

# Progress Report on the Global Development Initiative 2023



中国国际发展知识中心  
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
KNOWLEDGE ON DEVELOPMENT

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Progress Report on  
the Global Development Initiative

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# 01 ■ Preface



Since 2020, the combined impacts of major changes and a pandemic, both unseen in a century, have affected humanity profoundly. The world finds itself in a new period of turbulence and transformation, and global development has come to another historical crossroads. On the one hand, with a sluggish world economy, widening North-South gap and rising geopolitical tensions, countries, especially developing countries, are facing serious challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). On the other hand, people in all countries long for peace and development more than ever before, their call for equity and

justice is growing stronger, and they are more determined in pursuing win-win cooperation.

In September 2021, the Global Development Initiative (GDI) was proposed at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, calling for international commitment to development as a priority, a people-centered approach, benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between man and nature, and results-oriented actions. The GDI prioritizes cooperation in eight areas, namely poverty alleviation, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green

development, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity in the digital era. Focusing on the issue of uneven and inadequate development, the GDI aims to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is committed to building a global community of development. The GDI is open to the whole world and welcomes the participation of all.

On June 2022, leaders from 18 emerging markets and developing countries met virtually to discuss global development at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development hosted by China. President Xi Jinping proposed at the Dialogue to foster a development paradigm featuring benefits for all, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation and common prosperity. A range of practical measures were announced to implement the GDI, charting the course and marking a new stage of practical cooperation for the Initiative.

Over the past year, the GDI has been widely received by the international community, and achieved positive progress and early harvests, injecting new momentum for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**The concepts of the GDI have been enriched.** The GDI is an important public good and cooperation platform proposed by the Chinese government for the whole world. Upholding the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, the GDI widely accepts and adopts constructive opinions and suggestions from all parties, and enriches its concepts and improves its cooperation programs in a timely manner to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In September 2021, China circulated a concept

paper of the GDI at the UN, proposing eight core concepts and eight priority areas of cooperation. In May 2022, participants in the High-level Virtual Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI unanimously supported the overall direction of cooperation in the eight priority areas and stressed the role of GDI as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda. It was agreed that cooperation within the GDI framework should be adjusted to changing situations and on the basis of sufficient consultation. Given development is a prerequisite for protecting and promoting human rights, the GDI should pay special attention to gender equality, meet the development needs of such groups as the elderly, children, youth and persons with disabilities, and enhance balanced, coordinated and inclusive development, so that no country or person is left behind.

In June 2022, the Chair's Statement of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development further elaborated on the core concepts and principles for implementing the GDI, specified the direction and entry points for cooperation in the eight priority areas, announced 32 practical measures for joint efforts, enriched the concepts of the GDI, and improved its framework of actions.

**Cooperation mechanisms have been put in place.** The Group of Friends of the GDI was formed at the UN in January 2022. As an important platform for extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, it serves as an important step in institutional development of GDI cooperation. So far, nearly 70 countries have joined the Group of Friends. A number of activities have been held within the Group of

## Mechanisms for GDI Cooperation Keep Growing



### Establishment of the Group of Friends of the GDI

On January 20, the Permanent Mission of China to the UN held a launch meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI in New York, marking the official establishment of the Group. Heads of more than 20 UN agencies addressed the meeting, and representatives from more than 100 countries, including ambassadors from more than 80 countries, participated in the meeting.



### High-level Virtual Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI

On May 9, the High-level Virtual Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI was held at the UN Headquarters in New York. More than 150 representatives from over 60 countries, including members of the Group, participated in the meeting and engaged in exchanges and dialogue. The meeting produced a Chair's Summary, which outlined the discussions at the meeting, the consensus of the members, and the way forward.

Jan 2022

May 2022

Friends, such as a High-level Virtual Meeting and a Ministerial Meeting. Participants had in-depth exchanges of views and reached broad consensus on issues such as deepening practical cooperation under the GDI, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, promoting the institutional arrangement for the Group of

Friends, and strengthening synergy with the UN development system.

The Group of Friends called for the establishment of a taskforce composed of heads of UN development agencies and experts in relevant fields to advance the GDI. This working group

## Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI

On September 20, the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI was held in New York. The meeting reviewed the positive progress made since the launch of the GDI, especially since the High-level Dialogue on Global Development. In-depth exchanges were held on deepening practical cooperation in various areas of the GDI, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, promoting the institutional arrangement of the Group of Friends, and strengthening cooperation and synergy with the UN development system. The way forward for advancing the GDI was discussed, and broad consensus was reached. The meeting published the first-batch projects of the GDI project pool.



# Sep 2022

## Nov 2022

## Jan 2023



### Launch of the Global Development Promotion Center

On November 12, the Global Development Promotion Center of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) was launched, representing an important measure for China to implement the GDI and deepen international development cooperation. The Center aims to create a platform for coordinating resources and actions, pooling wisdom and exchanging ideas for GDI implementation.

### Inauguration of the Global Development Promotion Center Network

On January 11, the inaugural meeting of the Global Development Promotion Center Network and the first dialogue session at the director-general level were officially held. A total of 96 foreign representatives from 66 countries, three regional organizations, 24 international organizations and three foreign foundations attended the meeting as full members or observers of the network. The network will provide a platform and support for GDI implementation.

will serve as another platform for strengthening policy dialogue and strategic synergy with UN development agencies and a mechanism for promoting GDI cooperation.

In September 2022, China set up a GDI project pool and published the first batch of projects.

In November 2022, China launched the Global Development Promotion Center. In January 2023, the Global Development Promotion Center Network was inaugurated. With the participation of more than 30 countries and regional organizations, the Network provides a platform for exchanging ideas, synergizing development

## Approach of GDI Cooperation

**Sustainable Development Goals**



**Global Development Initiative**

### **A focus on the central task**

Stay committed to development as the priority, and focus on the central task of implementing the 2030 Agenda

### **Projects-led**

Promote policy dialogue, experience sharing, capacity building and practical cooperation through specific projects in various fields

### **Extensive participation**

Build a good example of cooperation and encourage the participation of other countries and agencies with UN development agencies as important cooperation partners and the Group of Friends of the GDI as the main actors, to build a good example of cooperation and encourage the participation of other countries and agencies

### **Foster increase in development resources**

Fully leverage the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund to pool more resources and encourage all parties to fund projects in areas of interest

### **All-round GDI cooperation**

Strengthen cooperation in the key areas of the GDI to ensure that all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda are met

### **A special focus on key issues**

Focus on pressing challenges such as food and energy security, poverty, supply/ industrial chain disruptions while promoting comprehensive implementation of the GDI

plans, and coordinating resources.

Important steps have also been taken in building the Global Knowledge Network for Development. The China-ASEAN Knowledge Network for Development has worked on multiple joint research and exchange activities. China will work with more partners to promote experience-sharing and mutual learning in governance with the support of regional and thematic networks. Meanwhile, relevant global or regional cooperation mechanisms have been established in various priority cooperation areas.

**Approach of GDI cooperation has been identified.**

The Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends held in September 2022 identified a six-pronged approach for advancing the GDI. The implementation of the GDI will stay committed to development as the priority, and focus on the central task of implementing the 2030 Agenda. It will be projects-led and action-oriented, where policy dialogue, experience sharing, capacity building and practical cooperation will be promoted through specific projects in various fields. It welcomes extensive participation, with UN development agencies as important cooperation partners and the Group of Friends of the GDI as the main actors, to build a good example of cooperation and encourage the participation of other countries and agencies. It will increase input by fully leveraging the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund to pool more resources and encourage all parties to fund projects in areas of interest. It will advance all-round GDI cooperation by strengthening cooperation in the key areas

of the GDI to ensure that all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda are met. It will have a special focus on key issues, including pressing challenges such as food and energy security, poverty, supply/industrial chain disruptions while promoting comprehensive implementation of the GDI.

**Practical cooperation projects have gradually come to fruition.**

Since the GDI was launched over a year ago, the Chinese government worked with partners to deepen practical cooperation in the eight priority areas of the GDI and has achieved positive results. Half of the 32 Deliverables of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development released in June 2022 have been accomplished or have reaped early harvests. The first batch of the 50 projects in the GDI project pool released at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in September 2022 covers various areas such as poverty reduction, food security and industrialization. Among them, more than 10 projects have been completed, and the rest are seeing positive progress. At present, the total number of projects in the project pool has exceeded 100, benefiting nearly 40 developing countries. Meanwhile, over the past year, the Chinese government has set up 1,000 capacity-building projects and provided 20,000 training opportunities, covering almost all members of the Group of Friends.

