

**The Practical Achievements and Global  
Contributions of the Global  
Development Initiative**

Xinhua Institute

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# Preface

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Development is the eternal pursuit of human society. For the people of all countries, it embodies survival and hope and symbolizes dignity and rights.

The United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development passed 37 years ago has constantly emphasized that everyone and the people of all countries are "entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development."

However, since the start of the third decade of the 21st century, the changes unseen in a century, coupled with the pandemic, have profoundly transformed human society, pushing the world into a new period of turbulence and change. Standing at the crossroads of the future and destiny of humanity, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 21, 2021. It is another significant public good that China provides to the international community in the new era and an essential practice of the concept of a human community with a shared future in global development.

The GDI emphasizes development as a priority and closely aligns with the central task of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations(referred to as the UN's 2030 Agenda for short). It aims to deepen cooperation and, through specific projects, promote policy dialogues, experience sharing, capability building, practical cooperation in various fields, and participation by all parties. The GDI expresses the earnest expectations of the international community, especially the developing countries, for advancing the cause of global development, thereby guiding shared development globally. Since its proposal two years ago, the initiative has garnered widespread international response and achieved

positive progress and many early accomplishments.

The recently released Progress Report on the Global Development Initiative indicates that the content of the initiative concept has been continuously enriched, the implementation mechanism has constantly been improved, the promotion path has become more apparent, and practical cooperation has been gradually implemented, effectively motivating the international community to refocus on development issues, strengthen international development cooperation, and jointly identify and solve problems in development. The GDI has injected new impetus into accelerating the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda.

This report outlines the achievements of GDI cooperation over the past two years. China has collaborated with various partners to advance the GDI, making it more profound and substantial and delivering tangible benefits to countries worldwide: protecting the most vulnerable populations to make the world more compassionate, building the homeland into a cozy one to make the world more habitable, tackling common development crises to make the world more secure, facilitating sustainable development to make the world greener, and achieving strong growth to make the world more prosperous.

This report believes that the Global Development Initiative has led to the promotion of a new paradigm of international development cooperation, which is characterized by building a shared development space with a more inclusive cooperation concept, gathering high-quality development resources through more diversified cooperation channels, and fostering endogenous development momentum through a more sustainable way of cooperation.

This report calls for the revitalization of economic recovery through technological innovation, the improvement of a just and equitable global governance system, and collective action to build a shared future for human development. It emphasizes the need to integrate the GDI more organically with the UN's 2030 Agenda and align the initiative more closely with the development strategies of developing countries. Together, we aim to create a new era of global development featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation and common prosperity, ultimately building a shared future for humanity.

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# Chapter 1:

## China's Initiative to Promote Global Development

At a time when global development is facing headwinds, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the GDI as an effective response to global challenges and developing countries' needs for growth and received positive responses from all parties. Positive progress has been made in the two years since the initiative was proposed.

### ▶ 1.1 *The origin and goals of the Global Development Initiative*

Since the third decade of the 21st century, the changes in the world unseen in a century have accelerated while global economic recovery has weakened. The global North– South divide continues to widen, especially under the influence of the COVID– 19 pandemic, and multiple challenges, such as geopolitical conflicts, climate change, and food and energy crises, are intertwined. As a result, 800 million people live in hunger, the human development index has declined for two consecutive years, and the global development process is facing unprecedentedly severe tests. Implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda has fallen behind expectations.

At the same time, some countries disregard the most pressing needs of developing nations, which are evident in their failure to fulfill financial commitments

in the development sector, provocation of ideological conflicts, marginalization of development issues by emphasizing human rights and democracy topics, formation of exclusive groups, and attempts at "decoupling" and investing significant human and financial resources in geopolitical power games.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres warns that the world has reached a "decisive moment."

Simultaneously, as the largest developing country in the world, China has always placed its own development within the coordinates of human development. China has made remarkable development achievements, especially over the past decade of the new era. While promoting its own growth, China has always cared about developing countries and tried its best to help them achieve joint development through trade, investment, aid, and sharing knowledge of development.

Against this background, President Xi Jinping proposed the GDI at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021, aimed at promoting global development to a new stage of balance, coordination, and inclusiveness.

The GDI focuses on poverty reduction, food security, anti-epidemic and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity in the digital age. It is highly consistent with the UN's 2030 Agenda to promote stronger, greener, and healthier global development.

In June 2022, President Xi Jinping chaired a high-level dialogue on global development with leaders from 18 major developing and emerging-market countries gathering online. This meeting also released an outcome list containing 32 measures, covering eight key areas of cooperation within the initiative, providing clear guidance for the GDI.

The GDI has sounded the "rallying call" to focus on development and paved a "fast lane" to promote it. The GDI has helped bring development issues back to the international core agenda, providing an effective platform for aligning development policies and deepening practical cooperation among all parties.

## ► 1.2 *The concept and principle of the Global Development Initiative*

Xi Jinping points out that only when countries develop together can there be true development; only when countries prosper together can there be true prosperity. The core idea of the Global Development Initiative is to adhere to the people-centered approach, with its primary purpose being to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic and accelerate the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda. The most fundamental pursuit is to meet the yearning of people worldwide for a better life to realize the common value of all humanity. Such value pursuits determine the GDI's unique core concepts and value principles.

