

Outlining National Governance Blueprint with the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy*

As China enters a critical phase of realizing national rejuvenation, time is of the essence.

In just over two years, with a strong sense of responsibility and mission, the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping as general secretary steadily improved the governance of the Party, the state and the military, took domestic and international situations into account, and made significant progress in various areas, spanning reform, development, stability, civil affairs, foreign relations and national defense.

China is now forging ahead on its journey toward national rejuvenation, with greater openness, confidence and determination.

Serving the People

“To put it briefly, I will govern by serving the people and fulfilling all my responsibilities,” Xi said during an interview with Russian media in Sochi on February 7, 2014.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, this has been a guiding thread throughout the whole process of governance by the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary.

“The people’s aspiration for a better life is our goal,” Xi solemnly declared on November 15, 2012, after being elected general

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secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

The people form the cornerstone of the new central leadership's governance philosophy, embodying the ancient Chinese principle that "the people are the foundation of a country; good governance rests on their support."

Xi has a role model in mind—Jiao Yulu, a county official known for his selfless devotion to the people. He said he has always regarded Jiao as a role model and consistently measured himself against this standard.

During his inspection trips to Lankao County in central China's Henan Province, where Jiao once served, Xi urged Party members and officials to follow Jiao's example of unwavering dedication.

The well-being of the people has been high on the agenda of Xi. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, he has traveled extensively across the country—from the Loess Plateau to the Taihang Mountains, from southern islands to western border areas, and from campuses and villages to communities and military barracks—to learn about people's conditions, listen to public opinion, and care about their livelihoods.

On November 29, 2012, at the National Museum of China, while visiting *The Road to Rejuvenation* exhibition, Xi put forward, for the first time, the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

At that time, the new central leadership took up the baton of history in a country undergoing profound changes in its economic system, social structure, interest patterns and people's ways of thinking.

The top priority in governing China was to build consensus.

The most important thing in building consensus is to seek the greatest common ground, and the Chinese Dream is the greatest common ground, observers said.

Looking back on the past two years, the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary has demonstrated extraordinary courage, firm resolve and unremitting efforts in articulating a clear

vision and a great goal: the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

From education and employment to housing and medical care, and from the assurance of dignity to career success and the fulfillment of personal value, the countless dreams nurtured over the past two years have infused China with passion and ignited innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity. The efforts of every individual striving to realize their dreams have converged into immense momentum propelling the country's development.

The Chinese Dream has built a new platform for win-win cooperation with the world.

At the end of 2014, the book *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* was published in nine languages and distributed globally, garnering widespread attention.

Former Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf noted that through reading the book, he gained an appreciation of Xi's calm thinking and strategic vision for governing the country.

In his New Year's message for 2015, Xi reiterated that the country will "act upon people's expectations and turn their aspirations into reality."

Promoting Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the overall framework and general approach concerning governance by the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary have become more complete and clear, as reflected in coordinated efforts to comprehensively build a moderately prosperous society, comprehensively deepen reform, comprehensively advance the rule of law, and comprehensively strengthen Party self-governance, namely the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy.

More than two years ago, when the new central leadership took up the baton of history, China had already entered the decisive stage of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Highlighting the weak links and bottlenecks in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, Xi noted that “prosperity for all is impossible without health for all” and “a moderately prosperous society in all respects will not be built without moderate prosperity in rural areas, especially in poor areas.”

For more than two years, the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary has focused on resolving issues of unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable development in a drive to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and improve the quality and efficiency of development. This has involved advancing economic transformation and upgrading as well as continuing the fight against poverty and pollution.

In this decisive stage, reform remains the powerful engine that is crucial to driving progress. As reform enters the deep water zone where tough challenges must be met, comprehensively deepening reform is more important than ever.

As an epitome of such reform, a session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the end of 2014 made it public that the pension system reform plan had been approved at a State Council executive meeting and a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. This signaled that the dual-track pension system was set to be gradually phased out, impacting approximately seven million civil servants and over 30 million public institution employees.

