

CIIS Report



China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

China Institute of International Studies

June 2026

A large, stylized globe graphic in the bottom right corner, composed of a grid of dots connected by lines, representing a global network or digital connectivity.

In March 2023, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilization Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the “Initiative”), calling on all parties to jointly advocate respect for the diversity of world civilizations, jointly advocate the common values of humanity, jointly advocate the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and jointly advocate stronger international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, thereby offering a new Chinese proposal for advancing human civilization. Over the more than three years since the Initiative was proposed, China has remained committed to building the foundation for cooperation through dialogue among civilizations and promoting global prosperity through exchanges and mutual learning, making important contributions to advancing global dialogue among civilizations.

The China Institute of International Studies organized a dedicated research team to conduct a systematic study of China’s concepts and actions in promoting global dialogue among civilizations, especially the practices and outcomes of China’s continued efforts, guided by the Global Civilization Initiative, to engage with all parties in exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and to promote mutual respect and common development among different civilizations, and has produced this research report.

In the course of drafting and refining this report, we received strong support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, for which we hereby express our sincere gratitude.



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01

Preface

01 Preface

President Xi Jinping has pointed out that a civilization is the collective memory of a country or a nation. Throughout history, mankind has created and developed many colorful civilizations, from earlier days of primitive hunting to the period of agriculture, and from booming industrial revolution to the information society. Together, they present a magnificent genetic map of the exciting march of human civilizations. There are 200-odd countries and regions, over 2,500 ethnic groups and a multitude of religions in the world today.^① Different histories and national conditions, and different ethnic groups and customs, have nurtured diverse civilizations and made the world a more colorful and vibrant place. Diversity is an inherent feature and objective reality of human civilization. Different civilizations embody the wisdom and contributions of different nations, and are all cultural treasures of humanity. They vary from each other, but none of them is superior. Each civilization has its unique appeal and profound heritage, encompassing not only spiritual elements such as values, ways of life, history, and culture, but also institutional and material dimensions including political systems, development models, and material wealth. Civilizations should draw upon each other's strengths and pursue common development.

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations have, since ancient times, served as a bridge for human development and progress. Dialogue among civilizations constitutes an important foundation for exchanges among nations. In ancient times, envoys,

^① Xi Jinping, *Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, at UNESCO Headquarters*, Chinese Government Website, March 28, 2014, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-03/28/content_2648480.htm.

scholars, writers, artists, religious figures, and artisans traveled extensively along major routes of inter-civilization exchanges, such as the Silk Road, the Spice Route, the Amber Road, and the Incense Route, greatly promoting exchanges and mutual understanding among countries located in different regions and separated by vast distances. Dialogue among civilizations is a driving force behind the progress of human society. The European Renaissance drew upon Arab academic achievements; the Enlightenment was inspired in part by Eastern philosophy; the “Four Great Inventions” in ancient China spread widely across the world. Interactions among different civilizations have stimulated intellectual innovation and institutional mutual learning, jointly advancing breakthroughs in science, the humanities, and governance systems. Dialogue among civilizations also serves as a bond for safeguarding peace. By fostering shared interests, building trust, and promoting mutual understanding, it cultivates common values among different civilizations and provides a sound pathway toward lasting peace. Throughout human history, there have been numerous examples in which cultural integration helped ease ethnic and religious tensions.

As an ancient civilization, China has long embraced the inclusive principles of “harmony without uniformity” and “appreciating and sharing the beauty of all civilizations”. Historically, civilizations such as those of ancient Greece, ancient India, ancient Rome, Islam, Persia, and Judaism all interacted with Chinese civilization; religions including Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, Islam, and Christianity entered China and coexisted harmoniously with Taoism, Confucianism, and other indigenous traditions.^① Across China, the fruits of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations can be seen everywhere, from the distinctive sculptures of the Yungang Grottoes and Longmen Grottoes to the graceful melodies of instruments such as the pipa and konghou, and from the translation of religious classics to the introduction of Western mathematics and astronomy through Euclid’s *Elements*, and to the widespread cultivation in China of crops such as Champa rice, potatoes, maize, and chili peppers, China has, for thousands of years, approached foreign civilizations with openness and inclusiveness, absorbing, drawing upon, and integrating their achievements. Through exchanges with other civilizations, Chinese civilization has learned from others’ strengths, renewed itself through innovation, and become ever more vibrant and enriched.

In the early years following the founding of the People’s Republic of China, faced

^① Zhu, Z. B. (2023). *The Global Civilization Initiative: Origins, Connotations, and the Chinese Practice of the Global Civilization Initiative*. International Studies, (5)..

with a complex international environment, China consistently promoted peace through people-to-people and cultural exchanges. During this period, China actively sent artistic delegations abroad, organized cultural relic exhibitions, and translated and published classical works, continuously deepening people-to-people and cultural exchanges with other countries and building important bridges for overcoming estrangement and enhancing mutual understanding. Following the launch of reform and opening up, China embraced the achievements of world civilizations with even greater proactivity and openness, and dialogue between Chinese and foreign civilizations entered an accelerated phase. A large number of outstanding overseas academic works, as well as literary, philosophical, and artistic works, were systematically introduced into China. Through mechanisms and major initiatives such as Confucius Institutes, “Year of Culture” programs between China and other countries, and “Experience China” programs, the rich connotations of Chinese culture were presented to the world. International academic cooperation in fields such as Dunhuang studies and Sinology continued to deepen, while cross-border collaboration in archaeological excavation and cultural heritage preservation became a notable highlight. With the advent of the 21st century, the platforms and mechanisms for dialogue between Chinese and other civilizations became increasingly diverse. Major global events such as the Beijing Olympic Games and the Shanghai World Expo served as magnificent platforms for showcasing China’s image and promoting mutual learning among civilizations. Various high-level cultural forums, art festivals, and museum exchange exhibitions were carried out on a regular basis, and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions played a more prominent role in inter-civilization dialogue. Exchanges at this stage gradually evolved beyond mere cultural presentation and featured deeper communication on ideas, philosophies, and values.

Human society is now undergoing profound changes of the world, of our times, and of historical significance. Challenged by the historic question of “what kind of world to build and how to build it,” a question that concerns the future and destiny of humanity, President Xi Jinping has, with great foresight, put forward the important vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, pointing the way forward for the progress of human civilization. This important vision aims to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security, and shared prosperity. It emphasizes that the flourishing of civilizations and the progress of humanity depend on seeking common ground while reserving differences, on embracing openness and inclusiveness, and on advancing exchanges and mutual

We call on the people of all countries to work together to build a community with a shared future for humanity, to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. We should respect each other, discuss issues as equals, resolutely reject the Cold War mentality and power politics, and take a new approach to developing state-to-state relations with communication, not confrontation, and with partnership, not alliance. We should commit to settling disputes through dialogue and resolving differences through discussion, coordinate responses to traditional and non-traditional threats, and oppose terrorism in all its forms. We should stick together through thick and thin, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, and balanced so that its benefits are shared by all. We should respect the diversity of civilizations. In handling relations among civilizations, let us replace estrangement with exchange, clashes with mutual learning, and superiority with coexistence. We should be good friends to the environment, cooperate to tackle climate change, and protect our planet for the sake of human survival.

— Xi Jinping, Secure a Decisive Victory in Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects and Strive for the Great Success of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era — Report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

We sincerely call upon all countries to hold dear humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom; to promote mutual understanding and forge closer bonds with other peoples; and to respect the diversity of civilizations. Let us allow cultural exchanges to transcend estrangement, mutual learning to transcend clashes, and coexistence to transcend feelings of superiority. Let us all join forces to meet all types of global challenges.

— Xi Jinping, Hold High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Strive in Unity to Build a Modern Socialist Country in All Respects — Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

learning among civilizations.

Entering the new era, guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, China has, based on the realities of civilizational development in today's world, rooted in the historical and cultural heritage of the Chinese nation, and in keeping with the evolving international situation and the practice of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, continuously deepened its understanding of the laws governing dialogue among civilizations and formulated a set of principles for advancing exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. In 2014, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at UNESCO Headquarters, setting forth the approach and principles that should be upheld in respecting civilizational diversity and promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.^① In 2018, in his remarks at the Qingdao Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as the SCO), President Xi Jinping explicitly called for equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness between cultures for the first time.^② In 2019, at the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, President Xi Jinping put forward a four-point proposal on promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations across the world and strengthening popular support for jointly building a community with a shared future for both Asia and humanity as a whole,^③ further enriching and refining the theory, tenets and practical pathways underpinning China's efforts to advance global dialogue among civilizations.

^① The "three principles" include: "First, civilizations are diverse, and diversity makes exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations valuable. Second, civilizations are equal, and such equality provides the prerequisite for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Third, civilizations are inclusive, and such inclusiveness provides the driving force for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations." See Xi Jinping, Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at UNESCO Headquarters, Chinese Government Website, March 28, 2014, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-03/28/content_2648480.htm.

^② Xi Jinping, Carry Forward the Shanghai Spirit, Build a Community of Shared Future — Speech at the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Chinese Government Website, June 10, 2018, https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2018/content_5301804.htm.

^③ The "four-point proposal" includes: "First, uphold mutual respect and equality. Second, appreciate the beauty of all civilizations and seek harmony without uniformity. Third, remain open and inclusive, and learn from each other. Fourth, keep pace with the times and pursue innovative development." See Xi Jinping, Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and Building an Asian Community with a Shared Future — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, Chinese Government Website, May 15, 2019, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-05/15/content_5391787.htm.

In March 2023, at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote address titled Join Hands on the Path Towards Modernization, in which he proposed the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and called on all parties to jointly advocate the respect for the diversity of civilizations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation,^① thereby providing a new Chinese proposal for advancing the progress of human civilization. Three years on, China has persisted in promoting civilizational dialogue as the foundation for cooperation and in advancing exchanges and mutual learning for global prosperity, making new historic contributions to global dialogue among civilizations.

This report aims to systematically analyze and present China's vision and actions in promoting global dialogue among civilizations, with particular focus on its practices and achievements made under the guidance of the GCI, in engaging with all parties for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and in advocating mutual respect, harmonious coexistence, mutual inspiration, and common development among different civilizations, while also exploring future pathways to continue working with all parties to implement the GCI.

^① Xi Jinping, Join Hands on the Path Towards Modernization — Keynote Address at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, Chinese Government Website, March 15, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2023-03/15/content_5746950.htm.

**China's Actions for Advancing
Global Dialogue Among Civilizations**

02

Pooling Broad International Consensus on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

- Developing the Philosophy for Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Through the Practice of Civilizational Dialogue
- The GCI Provides Strong Guidance for Deepening Dialogue Among Civilizations
- The GCI is Well Received and Widely Recognized by the International Community

02 Pooling Broad International Consensus on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

China is both an advocate and a practitioner of global dialogue among civilizations. President Xi Jinping has been personally dedicated to dialogue, exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. He has expounded on the important propositions on inter-civilization dialogue and put forward a vision of civilization and principles for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations on major bilateral and multilateral occasions.

(I) Developing the Philosophy for Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Through the Practice of Civilizational Dialogue

Throughout history, exchanges, mutual learning, and integration among different civilizations have consistently served as an important force driving the progress of human civilization. Since the end of the Cold War, with the rapid advancement of transportation and communication technologies and the deepening development of economic globalization, exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations have reached an unprecedented depth and breadth, while the interconnected and interdependent pattern of civilizational coexistence has continued to deepen. In recent years, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation, during which narratives such as “estrangement between civilizations”, “clash of civilizations”, and “civilizational superiority” have resurfaced; certain countries have fabricated false narratives such as “democracy versus authoritarianism” and “freedom versus



autocracy”, artificially creating ideological confrontation, obstructing channels for dialogue among different civilizations, widening trust deficits, and becoming a major contributing factor behind the frequent outbreak of geopolitical conflicts. The question of “where human civilization is headed” has become an increasingly urgent issue facing all countries and the world at large.

China has consistently integrated the promotion of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations into the great endeavor of building a community with a shared future for mankind and has unswervingly advanced global dialogue among civilizations. China initiated the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, creating an important platform for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations in Asia and beyond; China has called for carrying forward the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, and is committed to building the Belt and Road into a road of civilization; by hosting the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting and the CPC and World Political Parties Summit, China has worked to transform the world’s diversity and differences among countries into vitality and momentum for development; China has promoted the building of a people-to-people community within the framework of the SCO and advanced the formation of a “three-pillar” architecture for BRICS cooperation encompassing political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Through dialogue with different civilizations around the world, China has gradually developed a set of concepts and principles for harmonious coexistence and exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, contributing Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to the advancement of human civilization.

In March 2013, during his first overseas visit after assuming office as President of China, Xi Jinping stated that “it is a world where countries are linked with and dependent on one another at a level never seen before. Mankind, by living in the same global village within the same time and space where history and reality meet, has increasingly emerged as a community of common destiny in which everyone has in himself a little bit of others”.^① Viewing the world from the perspective of a shared future necessarily entails recognizing the rich diversity of world civilizations and

^① Xi Jinping, Follow the Trend of the Times and Promote World Peace and Development— Speech at Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Chinese Government Website, March 24, 2013, https://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2013-03/24/content_2360829.htm.

the need to promote exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations. President Xi Jinping also stated that “there is no one-size-fits-all development model in the world. The diversity of world civilizations and development models should be respected by all”^① and that “no matter how the international architecture may evolve, we should stay committed to the principles of equality, democracy and inclusiveness, respect the right of all countries to independently choose their social systems and development paths, and respect the diversity of civilizations. We should work to ensure that countries, irrespective of their size, strength and wealth, are all equal members of the international community and that the internal affairs of a country are handled by its own people and international affairs by all countries through consultation”.^② It is clear that, from China’s perspective, respect for the diversity of world civilizations has always been closely linked to respect for the right of all countries to independently choose their political systems and development paths, and to sovereign equality as a basic norm governing international relations. Mutual respect, exchanges, and mutual learning among different civilizations should be an important part of efforts to make the international order more just and equitable, and are also inherent to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In March 2014, President Xi Jinping attended the Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands and visited four European countries, UNESCO Headquarters, and the headquarters of the European Union. During the visit, President Xi Jinping offered an in-depth explanation of China’s vision of civilization, worldview, and diplomatic philosophy from multiple levels and perspectives. In particular, in his speech at UNESCO Headquarters, President Xi Jinping, for the first time before a global audience, gave a profound exposition of China’s vision of civilization in the new era and put forward important propositions on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. He stated that civilizations are diverse, and such diversity gives value to exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations; civilizations are equal, and such equality provides the prerequisite for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations; civilizations are inclusive, and such inclusiveness provides the

^① Xi Jinping, Trustworthy Friends and Sincere Partners Forever — Speech at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center, Chinese Government Website, March 25, 2013, https://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2013-03/25/content_2362201.htm.

^② Xi Jinping, Work Together for Common Development — Keynote Speech at the Fifth BRICS Summit, Chinese Government Website, March 27, 2013, https://www.gov.cn/ldhd/2013-03/27/content_2364182.htm.



driving force for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations; and we should promote mutual respect and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations, so that exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations may serve as a bridge for friendship among peoples of all countries, a driving force behind the progress of human society, and a bond for safeguarding world peace.^① In June of the same year, at the Meeting Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Initiation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, President Xi Jinping further stated that “We should respect diversity of civilizations and promote exchanges, dialogue, peaceful and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations and should not seek supremacy or denigrate other civilizations and nations. Human history tells us that any attempt to establish a dominant civilization in the world is an illusion”.^② China’s conceptual framework for advancing global dialogue and exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations in the new era has gradually taken shape, laying a new theoretical foundation for building a bridge of civilization through which China and all parties may deepen solidarity and cooperation and jointly promote peaceful development.

As the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind has been further enriched and developed, promoting dialogue, exchanges, and mutual learning among civilizations has also become an integral part of this important vision. In September 2015, President Xi Jinping delivered a statement titled Working Together to Forge a New Partnership of Win-win Cooperation and Create a Community of Shared Future for Mankind at the General Debate of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in which he systematically set out the overall pathway and framework for building a community with a shared future for mankind across five dimensions: partnerships, security architecture, economic development, exchanges among civilizations, and ecological conservation.^③ One of these dimensions is that “we should increase inter-civilization exchanges to promote harmony, inclusiveness

^① Xi Jinping, Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China at UNESCO Headquarters, Chinese Government Website, March 28, 2014, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-03/28/content_2648480.htm.

^② Xi Jinping, Carry Forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to Build a Better World Through Win-Win Cooperation — Address at Meeting Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Initiation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China website, June 29, 2014, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ziliao_674904/zt_674979/ywzt_675099/2014zt_675101/hpgc_675103/201406/t20140629_7953842.shtml.

^③ Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy Studies Centre, Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, Beijing: China Intercontinental Press, March 2024 edition, p78.

and respect for differences”, emphasizing that “We should respect all civilizations and treat each other as equals. We should draw inspiration from each other to boost the creative development of human civilization”.^① In January 2017, President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in which he comprehensively enriched and refined the five-pronged action approach and set out the goals for building a community with a shared future for mankind from the political, security, economic, cultural, and ecological dimensions.^② One of these goals is to “We should build an open and inclusive world through exchanges and mutual learning”, with the aim that “Countries and nations should respect their differences and seek harmony without uniformity, and civilizations should draw strength from each other and make progress together. Exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations should be a driving force for human progress and a strong underpinning for world peace”.^③ Building a community with a shared future for mankind is the noble goal pursued by major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. To date, this vision has gained the support of more than 100 countries and international organizations and the recognition of nearly 80 percent of international public opinion, with more than 40 countries and regional organizations joining the effort to build communities with a shared future.^④

In the practice of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and on the basis of continuously refining the concepts underpinning global dialogue among civilizations, China's vision of civilization in the new era has become increasingly mature, while the practical pathways for advancing global dialogue among civilizations have grown richer and more systematic. In June 2018, at the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States,

^① Xi Jinping, Working Together to Forge a New Partnership of Win-win Cooperation and Create a Community of Shared Future for Mankind — Statement at the General Debate of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chinese Government Website, September 29, 2015, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2015-09/29/content_2940088.htm.

^② Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy Studies Centre, Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, Beijing: China Intercontinental Press, March 2024 edition, p79.

^③ Xi Jinping, Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind [Speech]. UN Office at Geneva, 19 January 2017, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/201701/t20170119_340468.shtml.

^④ See Wang Yi. Remarks at a Press Conference on China's Foreign Policy and External Relations. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 8 March 2026, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, March 8, 2026, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202603/t20260308_11870706.shtml.



President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech titled Carry Forward the Shanghai Spirit, Build a Community of Shared Future, in which he put forward, for the first time, “a vision of civilization featuring equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness”^① has provided further theoretical guidance for advancing global dialogue among civilizations. In May 2019, at the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, President Xi Jinping put forward a four-point proposal for strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and reinforcing the people-to-people and cultural foundation for jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind, namely upholding mutual respect and treating each other as equals, appreciating the beauty of each civilization and sharing beauty together, upholding openness and inclusiveness and promoting mutual learning among civilizations, and advancing with the times through innovation and development. He also proposed corresponding concrete action plans, further enriching the practical pathways and platforms for implementing the vision of civilization featuring equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness.

(II) The GCI Provides Strong Guidance for Deepening Dialogue Among Civilizations

Building on a profound distillation of China’s position and proposals on global civilizational development, exchanges, and mutual learning, and with a view to uniting all countries in jointly addressing the difficulties and challenges facing the development of world civilizations, President Xi Jinping solemnly proposed the Global Civilization Initiative at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in March 2023, issuing to the world a sincere call for deeper exchanges and dialogue among civilizations and for advancing the progress of human civilization through inclusiveness and mutual learning. Following the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative is another important public good China has provided to the international community, contributing Chinese wisdom and inspiring moral and intellectual strength for advancing human civilization and responding to common global challenges.

The Global Civilization Initiative takes the four “joint advocacies” as its core concepts: jointly advocating respect for the diversity of world civilizations, upholding

^① Xi Jinping, Uphold the Shanghai Spirit and Build a Community of Shared Future [Speech]. 18th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State, 10 June 2018, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2018-06/10/content_5297652.htm.

equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations, and allowing exchanges among civilizations to transcend estrangement, mutual learning among civilizations to transcend clashes, and inclusiveness among civilizations to transcend any sense of superiority; jointly advocating the common values of humanity, recognizing that peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom are the common aspirations of all peoples, refraining from imposing one's own values and models on others, and avoiding ideological confrontation; promoting the creative transformation and innovative development of fine traditional cultures in the process of modernization; and jointly advocating stronger international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation, exploring the building of a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation, enriching the content of exchanges, expanding channels of cooperation, promoting mutual understanding and friendship among peoples of all countries, and jointly advancing the development and progress of human civilization. The four "joint advocacies" each have their own emphasis while reinforcing one another, forming an organic whole with clear logic. They profoundly reveal the laws governing the development of human civilization, reflect such features of civilizations as diversity, commonality, and dynamism, and point to new prospects for cooperation in human society.

The Global Civilization Initiative offers profound answers to major questions of our time, including how different civilizations should coexist and where human civilization is headed in an era when the future and destiny of all countries are closely interconnected, and carries deep theoretical significance. Respect for the diversity of world civilizations is the basic prerequisite for promoting exchanges and development among civilizations. Civilizational diversity is an objective reality and a precious common wealth of human society, and differences among civilizations should not be regarded as threats to one's own civilization. The Initiative advocates promoting dialogue among different civilizations on the basis of respecting and protecting the diversity of world civilizations, breaking down estrangement and prejudice and eliminating fear and conflict through mutual learning and understanding, and building a new pattern of world civilizations marked by inclusiveness, mutual learning, harmony, and coexistence. Carrying forward the common values of humanity is the fundamental guide for promoting exchanges and development among civilizations. In the course of differentiated development, human civilizations have formed a common core of values, which serves as a spiritual bond connecting different civilizations, countries, and peoples, and as a deep driving force for the continuous advancement of human



civilization. The Initiative advocates respecting the explorations of different countries and peoples in pursuing paths to realize values, seeking common ground while reserving differences, opposing alignment against those with different views, refraining from imposing one's own values and models on others, and rejecting ideological confrontation. Valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilizations is a powerful driving force for promoting exchanges and development among civilizations. For any civilization to retain its vitality, it must advance with the times, develop through inheritance and inherit through development, and be adept at creative transformation and innovative development. The Initiative advocates that all parties jointly shoulder the responsibility of sustaining and developing human civilization, integrate the strengths of different civilizations and bring together their wisdom through exchanges, dialogue, and mutual learning, and enable fine historical and cultural traditions to display powerful appeal and vitality across time, space, and national boundaries. Strengthening international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation is an important pathway for promoting exchanges and development among civilizations. Relations between states are rooted in amity among their peoples, and amity among peoples is rooted in mutual understanding of hearts and minds. People-to-people and cultural exchanges have always served as an important bridge for mutual understanding among countries and peoples and for emotional connection between individuals. The Initiative advocates unleashing the immense power of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation, enhancing mutual trust among different countries and peoples by expanding personnel exchanges and strengthening bilateral and multilateral people-to-people and cultural cooperation, promoting mutual understanding and friendship among peoples, and working together to build a more prosperous, secure, and civilized world.

The Global Civilization Initiative points the way for addressing the current challenges in the development of civilizations and advancing the progress of human civilization. It injects civilizational momentum into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and carries major significance for our times and for the world. The Initiative has established a new theoretical framework for equality among civilizations. It emphasizes respect for the diversity of world civilizations, calls for treating every civilization on an equal footing, and upholds the equal right of all civilizations to discourse and development. In doing so, it transcends the Western civilizational narrative, enables non-Western civilizations to move beyond the binary predicament of “either being assimilated or being marginalized”, and promotes a shift in the

global civilizational narrative from “dominance by a single model” to “coexistence among multiple civilizations”. The Initiative has expanded the practical pathways for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, elevating them from an “optional element” of international cooperation to an “essential requirement”. It advocates building platforms across multiple levels and fields, including culture, art, education, science and technology, tourism, media, think tanks, women, and youth, thereby providing practical pathways for different civilizations to deepen mutual understanding and friendship, integration, and connectivity. The Initiative injects profound and enduring cultural strength into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Such a community requires value-based identification that transcends estrangement and civilizational support grounded in inclusiveness and mutual learning. What the Global Civilization Initiative seeks to foster is precisely this kind of consensus at the spiritual level. Today, the Global Civilization Initiative has become a landmark discourse in international theories of civilization. Together with the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, it forms a mutually reinforcing and complementary set of initiatives that enrich the theoretical and practical system for building a community with a shared future for mankind from different dimensions and provide strong impetus for this endeavor.^①

Since the Global Civilization Initiative was proposed, its role in the top-level design of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has become increasingly prominent. In July 2023, the Law on Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China officially came into force, listing the promotion and implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative as one of the goals and tasks of China's foreign relations,^② fully demonstrating the Chinese government's resolve and commitment to implementing the Global Civilization Initiative and advancing global dialogue among civilizations over the long term. In December of the same year, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs explicitly identified the implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative as one of the strategic guidelines for building a

^① Liu Haixing, Injecting Civilizational Momentum into the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, Study Times, March 16, 2026, p. 1.

