

China's Thinking and Proposal under the Context of Profound Changes and the Pandemic Unseen in a Century

*Xu Jian**

Today's world is experiencing great changes unseen in a hundred years. The past century has experienced bloody wars and the so called "cold wars", as well as great progress. It has always been an aspiration of all humanity to maintain peace and development.

After the end of the Cold War, the world embarked on the trajectory of in-depth political multipolarization, economic globalization, social information and cultural diversity. The reform of the global governance system and the international order have been accelerated, and countries have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent. International powers have become more balanced, and the general trend of peaceful development is irreversible.

However, the world is facing outstanding instability and uncertainty at the same time. Economic globalization encounters counter-currents; unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonies persist; and the governance deficit, trust deficit, peace deficit and development deficit are on the rise. Non-traditional security challenges posed by public health, terrorism, climate change and cyber security are emerging one after another. The human world is facing mounting challenges and risks.

The COVID-19 pandemic suddenly hit the world and evolves into the most serious pandemic in a century, which imposes formidable threats to human

* China Foreign Affairs University.

life and the international society, and the poor adjustment and mismatches in the global governance system loom larger. It is not only a touchstone of the governing capacity of countries concerned, but also a test of the global governance system.

Nature is the cradle of all living creatures, including human beings. Human beings depend for survival and development in this basic condition. Nature breeds and raises human beings, and human beings should take nature as their root, respect and protect nature, as well as conform to the laws of nature. Nature will punished disrespecting and violating its laws. Since humankind entered the era of industrial civilization, we have not only created vast material wealth, but also accelerated our exploitation of natural resources and distorted the earth's Eco balance. The deep-seated contradiction between man and nature becomes increasingly apparent.

The once-in-a-century pandemic issued warns to the world in a special form that we live in an interconnected and shared global village, and that humankind is a community with a shared future sharing weal and woe. No member of the international community can stay out of it, especially in dealing with global public health events. Any practice of selfishness, scapegoating others, turning the facts upside down, and confusing right with wrong will exert harms not only on our own country and people, but also on people all over the world.

Through hundreds of years, a few groups of countries dominated the international order. However, with the deepening of world multipolarization and economic globalization, global challenges are constantly on the rise, and the international order and global governance system established after the Second World War are becoming more and more unsuitable. The international community should be governed according to the rules and consensus reached by all countries concerned, rather than being dictated by only one or several countries.

In recent years, a large number of emerging economies and developing countries, such as China and Mexico, have embarked on the fast track of national development and national renewal, with billions of people marching towards modernization in big strides and multiple development centers gradually taking shape in various regions of the world. Emerging markets and developing countries have their own strength and capacities; their independent development ability and international influence

are constantly improving, and the trend of promoting democratization of international relations is on its way.

Each government and its people must manage the jurisdiction of its own country. Concerning international affairs, they must deal with through consultation between governments and people of all countries concerned. The destiny of the world must be kept in the hands of people, the basic norm of international affairs and the guarantee for countries to keep their fundamental rights. Today, humankind is more qualified than ever to advance towards peace and development, and win-win cooperation is the best means by which to achieve this goal. The practices of constructing “small circles” and waging “new cold war” in the world, rejecting, threatening and intimidating others, decoupling with other countries, cutting off the supply and imposing sanctions, artificially causing mutual isolation and even complete isolation, will only push the world into division and even confrontation. A world divided cannot handle the common challenges faced by humankind, and confrontation will drag the world into a dead end.

The Charter of the United Nations is recognized as the fundamental principle for handling state-to-state relations. Multilateral organizations such as the United Nations are the main platforms for materializing the concept of multilateralism and the main locale for safeguarding international fairness and justice, therefore their authority and effectiveness must be maintained. The world calls for real multilateralism. We should join hands to curb the negative impact of unilateralism and promote real multilateralism.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out, no country can cope with all kinds of challenges faced by humanity alone, nor can any country retreat to the isolated island of self-seclusion. History has told us that as long as the international community adheres to multilateralism, takes the road of unity and cooperation, and promotes a community with a shared future for mankind. People of all countries in the world will be able to cope with global problems together and build a self-sustainable home on the earth.

We should promote a community with a shared future for mankind with the Belt and Road Initiative as a practical platform. It has been initiated by China from the perspective of reform and opening up, and to facilitate the long-term development, and is the concrete embodiment of the concept of “achieving universal peace” that the Chinese nation has always upheld.

To share China's development opportunities with other countries, my country initiated the Belt and Road Initiative. It is an important public good provided by China to improve global governance. In addition, China proposed new mechanisms and initiatives, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund as supplements for the improvement of existing international mechanisms, instead of scrapping them and starting all over again.

In the home of human civilization in the 21st century, although countries have different histories, cultures and systems, countries should live in harmony with each other, treat each other as equals, learn from each other and develop together.

At present, China's relations with the outside world are undergoing historic changes. China will strengthen dialogue and communication with the outside world with a more open and inclusive attitude, and enhance the international community's understanding and appreciation of China's history and culture, development path and concept of governing the country. At the same time, it will learn about the world through more exchanges between civilizations and listen to the voices of the world with an open mind.

