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中国抗疫： 举措、成效和担当

China's Fight against COVID-19:
Measures, Achievements and Responsibilities

Together We Fight
against the Virus

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Abstract

After the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, President Xi Jinping, personally directed and deployed for the containment of COVID-19. He proposed the guideline for the prevention and control work—“boosting confidence and unity, and taking resolute, science-based and targeted actions.” Domestically, China has coordinated joint prevention and control, ensured the supply of daily necessities, promoted scientific research, adopted various control measures by the law, advanced its capability of social governance, gave full play to its institutional advantage and adopted region-specific prevention and control measures. Internationally, China has been sharing its experience and enhancing international cooperation in science and technology; it has sought for medical resources to guarantee supplies, provided necessary assistance to fulfill its responsibility as a major country, and told Chinese stories to arouse resonance. With China’s unremitting efforts, its fight against COVID-19 has shown visible progress and the overall status is stabilized and improved.

Along with the overall epidemic containment, China, under the unified leadership and guidance of the CPC Central Committee, is gradually resuming the work and production of the whole industrial chain, which shows the great resilience of the Chinese economy. With concerted efforts, China began to smmoth travels and logistics channels as guided by “eight requirements on resumption of work and production.” President Xi Jinping pointed out that at such a time it is even more important to view China's development in a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective and firm up confidence. In general, the fundamentals of China’s long-term sound economic growth remain unchanged while the short-term impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak are generally controllable, Xi said.

China has coordinated the prevention and control work with the economic and social development, which has taken good effect in a short time

and won extensive endorsement and heartfelt appreciation across the world. Leaders and high-level officials from a number of countries, heads of many international organizations and leaders of multiple parties around the world have conveyed their sincere compliment for China's strong and effective measures against the epidemic. They spoke highly of China's unique institutional strength and expressed their confidence in China's victory to battle against the epidemic and restore its normal social and economic operations in China. The international community shares the view that the speed, intensity, and scope of China's epidemic response are rarely seen in the world, and China has demonstrated its strong leadership, response, mobilization and implementation capabilities.

China will continue to make new and bigger contributions to global public health governance and to the vision of constructing a community with a shared future for mankind. During the fight against the epidemic, China has fulfilled its commitment to the *International Health Regulations (IHR)*. China has adopted many strong and effective prevention and control measures, many of which are well beyond what is required by the IHR, and demonstrated a keen sense of responsibility as a major country. China has worked closely with relevant international organizations, neighboring countries, and other countries concerned, injected positive energy into global epidemic control, and offered useful references for the joint global response to the epidemic. Meanwhile, China's fight against irrational containment measures, radical statements, and overreactions has eliminated "political virus," cleared the way for a joint global response, and showed its sense of responsibility and commitment to establishing new major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics for a new era. China has set up a good example for nations across the world in fighting against the epidemic, accumulated beneficial experience, provided significant references, and established standards for the international community to address crises caused by infectious diseases and advance global public health governance.

Introduction

The year 2020 is destined to be a milestone in the history of China. In this year, China will achieve the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. It is also a decisive year for China’s poverty relief project. Over 1.4 billion Chinese people will historically be lifted out of poverty. However, at the beginning of such a crucial year, the COVID-19 virus hit suddenly and raged across the vast land of the country.

In face of an outbreak of the new virus and an epidemic rarely seen in human history, the Party, the army, the people and the entire Chinese nation have been mobilized to prevent and control the spread of the virus, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as its core, following the guideline of “boosting confidence and unity, and taking resolute, science-based and targeted actions.” A series of unprecedented measures for epidemic prevention, control and treatment have been taken and remarkable success has been achieved. To go further, normal social and economic operations are being restored in a targeted, orderly and stepwise fashion and with region-specific tactics. With great self-sacrifice and painstaking effort, China steadily fulfills its duty, buys precious time for global combat against the virus, and demonstrates the demeanor of a responsible major country.

In terms of international cooperation in COVID-19 prevention and control, China has been and will always be committed and proactive. In their meetings and conversations over the phone with foreign leaders, Chinese leaders have expressed for many times their willingness to cooperate and share the experience with the international community. Ever since the beginning of the outbreak, China has attached great importance to international public health cooperation, released the information about the virus to the public in a timely, open, transparent and responsible manner, and

kept close contact with the World Health Organization (WHO), neighboring and relevant countries. China's transparency in releasing information, among others, is universally appreciated by the international community.

The history of human civilization is a history of fighting against diseases. The present epidemic of novel coronavirus pneumonia once again teaches the international community a profound lesson: in the era of globalization, countries are becoming increasingly interdependent and their interests are more than ever interconnected. To build a community with a shared future for mankind is the sole correct direction of the progress of human society. Taking the opportunity of jointly combating COVID-19, China hopes to advance international coordination and cooperation to take better care of our planet, a home for the whole mankind, and build a global community with a shared desire to forge ahead together through thick and thin.

I. China’s Strong and Effective Measures against COVID-19

1.1 Multi-Pronged Prevention and Control Measures

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core has adopted a people-centered approach with unified leadership and guidance to fight against the epidemic. Taking the victory over the battle against COVID-19 as a major political mission, CPC members and officials at all levels are called to stay true to their original aspiration and keep their mission firmly in mind, and to enhance the “Four Consciousnesses” (to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core and keep in alignment) and strengthen the “Four Confidences” (confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics), as well as to firmly uphold General Secretary Xi



Medical teams converged in Hubei, Jan 26, 2020.

Jinping’s core position in both the Party Central Committee and the Party as a whole and firmly uphold the Party Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership. On the very first day of the Chinese lunar year, President Xi

made an overall arrangement for the containment of COVID-19. He put forward the guideline for China’s fight against the virus, i.e. “boosting confidence and unity, and taking resolute, science-based and targeted actions” and adopted the most comprehensive rigorous and thorough measures to prevent and control the epidemic. To guarantee that the Chinese people have a

happy and peaceful Spring Festival, he called for the accomplishment of six tasks, including joint prevention and control, the supply of relevant medical and living materials, the protection of medical workers, the ensuring of market supply, the guidance of public opinion, and the organization and mobilization of social forces. The epidemic is the order, while its prevention and control is the responsibility. The party committees and governments of all levels work together with the people to tide over the crisis, guarantee social stability and unity, and lay the foundation for joint epidemic prevention and control. The admittance of new party members on the frontlines provides a solid organizational basis for the victory over COVID-19.