^② See The Law on Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, June 28, 2023, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjlb_673085/zfxgk_674865/zcfg/fl/202306/t20230628_11105189.shtml.



community with a shared future for mankind,^① further underscoring its important position in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. In July 2024, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization (hereinafter referred to as the Resolution), which calls for “establishing mechanisms for implementing the Global Civilization Initiative”.^② In March 2026, the Fourth Session of the 14th National People’s Congress approved the Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Plan Outline), which states that China should “implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, actively advance major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and make China’s contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind”, “building multilevel and multi-sectoral mechanisms and platforms for dialogue and exchanges among civilizations, and jointly building a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation”, and “extensively conduct international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation, strengthen dialogue among civilizations at multiple levels, promote Chinese culture’s better engagement with the world, host the Global Conference on Dialogue Among Civilizations, and continue to hold the Liangzhu Forum”.^③ The inclusion of the Global Civilization Initiative in the Resolution and the Plan Outline further highlights its role in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind in the period ahead. It also makes China’s proposals and pathways for further deepening global dialogue among civilizations clearer and more defined.

^① Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs Held in Beijing, People’s Daily, December 29, 2023, p. 1; Wang Yi, Studying and Implementing the Guiding Principles of the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs and Breaking New Ground in Major-Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics, Qiushi, No. 2, 2024.

^② Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization (Adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on July 18, 2024), Chinese Government Website, July 21, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/202407/content_6963770.htm?ref=theinitium.com.

^③ Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China, Chinese Government Website, March 13, 2026, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202603/content_7062633.htm.]

(III) The GCI is Well Received and Widely Recognized by the International Community

Over the past more than three years, the concepts and propositions of the GCI have increasingly become a global consensus. The Initiative and its core concepts have been incorporated into more than 100 bilateral and multilateral documents on China's exchanges and cooperation with other countries and international organizations, and have received praise from many internationally renowned figures and major media outlets, effectively building consensus in the international community on deepening global dialogue, exchanges, and mutual learning among civilizations.

The GCI has provided guiding philosophy for human civilization progress in keeping with the times. The international community widely recognizes the core concepts of the Initiative, viewing it as being in line with the trend of history and the broader direction of the times, consistent with the long-term interests of all peoples, and capable of injecting stability and certainty into a turbulent world. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, stated that the Initiative advocates that all countries respect the diversity of world civilizations while carrying forward the common values of humanity, and expressed support for President Xi Jinping's call for dialogue and cooperation and for peoples of all countries to join hands in advancing the development and progress of human civilization.^① President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan stated that the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China will make a great contribution to safeguarding global security and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.^② Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan stated that Pakistan is committed to implementing the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping, and believes that these initiatives can bring peace, tranquility, progress, and prosperity to the world.^③ President

^① Global Civilization Initiative Resonates Strongly Worldwide: Foreign Media, Reference News, March 17, 2023, <https://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/#!/detailsPage/%20/abb14249db7241b79b5636b7ca506f67/1/2023-03-17%2014:14?childrenAlias=undefined>.

^② Opening a New Chapter in China-Kazakhstan Permanent Comprehensive Strategic Partnership – Interview with Kazakh President Tokayev, Chinese Government Website, July 1, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202407/content_6960438.htm.

^③ Pakistani PM: Three Global Initiatives Will Restore World Peace and Prosperity, CCTV News, June 1, 2024, http://ysxw.cctv.cn/article.html?item_id=17405201899816536552.



Tamás Sulyok of Hungary stated that President Xi Jinping has proposed the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and advocates stronger international dialogue and cooperation, which is of vital importance for addressing the various challenges currently facing the world and preventing bloc confrontation.^① Prime Minister Hun Manet of Cambodia stated that Cambodia supports the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative^② proposed by President Xi Jinping, and that the series of major initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping have provided important opportunities and platforms for world peace and development.^③ Irina Bokova, former Director-General of UNESCO, stated that President Xi Jinping has emphasized the importance of dialogue among civilizations for peace, development, and the well-being of all humanity. She noted that we live in the same world with different cultures, religions, and social systems, and that the Global Civilization Initiative respects the diversity of civilizations and promotes harmony and solidarity; it is not only an initiative, but also a gift to the world.^④ Moussa Faki Mahamat, then Chairperson of the African Union Commission, stated that the series of major initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping, including Belt and Road cooperation, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, are committed to enabling peoples of all countries to share opportunities for peace and development, which is essential for Global South countries to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and promote a fairer and more equitable global governance system.^⑤ Former Namibian President Nangolo Mbumba

^① Xi Jinping Holds Talks with Hungarian President Tamas Sulyok, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 9, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/oz_678770/1206_679858/xgxw_679864/202405/t20240509_11302005.shtml.

^② Chinese Premier Li Qiang Meets with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, October 17, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/gjldrhd_674881/202310/t20231017_11162571.shtml.

^③ Xi Jinping Meets with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Chinese Government Website, October 19, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202310/content_6910210.htm.

^④ Participants Speak Highly of President Xi's Congratulatory Letter to Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, CNR News, July 12, 2025, https://china.cnr.cn/news/sz/20250712/t20250712_527258140.shtml.

^⑤ Xi Jinping Meets with Chairperson of African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, September 3, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202409/t20240903_11484076.shtml.

stated that the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping is full of vision and wisdom, and is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding among countries and promoting cooperation and common development.^① Prominent British scholar Martin Jacques stated that the Global Civilization Initiative clearly emphasizes the importance of civilizational diversity and recognition of such diversity.^② Former President Bidya Devi Bhandari of Nepal and other foreign participants stated that the three global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping, including the Global Civilization Initiative, will not only help enhance mutual understanding and exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, but also lay a solid foundation for building a new type of international order in which countries around the world coexist harmoniously and pursue win-win cooperation.^③ U.S. international affairs expert William Jones stated that China's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, together with the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, has pointed the way forward for human civilization.^④ An article on the website of Mexico's Milenio stated that through the Global Civilization Initiative, China has defended multipolarity and called for respect for the diversity of world civilizations; advocated carrying forward the common values of humanity, including peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom; and encouraged dialogue and cooperation among different civilizations to enhance understanding and friendship among peoples of all countries.^⑤

The GCI has forged international consensus on deepening exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations through cooperation. Over the past more than three years,

^① Fresh Impetus for Human Civilization and World Peace – President Xi's Letter Warmly Received at Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, People's Daily, July 11, 2025, p. 2.

^② Martin Jacques: Why Does the Global Governance Initiative Matter? China News Service, October 12, 2025, <http://www.chinanews.com.cn/dxw/2025/10-12/10497077.shtml>.

^③ Han Zheng attends the opening ceremony of the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 30, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjb_673085/zjzg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202505/t20250530_11637267.shtml.

^④ China's visions, initiatives offer guidance to turbulent world amid once-in-a-century changes — An Interview with U.S. International Affairs Expert William Jones, Xinhua, October 6, 2024, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/20241006/5310aedfd6f54078acf985e14a38576d/c.html>.

^⑤ Mexican Media: China acts on Global Civilization Initiative, upholds multipolarity, Reference News, May 13, 2023, <https://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/#/detailsPage/%20/5e2e831cb4554ece80e5d125bf106499/1/2023-05-13%2009:55?childrenAlias=undefined>.



leaders and scholars from many countries across the five continents have expressed their willingness to strengthen alignment and close coordination with China in jointly implementing the Initiative. Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that Russia appreciates China's consistent objective and impartial position in international affairs, supports the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the GCI proposed by China, and is ready to further strengthen international coordination with China.^① Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi emphasized that Egypt supports the series of global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping and is willing to strengthen multilateral coordination with China to promote world peace and development.^② Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić stated that Serbia firmly supports and will actively participate in the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping, and will work closely with China in multilateral strategic coordination to jointly oppose hegemonism and power politics, uphold the purposes of the UN Charter, and safeguard international fairness and justice.^③ Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated that Uzbekistan is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China within multilateral frameworks such as the China-Central Asia mechanism and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and to promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the GCI proposed by President Xi Jinping.^④ Joko Widodo, then President of Indonesia, stated that the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the GCI proposed by President Xi Jinping are open and inclusive, and that Indonesia actively supports them.^⑤ Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul spoke highly of the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security

^① President Xi Jinping holds talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, March 22, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2023-03/22/content_5747723.htm.

^② Li Qiang Meets with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 10, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/gjldrh_674881/202507/t20250710_11668849.shtml.

^③ Xi Jinping holds talks with Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić, Chinese Government Website, May 8, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202405/content_6949863.htm.

^④ Xi Jinping meets with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 4, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202407/t20240704_11446885.shtml.

^⑤ Xi Jinping meets with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Chinese Government Website, July 27, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202307/content_6894823.htm.

Initiative, the GCI, and the Global Governance Initiative proposed by China, stating that these initiatives are highly consistent with Thailand's own philosophy, that Thailand supports and practices them, and that solidarity and cooperation are of great significance to the stability of international relations.^① Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim stated that the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the GCI proposed by President Xi Jinping are highly visionary, that the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind is highly aligned with the concept of "Malaysia MADANI" advanced by the Malaysian government, and that Malaysia is ready to work fully with China to promote the implementation and effectiveness of these initiatives.^② Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali noted that the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the GCI proposed by President Xi Jinping embody equality, openness, and mutual respect, and are conducive to promoting common development. Ethiopia highly appreciates and actively supports them, and is willing to work closely with China to promote their implementation.^③ Antonio Miguel Carmona, President of the Spain-China Friendship Association, stated that the GCI proposed by China has won broad popular support, and that the two great civilizations of Europe and China have a responsibility to work together to promote exchanges and mutual learning and further advance EU-China relations.^④ Prominent Uruguayan scholar Pablo Rovetta stated that the Global Civilization Initiative has a highly positive impact on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and that the more different civilizations understand one another, the more they can eliminate misunderstandings and obstacles in bilateral and multilateral relations.^⑤ Prominent Egyptian scholar Hassan Ragab stated that through the GCI, countries can establish

^① Thai PM Anutin Charnvirakul hopes for enduring Thailand-China friendship — An Interview with Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, Xinhua, November 26, 2025, <https://www.news.cn/world/20251126/052dcacfe7d748dea8a1a901eb8abbe5/c.html>.

^② Xi Jinping meets with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Chinese Government Website, March 31, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/2023-03/31/content_5749513.htm.

^③ Xi Jinping meets with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, Chinese Government Website, October 17, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202310/content_6909616.htm.

^④ Europe, China two key forces for global prosperity and progress: — An Interview with Antonio Miguel Carmona, President of Spain-China Friendship Association, Xinhua, December 6, 2023, http://www.news.cn/world/2023-12/06/c_1130011254.htm.

^⑤ Uruguayan Scholar Rovetta: Global Civilization Initiative greatly facilitates exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, People's Daily Online, November 2, 2023, <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2023/1102/c1002-40108617.html>.



more cultural ties and exchange mechanisms, strengthen the protection and inheritance of cultural heritage, and promote cultural exchanges and dissemination worldwide.^①

The GCI has provided an effective approach for deepening global dialogue among civilizations. Over the past more than three years, the GCI has continued to be implemented in practice, and relevant parties have widely supported and commended the Initiative for building a high-quality platform and providing a new pathway for deepening global dialogue among civilizations. UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that mutual learning among civilizations plays an important role in the cause of human progress, that preserving the diversity of civilizations is of special importance, and that the United Nations is ready to maintain communication and cooperation with China on the GCI.^② Tajik President Emomali Rahmon stated that Tajikistan supports the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, and the GCI. proposed by China, and is ready to strengthen cooperation with China in people-to-people and cultural exchanges and other fields.^③ Morales Ojeda, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and Secretary of Organization of the Central Committee, stated that Cuba firmly supports the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the GCI. proposed by China, and is ready to strengthen multilateral coordination with China to jointly promote world peace, development, and justice.^④ Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies, stated that the GCI seeks to rebuild the foundations for dialogue among societies and civilizations, thereby fostering tolerance and respect for one another. It calls not only on countries, but also on entire

^① Initiative gives strong impetus to exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations — Interview with renowned Egyptian sinologist Hassan Rajab, Egyptian Director of Confucius Institute at Suez Canal University, People's Daily Online, March 25, 2023, <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2023/0325/c1002-32651043.html>.

^② Fu Cong, Promoting Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations to Address Common Global Challenges, People's Daily Online, June 10, 2024, http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrwap/html/2024-06/10/nw.D110000renmrb_20240610_3-03.htm.

^③ Xi Jinping holds talks with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Chinese Government Website, May 18, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202305/content_6874694.htm.

^④ Li Qiang meets with the Delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, April 24, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/bmz_679954/1206_680302/xgxw_680308/202304/t20230424_11064792.shtml.

civilizational spheres, to show greater respect and understanding toward one another.^① Prominent Moroccan scholar Mustapha Machrafi stated that the GCI helps build value-based consensus among different civilizations and will surely inject strong momentum into promoting exchanges and mutual learning between Arab and Chinese civilizations and building a fairer, more just, diverse, and inclusive world.^② Brazilian international political economist José Fiori stated that China's proposal of the GCI is the most ambitious peace initiative put forward to the peoples of the world by a major country and a great civilization.^③ In the view of Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja in Nigeria, the significance of the GCII lies in telling the world that all countries can choose development paths suited to their own conditions while preserving their own cultural traditions.^④ Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the German think tank the Schiller Institute, stated that President Xi Jinping has proposed the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the GCI, and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and that these concepts and initiatives constitute the only viable solution proposed by a major country for addressing the current global strategic crisis.^⑤ An article on the website of Spain's El Confidencial stated that, on the international stage, the GCI has a strong discursive foundation, and that it represents a harmonious approach, especially at a time when crises are emerging in many fields.^⑥

^① Interview with U.S. Scholar Gupta: Global Civilization Initiative Comes at the Right Time, Beijing Daily, March 24, 2023, <https://xinwen.bjd.com.cn/content/s641d259ae4b0e0511d884c4b.html>.

^② Mustapha Machrafi, Global Civilization Initiative Helps Build a Diverse and Inclusive World, People's Daily Online, April 11, 2024, <https://www.peopleapp.com/column/30044315537-500005300611>.

^③ Sowing Hope in the Garden of Human Civilizations: Global Response to the Global Civilization Initiative, Chinese Government Website, March 14, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202403/content_6939455.htm.

^④ Sowing Hope in the Garden of Human Civilizations: Global Response to the Global Civilization Initiative, Chinese Government Website, March 14, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202403/content_6939455.htm.

^⑤ Founder of the Schiller Institute: Three Global Initiatives Help Address Global Crises, China.org.cn, March 3, 2025, http://news.china.com.cn/2025-03/03/content_117742186.shtml.

^⑥ Spanish Media: Global Civilization Initiative Enjoys a Strong Discursive Foundation, Reference News, April 24, 2023, <https://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/#/detailsPage/%20/aaafb1231dbc4399916d5555a02e1ea1/1/2023-04-24%2013:58?childrenAlias=undefined>.



Pooling Broad International Consensus on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

The Global Civilization Initiative Incorporated into Multiple Bilateral and Multilateral Documents

(The following are excerpts from selected documents)

Date	Document	Position
May 17, 2023	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kazakhstan</i>	The two sides will actively cooperate in implementing the initiative of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.
May 19, 2023	<i>Xi'an Declaration of the China-Central Asia Summit</i>	The Central Asian countries highly commend and are willing to actively implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China, and believe that these initiatives are of great significance for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, maintaining world peace and security, and advancing the progress of human civilization.
October 17, 2023	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Chile</i>	The Chilean side appreciates and recognizes the contributions made by the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind to achieving world peace and development.
October 18, 2023	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia on Deepening Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation</i>	Indonesia attaches importance to the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. The two sides will strengthen communication and explore cooperation on the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, work together for development, share security, and jointly advance civilization.

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

October 19, 2023	<i>Joint Press Communiqué Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand</i>	The two sides will explore cooperation under the frameworks of the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, address traditional and non-traditional security challenges, and promote peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom.
December 13, 2023	<i>Joint Statement Between China and Viet Nam on Further Deepening and Elevating the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Building a China-Viet Nam Community with a Shared Future of Strategic Significance</i>	The Vietnamese side supports the Global Civilization Initiative, which is conducive to human peace, development, fairness, justice, and progress, and is willing to explore cooperation under the framework of the Initiative.
December 25, 2023	<i>Nay Pyi Taw Declaration of the Fourth Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting — "Promoting the Building of a Lancang-Mekong Community with a Shared Future and Working Together Toward Modernization"</i>	We reaffirm that all parties will advance Lancang-Mekong Cooperation in accordance with the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and with respect for the Charter of the United Nations, international law, the ASEAN Charter, and the laws and regulations of all member states. We will continue to uphold the principles of development first, equal treatment, practical efficiency, openness, and inclusiveness; encourage deep alignment between Lancang-Mekong Cooperation and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan IV (2021–2025), the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, and the Joint Development Plan Between the Mekong River Commission and China; and support high-quality cooperation under the frameworks of China's Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative.
January 24, 2024	<i>Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the All-Weather Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for a New Era</i>	The Uzbek side actively supports and promotes the implementation of the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind and the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China, and believes that these initiatives are of great significance for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and maintaining world peace and security.



Pooling Broad International Consensus on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

April 10, 2024	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Federated States of Micronesia</i>	The two sides will explore cooperation under the frameworks of the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, address traditional and non-traditional security challenges, and further promote the common values of humanity, namely peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom.
May 8, 2024	<i>Joint Statement on Deepening and Elevating the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Building a China-Serbia Community with a Shared Future in the New Era</i>	The Serbian side supports efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind and is willing to work with China to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative.
May 29, 2024	<i>Joint Statement on Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Between the People's Republic of China and the Arab Republic of Egypt</i>	The Egyptian side appreciates the Global Civilization Initiative, as China and Egypt uphold the same principle of respecting human cultures and civilizations on the basis of equality.
August 22, 2024	<i>Joint Communiqué Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Belarus</i>	The two sides are willing to actively cooperate on the Global Civilization Initiative, promote exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, and achieve common progress.

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

September 2, 2024	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa on Establishing an All-Round Strategic Cooperative Partnership in the New Era</i>	South Africa welcomes China's leading role on the international stage and recognizes that the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China are aimed at maintaining global peace and security, promoting economic and social development, and advancing global governance reform. South Africa believes that, in advancing these initiatives, China will attach importance to the primary role of the United Nations and the African Union and maintain consistency with the principles and programs of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.
September 3, 2024	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Establishing a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Building a High-Level China-Nigeria Community with a Shared Future</i>	The Nigerian side appreciates and supports the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping.
September 5, 2024	<i>Beijing Declaration on Jointly Building an All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era</i>	The Global Civilization Initiative has injected vitality into the joint actions of China and Africa to deepen cultural and civilizational dialogue. We are willing to work together to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, strengthen exchanges among civilizations, and promote people-to-people connectivity.
November 9, 2024	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia on Advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Building a China-Indonesia Community with a Shared Future</i>	Indonesia highly appreciates the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind proposed by President Xi Jinping and supports the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative. The two sides will deepen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, advance the three global initiatives in greater depth and with concrete results, and work together, through other mutually supportive means, to promote global development, security, and civilization.



Pooling Broad International Consensus on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

November 20, 2024	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Federative Republic of Brazil on Jointly Building the China-Brazil Community with a Shared Future for a More Just World and a More Sustainable Planet</i>	The Brazilian side welcomes the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China.
January 16, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka</i>	The Sri Lankan side reaffirms its firm support for and active participation in the major concepts and propositions proposed by President Xi Jinping, including building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative.
February 5, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Kyrgyz Republic on Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the New Era</i>	The Kyrgyz side highly appreciates and supports the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the neighborhood diplomacy concept of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, and the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by China, and believes that these initiatives are of great significance for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and maintaining world security and development.
March 28, 2025	<i>Joint Press Release Between the People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of Bangladesh</i>	The Bangladeshi side commends the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind and appreciates the Global Development Initiative. The Bangladeshi side notes the importance of the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping. The two sides agree to strengthen international cooperation, promote solidarity and self-reliance among the Global South, and jointly address global challenges.

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April 15, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Continuously Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership and Accelerating the Building of a China-Viet Nam Community with a Shared Future of Strategic Significance</i>	The two sides agree to promote cooperation under the frameworks of major concepts and initiatives such as building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and to jointly address global challenges. The two sides are willing to work together to implement cooperation under the framework of the Global Civilization Initiative, jointly promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and enhance people-to-people connectivity.
April 17, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and Malaysia on Building a High-Level Strategic China-Malaysia Community with a Shared Future</i>	The Malaysian side highly appreciates the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the neighborhood diplomacy concept of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, and the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping, and is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China and actively participate in and promote these concepts and initiatives.
April 18, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Cambodia on Building an All-Weather China-Cambodia Community with a Shared Future in the New Era and Implementing the Three Global Initiatives</i>	The Cambodian side highly commends the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping, believing that they are conducive to safeguarding the common interests of all humanity, advancing the cause of peace, justice, and progress for the peoples of the world, and reflecting the shared aspiration of all peoples to build a better world.
May 8, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on Further Deepening the China-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War, and the Founding of the United Nations</i>	The Russian side attaches great importance to the Global Civilization Initiative and is willing to work with China to hold relevant commemorative activities in connection with the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, jointly promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and enhance people-to-people connectivity.



Pooling Broad International Consensus on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

September 4, 2025	<i>Action Plan Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Building a Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025–2029)</i>	The two sides will deepen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas related to the Global Development Initiative. The two sides will jointly advance the implementation of the Global Security Initiative and strengthen cooperation under its framework. The two sides will continuously enrich people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries, promote people-to-people connectivity, and work together to implement the Global Civilization Initiative. The two sides emphasize the importance of the Global Governance Initiative recently proposed by President Xi Jinping, and will jointly implement the Global Governance Initiative and promote the building of a fairer and more equitable global governance system.
September 4, 2025	<i>Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Cuba on Accelerating the Building of a China-Cuba Community with a Shared Future</i>	The Cuban side reaffirms its support for the global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping, including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, and recognizes that these initiatives are inclusive and sustainable, meet the expectations of Global South countries, and accord with the shared aspiration of all peoples to build a better world. The Cuban side is willing to actively participate in cooperation under these initiatives.

03

Supporting the United Nations in Playing Its Role as the Primary Platform and Main Channel for Dialogue Among Civilizations

- Facilitating the Designation of the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations by the United Nations General Assembly
- Organizing a Series of Thematic Events About the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations
- Providing Strong Support for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
 - Providing Strong Support for UNESCO

03

Supporting the United Nations in Playing Its Role as the Primary Platform and Main Channel for Dialogue Among Civilizations

As the most universal, representative, and authoritative intergovernmental organization today, the United Nations has long played an irreplaceable role in promoting understanding, exchanges, and dialogue among civilizations and cultures. China is a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of its Security Council, and China's positions and propositions on respecting civilizational diversity and promoting civilizational exchanges and mutual learning are highly consistent with the purposes and principles of the the United Nations Charter. China has long regarded the United Nations as an important partner in promoting dialogue among civilizations. Under the guidance of the GCI, China has actively promoted the integration of dialogue among civilizations into United Nations agendas, actively supported the innovative development of relevant United Nations mechanisms, and strengthened coordination and cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations in key areas, accelerating efforts to build an all-dimensional, multilevel global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation.^①

(I) Facilitating the Designation of the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations by the United Nations General Assembly

Since the GCI was proposed, China has participated more actively in the United

^① Liu Haixing, Injecting Cultural Strength into Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, Study Times, March 16, 2026, p. 1.



Nations General Assembly's discussions on the agenda item of "Culture of Peace", contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to promoting respect for the diversity of civilizations and advancing dialogue among civilizations, while China's relevant concepts and propositions have gained increasing attention and recognition on the United Nations platform. To further bring into full play the important role of dialogue among civilizations in eliminating discrimination and prejudice, enhancing understanding and trust, promoting people-to-people connectivity, and strengthening solidarity and cooperation, China proposed that the United Nations General Assembly establish the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, injecting positive energy into human society's united response to common challenges. This reflects China's firm support for multilateralism and the work of the United Nations, and demonstrates China's responsibility as a major country amid changes unseen in a century.

At the General Debate on the United Nations General Assembly agenda item of "Culture of Peace" in June 2023, China proposed that "we should strengthen inclusiveness and mutual learning among civilizations and promote people-to-people connectivity; support the inclusive coexistence of different cultures, encourage exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations, welcome closer people-to-people connectivity among countries, and encourage peoples of all countries to join hands in addressing common challenges", welcoming all parties to actively participate in the GCI and make joint efforts to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.^①

In June 2024, the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution A/RES/78/286, proposed by China and 82 other countries, designating June 10 each year as the "International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations". The resolution makes clear that all civilizational achievements are the common wealth of human society, advocates respect for the diversity of civilizations, highlights the important role of dialogue among civilizations in maintaining world peace, promoting common development, enhancing human well-being, and achieving common progress, and advocates equal dialogue and mutual respect among different civilizations, fully reflecting the core essence of the GCI proposed by President Xi Jinping; the resolution invites United Nations Member States, United Nations entities, and others to observe the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, invites UNESCO and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to facilitate the observance,

^① China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Calls on the International Community to Create Conditions for Peace, Chinese Government Website, June 15, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202306/content_6886384.htm.

and invites all stakeholders to support the International Day.