This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of major measures taken and progress achieved in various respects of the GDI since its initiation. Recommendations are proposed at the end of the report for GDI cooperation to further boost implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



## Progress of the 32 Deliverables of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development

No.	Deliverables	Progress
<b>◆ Platform building</b>		
2	Launching an International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation	<i>Accomplished</i>
30.1	Setting up a Global Development Promotion Center	<i>Accomplished</i>
1	Setting up a Global Alliance for Poverty Reduction and Development (GAPRD)	<i>Positive progress</i>
10	Establishing an International Vaccines Research, Development and Innovation Alliance	<i>Positive progress</i>
21.2	Establishing a World TVET League	<i>Positive progress</i>
32.1	Establishing a Global Knowledge Network for Development	<i>Positive progress</i>
16.3	Exploring the establishment of an International Coalition for Energy Transitions	<i>In process</i>
19	Establishing a Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management	<i>In process</i>
<b>◆ Partnerships</b>		
7.1	Holding the World Conference on Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS)	<i>Accomplished</i>
7.2	Launching an initiative for agrarian civilization protection	<i>Accomplished</i>
21.1	Launching a World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference	<i>Accomplished</i>
23	Holding the Global Development Initiative Digital Cooperation Forum and the 2022 Global Digital Economy Conference	<i>Accomplished</i>
24	Hosting the UN World Data Forum 2023	<i>Accomplished</i>
25	Launching a Digital Literacy and Skills Improvement Initiative	<i>Accomplished</i>
29.1	Holding a World Youth Development Forum	<i>Accomplished</i>
3	Carrying out a series of dialogues on development experience sharing to help developing countries enhance capacity building for sustainable development	<i>Positive progress</i>
16.1	Promoting to establish the Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership	<i>Positive progress</i>
17	Promoting the Blue Partnership and holding a series of events	<i>Positive progress</i>
20	Advancing the Partnership for New Industrial Revolution	<i>Positive progress</i>
30.3	Holding a Forum on Global Action for Shared Development	<i>Positive progress</i>
16.2	Holding the International Forum on Energy Transitions	<i>In process</i>
29.2	Jointly initiating the Action Plan for Global Youth Development	<i>In process</i>
32.2	Holding a Global Development Forum	<i>In process</i>
<b>◆ Funding support</b>		
13	Officially launching the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund Phase III of US\$50 million	<i>Accomplished</i>

No.	Deliverables	Progress
14	Upgrading China's South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund into the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, with an additional input of US\$1 billion on top of the existing US\$3 billion	<i>Accomplished</i>
12	Making full use of relevant funds to support UN development agencies in carrying out practical projects in developing countries	<i>Positive progress</i>
15	Enhancing support for the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund established by China to support GDI cooperation	<i>Positive progress</i>
<b>◆ Capacity building</b>		
9	Training programs for Pacific Island Countries on food production, eco-agriculture and other areas via the China-Pacific Island Countries Demonstration Center for Agricultural Cooperation to help enhance food security in relevant countries	<i>Accomplished</i>
4	Deepening the collaboration between China and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation on the Seminar Series on “South-South Cooperation in Cross-Border E-commerce for Poverty Eradication and Global Sustainable Development”	<i>Early harvests</i>
5	100,000 training opportunities to be provided by China for other developing countries to facilitate post-COVID economic recovery and social development	<i>Positive progress</i>
22	Launching the ICT Capacity Building Programs for Developing Countries	<i>Positive progress</i>
<b>◆ Project cooperation</b>		
18	Jointly launching the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative with International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)	<i>Accomplished</i>
6	Launching a Food Production Enhancement Action	<i>Early harvests</i>
8	Implementing the Chemical Earth Big Science Program to jointly build a Global Geochemical Baselines Network with other developing countries	<i>Early harvests</i>
11	Continuing with China's Brightness Action, the Heart-to-Heart Journey and other “small but beautiful” free medical programs for other developing countries, and stepping up cooperation between paired-up hospitals in China and Africa	<i>Early harvests</i>
27	Carrying out cooperation on “Smart Customs, Smart Borders, Smart Connectivity”	<i>Early harvests</i>
30.2	Developing a project pool	<i>Early harvests</i>
26	Working with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to implement projects on accelerating the transition to electric mobility for public transport and Smart Cities Innovation Lab	<i>In process</i>
<b>◆ Knowledge sharing</b>		
31	Issuing a Global Development Report	<i>Accomplished</i>
28	Launching a Sustainable Development Satellite Constellation Plan, developing and sharing data and information for SDGs monitoring	<i>Early harvests</i>

# 02

## Progress on the Global Development Initiative



Over the past year or so, the GDI has forged international consensus on jointly promoting development by prompting the international community to refocus on development issues and to recommit to the 2030 Agenda. It has mobilized more international development resources, created

a platform for cooperation on eight key areas, and promoted knowledge sharing and capacity building for development, thus giving full play to its role as an accelerator for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and effectively driving the SDGs back on track.

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### **(1) Building international consensus on promoting development**

Since its initiation, the GDI has been widely and actively echoed by the international community. More than 100 countries and multiple

international organizations have expressed their support. The Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the

30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the Joint Statement of China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Declaration of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum, the Dakar Declaration of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Joint Statement between Leaders of China and the Five Central Asian Countries on the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Ties, the Xi'an Declaration of the China-Central Asia Summit, among others, welcome and endorse the GDI as providing new opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In June 2022, under the theme “Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, leaders at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development discussed global development issues of common interest and reached broad consensus. They stressed the importance to “put development front and center on the international cooperation agenda”, “stay committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” and “actively respond to the call of people from across the world for strengthening international development cooperation and achieving common sustainable development”, and expressed “readiness to strengthen cooperation on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving common sustainable development”.

**The GDI has promoted a refocusing on global development.** In response to the continuing decline in human development and serious erosion of its achievements, the Initiative

calls on countries to place development at the center of the international agenda, and build political consensus to ensure everyone values development and all countries pursue cooperation together. According to Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the GDI's call for the international community to prioritize development responds to the concern for people's well-being, and provides a remarkable pathway for peaceful coexistence and common development between nations. Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith said, “The GDI and its core principles on prioritizing development, people-centered, leaving no country and no person behind, among others, are indeed most relevant to the current context that we are facing today.” Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla noted that the GDI places sustainable development and international cooperation at the center of multilateral priorities, which is highly significant. According to former Guyanese President Donald Ramotar, “This initiative is rooted in the belief that these global problems can be solved not through competition or conflicts, but via cooperation and peaceful coexistence. This Global Development Initiative deserves support from all progressive and democratic forces. It is the most realistic plan in place to ensure peace and prosperity for mankind.” Former Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf noted, “The GDI provides a roadmap for global development with core ideas and areas of focus. It is not just about achieving the SDGs or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, but actually provides a roadmap for achieving global development in a sustained manner.”

**The GDI has promoted the re-commitment to the 2030 Agenda.** The GDI confronts the real predicament of human development, calls for global development partnerships in the new era, and provides a viable path and strong impetus for solving global issues and achieving the SDGs. According to Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, the GDI aims to build a global community of development and provides an excellent opportunity to accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda. Thailand is ready to work with China to maintain regional peace and stability through multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and promote exchanges and cooperation among developing countries to explore a sustainable development path that suits their own needs. Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dačić noted that the GDI is fully in line with the UN 2030 Agenda and is committed to the future long-term development of the entire world. Former Slovenian President Danilo Türk said, “The initiative has been echoed by a large number of countries and will help advance the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” UN Secretary-General Guterres stated that the GDI aims to “help revive global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,” and that “the holistic Global Development Initiative is a valued contribution to addressing common challenges and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable and inclusive future. Let’s work together to put the SDGs back on track for the well-being of this and future generations and the planet on which we all depend.” Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), noted that there is an urgent

need for greater cooperation and understanding among countries to unite all of humanity again through appropriate mechanisms. China’s GDI is the best representation of promoting solidarity and cooperation among countries to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Gerd Müller, Director-General of UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), said that the GDI is in line with UNIDO’s mission to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development for its members, and that UNIDO supports the Initiative and is willing to deepen cooperation with China on it. Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, said that in order to reinvigorate actions on the SDGs globally, we need large-scale cooperation such as the GDI. In July 2022, Ambassador Zhang Jun, Permanent Representative of China to the UN, delivered a statement on behalf of members of the Group of Friends of GDI at the High-level Special Event of 76th session of the UN General Assembly. He stressed that the Group will spare no efforts to continue to work with other UN member states, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, and make sure that no country and no person is left behind.

