

# **Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization : Major Achievements and Global Contributions**

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# Introduction

Reform is the biggest consensus in contemporary China.

On Lotus Hill in Shenzhen, a banyan tree stands tall and lush against the wind, witnessing the myriad changes brought by the new era of reform and opening up.

In December 2012, shortly after taking office, General Secretary Xi Jinping chose to visit Guangdong, a region at the forefront of reform and opening up. He climbed Lotus Hill, presented a flower basket to the bronze statue of Deng Xiaoping, and personally planted this tall banyan tree.

"We have come to pay homage to the bronze statue of Deng Xiaoping to show that we will unswervingly push forward with reform and opening up. We strive to make new progress, achieve new breakthroughs, and reach new heights in reform, opening up, and modernization."<sup>①</sup> General Secretary Xi Jinping's firm words stem from a profound historical self-awareness.

Looking back, there are always critical junctures worth remembering.

In November 2013, in the face of extensive and profound changes in domestic and international environments, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee made a major strategic decision to comprehensively deepen reforms, initiating a new era of dynamic and sweeping reform. Confronted with changes unprecedented in a century, the Chinese people, with the tenacity to tackle tough challenges and the perseverance to push uphill, have relentlessly advanced the cause of reform, writing a new chapter in comprehensive deepening reform.

In July 2024, the world-renowned Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee was held. Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, adopted by the Session, is a programmatic document guiding the further comprehensive deepening reform on the new journey. It fully reflects the strong determination of the Central Committee to further deepen reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization.

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①"Xi Jinping Emphasized During His Inspection in Guangdong to Enhance the Systematic, Holistic, and Coordinated Nature of Reforms, Ensuring That Reforms Do Not Stop and Opening Up Does Not Cease." *People's Daily*, December 12, 2012.

The change from "comprehensively deepening reform" to "further deepening reform comprehensively" reflects a historical continuation. Further deepening reform comprehensively is both a practical continuation of comprehensively deepening reform since the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee and a new chapter in advancing Chinese modernization on the new journey.

Reform is the strongest driving force for promoting Chinese modernization.

The Third Plenary Sessions of the 11th, 18th, and 20th Central Committees have marked the historical journey of China's reform and opening up through trials and triumphs. From the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC, which initiated the reform and opening up, to the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee, which raised the banner of reform and opening up even higher, China, once poor and backward, has, under the leadership of the CPC, triumphantly achieved the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and is now advancing towards the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.

Today, in the face of unprecedented global changes unseen in a century and the overarching strategy of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, how should China further deepen reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization? What impact will this have on the world? This report summarizes historical experiences and offers theoretical insights.

The report systematically summarizes the major achievements, fundamental principles, and global contributions of the CPC in promoting Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform since the new era.

The report concludes that comprehensively deepening reform has led to profound changes in ideology and theory. The CPC has been able to understand the world affairs and public sentiment, keep its finger on the pulse of reform, recognize the patterns of reform, and propose a series of groundbreaking, strategic, and guiding ideas and major assertions.

The report argues that comprehensively deepening reform has brought about profound changes in organizational methods. The CPC has strengthened its centralized and unified leadership over the comprehensive deepening reform, building a series of orderly and interconnected institutional mechanisms from the top down. This has

achieved a historic transformation from partial exploration and ice-breaking efforts to systematic coordination and comprehensive deepening.

The report concludes that the comprehensive deepening reform has brought about profound changes in the national institutions and governance framework. A systematic, complete, scientific, standardized, and effective institutional system is gradually taking shape; the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is becoming more mature and established; China's system and capacity for governance have been further modernized; and the effectiveness of the "Chinese system" is becoming increasingly evident.

The report indicates that the comprehensive deepening reform has realized profound changes through broad public participation. The implementation of all reform initiatives is ultimately for the people; all reforms rely on the support of the people. The people-centered development philosophy permeates all areas and aspects of reform, continuously enhancing the people's sense of gain, happiness, and security.

The report points out that the comprehensive deepening reform provides the world with vast opportunities. This transformation not only propels China's development but also significantly improves the global development landscape and promotes the progress of human civilization. The "door of opportunity" in the East is always open to the world, offering a bright future for all.

Reform and opening up have changed China and will certainly change the world profoundly.

## Chapter 1

# Major Achievements in Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

*All-round efforts have been made in fulfilling the objectives and tasks set out at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. Basic institutional frameworks have generally been established in all sectors, with many sectors transformed and restructured in historic, systematic, and holistic ways. This has laid down solid foundations on which a well-conceived, procedure-based, and effectively functioning set of institutions can be developed. This has made institutions in all sectors more mature and well-defined, resulting in historic achievements in comprehensively deepening reform.*<sup>①</sup>

—Xi Jinping

Reform and opening up are the most remarkable features and the most magnificent aspects of the journey toward Chinese modernization. The Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee was a landmark event that ushered in a new period: one of reform, opening up, and socialist modernization. The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee was also of epoch-making significance. It marked the start of a new journey of comprehensively deepening reform in the new era with systematic and holistic plans, thus paving the way for a brand new stage in China's reform and opening up endeavors. The Party has deepened reform on all fronts with unprecedented determination and strength. This has created a new situation where reform and opening up have driven the CPC and the State to achieve historic accomplishments and transformations in all undertakings, provided strong institutional support for completing the First Centenary Goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and set China on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects.

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<sup>①</sup>Excerpt from Xi Jinping's speech at the 17th Meeting of the Central Commission for Deepening Reform. *People's Daily*, December 31, 2020.



The tide of reform is surging, bringing about a myriad of changes. This is a pivotal and epoch-making move, as well as a great revolution that is vital to the future and destiny of the Party and the nation, as well as the success of their initiatives.

### **1.1 Embarking on a New Journey: Launching a New Era of Reform and Opening Up in China**

Throughout human history, at particular historical junctures, adapting to changes and seizing opportunities has been the key for nations and countries to leap to higher levels.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, there have been complex and profound changes in China's domestic and international environments. Domestically, after decades of rapid growth, the "growing pains" have gradually surfaced. The people's needs for a better life are now diversified and multi-faceted, and the issues of unbalanced and inadequate development have become increasingly prominent. Internationally, the world is facing unprecedented changes unseen in a century. A new round of technological and industrial revolution is emerging; trade protectionism and a backlash against globalization is on the rise. Consequently, China, committed to promoting the construction of an open world economy, faces more challenges.

Standing at the historical juncture of the "critical leap" of national rejuvenation, the CPC has profoundly grasped China's new historical orientation, gained deep insight into its new mission, and sounded the clarion call for a new wave of reform.

In the golden autumn of 2013, the much-anticipated Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC was successfully held in Beijing. The Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Several Major Issues Concerning Deepening Reform Comprehensively, adopted by the Plenary, is a programmatic document for comprehensively deepening reform, drawing a grand blueprint for this effort.

Playing chess well involves strategic moves and careful planning.

This reform anchors an overarching goal. At the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, the CPC proposed for the first time the overarching goal of comprehensively deepening reform: to improve and develop the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for gover-

nance. Governance has its structure, and implementation follows order. This goal defines the fundamental direction for comprehensively deepening reform and sets a clear orientation for improving and developing the socialist system with Chinese characteristics under this fundamental guidance. This overarching goal is determined by the unique attributes of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. It represents a significant innovation based on the CPC's comprehensive summary of the historical experience of reform and opening up and a profound understanding of the principles governing socialist modernization.

This reform focuses on comprehensiveness, depth, and fundamental changes. After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC, China embarked on a path of gradual reform. This process unfolded progressively from rural areas to cities, from outside the system to within, and from the economic sphere to other areas. At this stage, the interconnectedness, coupling, and systemic nature of the reforms have become increasingly pronounced. The saying "a single move affects the whole body" aptly describes the situation. Comprehensive promotion and systematic integration are necessary. The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee addressed a series of significant contradictions and challenges in China's development. It adhered to a goal-oriented approach, emphasized problem-solving, and planned the comprehensive deepening reform from a holistic perspective. The plenum rationally laid out the strategic focus, priorities, main areas of attack, working mechanisms, promotion methods, and timetable and roadmap for comprehensively deepening reform. This resulted in a series of major breakthroughs in reform theories and policies, marking a overarching deployment and mobilization for comprehensive reform.

The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC in 1978 initiated the first epoch-making reform, which propelled sustained and rapid economic and social development, allowing China to significantly catch up with the times. The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee in 2013 launched another epoch-making reform, starting a new journey of comprehensively deepening and systematically promoting reform.

Taking this as a new starting point, China's comprehensive deepening reform has set sail with remarkable momentum.

## 1.2 Innovating Theories: Forming Major Theoretical Innovations

The emancipation of the mind never ends, nor does reform and opening up. The broader the journey and the more arduous the task, the more we need the lighthouse of ideas to guide our way.

"If we do not emancipate our minds, it will be difficult for us to locate where interests become entrenched, identify a point for making a breakthrough and focusing our efforts, and come up with creative reform measures. Therefore, we must have the courage and vision to innovate. We must think outside the box, overcome the constraints of departmental interests, and proactively carry out research and work out measures of reform." On November 9, 2013, General Secretary Xi Jinping's explanation of the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Several Major Issues Concerning Deepening Reform Comprehensively resonated widely with society.

In the magnificent reform practice of the new era, the CPC has consistently led reform with ideological and theoretical innovations and has elaborated on reform missions, directions, objectives, strategies, incentives, and methods. The CPC has put forward a series of new ideas, viewpoints, and conclusions on comprehensively deepening reform and provided sound answers to major theoretical and practical questions, such as what banner to uphold, what path to take, and why and how to comprehensively deepen reform in the new era.