The General Assembly resolution on establishing the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations fully reflects the core concepts of the GCI. Fourteen countries joined the core group for the resolution, 83 countries co-sponsored it, and it received the unanimous support of all Member States. This fully demonstrates that the GCI conforms to the trend of the times and meets the needs of our era, and that China's concepts and proposals are increasingly becoming international consensus.^① Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, issued a statement welcoming the adoption by the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly of the China-proposed resolution establishing the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, stressing that dialogue among civilizations helps enhance understanding of the value of cultural diversity, and calling on the international community to respect cultural diversity and differences and protect human dignity.^② Gabriela Ramos, then Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, issued a statement welcoming the establishment of the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, noting that the organization stands ready to work with partners, including China, to strengthen dialogue among civilizations and enable such dialogue to shine more brightly.^③

(II) Organizing a Series of Thematic Events About the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations

China encourages and actively supports all parties in holding diverse activities to observe the International Day in accordance with the General Assembly resolution, advocating respect for the diversity of civilizations, carrying forward the common values of humanity, valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, actively promoting people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation, and achieving

^① Fu Cong, Promoting Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations to Address Global Common Challenges (Ambassador's Essay), People's Daily, June 10, 2024, https://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2024-06/10/nw.D110000renmrb_20240610_3-03.htm.

^② UN Under-Secretary-General: Establishment of International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations Helps Respect Cultural Diversity, Xinhua, June 10, 2024,

^③ UNESCO Welcomes Establishment of the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, CCTV.com, June 11, 2024, <https://tv.cctv.com/2024/06/11/VIDEw1A1rD0lJDRKx5zcenKh240611.shtml>.



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common prosperity and progress for human civilization.^① In June 2025, on the occasion of the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, China, together with international organizations including the United Nations and relevant countries, held a wide range of exchange activities in United Nations duty stations such as New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Paris, Bangkok, and The Hague, as well as in more than 80 countries around the world.

China Proposes Advancing Dialogue Among Civilizations in Three Aspects

First, upholding equality among civilizations. No civilization is superior to others. No civilization is superior to others. It is important to respect the development paths and social systems chosen by people of different countries independently, repudiate clash of civilizations, oppose interference into others' internal affairs and resist unilateral bullying practices. We must defend fairness and justice and work to ensure equality and dignity for all. We should stand by true multilateralism, and support the U.N. in playing an instrumental role in dialogue among civilizations. We should aim for cooperation and mutual benefit, reject confrontation and zero-sum games, and stay committed to peaceful coexistence among civilizations.

Second, promoting exchanges among civilizations. It is important for countries to step up exchanges and mutual learning, and draw inspirations from dialogue among civilizations to address global challenges and explore paths toward global modernization. China is giving positive consideration to hosting the Global Forum of the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations in 2028, and to providing funding to the U.N. body designated to promote inter-civilizational dialogue. We will continue supporting the work of mechanisms such as the Ancient Civilizations Forum with a view to enhancing the platform for dialogue among civilizations around the world.

Third, advancing the progress of civilizations. The international community needs to encourage the normal flow of ideas, technologies and personnel, and keep pushing the frontiers of human knowledge. Under the principle of technology for good, we need to leverage emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to facilitate the continuation and innovation of civilizations, keep increasing our common material and cultural abundance and build a community with a shared future where all civilizations thrive together.

— Video Remarks by Wang Yi at the Event Celebrating the First International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations

^① 78th UN General Assembly Adopts by Consensus China-Proposed Resolution on Establishing International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, Chinese Government Website, June 8, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202406/content_6956276.htm; Fu Cong, Promoting Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations to Address Common Global Challenges (Ambassador's Essay), People's Daily, June 10, 2024, https://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2024-06/10/nw.D110000renmrb_20240610_3-03.htm.

On June 9, 2025, the thematic event for the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations was held at United Nations Headquarters. The event consisted of three parts: a thematic dialogue, a long-scroll exhibition on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and a cultural performance titled “Dialogue of Civilizations Across Mountains and Seas”. At the thematic dialogue, Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister, delivered video remarks titled “Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations to Build a Better World”. Wang Yi stated that President Xi Jinping has proposed the GCI, advocating the common values of humanity, valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and strengthening international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. This represents an important effort by China to promote dialogue among civilizations. Wang Yi also elaborated China’s proposals for promoting civilizations dialogue from three aspects: being defenders of equality among civilizations, practitioners of exchanges among civilizations, and promoters of civilizational progress.^① Philemon Yang, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered video remarks respectively, speaking highly of the GCI proposed by China, expressing appreciation for China’s leadership and firm commitment in promoting dialogue among civilizations, and stressing that dialogue should always remain at the heart of multilateralism. Participants from various countries engaged in in-depth exchanges on the theme of “Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations, Strengthening Global Solidarity and Cooperation”.^② More than 1,000 participants, including senior United Nations officials, diplomats of various countries posted to the United Nations, and representatives from different sectors in New York, attended the thematic dialogue.

^① Wang Yi, Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations to Build a Better World — Video Address by Wang Yi at the Event Celebrating the First International Day for Civilizations Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, June 10, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/gjs_673893/xwlb_673895/202506/t20250610_11644297.shtml.

^② United Nations Holds Thematic Event to Mark First International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, United Nations Official Website, June 9, 2025, <https://www.un.org/zh/observances/international-day-for-dialogue-among-civilizations/messages>.



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The United Nations was built on a fundamental conviction: dialogue is the path to peace. On this First International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, we celebrate that conviction — and the rich diversity of civilizations as a force to promote mutual understanding and global solidarity. Today, that mission is more urgent than ever. This International Day is a call to action — to listen, to speak, to connect.

— Video Message by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations

Our planet is home to eight billion people, comprising over five thousand ethnic groups, speaking over seven thousand languages between them. With such abundant diversity – and a wealth of voices and needs – mutual respect and dialogue are essential. History shows that where dialogue fails, conflict festers. And where dialogue prevails, peace prospers. Now, more than ever, dialogue matters.

— Video Message by Philemon Yang, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations

The long-scroll exhibition on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations used multimedia technologies to create an immersive experience space. Through cross-temporal interactions among cultural relics from different civilizations and a collection of classic achievements of human civilization, it presented the early dialogue and contemporary mutual learning between Chinese civilization and world civilizations, seeking to convey the important concept that “civilizations become more colorful through exchanges and richer through mutual learning”. The exhibition consisted of three parts: The Declaration of Civilization: A Beautiful Scroll Painting of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind I (hereinafter referred to as Civilization Scroll I), Light of the Sun — Ancient Shu Civilization and the World, and the graphic print exhibition Mutual Learning Among Civilizations - A World Vision. Among them, Civilization Scroll I comprehensively presented the world heritage and intangible cultural heritage jointly created by 193 United Nations Member States and two observer states, systematically expressing the forms of civilizational symbols jointly created by countries throughout the development of human civilization, and displaying the magnificent historical panorama of dialogue among human civilizations.

The cultural performance “Dialogue of Civilizations Across Mountains and Seas” was held in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations. Centered on “Dialogue of the World”, the performance brought together artists from around the world, who used diverse art forms such as instrumental ensemble, street dance, martial arts, dance, and

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chorus to present the encounter and integration of different civilizations, reflect both the depth of traditional culture and modern innovative expression, convey the concept of peaceful coexistence, and highlight humanity's shared pursuit of harmonious development.

While carrying out the above thematic activities, China, together with relevant parties, held celebrations of the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations at multiple United Nations duty stations around the world. In Geneva, the event “Symphony of Civilizations: Harmony and Coexistence” was successfully held. The China National Symphony Orchestra performed famous Chinese and foreign works live, and a creative exhibition of Chinese characters attracted wide attention. In Vienna, renowned foreign Sinologists shared their reflections on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, while celebrated traditional Chinese music resounded in the City of Music. In Nairobi, Chinese and Kenyan cultural teams gave a joint performance. In Bangkok, China, together with Thailand and seven other countries, held a photo exhibition on civilizations and organized experiential activities on civilizations. In Paris, China and UNESCO jointly held the seminar “Youth Dialogue on the Future along the Silk Roads”. In addition, in more than 80 countries including Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, Bahrain, Morocco, Nigeria, Serbia, Denmark, Romania, Chile, Bolivia, and Australia, China worked with various parties to hold thematic seminars, youth exchanges, expert dialogues, and diverse experiential activities on civilizational exchanges around the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, further deepening global dialogue among civilizations.



Guests visit the long-scroll exhibition on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations
(Photo source: United Nations website)



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On June 9, 2025, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, performers sing in chorus at the special cultural performance “Dialogue of Civilizations Across Mountains and Seas”. (Photo Source: Xinhua News Agency)

(III) Providing Strong Support for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations was initiated in 2005 and is one of the principal institutions within the United Nations framework for advancing dialogue among civilizations. Its mission and vision are to advance dialogue among different civilizations, cultures, and religions, oppose extremism, bridge divides, overcome misunderstanding and prejudice, and promote mutual respect among different cultures, traditions, and religious beliefs.^① Its five priority areas are education, youth, migration, media, and women, enabling it to play a key role in helping reduce cross-cultural tensions and building bridges among different communities.

China has actively participated in the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. In June 2007, China joined the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. In November 2012, the United Nations Association of China and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations jointly held the Asia-South Pacific Regional Consultation in Shanghai, marking the first regional meeting held by the Alliance in China.^② In February 2017, then Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong met upon request with Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, then High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

^① Context and Bases for the Establishment of UNAOC, <https://www.unaoc.org/who-we-are/history/>.

^② Mao Ruipeng, Working with the United Nations to Advance Global Dialogue Among Civilizations, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies website, April 10, 2023, <https://www.sis.org.cn/sp/14763.jhtml>; United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Shanghai Conference Opens, China News Service, November 29, 2012, <https://www.chinanews.com/gn/2012/11-29/4370178.shtml>.

and exchanged views on deepening cooperation between China and the Alliance.^① In May 2017, Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in Beijing with Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, then High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, who was in China to attend the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The two sides jointly signed a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on strengthening cooperation in civilizational exchanges under the Belt and Road framework.^②

Since the GCI was proposed, cooperation between China and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations has become closer and produced more fruitful outcomes. In November 2024, China's representative attended the 10th Global Forum of the Alliance held in Cascais, Portugal, where he introduced China's positive role in promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and maintaining regional peace and stability, and held talks with Miguel Ángel Moratinos, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, exchanging views on strengthening cooperation between the two sides.^③ In December 2025, China's representative attended the 11th Global Forum of the Alliance held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that China is a firm advocate and active practitioner of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and that it is ready to work with all countries, guided by the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, to make unrelenting efforts to build a better human civilization. The representative also met with Miguel Ángel Moratinos, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and exchanged views on deepening practical cooperation between the two sides and advancing global

^① Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong Meets with UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, February 20, 2017, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbxw_673019/201702/t20170220_384152.shtml.

^② Wang Yi Meets with UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 13, 2017, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjzbhd/201705/t20170513_355619.shtml.

^③ Special Representative of the Chinese Government on European Affairs Wu Hongbo Attends 10th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, November 29, 2024, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202411/t20241129_11535501.shtml.



dialogue among civilizations.^①

In June 2025, in his video remarks at the global thematic event for the first United Nations International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister, announced that China would actively consider hosting the 2028 Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and making contributions to United Nations entities engaged in dialogue among civilizations, so as to build better platforms for global dialogue among civilizations.^② China's cooperation with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is reaching new heights, and China's concepts and actions in promoting the inclusive coexistence, exchanges, and mutual learning of different civilizations will win broader global consensus.

(IV) Providing Strong Support for UNESCO

UNESCO is the sole specialized agency within the United Nations system responsible for education, science, culture, communication and information. It aims to foster cooperation among all countries through education, science and culture, and contribute to world peace and security. China is a founding member of UNESCO and actively support and participate in the work of UNESCO. President Xi Jinping pointed out that as the world's largest organization for intellectual cooperation, UNESCO can play an important role in building a community with a shared future for humanity. The sustained and steady development of China's relations with UNESCO is conducive to world peace and prosperity.^③ Under President Xi's personal guidance and promotion, practical cooperation between the two sides has yielded fruitful results and made positive contributions to advancing world peace and sustainable development.^④

^① Special Envoy Zhai Jun of the Chinese Government on the Middle East Issue Attends the 11th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, December 16, 2025, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/sjxw_674887/202512/t20251216_11774238.shtml.

^② Wang Yi, Promoting Dialogue Among Civilizations to Build a Better World — Video Address by H.E. Wang Yi at the Event to Celebrate the First International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, June 10, 2025, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202506/t20250610_11644297.shtml.

^③ President Xi meets UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 16, 2018, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/201807/t20180716_344282.shtml.

^④ Qin Changwei, Fruitful Cooperation Between China and UNESCO in New Era, Bulletin of Chinese Academy of Sciences, No. 9, 2025.

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In March 2014, President Xi Jinping paid a historic visit to UNESCO headquarters and delivered an important speech^①, in which he put forward important propositions on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations from the perspective of world harmony and human progress. President Xi Jinping noted that civilizations are diverse, equal, and inclusive. We need to encourage different civilizations to respect each other and live together in harmony while promoting their exchanges and mutual learning as a bridge of friendship among peoples, a driving force behind human society, and a strong bond for world peace.^② In July 2018 and September 2023, President Xi Jinping met with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay on her visits to China, and he expressed China's readiness to work more closely with UNESCO, promote exchanges, mutual learning and inclusive cooperation among different civilizations, and make greater contribution to dialogue among world civilizations and human development and progress.^③ In May 2026, President Xi Jinping met with UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany in Beijing. President Xi said that China is ready to work with UNESCO to implement the four global initiatives, enable people of all countries to share in the progress in education, science and culture, better respond to the common challenges facing human society, and jointly build a community with a shared future for humanity.

^① Xi Jinping, Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At UNESCO Headquarters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, March 28, 2014, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/gjs_673893/gjzz_673897/lhgjkw_674067/zyjh_674077/201403/t20140328_7660361.shtml.

^② Building Bridges of Friendship, Understanding and Cooperation—Foreign Minister Wang Yi on President Xi Jinping's Attendance at the Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands and Visits to Four European Countries, UNESCO Headquarters and EU Headquarters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, April 2, 2014, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/gjhdq_676201/gjhdqzz_681964/1206_679930/xgxw_679936/201404/t20140402_9389082.shtml.

^③ President Xi meets UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 16, 2018, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/201807/t20180716_344282.shtml; President Xi meets UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, Chinese Government Website, September 28, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202309/content_6906880.htm.



Supporting the United Nations in Playing Its Role as the Primary Platform and Main Channel for Dialogue Among Civilizations



Impact of the UNESCO-China Partnership (Photo Source: UNESCO Official WeChat Account)

In April 2024, the “International Symposium on the Concept of Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations”, co-hosted by the State Council Information Office of China, UNESCO, and the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. More than 200 participants from over 40 countries, regions, and international organizations, including UNESCO officials, representatives of Member States, representatives of international organizations, experts and scholars from various countries, and youth representatives, attended the symposium and engaged in in-depth discussions on the theme of “Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and Humanity’s Shared Vision”. Chinese and foreign participants also attended two panel discussions titled “The Silk Road: A Splendid Chapter in Human Cultural Exchanges” and “Intercultural Dialogue in Today’s World”, where they discussed the significance of the ancient Silk Road as a source of inspiration for exchanges among civilizations in today’s world, and called for carrying forward the spirit of inclusive coexistence, appreciating the beauty of all civilizations and sharing beauty together, cooperation, and exchanges, so as to promote exchanges and mutual learning among human civilizations and peaceful development.^①

Since 2014, cooperation between China and UNESCO has yielded fruitful results. The two sides have achieved a series of important outcomes in jointly promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, cooperating in the implementation of UNESCO’s priority strategies, and have achieved a series of important cooperation outcomes, especially in promoting the development of education, science, and culture in developing countries, thereby contributing to peace and sustainable development.

^① International Symposium on the Concept of Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Successfully Held at UNESCO Headquarters, Xinhua, April 16, 2024, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/20240416/85864db2521e49b3b00423412092fab5/c.html>.

**China's Actions for Advancing
Global Dialogue Among Civilizations**

04

Deepening Bilateral and Regional Dialogue Among Civilizations

- Promoting Coexistence and Dialogue Among Civilizations Between Major Countries
- Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning with Neighboring Civilizations
- Deepening Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Exchanges Among the Global South

04 Deepening Bilateral and Regional Dialogue Among Civilizations

(I) Promoting Coexistence and Dialogue Among Civilizations Between Major Countries

Major countries are key factors bearing on war and peace. Their relations are crucial to the stability of the global landscape. The GCI has blazed an effective path to foster major-country dynamics featuring peaceful coexistence, overall stability and balanced development, and injected strength from civilizations into world peace, development and humanity's prosperity and progress.

1. Injecting New Momentum into Mutual Understanding and Friendship Between the Chinese and Russian Peoples

China-Russia relations are among the most stable, mature and strategically significant major-country relationships in the world today. Both China and Russia are defenders of equality among civilizations, practitioners of exchanges among civilizations, and advocates of progress across civilizations. Sustained people-to-people and cultural exchanges and the high-level development of China-Russia relations serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples, and also act as a source of stability for world peace.



The Torch of Peace: A New Chapter for the Times

On May 7, 2025, the China-Russia people-to-people and cultural exchange event “The Torch of Peace: A New Chapter for the Times” — commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the Soviet Union’s Great Patriotic War — was held in Moscow, jointly organized by China Media Group and the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the event, stating that “China-Russia relations continue to show new vitality and have set an example of a new type of major-country relations”. Russian President Vladimir Putin also sent a congratulatory letter to the event.



On May 7, 2025, the site of the people-to-people and cultural exchange event. (Photo Source: CCTV.com)

More than 200 guests from the political, economic, cultural, media, education, and other sectors of China and Russia attended the event. At the event, a series of activities were launched, including the 2025 “China Film Festival” in Russia, the themed integrated media event “Imprints of Peace”, and the Russian stop of the Envoys of Peace — Thematic Series on Giant Pandas Abroad. The China-Russia co-produced documentary “The Great Victory — China’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression Through the Lens of Soviet Photographers” also began production, and Maksim Karmen, grandson of Soviet photojournalist Roman Karmen, shared the story of his family’s bond with China.

Compiled from CCTV.com, Xi Jinping Sends a Congratulatory Letter to “The Torch of Peace: A New Chapter for the Times — China-Russia People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Event Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the Soviet Union’s Great Patriotic War”, May 8, 2025, <https://news.cctv.com/2025/05/08/ARTIGt0ZWP4mMrZ8lZE4mxS250508.shtml>; CCTV.com, The Torch of Peace: A New Chapter for the Times! China-Russia People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Event Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the Soviet Union’s Great Patriotic War Held in Moscow, May 8, 2025, <https://www.cctv.com/2025/05/08/ARTIIng9J2BsPSWc2LlkCyec250508.shtml>.

Head-of-state diplomacy has provided strong guidance for mutual learning between Chinese and Russian civilizations. Since the GCI was proposed, the two heads of state have reached important consensus on many occasions on deepening mutual learning between Chinese and Russian civilizations and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, strongly promoting the high-level operation of China-Russia relations and setting an example of sound interaction between major countries. In March 2023, shortly after the Initiative was proposed, President Putin expressed firm support for it during his talks with President Xi Jinping. In February 2026, President Xi Jinping had a virtual meeting with President Putin. The two heads of state agreed that China-Russia people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation had reached a new level, and that personnel exchanges had become closer. The two sides should continue to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges in areas such as education and culture.^① The two heads of state have also, on multiple occasions, issued joint calls for supporting cultural and civilizational diversity, opposing the politicization of people-to-people and cultural cooperation, and preserving a correct view of history and cultural identity, injecting “China-Russia energy” of civilizational equality and mutual learning into the building of a fairer and more equitable multipolar world.

The framework for exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and Russian civilizations has reached new heights. Provisions on protecting the diversity of civilizations, promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and expanding people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation have successively been incorporated into bilateral documents between China and Russia, including the Joint Statement on Deepening the China-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era, the Joint Statement on Deepening the China-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the Two Countries, and the Joint Statement on Further Deepening the China-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War, and the Founding of the United Nations, becoming an important pillar supporting the deepening of strategic coordination between the two countries.

^① Xi Jinping Holds Video Meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, February 4, 2026, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202602/t20260204_11851123.shtml.



Deep People-to-People Friendship Forged by History

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, as well as the 80th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. The photo exhibition "An Unforgettable Commemoration — China-Russia (Soviet Union) Photo Exhibition Marking the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the World Anti-Fascist War", planned by cultural exchange institutions of China and Russia, took "An Unforgettable Commemoration" as its theme and displayed 80 precious photographs across three sections: "Memories of War", "Friendship Forged in Blood", and "Eternal Commemoration". It comprehensively presented the history of China and Russia, then the Soviet Union, fighting bloody battles and supporting each other during the World Anti-Fascist War, and expressed the firm resolve of the two countries to remember history, safeguard peace, and continue deepening people-to-people exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations.



On April 23, 2025, the photo exhibition site in Moscow.
(Photo Source: People's Daily Online and China Pictorial website)

Nearly 80 participants attended the event, including guests from political, cultural, academic, media, and non-governmental sectors in China and Russia, as well as youth representatives. The exhibition ran until May 2025 and attracted wide attendance from various sectors of Russian society, who spoke highly of the event. They stated that the exhibition was not only a profound educational experience for honoring the martyrs and remembering history, but also a people-to-people exchange that promoted peace and deepened friendship, laying a solid foundation of public support for China-Russia friendship.

Compiled from People's Daily Online, China-Russia (Soviet Union) Photo Exhibition Marking the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the World Anti-Fascist War Held in Moscow, April 25, 2025, <https://world.people.com.cn/n1/2025/0425/c1002-40468117.html>; China Pictorial website, An Unforgettable Commemoration — China-Russia (Soviet Union) Photo Exhibition Marking the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the World Anti-Fascist War Held in Moscow, April 24, 2025, http://www.rmhb.com.cn/gd/202504/t20250424_800399590.html.

China-Russia people-to-people and cultural exchanges have continued to deepen and expand. The two countries have held national-level theme years for each other, including the “Year of Tourism”, “Year of Youth Friendly Exchanges”, “Year of Media Exchanges”, “Year of Local Cooperation and Exchanges”, “Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation”, “Year of Sports Exchanges”, “Year of Culture”, and “Year of Education”, with the framework for people-to-people and cultural exchanges developing in a multichannel, multilevel, and all-dimensional direction. In 2025, more than 200 universities in Russia offered Chinese language courses, around 110,000 people studied Chinese, enthusiasm for learning Chinese continued to rise, and the number of Chinese students studying in Russia exceeded 60,000. The two countries have jointly developed cooperation brands such as the “China-Russia 10+10 Program for Joint Training of Outstanding Talent by Leading Universities”, the “China-Russia Joint Science and Education Center Development Program”, and the “China-Russia Alliance of Universities of Similar Types Development Program”, supporting universities in carrying out joint education programs, expanding two-way student exchanges, jointly organizing summer schools for university students, and conducting vocational education cooperation, thereby making educational exchanges more accessible. The mutual visa-free policy between China and Russia has been fully implemented, mutual tourist visits have exceeded 3.5 million, and tourism cooperation has accelerated in both directions. The China-Russia Youth Song Festival has been held for seven consecutive seasons. In 2025, the seventh season of the festival focused on youth inheritance, cultural integration, and media cooperation, attracting wide attention and achieving positive results. China-Russia mechanisms such as “Northeast China-Russian Far East” and “Yangtze River-Volga River” have operated efficiently, while platforms such as the China-Russia Expo and the “Sprouts: China-Russia Mutual Benefit Cooperation” Forum have demonstrated growing impact, fully reflecting the vitality of local cooperation.

2. Encouraging and Supporting More Exchanges and Communication Between the Chinese and American Peoples

China-U.S. relations are one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The hope of China-U.S. relations lies in the people, its foundation is in our societies, its future depends on the youth, and its vitality comes from exchanges at subnational levels. China has always encouraged and supported greater exchanges and interactions between the Chinese and American peoples, with a view to promoting steady growth of China-U.S. relations and contributing to world peace, stability and prosperity.



The Kuliang Story

The Kuliang story is a much-told episode of China-U.S. people-to-people friendship personally promoted by President Xi Jinping. In 1901, American Milton Gardner came to Fuzhou, China, with his parents as an infant, and in 1911 the whole family moved back to the United States. Mr. Gardner had always hoped to return to his old home in China, but he was unable to fulfill this wish before his passing. With the help of Chinese students studying in the United States, Mrs. Gardner finally learned that the old home her husband had long yearned for was Kuliang in Fuzhou. In 1992, Xi Jinping, then Secretary of the CPC Fuzhou Municipal Committee, learned of this touching bond with Kuliang and invited Mrs. Gardner to visit China. In 2012, during his visit to the United States as Vice President of China, Xi Jinping told the Kuliang story at a welcome luncheon hosted by friendly organizations in the United States, evoking a strong response from various sectors in both countries.