Coordinating joint prevention and control and ensuring the supply of basic materials. After the outbreak of COVID-19, in the light of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions and with Premier Li Keqiang's approval and requirements, the State Council of China initiated a multi-sectoral response mechanism to direct and coordinate medical treatment, scientific research, publicity, diplomatic affairs, logistical support, and frontline work, and to make overall arrangements for the joint prevention and control of the disease. At the initial stage of the outbreak, responding to the sudden increase of demand for medical resources in Hubei Province, especially in the epicenter Wuhan City, the CPC Central Committee made full use of China's institutional strength and took resolute actions to mobilize medical resources from other provinces to support Hubei. Thereafter, the medical capability of the epidemic-stricken areas was quickly reinforced and medical supplies ensured. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) raced against time to assist Wuhan and build an "anti-epidemic great wall." Within a very short time, the Huoshenshan Hospital and Leishenshan Hospital were built and put to use, which was a demonstration of Chinese speed and power to the world. The fight against the epidemic is an all-out war and the whole

nation needs to be mobilized under a unified command. All levels of governments need to work in concert to improve the nation’s production capacity of emergency materials, to ensure the supply of basic materials, and to maintain social and economic stability.

Promoting scientific research to fully support the epidemic prevention and control. President Xi stressed, “we should promote scientific research on the tracing, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and control of COVID-19. We also should have more key technologies with independent intellectual property rights and we can win the war against COVID-19 with science and technology”¹. Scientific research sectors are concentrating effort on jointly solving the most urgent problems. Many provinces have set up scientific research projects on COVID-19 prevention and control and opened up “green channels,” channels with simplified procedures, to raise funds for these projects. Scientists and researchers are combining their research on vaccine, test reagent, and medical equipment with clinical trials to develop safe and effective vaccines, monitoring reagent and drugs as soon as possible. They have redoubled their efforts to support the frontline of the battle against COVID-19. Without wasting a second, the medical workers trying their best to improve treatment measures, further standardize treating procedures, enhance the efficiency of diagnosis and emergency treatment, raise recovery rate and lower death rate.

Adhering to law-based epidemic prevention and control and enhancing the capability of governance. Given the complexity of the situations about COVID-19, its prevention and control is closely linked to not only people’s safety and health but also China’s social and economic stability. The fight against the epidemic requires high-level governance capability. Right after the

¹ President Xi Jinping inspects the scientific research on COVID-19 and stresses coordinately advancing the scientific research on novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to provide support for winning the battle against the epidemic. People's Daily, 3 March 2020.

outbreak, the Chinese National Health Commission (NHC) announced the novel coronavirus pneumonia to be listed as a Type B infectious disease following the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases* and containment measures for Type A infectious diseases to be taken. The central and local governments of all levels initiated their prevention and control measures following the *Wild Animal Conservation Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Regulations on Preparedness for and Response to Emergent Public Health Hazards* and some other relevant laws and regulations. In the meantime, relevant departments of the government reinforced the punishment for actions that undermine the epidemic prevention and control and cracked down hard on violence against the medical workers and the production and sale of shoddy goods. The government adopted measures to enhance the legal awareness of the people so that everyone takes his or her due responsibilities. China will make laws on biological safety as soon as possible and improve its legal and institutional system to ensure biological safety and further enhance its governance capability.

1.2 Accurate Positioning and Specific Measures

Utilizing institutional strength and conducting differentiated prevention and control measures. After the epidemic outbreak, the joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council functioned immediately and adopted a risk-based prevention and control approach with differentiated prevention and control measures for different regions to strike a balance between the prevention and control of the COVID-19 and China's economic and social development. In Hubei Province and Wuhan City, the strategies to “control the source of infection, block transmission and prevent further spread”¹were

¹ The notification issued by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council:

continued; patient treatment and the interruption of community transmission were focused; the roads leaving Wuhan and Hubei were put under strict control. As to Beijing and other cities with large population flow, the overall aim was to block transmission and prevent further spread. Responsibilities were specified for districts, sectors, organizations and even individuals to cut the transmission route of the virus through directing population movement and the strict control over roads, ports, and communities. For neighboring provinces and some key provinces such as Zhejiang and Guangdong, the focus was on “blocking transmission, preventing further spread and local outbreak, and differentiated guidance for prevention and control measure”¹. Other provinces and regions continued to focus on “prevention, blocking transmission and preventing regional outbreak”² and enhance accurate surveillance and contact tracing, preventing any possible rebound of the epidemic. Working closely with the people, local governments have built up a strong frontline of joint prevention and control.

Resuming work and production while pushing forward epidemic prevention and control. At present, the epidemic prevention and control sees a positive trend across the country. Many provinces and regions have gradually lowered the level of public health emergency response. However, in Hubei

Further Instruction for Implementing Risk-based and Differentiated Prevention and Control Strategies, *the official website of the State Council of China*, 29 February 2020.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-02/29/content_5485010.htm.

¹ The notification issued by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council: Further Instruction for Implementing Risk-based and Differentiated Prevention and Control Strategies, *the official website of the State Council of China*, 29 February 2020.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-02/29/content_5485010.htm.

² The notification issued by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council: Further Instruction for Implementing Risk-based and Differentiated Prevention and Control Strategies, *the official website of the State Council of China*, 29 February 2020.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-02/29/content_5485010.htm.

Province, especially its capital city Wuhan, the situation is still complex and severe. In accordance with the general requirements issued by the CPC Central Committee, each region should adopt a risk-based and region-specific approach to resume work and production. Regions with relatively low risks should fully restore normal social and economic operations. Medium-risk regions should resume work and production in phases and batches based on local epidemic-control situations, while high-risk regions should continue to be fully committed to epidemic prevention and control.



China railway added special trains for resumption of work and production.