The GDI calls for adhering to the concepts and principles of prioritizing development, putting the people at the center, leaving no country or person behind, coexisting harmoniously with nature, using innovation as a driving force, building partnerships globally, taking action-oriented approaches, and improving synergic productivity. Based on its adherence to such principles and values, the GDI, as an international public good, has become increasingly prominent in its openness and emphasis on "small yet helpful projects that benefit people's livelihoods."

The GDI creates a globally open platform. Though proposed by China, the GDI belongs to the entire international community. From the perspective of participating countries, over 70 have participated in the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative initiated by China at the United Nations and opened to the developed countries. From the perspective of cooperation approaches, there are both cooperation created through the United Nations system and tripartite collaboration in which China directly participates. From the perspective of platform alignment, the GDI advocates for complete alignment between the GDI and the African Union's Agenda 2063, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and supporting initiatives for African development partners, among others, with the UN's 2030 Agenda. It aims to facilitate a powerful convergence of development efforts among the United Nations, the G20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the BRICS countries, the China-ASEAN (10+1), and other multilateral cooperation

processes.

The GDI creates an international public good. Xi Jinping points out that the GDI is "a public good open to the entire world." From an ideological perspective, the GDI adheres to the people-centered core concept and the principles of greenness and innovation, charts the course for global development, and injects ideological impetus into it. From the perspective of action, the GDI clarifies key areas, specifies priority options for promoting the international development process, and adds material strength. As an international public good that combines ideas, principles, and actions, the GDI provides a systematic and holistic solution to global development problems.

The GDI emphasizes "small and helpful projects that benefit people's livelihoods." Under the GDI framework, several "small and helpful" projects have taken root, such as the Smiling Children (for food distribution) project in Nepal and the cervical cancer screening and prevention project in Sierra Leone.

The GDI is rooted in the fine traditional Chinese culture. The Chinese nation pursues the goal of "a just cause for the common good," upholds the principles of "seeking goodwill with neighbors and harmony with all nations," and advocates the idea of "standing together with mutual assistance." These values and cultural genes are the traditional source of contemporary China's effort to develop international development cooperation. They are also its unwavering principle in its initiative for global development cooperation.

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### ► **1.3 Early achievements of the Global Development Initiative**

The GDI has received extensive and positive responses from the international community in the past two years. With the collective efforts of all parties, the cooperation path of the initiative has become clearer, the cooperation mechanisms have steadily improved, cooperation in the eight key areas has progressed in an



orderly manner, the project portfolio continues to grow, development resources are gradually coming together, and a positive trend characterized by focused priorities and comprehensive progress has emerged. The initiative has effectively consolidated international development consensus, mobilized development cooperation actions, and achieved several early accomplishments.

The international development agenda has been revitalized. China convened a high-level dialogue on global development and a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative to push development issues back to the center of the international agenda. Pragmatic cooperation in the eight critical areas of the initiative fully covers all 17 sustainable development goals and positively contributes to the UN's 2030 Agenda's implementation.

Many cooperation projects have been carried out. More than half of the 32 practical measures announced by China on the implementation of the GDI have been

### GDI cooperation facilitating the achievement of all 17 SDGs

GDI	SDG
Poverty reduction	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,16,17
Food security	1,2,3,5,6,8,9,10,12,13,17
Pandemic response and vaccines	3,5,6,8,10,16,17
Financing for development	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17
Climate change and green development	1,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,17
Industrialization	1,2,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,17
Digital economy	1,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,16,17
Connectivity in the digital era	1,2,5,7,8,9,10,11,17

- SDG 1 No poverty
- SDG 2 Zero hunger
- SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing
- SDG 4 Quality education
- SDG 5 Gender equality
- SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation
- SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy
- SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- SDG 10 Reduced inequalities
- SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production
- SDG 13 Climate action
- SDG 14 Life below water
- SDG 15 Life on land
- SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

completed. A global development promotion center and its network have been established. Over 30 counterpart departments of countries and regional organizations have officially joined, providing a platform and support for idea exchanges on development cooperation, planning alignment, and resource coordination.

In September 2022, China set up the GDI project pool and released the first list of global development projects. The initial list of 50 practical cooperation projects covers multiple areas: poverty reduction, food security, industrialization, and more. Over ten of these projects have already been completed, while the remaining projects are progressing vigorously. Furthermore, the project pool continues to expand, and the total number of projects has now approached nearly 200.

The mobilization of development resources is being promoted. China has integrated and established the Global Development and South–South Cooperation Fund, increasing its capital to US\$4 billion. China has also actively participated in the capital increase of the International Development Association and the Global Environment Facility and has officially launched the third China–FAO South–South Cooperation Trust Fund.

The establishment of a broad cooperative network is being promoted. At present, over 100 countries and international organizations stand behind the GDI, and more than 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative. China has also signed cooperation memorandums of understanding with more than 20 countries and international organizations. The formation of a global development partnership featuring unity, equality, balance, and mutual benefit is accelerating.