Head-of-state diplomacy serves as the compass and anchor of China-U.S. relations. Both heads of state attach great importance to promoting people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In November 2023, at the China-U.S. summit meeting in San Francisco, the two heads of state reached a consensus on exchanges and cooperation, including “jointly promoting people-to-people exchanges”, and to “encourage and support greater interactions and communications between their peoples”.^① During his visit to the United States, President Xi Jinping stated that “The foundation of China-U.S. relations was laid by our peoples. The door of China-U.S. relations was opened by our peoples. The stories of China-U.S. relations are written by our peoples. The future of China-U.S. relations will be created by our peoples.”^② These remarks profoundly elucidate the underlying foundation and future direction of the bilateral relations. Since 2025, President Xi Jinping and President Trump have maintained sound interactions, providing important strategic support for the improvement and development of

^① President Xi Jinping Holds Summit Meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, November 16, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/gjldrhd_674881/202311/t20231116_11181125.shtml.

^② Xi Jinping, Galvanizing Our Peoples into a Strong Force For the Cause of China-U.S. Friendship — Speech at Welcome Dinner by Friendly Organizations in the United States, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, November 16, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/bmz_679954/1206_680528/1209_680538/202311/t20231116_11181541.shtml.

China-U.S. relations.^① In October 2025, President Xi Jinping pointed out during his meeting with President Trump in Busan that China and the United States are fully capable of helping each other succeed and prospering together.^② China and the U.S. should maintain communication through various channels and at various levels to enhance mutual understanding. The two heads of state agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas such as economy, trade and energy, and advance people-to-people and cultural exchanges.^③

Bond with Kuliang: 2025 China-U.S. Youth Choir Festival

The 2025 Bond with Kuliang: 2025 China-U.S. Youth Choir Festival was successfully held in Fuzhou and Beijing from July 9 to 18. Under the theme of “Singing for Peace”, the event brought together around 30 choirs and more than 1,000 young people from the two countries, making it the largest themed China-U.S. youth exchange event since the implementation of the “50,000 in Five Years” initiative. By conveying the values of learning from history and cherishing peace, the Choir Week demonstrated the shared pursuit of and commitment to peace among young people of the two countries. Peng Liyuan, wife of President Xi Jinping, attended the China-U.S. youth friendship event in Beijing and delivered remarks, encouraging the students to carry forward China-U.S. friendship, promote peace and amity, and contribute their youthful strength to a better future for the two countries.

^① Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Answers Questions from Chinese and Foreign Media on China's Foreign Policy and External Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, March 8, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202603/t20260308_11870706.shtml.

^② Guiding Open Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and Demonstrating Major-Country Responsibility — Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on President Xi Jinping's Attendance at the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and State Visit to the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, November 2, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/gjhdq_676201/gjhdqzz_681964/lhg_682278/xgxw_682284/202511/t20251102_11745545.shtml.

^③ President Xi Jinping Meets with U.S. President Donald Trump in Busan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, October 30, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/ziliao_674904/zt_674979/dnzt_674981/xjpfhgxytjhzzdssecldrfzshybdhgjxgsfw/zxxx_145604/202510/t20251030_11743847.shtml.



Opening Ceremony of Bond with Kuliang: 2025 China-U.S. Youth Choir Festival
(Photo Source: Foreign Affairs Office of the Fujian Provincial People's Government)

The “Bond with Kuliang” series of China-U.S. people-to-people exchange activities has been successfully held for three consecutive years: in June 2023, the “Bond with Kuliang” China-U.S. People-to-People Friendship Forum was held in Fuzhou; in June 2024, the “Bond with Kuliang” China-U.S. Youth Exchange Week was held in Fuzhou; and in July 2025, the Bond with Kuliang: China-U.S. Youth Choir Festival was held successively in Fuzhou and Beijing. Among them, the Choir Week was the largest and most diverse themed youth exchange event since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, and also a landmark project in implementing the “50,000 in Five Years” initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping.

Compiled from the Bond with Kuliang website, Overview of Bond with Kuliang: 2025 China-U.S. Youth Choir Festival” December 9, 2025, https://www.bondwithkuliang.org.cn/2025-12/09/c_1146605.htm.

China has actively promoted people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States. In June 2023, the “Bondwith Kuliang” China-U.S. People-to-People Friendship Forum was held in Fuzhou, China, under the theme of “Carrying Forward the Bond of Friendship and Creating a Better Future Together”. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the forum, stating that “the Chinese and American peoples can fully transcend differences in system, culture, and language, and build deep

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“The Small Ball Moves the Big Ball”

On April 10, 2026, the commemorative conference marking the 55th anniversary of China-U.S. “Ping-Pong Diplomacy” was held at the Capital Gymnasium in Beijing. The conference was jointly hosted by the General Administration of Sport of China, China Media Group, and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the conference, emphasizing that “the foundation of China-U.S. relations is laid by the people, and its future will be created by the youth”.



The site of the commemorative conference on April 10, 2026. (Photo Source: CCTV.com)

More than 500 guests attended the event, including representatives of the governments and institutions of China and the United States, representatives of international organizations, representatives who personally experienced China-U.S. “Ping-Pong Diplomacy”, prominent figures from the sports community, representatives from the media, and youth representatives from the two countries. At the conference, those who personally experienced China-U.S. “Ping-Pong Diplomacy” appeared on stage together, recounting the table tennis bond that crossed mountains and seas 55 years ago and taking part in an exhibition match; the documentary *A Silver Ball Across Mountains and Seas*, commemorating China-U.S. sports and people-to-people exchanges, was officially released; the human-machine dance performance *Dynamic Ping-Pong* was presented with great vitality; Chinese and American youth jointly sang *Silver Balls Fly and Flowers Bloom* on site, using their clear and melodious voices to express the beautiful vision of young people from the two countries moving forward hand in hand and building friendship together.

Compiled from CCTV.com, Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to the Commemorative Conference Marking the 55th Anniversary of China-U.S. ‘Ping-Pong Diplomacy’ and the Launch Ceremony of a Series of China-U.S. Youth Sports Exchange Activities, April 10, 2026, <https://news.cctv.com/2026/04/10/ARTIRAHnFq2I0wTMpySqubTD260410.shtml>; CCTV.com, “The Small Ball Moves the Big Ball” Series of Activities Marking the 55th Anniversary of China-U.S. “Ping-Pong Diplomacy” Held, April 11, 2026, <https://tv.cctv.cn/2026/04/11/VIDESAWUF12TK8xY9ysi6bu4260411.shtml>.



friendship”.^① Members of the “Friends of Kuliang” and representatives from various sectors of China and the United States attended the forum. Since then, the “Bond with Kuliang” series of China-U.S. people-to-people exchange activities has been held annually. In June 2024, the “Bond with Kuliang” China-U.S. Youth Exchange Week was held in Fuzhou, China. President Xi Jinping once again sent a congratulatory letter, emphasizing that “young people are the most vigorous and full of dreams, and the future of China-U.S. relations lies with the youth.”^② The event was comprehensively upgraded in both scale and content, comprising nearly 50 activities, including Kuliang tea talks, an intangible cultural heritage fair, sports exchanges, and a “Coffee and Tea” dialogue, and providing a broad platform for in-depth interaction between Chinese and American youth, with the participation of around 500 young people from the two countries, continuously deepen people-to-people civilizational dialogue between the two countries.

In November 2023, President Xi Jinping announced that China would invite 50,000 young Americans to China for exchanges and study over the following five years. To implement this initiative, China has successively launched the “Young Envoys Scholarship” program and organized a variety of programs and activities, including interschool exchanges, short-term exchange visits, summer schools, summer camps, winter camps, and youth forums, enabling young people from the two countries to enhance mutual understanding, gain friendship, and grow together through exchanges and mutual learning. The Bond with Kuliang series of China-U.S. people-to-people exchange activities and the Bridge of the Future China-U.S. Youth Exchange Program have also been included in this effort. By March 2026, more than 40,000 young Americans had participated in the initiative, covering all 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., and helping the seeds of China-U.S. friendship take root, sprout, and grow strong.^③

^① Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to the “Bond with Kuliang” China-U.S. People-to-People Friendship Forum, Chinese Government Website, June 28, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202306/content_6888786.htm.

^② Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to the 2024 “Bond with Kuliang” China-U.S. Youth Exchange Week, Chinese Government Website, June 24, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202406/content_6958986.htm.

^③ Guo Jiakun: Strengthening China-U.S. People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Enjoys Popular Support and Reflects the Will of the People (January 15, 2025), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, January 15, 2025, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/sp_683685/wjbfrlxjzh_683691/202501/t20250115_11535057.shtml.

(3) Making China-Europe People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges More Dynamic and Engaging

China-Europe exchanges have a long history, and mutual learning between the two civilizations has run through both ancient and modern times. In 2012, during the 14th China-EU Summit, the two sides formally established the China-EU High-Level People-to-People Dialogue, making it the third major pillar of China-EU relations alongside the China-EU High-Level Strategic Dialogue and the China-EU High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, and continuously adding people-to-people momentum to the stable and sound development of China-EU relations.

We need to build a bridge of common cultural prosperity linking the two major civilizations of China and Europe. China represents in an important way the Eastern civilization, while Europe is the birthplace of the Western civilization. The Chinese people are fond of tea and the Belgians love beer. To me, the moderate tea drinker and the passionate beer lover represent two ways of understanding life and knowing the world, and I find them equally rewarding. When good friends get together, they may want to drink to their heart's content to show their friendship. They may also choose to sit down quietly and drink tea while chatting about their life. In China, we value the idea of preserving “harmony without uniformity”, and here in the EU people stress the need to be “united in diversity”. Let us work together for all flowers of human civilizations to blossom together.

— Xi Jinping, Speech at the College of Europe in Bruges

Chinese and European leaders have continued to provide strategic guidance for people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In May 2024, during his state visits to France, Serbia, and Hungary, President Xi Jinping emphasized that China and Europe should accelerate people-to-people exchanges in both directions, and announced that China would extend until the end of 2025 its short-term visa-free policy for citizens of 11 European countries, including France, and would double the number of young Europeans coming to China for exchanges over the following three years,^① providing policy facilitation for European exchanges with China. In July 2025, when attending the 25th

^① President Xi Jinping holds talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 7, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/zyxw/202405/t20240507_11293660.shtml.



China-EU Summit, President Xi Jinping pointed out that over the 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the EU, the two sides had achieved fruitful outcomes in exchanges and cooperation, bringing mutual success and worldwide benefits, and that an important lesson and insight from this process is mutual respect, seeking common ground while reserving differences, openness and cooperation, and mutual benefit and win-win results,^① once again charting the direction for China-Europe people-to-people and cultural exchanges. From December 2025 to May 2026, President Xi Jinping met successively with French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez during their visits to China. He noted that, as major countries with rich cultures, the two sides should strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and consolidate the public foundation for friendship. European leaders stated that “the closer the exchanges between peoples, the more conducive they are to enhancing understanding”, and expressed the view that “Europe and China should uphold dialogue and cooperation and strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges”.^②

China’s unilateral visa-free policy had benefited 35 European countries, while many European countries had also introduced Chinese-language services and visa facilitation policies. In 2025, there were nearly 600 flights between China and Europe each week, and annual people-to-people visits exceeded 9.7 million. The number and frequency of bilateral and multilateral exchange activities, including tourism years, art festivals, expos, promotion events, and seminars, have both increased, while cooperation in areas such as climate change response, the digital economy, green transition, artificial intelligence, and public health has expanded, significantly increasing the length, breadth, and depth of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation.

^① Xi Jinping meets with President of the European Council António Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 24, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202507/t20250724_11676247.shtml.

^② President Xi Jinping holds talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, December 4, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/gjldrhd_674881/202512/t20251204_11766487.shtml; President Xi Jinping meets with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, January 29, 2026, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202601/t20260129_11847156.shtml; President Xi Jinping meets With German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, February 25, 2026, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202602/t20260225_11863534.shtml.

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Youth Engagement in Dialogue Among Civilizations

On December 16, 2025, the China-Europe Youth Dialogue on Civilizations was held in Xi'an. More than 380 young students from 17 European universities, including the University of Cambridge, and 19 Chinese universities, including Tsinghua University and Peking University, gathered together for an engagement in civilizational exchange.



The site of the China-Europe Youth Dialogue on Civilizations on December 16, 2025.
(Photo Source: CCTV News)

Participants from China and Europe shared reflections from a youth perspective on China-Europe civilizational exchanges, sustainable development, and scientific and technological innovation around topics such as renewable energy transition, cultural heritage preservation, and biodiversity conservation. The conference also featured five parallel sub-forums titled “Enlightening Civilizations through Wisdom”, “Green Energy and Low-Carbon Development”, “Joint Protection of the Ecosystem”, “Innovation for Better Lives”, and “Digital Governance for Public Benefit”, providing platforms for in-depth exchanges among Chinese and European youth in specialized fields. At the same time, experiential courses in traditional Chinese culture, including guzheng performance, printmaking, calligraphy copying, and Qinqiang opera appreciation, were held, enabling young participants to experience the unique charm of fine traditional Chinese culture in an immersive way while exchanging ideas, and further deepen mutual friendship through cultural engagement.

The conference was a vivid practice of China's in-depth implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative and its efforts to promote exchanges and mutual learning among Chinese and European youth, as well as an important measure for deepening international cooperation. In recent years, building on the foundation of educational cooperation with Europe, China has continued to build bridges of communication for Chinese and European youth, promoted the deep integration of people-to-people exchanges and scientific and technological cooperation, and strengthened the youth foundation for China-Europe relations to move toward a more stable and dynamic future.

Compiled from China News Service, China-Europe Youth Dialogue on Civilizations Opens in Xi'an, December 17, 2025, <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/sh/2025/12-17/10535456.shtml>; China Daily website, Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Builds Consensus, Youth Join Hands Toward the Future: China-Europe Youth Dialogue Opens in Xi'an, December 18, 2025, <https://shx.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202512/18/WS694361f4a310942cc499739d.html>.



(II) Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning with Neighboring Civilizations

China's neighborhood is a pioneering area where China works with all parties to put the GCI into practice. China has always made the promotion of dialogue, exchanges, and mutual learning among civilizations a key component of its bilateral cooperation with neighboring countries. It has consistently worked to expand exchanges and deepen mutual learning among civilizations with neighboring countries, integrate civilizational dialogue and cooperation into regional cooperation mechanisms in all directions of its neighborhood, and carry out diverse people-to-people and cultural exchange activities, thereby strengthening the civilizational foundation for building a community with a shared future among neighboring countries.

1. Continuously Promoting People-to-People and Cultural Interactions in Northeast Asia

Northeast Asia is a region where the forces of major countries converge. Relying on bilateral, regional, and subregional mechanisms, China has continued to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges and interaction in the region, strengthening the public foundation for maintaining regional peace and advancing regional prosperity.

Since the GCI was proposed, China has relied on the China-Japan-ROK cooperation mechanism to promote multilevel people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. In May 2024, the Ninth Trilateral Summit Meeting Among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea was held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, and made clear that practical cooperation would be carried out in six areas, including people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

People-to-people and cultural exchanges among China, Russia, and Mongolia have developed steadily under the impetus of mechanisms such as meetings among the heads of state, foreign ministers' consultations, and tourism ministers' meetings. In September 2025, at the Seventh Meeting of the Heads of State of China, Russia and Mongolia, the three countries reached consensus on making people-to-people connectivity an important foundation for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation. In November, the Ninth Meeting of Tourism Ministers of China, Russia and Mongolia was held in Darkhan, Mongolia. The three countries signed the China-Russia-Mongolia Tea Road Tourism Cooperation and Development Plan for 2025-2026, and during the meeting

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held a business matchmaking session for travel operators from the three countries and a launch ceremony for the “Tea Road” self-driving tour activity, adding further impetus to the development of cross-border tourism routes, the integration of culture and tourism, and tourism facilitation among the three countries.

Youth Forging the Spirit of Friendship Across Generations

On August 5, 2025, the Trilateral Youth Summit 2025 was held in Japan. Under the theme of “Designing the Future for All Generations: Addressing Common Challenges and Creating a Better Tomorrow Together”, the summit was co-hosted by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and attracted 48 undergraduate and graduate student representatives from the three countries.



The opening ceremony of the Trilateral Youth Summit 2025.(Photo Source: People's Daily Online)

During the week-long event, participating youth held thematic discussions on four major topics: “People-to-People Exchange & Youth Education”, “Sustainable Development & Disaster Relief”, “Economic Cooperation, Technology & Local Revitalization”, and “Health & Ageing Society”, and engaged in in-depth exchanges on regional issues of common interest through simulated diplomatic consultations and other formats. During the summit, a youth dialogue with the Mayor of Himeji, expert lectures, historical and cultural visits, and other activities were also held, and an expert on aging from the World Health Organization was invited to deliver a keynote speech, further enhancing young people’s understanding of one another’s societies and promoting cross-cultural exchanges and mutual learning.

The Trilateral Youth Summit Among China, Japan and the ROK is an outcome project of the Trilateral Summit Meeting among the three countries. It was established by the foreign ministries of the three countries in 2014 and is held annually in rotation among them. After 2019, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat became the organizer and redesigned and expanded the event, making it better suited to the purpose of helping young participants acquire practical knowledge and experience in diplomacy. The summit has become an important platform for promoting friendship among young people of the three countries and enhancing mutual understanding and dialogue.

Compiled from People's Daily Online, Trilateral Youth Summit 2025 Held in Himeji, Japan, August 8, 2025, <https://world.people.com.cn/n1/2025/0808/c1002-40538560.html>.



2. Strengthening People-to-People and Cultural Bond in China-ASEAN Cooperation

China and ASEAN countries enjoy geographical proximity, cultural affinity and a long history of friendly exchanges. China regards ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and has made continued efforts to deepen strategic mutual trust with ASEAN countries and to foster a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future by strengthening people-to-people and cultural bonds and other means.^①

The substance of China-ASEAN people-to-people and cultural exchanges and mutual learning has continued to deepen. Since the GCI was proposed, China has continued to put forward major propositions and specific suggestions on deepening exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations between the two sides at successive China-ASEAN Summit meetings and other occasions, laying a solid foundation for the Initiative to be implemented in practice. In July 2025, the China-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting announced the adoption and implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which explicitly includes important content such as "promoting exchanges and dialogue among different civilizations and cultures". In October, Premier Li Qiang stated at the 28th China-ASEAN Summit that the two sides should further expand the breadth and depth of people-to-people and cultural exchanges, accelerate the establishment of China-ASEAN tourism ministers' and education ministers' meeting mechanisms, make good use of the China-ASEAN network for cooperation among administrative academies and think tanks, and continue to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two sides.^② The framework for people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two sides is expanding into broader areas. In May 2025, the ASEAN-China-GCC Summit was successfully held. The three parties stated unanimously that they would "promote exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations and cultures, enhance

^① Remarks by Han Zheng at the Opening Ceremony of the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (Full Text), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, September 17, 2025, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gjhdqzz_681964/lhg_682518/zyjh_682528/202509/t20250917_11710136.shtml.

^② Li Qiang, Remarks by Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the 28th China-ASEAN Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, October 28, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ziliao_674904/zyjh_674906/202510/t20251028_11742348.shtml.

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“Art on the Toes” Bringing Together Civilizations Connected by Mountains and Rivers

From June 1 to 4, 2025, the “2025 China-ASEAN Sepak Takraw Invitational Tournament”, part of the 2025 China-ASEAN Year of People-to-People Exchanges, was held in Huishui County, Guizhou Province, China. Outstanding teams from China, Myanmar, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, and other countries gathered in Huishui for competition, presenting high-level contests and vividly displaying a beautiful picture of ASEAN countries connected by mountains and seas and advancing in harmony.

Sepak takraw originated in Southeast Asia. In a match, players may use their ankles, knees, and other parts of the body to hold, lift, and strike the ball over the net. Because of its similarity to volleyball, it is also known as “volleyball played with the feet”. Sepak takraw is highly technical, visually appealing, and competitive. In particular, the difficult moves used by athletes in competition, such as bicycle-kick-style spikes and shoulder-level mid-air kicks, are highly impressive to watch.



The site of the 2025 China-ASEAN Sepak Takraw Tournament on June 1, 2025.

(Photo Source: Official Website of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries)

The event was selected as one of the top ten projects of the “2024–2025 China-ASEAN Year of People-to-People Exchanges”. The invitational tournament attracted more than 200,000 visitors to the venue to witness the charm of this “ballet in the air”. Athletes from various countries performed highly spectacular and competitive moves such as overhead spikes, sole lifts, and airborne turning shots, drawing repeated exclamations from the audience. Using sepak takraw as a bond, the event fostered friendship through the sport and promoted integration through competition, enhancing sports exchanges, friendship, and cooperation between China and ASEAN countries.

Compiled from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries website, The 2025 China-ASEAN Sepak Takraw Invitational Tournament, Part of the 2025 China-ASEAN Year of People-to-People Exchanges, Held in Huishui County, Guizhou Province, July 8, 2025, <https://cpaffc.org.cn/index/news/detail/id/10215/lang/1.html>; China News Service, 2025 China-ASEAN Sepak Takraw Invitational Tournament Concludes, June 4, 2025, <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/ydy/2025/06-04/10426935.shtml>.



mutual understanding and friendship, and respect diversity”, setting an example for the inclusive coexistence, exchanges, and mutual learning of different civilizations.^①

The framework for China-ASEAN people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation has continued to improve. Since the GCI was proposed, the two sides have stepped up efforts to build an all-dimensional and multilevel framework for China-ASEAN people-to-people and cultural exchanges, promoting deeper mutual understanding, affinity, and integration among their peoples. During the 2024–2025 “China-ASEAN Year of People-to-People Exchanges”, China and ASEAN governments, non-governmental actors, business, academic, and local communities jointly carried out exchanges and cooperation in such fields as culture, tourism, think tanks, media, women, sports, youth, and science and technology, creating more than 160 high-level, effective, and well-received people-to-people exchange activities, promoting closer cultural affinity and people-to-people connectivity among the more than two billion people of the two sides, and strongly consolidating the public and social foundation for China and ASEAN to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership and jointly build the “five homes” of peace, tranquility, prosperity, beauty, and friendship.

China-ASEAN Audiovisual Week

The China-ASEAN Audiovisual Week has been held for seven consecutive editions and has been hosted in ASEAN countries including Malaysia and Thailand. Through diverse formats such as translated program screenings, youth anchor creative camps, audiovisual communication summits, and industry cooperation meetings, and focusing on the four dimensions of people-to-people exchanges, industry, technology, and youth, the event has strongly promoted exchanges between China and ASEAN countries in media and cultural industries. It has become an annual gathering for China and ASEAN countries to renew friendship and discuss cooperation in the radio, television, and audiovisual sector, as well as an institutional platform for connectivity and mutual learning in the China-ASEAN media field.

^① Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China-GCC Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 28, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjb_673085/zjzg_673183/yzs_673193/dqzz_673197/dnygilm_673199/xgxw_673205/202505/t20250528_11634912.shtml.

Lancang-Mekong people-to-people and cultural exchanges are moving toward the next “golden decade”. People-to-people exchanges and mutual learning are one of the spiritual cores of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation. The Lancang-Mekong culture upheld by the six countries, featuring “equal treatment, sincere mutual assistance, and close family-like ties”, the Lancang-Mekong spirit they practice, featuring “development first, equal consultation, practical efficiency, openness, and inclusiveness”, and the Lancang-Mekong speed they have created, marked by “progress every day, results every month, and new advances every year”, have set an example for regional people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. People-to-people and cultural exchanges are an important support for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation to deepen and go further. In August 2025, the 10th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers’ Meeting reached consensus on building an upgraded “Lancang-Mekong Cooperation 2.0” and opening the next golden decade of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, and released three important documents, including the 2024 Progress Report on the Implementation of the Five-Year Plan of Action on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (2023–2027), with social and people-to-people cooperation as one of the key components. In March 2026, Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister, once again proposed: “pursue mutual learning among civilizations in the LMC” at the reception celebrating the 10th anniversary of the first Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting.^①

3. Conducting Close Civilizational Exchanges with South Asian Countries

South Asia is an important direction in China’s neighborhood diplomacy. China and South Asia are linked by mountains and rivers, and their friendly exchanges have a long history.

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations are guiding new development in China-South Asia cooperation. After the Global Civilization Initiative was proposed, it received high appreciation and support from South Asian countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. In his meetings and talks with leaders of South Asian countries, President Xi Jinping has continued to point the way forward for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and reached multiple points of consensus. In October 2024, President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

^① Wang Yi Attends Reception Marking 10th Anniversary of First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China website, March 23, 2026, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjzb_673089/xghd_673097/202603/t20260323_11879500.shtml.



Kazan. The two leaders reaffirmed the shared identities of China and India as ancient civilizations, major developing countries, and important members of the Global South, and agreed that “the foreign ministers and officials at various levels of the two countries should conduct dialogue to bring bilateral relations back onto the track of stable development at an early date”.^① In August 2025, the Chinese and Indian foreign ministers held talks and reached multiple points of consensus, including holding the third meeting of the China-India High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism in India in 2026, adding another point of convergence for consolidating the momentum of improvement in China-India relations.^②

China-South Asia people-to-people and cultural exchanges have entered a new stage of coordinated mechanisms. Since the GCI was proposed, China and South Asian countries have continued to strengthen the development of cooperation mechanisms and build new models of coordinated cooperation across multiple fields, including people-to-people and cultural exchanges. The two sides have actively made good use of the China-South Asia Expo to deepen economic, trade, and investment cooperation; strengthened the China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation to promote cooperation on ecological civilization; expanded the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation to unlock the potential of maritime cooperation; advanced the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue and innovatively carried out minilateral cooperation such as China-Bangladesh-Pakistan cooperation; and strengthened solidarity and cooperation within regional and subregional frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In June 2025, the 9th China-South Asia Expo opened in Kunming, Yunnan Province, with the participation of 73 countries, regions, and international organizations and more than 2,500 exhibiting companies, covering all South Asian countries and once again providing an important platform for China to comprehensively deepen multilateral diplomacy, economic and trade cooperation, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges with South Asia and countries around the world.

