

Practical Route for Construction of High-quality Community of Shared Future with Neighboring Countries in the New Era

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Abstract: *With many neighbouring countries, long national borders, complicated historic background and constantly changing international environment, China's periphery diplomacy faces complexities and challenges. From geopolitics, history or practical interests, these countries have always been especially important for China's diplomacy and strategies. Faced with changes in the world, times and history, it is of great importance for realization of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, common development of neighbouring countries, and construction of high-quality community of shared future to practice the two Global Initiatives, construct shared economic and trade ties, consolidate mutually beneficial partnership, deepen two-way, mutual learning relations, and to uphold to governance and responsibilities of shared benefits through consultation and collaboration.*

Keywords: *construction, community of shared future with neighbouring countries, two Global Initiatives, practical route*

1. Introduction

As report of the 20th CPC National Congress points out, "We will adhere to the foreign policy of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, building friendship and partnership with our neighbors, and deepen friendship, mutual trust and convergence of interests with them." "China has put forward global development initiatives and global security initiatives, and is ready to work with the international community to implement them." [1]The two Global Initiatives provide guidelines for future development of China's relations with neighboring countries, and new connotations of the times for promoting construction of community of shared future with neighboring countries.

2. Practice the two Global Initiatives

China's national interests of sovereignty, security and development are closely related with the neighboring countries. In the new era, a series of traditional and non-traditional problems arise in quick succession, various kinds of crises and challenges emerge one after another, and the Cold War mentality, terrorism, and climate change come up in superposition, which constitute serious challenges for peripheral order and regional administration. Especially, stimulations from great powers outside the region, historical disputes between China and individual neighboring countries, and asymmetrical relations between countries still remain. Natural existence and irreversibility of geolocation determine that China must face these elements directly.

Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative are important international public products put forward by China in the field of global development and security to deal with security threats in the world in relation to major power competition, regional conflicts and century pandemic. In his important speech at the 17th G20 Leaders' Summit, the Chinese leader reiterated the two Global Initiatives, pointing out the direction for regional and world peace, amity and development, providing the time answer to the question of neighboring countries. [2]

Global Development Initiative consists of Six Upholds, among which Uphold Priority to Development, Uphold Universal Benefits and Inclusiveness, and Uphold Action Orientation provide guidelines for development of China and neighboring countries. China has always put emphasis on development, and has been making endeavors to share opportunities with other countries for common prosperity and development. After the Covid-19 outbreak, China has taken actions to provide vaccine aids to neighboring countries, expanded connectivity and cooperation, and worked hand-in-hand with

countries along Belt and Road Routes through the initiative to deal with challenges facing global economic development and to take the road of sustainable development together.

Global Security Initiative is aimed to uphold the spirit of the UN Charter, that all countries follow the principle of sustainable development and resolve disputes through consultation and negotiation. Influenced by such international public opinion as China Forms Threat and A Powerful Country Will Seek Hegemony, and the Cold War Mentality of major powers outside the region, neighboring countries display certain cognitive biases concerning China's development. Meanwhile, the US and other western countries try their best to stir up some issues left over from history to create new chaos in geopolitics, take advantage of "confrontation and conflicts" between China and neighboring countries to bully some countries into taking sides to maintain their own benefits and leading position. Therefore, it is China's top priority to dissolve disputes and suspicion and to build mutual trust in exchanges with neighboring countries. Facing regions in turmoil, China will continue to work together with other countries to reduce warfare and increase peace, to reduce poverty and increase prosperity, and to reduce troubles and increase cooperation in neighboring countries. [3]

To practice the two Initiatives is the necessary step for enhancing identification in ideas and promoting international leadership. The two Initiatives concentrate on destiny and future of neighboring countries, more beneficial for active advance of deep-level trust, extensive cooperation, destiny and construction of community of shared future with neighboring countries.

3. Construct shared economic and trade ties

Poverty problems impede regional economic development, and China hopes to carry on the wings of Belt and Road to gear a full takeoff with neighboring countries. According to statistics, China's trade volume with neighboring countries has taken up over 60% of its total foreign trade; neighboring countries are the important regions for China to implement the Go Global strategy; and China's investment to neighboring countries increase at a rate of over 20% every year.