1.3 Promoting All-round International Cooperation

In face of a possible global spread of the epidemic, China is pursuing active diplomacy to secure strong international support for epidemic prevention and control. Upholding the ideal of building a community of a shared future for mankind, China provided timely updates on the epidemic, shared its experience on COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment with international community, won precious time for a joint global response to the epidemic, and set an example for the world in terms of governing a major country.

Sharing experience and promoting cooperation in scientific research. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Chinese government has shared information with the WHO and the international community, provided timely updates on epidemic prevention and control in China, and responded to concerns from all parties in a spirit of openness, transparency, and

responsibility. On multiple occasions, China called on the international community to work in unity and fight against COVID-19 together in a scientific, rational and responsible manner. Chinese scientists finished coronavirus gene sequencing, developed fast test kit in the shortest time



China dispatched its first international medical aid team of 9 heroes in harm's way with supplies to Rome by a chartered plane of China Eastern Airlines.

possible and shared them with the rest of the world. China has actively conducted scientific exchanges and research cooperation with other countries to provide intellectual support to the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 and the research and development of vaccines and, to the largest extent, contain the global spread of the epidemic.

Securing medical supplies to support the epidemic prevention and control. Since the outbreak, many countries have helped China in different ways and expressed their compassion, understanding, and support. China's diplomatic and consular missions “have worked hard to secure medical supplies badly needed at home, provided information and facilitation for overseas procurement, and fast-tracked the delivery of donations from foreign governments, overseas Chinese and international friends. A great many scarce medical supplies have made their way to Wuhan”¹. These efforts have provided strong support to COVID-19 prevention and control.

Providing necessary assistance to other countries and demonstrating the

¹ Wang Yi, Resolutely Defeating the COVID-19 Outbreak and Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, *the official website of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, 2 March 2020. <https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjzbzd/t1751263.shtml>.

demeanor of a major country. Now China's fight against COVID-19 is at a critical stage and many other countries are facing severe challenges as well. On March 11th, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that “COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic”¹. The WHO has raised the level of global risk estimation for novel coronavirus to “very high.” Epidemics respect no border and joint prevention and control is a must for a global response to COVID-19 in the context of globalization. Standing right at the forefront of the fight, China has clearly expressed its willingness to provide, within its power, aids, and support to countries in need and to fulfill its obligations as a major country. China has provided medical supplies to many countries including Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) and sent a team of medical experts to Iran, Italy, etc. to exchange experience and deepen medical cooperation.

Telling Chinese stories and striking a chord with the international community. The fight against COVID-19 requires national unity and people's deep commitment to collective action. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, 1.4 billion Chinese people have been united as one and resolved to win the fight. Amid efforts to defeat the epidemic, many touching and heroic actions sprang up. These actions were widely applauded in the international community and showed the world China's achievements in public health governance and disease control, as well as the Chinese nation's unity and solidarity. In addition, through actively participating in multilateral activities and telling Chinese stories in various channels, China is informing the world of our all-out efforts to battle the outbreak and encourages all the countries to join hands and fight the virus together.

1.4 Notable Progress in the COVID-19 Prevention and Control

The COVID-19 outbreak poses a great threat to the health and life of the

¹ WHO says COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic, *Xinhuanet*, 12 March 2020.

Chinese people. It is also a major test for global public health security. China has adopted the most comprehensive, vigorous and thorough measures to fight it. At present, the situations are looking up as the measures take effect. As of March 12th, twenty-five provinces have lowered their level of public health emergency response, fourteen of which from Level 1 to Level 2, ten from Level 1 to Level 3 and one from Level 3 to Level 4. Some provinces have adopted risk-based prevention and control approaches tailored for the specific situations of different areas in these provinces. By now, in Wuhan, Hubei, and China altogether, the proportion of severe cases among confirmed cases is decreasing. Newly confirmed cases reported in Hubei have maintained days of double-digit growth. All 16 mobile cabin hospitals in Wuhan have already been closed. From now on, the medical system will be gradually restored in phases according to local epidemic situations. Medical experts and researchers are working together to update clinical guidelines and describe the clinical course of COVID-19 and contributing what all they can to a final victory over the disease.

Winning the battle against COVID-19 is vital for national security, development, and stability. We should keep in mind that the growing positive momentum in epidemic control across China is earned by arduous efforts; we should remain alert to the complicated situations of epidemic control and socio-economic development. We have no reason to slack any effort until we win the battle completely. Next, we will further implement the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee, put the prevention and control measures into real effect, consolidate and expand what we have achieved, and “strive to resume our normal social and economic operations in the earliest time possible and pave the way for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation”¹.

¹ President Xi presides over the CPC Central Committee Meeting to Discuss Key Issues in Containing COVID-19 and Stabilizing Economic and Social Operations, *People’s Daily*, March 5, 2020.

1.5 Optimistic Prospect for COVID-19 Prevention and Control

To contain COVID-19 is a war without flame and smoke. To win the war, we should deal with the present emergencies and plan for the future at the same time. “With the extraordinary and united efforts of the Party, the people and the whole country, at present, the spread of COVID-19 has largely been contained and epidemic prevention and control is keeping a positive momentum”¹. Though epidemic situation has shown positive changes, we shall not spare any effort. Instead, we should remain as vigilant and efficient as before until we completely win the war against the epidemic.

In today's world, all countries are interdependent and share a common future. The COVID-19 epidemic is a challenge faced by all nations and the world needs to join hands to fight against it. Prioritizing the security and health of the people as always, the Chinese government has taken timely and effective measures to stop the virus from spreading. More than ever, the world needs China's experience in epidemic prevention and control. At present, the outbreak of COVID-19 is accelerating around the world. As the initiator of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, in the spirit of openness and transparency, China has actively provided updates on the epidemic for the public, and shared experience in epidemic control offered necessary assistance to other countries with COVID-19 outbreaks and demonstrated the demeanor and sense of responsibility as a major country in the world. “Though mountains and rivers apart, we share the same winds and moon under the same sky.” China has no doubt that with the concerted effort of the international community the world will triumph over the virus and walk hand in hand into a brighter spring.

¹ President Xi presides over the CPC Central Committee Meeting to Discuss Key Issues in Containing COVID-19 and Stabilizing Economic and Social Operations, *People's Daily*, March 5, 2020.