^① President Xi Jinping meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, October 24, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202412/t20241218_11497481.shtml.

^② Wang Yi holds talks with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, August 19, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjbzhd/202508/t20250819_11692006.shtml.

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A Millennial Civilizational Resonance in Confucian-Buddhist Dialogue

From June 11 to 13, 2025, the Second South Asian Sinologists Conference and China-Sri Lanka Scholars Dialogue on Civilizations was held in Colombo and Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.



On June 11, 2025, an inauguration ceremony was held for the Sri Lanka Sinologists Council of the Center for World Sinology.

(Photo Source: Official Website of the International Confucian Association)

The conference responded to the urgent need for exchanges and dialogue among civilizations in today's world, while also highlighting the shared vision of China and South Asian countries to work together to build a community with a shared future. At the opening ceremony, participants from all sides stated collectively that, amid global changes, actively carrying out dialogue among civilizations is conducive to building consensus on cooperation, promoting people-to-people connectivity, and better addressing common challenges. It is necessary to actively implement the Global Civilization Initiative and promote the coexistence of diverse civilizations through exchanges and win-win outcomes through cooperation. The conference also featured the inauguration ceremony of the Sri Lanka Sinologists Council of the Center for World Sinology and the launch ceremony for the new book *Parliamentary Debates on the China–Sri Lanka “Rubber-Rice Pact”* in Chinese, Sinhala, and English. In addition to the main forum, the event also included four parallel sub-forums.

Compiled from the official website of the International Confucian Association, “President Sun Chunlan Attends and Addresses the Second South Asian Sinologists Conference and China-Sri Lanka Scholars Dialogue on Civilizations in Colombo, Sri Lanka”, June 12, 2025, https://www.ica.org.cn/2025-06/12/c_185455.htm; Xinhua, *Second South Asian Sinologists Conference Focuses on Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and Regional Cooperation*, June 13, 2025, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/20250613/f676506be901482b9b6c4bcb7531b9b8/c.html>.



4. Injecting Profound People-to-People and Cultural Substance into the China-Central Asia Community with a Shared Future

For thousands of years, China and the peoples of Central Asia have worked together to promote the rise and prosperity of the Silk Road, making historic contributions to exchanges, integration, enrichment, and development among world civilizations. Today, based on the profound historical, people-to-people, and cultural bonds between the two sides, the China-Central Asia community with a shared future is radiating vitality and vigor in the new era.

The building of the China-Central Asia community with a shared future has opened a new chapter in exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. In May 2023, in his keynote address at the opening ceremony of the first China-Central Asia Summit, President Xi Jinping put forward the “four principles” on how to build a China-Central Asia community with a shared future, including implementing the GCI, and made an “eight-point proposal” on cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, including strengthening dialogue among civilizations. The GCI and its content were also incorporated into the summit declaration, injecting profound people-to-people and cultural substance into the China-Central Asia community with a shared future. In June 2025, President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote address at the second China-Central Asia Summit, putting forward the China-Central Asia Spirit, with the civilizational substance of “mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit, mutual assistance, and advancing common modernization through high-quality development”, and further making a five-point proposal for building the China-Central Asia community with a shared future, including strengthening people-to-people and cultural bonds. During the summit, China and the five Central Asian countries signed multiple sister-city agreements, bringing the number of sister-city pairs between the two sides to more than 100. The two sides also signed 12 cooperation documents in such fields as Belt and Road cooperation and facilitation of personnel exchanges. The China-Central Asia Implementation Plan for People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Activities from 2025 to 2026 was also included in the list of summit outcomes.

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Echoes of Exchanges in Regional Cooperation

In May 2025, the 2025 China-Central Asia Seminar on Governance and People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Dialogue was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The event consisted of a main forum, a release of outcomes, and four sub-forums, under the theme of “Modernization and Regional Cooperation: Toward the Path of Common Prosperity”. Around 260 guests from six countries — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan — attended the event and held in-depth discussions on the modernization practices of various countries, pathways for regional cooperation, and measures for mutual learning among civilizations, building broad consensus.



The site of the 2025 China-Central Asia Seminar on Governance and People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Dialogue.
(Photo Source: Official Website of China International Communications Group)

During the week-long event, participating youth held thematic discussions on four major topics: “People-to-People Exchange & Youth Education”, “Sustainable Development & Disaster Relief”, “Economic Cooperation, Technology & Local Revitalization”, and “Health & Ageing Society”, and engaged in in-depth exchanges on regional issues of common interest through simulated diplomatic consultations and other formats. During the summit, a youth dialogue with the Mayor of Himeji, expert lectures, historical and cultural visits, and other activities were also held, and an expert on aging from the World Health Organization was invited to deliver a keynote speech, further enhancing young people’s understanding of one another’s societies and promoting cross-cultural exchanges and mutual learning.



Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations have continued to strengthen the foundation of people-to-people connectivity between China and Central Asia. Since the first China-Central Asia Summit, the secretariat of the China-Central Asia mechanism has become fully operational, and the two sides have established 13 ministerial-level meeting mechanisms in such fields as diplomacy, political parties, economy and trade, and education, with the institutionalization of people-to-people and cultural exchanges continuing to advance. In accordance with documents such as the China-Central Asia Implementation Plan for People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Activities from 2025 to 2026, the two sides have held activities such as political party dialogue meetings and education ministers' meetings, made progress in establishing cultural centers in each other's countries, setting up branches of Chinese universities, and opening Luban Workshops, and continued to provide impetus for deepening intellectual mutual learning and people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and Central Asian countries.

5. Building Regional Platforms for Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

The South Asian Sinologists Conference is a regional platform for cultural exchanges initiated by China. In January 2024, the first Himalayan China Forum and South Asian Sinologists Conference opened in Nepal, where scholars from various countries engaged in academic discussions on topics including “Chinese Traditional Culture and the Study of Classics”, “The Contemporary Value of Cultural Exchanges Between China and South Asia”, “China-Nepal Literary Exchange Forum”, “China’s Contemporary Development and Global Governance”, and “Training of Sinology Talent and Disciplinary Development”, effectively enhancing mutual understanding and recognition of each other’s cultures between the intellectual communities of China and South Asia. In June 2025, the Second South Asian Sinologists Conference and China-Sri Lanka Scholars Dialogue on Civilizations was held in Colombo and Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. More than 200 participants attended the conference, including dozens of renowned Sinologists from China, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, and other countries, as well as political figures, university faculty and students, and representatives of the news media from Sri Lanka. The South Asian Sinologists Conference has built a platform for Sinology research that is oriented toward South Asia, connected with Asia, and extends its influence globally. It promotes the building of a multilingual, multidisciplinary, and multicenter global Sinology landscape, and

helps form an international academic dialogue system with South Asian perspectives, developing-country experience, and Chinese academic support.

In April 2023, the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia was announced in China. The Alliance is an intergovernmental international organization in the field of cultural heritage established by Asian countries on the basis of voluntariness, equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation. It strives to advance connectivity and value sharing of cultural heritage, carry forward the roots of diverse civilizations, and pool the strength of cultural heritage to advance the GCI. Up to May 2026, the Alliance has 25 member states, partner countries, and observer states, covering representative countries from various regions of Asia, with its influence extending to Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the South Pacific. The Alliance has put in place regular ministerial meetings, an consultative committee, and specialized committees. The Alliance has established the Asian Fund for Cultural Heritage Conservation, which supports about 30 cultural heritage cooperation projects in 15 countries, covering key areas such as ancient civilization studies, joint archaeology, restoration of historic sites, and museum exchanges, and has launched the “Youth Ambassador Program for Asian Cultural Heritage Conservation” to cultivate future talent.

(III) Deepening Inter-Civilization Dialogue and Exchanges Among the Global South

China is the world's largest developing country and a natural member of the Global South. Always keeping the Global South in mind, and maintaining its roots in the Global South, China has continually promoted solidarity, cooperation, and collective strength of the Global South countries through cooperation across various areas, including in exchange and mutual learning among civilizations. President Xi Jinping has, on many occasions, provided theoretical guidance and led by example in promoting mutual learning between civilizations among the Global South. In October 2024, at the “BRICS Plus” Dialogue, President Xi Jinping put forward a proposal on the direction of Global South cooperation, emphasizing that Global South countries should “be advocates for exchanges among civilizations, enhance communication and dialogue, and support each another in taking the path to modernization suited to their respective national conditions”, and announced that China would coordinate with others to form



a Global South Think Tanks Alliance to promote people-to-people exchanges and experience-sharing in governance. Since the GCI was proposed, China has successively held people-to-people and cultural exchange activities such as the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum, regional meetings under the forum mechanism including the China-Africa Partners Conference and the China-Arab Partners Conference, the Global South Think Tanks Dialogue, the Global South Academic Forum, the Global South Modernization Forum, and the launch ceremony of the “Global South Media Partners” mechanism, playing an active role in promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations in the Global South.

1. The Civilizational Dimension of the China-Africa Community with a Shared Future Continues to Deepen

China and Africa are both important cradles of human civilization. From peaceful exchanges along the ancient Silk Road and during Chinese envoy Zheng He’s 15th-century voyages, to the joint fight against colonial oppression and for national independence in modern times, and to the common pursuit of development and revitalization today, the civilizational dimension of China-Africa relations has continued to deepen and expand.

The civilizational dimension of China-Africa cooperation mechanisms has continued to grow. China has always responded to Africa’s needs with the principle of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith, and the right approach to friendship and interests. China-Africa cooperation has always upheld the civilizational foundation of equality, mutual benefit, inclusiveness, and mutual learning, with the two sides continuously consolidating the basis for mutual learning among civilizations through deeper cooperation. The Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2015 established a cooperation framework of “five major pillars”, including “civilizational exchanges”;^① the Beijing Summit in 2018 proposed working together to build a China-Africa community with a shared future featuring shared responsibility, win-win cooperation, happiness for all, common cultural prosperity, common security,

^① Xi Jinping, Opening a New Era of Win-Win Cooperation and Common Development for China and Africa— Address at the Opening Ceremony of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, December 5, 2015, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/ziliao_674904/zl_674979/ywzt_675099/2015nzt/xzxfqcxqhbh_684980/zxxx_684982/201512/t20151205_9281972.shtml.

and harmonious coexistence^①; and the Beijing Summit in 2024 put forward six propositions that China and Africa should work together to advance modernization that is just and equitable, open and win-win, people-centered, diverse and inclusive, eco-friendly, and peaceful and secure.^② China-Africa cooperation initiatives, including the “Ten Cooperation Plans”, “Eight Major Initiatives”, “Nine Programs”, and “Ten Partnership Actions”, all include content on mutual learning among civilizations and people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

People-to-people and cultural exchanges are driving China-Africa common development. People-to-people and cultural exchanges have become one of the social foundations for China and Africa to advance modernization together. In recent years, Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms have flourished in Africa; the “China-Africa Universities 100 Cooperation Plan” has facilitated exchanges and cooperation among more than 100 universities, and China has actively provided Chinese government scholarships to help Africa cultivate outstanding talent and continuously expand the scientific, educational, and human resource base needed for its development; China-Africa film and television exchanges and cooperation have continued to deepen. A number of outstanding Chinese audiovisual programs, including *Minning Town* and *Welcome to Milele*, have been broadcast on mainstream media in several African countries, while the “Wonderful Africa” audiovisual program screenings have enabled more Chinese audiences to appreciate Africa’s diverse cultures and modernization. From the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, hailed as a “road of freedom” and a “road of friendship”, to the “road of development” built through Belt and Road cooperation; from the “Ten Cooperation Plans”, “Eight Major Initiatives”, and “Nine Programs” to the “Ten Partnership Actions”; from the “Initiative on Supporting Africa’s Industrialization”, the “Plan for China Supporting Africa’s Agricultural Modernization”, and the “Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development” to the “Initiative on Supporting Africa’s Modernization”, China’s cooperation with Africa has covered key areas urgently needed for development, explored a development paradigm of

^① Xi Jinping, *Work Together for Common Development and a Shared Future — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, September 3, 2018, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/ziliao_674904/zjyh_674906/201809/t20180903_9870267.shtml.

^② Xi Jinping Attends the Opening Ceremony of FOCAC Beijing Summit and Delivers Keynote Speech, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, September 5, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjb_673085/zjzg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202409/t20240905_11485720.shtml.



The “Kung Fu Dream” Across Continents

On February 10, 2026, the China-Africa Wushu Conference and the 7th African Youth Wushu Championships opened in Cairo, Egypt.



At the opening ceremony of the China-Africa Wushu Conference and the 7th African Youth Wushu Championships, Chinese and Egyptian wushu athletes and art troupes gave performances.
(Photo Source: People's Daily Online)

The event was not only an important platform for improving the skills of young African wushu athletes, but also a bridge connecting Africa's long-standing cultures with Chinese wushu. At the opening ceremony, Egyptian wushu athletes performed programs such as cudgel, broadsword, and tai chi fan with an energetic and uplifting spirit, while the Al Sharqia Talent Art Troupe of Egypt presented a song and dance performance integrating elements of Egyptian history, culture, and traditional folklore. The Chinese wushu team performed classic wushu styles such as Tongbiquan, Piguaquan, and Fanziquan, as well as highly engaging programs featuring Taiji fan, monkey staff, and rope dart, bringing the atmosphere to a climax.

The year 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and African countries, and is also the “China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges”. As a signature project of the “China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges” and a key event of the 2026 “Happy Chinese New Year” celebrations in Egypt, the event provided an effective platform for exchanges and cooperation between the wushu communities of China and Africa, and injected new momentum into promoting people-to-people connectivity between China and Africa.

Compiled from Xinhua, China-Africa Wushu Conference Opens in Egypt, February 11, 2026, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/20260211/bc5985597987452896b7fd7013d5eeb1/c.html>.

mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and built a distinctive value core and practical pathway for China-Africa cooperation.

2. Inter-Civilization Dialogue Accelerates the Building of a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future

Chinese civilization and Arab civilization are two great traditional Eastern civilizations, each with a profound historical foundation. They have a long history of exchange, share similar values, shoulder common present-day missions, and enjoy broad prospects for future cooperation. They are pioneers and fellow partners in implementing the GCI.

Inter-civilization exchange is a main theme underpinning China-Arab friendship and cooperation. As the “main axis” of cooperation between the two sides, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has, over the past more than two decades, held 10 ministerial meetings, 20 senior officials’ meetings, and nine senior officials’ strategic political dialogues, with people-to-people and cultural exchanges always serving as a key area of cooperation at successive meetings. In 2022, at the first China-Arab States Summit, President Xi Jinping put forward the China-Arab spirit of friendship featuring mutual assistance, equality and mutual benefit, and inclusiveness and mutual learning, and announced that China would work with Arab countries to advance the “eight major cooperation initiatives”, including dialogue among civilizations and youth development. Content such as “strengthening dialogue among civilizations” and “safeguarding the diversity of world civilizations” was incorporated into three important documents, including the summit declaration. In May 2024, at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, President Xi Jinping further announced China’s readiness to work with Arab countries to carry forward the China-Arab spirit of friendship and build five cooperation frameworks, including a broader framework for people-to-people and cultural exchanges,^① so as to accelerate the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future. The brilliance of mutual learning among civilizations in China-Arab cooperation has shone ever more brightly.

The framework for inter-civilization exchanges between China and Arab countries

^① Xi Jinping, Further Deepening Cooperation and Moving Forward to Step up the Building of a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 30, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/zyxw/202405/t20240530_11314451.shtml.



has continued to expand. Since the GCI was proposed, the two sides have continued to promote the formation of a multidimensional and multifaceted framework for exchanges and cooperation. In 2023, China and the League of Arab States signed the Joint Statement Between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States on Implementing the Global Civilization Initiative. In 2025, the China-Saudi Year of Culture, the Workshop for Culture and Tourism Officials from Arab States and the China-Arab Culture and Tourism Cooperation Conference, the 6th China-Arab States Conference of Experts in the Library and Information Field, the 7th China-Arab States Broadcasting and Television Cooperation Forum, the 11th China-Arab States Dialogue Among Civilizations, the 2025 China-Arab Youth Development Forum, and the 2025 Annual Meeting of the China-Arab University Alliance Exchange Mechanism and the Second International Conference on Universities and Artificial Intelligence Technology were successfully held, while exchange mechanisms such as the China-Arab Center for the Global Civilization Initiative and the China-Arab Culture and Tourism Cooperation Research Center were formally established, providing concrete evidence of the sustained, rapid, and in-depth development of China-Arab people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

the League of Arab States signed the Joint Statement Between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States on Implementing the Global Civilization Initiative. In 2025, the China-Saudi Year of Culture, the Workshop for Culture and Tourism Officials from Arab States and the China-Arab Culture and Tourism Cooperation Conference, the 6th China-Arab States Conference of Experts in the Library and Information Field, the 7th China-Arab States Broadcasting and Television Cooperation Forum, the 11th China-Arab States Dialogue Among Civilizations, the 2025 China-Arab Youth Development Forum, and the 2025 Annual Meeting of the China-Arab University Alliance Exchange Mechanism and the Second International Conference on Universities and Artificial Intelligence Technology were successfully held, while exchange mechanisms such as the China-Arab Center for the Global Civilization Initiative and the China-Arab Culture and Tourism Cooperation Research Center were formally established, providing concrete evidence of the sustained, rapid, and in-depth development of China-Arab people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

Building an Educational Bridge for Dialogue Among Civilizations

On October 17, 2025, the launch ceremony for cooperation in the field of civilizational dialogue under the “10+10” Cooperation Plan between Chinese and Arab Universities (the Cooperation Plan) and the First International Symposium on China-Arab Civilization Exchange and Mutual Learning were held in Shanghai, China. Nearly 120 representatives from more than 70 Chinese and Arab universities and other institutions attended the event. The event released the “Vision for Cooperation in the Field of Civilizational Dialogue”, covering multiple areas including implementing the spirit of the China-Arab States Summit, advancing China-Arab youth development initiatives, respecting the diversity of civilizations, promoting cultural mutual learning and inclusiveness, carrying forward the common values of humanity, building shared China-Arab values in the new era, and strengthening interaction and cooperation with the International Confucian Association. A special roundtable meeting of leading universities under the “10+10” Cooperation Plan between Chinese and Arab Universities was held concurrently.



The launch ceremony for cooperation in the field of civilizational dialogue under the “10+10” Cooperation Plan between Chinese and Arab Universities and the First International Symposium on China-Arab Civilization Exchange and Mutual Learning were held in Shanghai.

(Photo Source: Official Website of the China Association of Higher Education)

Compiled from the China Association of Higher Education website, Leading Universities Matchmaking Meeting for the “10+10” Cooperation Plan between Chinese and Arab Universities Held in Jordan, July 1, 2024, https://www.chinaarabcf.org/chn/zagx/rwj1/202407/t20240701_11444903.htm; and Launch Ceremony of the 10+10 Cooperation Program between Chinese and Arab Universities in the Field of Civilizational Dialogue and the First China-Arab Civilization Exchange and Mutual Learning International Symposium Held in Shanghai, October 22, 2024, <https://www.cahe.edu.cn/site/content/17689.html>.

China-Arab Audiovisual Program Exchanges and Cooperation Achieve Fruitful Results

In recent years, Chinese audiovisual works, including the television dramas *Minning Town*, *Medal of the Republic*, *Three-Body*, the animated series *Panda and Springbok*, *Monsters in the Forbidden City*, and *Dream Baby*, and the documentaries *Eastern Medicine*, *China in Numbers*, and *The Road to Zero Carbon*, have been broadcast on mainstream Arab media platforms, drawing wide attention from the public and media in relevant countries. In 2025, China held the “Audiovisual Silk Road China-Arab Stories” mutual broadcasting event for selected audiovisual programs, promoting the broadcast of more than 30 works from nine Arab countries, including Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, as well as China-Arab co-productions, on more than 10 provincial satellite TV channels and four mainstream online audiovisual platforms. China-Arab audiovisual program exchanges and cooperation have become an important bridge for promoting people-to-people connectivity between the two sides.



3. People-to-People Exchanges Inject Greater Impetus into the Building of a China-LAC Community with a Shared Future

Chinese civilization and Latin American civilization are both highly distinctive civilizations. Despite the great distances between China and Latin American countries, their friendly interaction and inter-civilization exchange date back a very long time. At present, China and Latin America are carrying out cultural exchanges at multiple levels and across a wide range of fields, further consolidating the popular foundation for building a China-LAC community with a shared future.

China and Latin America have continued to develop institutionalized mechanisms for the promotion of people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In recent years, drawing on the mechanism of the China-CELAC Forum, the two sides have continued to deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation through four institutionalized channels for dialogue and exchanges, including ministerial meetings. In 2025, the two sides successfully held a large number of activities, including the Third China-LAC High-Level Academic Forum, the Seventh China-LAC Think Tanks Forum, the Training Program for Young Latin American Elites, the Capacity-Building Training Program for Women Officials from Latin American Countries, the China-LAC Youth Development Forum, the Second China-LAC Roundtable on Human Rights, the Latin American Go Congress, the Second China-LAC Legal Talent Exchange and Training Program, and the First China-LAC Education Development Forum, further enhancing the institutionalization of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. The Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum listed “mutual learning among civilizations to consolidate the public foundation of friendship” as one of the four main areas of cooperation in the China-CELAC Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas (2025-2027), reaffirming the institutional guarantee for people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation.

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

National Treasures in “Transoceanic Dialogue” — Writing a New Chapter in Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

True understanding knows no distance; even across thousands of miles, people can still be close neighbors. Though separated by vast oceans, the ancestors of the ancient Shu and Inca civilizations shared similar spiritual beliefs and common material pursuits. Three thousand years ago, ancient Shu cultural sites represented by Sanxingdui and Jinsha yielded exquisite gold and bronze objects, including bronze sacred trees, protruding-eye masks, the “Sun Bird” gold ornament, gold masks, and gold crown bands; while in the Inca Empire, kings were regarded as descendants of the sun god, and gold was used to decorate palaces and make craft objects. All these reflect the ancient peoples’ reverence for gold and their aspiration for light.

Based on such profound historical connections, in 2024, the Chengdu Jinsha Site Museum, together with 14 museums including the National Museum of Peru and the Inka Museum, successfully held the “Inca: Peruvian Andean Civilization Special Exhibition”, attracting more than 600,000 Chinese visitors to experience the splendor of Inca civilization up close and appreciate the enduring and unique charm of human civilization.



In November 2024, at the exhibition “Light of the Sun: A Dialogue Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations” in Peru, a replica of the Sanxingdui bronze protruding-eye mask and a large Inca urpu vessel were displayed side by side, shining in dialogue with each other.

(Photo Source: Official Website of Chengdu Jinsha Site Museum)

In November, the exhibition “Light of the Sun: A Dialogue Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations” was held at the Inka Museum in Cusco, Peru, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. The exhibition enabled Peruvian audiences to learn that both countries’ ancient civilizations shared a reverence for the sun and to feel the cultural connections between them, opening a new chapter in cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Compiled from Chengdu Jinsha Site Museum, Ancient Shu Civilization Makes Its Debut in Peru as Audiences Enjoy the Radiance of “Light of the Sun” — The Exhibition “Light of the Sun: Mutual Learning Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations” Grandly Opens, November 7, 2024, <https://www.jinshasitemuseum.com/info/4528>; Xinhua, Close at Heart | Writing a New Chapter in China-LAC People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges, November 13, 2024, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/leaders/20241113/8b8c306c3f8145a3aad138d40a9a9d9a/c.html>.



The substance of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two sides has continued to grow. Since the GCI was proposed, China-LAC academic exchange programs, educational cooperation mechanisms, China studies centers, cultural festivals and exhibitions, and cooperation in the audiovisual industry have continued to advance, bringing the peoples of China and Latin America closer together at an accelerated pace. The number of Confucius Institutes in Latin America, the number of bilateral cooperation agreements signed between Chinese and Latin American universities, and the frequency of mutual student exchanges between the two sides have all increased significantly; new forms of exchange, such as the China-LAC Joint Research Fund and the China-LAC national treasures “transoceanic dialogue”, have continued to emerge; from Confucian philosophy to the heritage of Maya and Inca civilizations, and from Chinese calligraphy to Latin American literature and music, China-LAC cultural exchanges have continued to grow closer and more vibrant. China has established around 180 pairs of sister-city relationships with 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries, and local exchanges and cooperation between China and Latin America are advancing at a faster pace.

4. Inter-Civilization Exchanges Cement the Foundation of the China-Pacific Island Countries Community with a Shared Future

Friendly exchanges between China and Pacific Island countries span a long history and surmount mountains and seas. In recent years, the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Pacific Island countries featuring mutual respect and common development has continued to move forward, with fruitful results achieved in people-to-people and cultural exchanges and other fields, providing a model of South-South cooperation and mutual benefit.