The improvement of people’s livelihoods in all countries is being promoted. The GDI is bringing substantial changes and tangible hope to the people of all countries, such as providing technical assistance in mycorrhizal fungi and upland rice to the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea, a South Pacific island nation; implementing the "East Asia Poverty Reduction Demonstration Cooperation Project" in six impoverished villages in Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia; and distributing food packages to children in poor communities in Nepal... The efforts to improve people’s livelihoods also range from providing the "kits of love" during the pandemic and

performing cataract surgeries for patients to constructing elementary and secondary schools and collaborating on research and technology.

Conforming to the historical trend, the GDI has effectively built the international community's consensus on solidarity and cooperation, thus speeding up development, raising the global profile of development issues, and garnering widespread support and response from the international community, particularly from many developing countries.

United Nations Secretary-General Guterres stated that China-proposed Global Development Initiative aligns with the UN's 2030 Agenda and that China's efforts in assisting developing countries in their common development goals are unparalleled.

Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif believes that the Global Development Initiative calls on the international community to prioritize development, responds to the international community's concerns about people's livelihood and development, and provides a realistic path for countries to coexist harmoniously and seek common development.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai said that China's Global Development Initiative aims to establish an international community of development and provides an excellent opportunity to accelerate the realization of the United Nations' sustainable development agenda.

Currently, the GDI has achieved a leap from "laying the foundation" and "building the framework" to "strengthening cooperation" and "demonstrating tangible results." China has actively united the international community, promoted essential initiatives in a down-to-earth manner, and achieved significant early results. The GDI is taking on a wholesome aspect of joint participation by multiple countries, sectors, and fields.

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## Chapter 2: Practical Achievements of the Global Development Initiative



Since Xi Jinping proposed the GDI two years ago, various parties have expressed their support and approval for it through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, focusing on its eight key cooperation areas: poverty reduction, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and digital connectivity in the digital age.

Even more striking is the accelerated cooperation practice and remarkable results under the GDI framework. From individuals to families, communities to natural and human environments, the GDI transforms from blueprints into practical cooperation results: "small but helpful projects that benefit people's livelihoods."

### ► 2.1 *Protecting the most vulnerable populations to make the world more compassionate*

Building a "safety net" for vulnerable populations is one of the essential missions of the GDI. In pursuit of this mission, the initiative reaches deep into the world's most underdeveloped and remote rural areas, and its practical efforts extend

into regions facing turmoil to provide nutritious meals for impoverished children, offer skills training to disadvantaged women, and deliver humanitarian relief and essential supplies to war refugees and displaced individuals. Besides improving their living conditions, it also creates opportunities for them to receive education and participate in economic activities.

Tanorn in Doung commune of Bati district in Takeo province, 60 kilometers south of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, is a demonstration village for Sino-Cambodian friendship and poverty alleviation. The Sino-Cambodian "Kit of Love" project was kicked off here in August 2022, with masks, lunch boxes, water bottles, rice, and canned food in the kits. Two hundred fifty-seven students from the Angkanha Primary School were the first to receive the gifts from China. Sesuokeuna, a sixth-grader, said excitedly, "This kit of love is handy. We sincerely thank China for its generous aid and always remember the kindness." Cambodia has suffered dramatically from the COVID-19 pandemic as one of the UN-recognized least-developed countries in the world. Unemployment and the number of people living in poverty rose, and some children were at risk of dropping out of school. The "Kit of Love" project provided basic meals and COVID-19 protection for 10,000 children in impoverished areas of Cambodia, alleviating concerns for their families and enabling them to return to work and production with greater peace of mind.

The Nepal Smiling Children Project and Lao National School Meals Program also received strong support from the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund. So far, the former project has provided 3,000 Nepalese children with food kits containing rice, beans, and cooking oil. At the same time, the latter has helped the Lao government continue the National School Meals Program that provides nutritious meals to over 130,000 students in more than 1,400 schools in its remote areas. Providing meals to school students is considered an essential social safety net component and a rational investment in the future generation. These projects have reduced malnutrition among impoverished students. In the long run, they also contribute to accumulating human resources to propel poverty-stricken nations toward sustainable development. According to a cost-benefit analysis by the UN's WFP, every US\$1 invested in a school lunch program in Laos generates an

additional US\$5 per beneficiary over a lifetime.

The world's poorest and most vulnerable groups face the most severe impact of unprecedented global challenges, including women, refugees, and those struggling below the poverty line, who require special protection. The grim reality cannot be ignored: according to UN data, global hunger levels have reached their highest since 2005, with approximately 670 million people in extreme poverty. Achieving equal representation for women in positions of power and leadership in the workplace is estimated to take another 140 years. By the end of 2022, the global population of forcibly displaced persons had risen to 108.4 million, 2.5 times that of a decade before.