For more than two years, the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary has overcome difficulties and steadily advanced reform in various fields.

In his first visit outside Beijing after being elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Xi went to Guangdong Province, sending a strong signal of unwavering commitment to reform and opening up. At the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, he made strategic arrangements for comprehensively deepening reform.

The country has actively adapted to the “new normal,” and deepened reform in the economic system by focusing on letting the market play the decisive role in resource allocation.

A series of reform measures—from canceling or delegating to lower-level authorities more than 700 administrative approval items to fully implementing reform on the registered capital registration system, from opening the banking sector to private capital to pilot programs for state-owned enterprise reform, and from fiscal and tax reform to rural land system reform—have unleashed market vitality and boosted the economy’s internal driving force.

To modernize the system and capacity for governance, the country has deepened political reform by focusing on upholding the unity of Party leadership, the people’s status as masters of the country, and law-based governance.

The NPC and its Standing Committee have focused on improving the quality of legislation, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference has adhered to convening biweekly consultation sessions, the management system for social organizations has been reformed, and four categories of social organizations can now register directly. These measures have further developed people’s democracy and improved national governance capacity.

To provide the spiritual underpinning for national rejuvenation, the country has deepened reform of the cultural system by focusing on strengthening core socialist values and developing a strong socialist culture in China.

A series of measures have been taken, bringing fresh dynamism to the cultural field. These include establishing national cultural industry innovation pilot zones, actively promoting mergers and restructuring of state-owned cultural enterprises, setting up and improving the leading institutions and inter-agency coordination mechanisms for internet management, promoting the integrated development of traditional and new media, and accelerating efforts to promote the global outreach of Chinese culture.

To enable more people to share the fruits of development,

the country has deepened social structural reform by focusing on ensuring and improving people's well-being and promoting social equity and justice.

Reform measures have been unveiled, ensuring that society is vibrant, harmonious and orderly. These include advancing household registration system reform, allowing couples to have a second child if either parent is an only child, promoting reform of the examination and enrollment system, deepening medical and health system reform, and improving the social assistance system.

To usher in a new era of socialist ecological progress, the country has deepened the reform of ecological conservation systems by focusing on building a Beautiful China.

Measures include revising the environmental protection law and the law on the prevention and control of atmospheric pollution, assessing the implementation of the air pollution prevention and control action plan, raising pollution discharge fees, and launching pilot programs for third-party environmental pollution control. These reform measures collectively foster a new pattern of modernization where humanity and nature develop in harmony.

In 2014, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary, 336 measures for comprehensively deepening reform were rolled out, the 80 key reform tasks set by the Leading Group for Further Reform under the CPC Central Committee were completed, and reform was pushed forward into important areas and crucial links.

In late autumn 2014, the world's attention once again turned to Beijing. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee highlighted "comprehensively advancing the rule of law," providing institutional guarantees for realizing the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

More than 180 major measures, including granting local legislative powers to cities with subordinate districts, have been unveiled, demonstrating the CPC Central Committee's firm determination and resolute commitment to advancing the rule of law in both

principle and practice.

In 2014, solid progress was made in advancing the rule of law. A major mafia-style gang case concluded with final verdicts; the China branch of British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline was hit with a record fine for paying bribes; pilot reforms of the judicial system were launched in six provincial-level regions including Shanghai and Guangdong; and the administrative procedure law was revised for the first time, further expanding legal channels for citizens to bring cases against administrative authorities.

What is the strong and fundamental guarantee for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects? “Comprehensively strengthening Party self-governance” is Xi’s answer.

From the central Party leadership’s eight-point decision on improving Party and government conduct to an education campaign themed on adhering to the Party’s mass line, and from the anti-graft drive targeting both “tigers” and “flies” to merit-based appointment of officials transcending vote counts, scores, GDP growth and age criteria, the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary has markedly enhanced the creativity, competence and cohesion of the world’s largest ruling party over the past couple of years.