**The GDI is a powerful response to global challenges and the development needs of developing countries.** Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said, “The GDI offers support mechanism for developing countries and will bring great opportunities for the Dominican people. The Initiative, focusing on cooperation and partnerships, addresses such issues as extreme poverty, food security, access to vaccines, and climate change.” Timor-Leste’s



**"(The GDI aims to) help revive global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The holistic Global Development Initiative is a valued contribution to addressing common challenges and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable and inclusive future. Let's work together to put the SDGs back on track for the well-being of this and future generations and the planet on which we all depend."**

**António Guterres**  
*UN Secretary-General*

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Adaljiza Magno noted, "The GDI responds to the development needs of a wide range of developing countries and helps countries to build on their strengths and unite their efforts to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." According to Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the GDI proposed by China helps all parties to address development challenges through cooperation. Effective implementation of the Initiative, which focuses on promoting cooperation on poverty reduction, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity in the digital era, is important for developing countries to overcome difficulties and achieve development. Former UN Under-

Secretary-General Vijay Nambiar noted that "The China-proposed Global Development Initiative caters to urgent global priorities of poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response, development financing, climate change and green development, among others." In the joint statement of the Group of Friends on food security at the High-level Special Event of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in July 2022, it was noted that multidimensional shocks have seriously weakened the ability of developing countries to deal with current crisis, even more so for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and African countries. This is the time for us to act together, not only to solve the food crisis in the short term, but also to improve global food and agriculture cooperation in the long run.

## **(2) Promoting increased resources for global development**

Adequacy of international development resources is a fundamental condition for translating development consensus into practical actions. As a responsible major developing country, China has been providing assistance and support to other developing countries to the best of its ability. Since the launch of the GDI, the Chinese government has further increased its input for global development, innovated financing mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the project pool, and encouraged various development partners to increase their investment in resources, so as to pool the widest range of resources to promote global development.

**Increasing resources for global development cooperation.** In June 2022, President Xi Jinping announced at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development that the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund would be upgraded to a Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, with an additional input of US\$1 billion. With the support of the Fund, UN development agencies and other stakeholders have undertaken a series of practical projects to support developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Since October 2021, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund under the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund has approved two batches of projects, supporting more than 20 UN development agencies in carrying out a dozen or so projects

in over 60 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America for development and capacity building in poverty reduction, food security, post-COVID recovery, green transition and digital technology, among other areas. In December 2021, China launched Phase III of the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund with a total amount of US\$50 million, providing considerable new resources to international cooperation on poverty reduction and food security.

### **Mobilizing multiple stakeholders to pooling resources through innovative mechanisms.**

A Non-paper was issued by CIDCA in April 2023, setting out the principles, targets, allocations, ways of participation and management rules for financing the Global Development Project Pool. This is a useful step of the Chinese government to innovate the financing mechanism for international development cooperation. It will also enable mobilization of resources from various parties, including international development agencies, financial institutions, Chinese and foreign businesses and foundations, to jointly promote the implementation of GDI cooperation projects. In the meantime, relevant international organizations, the private sector and social organizations are also contributing their own resources to the implementation of the Initiative and the achievement of the SDGs (see Box 1).



## Box 1: GDI for SDG — Pooling resources for implementing the GDI

In November 2022, the UN Global Compact officially launched the GDI for SDG pilot project to unite businesses across countries to implement the GDI and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The first pilot project, in response to the call of the UN Ocean Conference and the GDI, aims to build a cooperation-based, innovation-driven and action-oriented cross-sectoral global

corporate partnership covering the entire industrial chain to bring together enterprises from all over the world to mitigate marine plastic pollution and facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

A total of 13 companies and organizations, namely 3M, Alibaba Group, China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group Limited, Danone

China, Honor, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, Lenovo Group, MEBO Group, Novozymes, PepsiCo, Master Kong Holdings Limited, TOMRA Group and Xiamen Air, announced their participation in the pilot project as founding members, a solemn commitment to implementing the GDI and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

### **Working together with other development partners to increase development resources.**

China has joined actions with developed countries and international organizations to increase resources for global development through its constructive participation in the replenishment of multilateral institutions and the issuance of additional Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For example, China actively joined the 20th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), making a positive contribution to the 20th replenishment's record US\$93 billion. China has altogether contributed US\$330 million to the Asian Development Fund to support low-income members of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in addressing the pandemic, natural hazards, food shortage and other challenges,

promoting post-COVID recovery and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. China also contributed SDR22.57 million (approximately US\$31.899 million) to the 8th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and pushed the Facility to achieve its largest ever replenishment totaling US\$5.33 billion, supporting environmental and climate projects in developing countries and promoting the improvement of global environmental governance. China backed the IMF in the new allocation of SDRs equivalent to US\$650 billion, called on countries with excess resources to reallocate SDRs to countries in need, and pushed for international consensus on the options of reallocation. In late 2021, President Xi Jinping announced that China would re-channel US\$10 billion of its SDRs to African countries.



## **(2) Building cooperation platforms centering on the eight priority areas**

The GDI is a re-commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Over the past year, practical cooperation on the Initiative's eight priority

areas has covered all 17 SDGs, making a positive contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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### **1. Poverty reduction**

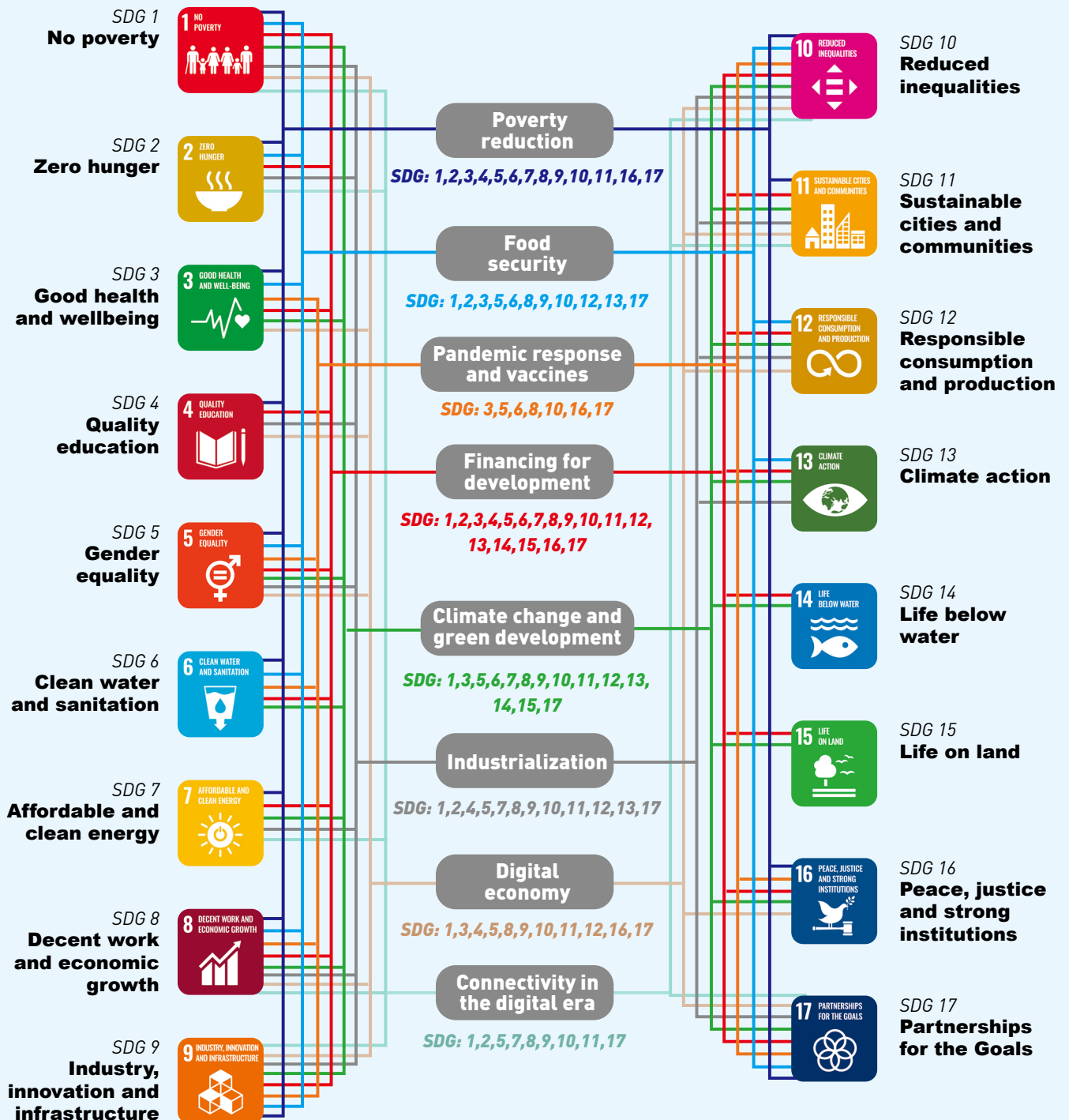
Since 2020, COVID-19 has eroded the achievements of global poverty reduction in the past decade. Embracing a people-centered philosophy and responding to people's concerns for greater good of all, the GDI puts poverty reduction at the top of its priority areas of cooperation, and promotes a poverty-free world and common development through poverty reduction cooperation networks, knowledge sharing and exchanges, and "small but beautiful" livelihood projects.