The reasons for the reform were clarified. Emphasizing that "implementing reform and promoting development are ultimately to enable the people to lead better lives," it creatively put forward the value orientation of comprehensively deepening reform. Adhering to a people-centered approach is a key element in the series of new ideas, views, and assertions for comprehensively deepening reform.

The direction for the reform was clarified. Emphasizing that "our reform and opening up has to it an orientation, a standpoint and principles," it clearly states that "the overall objective of comprehensively deepening reform is to improve and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize our country's governance system and governance capacity."<sup>①</sup> It has effectively addressed the fundamental ques-

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① "The Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Several Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening Reform." *People's Daily*, November 16, 2013.

tions of what flag to raise, what path to take, and what goals to pursue in the reform, ensuring that reform and opening up proceed steadily and in the right direction.

The approach to reform was clarified. Emphasizing that "reform involves both deconstruction and construction, and that finding the right approach will yield more results with less effort, while a wrong approach will yield less with more effort or even produce negative effects,"<sup>①</sup> we have creatively formulated the top-level design and roadmap for comprehensively deepening reform, as well as scientific methodologies and effective paths. From making it clear that "the market should play a decisive role in the allocation of resources and the government should better fulfill its role," to emphasizing that "all major reforms must have a legal basis," and further clarifying that "reforms should focus more on systematic integration,"<sup>②</sup> the continuously enriched and improved methodology of comprehensively deepening reform has led to ongoing progress in depth.

These new ideas, viewpoints, and conclusions on comprehensively deepening reform, which condense the historical experience of reform and opening up, embody the CPC's profound understanding of the principles of socialist modernization. They are the latest achievements in the theoretical innovations of comprehensively deepening reform in the new era, demonstrating the brilliance of thought and the power of practice in leading the reform.

Looking back at history, each major theoretical innovation has propelled the development of various undertakings, achieving new historical leaps. Looking ahead, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and by continuing to lead innovations in reform practices with ideological and theoretical innovations, we can continuously write new chapters in comprehensively deepening reform, injecting inexhaustible momentum into Chinese modernization.

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①"Xi Jinping Presided over a Symposium with Enterprises and Experts, Emphasizing the Need to Further Deepen Reform in Line with the Theme of Advancing Chinese-Style Modernization." *People's Daily*, May 24, 2024.

②"Xi Jinping Presided over a Symposium with Enterprises and Experts, Emphasizing the Need to Further Deepen Reform in Line with the Theme of Advancing Chinese-Style Modernization." *People's Daily*, May 24, 2024.

### **1.3 Optimizing Institutions: Modernizing China's System and Capacity for Governance**

Institutions play a fundamental, comprehensive, stabilizing, and long-term role in shaping a nation's development. The comprehensive deepening reform has always emphasized institution-building as the main line, continuously improving the institutional framework, strengthening fundamental institutions, perfecting basic institutions, and innovating key institutions. By deepening institutional reforms across all fields, the socialist system with Chinese characteristics has become more mature and established, and the modernization level of the national governance system and governance capacity has markedly improved.

Governing the country and regulating society require proper institutions. The CPC has always remained anchored to the overall goal of comprehensively deepening reform and has made systematic plans for reforms of economic, political, cultural, and social systems and those pertaining to ecological conservation, national defense and the armed forces, and Party building. These reforms are continuously advancing in both breadth and depth.

The new era has witnessed concentrated efforts and outstanding achievements in institution-building in China. The strategy of regional coordinated development addresses the problem of unbalanced and insufficient regional development; the reform of the science and technology system empowers innovation; the reform of the fiscal and taxation system reduces taxes and fees, strengthening the endogenous impetus of businesses; the reform of the institutions and mechanisms for impartial law enforcement and administration of justice meets the people's higher demand for fairness and justice; the reform of the household registration system breaks the dual urban-rural system to promote integrated urban and rural development; and the reform of the medical and healthcare systems effectively solves the issues of difficult and expensive medical care, which are major concerns of the public. The reform of the Party building system, starting with the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving conduct, resolutely addresses the issues of lax and weak party management. A series of major reforms affecting the overall cause of the Party and the country are being earnestly pushed forward; a series of institutional mechanisms for promoting development and ensuring security are being established and improved; and a

more systematic, complete, scientific, standardized, and effective institutional system is being rapidly constructed, providing strong impetus and institutional support for Chinese modernization.

In this new era, the CPC Central Committee has, with great historical initiative, tremendous political courage, and a strong sense of mission, united and led the entire Party, the military, and Chinese people of all ethnic groups in unshackling their thinking and breaking down the barriers erected by vested interests. We have dared to brave uncharted waters, grapple with tough problems, and navigate potential dangers and have worked resolutely to remove institutional obstacles in all areas, and as a result, foundational institutional frameworks have been basically put in place in all sectors. Overall, we have accomplished the reform tasks set at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee and attained our objective of achieving marked results in making all institutions more mature and better-defined by the time of the Party's centennial in 2021. By promoting "Chinese governance" with the "Chinese system" and transforming its institutional advantages into governance efficacy, the great superiority of the "Chinese system" is continuously demonstrated, and the powerful vitality of "Chinese governance" is increasingly bursting forth.

#### **1.4 Continuing the Miracle: Realizing the Historic Leap in China's Economic Power**

Development is the master key to solving all of China's problems, and it is of decisive significance in advancing Chinese modernization. We have fully and faithfully applied the new development philosophy on all fronts, adhered to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability, and worked to promote high-quality development, thus elevating China's economic strength, scientific and technological strength, national defense strength, and comprehensive national strength to new heights.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) has achieved a historic leap. From 2012 to 2023, China's GDP grew from 53.9 trillion yuan to 126 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth rate exceeding 6%. Converted at the average annual exchange rate, the total economic volume reached 18 trillion US dollars in 2023, accounting for around 18% of the world economy—up from 12.3% in 2012. China's annual average contribu-

tion rate to global economic growth exceeded 30%<sup>①</sup>, making it the primary engine driving world economic expansion. China ranks as the second-largest economy globally, the largest manufacturing nation, the top goods trading partner, the second-largest consumer of commodities, and the second-largest recipient of foreign investment. Its foreign exchange reserves have held the top position for multiple consecutive years. China's economy is getting bigger in size and stronger in substance.

The key to Chinese modernization lies in scientific and technological modernization. The comprehensive deepening reform leverages science and technology as its engine, providing a solid material and technological foundation for Chinese modernization and high-quality development. From 2012 to 2023, total R&D investment increased from 1.03 trillion yuan to 3.3 trillion yuan, accounting for 2.64% of GDP, surpassing the average level of European Union countries; the construction of an innovative country has achieved significant results. The "Tianwen" and "Chang'e" missions have explored the vast universe; the "Fendouzhe" and "Deep Sea No. 1" have broken through deep-sea limits; and new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products, collectively known as the "new trio," have become new symbols of China. Innovative achievements are emerging rapidly; innovative vitality is surging; and innovative momentum is building, showcasing the magnificent progress of comprehensive deepening reform in the new era. According to the Global Innovation Index 2023 published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China is the only middle-income economy in the top 30, ranking 12th, and occupies three of the world's top five technology clusters.

In the first quarter of 2024, China's high-tech manufacturing value added grew by 7.5% year-on-year, with the PMI for high-tech manufacturing reaching 53.9%, significantly outpacing the industrial average. Notably, industries such as intelligent in-car equipment manufacturing, semiconductor device-specific equipment manufacturing, and integrated circuit manufacturing saw value-added growth rates of 61.5%, 40.6%, and 18.5%, respectively.<sup>②</sup> New quality productive forces have already demonstrated

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① "Ten Sets of Data Reflecting Changes in China's Development in the New Era." *Xinhua News*, [http://m.news.cn/2023-03/04/c\\_1129413466.htm](http://m.news.cn/2023-03/04/c_1129413466.htm).

② "The State Council Information Office Holds a Press Conference on the Development of Industry and Information Technology in the First Quarter of 2024." *State Council Information Office Website*, [https://www.gov.cn/lianbo/fabu/202404/content\\_6952362.htm](https://www.gov.cn/lianbo/fabu/202404/content_6952362.htm).

strong impetus and support for high-quality development, becoming the driving force behind China's bright economic future.

### **1.5 Benefiting the People: Constant Increase of the Sense of Gain, Happiness, and Security**

"We should grasp and promote in reform whatever the people care about and expect, and give the people a stronger sense of gain by implementing reform."<sup>①</sup>The comprehensive deepening reform has consistently focused on the people. By addressing the most direct and pressing interests of the people, a series of targeted reform initiatives have been launched, achieving significant progress in ensuring people's access to childcare, education, employment, medical services, elderly care, housing, and social assistance. The people's sense of gain, happiness, and security has been continuously enhanced, and the people's quality of life has been improved.

To achieve the first centenary goal, China has won the largest battle against poverty in human history. By the end of 2020, all 98.99 million rural poor had been lifted out of poverty under the current standards, equivalent to the population of a medium-sized country escaping poverty each year. This achievement fulfilled the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's poverty reduction goals 10 years ahead of schedule, realizing the millennium-long dream of the Chinese nation of achieving a "moderately prosperous society" (Xiaokang). In 2023, the national per capita disposable income exceeded 39,000 yuan, and the middle-income group continued to expand.<sup>②</sup>

There are no small matters when it comes to the interests of the people. From the rural "toilet revolution" to urban waste classification, from addressing children's eyesight to promoting clean heating, everyday matters of the common people have taken center stage in China's policymaking. These seemingly small issues are integrated into the nation's top-level development plans, becoming focal points for reform. Docu-

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① "Xi Jinping Presides over the 23rd Meeting of the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reforms, Emphasizes the Need to Advance Reforms to Both Add New Momentum to Development and Uphold Social Fairness and Justice." *People's Daily*, April 19, 2016.