China has established China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, cooperative documents for constructing China-Nepal-India Economic Corridor, China-Vietnam Belt and Road and the "Two Economic Corridors and One Economic Circle around the Beibu Gulf". Brunei hopes to take advantage of Belt and Road to realize the Aspiration of 2035. China has signed a joint statement on further deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. China and India have made orderly progress in institutional exchanges such as the strategic economic dialogue and the financial dialogue. The huge market and the demand for infrastructure construction in the surrounding areas further enhance the economic complementarity between China and the surrounding countries. At the same time, building of the China-Asean Free Trade Area is actively promoted, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership ratified in the first place, synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Vision in key areas of cooperation enhanced, and a new framework for Mekong River area cooperation established. Relations with Russia, the DPRK, and Japan are actively developed and consolidated, meeting of Foreign Ministers of China and five central Asian states held offline, to continue to give new meaning to neighborhood diplomacy. These cooperation frameworks have set up a broad and diversified platform for institutionalized economic and trade cooperation, effectively brought about closer relationship, and provided an important practical platform for win-win cooperation between China and its neighbors and countries along the Belt and Road.

In the midst of great changes in the world today, the proposal of a community of common destiny is an in-depth reflection on the proposition of "What kind of world should we build and how should we build it?", and the basic direction of progress is to start from the neighborhood first. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has provided its neighbors with experience of transformation, expanded bilateral trade and investment scale, and sought greater economic win-win results. At the same time, the China-Neighboring Countries Expo has produced good results over the years. The trade volume between China and neighboring countries has nearly doubled compared with ten years ago. Economic and trade cooperation is a core component of China's relations with its neighbors, and a foundation for common development.

4. Strengthen a mutually beneficial partnership

China and its neighboring countries are interdependent and have vital interests concerting each other, forming an organic whole. China and its neighbors are highly complementary in terms of development and prosperity, which determines that China should not only foster a peaceful and stable domestic economic development environment, but also take into account the reasonable concerns of its neighbors. Building a community with a shared future is an all-dimensional and multi-tiered concept, so that China and its neighbors need multiple approaches. In the report of the 20th CPC National Congress, China once again put forward its plan for enhancing the building of a community with a shared future for the mankind, promoting the idea that development is the master key to solving all problems. Guided by the two Global Initiatives, China actively works with neighboring countries to deepen mutual trust and understanding, strive to eliminate various disputes, and build a high-quality China-neighboring community with a shared future in line with the spirit of the times.

In the 21st century, human society is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, with a series of traditional and non-traditional issues coming up, and various crises and challenges emerging one after another. Climate change, terrorism, extremism, and the public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are all superimposed, posing severe challenges to the order of neighboring countries and regional governance. China actively works with its neighbors to promote regional economic recovery and development, and hopes to form synergy for international development to inject new impetus into the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. In addition, China has further opened up to the outside world. From Boao to Davos, and from the Services and Trade Fair to the International Import Expo, a series of measures have been taken to further open up, sharing China's development opportunities with other countries. At the same time, China has actively applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership. By confronting difficulties headlong and turning over a new chapter of opening-up and cooperation, China has brought new benefits to regional and global economic recovery.

The names and positioning of partnerships between China and neighboring countries are gradually deepening and upgrading. There is no denying that China and neighboring countries are important cooperative partners, most of which are strategic partnerships, prominent in energy, regional security and other fields. With the continuous development of China's reform, opening up and modernization, the biggest dilemma of neighboring diplomacy lies in whether other countries agree with China's concept of peaceful development. Therefore, it is increasingly important to build a network of partnership with neighboring countries. A stable and secure neighborhood is desired not only by regional countries, but also by China. The establishment of a partnership network can enhance the credibility of China's neighborhood policy, strengthen mutual trust and consensus through dialogue and exchanges, and promote the building of a community with a shared future.

5. Deepen two-way, mutual learning relations

In the communication with neighboring countries, because of the long-term influence of Chinese culture, these countries and China share a certain sense of cultural identity with each other. In the new era, the Chinese government has established a series of cultural exchange mechanisms and activities with neighboring countries. The 10+3 Culture Ministerial Forum has promoted cultural cooperation in Asia. A series of cooperation agreements signed with South Korea, Russia, India, Pakistan and other countries have provided institutional guarantee for cultural exchanges between them. Meanwhile, the Culture Day, Culture Week, Culture Year, Chinese Bridge, cultural forums and other folk cultural exchange activities have been held. They enhance China's sense of identity with neighboring countries. These comprehensive cultural exchange systems, from the inter-governmental cultural exchange mechanism to the folk cultural exchange, lay a solid ideological and cultural foundation for China and the neighboring countries to jointly build a community of shared future in the neighborhood.