**Building networks of cooperation to forge consensus and synergy for global poverty reduction.** Poverty reduction requires the mobilization and participation of a wide range of actors. In August 2022, at the initiative of China, 32 Chinese and foreign nongovernmental organizations launched the International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation, making positive contributions to the global poverty reduction. From November to December 2022, the Network held a virtual workshop, in which the heads of 16 member organizations outside China had in-depth discussions on

strengthening the network mechanism, deepening international nongovernmental cooperation for poverty reduction, and helping deliver the GDI. In November 2022, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), together with 31 organizations, launched the Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation to establish a multi-level dialogue mechanism among governments and societies. It will help China-Africa cooperation on poverty reduction and development to achieve more practical results by sharing information and resources and improving cooperation models.

**Promoting knowledge sharing and exchanges to enhance the capacity of developing countries for poverty reduction and development.** Knowledge is the driving force behind poverty eradication. In October 2021, China hosted the Global Rural Development Forum to promote exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction and rural development. On the sidelines of the event, the IPRCC and the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

# GDI cooperation facilitating the achievement of all 17 SDGs



## Box 2: China-Cambodia Health Care Package Project

The China-Cambodia Health Care Package Project is the distribution of packages containing masks, a lunch box, a water bottle and canned food to nearly 10,000 students in poor areas of Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk Province and Tebenkemun Province in Cambodia. On August 25, 2022, the launch ceremony of the project was held at Angkomnob Primary School in Putsor Village of Takeo Province, Cambodia. The project was widely welcomed by locals and highly acclaimed by the Cambodian government, NGOs, media, among others, making contribution to Cambodia's efforts to implement the poverty reduction goal of the 2030 Agenda.

257 students of Angkomnob Primary School were the first to receive the gifts from the project. Se Sokna, a sixth-grade student at the School, loved the package donated by China. "It is so useful. We sincerely thank China for its generous donation, and we will always remember this kindness." Nget Sam Oeun, principal of Angkomnob Primary School, said the project helps to improve the health and hygiene of rural students. The packages speak to the kindness of the Chinese people to the Cambodian people, and brings smiles and hope to children in rural Cambodia.



**Students of Angkomnob Primary School receive Health Care Packages (Picture: Xinhua News Agency)**

of Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Poverty Reduction, under which the two sides will jointly conduct technical cooperation, run pilot projects, and provide training for professionals. In November 2022, China held an International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships with the FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). *The*

*Global Poverty Reduction Case Series 2022* and *International Poverty Reduction Annual Report 2022* were released to share experience in poverty reduction governance. Throughout 2022, the IPRCC held 11 international training programs on poverty reduction and rural revitalization for 361 participants from 25 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania. The Cross-border E-Commerce Capacity Building Training Program for Youth in Developing Countries on Poverty

Alleviation and Sustainable Development, co-hosted by China and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) under the GDI framework, also provided e-commerce training for more than 1,000 participants from nearly 100 countries.

**Implementing “small but beautiful” poverty reduction projects to help people in developing countries to improve their lives.** Improving people’s livelihood is the essence of poverty reduction. The Chinese government’s technical assistance projects on Juncao and upland rice in Papua New Guinea’s Eastern Highlands Province have effectively increased the incomes of local farmers and improved the sustainable development capacity of local agriculture. Juncao and upland rice, together with coffee, are now among the three agricultural pillars of the province. The East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project, conducted in six impoverished villages in Laos,

Myanmar and Cambodia through full participation of villagers and targeted poverty alleviation, has greatly improved the working and living conditions of local communities as well as their self-development capacity. Since 2022, the China NGO Network for International Exchanges has been working with international members, such as the Arab-Chinese Cooperation and Development Association in Lebanon and the Institute for Peace and Diplomacy Studies of Pakistan, to carry out “small but beautiful” projects that focus on rural poverty reduction, youth education and women vocational training. In July 2022, the China Foundation for Rural Development implemented the Smiling Children Feeding Program in Nepal, distributing food packages to children in poor communities, benefiting more than 3,000 people. In August 2022, the China Foundation for Peace and Development implemented the Health Care Package Project in Cambodia, benefiting nearly 10,000 people (see Box 2).

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## **2. Food security**

Food systems around the world have become more vulnerable due to the intertwined and overlapping effects of COVID-19, regional conflicts, climate change, among others. Under the framework of the GDI, China has worked with other countries and international development agencies to strengthen cooperation in agricultural science and technology, enhance capacity building, and promote the preservation of farming civilization, and improve the resilience of the global food system. Together, they seek to

keep more people from the threat of hunger.

**Conducting South-South and tripartite cooperation to continuously increase support for agricultural development in developing countries.**

China actively supports the unique role of UN development agencies in helping other developing countries respond to the challenge of food security. In December 2021, the Chinese government and the FAO signed the General Agreement on Phase III of the South-South Cooperation Trust Fund, donating

US\$50 million to the FAO and providing new resources to help address global hunger, malnutrition and other issues. The first US\$30 million of Phase III of the Fund has been disbursed. So far, it has supported a number of agricultural quality upgrading projects in countries like Uganda and Sri Lanka. With the support of the Global Development

and South-South Cooperation Fund, the FAO, WFP and other agencies have implemented nearly 50 tripartite cooperation projects to provide assistance to relevant developing countries for improved food security and comprehensive agricultural production capacity (See Box 3).

**Carrying out technical cooperation and training to improve food production and self-sufficiency in developing countries.** Agricultural



**Inauguration Ceremony of the China-Pacific Island Countries Demonstration Center for Agricultural Cooperation** (Picture: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China)

technology is the lifeblood of food security. The Food Production Enhancement Action, launched by China, has implemented 17 projects to share knowledge, information, technology and experience with dozens of countries on rice, cassava, facility agriculture, fisheries, tropical fruits and vegetables, among others (See Box 4). In December 2022, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the FAO jointly launched a working

### **Box 3: China Partners with the WFP to provide food aid to Laos**

On November 22, 2022, a ceremony was held in Vientiane for the launch of China's food assistance project to Laos through the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund in cooperation with the

WFP. As the first project of the GDI in Laos, China will provide 930 tons of rice and 120 tons of canned fish to the WFP and the National School Meals Program of the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports, and

provide school meals for more than 130,000 students in more than 1,400 elementary schools in eight provinces of the country, contributing to the development of primary education and nutrition security for children in Laos.



## Box 4: Projects under the Food Production Enhancement Action

No.	Project	Partner Countries
1	China-Myanmar collaborative research on new strategies for the prevention and control of important virus diseases of rice	Myanmar
2	China-Romania joint research on facility agriculture technology	Romania
3	Monitoring and control of major transboundary crop pests and diseases	Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Laos, etc
4	China-Uruguay joint laboratory cooperation project	Uruguay
5	Molecular mechanism of GmDOF3.7 transcription factor regulating oil content in soybean	Egypt
6	Modern fisheries cooperation between China and countries around the South China Sea	Philippines, Vietnam
7	China-ASEAN demonstration for technical cooperation and industrialized operation on modern marine fisheries	Myanmar, Malaysia, etc
8	Research and development of continuous variable layer trawling technology and equipment for transoceanic deep-water fisheries	Mauritania, Sierra Leone
9	Class of 2020 MSc Fisheries Program	Mongolia, Syria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Venezuela
10	China-Congo (Brazzaville) technology demonstration and promotion for high quality cassava flour industrialization	Republic of the Congo
11	Construction of cooperation platform for tropical fruit and vegetable processing and testing in Lancang-Mekong countries	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
12	Demonstration of industrial technologies for specialty spice crops such as pepper and Amomum tsao-ko in the Mekong Subregion	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
13	Demonstration of good tropical fruit tree varieties and supporting technologies at the China-Congo (Brazzaville) Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center	Republic of the Congo
14	Functional studies of candidate genes for low phosphorus tolerance in stylo and their association with traits and breeding use	Columbia
15	Genetic networks and molecular design breeding for cassava yield and root mass quality formation	Columbia
16	Cassava value chain enhancement technology demonstration at the China-Congo (Brazzaville) Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center	Republic of the Congo
17	Key technologies for modern breeding of cassava and tropical forage grasses	Columbia



**Field training in geochemical surveys of green land in Laos** (Picture: Ministry of Natural Resources of China)

mechanism for joint innovation activities at regional and global levels in such areas as digital and innovative agricultural finance, digital agriculture and agricultural information platform development, animal and plant disease control, sustainable soil and water management, and rice genetic breeding. In May 2023, the China-Pacific Islands Agricultural Cooperation Demonstration Center was inaugurated, which will carry out technological innovation in agricultural production and training in advanced and applicable agricultural production technologies with a focus on the needs of Pacific Island countries in crop varieties, fisheries and aquaculture, tropical cash crops, agricultural machinery and equipment, deep processing of agricultural products, and training of professional and technical personnel. In addition, China also helps to improve developing

countries' capacity for water resources management by helping them formulate plans for water conservancy, providing training for water technicians and officials, carrying out cooperation in watershed management and ecological restoration, rural water resources and food security, and providing technical assistance in water emergency warning, disaster prevention and mitigation.