② "2023 Resident Income and Consumption Expenditure." *National Bureau of Statistics of China Website*, [https://www.stats.gov.cn/sj/zxfb/202401/t20240116\\_1946622.html](https://www.stats.gov.cn/sj/zxfb/202401/t20240116_1946622.html).



ments such as China's Education Modernization 2035, Healthy China 2030, and the National Medium- and Long-Term Plan for Active Response to Population Aging have been issued, providing clear goals and action plans for further social development and improvement of people's well-being.

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC, the CPC Central Committee has launched thousands of reform programs to ensure the people's wellbeing. These reforms focus on critical areas such as employment, housing, and education, weaving a robust network of social welfare. From 2013 to 2022, more than 13 million urban jobs have been created each year on average<sup>①</sup>; over 140 million people benefited from government-subsidized housing projects<sup>②</sup>; and on the basis of the full universalization of compulsory education, all 2,895 counties (county-level administrative areas) nationwide achieved a basic level of educational equity in compulsory education<sup>③</sup>.

China is home to the largest education system in the world, its availability of education at all levels has reached or exceeded the average level of middle- and high-income countries, and its gross enrollment ratio for higher education has surpassed 60%, realizing universal access to higher education.<sup>④</sup> It was stated at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee that focus on improving the people's quality of life, China will refine the income distribution, employment, and social security systems, make basic public services more balanced and accessible, and facilitate more notable, substantive progress in promoting people's well-rounded development and common prosperity for all.

In Chinese modernization, people's livelihood is paramount. Comprehensively deepening reform puts the people first. The substantial achievements reflect the steady progress of comprehensively deepening reform to benefit the people, vividly demon-

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① "China Creates 130 Million New Urban Jobs over Ten Years." *People's Daily (Overseas Edition)*, August 26, 2022.

② "Zhong Hualun: Carrying Out Reform and Opening-Up to Its Fullest." *Xinhua News Agency*, [http://www.news.cn/politics/2023-12/18/c\\_1130033190.htm](http://www.news.cn/politics/2023-12/18/c_1130033190.htm).

③ "China Achieves Historic Leap in Education Popularization." *Xinhua News Agency*, [http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2022-09/09/c\\_1128991991.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2022-09/09/c_1128991991.htm).

④ "Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng: The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Party Central Committee Makes Plans for Deepening Integrated Reform of Institutions and Mechanisms Pertaining to Education, Science and Technology, and Talent." *China Education Daily*, July 19, 2024.

strating that "ensuring people's happiness is the nation's top priority."

## 1.6 Eco-friendliness: Promoting Harmony between Humanity and Nature

Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature. Over the past decade or so, China has made great efforts to enhance ecological conservation and protect the environment, managing mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, grasslands, and deserts in an integrated manner. The country has carried out a series of pioneering initiatives, making significant strides in building a beautiful China and achieving historic, transformative, and comprehensive changes in ecological and environmental protection.

"Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets." "We should protect and cherish our natural environment as we do our own lives."<sup>①</sup> "We aim to hit peak emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060."<sup>②</sup> The CPC's profound thinking and solemn commitment to ecological conservation demonstrate its deep responsibility towards the natural environment.

Ecological conservation is a crucial component in the overall framework of China's socialist cause. Green development is an integral part of the new development philosophy. Environmental pollution prevention and control is among the three critical battles China must win, along with tackling major risks and poverty. Building a beautiful China is a key goal in China's vision of becoming a great modern socialist country. These top-level designs and strategic deployments have led to significant transformations: from targeted remediation to systematic governance, from reactive responses to proactive initiatives, and from being a participant to a leader in global environmental governance.

In 2015, China established a central government environmental inspection mechanism, which served as a breakthrough for reforming the system that places the monitor-

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① "Xi Jinping Emphasizes Resolute Efforts in the Battle against Poverty and Accelerating Economic and Social Development in Ethnic Minority Areas during His Inspection Tour in Yunnan." *People's Daily*, January 22, 2015.

② "Xi Jinping Chairs the Ninth Meeting of the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission, Emphasizing the Promotion of Regulated, Healthy, and Sustainable Development of the Platform Economy and Integrating Carbon Peak and Carbon Neutrality into the Overall Layout of Ecological Conservation Construction." *People's Daily*, March 16, 2021.

ing, supervision, and law enforcement activities of environmental bodies below the provincial level under the leadership of those bodies at the next level up. The country also introduced a lifelong accountability system for Party and government officials regarding ecological damage. The river chief system, lake chief system, and forest chief system were fully implemented. Furthermore, China has been constructing a national park-based nature reserve system and formulating and amending a series of critical environmental laws and regulations. These reforms provide institutional guarantees for improving urban and rural living environments and building a beautiful China.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people, with concerted efforts and unwavering commitment, steadfastly pursue the path of green development. From 2012 to 2022, China's annual energy consumption growth rate of 3% supported an average economic growth rate of 6.5%. Over this period, energy intensity cumulatively decreased by 26.2%, making China one of the fastest countries in reducing energy intensity globally. This reduction is equivalent to saving 1.4 billion tons of standard coal and avoiding the emission of 2.94 billion tons of carbon dioxide.<sup>①</sup> According to Bloomberg, China's air quality improvement between 2013 and 2020 is comparable to the achievements made by the United States over more than 30 years following the promulgation of the Clean Air Act.

In just over a decade, China has undergone remarkable transformation. The skies are bluer, the lands greener, and the waters clearer, enriching the country's vast and varied landscapes. These improvements are a hallmark achievement of comprehensively deepening reform.

## **1.7 Win-Win Cooperation: Promoting High-Standard Opening Up to the Outside World**

Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. At present, momentous changes unseen in a century are accelerating across the world. The global economic recovery is sluggish due to insufficient momentum. China, while emphasizing the expansion of domestic demand, is also committed to constructing a higher-standard open economic system. This endeavor aims to address development challenges,

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<sup>①</sup> "China in the Past 10 Years: Achieving Great Progress in Promoting the Transition to a Green, Low-carbon Economy." CCTV News, <https://m.gmw.cn/baijia/2022-05/13/1302945158.html>.

harness collaborative efforts, foster innovation, and promote shared prosperity through opening up. By doing so, China actively advances economic globalization, enhances development momentum across nations, and ensures that the benefits of progress are shared more equitably among the people of all countries.

At the core of China's high-standard opening up is institutional opening up, as General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized, "institutional opening up should be the focus when it comes to further reform of systems and mechanisms in such key areas for external exchange and cooperation as investment, trade, finance, and innovation, as to improve supporting policies and measures, and proactively elevate China's openness to a higher level."<sup>①</sup> In the new era, China has actively aligned with international high-standard economic and trade rules. Comprehensive pilot initiatives like free trade zones, free trade ports, and comprehensive service sector opening pilots play a pivotal role in intensifying openness in key areas. Restrictions on registered capital and investment methods are being eased. Furthermore, innovative institutional mechanisms are being explored. These include reducing the negative list for foreign investment, accelerating the refinement of regulatory models to accommodate digital trade and other emerging business models, establishing a robust negative list management system for cross-border service trade, and exploring post-border management system reforms in state-owned enterprises, intellectual property rights, and market procurement. Through these efforts, China aims to foster a first-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized.

Since the beginning of the new era, China has pursued a more proactive opening up strategy. We have worked to build a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas and accelerated the development of pilot free trade zones and the Hainan Free Trade Port. As a collaborative endeavor, the Belt and Road Initiative has been welcomed by the international community both as a public good and a cooperation platform. China has become a major trading partner for more than 140 countries and regions, it leads the world in total volume of trade in goods, and it is a major destination for global investment and a leading country in outbound investment. Through these ef-

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① "Xi Jinping Presides over the Second Meeting of the Central Committee for Deepening Reform Comprehensively, Emphasizing the Construction of a Higher-Level Open Economic System and the Gradual Transformation from Dual Control over Energy Consumption to Dual Control over Carbon Emissions." *People's Daily*, July 12, 2023.

forts, we have advanced a broader agenda of opening up across more areas and in greater depth.

The Belt and Road Initiative has become the world's most popular international public good and the largest international cooperation platform, with its network of partners continuously expanding. China has signed more than 230 cooperation documents on the Belt and Road Initiative with over 150 countries and 30 international organizations.<sup>①</sup> From 2013 to October 2023, the cumulative trade volume between China and BRI partner countries exceeded 21 trillion US dollars, with direct investment surpassing 270 billion US dollars.<sup>②</sup> As of May 2024, the China-Europe freight trains connect 223 cities in 25 European countries and over 100 cities in 11 Asian countries<sup>③</sup>. This extensive network spans the entire Eurasian continent, creating a lucrative "Golden Corridor" of international rail transport.

