi said.

Mentioning that Argentina's economy has experienced fluctuations this year, Xi said China will take concrete action to support the country's financial stability. China is confident about the future of Argentina's development, he added.

Xi proposed the two countries enhance communication and cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, connect their development strategies and promote bilateral cooperation in all areas.

China supports Argentina in diversifying its energy sector and would like to work with the country to carry out its flagship energy projects, Xi said, adding that China would like to participate in the country's infrastructure projects and promote interconnectivity between Argentina and the rest of South America.

The two countries should boost exchanges of youth, culture, education, tourism and sports to increase mutual understanding between the



President Xi Jinping meets with Argentine President Mauricio Macri at the Olivos presidential residence on Dec 2 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Xi paid a state visit to the nation after attending the G20 Leaders' Summit on Nov 30 and Dec 1.

XIE HUANCHI / XINHUA

peoples of both nations, he said.

Xi said China would like to enhance coordination with Argentina under multilateral systems and ensure that the outcomes of economic globalization provide more benefits to developing countries.

As a sincere friend and partner of the Latin American people, China believes that Latin American countries have the wisdom and capability to achieve peace, stability and vitality, he said, adding that China would like to make joint efforts with them to build a community with a shared future for both sides.

Xi congratulated Argentina on the success of the leaders' summit, saying that it sent correct, positive and reassuring signals to the world. He noted that during the meeting,

leaders of major countries reached consensus and issued a declaration, all of which have great significance.

The success of the meeting will be helpful in maintaining the multilateral trading system, building an open global economy and injecting impetus to the global market, he said.

Macri welcomed Xi's visit and expressed gratitude for China's help and support in his country's development.

Noting that this year marks the 40th anniversary since the launch of China's reform and opening-up policy, Macri congratulated the country on its great achievements in economic development and poverty reduction.

China has become a main engine for global economic growth, and its development has a great influence on the development of Argentina and other Latin American countries, Macri said.

Argentina is dedicated to deepening its comprehensive strategic partnership with China and enhancing cooperation under the Belt and Road framework, he said.

Argentina is pleased to sign the plan of common action with China for the next five years and expand cooperation in such areas as agriculture, finance, airlines and infrastructure, he said.

Also on Dec 2, Xi received Argentina's highest decoration, the Order of the Liberator General San Martin.

## Partnerships boost rail efficiency

Cooperation with China sees Buenos Aires upgrading its public transportation, infrastructure

By WANG KEJU  
wangkeju@chinadaily.com.cn

Argentina's aging rail system has seen improvements in efficiency, capacity and upgrades, thanks to cooperation with China.

To upgrade the public transportation system in Buenos Aires and modernize the city's infrastructure, Argentina's Ministry of Transport signed a purchase deal for 200 cars and related parts from China Railway Rolling Stock Corp (CRRC) in April. It was the third carriage order

from the company. The deal is worth about 2 billion yuan (\$291 million).

Since 2014, the ministry successively purchased a total of 709 intercity bullet train carriages made by CRRC in two previous orders for the replacement of carriages more than 50 years old on its three intercity lines — the Roca, Sarmiento and Mitre lines.

The trains feature rapid acceleration and braking and can reach speeds of up to 140 kilometers per hour. They are designed for journeys of between 50 and 100 km — longer

than trips commonly made on subways, according to the company.

The trains also make use of special paints and rubber to resist the damaging effects of ultraviolet light and corrosion, in accordance with Argentina's climate and local operating conditions, the company said.

"All the carriages have already been put into service, with 300 of them used for the Roca line. This order for 200 new cars and accessories is also for the Roca line, with deliveries starting in mid-2019," said Liu Chuanfeng, deputy general man-

ager of the company's overseas business department.

The carriages will help increase transport capacity by 20 percent, Liu added.

Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital, boasts a population of more than 10 million. There are over 20 satellite cities around the main city, mainly interconnected by old urban railway lines, the company said.

Liu said the upgrades are part of a vision to create a "one-hour metropolitan area" in Greater Buenos Aires, where faster trains could serve

outer suburbs and satellite cities within an hour of the center of large cities.

Xie Wenzhe, a professor at the Institute of Latin American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that China's train exports to Argentina can serve as a good example of the quality of vehicles and technologies.

"In the long run, collaboration will extend to more sophisticated areas — financing, for example — as Chinese manufacturers may be able to get loans in Argentina," Xie said.