**Implementing the Chemical Earth Big Science Program to provide data and technical support for sustainable global agricultural development.**

Ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and the environment is a prerequisite for sustainable agricultural development. China has pushed forward the Chemical Earth Big Science Program, and initially established a global geochemical baselines network

covering one third of the global land area, compiled the first global map of chemistry, and produced geochemical reference values for 81 indicators. These have provided authoritative data for the sustainable development of global natural resources and ecology and sustainable agriculture. China has helped countries such as Türkiye, Colombia and Peru to compile geochemical maps related to green agriculture, providing support for the scientific development and utilization of land resources in each country. It has carried out demonstration work on geochemical surveys of green land conservation and utilization in the Mekong River Basin. Since September 2021, China has held three online courses on international geochemical mapping, providing training to 209 participants from more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia and South America. More than 50 countries have directly benefited from the training through basic information sharing, capacity building and scientific research.

July 2022, the World Conference on Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems was successfully held in Qingtian, Zhejiang Province. 28 countries and international organizations supported the launch of the Initiative for Agrarian Civilization Protection, calling for prioritizing conservation and further raising international awareness of agricultural cultural heritage and its protection. The role of agriculture heritage should be fully leveraged in ensuring food security, adapting to climate change, and



**Signatures of the representatives of the World Conference on Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems** (Picture: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China)

**Launching a global initiative to strengthen international consensus on the preservation of agrarian civilization and agriculture heritage.** Protecting agriculture heritage and carrying forward agrarian civilization are essential in agricultural sustainable development. In

protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. It is imperative to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation, strengthen policy support, focus on the livelihoods of small farmers to promote rural development and facilitate the participation of multiple parties for achieving the SDGs.



### 3. Pandemic response and vaccines

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously threatened the life and health of people in all countries in continuous waves. It has dealt a huge blow to world economy, dragging many developing countries to poverty and instability. Under the framework of the GDI, China has worked with partners, following the principle of putting people first and life first, to actively promote

international cooperation on vaccine supply and R&D, step up assistance in health care in developing countries, and strengthen experience sharing and talent training, making positive contributions to global response to the pandemic and more resilient health systems in developing countries.

**Promoting international cooperation on vaccine supply and R&D to build a global shield for immunity.** Global cooperation on vaccines is the only way to prevent and combat pandemics. After the outbreak of COVID-19, China was among the first to pledge to make vaccines a global public good, to support vaccine R&D and waiving intellectual property rights, and to cooperate with developing countries in vaccine production. It has successively transferred technology to and co-produced vaccines with more than 20 countries, and created an annual production capacity of 1.9 billion doses of vaccines overseas. To promote



**Zhang Youmei, an ophthalmologist with the 19th batch of Chinese medical team to aid the Central African Republic, examines a patient** (Picture: Xinhua News Agency)

global solidarity against the pandemic and bridge the international immunization gap, since 2021, China has supplied more than 2.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations, and provided 520 million doses to 110 countries and four international organizations under the framework of foreign aid, becoming the second largest donor of COVID-19 vaccines in the world. China has also actively promoted the establishment of the International Vaccines Research, Development and Innovation Alliance, to broaden cooperation among member countries in areas such as innovative R&D and production of vaccines and make full use of their advantages in R&D capabilities, industrial base, and labor costs to achieve cooperation goals.

**Increasing assistance to help improve health care systems and pandemic prevention and control in other developing countries.** While providing

help in COVID response, GDI cooperation is also committed to improve capacity building and preparedness for the next crisis. So far, China has sent more than 1,000 medical team members to 56 countries to provide unpaid medical services in the recipient countries, as well as to conduct medical rounds, academic lectures, clinical teaching and personnel training (See Box 5). From September 2021 to March 2023, Chinese medical teams had treated a total of more than 2.5 million cases and trained more than 23,000 local medical personnel. Chinese medical teams were highly recognized by the governments of the recipient countries. Presidents of Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic and Guinea personally honored the medical teams, and leaders of Sierra Leone and Guyana personally received and sang high praise of them. China has established counterpart cooperation with 46 hospitals in 41 African countries, helping recipient hospitals to improve medical service through online exchanges, long-distance consultation, expert dispatch, and donation of medical supplies.

**Strengthening collaboration with neighboring countries to safeguard regional public health security.** Regional collaboration is essential to safeguarding global public health security. In November 2021, 77 public health professionals from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, China and the ASEAN Secretariat took part in the online ASEAN 10+3 Tabletop Exercise for Health Emergency Response. The event facilitated communication and collaboration in the region and enhanced joint emergency response

## **Box 5: Brightness boom in Central Asia**

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From April 11 to 17, 2023, a medical team from Peking University People's Hospital conducted the "Health Express International Brightness Journey" in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. More than 230 patients received examination, and 210 cataract surgeries were completed. Apart from that, the medical team also shared the most advanced technology and ideas to local medical staff and trained local ophthalmologists, so that they would be able to perform cataract surgeries themselves.

On April 19, 2023, the China-Uzbekistan Blindness Prevention Cooperation Center was inaugurated in Tashkent. Based on mutual respect, good neighborliness and mutual benefit between China and Uzbekistan, the Center aims to become a bridge of exchanges and cooperation between the two countries' ophthalmology communities and provide higher-standard ophthalmic services to more patients.

capability, which will go a long way in delivering effective responses to public health emergencies. The ASEAN-China Online Workshop and Tabletop Exercise on Information Technology Supported Outbreak Investigation in December 2022, joined by 64 public health professionals from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Cambodia, China and the ASEAN Secretariat, further strengthened the capacity of public health personnel in the region to conduct on-site epidemiological investigations during outbreak management.

## 4. Financing for development

Sustainable financing for development is a basis for international development cooperation and an underpin for global development. Developing countries have long been confronted with insufficient resources for development. Development is real only when all countries develop together. Committed to multilateralism and inclusiveness, the GDI has helped increase funding for global development and assisted developing countries in enhancing domestic resource mobilization.

**Increasing investment in development funds to inject new impetus into global common development.** In June 2022, President Xi Jinping

announced at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development that China would allocate more resources for global development cooperation. It would upgrade the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to a Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, and add another US\$1 billion to the fund on top of the US\$3 billion already committed. China would also increase input to the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund to support cooperation under the GDI. The Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, now in place, and the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund are the two platforms funding GDI cooperation

projects. In addition, Phase III of the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund has also been officially launched. With these financial support, UN development agencies have carried out a series of practical projects in developing countries. For instance, the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund has supported the WFP's food assistance programs in Burkina Faso, Laos and Togo, the UNDP's post-COVID recovery assistance in Nepal and Pakistan, and emergency and basic medical programs and humanitarian assistance of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Lebanon, Palestine and Syria during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Launching ceremony of China-OECD LLM Program on Taxation**  
(Picture: Ministry of Finance of China)

**Strengthening cooperation in tax administration and anti-corruption to help developing countries make full use of domestic resources.** Tax administration and anti-corruption are critical to fiscal sustainability of developing countries.

With the help of international organizations, China actively helps other developing countries in need to improve their tax collection and administration capabilities and modernize their tax governance systems and capabilities through training sessions, joint education programs, seminars and information sharing. With the help of platforms and mechanisms such as the OECD-State Taxation Administration Multilateral Tax Center in China, more than 90 online and in-person training sessions have been organized for over 10,000 tax officials from 100-plus

countries and regions. The China-OECD Master of Law (LLM) Program on Taxation, launched in May 2022, is open to applicants in developing countries, and has become an important platform for China and other developing countries to train high-caliber professionals familiar with international tax rules. In addition, more than 100 representatives attended the Anti-Corruption Forum on Global Development Cooperation held by CIDCA in July 2022, where they exchanged views on anti-corruption experience and practices in international development cooperation.

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## 5. Climate change and green development

In recent years, natural disasters caused by extreme weather around the world have occurred more frequently, and biodiversity loss has been degrading at an accelerated pace, putting harmony between man and nature in jeopardy. Humanity and nature make up a community of life. A sound ecosystem is essential for the prosperity of civilization. As a result-oriented proposal adhering to harmony between man and nature, the GDI calls for improved South-South cooperation, builds platforms for exchanges and dialogue, and advocates the green transition of production and lifestyle, all in a bid to promote stronger, greener, and healthier global development.