Persevering to Achieve Intended Goals

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Xi as general secretary has been confident and composed, pragmatic and responsible, demonstrating a steadfast and distinctive style of governance.

Over the more than two years since taking office, Xi has maintained a relentless pace—11 overseas visits to 31 countries, meetings with over 100 visiting foreign heads of state and government, and more than 20 domestic inspection tours covering over 20 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, special administrative regions, institutions of higher learning, and central departments.

With its realistic and pragmatic approach, the new central leadership presents to the world the vitality of a country on the path to national rejuvenation.

From tackling food waste to curbing extravagance, small matters are addressed with persistence and thoroughness. This steadfast resolve reassures the public of the central leadership's confidence and determination to implement policies rigorously.

"Hammering a nail often requires more than one strike, and it takes hammering again and again until the nail is firmly fixed," Xi said.

With this spirit of hammering nails, the central leadership has, for the past more than two years, consistently matched words with deeds. Its actions have zeroed in on crucial issues, ensuring each measure is fully realized.

In 2014, an intensive anti-corruption campaign swept the country. With the downfall of senior officials such as Zhou Yongkang, Xu Caihou, Ling Jihua and Su Rong, the central leadership has demonstrated its resolve to address deep-seated challenges with resolute measures and the courage to undertake difficult but necessary adjustments.

Though fully aware of the pressures and challenges involved, Xi stated unequivocally that "we're committed to the Party's purpose and mission, and to the expectations of the people."

Confidence has been a defining hallmark of the new central leadership since its inauguration. This confidence is manifested in the firm commitment to the Chinese path, in its composure when facing the economic "new normal," and in its strategic resolve to address external challenges.

"The governing style of the new central leadership, marked by pragmatism, responsibility and confidence, is clearly reflected in the governance of the country and in all fields of its work, including economic, political, cultural, social, ecological, military, diplomatic, and Party building endeavors," said Han Qingxiang of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

Riding Waves and Sailing Ahead

In the January 2015 edition of the American magazine *Vanity Fair*, Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz wrote an article titled “The Chinese Century,” noting that “China enters 2015 in the top position, where it will likely remain for a very long time” and “in doing so, it returns to the position it held through most of human history.”

Over the past two years, the number of newly established market entities surged in China, while the economic structure became more optimized with growth drivers more robust, demonstrating strong resilience, huge potential and ample room for maneuver.

The country’s economy has maintained steady development. Total trade in goods has grown to be the largest in the world. Its economy, while remaining the world’s second largest for many years, continued to expand steadily, with the annual increase in GDP equivalent to the economic scale of a medium-sized developed country.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, dozens of officials at and above the provincial and ministerial level have been investigated and held accountable, and about 100,000 people have been punished for violating the eight-point decision. Thanks to the education campaign themed on adhering to the Party’s mass line, there have been significant improvements in the Party and government conduct.

Steady improvements in people’s livelihood are making the Chinese Dream more tangible, as citizens enjoy more stable jobs, better education, improved housing conditions and enhanced medical care.

The national leadership’s promotion of fine traditional culture, the establishment of National Constitution Day and National Memorial Day, as well as other efforts, have fostered a growing cultural confidence and a stronger sense of national cohesion.

On the international stage, China’s endeavors have also been

impressive over the past two years, with major initiatives including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and the conclusion of free trade agreement negotiations with major economies such as the Republic of Korea and Australia.

On the military front, through diverse military exercises and various training tasks, the Chinese People's Liberation Army has markedly enhanced its combat readiness and capability to win wars.

According to Ronnie Lins, a Brazilian expert on international affairs, the CPC is building the foundation for the nation's ascent in a methodical yet determined approach, taking concrete, essential measures one by one to realize the Chinese Dream.

Indeed, this ancient civilization is advancing on the path of national rejuvenation, heralding a new era for the Chinese Dream to be realized.