

# The 19th National Congress of the CPC Ushers in a New Era for China-South Africa and China-Africa Cooperation



Xi Jinping at the 19th National Congress of the CPC

We believe that there will be no political independence without economic independence. Only by realising industrialisation and agricultural modernisation can Africa create more jobs, tax revenues and foreign exchange and achieve self-sustainable development.

By Lin Songtian

On 18-24 October, the Communist Party of China (CPC) successfully convened its 19th National Congress in Beijing. People throughout China and the world paid very high attention to this meeting. It represents a historic milestone for China during the decisive stage in building a moderately

prosperous society in all respects and at a critical moment as socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era.

## A New Blueprint for China's future development

The Congress has made two major political judgments concerning the

overall situation.

*The first judgment is that the principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved into the one between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life, instead of the previous one between the ever-growing material and cultural needs of the people and the backwardness of social production.* Today, the needs to be met for the people to live a better life are increasingly broad. Not only have their material and cultural needs grown; their demands for democracy, rule of law, fairness and justice, security, a better eco-environment, balanced urban and rural development, and equitable income distribution are increasing.

*The second judgment is that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era.* The new era means that the Chinese nation, which since modern times began had endured so much for so long, has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming strong; it has come to embrace the brilliant prospects of rejuvenation. And now it is entering a new era of securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, a new era of realising common prosperity for all the Chinese, and a new era of fully building a modern socialist China. This new era means that China will focus more on addressing unbalanced and inadequate development, on improving the quality and effect of development, so as to better meet the ever-growing economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological needs of our people, and to promote all-round human development and social progress. This new era means that socialism with Chinese characteristics has achieved huge successes, blazing a new trail for other developing countries to achieve modernisation and make greater contributions to humankind.

Based on the fundamental judgments of the changes in China's national conditions, the Congress elaborated on the CPC's historic mission in the new era, and drew up a new blueprint for securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and

then embarking on a journey to fully build a modern socialist China.

By 2020, we will secure a decisive success in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, meaning as the world's most populous country, China, will completely eradicate poverty out of its entire 1.4 billion population, leaving no one behind. It is estimated that by 2020, per capita GDP in China will reach 10,000 US dollars.

For the period from 2021 to the middle of this century, the congress has drawn up a two stage overall development plan. From 2021-2035, we will basically realise socialist modernisation, with estimated per capita GDP at 30,000 US dollars, reaching the level of a moderately developed country. From 2036 to the mid 21st century, we will develop China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.

The Congress sets forth the basic policy for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. It has elected a new generation of CPC central leadership with General Secretary Xi Jinping at its core, and established the historical position of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guiding thought to unite and lead the CPC and the Chinese people going forward. The Xi Jinping Thought has been written into the CPC Constitution.

The 19th CPC National Congress has set out comprehensive planning and deployment for developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and for the CPC party building. This Congress has charted the course of both the CPC and China, and has far-reaching significance for the future of both China and the world.

### **A people-centered approach**

As General Secretary Xi Jinping of the CPC pointed out, the original aspiration and the mission of Chinese Communists is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. This is what inspires Chinese Communists to keep advancing. Since its foundation, the

CPC has maintained its fundamental purpose of serving people wholeheartedly. Upholding the firm belief that the CPC is the party of the people, for the people inspired by the people, the CPC is always committed to a people-centered approach, always puts the interest of the people first, and always strives to ensure the achievements of social and economic progress should be and must be shared by the entire population so as to achieve common prosperity for all.

As General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed, the CPC comes from the people. Its roots are based among the people. Its purpose is to serve the people. Without the people, the Party will lose its lifeline. With the deep conviction that the people are makers of history, the Party must serve the people wholeheartedly, exercise power for the people and continue to focus efforts on the aspiration of the people to live a better life.

For this utmost purpose, the 19th

**“We are fully committed to fight against poverty for common prosperity”**

National Congress of CPC has made clear a number of important principles. Firstly, development is the absolute principle and the top priority of the Party in governing and rejuvenating the country to realise the ambitious goal of securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respect and a modern socialist country with Chinese characteristics. Secondly, we uphold the new development approach that makes quality and effective, green and sustainable development a top priority. Thirdly, we are committed to open and innovation-driven development, letting the market play the decisive role in the allocation of resources, and making constant efforts to liberate and develop productivity. Fourthly, we are fully committed to fight against poverty for common prosperity. Our solemn promise is taking every one of the 1.3 billion Chinese people into a moderately prosperous society in all

respects, and leaving no one behind on the path towards common prosperity. We will work to ensure utmost fairness and justice, and ensure that every Chinese person benefits from the development of the country, which speaks volumes for the fundamental difference between socialism and capitalism.