**Strengthening South-South cooperation and empowering developing countries to address climate change.** Climate change poses challenges to economic, social and sustainable development



**South-South Cooperation on Climate: Training Course of Climate Change and Low-carbon City Construction**  
(Picture: National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation)

in all countries. In November 2021, China and African countries jointly issued the Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation on Combating Climate Change, and launched a three-year joint climate action plan. The China-Pacific Island Countries Climate Action Cooperation Center was established in April 2022, and the China-



## Box 6: Promoting Water Education for Children



**Teachers and students in Brookhill Academy in Nairobi making a sewage filter**  
(Picture: IWHR)

In 2022, the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), after jointly compiling and publishing the English version of *Water Education* series with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), launched a series of activities to advance water education in African schools.

Working with the natural science sector of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, the IWHR donated the *Water Education* English series to Brookhill Academy in Nairobi, the Queen of Peace Educational Center in Ruai and Ifitn Primary School in Kenya, and carried out water science education campaigns with

a variety of classroom activities such as reading, class discussion, painting, handicraft games and outdoor experiments like “sewage filtration” and “water usage in life”. With these activities, the students developed a greater interest in water, learned more about water, and become more familiar with water science.

Pacific Island Countries High-level Dialogue on Climate Change was held, with a view to supporting island countries in their response to climate change. As of May 2023, China has signed 46 South-South cooperation documents on climate change with 39 developing countries,

to help them improve their climate response capacity through cooperation in building low-carbon demonstration zones and implementing in-kind assistance programs. China has also carried out training programs on climate change capacity-building. In total, it has held 52 South-South

cooperation training sessions on climate change for about 2,300 officials and technicians from more than 120 developing countries. China also works with international organizations to help developing countries improve their knowledge on climate change and natural environment protection (see Box 6).

**Building platforms for exchange and dialogue to foster international consensus on protection of the environment and biodiversity.** Protecting the environment and biodiversity requires concerted global action. China has joined hands with international organizations and developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to cooperate in desertification prevention and control, and encouraged Chinese businesses to apply advanced experience and technology in desertification control and support local forest planting with modernized means. In November 2022, China and Mongolia issued a joint statement to strengthen cooperation on desertification prevention and control and support Mongolia's plan to plant one billion trees. In May 2023, the two countries agreed to jointly establish a China-Mongolia Cooperation Center for Desertification Control. At the first China-Arab States Summit in December 2022, President Xi Jinping proposed eight major cooperation initiatives, including the establishment of an international research center on drought, desertification and land degradation. In June 2022, China issued the 16 Principles for Blue Partnership, which promotes sustainable ocean development through blue partnership and coordinated practical actions, serving as an effective response to the practical needs of global ocean governance. During the UN Ocean

Conference, the Friends of Ocean Action of the World Economic Forum and the China Ocean Development Foundation jointly initiated the Sustainable Blue Partnership Cooperation Network, which convenes and promotes different ocean cooperation and actions under the Blue Partnership Principles. China also strengthened the blue partnership through hosting exchange activities like the World Coastal Forum and the Fourth Sino-Africa Forum on Marine Science and Technology, promoting the establishment of the China-Africa Center for Marine Science and Blue Economy, and implementing the China-Africa marine scientific survey project. China has also conducted technical cooperation projects on wildlife conservation and carried out a series of studies with Mongolia, helping increase the population of Gobi bears from 23 to more than 50.

**Follow an innovation-driven approach to promote green transition around the world.** Promoting global green development is an important aspect of the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development. In September 2022, China released a concept note on the Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership, setting out the key areas and pathways of the partnership (see Box 7). In November 2022, China and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) launched the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative, the Project on Innovative Products Development of Substituting Bamboo for Plastics and a project on R&D of key processing technologies for bamboo products to explore nature-based, sustainable solutions to plastic pollution. The Technology Transfer South-

## Box 7: Concept note on the Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership

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The Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership was a deliverable of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development in June 2022. In September 2022, China released the concept note on the Partnership, which explained its background, core concepts and direction of cooperation. The Partnership is committed to expanding investment in clean energy to drive economic recovery and growth; deepening cooperation in clean energy to improve access to energy worldwide; promoting the integration of clean energy industry to ensure energy security and sustainability; leading the restructuring of the energy mix to meet the climate challenge; and tapping the potential of energy technology innovation to drive

systemic transformation in energy.

China steps up clean energy cooperation with countries in Central Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, as well as regional organizations such as ASEAN and the League of Arab States. It has signed the Outline of Renewable Energy Cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States, the Memorandum of Understanding between China and Saudi Arabia on Clean Hydrogen Energy, the China-UAE Joint Statement on Willingness to Cooperate in Hydrogen Energy, the China-UAE Memorandum of Understanding on Clean Energy Cooperation, and the China-Cuba Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. China has co-hosted the “ASEAN-China-Japan-ROK Clean Energy Roundtable” with the ASEAN Presidency and worked for the establishment of the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Cooperation Center. It has also organized the China-League of Arab States renewable energy and smart grid training courses for more than 100 government officials from 11 Arab states.

Moving forward, the Partnership will strengthen cooperation in platform building, policy information communication and coordination, standard alignment and talent training, to advance energy transition under the GDI framework.

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South Cooperation Center, established by the Administrative Center for China’s Agenda 21 and the UNDP, has carried out international cooperation projects on the transfer of renewable energy technology to countries including Ghana, Zambia, Sri Lanka and Ethiopia. This has significantly facilitated the adoption, application and promotion of renewable energy technology in developing

countries, and set an important standard for South-South cooperation in technology transfer and international climate governance. Under the multilateral cooperation initiative “Green Power Future Mission”, 15 countries/national organizations, three international organizations and 11 large companies work together in global green power development to advance global carbon neutrality and green development.

## 6. Industrialization

COVID-19 has dealt a heavy blow to manufacturing industry in countries in particular LDCs, resulting in a sluggish recovery of world economy. With a focus on development as a priority, an innovation-driven approach and results-oriented actions, the GDI helps developing countries advance sustainable industrialization and overcome development bottlenecks through a global network of partners, stronger financial assistance and policy coordination, and greater support for talent training and capacity building.

**Building a global network of partners to help developing countries seize the opportunities of the new industrial revolution.** The new round of industrial revolution provides important opportunities for developing countries to achieve leapfrog development. In April 2023, the GDI Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Symposium published a Chair's Statement. It advocates further cooperation in industrialization, digitization, innovation, inclusiveness and sustainability to empower developing countries to seize the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, build a collaborative innovation ecosystem, and push for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Also at the symposium, the GDI Network of Partnership on New Industrial Revolution was launched to promote cooperation in the fields of technological innovation, industrial and supply chains, policy coordination and capacity building. The network incorporates a wide range of entities encompassing 88 think tanks, international organizations and multilateral institutions, universities, and industry alliances and associations.

**Strengthening financial support and policy coordination for industrialization in developing countries.** Industrialization in developing countries requires concrete support and practical international cooperation. In November 2021, China announced that it would encourage its businesses to invest no less than US\$10 billion in Africa in the next three years, establish a platform for China-Africa private investment promotion, and undertake 10 industrialization and employment promotion projects for Africa. In the China-CELAC Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas (2022-2024), China and Latin American countries proposed to strengthen industry policy exchanges, deepen cooperation in raw materials, equipment manufacturing, green and low-carbon industries, industrial and supply chains and other fields, and promote intelligent, digital and green development of industries. In November 2022, the 25th China-ASEAN Summit adopted the China-ASEAN Joint Statement on Strengthening Common and Sustainable Development, which stated that the two sides decided to promote cooperation on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and digital transformation including smart manufacturing and green industrialization, jointly explore the building of economic corridors and demonstration zones for international industrial capacity cooperation, and jointly enhance regional supply chain connectivity and its resilience.

**Supporting the training and capacity building of talent for industrialization in developing countries.** Talent is an important driving force for industrialization. In November 2021,



China announced that it would implement the “Future of Africa — a project for China-Africa cooperation on vocational education”, and start an “through train” program to provide employment for African students in China. China will continue to work with African countries to set up Luban Workshops, and encourage Chinese companies in Africa to create at least 800,000 local jobs. In August 2022, the World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference was successfully held. More than 700

representatives from around the world discussed topics such as digital empowerment, green skills, industry-education integration, skills and poverty reduction, equity and lifelong learning. The first World Vocational College Skills Competition and the World Expo on the Integration of Vocational Education with Industry were held as side events of the conference. The World Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) League and the International TVET Prize, both initiated by China, have been well-received.

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## **7. Digital economy**

The digital economy represents an opportunity to achieve leapfrog development, yet the huge “digital divide” puts developing countries at risk of being left behind. Committed to inclusiveness and innovation-driven development, the GDI aims to help developing countries grasp the opportunities brought by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation through new exchange platforms and digital capacity building, and promote global sharing of the dividends of the digital economy, leaving no country or no person behind.