China has always been a constant and consistent builder of world peace. China firmly follows the path of peaceful development. China will never seek hegemony, expand, or seek spheres of influence. China adheres to equal treatment of and mutual respect with other countries, and strives to achieve win-win cooperation and common development. China promotes the building of global partnership, abandons the distinction between the "so called principal and the subordinates", and opposes to any big country dominating international and regional affairs. As an integral part of South-South cooperation, China-Latin America cooperation adheres to mutual benefit and win-win cooperation without any geostrategic consideration, does not target any third party, or affect the legitimate interests of third parties. China-Latin America cooperation is totally inclusive and open.

China has been a constant contributor to global development. China adheres to the path of common development, continues to pursue a mutually beneficial and win-win strategy of opening up, and shares its own development experience and opportunities with other countries in the world. China's development presents an opportunity for the world as both

a beneficiary and a contributor to economic globalization. China's rapid economic growth has become an important engine for world economic growth. China supports the multilateral trading system, participates actively in the international division of labor, integrates itself more effectively into the global industrial chain, supply chain and value chain, and actively expands foreign exchanges and cooperation.

China firmly supports and upholds the international order. China adheres to the road of cooperative development and maintains the international system with the United Nations as the core and the international order based on the international law. China will continue to stand with developing countries and firmly support increasing the representation and voice of developing countries in the international governance system. Internationally, China has always decided its political stance and policy based on the nature of the matter itself, fairly speaking and dealing with affairs, acting as spokesperson for developing countries, and safeguarding and promoting the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

China is willing to work with Latin American countries, including Mexico, to build an equal, mutually beneficial, innovative, open and inclusive China-Latin America friendship in the new era. China strive to build a new five-in-one pattern of China-Latin America relations and a community with a shared future for mankind, in which China and Latin America secure sincerity and mutual trust in politics; win-win cooperation in economy and trade; mutual learning in humanities; close cooperation in international affairs, and mutual promotion in overall cooperation and bilateral relations.

Recently, President Xi Jinping has pointed out in his congratulatory message to the Mexican President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, when Mexico celebrated the 200th anniversary of the victory of the Mexican war of independence that both China and Mexico are developing countries with broad common interests. Facing the profound changes and the pandemic, China and Mexico are willing to help each other through difficulties; the friendship between the two countries is being promoted day by day. China is willing to work with Mexico to deepen political mutual trust, promote reciprocal cooperation and advance China-Mexico relations to a new level for the benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

As a university directly affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) has been dedicated to grooming

China's most promising young minds with global vision and great learning to work for China's foreign services and for world peace and prosperity. CFAU adheres to the philosophy that CFAU education should pride itself in diplomatic and international studies with high-level proficiency in foreign languages. CFAU trains its students with "true patriotism and global vision; professional expertise and great proficiency in foreign languages; and high quality and interdisciplinary knowledge". Over the past 65 years, approximately 20000 students have graduated. Amongst CFAU's alumni, about 500 have served as ambassadors to foreign countries. It has been appraised as "The Cradle of Chinese Diplomats".

In March, 2016, in order to further strengthen the training of foreign affairs cadres, China Diplomatic Academy was launched, In conjunction with CFAU, it created an integrated framework of diplomat training, higher education and academic research, and formed a talent supply system to support the sustained development of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

China Diplomatic Academy has established at a preliminary level a multi-level, multi-channel and three-dimensional training system. In terms of diplomatic training, it provides a six-month to one-year on-the-spot training for newly recruited diplomats; trains the newly-appointed diplomats at councilor level in policy theory, leadership art, crisis management and psychological adjustment; arranges practical training for high-level diplomats who serve, for the first time, as chiefs of mission and first staff members of Chinese embassies or consulates. In addition, it has supported off-the-job training or offered lectures, such as seminars on diplomatic theory and skills and lectures on national conditions.

To supplement traditional training forms, the China Diplomatic Academy has set up a network-training platform to improve the comprehensive ability and professional level of diplomats by means of live video broadcasting and recording. It has also become the main form of training in the post-epidemic era.

Regarding the training concerned with foreign affairs and other relevant issues, the China Diplomatic Academy launched the "Local Classroom of China Diplomatic Academy" to deliver training to local foreign affairs cadres. It organizes the Seminar for Young German Diplomats Visiting China and the Special Workshop for Young European Officials. China Diplomatic Academy has also established contacts and cooperative relations

with diplomatic training institutions of the United States, Russia, Germany, France and international organizations such as the United Nations. China Foreign Affairs University has signed cooperation agreements with Mexican Foreign Affairs Universities and other institutions.

The year 2021 marks an epoch-making year for China. We are celebrating the centenary of the Communist Party of China, and China's diplomacy will be embarked on a new journey and usher in new development. We will, in light of the historical trend, actively promote new international relations, and carry forward the common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom of all humankind. We will join hands with other countries in the international community, including Mexico, to build a community with a shared future for mankind, practice multilateralism with concrete steps, and safeguard the basic norms of international relations, to realize the common sustainable development of humankind.

China Foreign Affairs University and China Diplomatic Academy are also willing to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Mexican counterparts, learn from each other, and make new efforts and contributions to promoting the capacity building of diplomats of the two countries and the continuous development of bilateral friendly and cooperative relations.