There is an urgent need for the international community to take practical action, even if it is just a small or partial change. Under the GDI framework, China continues to cooperate with the Women's Congress of Kyrgyzstan to organize the "Knowledgeable Women, Knowledgeable Nation" training course project, offering information technology, sewing technology, speech training, business planning, network marketing, and other courses for local women to help them improve vocational skills and increase employment opportunities. In cooperation with the UN Development Program, China distributes protective materials, family emergency kits, livelihood kits, and roof construction kits to 5,300 displaced families in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique, helping refugees resettle and resume production and livelihood. Villagers in Finitugu Village, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, an island country in the South Pacific, have become beneficiaries of the Juncao and Upland Rice Cooperation Project. Incidentally, Juncao refers to the herbaceous plant that can be used as the culture substrate for growing edible and medicinal fungi. They used to be deeply involved in tribal disputes and suffered from poverty for a long time. Today, under the guidance of Chinese experts, they are learning how to level the land and cultivate rice, experiencing the taste of a bountiful harvest. Tony, the head of Finitugu Village, exclaimed, "Cultivating upland rice has given everyone hope for economic development and prompted them to set aside their conflicts, thus bringing peace and tranquility to the village."

The world population reached a new record of 8 billion on November 15, 2022.

It is a new milestone in human development history and a new moment for the international community to contemplate its shared responsibility towards the Earth. Population growth is increasingly concentrated in poverty-stricken countries. For example, during the transition period from 7 billion to 8 billion global population, approximately 70% of the new population emerged in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. According to projections, these two groups of countries will account for over 90% of the newly increased population in the growth range from 8 to 9 billion. Whether we can help the vast number of vulnerable and marginalized people break free from conflict, hunger, disease, and poverty, enabling them to lead stable and nourished lives, is a test of human conscience. Focusing on every living individual worldwide, the actions undertaken by the Global Development Initiative are of profound importance.

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## ► **2.2 Building the homeland into a cozy one to make the world more livable**

"How I wish I could have ten thousand houses/ So I can provide shelter for all who need it!" The grand aspiration, envisioned by Du Fu, a Chinese Tang-dynasty poet, 1,200 years ago, is now being realized as international cooperation through China's GDI.

The initiative aims to afford individuals and families a safer and more stable haven. In the key cooperation areas it focuses on, such as poverty reduction and industrialization, some collaborative projects are dedicated to creating a more welcoming home desirable to live in for the global population of 8 billion people.

Construction of eight residential buildings comprising a total of 1,008 housing units is currently being accelerated in the Sukhbaatar District of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This shanty area renovation project is funded by the Chinese government, with construction facilitated by the northern Chinese city of Baotou. Upon completion in 2024, the project will benefit over 700 households in Ulaanbaatar awaiting



relocation due to building demolition and another 200–odd families temporarily residing in shanty areas of the city. They total approximately 5,000 individual residents. The related projects contribute to improving the living conditions of residents in shanty divisions and support the local achievement of sustainable development goals.

Building welcoming homes is not only reflected in housing improvements. The GDI seeks to improve the human living environment universally. Through global cooperation and solidarity, the initiative strives to enhance the quality of life for every family in developing countries as much as possible. It includes providing sanitary water sources, affordable clean energy, and sustainable community support. Aligning closely with the UN's 2030 Agenda, these are specific actions in implementing the initiative.

From sinking water wells to opening up water sources, from establishing water supply systems to setting up brand–new wastewater treatment plants in regions spanning Southeast Asia and multiple African nations, the Chinese government, businesses, and social organizations coordinate with various cooperating parties as they go to their local communities to develop clean water sources and provide related technologies to benefit the residents.

Water for residents and irrigation in the Siwa Oasis of Egypt comes entirely from groundwater. Previously, the wells sunk in this region were mainly as shallow as 500 meters or less. After long–term drilling for water, it is hard in quality and bitter in taste. With the local government's and residents' support, a team of Chinese experts participated in the survey and started sinking wells more than 800 meters deep. These deep wells have considerably freed the Siwa Oasis from their drinking and irrigation water shortage.

With its rich experience in infrastructure development, China has brought higher–quality, more sustainable, and cleaner energy to the local areas through "small and helpful" cooperative brand–name projects ranging from water–well projects to street–lighting projects and to wind–power projects in some regions of the country and created new jobs at the same time.

The Abay wind power project in Kazakhstan alone can generate an expected



annual electricity output of 510 million kilowatt-hours, meeting the daily electricity needs of 1.4 million households. The project has also provided over 500 temporary job positions and 50 permanent positions for the local community while training more than 20 new energy engineering construction and operation technicians in high demand.

The undertakings show full respect for the locals' human rights. They will also help make the dividends of common development more balanced and more universally beneficial globally, thus conducive to accelerating the realization of relevant, sustainable development goals.

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### ► **2.3 Tackling common crises to make the world safer**

In today's world, threats and challenges from non-traditional security fields are increasing. Major infectious diseases, food and energy crises, and sudden natural disasters all threaten human survival and development.

All parties work together to deal with the crises and challenges under the GDI framework.

When the COVID-19 pandemic was rampant, the global vaccine supply was short. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon urgently needed vaccines. The Chinese government delivered 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in batches to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to assist the Palestinian refugees in those countries.

The severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has strained the healthcare systems of many developing countries, including numerous African member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). These countries were grappling with medical facilities, personnel, and supplies shortages. In response, China helped the organization implement projects under its "Africa Plan" to enhance the public health

capabilities of its least developed African member countries. The assistance included conducting health knowledge dissemination and awareness-raising efforts, strengthening healthcare levels in critical areas, and building public health systems. Additionally, China provided centralized assistance services to countries with inadequate medical conditions to enhance disease control and prevention capabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic will not be humanity's last public health crisis, and global crises require cooperation among nations. Tanzania is one of the countries in Africa with the most severe malaria prevalence. To help Tanzania control and eliminate this infectious disease, China, Switzerland, and Tanzania are exploring a trilateral cooperation project, leveraging their respective strengths and experiences, exploring new collaboration models, and advancing Tanzania's malaria control and elimination process.

Food security is another significant challenge facing the world. According to the 2023 World Food Security and Nutrition report, approximately 735 million people suffer from hunger worldwide, an increase of over 122 million since 2019. If this trend is allowed to continue, by 2030, countries worldwide will be unable to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating hunger on schedule.

In the East African country of Burundi, where the local agricultural population constitutes over 90%, agriculture plays a decisive role in the national economy. Chinese rice experts are promoting hybrid rice technology here, helping the local people achieve the goal of "everyone having enough to eat and everyone having savings in the bank." "With the support and assistance of the Chinese agricultural expert team, we have achieved a bountiful harvest in the hybrid rice we grow. Our lives have significantly improved, and we've built new houses and are even supporting seven children," says Charles Ngendakumana, a 43-year-old farmer from Village 4 of Nyinga in Gihanga County, Burundi.

In July 2023, the "Burundi Hybrid Rice Technology Poverty Reduction Demonstration Project," jointly initiated by the China Foundation for Rural Development and the Chinese Senior Agricultural Expert Group, was officially launched in Gihanga County, Bubanza Province, Burundi. The project aims to support local farmers in acquiring the necessary inputs, such as hybrid rice seeds,

fertilizers, pesticides, and more. It also operates on a revolving fund mechanism to expand the number of beneficiary farmers continuously. Additionally, the project will collaborate with local cooperatives to enhance their management capabilities, jointly assisting the local villagers in escaping poverty.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical security conflicts, and the rise of unilateralism and protectionism have seriously hindered the global development process, highlighting the importance and urgency of implementing the GDI and deepening practical cooperation.

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## ► 2.4 *Facilitating sustainable development to make the world greener*

In recent years, several Pacific island nations in the Southern Hemisphere have been facing the threat of large amounts of floating plastic waste in the sea. These island nations cannot manage this plastic waste, and the accumulated piles have even become the "highest peaks" on their islands. The South Pacific Regional Environment Program has repeatedly expressed concerns about this issue.

"Bamboo for Plastic," an environmental initiative and action plan launched jointly by China and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization in 2022, aimed at the global community. The initiative calls for deeper worldwide cooperation and better utilization of bamboo in reducing plastic pollution and replacing plastic products. It provides nature-based solutions for high-energy consumption and non-biodegradable plastic products.

According to experts from many countries, bamboo and rattan products have great potential and are expected to replace a large number of plastic products to develop the green economy better and create a healthier world. Brazilian economist Ronnie Lins pointed out that implementing the "Bamboo for Plastic" initiative will help promote investment and innovation in the plastics industry and reduce the impact of plastic pollution on the environment.

Plastic reduction and water conservation are two major problems facing the world. Knowledge of water is discussed enthusiastically in classrooms; sewage filters are made by hand, and students are sent to neighborhoods to collect local water conditions and challenges... Through vivid and intuitive learning, teachers and students at Brook Hill School in Nairobi, Kenya, have a deeper understanding of water in their daily lives and a more scientific sense of the community and the natural environment in which they live.

In 2022, following the successful release of the English version of *Water Education for Kids*, compiled and published in collaboration with UNESCO, the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research initiated a series of activities to promote water science education in African schools. Students and teachers from institutions such as Brook Hill School in Nairobi, Queen of Peace Education Center in Ruiru, and Bulla Ifin Primary School in Kenya actively participated.

For people living in vast developing countries, especially those in the least developed nations, improving their quality of life while making their lifestyles as "green" as possible is challenging. Therefore, balancing the relationship between economic development and ecological/environmental protection requires even greater support and assistance from the international community.

In the West African country of Mali, there is a shortage of electrical resources, and the rural electrification rate is less than 20%. In 2023, the China-aided solar energy demonstration village project in Mali will pass the completion inspection in the villages of Kourouba and Karang. The project installed a total of 1,195 off-grid solar home systems, 200 solar street lighting systems, 17 solar water pump systems, and two centralized solar power supply systems. It directly benefits tens of thousands of local residents.

Today, the pitch-dark villages at night not only have streetlights but also benefit from free solar-powered automatic water towers. "Without the generous assistance from China, we can't imagine when we would have been able to equip our homes with such advanced new energy devices," said a villager named Diop.