China is actively promoting greater liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and improving planning for regional opening up. Since 2013, China has set up 22 pilot free trade zones, including in Shanghai, Guangdong, Liaoning, Hainan, Shandong, and Beijing, and laid out plans for constructing a free trade port in Hainan, while advancing the opening up of inland and border regions. China has signed 22 free trade agreements (FTAs) with 29 countries and regions<sup>④</sup>. In addition, China has signed or upgraded FTAs with numerous other countries, helping to deepen cooperation in industrial and supply chains. The Foreign Investment Law took effect in 2020. In 2023, China's utilized foreign investment exceeded 1.1 trillion RMB<sup>⑤</sup>, ranking second globally.

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① "Injecting Strong Momentum for High-Quality Development: A Summary of Economic System Reform Achievements Since the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee." *Xinhua News*, <http://www.news.cn/fortune/20240626/45b7a9efe6b04011b989848fcc308f33/c.html>.

② "Promoting High-Quality Development of the Belt and Road Initiative with Continuous New Achievements: Focusing on China's Release of the Belt and Road Initiative's Development Outlook for the Next Decade." *Xinhua News*, [http://www.news.cn/2023-11/24/c\\_1129992740.htm](http://www.news.cn/2023-11/24/c_1129992740.htm).

③ "China-Europe Freight Trains Reach a Total of 90,000 Trips." *Xinhua News*, <http://www.news.cn/20240525/d6b13c9af1b04562a9b44582a03c6803/c.html>.

④ "State Council Information Office Holds Regular Policy Briefing on Enhancing High-Level Opening-Up and Increasing Efforts to Attract and Utilize Foreign Investment." *Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China Website*, <http://m.mofcom.gov.cn/article/zcjd/jdtzhz/202403/20240303483912.shtml>.

⑤ "China's Utilized Foreign Investment in 2023 Reaches the Third Highest Level in History." *Xinhua News*, <http://www.news.cn/fortune/20240320/125e2906dc3948799084e6c4e832e09f/c.html>.

China adheres to the basic national policy of opening up and continues to promote reform through opening up, thus opening China's doors wider to the outside world. The Chinese market is becoming more closely linked with the global market, and Chinese modernization provides new opportunities for promoting modernization around the world.

### **1.8 Crucial Move: Advancing the Steady and Sustainable Development of Chinese Modernization**

The scroll of history unfurls as we forge ahead; the grand narrative of the era is written through relentless endeavor.

"The highest priority of governance is to innovate and reform." In the new era, the CPC has unwaveringly advanced Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform. It has made a series of major achievements, from the reform of Party and state institutions to administrative approval system reforms, from the high-standard and high-quality construction of Xiong'an New Area to the exploration and establishment of the Hainan Free Trade Port, from scientific and technological system reforms to the building of a unified national market. Reforms have been transformed from a limited set of explorations and breakthroughs in certain areas into an integrated drive being advanced across the board, continuously infusing Chinese modernization with inexhaustible sources of vitality.

The present and the near future constitute a critical period for our endeavor to build a great country and move toward national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. In the face of complex international and domestic situations, a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial changes, and new expectations from the people, if China wants to gain the initiative and secure the future, it must consciously give more prominence to reform and further deepen reform comprehensively with a view to advancing Chinese modernization.

The journey is long; only through hard work can we prevail.

To break new ground, only through reform can we forge a path.

## Chapter 2

# The Basic Principles for Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

*To further deepen reform comprehensively, we must review and apply the valuable experience we have gained from our efforts to deepen reform comprehensively since the launch of reform and opening up, particularly in the new era. We must implement the principles of upholding the Party's overall leadership, taking a people-centered approach, upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground, taking institution building as our main task, exercising law-based governance on all fronts, and applying systems thinking.*

*—Commiqué of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China*

In the new era, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has, with unprecedented determination and courage, unshackled traditional thinking and broken down the barriers erected by vested interests, actively responding to various risks and challenges. Standing at a new historical starting point, we have promoted the comprehensive deepening reform, achieving many significant historic accomplishments and accumulating valuable new experiences. Reviewing and applying these experiences are the keys to the CPC's past successes and the foundation for further deepening reform comprehensively in a stable and far-reaching manner.

### 2.1 Adherence to the Overall Leadership of the Party

Adherence to the overall leadership of the CPC is the fundamental guarantee for promoting Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform. The key to making it work in China lies in the Communist Party of China. The leadership of the Communist Party of China is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese

characteristics and the greatest strength of the Chinese socialist system. To deepen reform comprehensively in the new era, it is essential to maintain the overall leadership of the CPC, uphold the authority and centralized, unified leadership of the Party's Central Committee, and ensure that the Party fully plays its core role in exercising overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all sides. We must ensure that the Party's leadership is exercised in every aspect and throughout the entire process of advancing Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform and that reforms are thoroughly promoted, continuously deepened, and always advanced in the correct political direction.

In comprehensively deepening reform, the CPC Central Committee, with its strong leadership, has set the direction, planned the overall strategy, determined policies, and promoted reform, and strengthened its leadership over further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization, thus leading the entire Party to make breakthroughs and overcome difficulties. To strengthen the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC over comprehensively deepening reform, the Central Leading Group for Deepening Reform Comprehensively was established shortly after the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee in 2013. This group is specifically responsible for the top-level design, overall planning, coordination, and promotion of major work in the field of comprehensively deepening reform, as well as overseeing its implementation. In 2018, this group was restructured as the Central Commission for Deepening Reform at the Third Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee. To date, the Commission (Group) has held over 70 meetings, adopted more than 600 significant reform documents and steered different sectors to introduce more than 3000 reform plans, effectively guiding and propelling the continuous advancement of reforms. Regions and departments have established a centralized and unified reform leadership system at all levels, a pragmatic and efficient reform decision-making mechanism, a coordinated mechanism that facilitates efforts at different levels, and a strong and orderly supervision and implementation mechanism, significantly enhancing the Central Committee's leadership over comprehensively deepening reform.

At the conclusion of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, overseas public opinion referred to the proposed reform initiatives, which involved 15 areas and over 330 major reform measures, as "the most ambitious reform program in the world today," although there was no lack of skepticism and negativity.



Today, under the leadership of the CPC, China has advanced comprehensive, deep, and fundamental reforms with unwavering commitment and a sense of urgency. Looking around the world, no other country or political party possesses the political courage, organizational capacity, and historical responsibility to promote reforms of such scope, scale, and intensity within such a short timeframe. Due to their great significance, the Party's leadership and Party building were an important consideration for the CPC Central Committee when it was reviewing experiences, elaborating on meanings, proposing principles, and deploying measures in the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, which was passed at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

To strengthen the CPC's leadership over further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee pointed out that we must uphold the Party Central Committee's centralized, unified leadership over the endeavor to further deepen reform across the board; deepen institutional reforms related to Party building; intensify efforts to improve conduct, build integrity, and combat corruption; and work with relentless persistence to ensure the implementation of reforms. It also stated that we must maintain a keen awareness of the need to use the Party's self-reform to steer social reform and continue to apply both the spirit of reform and rigorous standards in conducting Party self-governance; and we must improve the systems and regulations for the Party's self-reform and continue working to purify, improve, renew, and excel ourselves. All this will enable our Party to remain the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.<sup>①</sup>

## **2.2 Commitment to a People-Centered Approach**

Adhering to a people-centered approach is the value orientation for promoting Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepened reform. The CPC designs and advances reforms with the overall, fundamental, and long-term interests of the people in mind. Reforms are initiated in response to the people's needs, executed for

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<sup>①</sup> "Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization." *People's Daily*, July 22, 2024.

their benefit, rely on their support, and ensure that the gains are shared among the people. It is precisely because the CPC has consistently promoted social justice and the well-being of the people as its core focus that China has been able to propose and implement effective reform measures, drawing the impetus for deeper reforms from the people's practical creativity.

"Reform is meaningful when it is done for the people."<sup>①</sup> Ensuring and enhancing the people's wellbeing in the course of development is one of the major tasks of Chinese modernization. To advance Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform, we must always take greater social fairness and justice and increased wellbeing of the people as our ultimate objectives. The reform is being promoted by addressing the most pressing and immediate concerns of the people. It focuses on areas such as employment, education, income distribution, healthcare, social security, elderly care and childcare, public culture, and community-level governance, aiming to resolve the urgent needs and concerns of the people. Over the past 10 years or so, China has made sustained efforts to ensure people's access to childcare, education, employment, medical services, elderly care, housing, and social assistance. The people's lives have improved on all fronts; life expectancy per capita has risen steadily; the world's largest education and healthcare systems have been built; and the quality of life has continued to improve, enhancing people's sense of gain, happiness, and security. The achievements recorded in history highlight the warmth and depth of comprehensively deepening reform in the new era.

Common prosperity for all is an important feature of Chinese modernization. Eradicating poverty is a fundamental task in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and is crucial for promoting Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform. The CPC has creatively implemented targeted poverty alleviation, achieving the goal of ensuring that the poor "do not have to worry about food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical care, and housing security." This historic effort has successfully ended absolute poverty. Shibadong Village is located in Shuanglong Town, Huayuan County, Hunan Province, in central China. It is where General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the concept of "targeted poverty alleviation" in 2013. Long Xianlan, a villager from Shibadong Village who had been job-

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① Xi Jinping: "Adhering to Historical Materialism and Continuously Opening Up New Horizons for the Development of Contemporary Chinese Marxism," *Qiushi*, No. 2, 2020.

less for a long time, learned beekeeping and honey harvesting techniques through agricultural technology training organized by the government with the support of the targeted poverty alleviation policy, and obtained a loan through policy support. He earned more than 5,000 yuan in his first year, and today he has set up a local beekeeping cooperative that produces close to 2 million yuan a year.