II. Resumption of Work and Production in Industrial Chain Highlighting Economic Resilience

2.1 Multiple Measures to Support Enterprises in Difficulties

At early stage of the outbreak, some enterprises were hit, especially the many micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. They encountered difficulties including rising labor costs, reducing operating income, shrinking working fund and difficult debt repayment. According to a survey by the China Merger & Acquisition Association, nearly 60% of the 982 enterprises in 19 lines of business in 30 provinces, regions and cities showed clear signs of difficulties in operation.¹In face of such a situation, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core responded rapidly, enhanced macro-regulation and enacted a series of policies to facilitate enterprises to solve their problems. These efforts have effectively cushioned the negative impact of the epidemic.

China’s proactive fiscal policy becomes more proactive. The Ministry of Finance, together with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the State Administration of Taxation, introduced successive measures to ease enterprises’ financial pressure. For those enterprises suffering heavy losses from the epidemic, their carry-forward period for the deficit in 2020 is extended from five years to eight years². Their due social insurance expenses and basic medical insurance premiums will be reduced or exempted in phases. Their housing provident fund payment will be deferred. It is estimated that the financial burden relieved for relevant enterprises in 2020 will exceed 660

¹ CMAA Survey Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on Enterprises and Organizations, *the official website of CMAA*, 23 February 2020. <http://www.ma-china.com/show.asp?id=1642>.

² notice on the Taxation Policies to Support the Prevention and Control of COVID-19, *the official website of Chinese Ministry of Finance*, 6 February 2020. http://szs.mof.gov.cn/zhengcefabu/202002/t20200207_3466788.htm.

billion CHY.¹ Governments of all levels should actively follow the Central Government to introduce more policies to reduce fees and taxes for the benefit of the enterprises according to actual local situations. Taking Beijing for example, for MSEs and micro-businesses from industries severely affected by the epidemic like accommodation, catering, culture, sports and entertainment, sewage treatment fee, road-using expenses and special equipment inspection and testing fees are to be exempted to cut their costs.²

China's prudent monetary policy becomes more flexible and moderate. In the *Notice on Further Enhancing Financial Support for Controlling the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Outbreak* jointly issued by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and four other departments, thirty measures were laid out, including providing differentiated preferential financial services to the areas, industries and enterprises severely affected by the epidemic, and strengthening credit support for some key sectors, such as manufacturing industry, small- and micro-sized enterprises, private businesses, etc³. Building on the 300 billion CHY special refinancing that has previously been allocated to combat COVID-19, the PBOC added a 500 billion yuan (\$71.25 billion) quota of re-lending and re-discounting for banks.



Comic: multiple financial measures to help small and medium-sized firms resume work and production.

¹ Press Conference of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council on the Introduction of Phased Reduction and Exemption of Enterprise Social Insurance Fee: Reduced, Exempted and Deferred Payments Are Estimated to Exceed 500 Billion CHY, *Economic Daily*, 21 February 2020.

² Beijing Exempts Three Fees to Support Medium-sized, Small- and Micro-sized Enterprises through Multiple Measures, *Xinhuanet*, 9 February 2020.

³ Notice on Further Enhancing Financial Support for Controlling the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Outbreak, *the official website of the People's Bank of China*, 31 January 2020.

Meanwhile, the PBOC lowered the interest rate of agricultural and small-sized enterprises refinancing to 2.5%, down by 0.25 percentage points.¹To maintain reasonable and adequate market liquidity, the PBOC actively conducted short-term reverse repo funding. To guide the downturn of the market interest rate, the PBOC also cut MLF interest rate to 3.15%², and reduced one-year term and five-year term LPR to 4.05% and 4.75%.³ The targeted and effective financial and monetary policies play a vital role in meeting the financial needs of the enterprises and stabilizing the financial market.

In addition to directly responding to the concerns of enterprises, Chinese governments of all levels have also enacted new supportive regulations in the fields of new energy vehicles, 5G, "internet-plus healthcare," logistics and reinforced assistance to relevant enterprises.

2.2 Industrial Chain Restoring Rapidly

As the epidemic is easing, guided by “eight requirements on resumption of work and production in an orderly way” of the CPC Central Committee,⁴ the flow of people and materials and the order of production are being resumed and normal economic operations are being restored. The joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council printed and issued the *Guide for the Prevention and Control of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia in a Scientific, Targeted and Classified Manner*, pointing out that a region-specific approach shall be adopted to differentiate low, moderate and high-risk

¹ PBC Holds Videophone Conference on Financial Support for Medium-sized, Small and Micro Businesses to Resume to Work and Production, the official website of the People’s Bank of China, 26 February 2020.

² Announcement of Open Market Operations No. 29 (2020), *the official website of the People’s Bank of China*, 17 February 2020.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/zhengcehuobisi/125207/125213/125431/125475/3971702/index.html>.

³ Announcement on LPR February 20, 2020, *the official website of the People’s Bank of China* <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/zhengcehuobisi/125207/125213/125440/3876551/3974469/index.html>.

⁴ President Xi delivers an important speech at the meeting to advance the work on coordinating COVID-19 prevention and control and economic and social development, *Xinhua News Agency (Beijing)*, 23 February 2020.

regions based on local health risk and to resume work and production in a more scientific and orderly manner.¹ Local governments should also enact new support policies to facilitate enterprises to resume production, ensure orderly and safe production and shore up the confidence of business, such as special subsidized loans, tax reduction, and exemption, rent and fee reduction, subsidies for resumption of work and production, extension of license validity, etc. All these policies will effectively help the enterprises get through difficulties caused by interrupted circulation of people, material and funds.

Work and production are gradually resumed in China and the interruption of some industrial chains is being abated. Major ports, such as Yanshan Port, Tianjin Port, Lianyungang Port, and Guangzhou Port, are helping foreign trade enterprises to resume work and production with prioritized berth, optimized operation, “zero contact” intelligent operation, etc. In view of the situations of different industries, risk-based and differentiated approaches will be adopted. For key industries of national economy and people’s livelihood, work and production should be completely resumed while ensuring epidemic control. For other industries, a more flexible approach should be taken to minimize the impact of the outbreak on economic and social development. By now, China has established an economic order that fits the current situation. “79% of key projects have been resumed to normal operations”², a significant increase from 41.79% on February 17, and the number of enterprises with 50% work resumption also had a noticeable

¹ Guide for the Prevention and Control of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia in a Scientific, Targeted and Classified Manner’ Issued and Printed by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council,” *Xinhua News Agency (Beijing)*, 18 February 2020.