More emphasis is given to the "Global South" countries when implementing

similar projects, even including places like the Pacific island of Fiji. Over the past year, more than 30,000 villagers in Fiji have started using solar lighting systems, ensuring safe nighttime travel and providing sufficient illumination and network connectivity for children studying at night. Additionally, by utilizing solar energy, the project reduces fossil fuel consumption and contributes positively to carbon emissions reduction, thereby significantly contributing to addressing climate change collectively.

These are a series of practical measures to share clean energy and green development experiences for people's well-being under the GDI framework. Small but helpful, the projects not only meet the immediate needs of improving rural infrastructure in countries like Fiji and Mali but also respond to the residents' long-standing aspirations for a better life.

Scorching heat, droughts, wildfires, heavy rainfall, floods—extreme weather events closely linked to climate change in today's world are becoming more frequent in many parts of the globe. They significantly impact various aspects of human life such as: health, ecosystems, economy, agriculture, energy, and water supply, with even prolonged threats.

In recent years, extreme weather events accompanied by unprecedented high temperatures worldwide have given people a more direct and keen awareness of the cumulative effects of climate change. "The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived." UN Secretary-General Guterres renewed his warning on the global climate crisis by emphasizing "boiling."

Frequent natural disasters caused by global extreme weather, an accelerated loss of biodiversity, and the challenges of maintaining a harmonious human-nature relationship are becoming increasingly grave. How can we enhance the ability of developing countries to adapt to climate change? How can we promote the formation of an international consensus on protecting the natural environment and biodiversity?

The GDI adheres to the action-oriented idea of harmonious coexistence between man and nature to promote strengthened international cooperation, build communication and dialogue platforms, change production modes and lifestyles, and bolster global development that is stronger, greener, and healthier.

## ► 2.5 *Achieving strong growth to make the world more prosperous*

In recent years, global industrial and supply chains saw accelerated restructuring. Developing countries, each at different stages of development and with distinct national conditions, must, in line with their own realities, develop industries with comparative advantages and better integrate into global and regional industrial and supply chains for more development opportunities and momentum. At the same time, with the inclusion of more developing countries, the global and regional industrial and supply chains will become more resilient to enhance the stability and sustainability of the world economy.

After putting forward the GDI, China set an example by actively helping other developing countries with industrialization. In December 2021, at the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation, China announced that it would encourage its enterprises to invest no less than US\$10 billion in Africa in the coming three years and establish a platform for China–Africa private investment promotion to assist Africa in implementing ten industrialization and job promotion projects. In the China–Celac (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas (2022–2024), China and CELAC have agreed to enhance the exchange in industrial policies, deepen cooperation in areas such as raw materials, equipment manufacturing, green and low-carbon industries, and industrial and supply chains, and promote intelligent, digital, and green development of industries in China and the CELAC countries.

How can we inject more new momentum into global growth? All parties responding to the GDI believe that multilateral coordination is indispensable and that only concrete actions can enhance the resilience of industrial and supply chains, promote direct investment, and bridge the "digital divide."

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the German International Cooperation Agency, the China National Textile and Apparel Council, and the Ethiopian Textile and Apparel Industry Research and Development Center

have collaborated to assist Ethiopia's textile and apparel industry in enhancing its capacity to meet the environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) standards for market access and raise the industry's ESG awareness to promote business partnerships. The experiences gained from this initiative have been replicated and extended to other regions in Africa and in Asia. The project was selected by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as a case of "Sustainable South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation Good Practices" for 2022.

Currently, the "digital divide" continues to widen between the North and the South. The GDI has actively established communication platforms and supported digital capacity building in developing countries.

In collaboration with certain regional international organizations, China is making efforts to remove digital "barriers" and promote the concept of "Digital plus" in many countries and regions of the "Global South." This concept spans various sectors such as precision agriculture, smart fisheries, e-commerce, and online skills training, directly empowering economic development in the "Global South" through the benefits of digitalization. Take coffee beans as an example. China has been importing coffee beans from African and Central and South American markets before distributing them through its robust e-commerce network in recent years. The move has brought international bulk orders to coffee farmers in Rwanda, Timor-Leste, and Costa Rica, significantly improving these coffee growers' working and living conditions.

Take the highly regarded "cross-border e-commerce" capability training as another example. The online training project jointly launched by the Chinese government and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, namely Cross-Border E-commerce Capacity Building Project for Youth in Developing Countries for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development, has attracted active participation from 1,090 students in 93 countries. During the training period, more than 1,000 people simultaneously engaged in online learning daily. These training programs not only provide insights into the latest developments in worldwide related industries but also share experiences from China and other developing countries.

They bring effective methods of using e-commerce for poverty reduction to young people in various countries who urgently need to enhance their digital skills.

Another example is Huawei Egypt's collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt. They carry out a continuous capacity building project, the ITB (ICT Talent Bank Program). It focuses on artificial intelligence, cloud computing, the Internet of Things, and such cutting-edge technologies as big data and 5G to train professionals for Egypt and help local digital transformation. Through establishing colleges and developing technical courses, Huawei has trained over 35,000 local college students, more than 8,000 of whom have obtained certification. The training has also promoted youth employment, thus starting a virtuous circle. The Communications and Information Technology, Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Labor ministries of Egypt spoke highly of the cooperation with Huawei on the ITB project and appreciated the project's contribution to the construction of the "Digital Egypt."