"Reforms draw their power from the people."<sup>①</sup> China's comprehensive deepening reform upholds the people's central role, tapping into their boundless wisdom and strength, ensuring the reform has the most reliable, profound, and enduring source of strength. The CPC has timely summarized the practical experience of the people and has established practices such as comprehensive rural reforms, pilot free trade zones, the "one-stop" policy (where people only need to make one trip to get things done), and the Fengqiao model in the new era. These efforts have continuously unleashed the immense creativity of our people.

In Beijing, the capital of China, the 12345 Citizen Hotline has become a crucial initiative in social governance reform. It not only efficiently addresses a wide range of public issues but also helps guide the government's ongoing reform efforts. Situated in the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone, the 12345 Citizen Hotline call center operates around the clock with over 1,700 staff members working in shifts to handle citizens' calls. The service is available 24/7 throughout the year, ensuring that public demands are quickly and effectively met. Government departments analyze big data to identify the pain points in people's livelihoods and the obstacles in governance. This analysis provides a solid foundation for comprehensively deepening reforms and collaborating with city residents to address various challenges in urban modernization. By prioritizing service to the people and striving to fulfill their aspirations for a better life, the CPC vividly demonstrates its unwavering mission and enduring commitment to the public.

"Renmin", which means "people", is mentioned 46 times in the Chinese version of Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, which highlights the important role of the people in further deepening reform comprehensively. Ensuring and enhancing the people's wellbeing in the course of development is one of

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<sup>①</sup>Xi Jinping: "Adhering to Historical Materialism and Continuously Opening Up New Horizons for the Development of Contemporary Chinese Marxism." *Qiushi*, No. 2, 2020.

the major tasks of Chinese modernization. In the future, in line with the principle of doing everything within our means, China will continue to improve the income distribution system, the employment-first policy, and the social security system, further reform the medical and healthcare systems, improve the systems for facilitating population development and providing related services, and refine the systems of basic public services. With the focus on providing inclusive services, meeting essential needs, and providing a cushion for those most in need, we will strive to resolve the most practical problems that are of the greatest and most direct concern to the people so as to meet people's aspirations for a better life.

### **2.3 Upholding Fundamental Principles and Breaking New Ground**

Upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground is a key methodological principle for advancing Chinese modernization through comprehensive deepening reform. Comprehensive deepening reform is a historical process of development that builds on past achievements while introducing new ideas. By upholding fundamental principles, we avoid losing direction and making catastrophic mistakes. By breaking new ground, we can seize the times and lead them. Upholding fundamental principles means consistently adhering to socialism with Chinese characteristics and ensuring the correct direction for comprehensively deepening reform. Breaking new ground means keeping up with the times, adapting to practical developments, and focusing on solving problems. It also involves freeing our minds from old constraints and continuously promoting new ideas, practices, systems and other innovations in all aspects.

The comprehensive deepening reform in the new era has to it an orientation, a standpoint and principles. The direction determines the future, and the path shapes our destiny. Following our own path is the cornerstone of the CPC's theory and practice, and it is the historical conclusion drawn from a century of efforts to unite and lead the Chinese people. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a fundamental achievement realized by the Party and the people through tremendous hardships and significant sacrifices. This path is tailored to China's realities, reflects the will of the Chinese people, meets the needs of the times, and is the only way to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The unique Chinese characteristics, essential requirements, and major principles of this path must be unwaveringly and consistently upheld. On the

new journey to promote Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform, it is essential to safeguard the foundational principles and core values of Chinese modernization. We must unwaveringly uphold the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Guided by the overarching goal of comprehensively deepening reform, we should firmly steer the course of reform and opening up. This will ensure that reform and opening up continue to progress along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Strength lies in those who excel at maintaining principles, and victory belongs to those who dare to break new ground. The comprehensive deepening reform led by the Party is an unprecedented great undertaking, requiring a dialectical balance between maintaining principles and breaking new ground. "We must reform what should be reformed and can be reformed; we must not reform what should not be reformed and cannot be reformed."<sup>①</sup>The CPC aligns with the demands of the times and focuses on solving major theoretical and practical problems. It leads change with ideas and promotes development through reforms. The CPC embraces all new things with enthusiasm, constantly expanding the breadth and depth of its understanding. It dares to articulate new ideas that previous generations have not expressed and undertakes tasks that previous generations have not attempted. By guiding new practices with new theories, the CPC continuously advances the comprehensive deepening reform. The CPC creatively puts forward the historical positioning, significance, correct path, overall goal, value orientation, and main direction of comprehensively deepening reform. It also proposes the construction of the fundamental, basic, and important systems of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Moreover, the CPC emphasizes fully leveraging the decisive role of the market in allocating resources and giving better play to the role of government. It points out that sound macro regulation, along with effective governance by the government, is essential for ensuring that we can fully leverage the institutional strengths of our socialist market economy. It advocates for the integration of development and security, so as to ensure that high-quality development and greater security reinforce each other. The CPC has adopted a new approach to ecological conservation and environmental protection, focusing on integrated protection and systematic governance of mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland, and desert ecosystems.

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<sup>①</sup> Xi Jinping: "Speech at the Conference Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Reform and Opening Up." *People's Daily*, December 19, 2018.

At this new starting point as China further deepens reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization, it will continue to promote innovations in theory and practice, in our institutions and culture, and in all other aspects. To boost the overall performance of our country's innovation system, at its third plenary session, the 20th CPC Central Committee made major strategic plans including supporting all-around innovation, promoting integrated reform of institutions and mechanisms pertaining to education, science and technology, and talent in a coordinated way, and improving the new system for mobilizing resources nationwide. All this has demonstrated that innovation is given high priority in Chinese modernization as a whole.

#### **2.4 Commitment to the Main Task of Institutional Building**

Strengthening institutional building as our main task provides an institutional guarantee for advancing Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform. A stable system ensures a stable nation. Every reform involves system adjustments, governance innovations, and ultimately crystallizes into enduring institutions. Using reforms to continuously eliminate system and mechanism shortcomings, while simultaneously establishing rules, regulations, and building a comprehensive system, is an effective way to smoothly advance reforms and consolidate their outcomes in a timely manner.

In the process of comprehensively deepening reform, we are confronted with more deep-rooted institutional issues, and there is a greater need for systematic, holistic, and coordinated reform efforts. Consequently, the tasks of establishing rules and regulations and building systems have become more demanding. Institutional construction must therefore play a more significant role in top-level design and overall planning. In 2013, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee comprehensively planned the deepening of reforms of economic, political, cultural, and social systems and those pertaining to ecological conservation and Party building, setting the stage for building the country's institutions and governance system. In 2019, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee emphasized the importance of upholding and improving the fundamental, basic, and important systems that underpin socialism with Chinese characteristics, and focused on developing a complete set of institutions that are well conceived, well regulated, and well run. Simultaneously, it has

launched initiatives to build and reform systems across 13 areas, including the economy, politics, culture, society, ecological conservation, and Party building. A clear timetable for these advancements has been established, systematically outlining the institutional framework of socialism with Chinese characteristics. At its third plenary session in 2024, the 20th CPC Central Committee made systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively with the emphasis on building a high-standard socialist market economy, promoting high-quality economic development, supporting all-around innovation, improving macroeconomic governance, and institutional reforms in other important fields. More than 300 important reform measures related to institutions, mechanisms, and systems, are proposed at the session. Some of them aim to refine and improve existing reform measures, while others are newly introduced based on practical needs and results from pilot explorations.

Institutional building often plays a decisive role in the development of a particular field. When the institution is well established, the field will thrive. In 2018, China fully implemented the negative list system for market access, clearly stating that business entities can operate as long as it is not prohibited by law, significantly breaking down market access barriers. At the same time, the government has continued to streamline administration and delegate power, fully implementing the reform separating permits from the business license. This series of reform initiatives in building market institutions spans from micro-level business entities to macro management mechanisms. It covers both specific regulatory frameworks and broader operational frameworks. These reforms have enabled a better combination of an efficient market and an effective government, thus better maintaining order in the market and remedying market failures. As a result, the high-standard socialist market economic system has become more robust, significantly stimulating the innovative vitality of market entities and unleashing the internal driving forces and creativity of the whole of society.

In the new era, comprehensively deepening reform in China has progressed rapidly, steadily, and resolutely. Foundational institutional frameworks have been substantially established across various domains. The system of socialism with Chinese characteristics has matured and solidified, while China's system and capacity for governance have been further modernized.

## 2.5 Staying Committed to Law-based Governance on All Fronts

We must stay committed to law-based governance on all fronts, providing guarantees for advancing Chinese modernization through comprehensive deepening reform. The comprehensive deepening reform and the comprehensive advancement of the rule of law are like the two wings of a bird or the two wheels of a chariot. In essence, reform and rule of law are the dialectical unity of construction and destruction and of change and constancy. The comprehensive deepening reform in the new era places great importance on the use of legal thinking and approaches. By actively leveraging the role of laws in guiding, regulating, promoting, and guaranteeing reform, we provide a robust guarantee for the reforms to progress swiftly and steadily according to the blueprint.