² The Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee Meet for Discussing Key Tasks for the Prevention and Control of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Epidemic and Stabilizing Economic and Social Operations, President Xi Presides over the Meeting. *People’s Daily*, 3 March 2020.

increase.¹

Central government-owned enterprises resume to work and production according to their locations and health risk levels. 91.7% of the 48,000 subsidiaries of the central government-owned enterprises supervised by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC), have resumed work. And work resumption rate has reached 95% for industries such as power, petroleum, and petrochemical, telecommunication, transportation, etc. Normal operations have been gradually restored in some key projects participated by central government-owned enterprises, such as the Jiangsu Binhai Maritime WindPower Project, Xinjiang Wucaiwan Smart Power Plant Project, the



Work and production fully resumed on a 100,000-ton-level waterway extension project, Ganyu Port, Lianyungang.

Largest Cross-county Poverty Relief Project in Zhaotong Yunnan, Beijing Winter Olympic Games Village Project, etc. The resumption of work in these large projects plays a key role in easing economic pressure and promoting the development of the medium- and small-sized

enterprises in the upstream and downstream of the industrial chains.

The work resumption rate of industrial enterprises above the designated size gradually increases. By March 2, over 90% of the industrial enterprises resumed normal operations in Shanghai, Zhejiang, Guizhou, Anhui, Jiangsu,

¹ Work Resumption ‘Progress Bar’, Sikesulihua, *Xinhua Thinker Net*, 3 March 2020. <http://sike.news.cn/statics/sike/posts/2020/03/219554446.html>.

Chongqing, etc.¹ In Shanghai for example, by February 29, 94.5% of industrial enterprises above designed size have resumed operation. 64.6% of the staff have returned to work and 66% of production has been restored. 97.4% of large groups have returned to business, with 63.8% of staff getting back to their posts and 58% of production resumed. For SMEs, work resumption rates reaches 53% and 45% of the staff returned to their posts.² By 17:00 February 28, in Lin-gang Special Area of the Shanghai Pilot FTZ, 1,101 enterprises have returned to operation and 42,939 workers have returned to their posts. Among the above-mentioned enterprises, 100% of those with 500 billion CHY or above output value have resumed operation and the number is 98.7% for those whose output value is 100 billion CHY or above. Since February 10, the operation has been gradually resumed in Shanghai Chemical Engineering Zone. Now nearly 100% of enterprises in the zone have resumed work and production. With 23,431 people returning to their work, 347 out of 414 enterprises have officially resumed operation in Shanghai Jinshan Industrial Zone by February 24, among which 136 enterprises above the designated size all passed registration and examination and got back to operation³. Brought up by large enterprises, medium- and small-sized enterprises at the upstream and downstream of the industrial chains return to business in succession. At present, 30% of medium- and small-sized enterprises have resumed operation across the country and the proportion keeps increasing steadily.⁴

¹ Work Resumption 'Progress Bar', Sikesulihua, *Xinhua Thinker Net*, 3 March 2020. <http://sike.news.cn/statics/sike/posts/2020/03/219554446.html>.

² Shanghai: 94.5% of industrial enterprises above the designated size resume operation, *Chinanews*, 2 March 2020. <http://www.chinanews.com/m/cj/shipin/cns-d/2020/03-02/news849795.shtml>.

³ look! These Places in Shanghai Are Not Only 'Hot', but 'Hungary', World Wide Web, 1 March 2020. <https://china.huanqiu.com/article/9CaKrnKpFAf>.

⁴ Work Resumption 'Progress Bar', Sikesulihua, *Xinhua Thinker Net*, 3 March 2020. <http://sike.news.cn/statics/sike/posts/2020/03/219554446.html>.

2.3 Promoting High-Quality Economic Development

Though the outbreak of COVID-19 has disrupted China’s normal economic operations in the short term, it has also brought opportunities for industrial development just as “every dark cloud has a silver rim.”

As stressed by President Xi, innovation is the primary driving force for development. To a certain degree, the outbreak has accelerated the development of China’s industrial innovation and technological progress. In the middle and longterm, it adds new driving forces for development and improves China’s economic quality. The epidemic has made clear the great potential of many emerging industries, including intelligent manufacturing, unmanned delivery, online education, digital entertainment, medicine and health, e-commerce for fresh fruit and vegetable, etc. The most typical example is the "cloud economy." "Cloud office," “cloud education” and “cloud medical care” have seen explosive growth. Statistics show that, as of February 10, the top three applications downloaded from Apple Store are all cloud office applications, Ding Talk, Tencent Meeting, and WeChat Work. By February 2, the Chinese Ministry of Education has launched 24,000 courses on 22 online platforms¹. Nearly 200 state-owned medical institutions and 100 private online hospital offer free online diagnosis². In contrast, some traditional businesses that depend heavily on offline experience are badly hit. They urgently need upgrading to create new business models by combining online and offline operations.

The commercial use of 5G, big data, cloud computing, AI, industrial internet, the Internet of things, among other things, are the basis of the

¹ The Guide on Higher Learning Institutions Online Teaching Organization and Management by MOE Leading Group for Addressing COVID-19 Outbreak, *the official website of the State Council of China*, 4 February 2020.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-02/05/content_5474733.htm.

² Online Diagnosis Went Viral during COVID-19 Outbreak Will It Become Normal? *Xinhua Net*, 25 February 2020. http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2020-02/25/c_1125622948.htm.

development and evolution of the above-mentioned industries. It can be estimated that the outbreak of COVID-19 will bring a new round of industrial innovation and technological progress in China. Numerous new industries, new industrial forms, new business modes will surge up, providing new driving forces for the high-quality development of our economy.