Under the GDI framework, multiple stakeholders collaborate to facilitate global cooperation in applying digital technology through establishing exchange platforms. They are strengthening digital capacity building to bridge the "digital divide" and conforming to the trend of digitalization to promote the use of big data. All of these efforts will accelerate the realization of the vision for the UN's 2030 Agenda and empower developing countries to gain more information technology dividends, making a shift from "lagging behind" to "running alongside," ultimately promoting shared global prosperity.



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## Chapter 3:

# Contributions of the Global Development Initiative to the World

By steadfastly prioritizing development as its "top task," China has created an astonishing development miracle that has amazed the world, ushering in a new era when China and the world integrate in development and help each other to succeed. In this new era, China is committed to promoting common prosperity domestically while also striving to advance joint development globally. It not only unwaveringly pursues Chinese modernization on all fronts to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation but also shoulders its responsibilities as a major country to keep making new and greater contributions to global development. The GDI's proposal, implementation, and promotion represent a vibrant chapter in this new era.

The GDI is an international public good provided by China, combining visionary thinking and actionable measures when the UN's 2030 Agenda faced obstacles. Over the past two years, it has delivered tangible benefits to countless individuals and families, offered hope for stability and growth to various countries, and presented a new model of international development cooperation that is more inclusive, diverse, and sustainable to the international community. It has paved a new path and provided new inspiration for humanity to break free from development challenges and jointly embark on a brighter future of shared development.

### ► 3.1 *Shaping anew: Pioneering a new model of international development cooperation*

We believe that the new type of international development cooperation led and promoted by the GDI exhibits the following distinctive features:

#### **The Whole World Is One Family: Building a Shared Development Space with a More Inclusive Cooperation Concept**

The GDI is global, regardless of North and South. It neither has any interest in bloc politics nor draws ideological boundaries. While adhering to the principle of North–South cooperation as the main channel, it continuously explores new fields and approaches for South–South cooperation, revitalizes global development partnerships, and works together with all parties to create an open and interconnected global development environment, allowing various countries and their people to share development opportunities and achievements. It does not interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations nor attaches any political conditions, firmly supporting each country’s right to choose its own path. It upholds the principles of consultation, joint construction, and shared benefits, welcoming all countries and all proactive forces dedicated to global development to contribute their wisdom and strength. So far, over 100 countries and international organizations support the GDI, and more than 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative. China has also signed cooperation memorandums of understanding with more than 20 countries and international organizations. At the First High–level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development held in July this year, China announced collaborations with Switzerland in malaria prevention and control in Tanzania and with Germany in agricultural cooperation in Nigeria, serving as new examples of the open and inclusive nature of the GDI.

#### **A Journey with Many Companions Gets Far: Aggregating High–quality Development Resources with More Diversified Cooperation Channels**

The GDI emphasizes the full engagement of governments, private sectors, civil

society organizations, and international institutions from all countries. It actively mobilizes the business community, academia, and civil society forces from various countries; establishes a broad cooperation network; pools resources such as funds, technology, talents, and data; and allocates them to the most urgently needed areas to achieve maximum benefits. With the support of the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP), among others, nearly 50 triangular cooperation projects have been implemented. These projects have assisted relevant developing countries in improving their food security and overall agricultural production capacity. China has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Gates Foundation to carry out practical cooperation in healthcare, capacity building, and development financing, jointly advancing the implementation of the GDI and accelerating progress toward the goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda.

### Teaching People How to Fish: Fostering Endogenous Development Momentum Through More Sustainable Forms of Cooperation

The GDI emphasizes the combination of both hard and soft assistance, blending development aid with mutually beneficial cooperation, aiming not only to give people fish but also to teach them how to fish. In the teaching process, the initiative goes beyond narrow economic rationality and advocates for a steadfast commitment to the right balance between morality and self-interest, prioritizing the moral aspect. It encourages all parties to share development experience and industry technologies with developing countries in various ways, helping them cultivate their capacity for independent development. China actively promotes the construction of a global development knowledge network, establishes comprehensive cooperation network platforms, and facilitates international exchanges and sharing of development experience. The "China-ASEAN Development Knowledge Network Secretariat" has been established. In the future, China will explore establishing regional core networks such as the "China-Central Asia Development Knowledge Network" and the "China-Africa Development Knowledge Network," as well as thematic networks focusing on poverty reduction, clean energy development, and more.

## ► 3.2 *Setting off again: Embarking on a new journey toward the goals of sustainable development*

On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, 193 United Nations member states jointly launched the UN's 2030 Agenda at the historic development summit. Halfway through the timeframe for implementing the agenda, only about 12% of the sustainable development goals are expected to be achieved on schedule. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition, half of the approximately 140 specific goals that can be assessed show moderate or severe signs of falling short of expectations. More than 30% of these goals have made no progress or even gone into reverse compared to the 2015 baseline.