To meet the needs of reform and development, and to ensure that the rule of law stays aligned with reform, China is committed to deepening reforms in legislation and harmonizing legislation with reform decisions. This ensures that major reforms are legally grounded and that laws are proactively adapted to support reform and development. Of the 303 laws currently in effect in China, 78 were enacted after the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. A total of 334 amendments were made to 147 laws out of these 303 laws. "All major reforms must have a legal basis."<sup>①</sup>Following legal procedures, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) issues authorization decisions to provide legal basis and support for pilot reforms in specific regions or fields. The 12th NPC Standing Committee has issued authorization decisions for pilot reforms in the system of people's assessors, reforms in public interest litigation, and the use of contracted rural land-use rights and farmers' home property rights as collateral for loans. These authorizations clearly define their scope, content, and duration, ensuring that reforms proceed in an orderly manner within the framework of the rule of law.

China places great importance on the timely incorporation of proven reform achievements into the legal system. At the end of 2019, China's Ministry of Justice and the General Administration of Market Supervision initiated legislative work for the unified registration and management of market entities. The team systematically re-

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① "Excerpt from Xi Jinping's Speech at the Second Meeting of the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reform." *People's Daily*, March 1, 2014.



viewed existing regulations, rules, and relevant provisions on market entity registration and management. They also comprehensively summarized practical experience from the commercial system reform. This work ultimately resulted in the "Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Registration and Management of Market Entities." As the first administrative regulation formulated and issued in China to uniformly regulate the registration and management of all types of market entities, the Regulations optimize and unify the relevant systems in various individual laws and regulations concerning the registration and management of market entities, and establish a foundational system for the registration and management of market entities in China.

For measures that are not yet mature or require pilot testing, authorization will be granted in accordance with legal procedures. In order to support the comprehensive deepening reform in Hainan and promote the implementation of pilot policies in the China (Hainan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, in April 2020, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China passed legislation authorizing the State Council to temporarily adjust the application of provisions in three laws, including the Land Administration Law, within the China (Hainan) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

China has promptly revised laws and regulations that do not align with reform objectives. Additionally, by taking into account the needs of political, economic, and social development, China improves legislative foresight and enhances the effectiveness of reforms. In April 2015, the Standing Committee of the NPC adopted the Decision on Amending the Drug Administration Law and other related decisions. These amendments affected specific provisions of more than 20 laws and decisions concerning administrative approvals, business registration, and price management. The purpose of these amendments was to provide a legal basis and support for further deepening reforms in the administrative approval system and price regulation. In response to the new challenges posed to existing laws, regulations, and social order by the sharing economy models, such as online ride-hailing and bike-sharing, China has promptly enacted relevant laws and regulations to standardize and regulate these activities, thus realizing the rule of law's response to social development.

At the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, it was stated that the rule of law provides an important guarantee for Chinese modernization. The Resolution adopted at the Session clearly states that we will formulate a private sector promotion law, a financial law, a law on promoting ethnic solidarity and progress, and

a law on countering transnational corruption, and that we will refine the Law on the Oversight by the Standing Committees of People's Congresses at All Levels, revise the Supervision Law, and compile an environmental code. The Resolution also points out that we must coordinate the reforms to promote sound legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, and observance of the law, and improve the mechanisms for ensuring that all are equal before the law, so as to promote socialist rule of law, safeguard social fairness and justice, and see that all work of the state is carried out under the rule of law.

## **2.6 Applying Systems Thinking**

Reform in the new era is not about making piecemeal changes here and there. Comprehensively deepening reform is a complicated systemic project. Rather, it must be carried out comprehensively and systematically so that reforms and improvements in all fields are linked and integrated to produce an overall effect. Applying systems thinking is an intrinsic requirement of comprehensively deepening reform as well as an important means for continued progress. Promoting Chinese modernization through comprehensively deepening reform encompasses all areas of economic and social development. It requires a systematic approach, with integrated planning across all aspects, levels, and elements of reform. We must channel greater energy into making our reforms integrated, focused, and effective to ensure that reforms in different sectors work in concert and produce desirable results.

In this new era and on this new journey, China's development environment faces profound and complex changes. The issues of unbalanced and inadequate development remain prominent, and contradictions in economic and social development are intricate, making it necessary to plan and address them from a systemic perspective. The CPC insists on improving its ability to adopt a strategic perspective and apply a historical, dialectical, and systematic approach to thinking and its ability to think creatively, think in terms of the rule of law, and consider worst-case scenarios. The CPC focuses on clarifying the logical relationships of major reforms. It properly handles the major relationships between the economy and society, government and market, efficiency and fairness, vitality and order, and development and security. By doing so, it promotes reforms that mutually reinforce each other, interact positively, and coordinate ef-

fectively. The CPC will implement a well-coordinated set of reforms, ensuring the reforms echo, connect, and complement each other, while preventing imbalances, isolated efforts, or neglect of any aspect.

China's sustained improvement in the quality of the environment is a vivid testament to its insistence on promoting reform with a systemic approach. The reform of the ecological conservation system, from issue analysis and plan formulation to design, coordination, and promotion, has consistently advanced under the unified strategy of the CPC Central Committee. The Political Bureau of the Central Committee has reviewed and approved the Guidelines on Accelerating Ecological Advancement and the Integrated Reform Plan for Promoting Ecological Progress. These documents form a programmatic framework for the ecological conservation system. The top-level design of this reform has enabled it to transcend existing interest structures. Numerous innovative initiatives, such as environmental protection inspections, the river and lake chief systems, and national parks, have been introduced successively. These efforts have collectively played a significant role in shaping a beautiful China.

Comprehensively deepening reform emphasizes the integration of top-level design and community-level exploration. The approach of "crossing the river by feeling the stones" is uniquely characteristic and well-suited to China's specific conditions. For reforms that necessitate a cautious approach, the CPC adopts active pilot projects to explore and test the waters. These reforms are thoroughly evaluated before being widely implemented. The reform of the household registration system started in small and medium-sized towns, expanded to many parts of the country, and was eventually implemented in major metropolitan centers. The reform of the medical and health system began with public hospital reforms and made significant progress through health insurance system reforms, leading to the establishment of an integrated approach known as the "three-medical linkage", which encompasses medical services, health insurance, and pharmaceuticals.

At the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, new plans were proposed to promote integrated urban and rural development. It was stated that integrated urban and rural development is essential to Chinese modernization. We must improve the institutions and mechanisms for urban-rural integrated development. Fully drawing on the experience of previous community-level trials, the overall design of this reform prioritizes coordinated progress in new industrialization, new urbanization,

and all-around rural revitalization. Reform in this regard aims to pursue greater urban-rural integration in planning, development, and governance, and promote equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between the cities and the countryside, so as to narrow the disparities between the two and promote their common prosperity and development. At the session, the Central Committee formulated 32 systematic measures for reforms concerning the institutions and mechanisms for advancing new urbanization, the basic rural operation system, supporting systems to strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas, and the land system. These reform measures involve issues of vital interest to farmers including household registration, public services, the lawful land rights and interests, rural collective economies, prevention of rural residents from lapsing or relapsing into poverty, the prices of grain and other major agricultural products, and distribution of returns realized from the appreciation of land.

At the session, the Central Committee put forward measures for comprehensively deepening reform in the economy, politics, culture, society, the environment, national security, national defense and the military, and Party building. Reforms in all these fields will be carried out with systems thinking throughout the whole process and the reform in each field highlights the well-conceived top-level design and feasible approach. Clear and integrated deployments have been made for implementing reform measures, with focus on coordination in policies, progress, and outcomes. Efforts will be made to promote reform measures in all aspects to work in the same direction and form synergy, so as to leveraging the overall effect of reform.

## Chapter 3

# China's Contributions to the World in Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

*We will continue to follow the Chinese path to modernization to achieve the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and we will continue to promote the building of a human community with a shared future. By doing so, we will create new opportunities for the world with new advances in China's development and contribute our vision and strength to world peace and development and human progress.*<sup>①</sup>

—Xi Jinping

Advancing Chinese modernization through comprehensive deepening reform has not only profoundly changed China but also significantly impacted the world; China has not only developed itself but also benefited the world. China's steady economic and social development, along with the continuous improvement of its national governance system and governance capacity, has contributed China's capabilities to the global economy, provided China's experience in global governance, and offered China's input for the future of mankind. This fully demonstrates China's innovative vitality and sense of responsibility in the new era.

### 3.1 Creating a New Driving Force for Global Economic Growth

Currently, the global economy remains sluggish due to great power competition, geopolitical conflicts, and other factors. China, however, continues to inject valuable positive energy into global economic growth. Since 2012, China's GDP has consistently held the second position globally, with its share of the global economy increasing every year. Since the comprehensive deepening reform, China has consistently ranked

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<sup>①</sup>"Excerpt from President Xi Jinping's Speech at the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization." *People's Daily*, September 17, 2022.

first in average contribution to global economic growth for several consecutive years, surpassing the combined contributions of the Group of Seven (G7) countries. China's long-term stable economic development has provided a significant driving force for the world economy. In this new era and on this new journey, China is advancing Chinese modernization through further comprehensively deepening reform. A more efficient and dynamic Chinese economy will become an even stronger driver of global economic growth.

Prioritizing development and transitioning to high-quality growth will inject new momentum into the recovery of the world economy. Development is of paramount importance. As the largest developing country, China has consistently aligned its development with the broader context of human progress, creating new opportunities for global advancement through its own growth.<sup>①</sup>High-quality development is the primary task in building a modern socialist country in all respects. The comprehensive deepening reform has firmly focused on economic development, continuously stimulating the internal driving force and vitality for high-quality development. A number of high-end, intelligent, and green new pillar industries have rapidly risen in China. In 2023, China's electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products, known as "the new three," exported a total of 1.06 trillion yuan, an increase of 29.9%.<sup>②</sup> These products have enriched the global supply, alleviated global inflation pressure, and strongly promoted the global green transition. The development momentum brought about by the comprehensive deepening reform has not only helped the solid advancement of China's high-quality development, but also provided strong impetus for global economic growth.