2.4 China's Economy Maintaining a Long-Term Steady Momentum

We should not be over-pessimistic about the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on our economy. Just as General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, at the deployment conference on coordinating and promoting COVID-19 containment and economic and social development on February 23, that at such a crucial time it is even more important to view China's development in a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective and firm up our confidence. In general, the fundamentals of China's long-term sound economic growth remain unchanged while the short-term impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak are generally controllable.¹

Economists often figuratively call consumption, investment, and export "three horses" that drive the carriage of the economy forward. As the long-term driving forces of China's economy, their resilience, potential, and vigor have hardly been impaired by the COVID-19 outbreak. In terms of consumption, the current contribution of consumption to GDP growth has exceeded 50%, and the income increase of both urban and rural residents and the poverty relief efforts have laid a solid foundation for long-term consumption growth. In 2019, the average income of Chinese residents exceeded 30,000 CHY for the first time. Average disposable income per capita grew 5.8% in the last year, keeping pace with GDP growth. The average disposal income per capita in poor rural areas enjoyed an 11.5% year-on-year

¹ President Xi Delivers an Important Speech on the Meeting to Advance the Work on Coordinating the Prevention and Control of the Novel Coronavirus Disease Epidemic and Economic and Social Development, *Xinhua News Agency (Beijing)*, 23 February 2020.

growth. 11.09 million people in rural areas were lifted out of poverty. Each year over 10 million people get out of poverty in seven consecutive years¹. At present, some consumption is postponed by COVID-19 outbreak, but a strong rebound is expected after the epidemic and thereafter it will gradually return to a stable status. Consumption will still be the cornerstone for supporting and driving economic growth. As to investment, the general level of China's infrastructure is not high; therefore, as the new pattern of urbanization continues, the investment in energy sources, transportation, construction, information, and communication, etc. will keep its vigor, especially in underdeveloped areas where the potential for growth is enormous. Besides, China is now at a critical stage of economic structure adjustment and industrial transformation and upgrading. In the near future, the commercial use of 5G, big data, cloud computing, AI and Internet Plus, etc., will promote a new surge in investment. In terms of export, China is the only country that has all the industrial categories in the UN Industry Classification. The depth and width of China's participation in the global industrial chain keep increasing. All these advantages are not to be impaired by the COVID-19 outbreak. They guarantee the gradual recovery of export to the level of sustainable growth.

The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak will be intense in the first quarter of the year, and then the resilience of China's economy will push it to recover quickly. NBS estimates that PMI will improve in March as enterprises resume operation.²J.P. Morgan, an American investment bank, estimates that China's economy will recover after the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is over and

¹ 2019 National Economy and Social Development Statistic Bulletin of the People's Republic of China, *the official website of National Bureau of Statistics*, 28 February 2020.
http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/202002/t20200228_1728913.html.

² Zhao Qinghe, Senior Statistician of NBS Tertiary Industry Investigation Center, Analyzes the PMI of February 2020, *the official website of the National Bureau of Statistics*, 29 February 2020.
http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/sjjd/202002/t20200229_1729137.html.

China will very likely realize a 15% growth in the second quarter.¹The epidemic has not caused much damage to the dynamism and basis for China's long-term development and China's economy will return to a stable and healthy track as an all-round recovery of life and production comes into being.

The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is transient. As "the factory of the world" and "the market of the world," China has a tremendously resilient economy that is full of potentials. The fundamentals of China's long-term sound economic growth remain unchanged. Both the Chinese government and Chinese people have confidence and capability to maintain economic and social stability and to make more contributions to the development of the world economy and the stability of the global industrial chain.

¹ J.P. Morgan sees China's economy growing 15% in the second quarter as it recovers from coronavirus, *CNBC*, 26 February 2020.

III. International Support and Recognition for China’s Fight against the COVID-19 Outbreak

3.1 International Recognition of China’s Measures

The COVID-19 virus is a new pathogen that is highly contagious and has rarely seen in human history. Once it attacks, no country will be spared. Especially in an age of globalization, countries around the world are more economically interdependent, enjoy more frequent personnel exchanges and



WHO Director-General: China’s efforts to contain the COVID-19 outbreak have bought time to the world.

even share a common future. China today is intimately connected with the rest of the world, sharing both common benefits and security risks. China is the second-largest economy in the world and a major trading partner of 120 countries and regions worldwide¹. According to the statistics published by China’s National Immigration Administration (NIA), in 2019 Chinese border control authorities has all together inspected 670 million travelers and 36.23 million vehicles². Therefore, China’s fight against the new coronavirus is not only about China itself, but also influential to the development of the whole world. After the coronavirus outbreak, China becomes the focus

of international attention. The WHO has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a

¹ Director of the Foreign Trade Department of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce talks about the situation of China’s foreign trade in 2019, *the official website of the Ministry of Commerce*, <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/sjjd/202001/20200102930414.shtml>.

² The total number of people crossing Chinese borders in 2019 reached 670 million, up by 3.8% year on year, including 350 million Chinese Mainland Residents, *the official website of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security*, <http://www.mps.gov.cn/n2254314/n6409334/c6850576/content.html>.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Although this is a routine procedure usually adopted by the WHO when dealing with such events, still it will put China under the microscope. In face of such a major test that no country has experienced before, China acted with speed, scale, and clear-minded determination, and its containment measures gained recognition from all over the world.

First, Xi Jinping, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, is personally overseeing and guiding the response to the outbreak and playing a crucial role in containing the spread of the disease. His hard work and dedication are highly commended by the international society. After the outbreak, President Xi talked over phone with leaders of more than 10 countries and met with the visiting leaders, including the Prime Minister of Cambodia, the President of Mongolia and the Director-General of the WHO to introduce China's efforts to fight against the disease. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said for several times that President Xi's personal guidance and deployment show his great leadership capability. When speaking over the phone, the leaders of the US, ROK, Chile, and Cuba expressed their confidence in China to finally prevail over the epidemic under the strong leadership of President Xi. The President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko showed respect to the efficiency of the Chinese leadership and Chinese people's bravery; the President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari also commended and supported Chinese leader's efforts in containing the spread of the epidemic¹. The President of the Kuhn foundation Robert Lawrence Kuhn said that President Xi's speeches demonstrated CPC's determination to win the battle to all Chinese people². Moreover, political leaders of many other countries called or

¹ Foreign political leaders speak positively of and show support to China's fight against the COVID-19 outbreak, *Xinhuanet*. 1 February 2020, http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-02/01/c_1125520036.htm.

