

CHINA'S TWO SESSIONS 2025 (LIANGHUI 两节课)

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(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



In the Chinese political system, the annually held “Two Sessions” (Lianghui) are considered a major political event during the Spring. The proceedings of the ‘Two Sessions’ are very significant for the world since the Chinese political leadership deliberates on policy issues and crafts the development agenda. These sessions are held by the legislature of China, the National People’s Congress (NPC), and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). This year’s ‘Two Sessions’ concluded in Beijing on 11 March 2025. The Spring Season holds special significance in Chinese culture as it represents the beginning of rebirth and rejuvenation. This applies to policy process as well. Given their salience, the ‘Two Sessions’ provide a bird’s eye view of China’s policies and development directions for the year 2025. The highlights of the sessions included Government Work Report by Premier Li Qiang presented to the NPC on March 5th and meeting of President Xi Jinping with delegates of both the NPC and CPPCC.

The ‘Two Sessions’ 2025 entailed immense importance as China’s 14th Five-year plan is concluding this year and the 15th Five-year plan has been proposed. The intensified global conflicts, and China’s

rapid economic development and technological advancements, have compelled the world to understand how China sees the global challenges and creates opportunities for the world at large.¹

One of the most significant aspects of the discussions in the 'Two Sessions' was the role of Chinese modernization in reshaping global economic dynamics. With a steady GDP growth rate of 5% and per capita GDP surpassing \$130,000, China continues to drive approximately 30% of global economic growth.² These figures reinforce its position as a major engine of economic growth, offering new opportunities for global trade, investment, and cooperation. China produced 13 million electric vehicles in 2024, in its quest of climate-conscious industrial transformation.³ There was an emphasis on "Chinese opportunities shared by the world." This underscores Chinese aspiration to integrate its progress with global prosperity, particularly through avenues like infrastructure, technology transfer, and green energy initiatives.

The Government Work Report presented during the sessions provided a structured roadmap for China's near-term economic and social development. It reviewed achievements from 2024, set targets for 2025, and outlined major policy objectives. The central goals for the coming year include sustaining a 5% GDP growth rate, generating over 12 million new urban jobs, maintaining inflation (CPI) at around 2%, achieving a basic equilibrium in the balance of payments, and reducing energy consumption per unit of GDP by approximately 3%, reinforcing China's commitment to environmental sustainability. These priorities reflect a calibrated approach toward economic resilience, employment generation, and environmental responsibility, showcasing China's ability to balance high growth with long-term sustainability.

A key highlight of the Two Sessions was the focus on China's accelerated advancements in science and technology. Under its current leadership, the country has seen an 8.3% increase in high-tech manufacturing value-added output, with total research and development spending reaching an impressive 3.6 trillion yuan in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, and space exploration.⁴ In this regard, the China-Pakistan space collaboration is significant. Under this, the astronaut training agreement and Pakistan's first international astronaut mission to the Chinese

1 "China's Two Sessions Begin with Focus on Economic Growth and Global Stability," *The State Council of the People's Republic of China*, March 2, 2025, https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202503/02/content_WS67c3f05bc6d0868f4e8f0369.html.

2 Qian Zhou and Giulia Interesse, "China's Economy in 2024: GDP, Trade, and FDI," *China Briefing*, January 20, 2025, <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-economy-in-2024-gdp-trade-fdi/>.

3 Hyeong-jin Kim, "Global South Becomes a Force to Be Reckoned With," *Maeil Business Newspaper*, January 8, 2025, <https://www.mk.co.kr/en/world/11213682>.

4 Stephen Chen, "China's R&D Growth Passes US\$496 Billion in Steady Rise to Hi-Tech Dominance," *South China Morning Post*, March 1, 2025, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3296098/chinas-rd-growth-passes-us496-billion-steady-rise-hi-tech-dominance>.

Space Station mark a historic moment in scientific and technological cooperation between the two nations.

China's diplomacy, also spearheading President Xi's three key initiatives—the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative—was another key point of the discussions. These initiatives are aimed at addressing contemporary global challenges by fostering multilateral cooperation, promoting sustainable development, and encouraging cross-cultural understanding. The effectiveness of this diplomatic approach is evident in China's growing influence in resolving global conflicts and fostering a more balanced world order. By championing a multipolar world and fair economic globalization, China seeks to offer an alternative vision for international relations—one that prioritizes peace, stability, peaceful coexistence, and shared prosperity.

During the sessions, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, a key member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) Central Committee, addressed a press conference and highlighted the role of Chinese diplomacy, China's high quality development, and the role of its leadership in safeguarding global peace and stability. He said that: "Chinese diplomacy will stand firm on the right side of history and on the side of human progress. We will provide certainty to this uncertain world."⁵ He also noted that China will support multilateralism and will firmly play its role in human development.⁶ Responding to the world in flux he said "China would continue to defend international fairness and justice, and safeguard world peace and stability." He added that China is on the path of technological innovation and the journey was not smooth. However, referring to U.S.-China competition, he noted, the achievements such as the Artificial Intelligence upstart DeepSeek, quantum computing, missions to space and 5G telecommunication networks shows China's resolve that 'where there is suppression there is innovation.'

Addressing a seminar at ISSI in Islamabad, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Jiang Zaidong highlighted that the 2025 Two Sessions mark a significant milestone in China's journey of modernization, following the strategic decision for deepening reforms. He emphasized that China's high-quality development, scientific and technological breakthroughs, and people-centered policies are creating global opportunities. The sessions reaffirm China's commitment to inclusive growth, greater regional connectivity, and strengthened global cooperation through initiatives like the Belt and Road, laying the groundwork for global harmony, innovation, and equitable development.

⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press," March 7, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbzhd/202503/t20250307_11570330.html.

⁶ Ibid

The outcomes of the Two Sessions underscore China's unwavering commitment to global economic stability, technological innovation, human-centric development, and proactive global engagement. As a leading voice of the Global South, China continues to advocate for equitable international structures, seeking to uplift developing nations through strategic partnerships and knowledge-sharing. China's trajectory in the coming years will undoubtedly have far-reaching implications, not just for its own development but also for the evolving global order, where inclusive growth, strategic cooperation, and peaceful coexistence remain paramount.