**Building platforms for exchanges to advance global cooperation on digital application.** The GDI is committed to creating a high-end platform for discussions on the development of the digital economy and international digital cooperation. The Global Digital Economy Conference was held in July 2022 to promote global exchange and cooperation in the digital economy following discussions on digital infrastructure layout, allocation of data as a factor of

production, incubation of emerging digital sectors, core digital technology innovation, development of a digital governance system, and cooperation in global rules and standards. In November 2022, the GDI Digital Cooperation Forum was held. More than 150 participants exchanged views on topics such as deepening international cooperation in the digital economy, strengthening digital governance capacity-building, and sharing in the dividends of digital technology. After the forum, a non-paper on digital cooperation under the GDI was released, calling for deeper digital cooperation for a closer cyberspace community with a shared future (See Box 8).

**Strengthening digital capacity building to bridge the digital technology divide in developing countries.** Digital literacy is the social foundation of the digital economy. In November 2022, as one deliverable of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, the Forum on Bridging Digital Divide launched an initiative to improve digital

## Box 8: Non-paper on GDI digital cooperation

According to the non-paper, China stands ready to work together with all parties to take the following measures to promote digital cooperation under the GDI:

First, deepening international cooperation on digital economy to inject impetus into global economic development. This includes joint efforts to accelerate new infrastructure construction; international cooperation on the development of digital industries and digitization of traditional industries; international cooperation

on digital trade; deeper international cooperation on industrial and supply chains; coordinated digital and green transformation; and exploration of the potential of digital economy cooperation.

Second, strengthening capacity building to create a new cooperation landscape of digital governance. This includes active participation in global digital governance; enhanced policy coordination between nations in the digital field; effective governance for new technologies

and applications; and assistance and training programs on global governance in cyberspace under the UN and other multilateral frameworks.

Third, sharing in the dividends of digital technology and improving digital literacy and skills to bridge the digital divide. This includes innovative application of digital technology; international exchanges and cooperation on digital literacy and skills; and practical cooperation in the digital field to bridge the digital divide and reduce poverty.

literacy and skills for all, calling on the international community to work together with specific measures including establishing a digital resource system, narrowing the digital divide between groups, building a lifelong digital learning scheme, and deepening international exchanges and cooperation. The Chinese government has made contributions to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

to support joint activities for the development of information and communications technology (ICT) in developing countries, contributing to the ITU's Connect 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. China will also work with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) to launch a program for outstanding young talent in information and communications from developing members of the APT to improve ICT capabilities.

## 8. Connectivity in the digital era

Connectivity in the digital era is an important foundation for regional economic integration. It is the only way towards global connectivity

and long-term development, and an important booster to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Committed to true multilateralism,

the GDI pools strength to achieve all 17 SDGs on schedule by promoting the integration and connectivity of industrial and supply chains, data, educational resources and global development participants through innovation and cooperation.

**Advancing “3S” cooperation in the context of digitization.** Based on the “Smart” mechanism and driven by advanced technologies, the “3S (Smart Customs, Smart Borders and Smart Connectivity)” aims to promote customs institutional innovation, smart supervision, border control and management, and customs collaboration, so as to enhance global trade security and facilitation (see Box 9). As a deliverable of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, the “3S” has now been incorporated into 31 multilateral and bilateral documents. More than 130 “3S” cooperation projects have been implemented. Among them, the Digital Border Information Connectivity Project, one of the first-batch projects in the GDI project pool, has effectively lowered the barriers of entry into global markets for enterprises, especially for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The level of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) cooperation between China and ASEAN countries has seen continuous improvement. The China-Mongolia border highway port supervision reform project and China-South Africa functional customs supervision cooperation project are well underway. These projects have made positive contributions to greater customs clearance efficiency and regional and bilateral trade and economic growth.

**Advancing big data application to provide science-based decision-making support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated

## Box 9: Summary of the concept note on “3S” cooperation

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The “Smart Customs, Smart Borders, and Smart Connectivity” (“3S”) concept aims to offer a pathway and blueprint for the future development of national (regional) customs. The foundation of “3S” cooperation is the “Smart” mechanism, the core of which is the application of high-tech and equipment and the extensive introduction of innovative thinking.

Smart Customs encourages technological innovation and optimization of means of control for modernized customs management system and capabilities. Smart Customs pursues smart infrastructure, smart customs control and smart internal management.

Smart Borders encourages all customs and border agencies to share information and strengthen joint operation and risk control for coordinated border management. Through smart approaches to border control, cross-agency collaboration and cross-border cooperation, the concept of “Smart Borders” comes true.

Smart Connectivity encourages interconnection, compatibility of systems and standards and cooperation of stakeholders along the global supply chain to ensure trade security and facilitation. It aims to realize smart connection of customs information networks, smart compatibility of customs management models and smart cooperation with supply chain stakeholders.

“3S” cooperation focuses on the following aspects: applying smart technologies and innovative thinking to promote the development of “Smart Customs” in all countries (regions); promoting “Smart Borders” in all countries (regions) through information sharing and mutual recognition of customs control; deepening cooperation with stakeholders to promote Smart Connectivity of the global supply chain; and providing capacity-building assistance to develop smart management together.

data are essential for decision-making in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. China has launched the world's first scientific satellite dedicated to the 2030 Agenda, and advanced the Sustainable Development Satellite Constellation Plan with other parties. It has also donated data products to the UN, with a focus on clean water and sanitation, life on land, climate action and

other SDGs. With these efforts, China has provided scientific data support for quantitative monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in different countries and regions. The China-led open science program Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1 (SDGSAT-1) has shared more than 90,000 images and data with the rest of the world (see Box 10). In February 2023,

## Box 10: SDGSAT-1 data open and shared globally

On November 5, 2021, China successfully launched SDGSAT-1 at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. SDGSAT-1 is the world's first scientific satellite dedicated to the 2030 Agenda. The SDGSAT-1 satellite is equipped with thermal infrared, low-light and multispectral imagers, which enable all-day coordinated observation through three payloads. It aims to serve the SDGs by meticulously depicting "traces of human activities" that support research of indicators related to the interaction between man and nature.

In September 2022, China announced that the image data acquired by SDGSAT-1 will be made available globally to provide science-based decision-making support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Up to now, more than 90,000 images have been shared, and users from more than 70 countries and regions have



SDGSAT-1 (Picture: Chinese Academy of Sciences)

used the satellite data in scientific research. In February 2023, after the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, the UNOSAT and other parties used high-resolution nighttime light imagery collected by SDGSAT-1 and other satellites to evaluate the impact of the earthquakes, and helped local governments and international organizations formulate relief policies and track post-disaster reconstruction. Research teams

followed the situation in Adyaman and Antakya, Türkiye with data collected by SDGSAT-1, and found that the power loss in the east of Adyaman significantly exceeded that in the west, while the power loss in the urban areas of Antakya significantly exceeded that in the suburbs. The findings were made available to the WFP and other agencies to help develop relief policies and monitor progress in post-disaster reconstruction.

the UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) released a report to assess the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria using SDGSAT-1 and other data, which helped local governments and international organizations with relief policies and post-disaster reconstruction. In June 2022, China released an online big data tool to support the Great Green Wall in Africa. In September 2022, more than 700 representatives from 65 countries and regions attended the International Forum on Big Data for SDGs, and established the Alliance of Sustainable Development Goals Satellites (ASSA). In the same month, on the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI, the Chinese government released the report Big Earth Data in Support of the SDGs (2022), offering 31 sets of data products, 21 methodological models and 33 decision support through 42 typical cases. In April 2023, the 4th UN World Data Forum was successfully held,

and a Hangzhou Declaration was released as outcome document. The declaration calls for deepening data innovation and partnerships, improving data governance, promoting inclusive and open data, and injecting new vitality to global sustainable development.

**Highlighting youth development to garner strengths of the global youth for common and sustainable development.** The youth are a vibrant force in implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting long-term, inclusive and sustainable global development. Youth development is an important aspect of GDI cooperation. At the World Youth Development Forum in July 2022, about 2,000 youth representatives from 108 countries exchanged views on employment and entrepreneurship, climate change and green development, digital economy and inclusive and equitable quality



**World Youth Development Forum** (Picture: Central Committee of the Communist Youth League)



education. The International Advocacy for Prioritizing Youth Development, put forward at the Forum, highlights priority for youth development in national and international development agendas, and calls for action and creativity to promote global and youth development. In October 2022, the Action Plan for Global Youth Development was inaugurated to solicit 100 excellence actions to demonstrate how the youth promote global development and how global efforts are made to promote youth development. In February 2023, at the World Digital Education Conference, representatives from governments, educational institutions, enterprises and international organizations explored ways to boost post-COVID educational



**Youth representatives drafted and unanimously adopted the International Advocacy for Prioritizing Youth Development**  
(Picture: Central Committee of the Communist Youth League)

recovery with digital transition and ensure equity in quality education resources, so as to promote the realization of the SDGs (see Box 11).