² China has set an excellent example of COVID-19 containment for a global response. *People's Daily*, 25 February 2020.

wrote to express appreciation for President Xi’s accurate judgment and insightful planning in dealing with the epidemic.

Second, China has mobilized the entire country to combat the epidemic and successfully contained its spread in the shortest time possible. China’s unyielding and arduous efforts have displayed its keen sense of responsibility as a major country. Its fight against the virus has created many “firsts” in global public health history and made significant contributions to the global containment of COVID-19, winning recognition and appraisal from all over the world. The *Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)* clearly states that Chinese containment measures include extremely proactive surveillance to immediately detect cases, very rapid diagnosis and immediate case isolation, rigorous tracking and quarantine of close contacts, and an exceptionally high degree of population understanding and acceptance of these measures. China’s uncompromising and rigorous use of the above non-pharmaceutical measures have effectively contained transmission of the COVID-19 virus and provided vital lessons for the global response¹. WHO Director-General Tedros said that China’s effective containment measures are not only protecting the Chinese people but also safeguarding global health. China’s efforts to control the virus have won valuable time for a global response. António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, also expressed his appreciation for China’s great sacrifices to safeguard the common benefits of humanity.² Leaders of many countries hailed that the high speed and massive scale of China’s response to the epidemic are rarely seen in the world³. Moreover, many important foreign

¹ Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Chinese version), *the official website of Chinese National Health Commission*.

<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/jkj/s3578/202002/87fd92510d094e4b9bad597608f5cc2c.shtml>;

² SCIO press conference about the progress of COVID-19 control and medical rescue, *the official website of the State Council Information Office of China*.

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/xwfbh/xwfbh/wqfbh/42311/42642/index.htm>.

³ SCIO briefing on international cooperation in response to COVID-19, *the official website of The State Council Information Office of China*, 5 March 2020.

officials and scholars have commended China's effective and stringent measures. The President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde showed his appreciation and firm support for China's solemn commitment and extraordinary efforts to combat the virus¹; the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan said that the whole world thanks and appreciates China's efforts and achievements in battling against the virus and no country could have done better than China²; the Chairman of Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and the President of Malaysia-China Friendship Association Abdul Majid expressed that the Chinese government adopted a series of timely and effective measures to fight against the COVID-19 outbreak and demonstrated great determination and courage to win the fight, and he also showed respect for the tens of thousands of Chinese medical workers who have voluntarily joined the all-out rescue of patients in Hubei Province³; Linda Saif, a professor at Ohio State University (OSU) in the US, said during an interview, that it is extremely challenging to quarantine a city of nearly 10 million people and build a hospital in two weeks, and China has done an excellent job⁴.

Third, the Chinese government, upholding the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, has provided timely updates on the epidemic in a spirit of openness and transparency, laid the foundation for a joint response to this global challenge, and won itself wide endorsement and trust from the world. Chinese research team has isolated the virus within the

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/xwfbh/xwfbh/wqfbh/42311/42642/index.htm>.

¹ Foreign political leaders speak positively of and show support to China's fight against the COVID-19 outbreak, *People's Daily*, 12 February 2020.

² Wang Yi: Resolutely Defeating the COVID-19 Outbreak and Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, *the official website of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.

<https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjbxhd/t1751263.shtml>.

³ China has set an excellent example of COVID-19 containment for global response. *People's Daily*, 25 February 2020;

⁴ International community applauds China's efforts to fight against the epidemic. *Xinhua Daily Telegraph*, 21 February 2020.

shortest time possible and shared the genetic sequences and PCR primers and probes of the virus with the world right away, making it possible for all disease control facilities, medical institutions, and enterprises to produce reliable and sensitive diagnostic tools for COVID-19. China has conducted over 20 sessions of technical consultation with experts from multiple international or regional organizations like the WHO, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), EU, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and countries including Japan, South Korea, Russia, and the US, through teleconferencing and some other channels. During these sessions, Chinese scholars introduced China's disease control experiences and information in relation to laboratory testing, epidemiological investigation, and clinical diagnosis and treatment, and shared updated guidelines on COVID-19 prevention, diagnosis, treatment and surveillance with more than 100 countries and over 10 international organizations. China and the WHO also set up a joint mission to conduct field research in Beijing, Hubei Province, Guangdong Province, etc. and inform the world of the reality of China's ongoing battle against the epidemic. Meanwhile, various Chinese media and portal websites issue real-time reports of newly recorded confirmed cases, suspected cases, deaths and cured patients in every provinces and cities of China, and provide updates on the epidemic in China to the world. The US President Donald Trump tweeted that the United States greatly appreciates their (China's) efforts and transparency; German Minister of Health appraised the Chinese government's openness and transparency on the epidemic and thought that updates on the epidemic in China make every country better prepared¹; Russian political scientist Victor Pirorenko said that, as a responsible member of the international community, China has demonstrated unprecedented openness and sense of responsibility to the world through its timely updates on the epidemic; the President of the 74th UN

¹ Foreign experts and officials speak positively of China's efforts to fight against the COVID-19 outbreak. *People's Daily*, 29 January 2020;

General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad Bande had a similar remark that the Chinese government's timely and transparent information release is favorable for the world to understand the evolving COVID-19 outbreak in China and build multilateral collaborative schemes to stop the spread of the disease.

3.2 Positive Comments on Chinese Governance System

Amongst the wide endorsements and appreciations for China's efforts to contain the COVID-19 epidemic, one common feature stands out, that is, most political leaders, parties, entrepreneurs, and scholars have noticed the advantage of China's governance system in this fight. The institutional strength of socialism with Chinese characteristics in pooling resources for major undertakings is there for all to see and it has provided strong support to China's victory against the epidemic. Former French Prime Minister Raffarin said that, in face of the epidemic, the leadership, response and mobilization capabilities demonstrated by the Chinese government are very impressive. This is the strength of the Chinese system¹. Die Welt (The World), a German newspaper, commented that China's governance system is particularly powerful in dealing with emergencies, and the effective and thorough measures taken by China are possible only in countries with sufficient resources and sound national systems. RossiyskayaGazeta, a Russian newspaper, published an article, stating that the Chinese government is taking uncompromising and rigorous measures to contain the epidemic, and the whole country is mobilized under a unified command. The scale of China's mobilization is unprecedented in global health history. The reason it works lies in the strength of China's governance system led by the CPC².