Adhering to the innovation-driven approach and fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions are essential for building an innovation engine for global economic development. The development of new quality productive forces is essential and the focus for promoting high-quality development. China has seized the historic opportunity presented by the new round of technological and industrial revolution to accelerate the development of new quality productive forces. This not only

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①"Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to the First High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development." *People's Daily*, July 11, 2023.

②"Confident in Exports: 2023's 'Three Key New Products' Exports Surpass One Trillion Yuan for the First Time." *Xinhua News*, <http://www.news.cn/fortune/20240112/729be84a956a4d3aae196b95f3a2e301/c.html>

drives China's economic growth but also showcases the vitality of innovation and development to the world. The new quality productive forces are driven by innovation, moving away from traditional economic growth and productivity models, and characterized by high-tech, high-efficiency, and high-quality features. They represent advanced productive forces that align with the new development philosophy. China is committed to optimizing the innovation environment, improving institutional mechanisms, and stimulating market vitality through comprehensive deepening reform. This approach channels various production resources into areas of new quality productive forces, providing a fresh engine for global economic growth. China has achieved a series of major innovations in fields such as manned spaceflight, large aircraft manufacturing, nuclear power technology, and quantum computing. In 2023, China ranked second in the world in terms of R&D funding.<sup>①</sup> By the end of 2023, the number of effective invention patents in the mainland of China (excluding Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan) reached 4.015 million, with high-value invention patents accounting for over 40%, making China the first country in the world to have more than 4 million effective invention patents within its territory. China is the highest-ranking middle-income economy in the global innovation index and has become an increasingly important player in the global innovation landscape. China's scientific and technological innovations are widely applied, bringing greater convenience to people's lives and work in other countries. These innovations contribute China's scientific and technological capabilities to global economic growth and human progress.

Adhering to the principles of inclusiveness and universal benefit, China aims to promote a new type of economic globalization to provide the world with a better platform for international cooperation. China is striving to build a global development framework that is comprehensive and balanced, coordinated and inclusive, with win-win cooperation and common prosperity, thereby promoting inclusive economic globalization that is beneficial to all. During the process of comprehensively deepening reform, the Belt and Road Initiative has gradually transformed from a Chinese initiative to a global endeavor, from a concept into action, and from a vision into reality, enhancing global connectivity and promoting the continuous deepening and develop-

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① The Party Leadership Group of the National Bureau of Statistics of China: "Harnessing the Power of Historic Transformations to Write a New Chapter of High-Quality Development." *Qiushi*, No. 13, 2024.

ment of international investment and trade. As of March 2024, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), initiated by China and now the world's second largest international multilateral institution, has approved 260 projects with a total financing of over \$51 billion, mobilizing \$160 billion of capital for the construction of key infrastructure in Asia and around the world<sup>①</sup>, providing new impetus for the economic and social development of Asia and other regions. China has also successfully organized the China International Import Expo, the China Import and Export Fair, the China International Fair for Trade in Services, the China International Investment Fair, the China International Consumer Products Expo, and a series of regional trade fairs. With China's efforts, the voices of many emerging markets and developing countries seeking development and cooperation have been increasingly heard and valued. Businesspeople from many countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have expressed their gratitude to China for providing valuable opportunities, such as the China International Import Expo, which allow people in developing countries to also enjoy the benefits of economic globalization.

### 3.2 Providing New Input for Global Governance Improvement

In the new era, while comprehensively deepening its reforms, China has adhered to a vision of global governance featuring shared growth through discussion and collaboration. It has actively participated and played a leading role in the reform and construction of the global governance system and has launched timely initiatives and proposals that have benefited its transformation and development, working to make global governance fairer and more equitable.

China injects its capabilities into improving global development governance. Development is the eternal pursuit of humanity and a shared responsibility of all countries. General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward the Global Development Initiative, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing development, fostering joint efforts to address common challenges, and working together to advance global development toward a new stage of balanced, coordinated, and inclusive growth. The Global Develop-

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① "No Country Can Tackle Global Challenges Alone: Exclusive Interview with Jin Liqun, President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank." *Xinhua News*, <http://www.news.cn/world/20240329/1a92b2603c91467eaa461d683e8860fe/c.html>.



ment Initiative (GDI) is a significant public good that China has contributed to the world in the new era. Over 100 countries and international organizations have expressed their support for it, and more than 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI. From announcing 32 practical initiatives to convening a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI; from establishing the Global Development Promotion Center (GDPC) to establishing a GDI Project Pool; from establishing the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund to announcing the launch of a \$10 billion special fund, China has continued to refine the roadmap and action plan for its global development initiatives. It was with the help of the GDI that the Government of Laos renewed its national school feeding program, which provides nutritious meals to more than 130,000 students in more than 1,400 schools in remote areas; women in Kyrgyzstan learned about cutting-edge courses such as information technology, business planning, and Internet marketing in the "Knowledgeable Women, Knowledgeable Nation" training courses; in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province, 5,300 refugee families began building their own homes after receiving household emergency kits, livelihood kits, and roofing kits. UN Secretary-General Guterres said that the GDI is highly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the United Nations fully supports this initiative and is willing to strengthen cooperation with China in this regard.

China provides its input to strengthen global security governance. In today's world, where frequent hotspot issues, intensified geopolitical conflicts, and rampant unilateral hegemony are prevalent, General Secretary Xi Jinping has put forward the Global Security Initiative to build a world of lasting peace. He advocates adherence to the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, and the joint construction of a security community for humankind. In February 2023, China officially released the Concept Paper of the Global Security Initiative. This document further elaborates on the core concepts and principles of the Initiative. It proposes 20 key areas for cooperation to address the most prominent and urgent international security concerns, and puts forward ideas for a cooperation platform and mechanism for the Initiative. The Global Security Initiative has now been endorsed by over 100 countries and international and regional organizations. It has been included in numerous bilateral and multilateral documents concerning China's interactions and cooperation with other countries and international organizations. "China is a stabilizing force in the

region and the world. China has always been committed to solving problems, as we have seen," said Ahmed Rafiq Awad, a professor at Al-Quds University in Palestine.

China contributes its insight to advancing global civilizational exchanges and mutual learning. Equal exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations will provide powerful guidance for humanity to address contemporary challenges and achieve common progress. General Secretary Xi Jinping has proposed the Global Civilization Initiative with the aim of promoting exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, enhancing mutual understanding and affinity among peoples of all countries, building a consensus on cooperation within the international community, and promoting the progress of human civilization. From the Chengdu Universiade to the Hangzhou Asian Games and the General Assembly of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia, China has spared no effort in building a platform for equal dialogue among civilizations, orchestrating a symphony of "soft connectivity" and "heart-to-heart connectivity". China strives to create a new era of humanistic exchanges, cultural integration, and people-to-people communication among countries, contributing its insight to promoting the progress of human civilization and addressing common global challenges. The Vice-Chancellor the University of Abuja, Nigeria, AbdulRasheed Na'Allah, expressed his genuine appreciation for the Global Civilization Initiative, stating that it demonstrates the power of cooperation and the common responsibility of all countries in advancing the process of human modernization. He believes that this initiative will surely inject strong impetus into building a human community with a shared future and promoting the process of human modernization.

### **3.3 Injecting Fresh Impetus into the Global Ecological Progress**

China will remain committed to comprehensive deepening reform. We will work to improve ecological conservation systems and make concerted efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, and boost economic growth. We will actively respond to climate change and move faster to improve the institutions and mechanisms for applying the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. We will steadfastly follow a path prioritizing ecology and green development. China will continue to drive a comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development, fostering a modernization of harmony between human-

ity and nature. Our remarkable ecological and green development achievements have gained global recognition, injecting fresh impetus into the global ecological progress.

China is a participant, contributor, and trailblazer in global ecological conservation. Through comprehensively deepening reform, China has achieved its 2020 goals for combating climate change and establishing nature reserves ahead of schedule. It boasts the largest area of planted forests in the world and has made the greatest contribution to protecting the global ozone layer. China has made important contributions to the adoption of the Paris Agreement and is a global leader in energy conservation and renewable energy utilization. The country has pledged to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, aiming to complete this transition in the shortest time frame in history. Since the beginning of this century, China has accounted for a quarter of the world's new green areas. China ranks first in the world in terms of installed capacity for hydropower, wind power, solar power, and biomass power generation. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, commented, "China has demonstrated leadership in international cooperation on environmental protection."

China offers its insights to address the world's ecological conservation challenges. Ecological and environmental issues are major challenges that require the concerted efforts of all humanity to address together. China's commitment to comprehensively deepening reform and pursuing modernization that features harmonious coexistence between humans and nature has profoundly addressed the major question of where humanity is heading at the crossroads of ecological and environmental changes. It has also provided the world with Chinese insights for exploring solutions to ecological and environmental problems. The United Nations Environment Programme has incorporated China's ecological conservation concept into documents and reports to promote it globally. Laos' Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has adopted the motto "Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets". According to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), China views mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, grasslands, deserts, and glaciers as a community of life, and emphasizes integrated protection and systematic governance. This approach provides a model for other developing countries. According to John B. Cobb, Jr., a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, "The hope of ecological conservation lies in China."

