

FROM VISION TO REALITY: A DECADE OF CHINA'S GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF SHARED FUTURE

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The Chinese vision for a global community of shared future is entrenched in the idea of building cooperation, mutual development, and peaceful coexistence among nations. This vision particularly emphasizes principles such as peace, inclusivity, and win-win cooperation for all, transcending the existing differences of culture, ideology, and socio-economic status. The core idea of this vision is the belief that various global challenges such as climate change, security, or development, can be effectively addressed only when there is collective action and collaboration among states. China sees itself as one of the most responsible stakeholders in this regard, aiming to contribute positively to the well-being of the people worldwide. Accordingly, China issued a white paper on Global Community of Shared Future, encapsulating the progress made during a decade since it was first proposed.¹

The examination of this decade long progress is of high importance as it provides crucial insights into China's role as a global actor and its contributions to global governance, economic development, and conflict resolution at the international level. The assessment will help evaluate

¹ Xinhua Editor, "China Focus: China Issues White Paper on Global Community of Shared Future, a Decade after Vision Proposed," Xinhua, September 26, 2023, <https://english.news.cn/20230926/bd22f096194b4697acb64118f0b3cb08/c.html>.

the importance of Chinese initiatives such as the BRI, and global cooperation programs on global and regional levels.

The Chinese vision of a global community of shared future is focused on addressing the contemporary challenges faced across the globe by recognizing their increasingly interconnected and interdependent nature. The vision underpins its core principles such as mutual respect, which emphasizes recognizing the sovereignty and cultural diversity of all states, irrespective of their political system or potential. It is centralized on win-win cooperation, categorically rejecting the zero-sum approach taken in international relations in favor of collaboration that benefits all parties. Another key tenet is inclusivity, which advocates the involvement of all nations in global decision-making and governance, regardless of their developmental status. Moreover, peaceful conflict resolution is central to the vision, emphasizing diplomatic and dialogue-based solutions to conflicts. Additionally, by focusing on sustainable development, the vision promotes environmentally responsible growth with long-term societal and ecological considerations.² These principles collectively aim to foster common and shared responsibility among states in tackling shared global challenges, with an ultimate goal of fostering a more equitable, peaceful 'global community of shared future'.

China's strong commitment to global peace, development, security, and governance via active engagements in international cooperation, supporting sustainable development goals, promotion of peaceful conflict resolution, and advocating equitable global governance, explicitly show its foreign policy priorities. As China actively participates in multiple global initiatives, contributes to humanitarian efforts, and aims for collaborative solutions to global challenges, it explicitly reflects Chinese dedication to a more harmonious and prosperous world. As such, China's opting for the global community of shared future is a patently conscious choice.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an embodiment of China's ambitious global development strategy which seeks to foster economic and infrastructure connectivity across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond. The initiative was launched in 2013 and it comprises of a network of land and maritime routes that aim to foster trade, investment, and people-to-people contacts across continents.³

² The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, "Full Text: A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions," 中华人民共和国外交部, September 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202309/t20230926_11150122.html.

³ MOFA PRC, "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin's Regular Press Conference on August 31, 2023," 中华人民共和国外交部, accessed October 4, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202308/t20230831_111363

The BRI has achieved significant milestones over the years and made substantial contributions to global development. The investments of BRI have not only boosted local economies but have also enhanced global and regional connectivity as it facilitated the construction of critical infrastructure, including roads, railways, ports, and energy projects. Trade among BRI countries has seen substantial growth and during the year 2022, the BRI countries' trade with China only grew up to \$13.8 trillion, showcasing the trade potential BRI holds.⁴

BRI stands prominent in the Chinese vision of global community of shared future as it explicitly states China's emphasis on open, inclusive, and sustainable cooperation within BRI framework. BRI aims to foster win-win partnerships while respecting the sovereignty as well as development priorities of member countries.

In addition to BRI, China's Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), are prominent elements of the Chinese vision of global community of shared future. The Global Development Initiative, coined by China, is an effort on behalf of China to accelerate the implementation of UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The GDI focuses particularly on people-centered development in the light of balanced and inclusive global development partnerships, aiming for result-oriented actions. In this regard, China has taken substantial steps like establishing funds, such as the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, to support development in various countries. Additionally, China has collaborated with international organizations like the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Development Programme (UNDP) to address the pressing issues such as food security and poverty.⁵

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) seeks to uphold peace and security at global level by stressing primacy of diplomacy and dialogue over confrontation, partnerships over alliances, and win-win results over zero-sum games. China has played a crucial role in resolution of conflicts and peace-making such as the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran was facilitated by China, fostering regional stability. China's contributions to UN peacekeeping missions and its support for cooperative approaches to global security challenges illustrate its commitment to international security.⁶

75.html#:~:text=Wang%20Wenbin%3A%20Focusing%20on%20connectivity,development%20and%20world%20economic%20growth.

⁴ Statista Published by C. Textor and Feb 28, "China: Trade Volume with BRI Countries 2022," Statista, February 28, 2023, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1038616/china-trade-volume-with-bri-countries/>.

⁵ "Global Development Initiative Archive," Global development initiative, accessed October 4, 2023, <http://escap.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/ztjs/ztjs/>.

⁶ Mordechai Chaziza, "The Global Security Initiative: China's New Security Architecture for the Gulf," – The Diplomat, May 12, 2023, <https://thediplomat.com/2023/05/the-global-security-initiative-chinas-new-security-architecture-for-the-gulf/>.

GCI or Global Civilization Initiative is another step towards the formation of Global Community of Shared Future. GCI emphasizes the importance of inter-civilizational exchanges and dialogue to promote mutual learning and human progress via encouraging respect for diversity of civilizations. China has promoted cultural exchanges and events, deepened cooperation with UNESCO and the UN World Tourism Organization, and put forward festivals and programmes like the Silk Road international theater and art museum alliances. These efforts showcase and project the Chinese dedication to fostering of cultural exchanges and mutual understanding among nations with diverse civilizations and cultures.⁷

China's commitment to building of a global community of shared future is well extended to regions and countries worldwide. The China-Africa community of shared future and Chinese partnerships with neighboring countries such as China-ASEAN community, project the Chinese emphasis on mutual cooperation, open collaboration, and regional stability. Additionally, China's advocacy for vaccine accessibility for all in the wake of global challenge of COVID-19, and supplying of vaccines globally, supporting waiving vaccine intellectual property rights, and emphasis on equitable distribution, showcased Chinese commitment to the global community of shared future. Moreover, China actively participates in promotion of global governance in multiple domains such as cyberspace, nuclear security, and maritime issues.

In conclusion, the past decade has witnessed a remarkable progress in China's pursuit of global community of shared future and the realization of President Xi's vision in a substantial manner. All these initiatives like the BRI, GDI, GSI, and GCI lay strong foundations for global cooperation. China's firm commitment to global peace, development, security, and governance in addition to Chinese contributions to health, climate change, and cyber security, project its central role in addressing global challenges. However, while challenges persist and the path ahead remains filled with difficulties, the potential impact of this vision on global scale is immense. As China continues to cooperate with nations worldwide, forming collaborations and promoting inclusivity, the vision of a Global Community of Shared Future appears to have the power to transform the world for the better.

⁷ "The Global Civilization Initiative: Advocate Cultural Mutual Respect & Mutual Learning, Promote Civilization Prosperity & Progress," The global civilization initiative: Advocate Cultural Mutual Respect & Mutual Learning, promote civilization prosperity & progress, May 20, 2023, http://mv.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/sgsd/202305/t20230520_11080670.htm.