It is a question whether China's national image to the outside world is the same as its own identity. In reality, there will be a certain gap between the two. Therefore, how to tell Chinese stories well in the new era is very important. Only by narrowing the gap between the two can China's national image be further improved, and Chinese stories can better influence other countries. With the continuous improvement of China's comprehensive national strength and international status, its role and influence in global affairs are constantly enhanced, and Chinese ideas are increasingly recognized by more countries. However, due to the influence of some factors, especially the deliberate distortion and smear of western countries, there is a certain cognitive difference between some neighboring countries and

China, which leads to the increase of the accuracy of their cognition of China's national image. National image is not only closely related to a country's economic, political and military power, but also its cultural power can not be underestimated. Neighboring regions are the first place to test China's voice. Therefore, it is increasingly important to strengthen people-to-people exchanges with countries in these regions.

For a long time, China's foreign exchanges have been dominated by government leaders, mostly one-way communication, and lack of innovation and mass participation. Therefore, the international public's acceptance and attention to Chinese cultural concepts are low, which affect the communication of China's national image. In the new era, it is necessary to use new media platforms to tell Chinese stories. New media can enhance the participation of the public, so as to break through the strong resistance of the public to official media and broaden the route of national discourse in the field of global ideological cognition. Continuous publicity and practice of the concept of a community with a shared future for neighboring countries will help reduce and resolve conflicts between China and its neighbors and expand their recognition, which in turn will promote international recognition of the concept of a community with a shared future for neighboring countries. After the 20th CPC National Congress, the focus of a series of summit diplomatic activities was to tell the story of the 20th CPC National Congress, the story of Chinese modernization, and the story of win-win cooperation between China and the world, and make it clear that the path of Chinese modernization is not a copy of the rise of a traditional power, still less a copy of a strong country bound to seek hegemony, but a right path that benefits China and the world.

6. Uphold the governance responsibility of shared benefits through consultation and collaboration

China is actively building a community with a shared future in its neighborhood, starting from the neighboring regions and moving from the regional level to the broader global level, and actively seeking a path for global governance. China has demonstrated its image as a responsible major country with concrete actions, and has contributed new vitality to global governance. In the global governance pattern, on the one hand, Western countries adhere to the realistic concept of power politics, starting from the position of strength, to meet the selfish interests of interference in other countries' internal affairs, destroy world peace and stability, and lead to the crisis of global governance. On the other hand, they try to shirk the responsibility for the predicament of global governance to China, exaggerating that China's comprehensive strength is increasing, but China is unwilling to bear the responsibility for the supply of public goods, which makes the world fall into the "Gindenberg trap"; At the same time, certain countries are drawing lines by ideology, bragging about the so-called "rules-based order", deliberately cobbling together their own "small circles" and building "small courtyards with high walls", constantly sowing discord between China's neighbors and disrupting regional peace and stability. China is ready to work with all parties to distinguish right from wrong, stick to the right path, build a "grand stage" for cooperation, and move towards a community of shared future.

Following the principle of shared benefits through consultation and collaboration, China firmly supports the UN-centered international system in global governance, the international order based on international law and the norms governing international relations based on the UN Charter. China believes that international affairs should be governed by the people of the world, has put forward the Belt and Road Initiative, established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund, and carried out a series of economic cooperation with neighboring countries. China advocates a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, and actively builds a community of shared future with neighbors. In the face of global issues, China has taken the initiative to provide medical supplies and COVID-19 vaccines to the international community and bridge the "vaccine gap". China has introduced a policy system to implement the "dual carbon" target and worked for the conclusion of the "Glasgow Climate Agreement". Kunming Biodiversity Fund has been established to be a practitioner of ecological civilization and an activist of global governance. With the change of the international situation in the new era, China has taken the initiative to assume the responsibility of global governance, and has actively provided public goods to the international community and regions, so that the international community could truly feel the reliability and stability of China as a responsible big country, and China's voice in international affairs is enhanced.

7. Conclusion

The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, and the surrounding region is full of many uncertainties. We should make a scientific assessment of the neighboring and international situation, further deepen cooperation with the neighboring countries, actively implement the development and security initiatives, so as to achieve better development of the Belt and Road Initiative, and promote lasting peace and common prosperity in this region. We will give a new dimension to the win-win community of shared future, and speed up the building of a high-quality China-neighboring community of shared future that is closer, more stable, more prosperous and more sustainable.

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