China builds a platform for global ecological conservation governance. Creating a beautiful home is a common dream of humanity. China is leading the global environmental governance process through the Beautiful China Initiative, and is actively building a platform for cooperation and exchange to create a clean and beautiful world. In recent years, China's ecological governance technologies have supported the construction of the "Great Green Wall" project in Africa. Juncao technology has created green employment opportunities in over 100 countries and regions. Some African and Central Asian countries have turned barren lands into green areas through China's technical assistance. China has carried out international cooperation and exchanges on ecological and environmental issues with more than 100 countries, and has signed over 100 agreements on ecological and environmental protection with more than 60 countries and international and regional organizations, providing significant support for achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals.

### **3.4 Providing New Experience for Humanity's Exploration of Modernization**

In the new era, China's commitment to comprehensively deepening reform has vigorously promoted coordinated progress in material, political, cultural-ethical, social, and ecological terms, successfully advancing and expanding Chinese modernization. China has always linked its destiny with that of other nations. It strives to offer new opportunities for global development through its achievements in Chinese modernization, provide new choices for humanity's exploration of modernization, and contribute to global innovation in modernization theory and practice.

Chinese modernization has dramatically reshaped the global landscape of modernization. The vast population size is a distinctive feature of Chinese modernization. To date, the combined population of all countries that have completed industrialization is less than one billion. Before China achieved modernization, the world's modernization was limited to only a few countries. China's population of over 1.4 billion is moving towards modernization, surpassing the combined population of all current developed countries. This will be the largest modernization process in human history. As a result, the total population of high-income countries worldwide will double, and the share of the global population living in modernized conditions will swiftly rise from less than one-seventh to one-third. This is an unprecedented event in human history.

We are about to witness a monumental transformation in the global modernization landscape, driven by developments in the East. Based on the experiences of recent centuries, the modernization process of late-developing countries has not been smooth. Most developing countries around the globe, especially those with large populations, have not yet achieved modernization. China has explored a feasible path for late-developing countries to catch up, offering new options for many developing countries to achieve modernization. In the historical transition from a traditional society to a modernized one, China's vast scale is bound to have a profound impact on the world. Pierre Moussa, General Secretary of the ruling Congo Labor Party in Congo-Brazzaville, exclaimed, "China's development is profoundly affecting the world."

Chinese modernization offers a new perspective on human modernization. Since modernization began in Western capitalist countries, some countries habitually believe that there is only one model of modernization—Western modernization—and only one path to achieve it—capitalism. This has led to the fixed mindset that "modernization equals Westernization". However, the modernization process in Western capitalist societies has various inherent drawbacks. These include wealth disparity, excessive materialism, exploitation of natural resources, and military aggression and expansionism. These issues have created numerous problems for the long-term development of human society but have also triggered a rethinking of the modernization model. China has focused on summing up experiences and learning lessons while continuously deepening comprehensive reform, successfully forging a modernization path distinct from that of the West. It has advanced Chinese modernization characterized by a huge population, common prosperity for all, material and cultural-ethical advancement, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development. This highlights the unique features and advantages of Chinese modernization and presents a new vision for global modernization.

Chinese modernization has created a new form of human civilization. It is deeply rooted in China's profound traditional culture, reflects the advanced essence of scientific socialism, integrates the outstanding achievements of global civilizations, and represents the direction of human civilization's progress. Chinese modernization embodies unique perspectives on worldview, values, history, civilization, democracy, and ecology, setting a model for developing countries to move towards modernization independently. Drawing on China's experience in poverty reduction, countries like Kazakhstan

have developed national plans and improved their systems to combat poverty. They focus on empowering the poor by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills to achieve self-sufficiency. The Tanzanian ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), has introduced its own version of the "Eight-point Regulation", inspired by the CPC's strict governance measures, which has garnered wide public support. It has been proven that there is no single path or form for a country to move towards modernization and achieve a high level of civilization, and each country can create its own unique form of civilization.

### **3.5 Making New Contributions to Global Peace and Development**

In today's world, international political disputes and military conflicts are erupting in multiple regions, deepening the deficit of peace. For over a decade, China has been promoting Chinese modernization by comprehensively deepening reform. This has led to the creation of two significant achievements: rapid economic development and long-term social stability. These efforts have brought more certainty and stability to a world fraught with turmoil, making new contributions to the maintenance of global peace.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. China remains steadfast in its own development, which consistently represents an increase in the forces of global peace. In the process of comprehensively deepening reform, China has always held high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, called for an equal and orderly multipolar world, and championed the shared values of all humanity. China's development is a growing force for peace and an increasing stabilizing factor in the world. On issues of peace and security, China has the best record of any major power in the world. China has always been unequivocally opposed to hegemonism and power politics. China is the only country in the world that has enshrined its adherence to the path of peaceful development in its Constitution, and it is the only nuclear power that has pledged no first use of nuclear weapons. With every increase in China's strength, the hope for world peace grows.

China firmly upholds an international system centered on the United Nations and supports the United Nations in playing a central role in international affairs. Currently, the world has entered a new era of turbulence and transformation, and multilateralism

and international law are facing serious challenges. In the face of unprecedented global challenges, China has always firmly upheld the authority and status of the United Nations, faithfully adhered to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, upheld an international order based on international law, and supported the United Nations Security Council in its primary role in peace and security matters. China is the second largest contributor to the United Nations regular budget, the second largest contributor to United Nations peacekeeping assessments, and the largest contributor to peacekeeping operations among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. In Lebanon, Chinese peacekeepers have cleared mines for the local people and opened up safe passages; in South Sudan, Chinese peacekeeping infantry battalions have carried out armed patrols, security searches, and other tasks, playing an important role in stabilizing the local safety conditions. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, "China has become an important, indispensable, and trustworthy force for world peace and development."

In responding to the common problems faced by humankind, China has proposed that we join hands to build a human community with a shared future. Confronted with the major question of "what kind of world we should build and how to build it", China has provided its contemporary answer: building a human community with a shared future. This concept is based on the objective reality of nations having intertwined destinies and mutual solidarity, and it sets a new paradigm of equality and coexistence. The building of a human community with a shared future has been included in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly for seven consecutive years, and in the resolutions and declarations of multilateral mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS countries multiple times. It has expanded from a Chinese initiative to an international consensus, transforming from a beautiful vision into rich practices and evolving from a conceptual proposition into a scientific system. As a result, it has become a glorious banner leading the way forward in our times. China advocates that all countries of the world join hands to address challenges, achieve common prosperity, and build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. China also aims to foster a more secure and prosperous peaceful coexistence for humanity. In the view of British scholar Martin Albrow, China has played a leading role in turning the building of "a human community with a shared future" from an idea into reality.

## Conclusion

The journey of comprehensively deepening reform in the new era has been remarkable. Through reform and innovation, the Chinese people have been able to overcome the difficulties and challenges encountered in the course of progress. They have continuously enhanced both domestic and international development linkages, achieving their own development while benefiting other countries and peoples alike. By participating in and advancing the process of economic globalization, they have promoted the noble cause of peace and development for humankind.

Openness leads to progress, while isolation inevitably leads to backwardness. Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. China's development is an open development, and opening up is both a powerful driving force and an inevitable requirement for comprehensively deepening reform. Every round of reform is always accompanied by a new round of opening up, and deeper openness always drives reform further into the depths. High-level openness and deep-level reforms are mutually reinforcing in the process of Chinese modernization, creating a systemic synergy that drives China's overall economic and social development. On the new journey in the new era, China will remain committed to the basic state policy of opening to the outside world and continue to promote reform through opening up. Leveraging the strengths of China's enormous market, we will enhance our capacity for opening up while expanding international cooperation and develop new institutions for a higher-standard open economy, so as to make greater contributions to world economic development.

"The Chinese people will play a significant role in shaping the common destiny of humanity." This was the bold prediction of the American sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein more than 20 years ago. It has been proven that China has always been a significant opportunity for global development.

China's historic achievements in comprehensively deepening reform have once again clearly demonstrated the rationale for achieving national prosperity and the empowerment of its people in the context of contemporary developments. This rationale is:

Reform brings strength, while conservatism leads to weakness.



Opening up leads to prosperity, while isolation leads to decline.

Where will China go next? The answer is: further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization, and advancing the building of a great nation and the great cause of national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization on all fronts. This is the most important task for the Chinese people at this moment.

As Chinese modernization has been advanced continuously through reform and opening up, it will surely embrace broader horizons through further reform and opening up. China is further deepening its reform and promoting higher-level opening up with greater determination and courage. China is continuing to tackle challenges and break down institutional, conceptual, and interest-based barriers that hinder development. The road to comprehensively deepening reform in China will not be smooth; it will still face many rapids, hidden shoals, reefs, and mines, and may even have to withstand the test of stormy seas. However, under the leadership of the CPC, China's cause of further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization has a strong core of leadership. It has accumulated a wealth of practical experience and made thorough theoretical preparations. This ensures that the great cause is destined to succeed!

China's development is inseparable from the world, and the world's prosperity also relies on China. In the new era, China will not waver in its determination to follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, to comprehensively deepen reform and advance Chinese modernization, to learn from and cooperate with other countries for mutual benefit, and to walk hand in hand with the world.

In the Resolution adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, we declare to the world that the Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. In diplomatic work, China remains firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future. We will stay committed to the common values of all humanity, pursue the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and call for an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

The Communist Party of China is dedicated to pursuing happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. It is also dedicated to human progress and world harmony. China is actively promoting the building of a human commu-

nity with a shared future. China will embrace the world with greater openness and inclusiveness, and through positive interactions, work together with the international community to build a more stable, prosperous, and progressive China and world.