Although the reality is worrying and even depressing, the UN's 2030 Agenda is still the broadest consensus on development issues in the current international community and the most explicit blueprint for human vision. The Special Edition report notes, "As historians write about the 21st century, they will judge our era by whether we turn this blueprint into reality." At present, the most urgent task is to take action to create a more hopeful new reality. In this sense, the GDI points the way for action:

### **Embrace technological change to boost the vitality of economic recovery**

The worldwide electrification rate was 87% in 2015 and increased to 91% in 2021. Global internet users have grown by 65% since 2015, reaching 5.3 billion in 2022. While global manufacturing growth has slowed, medium and high-end technology industries have shown strong growth momentum. The significant progress achieved in the global development sector, particularly in the digital economy and high-end manufacturing industries, indicates that the international community may still be able to make substantive breakthroughs for the betterment of all by seizing the historical opportunities of the new technological revolution and industrial transformation.

Green and digital transformations can be a new way out of development

challenges. For example, in regions with high-quality internet services, 44% of businesses are exporters, while in areas with weaker internet services, only 19% are exporters. This is also why the GDI considers innovation-driven approaches one of the fundamental principles and actively engages with various stakeholders to strengthen cooperation in the Internet, big data, 5G, and artificial intelligence.

### Improving global governance and building a just and reasonable world order

More encouraging is the eye-catching rise of the "Global South" countries on the world stage. The strong call for "restoring development as the centerpiece on the international agenda" issued by the GDI, and the heightened enthusiasm for cooperation and solidarity shown in the process of promoting the implementation of the agenda have injected strong impetus into international development cooperation.

Currently, wealth inequality among nations is exacerbating, and a fundamental reason for this is the global economic governance system's failure to address the development aspirations of the "Global South fairly." For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group of Seven (G7), representing developed countries, received a total of US \$280 billion in funding from the International Monetary Fund. In comparison, some of the least developed countries received only around US\$8 billion in assistance. The G7 countries have a total population of approximately 770 million, while the combined population of the least developed countries mentioned above is about 1.1 billion. Therefore, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres strongly calls for a change in the "bias and inequities ingrained in the existing international financial architecture" and a thorough reform of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Constructing a more just and equitable global development governance system and institutional framework through a series of practical actions and bold reforms is an urgent priority. It means we must uphold genuine multilateralism and support the United Nations in playing its coordinating role; build an open world economy and establish secure, stable, open, and inclusive supply chains; advance reforms of multilateral development institutions to enhance the representation and voice of

emerging market economies and developing countries; and create a united, equal, balanced, and inclusive global development partnership and urge developed countries to fulfill their official development assistance commitments to developing countries, including providing funding, technology, and capacity– building, in a timely and complete manner.

China, as the largest developing country in the world, is a natural member of the "Global South." China will work with other emerging market economies and developing countries to enhance the voice and representation of "Global South" countries in reforming the global governance system, and safeguard their common interests. We will jointly defend the right to development, take on responsibilities for world peace, and contribute to common development.

### **Taking collective action to build a community of shared future for human development**

In today's world, if not pursuing development is the biggest insecurity, not cooperating is the greatest risk, and disunity is the biggest challenge. Economists from the International Monetary Fund have warned that a divided world may become poorer. They particularly pointed out the potential maximum damage that the rise of "friend– shoring" could cause to underdeveloped markets because they are more dependent on investments from countries further afield geopolitically.

The international community's strong consensus is that the development agenda's politicization should be avoided, and geopolitical conflicts and group confrontations will lead the world in the wrong direction, which will cause immeasurable losses to the cause of global development. Development is the key and foundation for addressing all human problems, and it is a challenge faced by all countries and regions worldwide. All parties, including the United Nations, countries from the Global South and North, the poor and the wealthy, and the regional and sub– regional organizations, should unite, shoulder shared responsibilities, and take collective actions.

In this regard, heads of state and government of all countries should demonstrate leadership and take seven years of accelerated, sustained, and

transformative actions at the national and international levels. Member states of the United Nations should seize the opportunity of this Sustainable Development Goals Summit to build consensus on development, pool development resources, integrate the GDI more closely with the UN's 2030 Agenda, align it with the development strategies of developing countries, and coordinate with the United Nations development agencies and multilateral development organizations to jointly create a new era of global development that is inclusive, balanced, cooperative, and commonly prosperous.

Looking ahead, the joint construction of a community of shared future for humanity relies on the following principles: eliminating conflicts and jointly building peace, injecting vitality and collectively promoting development, being open and inclusive, seeking common progress, uniting as one, and working together through consultation.

As a member of the big family of the "Global South" and a responsible member of the global village, China maintains that development should be placed at the center of the international agenda, an international consensus on promoting development should be further built, and the legitimate rights of developing countries to develop be safeguarded. We also advocate reinvigorating the global development partnership, cultivating a new driving force for growth, and encouraging developed countries to fulfill their commitments earnestly so that the fruits of development can benefit the people of all nations.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that development is a timeless theme for humanity, and development for the benefit of all is the important path to building a beautiful world. The GDI is not a solo performed by China but a symphony of all parties involved. Global development efforts should be a collective endeavor involving people from all countries, shared by all, without leaving behind any country or individual.

Turning the blueprint into reality starts right now.