People-to-people and cultural bonds have helped build a closer China-Pacific Island Countries community with a shared future. Since the GCI was proposed, Pacific Island countries including Solomon Islands, Samoa, Nauru, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, and Kiribati have all expressed appreciation and support for the Initiative, which has been incorporated into multiple bilateral and multilateral documents, including the joint statement of the China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. The two sides have held exchange activities such as the China-Pacific Island Countries Tourism Exchange and Cooperation Conference, and signed cooperation documents in education and other fields, strongly strengthening the bond between their peoples. In 2025, the

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

third China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting reaffirmed recognition of the GCI and announced that 200 “small and beautiful” livelihood projects, including education and training as well as cultural and tourism exchanges, would be implemented in Pacific Island countries within the year, strongly consolidating the public foundation for friendship between the two sides. China has actively carried out Austronesian cultural exchanges with Pacific Island countries, received the King of Tonga for a visit to the Austronesian exhibition at Fujian University of Technology, organized Austronesian cultural exchange workshops for island countries, and supported joint archaeology, academic exchanges, and other activities with island countries under the framework of the Specialized Committee on Austronesian and Maritime Civilizations of the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia, with cultural exchanges continuing to deepen.



Transoceanic Friendship Through the Lens

On September 20, 2025, the award ceremony of the 2025 Pacific Island Countries “China in My Eyes” Video Contest and the launch ceremony of the award winners’ China tour were grandly held at the Blue Hall of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.



On September 20, 2025, the launch ceremony was held at the Blue Hall of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.
(Photo Source: Website of the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom of Tonga)

The contest was a major transnational cultural exchange event to implement the consensus reached at the third China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. Since its launch in May, the event has received an active response from various sectors in Pacific Island countries, collecting more than 200 entries from 10 Pacific Island countries, with related content receiving more than 15 million views on overseas platforms, making it an outstanding practice in China-Pacific Island Countries people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

Compiled from the Website of the Chinese Embassy in the Kingdom of Tonga, Award Ceremony of the 2025 Pacific Island Countries “China in My Eyes” Video Contest and Launch Ceremony of the Award Winners’ China Tour Held in Beijing, September 22, 2025, https://to.china-embassy.gov.cn/sgxw/202509/t20250922_11712725.htm.

05

Advancing Multilateral Cooperation on Dialogue Among Civilizations

- Deepening Inter-Civilization Dialogue with Belt and Road Partner Countries
- Promoting People-to-People Exchanges Under the Greater BRICS Cooperation Framework
 - Strengthening People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges with SCO Member States
- Launching and Hosting Multilateral Activities on Dialogue Among Civilizations in China

05 Advancing Multilateral Cooperation on Dialogue Among Civilizations

(I) Deepening Inter-Civilization Dialogue with Belt and Road Partner Countries

China has always upheld the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit, and worked with all parties to build the Belt and Road into a road connecting different civilizations.^① In the autumn of 2013, President Xi Jinping successively put forward two major initiatives: jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. At the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, President Xi Jinping noted that, “We should build the Belt and Road into a road connecting different civilizations. In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we should ensure that, when it comes to different civilizations, exchange will replace estrangement, mutual learning will replace clashes, and coexistence will replace a sense of superiority. This will boost mutual

^① Xi Jinping Stresses Firm Strategic Confidence, Courageous Responsibility, and Comprehensively Advancing High-Quality Development of the Belt and Road Initiative at the Fourth Symposium on Belt and Road Construction, Chinese Government Website, December 2, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202412/content_6990603.htm.



understanding, mutual respect, and mutual trust among different countries”.^① China has promoted the establishment of the Silk Road International League of Theaters, the Silk Road International Alliance of Museums, the Silk Road International Arts Festival Alliance, the Silk Road International Library Alliance, the Silk Road International Alliance of Art Museums and Galleries, and the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities, and has set up platforms such as the Belt and Road Economic Information Partnership, the Publishing Cooperation Body of Belt and Road Partner Countries, and the International Think Tank Cooperation Committee. Cooperation in education, science, culture, health, sports, tourism and other fields has expanded widely; exchanges among parliaments, political parties and non-governmental organizations of partner countries have grown stronger; and exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations have advanced alongside economic cooperation. Practice has shown that the Belt and Road Initiative follows the laws governing the development of civilizations, respects the diversity of civilizations, promotes shared civilizational values and shared civilizational achievements, and has opened a broad path toward a better world.^②

Since the launch of the GCI, China has further deepened inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations with Belt and Road partner countries, building a bridge that brings people across nations closer together. At the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in October 2023, President Xi Jinping solemnly announced eight major steps China would take to support high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, among which was support for people-to-people exchanges.^③ China has continued to deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations through Belt and Road cooperation, regularly conducting discussions on mutual recognition in education, multilateral coordination in culture and tourism, people-to-people friendship exchanges, and academic visits, while continuously expanding practical cooperation with partner countries in such fields as cultural inheritance, educational connectivity, media communication, youth exchanges, heritage protection, and think tank research, thereby building solid civilizational

^① Xi Jinping Attends the Opening Ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and Delivers a Keynote Speech, Chinese Government Website, May 14, 2017, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2017-05/14/content_5193673.htm#1.

^② See Building the Belt and Road into a Road of Civilizations — Promoting High-Quality Development of Belt and Road Cooperation (VI), People's Daily, October 19, 2023, p. 5.

^③ Xi Jinping, Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World for Common Development — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, October 18, 2023, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/202310/t20231018_11162839.shtml.

synergy and a broad public foundation for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

China has continued to provide important platforms for inter-civilization dialogue, exchanges, and mutual learning, fostering ever-deepening mutual enrichment among the world's civilizations. In October 2023, the Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals Forum was held in Shanghai, where members of the Alliance jointly signed the Shanghai Consensus of the Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals. The Alliance has grown from its initial 22 members from 18 countries and regions to 196 members from 51 countries and regions, becoming the world's largest comprehensive platform for arts festival cooperation across borders, countries, and continents.^① In September 2016, the Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo was held for the first time and released the Dunhuang Declaration. Having been held for eight editions to date, the Expo has carried out a series of activities, including cultural forums, exhibitions and performances, cultural trade, and cooperation and exchanges, around topics such as the Belt and Road, Dunhuang studies, Silk Road cultural exchanges and cooperation, heritage protection, cultural creativity, and negotiation and signing of cultural tourism projects,^② providing a high-level platform for exchanges and cooperation among Belt and Road partner countries.

China has continued to promote cooperation in tourism, exhibitions, education, and other fields through various forms, building diverse and vibrant people-to-people communication bridges for international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. In September 2023, the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities was established and released the Jingdezhen Declaration. As of September 2025, the Alliance had attracted 83 well-known tourist cities from 33 countries, becoming an exchange mechanism for policy connectivity, industrial cooperation, and information

^① See The "Shanghai Consensus of the Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals" Signed: Starting from the Confluence of "One River and One Creek" to Jointly Build a New Cultural and Artistic Silk Road, *Wenhui Daily*, October 20, 2023, p. 5; Promoting Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and Expanding Space for Cooperation: The "Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals Outstanding Contribution Award" Presented in Shanghai, *Jiefang Daily*, October 18, 2025, p. 2.

^② See Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo, Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo Website, January 15, 2024, <https://www.gswbj.gov.cn/a/2024/01/15/19619.html>; Sharing a Silk Road Cultural Feast and Jointly Promoting Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations — Highlights of the Eighth Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo, Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism Website, September 24, 2025, https://www.mct.gov.cn/whzx/qgwhxxlb/gs/202509/t20250924_962372.htm.



sharing among tourist cities of different countries.^① In May 2017, the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road was established. To date, four IAMS conferences have been held, the IAMS—Hangzhou Declaration has been released, and the Alliance’s total membership has reached 180. The Alliance has carried out extensive work in many areas, including improving mechanisms, jointly organizing exhibitions, conducting cultural heritage research, promoting academic exchanges, strengthening communication and outreach, and cultivating talent, thereby enhancing cultural exchanges, dialogue, and cooperation among countries.^② In August 2016, the Silk Road Television Community was established, becoming the world’s first all-media international film and television media alliance connected by the “Silk Road”. As of December 2025, the Community Summit Forum had been held for eight editions, and the Community’s members and partners had grown to 149 institutions from 64 countries and regions, providing a broad platform for promoting film and television exchanges and cooperation among national media organizations.^③ The Chinese government scholarship Silk Road Program trains talent for Belt and Road partner countries through three models: ministry-level cooperation, provincial-ministerial cooperation, and university cooperation. It supports universities with disciplinary strengths and a foundation for international cooperation in proactively aligning with the needs and development strategies of Belt and Road partner countries, and in cultivating talent in four major sectors: high and new technology, basic energy, modern services, and policy and finance. An intellectual Silk Road rich in language, culture, and technology has crossed the boundaries of time and space and overcome language barriers, becoming a vibrant bond connecting countries around the world.^④

^① About the Alliance, Website of International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities, <https://www.cice.org.cn/portal/site/zongzhan/special/2026/2026lylm/index.html>.

^② Exploring the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road, *Outlook Weekly*, Nos. 7–8, 2024; International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road Adds Eight New Members, Bringing Total Membership to 180, China News Service, October 19, 2025, <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/gn/2025/10-19/10501226.shtml>.

^③ Empowered by Intelligent Media, Opening a New Chapter for the Maritime Silk Road! The 2025 Silk Road Television Community Summit Forum Held in Yangjiang, Guangdong, CCTV.com, December 7, 2025, <https://www.cctv.cn/2025/12/07/ARTI9RLKcktpCnGvujrwWXhM251207.shtml>.

^④ Advancing High-Quality Educational Action for Belt and Road Cooperation — Written on the Occasion of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Chinese Ministry of Education Website, October 17, 2023, http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/moe_2082/2023/2023_zl16/202310/t20231017_1085987.html.

(II) Promoting People-to-People Exchanges Under the Greater BRICS Cooperation Framework

China upholds the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness, cooperation, and win-win cooperation, promotes the building of “a BRICS committed to closer people-to-people exchanges”, and acts as an advocate for harmonious coexistence among all civilizations. At successive BRICS Summits, President Xi Jinping has put forward important propositions such as “respecting the diversity of civilizations” and “building a partnership for promoting diverse civilizations”, and made important suggestions such as “further expanding people-to-people exchanges and cooperation” and “leveraging ‘BRICS Plus’ cooperation as a platform to increase exchanges and dialogue with other civilizations and countries”, providing theoretical guidance for BRICS countries to strengthen people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and enhancing BRICS cooperation through a people-to-people dimension. In 2017, with China’s efforts, the Ninth BRICS Summit upgraded the mechanism for the first time into a three-pillar cooperation architecture consisting of political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges, establishing the people-to-people bedrock for BRICS cooperation as it entered its second “golden decade”.

Since the GCI was proposed, President Xi Jinping has further put forward new concepts and propositions such as “a BRICS committed to closer people-to-people exchanges” at successive BRICS leaders’ meetings, continuously injecting the substance of mutual learning among civilizations into BRICS cooperation. In 2023, President Xi Jinping pointed out that “BRICS countries need to champion the spirit of inclusiveness, advocate peaceful coexistence and harmony between civilizations”^①. In 2024, President Xi Jinping put forward for the first time the important proposition of building “a BRICS committed to closer people-to-people exchanges”, calling on BRICS countries to act as advocates for harmonious coexistence among all civilizations^②, thereby pointing the way for BRICS people-to-people and cultural cooperation in the new era. He later further emphasized at the “BRICS Plus” leaders’ dialogue that BRICS Plus cooperation should “promote the flourishing of all civilizations and achieve harmony in

^① Xi Jinping, Seeking Development Through Solidarity and Cooperation and Shouldering Our Responsibility for Peace — Remarks at the 15th BRICS Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China website, August 23, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/fz_677316/1206_678284/xgxw_678290/202308/t20230823_11130905.shtml.

^② Xi Jinping Attends the 16th BRICS Summit and Makes an Important Statement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China website, October 23, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/zyxw/202410/t20241023_11514872.shtml.



diversity”, and “be a force for promoting mutual learning among civilizations, enhance communication and dialogue, and support one another in pursuing modernization paths suited to national conditions”^①, providing action guidance for Greater BRICS cooperation at the people-to-people and cultural level.

China has continued, within the framework of greater BRICS cooperation, to strengthen mutual learning among civilizations and carry out exchanges of experience in governance with other BRICS countries. China has worked with other BRICS countries to hold a series of institutional meetings, including the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, the Meeting of Heads of BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions, the BRICS Legal Forum, the BRICS Chief Justices Forum, and the BRICS Prosecutors General Meeting, as well as the BRICS Seminar on Governance and People-to-People Exchanges Forum, promoting exchanges of experience, consensus-building, and deeper cooperation among governments, legislatures, political parties, and other actors in dialogue on governance. In June 2025, the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was successfully held in Brasilia. The Forum also held, in parallel, the BRICS Women Parliamentarians’ Meeting and the Meeting of Chairs of International Affairs Committees of BRICS Parliaments, becoming a best practice for BRICS members to share views and experience in parliamentary work.

China has continued to work with other BRICS members to explore cooperation potential in fields such as youth, women, education, sports, art, and local exchanges, and to promote more diverse pathways and approaches for cooperation. Relying on mechanisms such as the Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Youth Affairs and the BRICS Youth Council, member countries have held the BRICS Youth Summit, the BRICS Youth Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Young Scientist Forum, established the Youth Innovation Award, and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Youth Affairs, promoting the institutionalized and specialized development of youth exchanges. They have held the BRICS Women’s Affairs Ministers’ Meeting to deepen exchanges and cooperation in the field of women. The BRICS Ministers of Education Meeting adopted documents including the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance Charter, and established mechanisms such as the BRICS Network University, the BRICS University League, and the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance, promoting the institutionalized and systematic development of cooperation in education and scientific research. Member countries have held institutional exchange

^① Xi Jinping Attends the “BRICS Plus” Dialogue and Delivers Important Remarks, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China website, October 24, 2024, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/oz_678770/1206_679110/xgxw_679116/202410/t20241024_11515631.shtml.

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

Dialogue Among Civilizations Resonates with the “BRICS Spirit”

On June 27, 2025, the BRICS Special Session of the Dialogue Among Civilizations Series, under the theme of “Strengthening BRICS People-to-People Bonds and Empowering a Brighter Future for the Global South”, was held at the State University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, bringing together more than 300 participants, including experts, scholars, renowned athletes, and youth representatives from BRICS countries such as China, Brazil, Russia, South Africa, and India. A number of sports champions, business representatives, and young talents from BRICS countries shared moving stories, based on their personal experiences, of the peoples of BRICS countries pursuing development and prosperity together through perseverance, hard work, solidarity, and cooperation.



The opening site of the BRICS Special Session of the Dialogue Among Civilizations Series.
(Photo Source: China Daily Website)

The event also featured a range of highly immersive and interactive cultural displays. The displays included “The Declaration of Civilization: A Beautiful Scroll Painting of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind I”, “The Warmth of the World: BRICS Lifestyle Photo Exhibition”, the BRICS lifestyle photo exhibition “Temperature of the World”, the Lingnan cultural innovation exhibition “See you in Guangdong: Lingnan Cultural Innovation Exhibition”, “Essence of China: Exploring the Culture of Traditional Chinese Medicine”, and “Revitalizing Craftsmanship: BRICS Interactive Experience of Intangible Cultural Heritage”. Audiences experienced the charm of diverse civilizations in immersive settings, with a steady flow of visitors and a lively atmosphere on site.

The “Third Latin America China Cultural Tour · Brazil Stop” also opened in São Paulo on June 28, featuring book and cultural creative product exhibitions, intangible cultural heritage performances, and copyright matchmaking and negotiations. A series of activities of the “China-LAC Joint Research Center for Cooperation on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations” was held in Rio de Janeiro from July 4 to 5. This series of BRICS people-to-people and cultural exchange activities represented not only a dialogue of civilizations across mountains and seas, but also a vivid portrayal of Global South countries advancing hand in hand and pursuing development together.

Compiled from China Daily Website, Dialogue Among Civilizations Series (BRICS Special Session) Successfully Held in Brazil, June 27, 2025, <https://ex.chinadaily.com.cn/exchange/partners/82/rss/channel/cn/columns/h72unc/stories/WS68625643a3106af2b3c71b60.html>.



activities such as the BRICS Urbanization Forum and the BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum, strongly promoting local and urban cooperation among BRICS countries. The BRICS Ministers of Culture Meeting formulated and implemented the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2022-2026), held the Dialogue Among Civilizations Series (BRICS Special Session), the BRICS Games, cultural festivals, film festivals, and the Media and Think Tank Forum, and established the BRICS Alliance for Folk Dance Culture, the BRICS Library Alliance, the BRICS Museums Alliance, the BRICS Alliance of Art Museums and Galleries, and the BRICS Alliance of Theaters for Children and Young People, promoting exchanges in culture, sports, and tourism and strongly consolidating the public foundation for BRICS cooperation.

(III) Strengthening People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges with SCO Member States

China has continued to strengthen cultural exchanges with SCO member states within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to carry forward the “Shanghai Spirit”. Born in China and originating from the successful practice of the Shanghai Five, the SCO has as its soul the “Shanghai Spirit” of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations, and pursuit of common development. Transcending the concept of the clash of civilizations, the Cold War mentality, and zero-sum games, it has created a new type of international relations featuring partnership over alliance. Since the establishment of the SCO, China has always worked with SCO member states to carry forward the “Shanghai Spirit”, promote equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations of member states, expand people-to-people and cultural cooperation, and strengthen the public support for relations among countries.

Since the GCI was proposed, China has continued to follow the “Shanghai Spirit” and work with other member states to place greater emphasis on civilizational aspects within SCO people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. In 2023, at the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, President Xi Jinping pointed out that “the SCO has kept up with the trend of the times, embraced the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, carried forward the ‘Shanghai Spirit’, and built an SCO community with a shared future”, and called on “all parties to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the inclusive coexistence of different civilizations, and enhance mutual

understanding and friendship among peoples of all countries”.^① In 2024, President Xi Jinping further pointed out that the “Shanghai Spirit” had become a shared value and guiding principle for action among member states, and that they should “continue to hold high the banner of the ‘Shanghai Spirit’, support each other, and help one another succeed”.^② He emphasized that “dialogue among civilizations plays an increasingly important role in promoting world peace and harmony”, and that member states should, through dialogue among civilizations, “build a common home of good-neighborliness and friendship”.^③ In 2025, President Xi Jinping again pointed out that the SCO had succeeded because it practiced the “Shanghai Spirit”, and proposed that member states “enhance mutual understanding and friendship through people-to-people and cultural exchanges, give each other strong support in economic cooperation, and work together to cultivate a flourishing garden of civilizations where each side develops itself while helping others, appreciates the beauty of all civilizations, and lives in harmony and coexistence”.^④

^① Xi Jinping, Staying True to Our Founding Mission and Advancing Unity and Coordination to Realize Greater Development — Statement at the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 4, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202307/t20230704_11107586.shtml.

^② Xi Jinping Attends the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 4, 2024, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/zyxw/202407/t20240704_11448285.shtml.

^③ Xi Jinping, Joining Hands to Build a More Beautiful Home Of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization — Statement at the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus” Meeting in Astana, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 4, 2024, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/zyxw/202407/t20240704_11448356.shtml

^④ Xi Jinping, Staying True to SCO Founding Mission And Ushering in a Better Future — Statement at the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, September 1, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjb_673085/zzjg_673183/xws_674681/xgxw_674683/202509/t20250901_11699331.shtml.



Art Bringing Together the Momentum for Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

On July 7, 2025, the opening ceremony of the SCO Member States Art Festival and Youth Concert was successfully held in Qingdao, Shandong Province. The festival continued until the end of August, during which art troupes from China, Belarus, Russia, and other countries staged a series of performances and artistic exchanges in Qingdao. The performances were selected and presented by SCO member states, covering forms such as pop songs, ethnic songs and dances, string music, and opera excerpts.



On July 7, 2025, the opening ceremony of the SCO Member States Art Festival and Youth Concert was held at Xunmeng Embankment of the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center in Qingdao, Shandong Province. (Photo Source: Website of the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization)

The event was one of the activities held during China's rotating presidency of the SCO for 2024–2025. The SCO Member States Art Festival began in 2005 and is a flagship multilateral cultural exchange activity within the SCO framework. As one of the largest, most frequently held, and most influential flagship multilateral cultural exchange activities within the SCO framework, the opening ceremony and youth concert of this year's festival was not only a concentrated showcase of national-level artistic achievements, but also a resonance of hearts across mountains and seas. This “harmony of mountains and seas” resounding in Qingdao will surely further strengthen the bond of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and inject surging and enduring youth strength and cultural momentum into the building of a closer SCO community with a shared future.

Compiled from the Website of the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, 2025 SCO Member States Art Festival Opens in Qingdao, July 7, 2025, <https://www.scochina2025.org.cn/n1/2025/0714/c460264-40521306.html>; Shandong Provincial Development and Reform Commission Website, 2025 SCO Member States Art Festival Opens in Qingdao, July 8, 2025, http://fgw.shandong.gov.cn/art/2025/7/8/art_92527_678481.html.

China supports the peoples of SCO member states in enhancing mutual understanding, and has continued to provide them with platforms for mutual understanding, mutual learning, and mutual respect. Since the GCI was proposed China has worked with SCO member states to hold a series of people-to-people and cultural exchange activities within the SCO framework, creating well-recognized and memorable flagship projects. At successive meetings of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO, President Xi Jinping has made major commitments on multiple batches of people-to-people cooperation projects, including expanding scholarships and quotas for youth, cultural, and technical training exchanges for member states, implementing an innovative doctoral training program, and building “Luban Workshops”, as well as hosting flagship activities such as the Traditional Medicine Forum, the People-to-People Friendship Forum, youth exchange camps, and youth development forums.

China has worked with SCO member states, through women, youth, people-to-people diplomacy institutions, cultural centers, and mass media, to strengthen cooperation in areas such as governance, science, education, culture, health, sports, tourism, and local exchanges, promoting deeper mutual learning among civilizations and common development. Member states have held dialogue and exchange activities such as the SCO Forum on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development, the SCO Women's Forum, the SCO Political Parties Forum, the SCO Countries Dialogue Among Civilizations, the SCO Media and Think Tank Summit, and the SCO Countries Green Development Forum, continuously strengthening exchanges on governance; they have held a series of activities under the 2024–2025 “SCO Youth Entrepreneurship International Incubator” project and the SCO Youth Leaders and Talents Meeting, strengthening youth cooperation and promoting exchanges among youth organizations; they have held the SCO Kunming Marathon, the Issyk-Kul Marathon, and the SCO Cup Tennis Friendship Tournament, and advanced the development of the China-SCO Ice and Snow Sports Demonstration Zone in Heilongjiang; they have held the SCO Member States (Qingdao) Art Festival, the SCO Countries Television Festival, and the “International Vision” International Music Competition in Moscow, continuously deepening cooperation in sports, culture, tourism, media, and radio, television and audiovisual fields; they have accelerated efforts to improve the work of SCO University and advanced the China-initiated “Digital Education Alliance of SCO Countries”, deepening cooperation in education and innovating educational exchanges; relying on people-to-people diplomacy institutions and social friendship organizations such as the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in China, the Center for People's Diplomacy of the Shanghai



Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan, the Center for the Integration of SCO Countries and Silk Road Cultures in Kyrgyzstan, the SCO Center for Friendship and Cooperation in Tajikistan, and the Center for People's Diplomacy of the SCO in Russia, as well as channels of sister cities and local governments, they have leveraged the role of the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area to expand local cooperation and enhance people-to-people friendship.

(IV) Launching and Hosting Multilateral Activities on Dialogue Among Civilizations in China

1. Hosting the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting

From July 10 to 11, 2025, China hosted the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting in Beijing. Political party leaders, government ministers, and representatives from various sectors from more than 140 countries engaged in in-depth exchanges under the theme of “Safeguarding Diversity of Human Civilizations for World Peace and Development”, and reached broad consensus.

President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the meeting. He underscored that “the world is, in nature, a place of diverse civilizations”. “History shows that exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations are essential for civilizations to flourish and for human progress to be made”; “currently, amid an international situation where transformations and turbulence are interwoven and humanity stands at a new crossroads, there is an ever-pressing need for civilizations to transcend estrangement through exchanges, and to transcend clashes through mutual learning”; and that “China is ready to work with other countries to uphold the vision of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness between civilizations, act on the Global Civilization Initiative, promote the building of a global network for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, and inject new impetus into the progress of human civilization and the peace and development of the world”.^①

The *Beijing Declaration of the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting* was adopted. The Declaration states that “exchanges and mutual learning among

^① Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 10, 2025, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/gjldrhd_674881/202507/t20250710_11668739.shtml.

civilizations are an important driving force for the progress of human civilization and the peace and development of the world. Different countries and nations should uphold equality and respect, support one another in independently choosing development paths and models, jointly safeguard the diversity of civilizations, and promote exchanges and dialogue, inclusiveness and mutual learning, and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations”. All parties stressed that they are willing to take this Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting as an opportunity to continue carrying out dialogue among civilizations at multiple levels and in multiple fields, further enrich the content of exchanges, broaden channels for cooperation, improve mechanisms and platforms, explore the building of a global network for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, unleash inexhaustible momentum for civilizational progress, and jointly paint a new picture of human civilization. All parties sincerely thanked China for its great efforts in hosting the meeting, commended China’s important contributions to deepening exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and expressed their willingness to work with China to implement the GCI and make positive contributions to promoting the common prosperity of world civilizations and building a community with a shared future for mankind.^①

The *List of Action Plans*, covering 110 outcomes, was also adopted. Among them, a number of outcomes are specifically aimed at promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and civilizations dialogue among Global South countries: over the next five years, 50 development cooperation projects in the fields of culture and civilization will be implemented in accordance with the actual needs of developing countries; over the next five years, 200 specialized training and seminar programs on mutual learning among civilizations and cultural exchanges will be held for developing countries; development cooperation in the fields of culture and civilization will be supported through the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund.^②

Participants generally believed that, after its proposal, the GCI has gained growing recognition from the international community, developed into a global consensus, and continued to be translated into vivid exploration and practice, gathering civilizational strength for promoting human peace and development and injecting stability and

^① Beijing Declaration of the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting (Full Text), Chinese Government Website, July 11, 2025, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202507/content_7031618.htm.