### **A new opportunity for the world**

The 19th CPC National Congress set out the guiding principles for China's major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics at the top level. The Congress decided that China will pursue a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation, building a community with shared future for humankind, which is an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. This goal not only encapsulates the overall objective of China's diplomacy in the new era, but also declares to the world the general direction of our joint efforts with countries around the world.

General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that it is impossible for China to enjoy peace and development without the peace and development of the rest of the world. That is why China advocates for a new security concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. China is committed to jointly building a world of lasting peace and universal security. To achieve this goal, countries should abandon the traditional international politics of zero-sum game and the law of the jungle, and resolutely reject any country claiming to pursue “absolute security”.

This approach is in stark contrast to the foreign policy of some other countries that only seek absolute security for themselves. For that purpose, they even incite colour revolutions and try to topple the regime of another country. China will not only focus on building a beautiful and better China, but will also contribute to a beautiful world.

China is willing to work with the international community to promote the cause of the environment, address

climate change, and protect the earth as our shared homeland. To build a clean and beautiful and better world is the solemn promise of the CPC as well as the stated mission of China's diplomacy.

Looking forward, under the guidance of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, China will continue to hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and uphold its fundamental foreign policy goal of preserving world peace and promoting common development. China remains firm in its commitment to strengthening friendship and cooperation with other countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. China will always be a staunch force of world peace, development and order.

### **New Dynamics for China-South Africa and China-Africa Cooperation**

China and Africa always share a common future. We have always understood and supported each other on issues concerning our core interests and major concerns, and we have always stood together to protect our common interest. Since the entry of the new century, major changes have taken place to both China and Africa who share the common mission for economic development, better life for people and eradication of poverty. Africa is endowed with rich natural resources, human dividend, and a potential market while China has the comparative advantage of capital, technology, market, enterprises, talents and experience of successful development. China and Africa share mutual needs and complementarities and face a rare historic opportunity to synergise their development strategies.

In view of new developments in China-Africa relations, President Xi Jinping instructed us that in conducting our relations with Africa, we should always follow the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith, and uphold the values of friendship, justice and shared interests. The essence of the instruction is to closely combine China's development with the independent sustainable development of African countries, so

as to achieve win-win cooperation for common development.

In December 2015, President Xi Jinping and President Jacob Zuma co-chaired the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Johannesburg Summit. Our two Presidents jointly opened with other African leaders a new era of China-Africa win-win cooperation for common development. During the Summit, President Xi Jinping announced the China-Africa Ten Major Cooperation Plans, which is spearheaded by efforts to accelerate Africa's industrialisation and agricultural modernisation. With a commitment of 60 billion US dollars of funding support, China aims to support Africa to break through three development bottlenecks, namely inadequate infrastructure, lack of professional and skilled personnel, and short of financial resources so as to achieve lasting peace

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and self-sustainable development. We believe that there will be no political independence without economic independence. Only by realising industrialisation and agricultural modernisation can Africa create more jobs, tax revenue and foreign exchange and achieve self-sustainable development.

The new FOCAC meeting will be held in China next year. Under the guidance of the 19th National Congress of the CPC, and upholding the values of friendship, justice and shared interests, and the new approach of common, intensive, green, peaceful, and open development. China will work together with Africa to jointly build the Belt and Road and promote comprehensive cooperation in the five pillar areas of politics, economy, culture, security and international affairs, and bring

China-Africa relations into the new era of win-win cooperation for common development.

Currently, the China-South Africa comprehensive strategic partnership maintains robust momentum. China-South Africa relations are at a key historic moment and are faced with new historical opportunities. Over the years, a multi-layered, wide-ranging and all-dimensional cooperation framework has taken shape. Driven by three engines of mutual political trust, economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, China-SA relations have delivered tangible results to both peoples and become a model for China's cooperation with African countries and all developing countries.

Situated in a prime location, and boasting rich resources, sound infrastructure, a well-regulated market, and a sound legal system, South Africa is the leading African country that is in the best position for deeper China-Africa mutually beneficial cooperation. China and South Africa have not only the comparative advantages, but more importantly a strong political commitment to their common development. A new miracle for development will be created by China and South Africa complementing their respective strengths for win-win cooperation.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of China-South Africa diplomatic ties. China and South Africa will take this important opportunity, fully leverage our strengths of political mutual trust, economic complementarity, and the friendship between our two peoples, and work together to promote cooperation in ten priority areas including infrastructure, human resources, manufacturing and processing, agriculture, tourism, marine economy, finance, security, people-to-people exchange and international cooperation.

China is ready to support South Africa as a leading and pioneering country in Africa and a locomotive to drive Africa's industrialisation and modernisation, making China-South Africa relations more productive and more beneficial to the peoples of both our countries. ■