## Box 11: World Digital Education Conference

In February 2023, the World Digital Education Conference was successfully held, where governments, educational institutions, enterprises and relevant international organizations worked to implement the important outcomes of the UN Transforming Education Summit, and explored ways to boost post-COVID educational recovery with digital transition and ensure equity in quality education resources, so as to promote the realization of the SDGs.

The World Digital Education

Alliance was launched at the Conference with the support of institutions like the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, the International Society for Technology in Education and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. It aims to explore international mechanisms for cooperation and exchanges in digital education, pool the strength for global education development, promote sharing

and connectivity of digital education resources, and enable joint response to challenges in education.

In line with the principles of voluntary participation, equality and mutual benefit, the World Digital Education Alliance is committed to establishing a global digital education partnership, building a network of contact points among education technology organizations, sharing the experience of countries in digital education, and jointly fostering dynamic and resilient education.

## **(4) Promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building for development**

Knowledge is an important resource for development and a fundamental driving force for global development. Sharing knowledge for development, strengthening technical exchanges and enhancing capacity-building are important elements and means of international development cooperation, as well as major aspects of cooperation under the GDI.

### **Publishing knowledge products to provide intellectual support for global development.**

In June 2022, the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD) released the first edition of the Global Development Report. The report gave a comprehensive review of the progress and challenges of global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, analyzed the macro settings of global development, examined the core concepts, basic principles, pathways and early harvests of the GDI, and offered policy recommendations for building a global community of development. The release of the Report is an important step of China to implement the GDI. It serves as a useful reference for development of all countries, and aims to provide intellectual support for global development. The second edition of the report, which will focus on “global development at a crossroads”, will be released in September 2023.

### **Building cooperation networks to advance sharing of international development experience.**

Under the framework of the GDI, China moves

ahead with the establishment of the Global Knowledge Network for Development. In May 2022, the Secretariat of the China-ASEAN Knowledge Network for Development, based at the CIKD, was inaugurated. The Secretariat has carried out a series of activities, including the first China-ASEAN Energy Transition Roundtable, China-ASEAN Economic, Financial and Development Cooperation Seminar, and the Webinar on Advancing Sustainable Development in the Lancang-Mekong Region through GDI. With the support and participation of think tanks in ASEAN countries, the Secretariat launched the special research project “An Overview of China-





**Launch of the Secretariat of the China-ASEAN Knowledge Network for Development (Picture: CIKD)**

ASEAN Economic and Financial Cooperation since the Asian Financial Crisis and the Way Forward”. In the future, China will explore the establishment of other regional networks and thematic networks on poverty reduction, clean energy development, among others.

**Building platforms for dialogue and exchanges to strengthen knowledge sharing on global sustainable transport development.** The Beijing Statement of the Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference in October 2021 encourages countries to strengthen cooperation in sustainable transport, step up transport capacity-building and knowledge exchange, and accelerate the transition to sustainable transport, so as to contribute to post-COVID

global green recovery and build new momentum for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In October 2022, the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC) was inaugurated as an important measure to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The GSTIKC aims to help developing countries build sustainable transport at a faster pace through multiple channels, including a global sustainable transport forum, sessions of the International Exhibition on Transport Technology and Equipment, a global alliance on sustainable transport innovation, and an advanced training and exchange program for global sustainable transport, thus making its own contributions to the GDI implementation and sustainable development of global transport.



# 03

## **Outlook: A new start for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**



The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs embody the common aspirations of people around the world for sustainable economic and social development and harmony between man and nature. They represent a clear roadmap for the actions needed to build a better and more sustainable future by 2030. In 2022, UN Secretary-General António Guterres proposed the SDG Stimulus to the G20 to take the world out of crises and to realize economic recovery that benefits all. Under current circumstances, a booster shot is indeed needed for the SDGs. In this sense, the mission of the GDI coincides with the goal of the Secretary-General's stimulus plan. The GDI, which puts forward the principles and pathways to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, has made good progress in renewing

global partnerships for development, and promoting joint actions to counter development crises and bring global implementation of the 2030 Agenda back on track.

In the next steps, it is recommended that the GDI should continue to help the international community maintain a focus on development and strengthen solidarity and cooperation; it should continue to uphold openness and inclusiveness to pool the wisdom and strength of all parties and build synergy among national, regional and global development processes; it should continue to advance practical cooperation to create more opportunities for the development and prosperity of all countries and promote harmony between man and nature; it should safeguard the right of

all countries to development, and make sure that all 17 SDGs are achieved, leaving no country or no person behind.

**The GDI should continue building consensus around development as a priority to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** This year marks the mid-point for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In September, the UN will hold the SDG Summit 2023. Countries and organizations participating in the GDI should focus on the central task of implementing the 2030 Agenda, coordinate position with other parties, and work to ensure that the SDG Summit sum up experience and come up with a workable path towards attaining the 17 SDGs on time. The GDI should continue to sharpen the international community's focus on development and recommit to cooperation. It is necessary to respond to the SDG Stimulus proposed by the UN Secretary-General by stimulating the realization of the SDGs through GDI cooperation. Platforms and mechanisms such as the Group of Friends should be given full play to further identify entry points for cooperation in various fields, better synergize the development strategies and visions of the members of the Group of Friends and their regions, and better meet the needs of countries to speed up their development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Communication and coordination should be strengthened among development partners, and the resources and expertise of the UN development system should be fully utilized. A taskforce composed of heads of UN development agencies and experts, as called for by the Group of Friends countries,

should be set up to align the GDI with the multi-year strategic plans of UN development agencies and with UN development processes in various fields. The proposal of the Group of Friends on appointing a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Poverty Reduction should be actively considered to address poverty, which is deemed as the primary global challenge in the 2030 Agenda.

**The GDI should effectively mobilize and allocate resources to forge the greatest possible synergy for development.** The GDI is an important public good and cooperation platform open to the whole world. As a developing country, China should do more to mobilize international development resources so as to promote SDGs through GDI cooperation. The GDI participating countries should adopt innovative measures and cooperation models to further encourage developed countries, international financial institutions, development aid agencies, Chinese and international businesses and non-profit foundations, to increase input and take part in GDI cooperation. The Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the China-UN Peace and Development Fund are among the funding platforms supporting GDI project cooperation. It is important to better facilitate the application of developing countries for financial support in response to their development needs. International organizations such as UN development agencies should be encouraged to channel the resources of developed countries to the needs of developing countries, and promote and participate in GDI cooperation.

**The GDI should deepen practical cooperation to generate tangible benefits for the development of all countries, especially developing countries.** It is important to base project design and implementation upon development needs, following a projects-led approach, extensive participation, all-round cooperation and special focus on key issues. In line with the principle of voluntary participation, joint contribution, innovative methods and openness and transparency, continued efforts should be made to enrich the open-ended project pool, advance both “small but beautiful” projects benefiting people’s lives as well as capacity-building projects boosting the ability to develop, and encourage UN development agencies to launch more pilot projects to improve people’s livelihood in developing countries. Project cooperation should not only cover all the eight key areas of the GDI, ensure the achievement of all the 17 SDGs; it should also focus on the outstanding issues at different times and highlight the development needs of countries, regions and countries in special situations, adapting measures to local conditions. GDI cooperation should not only address such pressing challenges as food and energy security as well as economic recovery, but also help countries seize the opportunity of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to achieve leapfrog development. Besides, GDI cooperation should not only seek to cover all countries in need, but also benefit countries of the Group of Friends on a priority basis.

**The GDI should promote “knowledge for development” and strengthen the sharing and exchange of development knowledge**

**and experience.** It is important to strengthen cooperation among development think tanks, pool their wisdom in development, jointly identify the general law of development, and share development experience and best practices. Governments, businesses, universities, research institutions and other stakeholders should be encouraged to work in close collaboration, give full play to their unique strengths, and form extensive networks that integrate intellectual and practical resources. Based on regional networks between China and ASEAN, Africa, Central Asia, etc. and thematic networks for poverty reduction, green development and digitization, countries participating in the GDI should strengthen exchanges and cooperation with think tanks and international organizations to build global networks of knowledge for development, and advocate joint development research with international organizations such as the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UN development agencies and the World Bank. GDI participating countries should make good use of the world’s first scientific satellite dedicated to the SDGs launched by China and increase satellite data sharing to provide reliable scientific data support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is important to pool collective wisdom and release Global Development Reports regularly, to analyze global development trends and explore cooperation pathways. Dynamic assessment of GDI cooperation and regular progress reports are also needed to review and share good practices.

# **Progress Report on the Global Development Initiative**



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