^② *List of Action Plans* of the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, Chinese Government Website, July 11, 2025, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202507/content_7031643.htm.



certainty into the world. The Our View of Civilizations: A Global Public Opinions Survey Research Report, released during the meeting, shows that the GCI has received a high level of recognition among respondents: 90.8 percent of respondents agreed that “respecting diversity is a fundamental principle that the international community should follow”, and 91.8 percent agreed that “relations between different cultures should be primarily based on win-win cooperation rather than confrontation”, indicating that core concepts such as diversity of civilizations, dialogue on an equal footing, and win-win cooperation have become a broad consensus in the international community.^①

2. Hosting the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations

In May 2019, China successfully hosted the first Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in Beijing, aiming to provide a platform for mutual learning among civilizations in Asia and beyond. President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Conference, stating that “to meet our common challenges and create a better future for all, we look to culture and civilization to play their role, which is as important as the role played by economy, science and technology. The Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations is convened just for this purpose, as it creates a new platform for civilizations in Asia and beyond to engage in dialogue and exchanges on an equal footing to facilitate mutual learning”.^② Under the theme of “Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Asian Civilizations and a Community with a Shared Future”, the Conference attracted more than 2,000 participants from 47 Asian countries and beyond, and featured a wide range of activities, including the opening ceremony, parallel sub-forums, an Asian culture carnival, and an Asian civilization week, covering culture, art, tourism, education, youth exchanges, and other fields. The Conference clearly advocated exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Through immersive experiences such as cultural relic exhibitions, artistic performances, and food festivals, it proactively offered China’s solution for equal dialogue and harmonious coexistence among Asia’s diverse civilizations, promoted mutual understanding and emotional bonds among peoples of different countries, and contributed Eastern wisdom

^① Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting Held — Building Consensus Among Civilizations and Jointly Promoting Peace and Development, People’s Daily, July 12, 2025, p. 3.

^② Xi Jinping, Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations For an Asian Community with a Shared Future — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, Chinese Government Website, May 15, 2019, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-05/15/content_5391787.htm.

to building an open and inclusive international order.

3. Hosting the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women

In October 2025, the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women was held in Beijing. President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the Meeting and delivered a keynote address, pointing out that “women play an important role in creating, promoting and carrying forward human civilization” and that “over the past 30 years, guided by the spirit of the Beijing World Conference on Women, the cause of women has been thriving around the world, adding brilliant splendor to the progress of human civilization”.^① Heads of state, heads of government, parliamentary leaders, deputy prime minister-level officials, ministerial representatives, heads of United Nations agencies and international organizations, foreign envoys to China, and others from more than 110 countries attended the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Chair's Statement of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, which stated that “all parties highly commended the important speech delivered by President Xi Jinping, emphasized that women play an irreplaceable role in human civilization and social progress, and noted that the pursuit of gender equality and women's development is a noble ideal of human society, an important benchmark of social civilization and progress, a key factor in achieving sustainable development, and a shared responsibility of the international community”.[Chair's Statement of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, Chinese Government Website, October 13, 2025, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202510/content_7044144.htm.] The Meeting built international consensus and drew a new blueprint for the development of the global women's cause, strongly accelerated the new process of women's all-round development, and promoted joint efforts to create a better future for human civilization.

4. Establishing the Liangzhu Forum

In October 2023, at the opening ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, President Xi Jinping solemnly announced that “China will hold the Liangzhu Forum to enhance dialogue on civilizations with BRI partner

^① Xi Jinping, Carrying Forward the Spirit of the Beijing World Conference on Women and Promoting the New and Accelerated Process for Women's All-Round Development — Keynote Address at the Opening Ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women, Chinese Government Website, October 13, 2025, https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/2025/issue_12366/202510/content_7046045.html.



countries”.^① In December 2023, the first Liangzhu Forum was held in Hangzhou, China. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Forum, emphasizing that he hoped “all parties will make the best of the platform of the Liangzhu Forum, further the dialogue with partner countries of the Belt and Road Initiative, implement the GCI, strengthen exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations, carry forward the vision of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations, promote different civilizations to live in harmony and reinforce one another, and enhance friendship and mutual understanding and affection between people of different countries”.^② The first Liangzhu Forum carried out in-depth theoretical research on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, explored practical pathways, planned directions for cooperation, and built consensus among cultural communities of various countries on jointly implementing the GCI.^③ In November 2024 and October 2025, the second and third Liangzhu Forums were held in succession, with renowned experts and scholars, cultural heritage institutions, and archaeological institutions from around the world participating, providing a new high-quality platform for promoting dialogue between Chinese and foreign civilizations. Since 2023, the Liangzhu Forum had attracted a total of more than 1,300 guests from 115 countries and regions, sharing the achievements of Liangzhu cultural heritage protection and experience in world cultural heritage management.

5. Establishing the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

China established the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations in 2019, and four editions have been successfully held. In July 2023, the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and the First World Conference of Sinologists were held in Beijing. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the event, emphasizing that “China is ready to work with all parties to champion the common values of humanity, namely, peace,

^①Xi Jinping, Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World for Common Development — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Chinese Government Website, October 18, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202310/content_6909882.htm?os=win&ref=app.

^② Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to First Liangzhu Forum, Chinese Government Website, December 3, 2023, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202312/content_6918266.htm.

^③ See The Second ‘Liangzhu Forum’ | In the Name of the Humanities, Seeking Resonance with a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, Liangzhu Museum Website, November 26, 2024, <https://www.lzmuseum.cn/LiangBoXinWen/2024444652446.html>.

development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, and implement the Global Civilization Initiative. We should break the estrangement through exchanges, prevent their clash through mutual learning, and overcome a false sense of superiority through inclusiveness. Let us work together to promote the progress of human civilization”.^① In May 2025, the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations was held in Dunhuang, China. Each edition of the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations has attracted political party leaders, prominent scholars, cultural figures, and representatives of non-governmental organizations from various countries, and has gradually become an important mechanism for building international consensus and promoting cross-civilizational cooperation, effectively advancing cultural communication between China and the rest of the world and enhancing understanding, friendship, and cooperation.

6. Hosting the World Conference of Classics

In November 2024, the inaugural World Conference of Classics was held in Beijing. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the Conference, emphasizing that “China is actively promoting cultural preservation and development, enhancing international people-to-people exchanges, and facilitating inter-civilization dialogue across the globe. China believes that it is important to seek wisdom and nourishment from different civilizations, and stands ready to work with all parties to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, address various challenges facing humanity, and promote the development and progress of human civilization”.^② Under the theme “Classical Civilizations and the Modern World”, the Conference aimed, from the perspective of classical civilization studies, to trace the origins of human thought, summarize the wisdom of human history, and explore the traditions of human civilization, thereby strengthening the theoretical foundation for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, offering wisdom and insight for addressing the problems of the modern world, injecting intellectual impetus into human development and progress, implementing the GCI, and promoting the building of a community with a shared

^① Xi Jinping Sends Congratulatory Letter to the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations and the First World Conference of Sinologists, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, July 3, 2023, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/wjdt_674879/gjldrhd_674881/202307/t20230703_11106974.shtml.

^② Xi Sends Congratulatory Letter to Inaugural World Conference of Classics, Chinese Government Website, November 7, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202411/content_6985390.htm.



future for mankind. The Conference widely invited representatives from countries around the world and relevant international organizations, as well as renowned experts and scholars from various countries. Nearly 200 foreign guests from well-known universities, think tanks, and research institutions in 30 countries attended the Conference, which provided an important platform for deepening dialogue among civilizations and building intellectual consensus.

7. Initiating the Ancient Civilizations Forum

In 2017, China and Greece jointly initiated the Ancient Civilizations Forum, whose founding members also included several countries with ancient civilizations, such as Bolivia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Italy, and Peru. As a platform for dialogue and cultural cooperation among participating countries, the Forum aims to revitalize historical civilizations and traditions in the development of contemporary society through dialogue and exchanges, and to play a positive role in promoting mutual understanding and inclusiveness among different civilizations, races, and religions.^① The Forum places emphasis on strengthening cooperation and coordination with the United Nations system, especially UNESCO, and stresses that all parties should conduct dialogue and consultations on important issues related to the protection of cultural heritage.^②

As a founding member of the Forum, China has actively used the Forum as an opportunity to promote exchanges and mutual learning among major civilizations, and has encouraged the Forum to respond to and support the establishment by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations, creating positive interaction. In April 2017, the first ministerial conference of the Forum was held in Athens, Greece. Then Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos attended and addressed the meeting, while Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, then Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias, and representatives of other countries with ancient

^① Third Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum Successfully Held in Beijing, People's Daily Online, November 30, 2019, <http://culture.people.com.cn/n1/2019/1130/c1013-31483123.html>.

^② Athens Declaration on the establishment of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, April 28, 2017, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjlb_673085/zjzg_673183/xos_673625/xwlb_673627/201704/t20170428_7638823.shtml.

civilizations gathered together and jointly issued the Athens Declaration.^① Wang Yi delivered a speech entitled “Generate New Energy of the Ancient Civilizations, Co-build a Community of Common Destiny”, putting forward three proposals: taking inheritance as a responsibility and advocating inclusive and common progress among civilizations; using dialogue as a bridge to safeguard international peace and stability; and taking cooperation as a driving force to promote world development and progress.^② All parties unanimously emphasized that ancient civilizations transcend time and space, exert broad influence, and have always played a decisive role in the development of humanity; and that advancing international cooperation initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative plays an important role in promoting dialogue among civilizations and achieving people-to-people connectivity. In October 2019, “Taihe Forum: Scholars’ Forum of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum” opened at the Palace Museum. Under the theme “Protecting the Heritage of Human Civilization and Promoting Its Sustainable Development”, the event studied and discussed issues concerning the protection and sustainable development of the heritage of human civilization.^③ In November, the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Forum in Beijing deliberated and adopted the “Beijing Declaration”, reaffirming the commitment to “continue working toward building a community of ancient civilizations with shared goals and creating development opportunities through cooperation and innovation; advance consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, promote dialogue, equality and inclusiveness among cultures, foster cultural exchanges, support and protect cultural rights, and enhance people-to-people connectivity”.^④

Since the GCI was proposed, the Ancient Civilizations Forum has achieved richer

^① Athens Declaration on the establishment of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, April 28, 2017, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjlb_673085/zjzg_673183/xos_673625/xwlb_673627/201704/t20170428_7638823.shtml.

^② Wang Yi, Generate New Energy of the Ancient Civilizations, Co-build a Community of Common Destiny — Speech at the 1st Ministerial Conference of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, April 25, 2017, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/oz_678770/1206_679834/1209_679844/201704/t20170425_9351215.shtml.

^③ The Third “Scholars’ Forum of the Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum” Held at the Palace Museum, Palace Museum Website, October 28, 2019, https://www.dpm.org.cn/classify_detail/250451.html.

^④ Third Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum Adopts the “Beijing Declaration”, National Cultural Heritage Administration of China, December 2, 2019, http://www.ncha.gov.cn/art/2019/12/2/art_722_157715.html.



outcomes in building consensus on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and carrying out practical cooperation. In December 2023, the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum was held in Tehran, Iran, where all parties exchanged views in depth on issues such as strengthening cultural exchanges and cooperation, advancing the protection of cultural heritage, and pursuing the recovery of lost cultural relics. In September 2025, China stated at the Foreign Ministers Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum that “all parties should take the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations as an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to promoting exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations”, and that “the Forum should further promote practical cooperation within itself, while seeking greater synergy with other multilateral mechanisms, so as to further expand its appeal and influence”.^① In December, the Ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum was held in Athens, Greece. The meeting held discussions on issues such as “combating illicit trafficking in cultural property” and “addressing the impact of climate change on cultural heritage”, and adopted the outcome document “Athens Declaration”.

8. Hosting the Global Mayors Dialogue

To better unleash the vitality and strengths of local and people-to-people participation in international communication and accelerate the building of a multi-channel and multidimensional international communication framework, China began hosting the “Global Mayors Dialogue” in September 2024. As of June 2026, 12 sessions of the series had been held successively in Hangzhou, Nanning, Shanghai, Tianjin, Qingdao, Dunhuang, Jingdezhen, Zhengzhou, and Nanjing, inviting more than 160 overseas city mayors or mayoral representatives, diplomatic envoys in China, and heads of international organizations to participate in dialogue, with cities as the stage and mayors as the protagonists, building a flagship activity for China-foreign people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation.

^① Remarks by Ambassador Sun Lei at the Foreign Ministers Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, September 24, 2025, https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/chinaandun/socialhr/202509/t20250924_11716245.htm.

**China's Actions for Advancing
Global Dialogue Among Civilizations**

06

Integrating Dialogue Among Civilizations into Exchanges and Cooperation Across Various Fields

- Vigorously Deepening Exchanges Among Political Parties on Governance Experience
- Carrying Out Extensive International People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges
- Continuously Deepening People-to-People Exchanges and Subnational Cooperation

06

Integrating Dialogue Among Civilizations into Exchanges and Cooperation Across Various Fields

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations are an important drive for progress of human civilizations and world peace and development.^① China actively advocates and promotes dialogue among civilizations across various fields, and advances mutual understanding and affinity among peoples of all countries on the basis of equality and respect, so that dialogue among civilizations becomes an enduring force that leads humanity toward harmony, cooperation, and mutual appreciation of all civilizations.

(I) Vigorously Deepening Exchanges Among Political Parties on Governance Experience

Political parties play an important role in political matters of a country and serve as an important force for advancing human civilization. China has all along combined dialogue among civilizations with exchanges of experience in party governance and state governance, carried out discussions on exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations in interactions among political parties and parliaments, and built multilevel and multidimensional exchange platforms and mechanisms. Since the GCI

^① Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At UNESCO Headquarters (Full Text), Chinese Government Website, March 28, 2014, https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-03/28/content_2648480.htm.



was proposed, the Communist Party of China has acted in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, further strengthened discussions with political parties and political organizations of other countries on jointly exploring paths to modernization, and advanced hand in hand with them on the journey toward building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Second Meeting of the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue

In November 2025, the Second Meeting of the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue was held in Qingdao, Shandong Province, under the theme of “Advancing Common Modernization Through High-Quality Development: Political Parties in Action”. Around 150 Chinese and foreign representatives, including leaders of more than 20 political parties from the five Central Asian countries and diplomatic envoys in China, attended the meeting, conducted in-depth exchanges on topics such as “modern governance capacity of political parties” and “promoting high-quality cooperation through ‘political party plus’”, and carried out field visits and exchange meetings on poverty reduction, ecological governance, and other topics.

Leaders of political parties from the five Central Asian countries unanimously expressed their willingness to work with the Communist Party of China to fully implement the consensus reached by the heads of state at the Second China-Central Asia Summit. The adoption of the recommendations for the 15th Five-Year Plan at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee marks an important milestone in the process of Chinese modernization. Through visits to various places in Shandong, they witnessed China’s great achievements in ecological governance, poverty eradication, and other areas. The Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people to achieve significant results in promoting high-quality development and advancing Chinese modernization, providing useful inspiration and important opportunities for the modernization of Central Asian countries. The four major global initiatives and other important propositions put forward by President Xi Jinping have provided important solutions for addressing various challenges facing today’s world. Political parties of Central Asian countries cherish their friendly relations with the Communist Party of China, and are willing to strengthen exchanges of governance experience through platforms such as the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue, promote cooperation in fields such as Belt and Road cooperation, and work together to advance the path toward common modernization.

Compiled from the Website of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Second Meeting of the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue Held, November 3, 2025, https://www.idcpc.gov.cn/bzhd/wshd/202511/t20251103_168081.html.

Deepening exchanges and mutual learning on governance experience. The Communist Party of China has always attached importance to exchanges and dialogue with political parties of other countries, and has actively drawn on and absorbed all outstanding achievements of human civilization. Since the GCI was proposed, the Communist Party of China has strengthened the sharing of experience in party and state governance with political parties of other countries, worked with them to improve their own development, enhance governance capacity, and better benefit the people. In June 2023 and November 2025, the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue was held twice, providing an important platform for China and Central Asian countries to deepen political mutual trust, strengthen strategic alignment, and pursue development and revitalization.^① At the High-Level Meeting on Governance Experience Sharing of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in September 2024, China and Africa drew wisdom from their respective ancient civilizations and development practices, illuminating a future vision of common prosperity.^② From 2024 to 2025, dialogue activities including the Second Theoretical Seminar Between the Communist Party of China and the Cambodian People's Party, the 12th Theoretical Seminar Between the Communist Party of China and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the 20th Theoretical Seminar Between the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of Viet Nam, and the Third China-Thailand High-Level Dialogue on Mutual Learning in Governance Experience were held successively, through which China and other countries conducted in-depth exchanges on governance experience and discussed the overall agenda of development and cooperation. By the end of 2024, the Communist Party of China had maintained regular contact with more than 700 political parties and political organizations in over 170 countries. The Communist Party of China does not draw ideological lines in its external exchanges, and has developed sound interactions with political parties of other countries in which they illuminate one another through exchanges and mutual learning and jointly explore paths to modernization and development.

^① First Meeting of the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue Held, Website of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, June 12, 2023, https://www.idcpc.gov.cn/bzhd/wshd/202306/t20230612_152338.html; Second Meeting of the China-Central Asia Political Parties Dialogue Held, Website of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, November 3, 2025, https://www.idcpc.gov.cn/ztwy/tbtj/20th4metting/dwxj/202511/t20251103_168081.html.

^② Pooling Wisdom and Strength for China and Africa to Jointly Pursue the Dream of Modernization — A Review of the Four High-Level Meetings of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Chinese Government Website, September 6, 2024, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202409/content_6972862.htm.



International Legislators Discuss Cooperation and Development

On September 14, 2025, the Legislators Forum for Friendly Exchanges was successfully held in Urumqi. More than 60 foreign legislators and former legislators from five continents, as well as more than 60 deputies to China's National People's Congress and local people's congresses, attended the Forum. Legislators from various countries attending the Forum stated that, as today's world faces many global challenges, international solidarity and cooperation are particularly important for achieving the common goals of human peace and development. The Forum summarized the views of all parties and issued the Urumqi Declaration. The first two editions of the Legislators Forum for Friendly Exchanges were held in Shenzhen and Shanghai in 2023 and 2024 respectively. This edition of the Forum had the largest number of participating countries and the largest delegation of legislators visiting China to date.



Foreign legislators attending the Forum visited various places in Xinjiang.
(Photo Source: Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries)

Before and after the Forum, participating foreign legislators visited Kashgar, Ili, Aksu, Urumqi, Changji, and other places, extensively touring trade pilot zones, folk tourism areas, grassroots legislative outreach offices, religious venues, communities, enterprises, bazaars, cotton fields, border ports, and other sites across Xinjiang. In Kashgar, they had an immersive experience of the unique charm of ancient city preservation and revitalization and cultural inheritance, and witnessed the integration and coexistence of diverse cultures; in Ili, they deeply experienced Xinjiang's rich ethnic customs, vibrant development, and the happy picture of people of all ethnic groups living and working in peace and contentment; and in Aksu, they gained in-depth understanding of local industrial development achievements and the protection and inheritance of ethnic traditions. Foreign participants said that the visits enabled them to gain a comprehensive understanding of Xinjiang's latest achievements in all aspects of economic and social development, and to personally experience the encouraging situation of stability, harmony, vigorous development, and ethnic unity across Xinjiang, which left them deeply struck and impressed.

Compiled from the Website of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, 2025 Legislators Forum for Friendly Exchanges Held in Urumqi, September 15, 2025, <https://cpaffc.org.cn/index/news/detail/id/10449/lang/1.html>.

Making dedicated efforts to build multilevel and multidimensional exchange platforms and mechanisms. China has actively promoted the establishment and use of various institutional dialogue platforms, regularly holding political party dialogues such as the China-Africa Theoretical Seminar of Political Parties, the China-Arab States Political Parties Dialogue, the China-LAC Political Parties Forum, and the China-Pacific Island Countries Political Parties Dialogue, thereby building regular exchange platforms for the Communist Party of China to engage with political parties of other countries. Since the GCI was proposed, dialogues between the Communist Party of China and political parties of other countries have continued to improve in quality and upgrade in form, gradually moving toward multidimensional exchange platforms. Following the first dialogue between the Communist Party of China and political parties of Southeast Asian countries held in Nanning, Guangxi in November 2020, the Dialogue Between the Communist Party of China and Political Parties of Southeast and South Asian Countries was held in Kunming, Yunnan in November 2023; in May 2025, the Dialogue Between the Communist Party of China and Political Parties of Neighboring Countries was held in Beijing under the theme of “Building a Community with a Shared Future with Neighboring Countries: Political Parties in Action”, where the Joint Initiative of the Communist Party of China and Political Parties of Neighboring Countries on Facilitating the Building of a Community with a Shared Future Among Neighboring Countries was adopted, sending a strong message of the times on jointly creating a better future for the Asian homeland. From Southeast Asian countries to South Asian countries, and then to neighboring countries in a broader sense, the platforms for exchanges between the Communist Party of China and political parties of neighboring countries have continued to expand, with issues discussed becoming more in-depth, building regional consensus on peace and stability, win-win cooperation, and a shared future, and establishing a dialogue platform that contributes wisdom and strength to the joint building of an Asian community with a shared future.

(II) Carrying Out Extensive International People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges

Strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation is an effective way to eliminate estrangement and misunderstanding among civilizations and promote joint efforts by humanity to address global challenges. President Xi Jinping has pointed out that “People are the best bridge for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Closer people-to-people exchanges and mutual learning, for that matter, is a sure way to eliminate estrangement and misunderstanding and promote



mutual understanding among nations.”^① When different civilizations encounter one another, it is natural that differences in history, culture, and social systems may result in unfamiliarity or even misunderstanding. However, people-to-people and cultural exchanges can reach people’s hearts and minds in a gentle and profound manner. Since the GCI was proposed, China has actively advanced international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation across various fields, and enhanced connectivity of people around the world.

1. China has Actively Promoted Exchanges and Cooperation in Culture and Education

In terms of cultural exchanges and mutual learning, China has continued to build multilevel international people-to-people and cultural exchange and cooperation platforms covering governments, society, individuals, and other actors, promoting mutual reinforcement among all participants and jointly fostering a rich and diverse ecosystem for cultural exchanges. As of September 2025, the number of overseas China Cultural Centers and tourism offices abroad had increased to 70. The Hehe Culture Forum, established in 2021, has been held for five consecutive editions to date, effectively expanding the international influence of Hehe culture. The “Chinese Bridge” Chinese language competition series has been held since 2002. In 2025, the 24th “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students attracted more than 50,000 college students to its overseas preliminary rounds, becoming a global Chinese-language “Olympiad”.^② The World Chinese Students’ Essay Competition has been held for 26 consecutive editions since 2000. The 26th competition attracted 50,571 overseas Chinese youth and foreign youth who love the Chinese language from 73 countries and regions, becoming an important brand for supporting the development of overseas Chinese-language education, spreading Chinese culture, and promoting exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and foreign civilizations. From the state to society and then to individuals, China has promoted, through various forms, greater understanding through cultural exchanges and consensus-building through mutual learning, injecting a steady stream of cultural momentum into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

^① Xi Jinping, Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations For an Asian Community with a Shared Future — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 15, 2019, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/201905/t20190515_346483.shtml.

^② The Global Finals and Award Ceremony of the 24th “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students Held, Chinese Ministry of Education Website, August 24, 2025, http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_zzjg/huodong/202508/t20250824_1410441.html.]

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

The YES Program Becomes a Window for Foreign Youth to Understand China

In November 2023, during his visit to the United States, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the important initiative that “China is ready to invite 50,000 young Americans to China for exchange and study over the next five years”, expanding exchanges between the peoples of China and the United States, especially between the younger generations; in May 2024, during his visit to France, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the major initiative to “increase the number of French students studying in China to over 10,000 in the next three years and double the number of young Europeans coming to China for exchanges”, expanding exchanges between the peoples of China and France, and between China and European countries, especially between the younger generations; in July 2025, President Xi Jinping met with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and emphasized China’s willingness to invite more young Australians to China for exchanges and study visits, so that the tree of China-Australia friendship would grow ever more flourishing. To implement President Xi Jinping’s major initiatives, China established the “Young Envoys Scholarship” Program, or YES Program.



Briefing on the “Young Envoys Scholarship” Program
(Photo Source: China Education Association for International Exchange)

Through the YES Program, young people from the United States, Australia, and Europe have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of courses and practical activities, study and exchange together with students from various countries, including Chinese students, experience cultural diversity, improve cross-cultural communication skills, and enhance mutual knowledge and understanding among young people.

See the YES Program website, <https://www.youthlink.cn>.



In terms of educational exchanges and mutual learning. China has actively deepened educational exchanges and cooperation with countries around the world, proactively participated in global education governance, and opened up a new landscape of people-to-people connectivity, mutual learning among civilizations, and mutual benefit between China and other countries. As of September 2025, China had generally carried out educational cooperation and exchanges with 183 countries with which it has diplomatic relations; the influence of the “Study in China” brand has continued to expand, with international students from 195 countries and regions coming to China for study, and 40,000 young people from various countries coming to China to participate in international summer schools; China has continued to advance the implementation of the “50,000 in five years” and “10,000 in three years, with the number from Europe doubled” initiatives, receiving a total of 42,000 young Americans and 32,000 young Europeans. As of 2025, China had cooperated in building 36 Luban Workshops worldwide, continuing to illuminate the map across all continents. In a series of multilateral and bilateral educational exchange activities, China and other countries have produced practical cooperation outcomes through the signing of memoranda of understanding on educational cooperation, the issuance of joint statements, and other means, focusing on key areas such as talent cultivation, joint scientific research, Chinese language teaching, and mutual recognition of academic qualifications and degrees, continuously deepening educational cooperation and laying a solid foundation for mutual learning and deeper friendship.^①

2. China has Vigorously Facilitated Dialogue and Exchanges in Literature, Publishing, Film and Television, Performing Arts, Exhibitions, the Media, Sports, Tourism and Other Fields

People-to-people and cultural exchanges can transcend differences in systems and policies, take root in society, reach deeply into communities and touch people’s hearts, effectively enhancing mutual understanding and consensus on values among peoples of different countries, and thereby laying a broader and more solid public and social foundation for cooperation among states. Since the GCI was proposed, China and relevant countries have jointly developed multilevel and wide-ranging flagship projects and practical cooperation platforms for people-to-people and cultural exchanges, forming a multidimensional exchange framework covering literature, publishing, film and television, performing arts, exhibitions, media, sports, tourism and other fields.

^① See Promoting the Quality Upgrade of High-Level Opening-Up in Education, Chinese Ministry of Education Website, January 5, 2026, http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/xw_zt/moe_357/2026/2026_zt02/qgsdjyxw/10/202601/t20260122_1427236.html.

China's Actions for Advancing Global Dialogue Among Civilizations

In literature and publishing, China has actively practiced the concept of mutual learning

“Lisbon Maru” Stirs Historical Resonance in the UK

In 2025, the Chinese documentary “The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru” was released in the United Kingdom, quietly reviving, through the language of film, a shared China-UK memory long buried by war. The film tells the true story of fishermen in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, who heroically rescued British prisoners of war. In October 1942, Japanese forces requisitioned the vessel Lisbon Maru to transport more than 1,800 British prisoners of war from Hong Kong to Japan, and the ship was struck by a torpedo from a U.S. submarine while passing through waters near Zhoushan. Zhoushan fishermen carried out a courageous rescue, saving 384 British prisoners of war.



Descendants of British prisoners of war meet Chinese fisherman Lin Agen, who took part in the rescue, seen as the elderly man in the front row, and descendants of Chinese fishermen.
(Photo Source: Fang Li, Director of the Film)

The moving story of Zhoushan fishermen rescuing British prisoners of war from the Lisbon Maru is an important testament to China and the United Kingdom fighting side by side as allies in World War II and jointly resisting fascist aggression. The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, giving special significance to the release of the documentary *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* in the United Kingdom.

Compiled from China News Service, “Lisbon Maru” Stirs Historical Resonance in the UK, May 27, 2025, <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/gj/2025/05-27/10422945.shtml>.



among civilizations, using books as a medium and literature as a bridge for friendship, and has made systematic progress. In May 2019, at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, President Xi Jinping proposed the implementation of the Translation Program for Asian Classics.^① Since the GCI was proposed, the translation of classics between China and other parties has accelerated. As of July 2025, China had signed memoranda of understanding on the translation and publication of classic works with 27 countries and published 81 titles, including a large number of outstanding Chinese and foreign literary works such as *The Border Town*, *Family*, *The Sufferings of Young Bairydy*, *The Heart's Blood Turned into Ruby*, and *Gevorg Marzpetuni*. International book fairs have become important platforms for dialogue among civilizations. The Beijing International Book Fair, the Frankfurt Book Fair, the Shanghai Book Fair and other events have brought together Chinese and foreign publishing institutions, with many Chinese publishers presenting outstanding books. Through literature and publishing as a bridge, China is promoting mutual understanding and mutual inspiration between Chinese and foreign civilizations through dialogue on an equal footing.

In film, television and performing arts, China has used images as a medium and the stage as a bridge to promote fruitful results in mutual learning among civilizations. Since the GCI was proposed, China has signed cooperation documents on film, radio, television and audiovisual content with countries including Italy, Spain, Russia and Brazil, and the China Film Joint Pavilion has appeared at the American Film Market (AFM) for three consecutive years. The “China United Booth” organizes Chinese audiovisual institutions to participate each year in internationally renowned film and television festivals and markets, including the World Content Market in Moscow, the Arab Radio and Television Festival, and MIPCOM Cannes in France. In 2025, through the “Audio-Visual China · Global Broadcast” initiative, China promoted the broadcast of more than 100 outstanding multilingual audiovisual programs on over 100 mainstream media and new media platforms worldwide. In 2025, China’s exports of radio, television and online audiovisual programs and services reached RMB 1.863 billion, up 7.35 percent year on year, continuing an upward trend. In 2025, driven by outstanding films such as *Ne Zha: Demon Child Conquers the Sea* and *Dead to Rights*, the annual overseas box office of Chinese films exceeded RMB 1 billion, with Chinese films released in 46 countries and regions overseas. The Chinese market

^① Xi Jinping, *Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations For an Asian Community with a Shared Future* — Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China website, May 15, 2019, https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/201905/t20190515_346483.shtml.

became the largest global box-office market for the imported film *Zootopia 2*, while *Avatar 3* was released simultaneously in China and the United States, further deepening and expanding exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and foreign films.^① The performing arts field has also been vibrant and diverse. Since 2008, the “Family Love China” branded performance series has staged 1,180 performances in 269 cities across 82 countries and regions, using overseas Chinese communities as bridges and vessels, building friendship and integration through culture, promoting Chinese culture, telling China’s stories well, and enhancing people-to-people connectivity between China and other countries. The concert “‘A Friendship Spanning Half a Century’ — Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Orchestra’s Visit to China” resounded through the National Centre for the Performing Arts. The Lancang-Mekong River Basin Countries Culture and Arts Festival, held for 13 consecutive editions, has become a “golden bridge” for cultural exchanges among countries in the basin. In July 2025, more than 20 film, television and performing arts-related activities were officially included in the “List of Action Plans of the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting”, covering international film festivals, television festivals, audiovisual weeks, dance tours, music competitions, and China-foreign joint creation programs.^② Through practical cooperation, China has built bridges for people-to-people connectivity, enabled mutual learning among civilizations to continue deepening through film, television and the arts, and injected lasting momentum into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

In exhibitions and media, since the GCI was proposed, China has continued to promote exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and foreign exhibitions. In the special exhibition “The Forbidden City and the Palace of Versailles: China-France Relations in the 17th and 18th Centuries”, some 200 cultural relics from China and France showcased the history of cultural exchanges between the two countries in the 17th and 18th centuries, marked by “mutual respect and appreciation, mutual reference

^① See Looking at the “Report Card” of China’s Film Market Through the 2025 Year-End Review: Both Quantity and Quality Rise, and “Film Plus” Performs Impressively, CCTV.com, January 1, 2026, <https://news.cctv.com/2026/01/01/ARTIUthTKd7U6HjW68uZXw3r260101.shtml>; RMB 1 Billion! How Chinese Films Are Winning Fans Worldwide, China Film Administration Website, October 24, 2025, https://www.chinafilm.gov.cn/xwzx/gzdt/202510/t20251024_936523.html.

^② List of Action Plans of the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, Chinese Government Website, July 11, 2025, https://www.gov.cn/yaowen/liebiao/202507/content_7031643.htm.



and learning”.^① In May 2024, the Chinese art exhibition “From Beijing to Paris: Olympic Tour of Chinese and French Artists” was held in France, with more than 200 artworks by over 100 contemporary Chinese artists displayed at Les Invalides in Paris, demonstrating the Chinese nation’s approach to civilizational coexistence in which each appreciates its own beauty and the beauty of others, and offering a new perspective on promoting global cultural diversity and the common progress of human civilization.^② From June to July 2025, the exhibitions “Galloping Steeds — 2025 Chinese Horse Culture Exhibition” and “Chinese White — Chinese Dehua White Porcelain Art Exhibition” were held in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. The two themed exhibitions connected the shared aesthetic preferences and emotional attachments of the Chinese and Turkmen peoples toward horses and the color white.^③ In June 2025, the special art exhibition “Shared Radiance, Shared Beauty — Celebrating the 55th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between China and Italy” was held in Italy, where more than 200 works of calligraphy and painting and fine intangible cultural heritage items from China and Italy painted a vivid picture of cross-civilizational dialogue in Rome.^④ China has achieved fruitful results in promoting media cooperation. Media exchange activities, including the Global Media Innovation Forum, the SCO Media Cooperation Forum, the Belt and Road Journalists Network Forum, the Belt and Road Media Cooperation Forum, and the World Media Summit, have been held successively, providing platforms for media peers from relevant countries to engage in exchanges, cooperation, research and reporting. New technologies such as AIGC and virtual reality have empowered dialogue among civilizations. The documentary *Incredible Encounter: When Socrates Met Confucius*, jointly produced by teams from China, Greece and the United Kingdom, uses AIGC technology to enable great thinkers of the East and the West to engage in a dialogue across time and space. It has appeared successively at international festivals and markets including MIPCOM

^① The Exhibition “The Forbidden City and the Palace of Versailles: China-France Relations in the 17th and 18th Centuries” Opens at the Palace Museum, Chinese Museums Association Website, April 7, 2024, <https://www.chinamuseum.org.cn/cma/detail.html?id=14&contentId=13627>.

^② Opening! China Media Group's Chinese Art Exhibition “From Beijing to Paris: Olympic Tour of Chinese and French Artists” Held in Paris, CCTV.com, May 7, 2024, <https://www.cctv.com/2024/05/07/ARTluXvpFXumXovEJTIHc9Ts240507.shtml>.

^③ “Encounter and Appreciation” Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Event Enters Turkmenistan, People’s Daily Overseas Edition, June 5, 2025, p. 2.

^④ Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and Artistic Integration! Special Art Exhibition Celebrating the 55th Anniversary of China-Italy Diplomatic Relations Shines with the Light of China-Italy Civilizational Dialogue, CCTV.com, July 10, 2025, <https://www.cctv.com/2025/07/10/ARTIHEZZFleyRosksRIrrjLB250710.shtml>.

Cannes in France, the London TV Screenings, and the Asia TV Forum, reaching an audience of more than 300 million.^① The concept of civilizational diversity advocated by the GCI has become increasingly rooted in people's hearts, writing a new chapter in exchanges and mutual learning among human civilizations.

In sports and tourism, China has vigorously promoted cultural exchanges and mutual learning in the field of sports. Since 2023, China has held high-level sports meetings with more than 50 countries to jointly plan cooperation and development and discuss solidarity and friendship; signed bilateral cooperation documents at the departmental or Olympic committee level with more than 20 countries, laying a sound foundation for strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation; and provided sports assistance to more than 20 countries. China has successfully hosted the Hangzhou Asian Games, the Harbin Asian Winter Games, the Chengdu FISU World University Games, and the World Games, creating splendid sports and cultural events and building important platforms for people-to-people understanding and friendship, as well as exchanges and integration among civilizations. China has worked to advance both “bringing in” and “going global” in the culture and tourism industry. It has implemented the inbound tourism promotion plan, carried out overseas promotion of the national tourism image under the “Nihao! China” campaign, and introduced facilitation measures such as optimized visa, payment, and tax refund services. As of March 2026, China had implemented unilateral visa-free policies for 50 countries, and the coverage of transit visa exemption had reached 55 countries. In 2025, inbound tourist visits exceeded 150 million, up by more than 17 percent year on year; inbound tourism consumption exceeded USD 130 billion, up by nearly 40 percent year on year; among them, more than 30 million foreign tourists entered China visa-free.^② As of September 2025, China had held culture and tourism years or festivals with more than 30 countries. From 2024 to 2025, events including the 14th China-U.S. Tourism Leadership Summit, the China-Sri Lanka-Maldives Tourism Forum, and the “China-Latin America and Caribbean Countries Tourism Dialogue” were held successively, effectively promoting two-way travel between Chinese and foreign tourists.

^① See Seminar Held on the International Co-Production Documentary “Incredible Encounter: When Socrates Met Confucius”, China Youth Online, March 31, 2026, https://news.cyol.com/gb/articles/2026-03/31/content_AjbowmCzLN.html.

^② See Transcript: Press Conference on People's Livelihoods at the Fourth Session of the 14th National People's Congress, Xinhua, March 7, 2026, <https://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/20260307/ac32ab12ce174897a89114eaae7f0ad7/c.html>.



3. China has Actively Deepened Cooperation with All Parties Concerned in Cultural Heritage Protection and the Recovery and Return of Cultural Relics

China works with other countries to fully explore the contemporary value of their history and culture, promote the creative transformation and innovative development of fine traditional cultures in the process of modernization, and jointly illuminate the light of civilizational exchange and integration.

Reconstructing the Memory of Civilization Deep Along the Silk Road

In 2011, China and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on archaeological cooperation. Since 2012, archaeologists from the two sides have jointly carried out field excavations in the Fergana Valley for more than a decade. The first site of the archaeological work was the ancient city site of Mingtepa in the southern part of the valley. After years of excavation, the team clarified the urban layout, traces of daily life, and cultural stratigraphy at the site. After 2023, the joint archaeological team turned its attention to the somewhat later Munzatepa site. Munzatepa means “beaded terrace” in Uzbek. In 2024, more than 1,300 beads were unearthed at the site. Their wide variety and exquisite craftsmanship reflect the advanced level of handicraft production and cross-regional trade exchanges at the time.



Members of the China-Uzbekistan joint archaeological team clear a tomb.
(Photo Source: Chinese Social Sciences Today)

The Central Asian archaeological project has not only become a model of China-Uzbekistan academic exchanges, but also an important component of people-to-people and cultural cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. At the Munzatepa site, the beads, Han-style bronze mirrors, silk, and copper coins buried for a thousand years are telling, in another way, that civilization has never stopped; they continue to shine along a new archaeological path. Chinese archaeologists, with their hands and wisdom, are also building new bridges for exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Compiled from The Archaeological Team Leader Speaks | Reconstructing the Memory of Civilization Deep Along the Silk Road — On Liu Tao, Head of the Central Asian Archaeological Team of the Institute of Archaeology and Chinese Executive Leader of the China-Uzbekistan Joint Archaeological Team, Chinese Social Sciences Today, October 24, 2025, p. 3.

In the field of cultural heritage protection. Since the GCI was proposed, China has cooperated with other countries in various forms to protect cultural heritage and steadily advanced joint World Heritage nominations. In April 2023, China took the lead in establishing the Alliance for Cultural Heritage in Asia, providing a regional cooperation platform for deepening cooperation in the field of cultural heritage in the region. The Alliance has successively reached the “Xi’an Declaration” and the “Chongqing Consensus”, making new Asian contributions to protecting the essence of human civilization. After “Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor”, the first transnational World Heritage nomination by China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, was successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014, the Galle Trilingual Inscription, jointly nominated by China and Sri Lanka, was inscribed on the Memory of the World Register in April 2025; the joint World Heritage nomination of China's Baiheliang Ancient Hydrological Inscriptions and Egypt's Nilometer on Roda Island has progressed steadily; and new progress has been made in transnational World Heritage nomination projects such as the Maritime Silk Road and the Tea Road. Joint archaeological work has achieved notable results. China has sent more than 30 archaeological teams to over 30 countries and regions, covering Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe and other regions. Projects such as cooperation on the protection of the Angkor monuments in Cambodia, joint archaeological work at the Ben Arous forest site in Tunisia, and joint archaeological work at the Montu Temple in Egypt have achieved fruitful results. Talent cultivation has continued. Through the Belt and Road Cultural Heritage Conservation Scholarship, China has funded more than 300 international students from countries along Belt and Road routes to study in China for master's degrees in cultural relics conservation.^① From July to August 2025, China held a training program on the protection and development of intangible cultural heritage for Francophone African countries, supporting the development of Africa's cultural heritage sector and advancing cooperation between the two sides in the field of cultural heritage. China actively shoulders its international responsibility for protecting the cultural heritage of humanity, demonstrating the image of a major country that takes responsibility and delivers results.

In the recovery and return of cultural relics. In June 2024, the International Conference on the Protection and Return of Cultural Objects Removed from Colonial Contexts was held in Qingdao, Shandong Province. China, together with 18 countries of origin of cultural objects, jointly issued the Qingdao Recommendations for the Protection and

^① See Full Text: Jointly Safeguarding the Treasures of Human Civilization — China's Philosophy and Practice in Cultural Heritage Protection in the New Era, Xinhua, July 25, 2025, <https://www.news.cn/20250725/093b329e3c2f4973ace831fea7687164/c.html>.



Return of Cultural Objects Removed from Colonial Contexts or Acquired by Other Unjustifiable or Unethical Means, putting forward three principles: taking into account the interests of countries of origin as well as holding countries and institutions, giving due consideration to both the protection and return of removed cultural objects, and giving play to the bridging role of returned cultural objects, and providing a public cultural good for addressing the difficult issue of recovering removed cultural objects where international conventions are not applicable. The relevant countries agreed that the Qingdao Recommendations are fair, balanced, constructive, and practical, and will create a more favorable international environment for advancing the investigation, provenance research, research into circulation history, protection, and return of cultural objects lost in history.^① China has also promoted the inclusion of cooperation in the field of cultural heritage, combating illicit trafficking of cultural property, and returning lost cultural relics in cooperation documents such as the China-CELAC Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas (2022-2024), the Five-Year Plan of Action on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (2023-2027), the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Dakar Action Plan (2022-2024), the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027), and the Action Implementation Plan of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum for 2024-2026, and has actively promoted their implementation.

(III) Continuously Deepening People-to-People Exchanges and Subnational Cooperation

Amity between people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. People-to-people exchanges are the deepest source of strength for dialogue among civilizations; only when the concept of partnership takes root in people's hearts can the tree of friendship and cooperation flourish. China advocates building broad consensus on constructing a community with a shared future for mankind in the spirit of "sharing the same planet and helping one another". China stands ready to work with all countries to implement the GCI, promote people-to-people friendship with an open and inclusive mind, encourage the younger generation to actively participate in the cause of friendship, and enhance understanding and build mutual trust through sincere communication.

Promoting dialogue among civilizations through sister-city exchanges and local cooperation. International sister-city work is an important bond connecting localities in China and other countries and bringing people closer together, reflecting the call of

^① See Experts and Scholars Discuss the Protection and Return of Cultural Objects Removed from Colonial Contexts, Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism Website, June 21, 2024, https://www.mct.gov.cn/whzx/qgwhxxlb/sd/202406/t20240621_953633.htm.

the times for win-win cooperation and common development among countries. Since the establishment of the first pair of sister cities between China and a foreign country in 1973, China's international sister-city work has continued to make new progress. As of March 2026, China had established 3,166 pairs of sister-city or sister-province/state relationships with 153 countries, weaving a "circle of friends" across five continents and forming a friendship network with clear priorities, multiple levels, and broad coverage. The China International Friendship Cities Conference has been held since 2008, and seven editions have been successfully held to date. In November 2024, the Conference released the Kunming Initiative of the 2024 China International Friendship Cities Conference, calling on sister cities and local governments of all countries to promote mutual understanding and affinity among peoples and continuously consolidate the social and public foundation for friendship with one another.^① In October 2023, the Subnational Cooperation Thematic Forum of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held in Beijing, contributing local strength to safeguarding world peace, promoting common development, and advancing the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Sister-city exchanges and local cooperation have not only brought resources and opportunities to local development, but also enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and foreign peoples, enabling the outcomes of local cooperation to better benefit the peoples of all countries.

Promoting mutual learning among civilizations through people-to-people exchanges. Affinity between people lies in the connection of hearts. People-to-people connectivity is the most fundamental, solid, and enduring form of connectivity. Since 2022, China has held the Beijing Culture Forum annually, building bridges of culture, deepening exchanges and dialogue, and promoting people-to-people and cultural cooperation.^② Since September 2010, the Nishan Forum on World Civilizations has been held in Nishan, Qufu, the birthplace of Confucius, and has held 11 editions, explaining to the world that true modernization is by no means a "solo performance" by a single civilization, but a "symphonic poem" composed by diverse civilizations through

^① See *Cities as Bridges for Integration and High-Quality International Friendship City Cooperation*, People's Daily, January 7, 2026, p. 9; Kunming Initiative of the 2024 China International Friendship Cities Conference (Full Text), Website of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, November 19, 2024, <https://cpaffc.org.cn/index/news/detail/id/9316/lang/1.html>.

^② See *Forum Focuses on Integration of Culture and Technology: 2025 Beijing Culture Forum Opens*, Beijing Daily, September 23, 2025, p. 1.



mutual learning.^① Since 2023, the International Youth Dialogue on Mutual Learning Among Civilizations has been held for three consecutive years, featuring keynote speeches, youth dialogues, and other intellectual exchange activities on topics such as exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, Belt and Road cooperation, and cultural inheritance and innovation.^② Since 2023, the China-foreign youth exchange activity under the theme of “Appreciating the Beauty of All Civilizations Together” has been held annually, translating the theme of the GCI into tangible and perceptible cultural experiences and life stories. In July 2025, the World Youth Conference for Peace was successfully held in Beijing, and the Conference submitted the World Youth Peace Initiative, jointly signed by youth from various countries, to the United Nations. Since 2024, the GCI International Youth Lecture Series and the International Youth Trendy Culture Season series have been held, promoting cultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations among young people worldwide. These various exchange activities have not only enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and foreign peoples, but also provided new impetus for exchanges and integration among diverse cultures around the world. Since 2006, China has hosted six editions of the World Buddhist Forum, building an equal, diverse, and open dialogue platform, showcasing the state of freedom of religious belief in China and the healthy inheritance and practice of Buddhism, and promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. In September 2023, during the Fifth International Daoism Forum, the World Federation of Daoism was established to strengthen exchanges and cooperation among Daoist communities at home and abroad and promote fine traditional Chinese culture to the world. Since 2015, China has held the religious sub-forum of the Boao Forum for Asia every year, with 11 editions held to date, vigorously promoting religious harmony and mutual learning among civilizations.

^① Three Global Resonance of the 11th Nishan Forum on World Civilizations, China Confucius Website, July 19, 2025, https://nishan.chinakongzi.org/content/5550_583357.html.

^② See China-Latin American Youth Promote Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Through Dialogue, Xinhua, September 21, 2024, <http://www.news.cn/20240921/6b8bd81e3785418b920d9c843aa57dd6/c.html>.

07

Conclusion

07 Conclusion

Dialogue among civilizations has always been a bridge for friendship among the peoples of all countries, a driving force for the progress of human society, and a bond for world peace. The rapid advancement and implementation of the GCI over the past three-plus years has demonstrated China's sense of responsibility and commitment as a major country and the world's largest developing country, and moreover, its respond to the international community's aspirations and expectations for civilizational dialogue and an open and inclusive world, which has gained the high recognition of all parties for the GCI.

Looking ahead, amid a volatile and complex world, humanity stands at a new crossroads. More than ever, the power of civilization must be harnessed to address the challenges of the times and promote world peace and development. All parties should uphold respect for the diversity of civilizations as the foundation to consolidate global consensus on mutual learning among civilizations, break down cultural barriers by seeking harmony without uniformity, connect hearts and minds through openness and inclusiveness, and eliminate misunderstandings through dialogue and exchanges. This is the way for the idea of upholding the beauty of each civilization and the diversity of civilizations to be embraced by the international community, and the choice of mutual learning among civilizations and win-win cooperation shared by all countries. All parties should uphold exchanges and mutual learning as the bridge to unleash inexhaustible momentum for dialogue among civilizations, break down barriers of



geography, ethnicity and language, and encourage broader participation of international actors in joint efforts. This is the way to empower different civilizations to inspire wisdom through interactions and integration, and help each other succeed and prosper together through the subtle yet profound impact of people-to-people exchanges. All parties should uphold the commitment to both preserving fundamental principles and breaking new ground. This is the way to boost the vitality of civilizations, enable the achievements of civilizations to better serve the aspirations of all peoples for a better life, and inject strong momentum into the progress of human civilization. All parties should uphold the vision of a shared future and work together in the same direction to create a bright future of civilizations, and use bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, in the spirit of global solidarity, to integrate mutual learning among civilizations into international cooperation in the fields of development, security, and governance. China stands ready to join hands with the international community to fully implement the GCI and pool civilizational strength for building a community with a shared future for humanity.



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Website: <http://www.ciiis.org.cn>

Address: No.3,Toutiao,Taijichang,Beijing, China