This epidemic outbreak is a major test for both China and the world. With the most comprehensive, stringent and thorough prevention and control

¹ China is making contributions to the entire human race. *People's Daily Overseas Edition*, 29 February 2020.

² China is making contributions to the entire human race. *People's Daily Overseas Edition*, 29 February 2020.

measures, China has brilliantly answered up to every question in the test. The foundation and key factor that make the implementation of these measures possible is the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. The most distinctive feature of such a system is the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC. When disaster strikes, it ensures the country does not slip into disorder and chaos, pools all resources under one unified command to achieve a rapid, coordinated and all-out response, and enables all levels of governments, all industries, civic organizations, and groups to make full play of their strengths in the fearless battle against the disease at all costs and expecting nothing in return. Moreover, this fight has demonstrated CPC's devotion to the idea that people's safety and health always come first. Even though an all-out war against the epidemic will temporarily harm the Chinese economy, to contain the epidemic, protect Chinese people's safety and cure infected patients are still the top priority of the country.

3.3 International Support to China

Viruses respecting no border and diseases are the common enemy of all nations. China's fight against the COVID-19 outbreak won support from all over the world. To date, the leaders of over 170 countries, the heads of more than 40 international and regional organizations and 300 parties and political organizations in 120 countries have expressed their sympathy or support for China in various forms. The UN, SCO, BRICS, ASEAN, African Union, Arab League, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the G77 have issued statements to express confidence in and support for China.

Besides moral supports, many countries and international organizations have offered donations to China. Up to the beginning of March, Sixty-two countries and seven international organizations have pledged epidemic prevention and control supplies to China. To be specific, supplies from 46 countries and six international organizations have arrived in China. Sixteen countries and one international organization announced they would provide prevention and control supplies. In addition, 12 countries and two

international organizations have provided or announced they would provide food, cash and other forms of material support to China.

Meanwhile, people around the world have offered support to China in a variety of forms. Australia, Japan, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and some other countries have illuminated their landmark buildings in “Chinese red” to support China’s fight against the epidemic. People in Thailand, Russia, Brazil, Italy, Germany, etc. have voiced their support for China through videos.



Azadi Tower in Iran was lit up in red in solidarity with China

A friend in need is a friend indeed. These aids and assistance is a result of the international community's deep sympathy over China's sufferings, a result of friendship with other countries accumulated through long years, a result of China's efforts to promote peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefits, as well as a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation, a result of China's pursuit of the greater good in its equal communication with all nations, a result of China’s commitment to the ideal of “peace among all nations” and “common prosperity,” and a result of the public products and development opportunities China has provided for the rest of the world in recent years, among others, the Belt and Road Initiative.

IV. China’s Significant Contribution to Global Public Health

4.1 Exercising Its Role as a Major Country through Containing COVID-19

Immediately after the COVID-19 outbreak, China has activated national public health emergency response. Taking epidemic control and the health of Chinese and other countries' people as the top priority, China has made a great self-sacrifice. The economic and social development of China was almost put on hold and Chinese people celebrated the most important traditional festival, the Spring Festival, in quarantine. When an unknown infectious disease breaks out, with no antiviral drugs and vaccines, quarantine is the most effective way to cut its transmission route. In the following few weeks, non-critical economic and social activities in most parts of China have almost dropped to the lowest level in decades. The tremendous economic and social sacrifices made by China have not only protected the health of Chinese people but also won valuable time and experience for the world to combat the disease.

In fact, the *International Health Regulations (IHR)* has detailed provisions for the prevention and control of communicable diseases. China’s measures to combat the COVID-19 outbreak strictly abide by IHR provisions and some of them are even well beyond its requirements. As for “Notification” and “Information-sharing, the *IHR* provides that, “each State Party shall notify WHO, by the most efficient means of communication available, by way of the National IHR Focal Point, and within 24 hours of assessment of public health information, of all events which may constitute a public health emergency of international concern within its territory in accordance with the decision instrument, as well as any health measure implemented in response to those events”¹; “if a State Party has evidence of an unexpected or unusual

¹ Part II of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (Chinese Vision), *the official website of*

public health event within its territory, irrespective of origin or source, which may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, it shall provide to WHO all relevant public health information”¹. On “Public health response,” the *IHR* requires “when requested by WHO, States Parties should provide, to the extent possible, support to WHO-coordinated response activities”².

In its fight against the epidemic, China has fulfilled its commitment to the *IHR* and adopted the most comprehensive, stringent and thorough prevention and control measures beyond what is required in the *IHR*, demonstrating its sense of responsibility as a major country in the world. Actively shouldering its due international responsibilities, China has not only released information about the epidemic and shared updated research results with the rest of the world in time, but also been fully cooperative with the WHO. Even when Chinese medical system has already overloaded, China still sent experts to work with the WHO mission to China, so that the international community could have a more reliable knowledge on the epidemic and a better understanding of China's ongoing containment measures, and be more prepared for a global response.

More importantly, the uniqueness and effectiveness of China's experience have exceeded the expectation of the *IHR* and the international community. With any antiviral drug or vaccine, the Chinese government and people have made a tremendous sacrifice to curb the spread of the epidemic to the largest extent possible. WHO experts estimate that, owing to China's containment measures like joint prevention and control, voluntary quarantine with active surveillance, increasing treatment beds to ensure that all cases could be

Chinese National Health Administration.

<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/yjb/s7858/201306/91edc6f8694c456eb678f59cebfc63fb.shtml>.

¹ *Ibid.*

² *Ibid.*

treated and locking down local communities, the global spread of the virus has been delayed for several days, creating a valuable "window of opportunities" for global response. "Much of the global community is not yet ready, in mindset and materially, to implement the measures that have been employed to contain COVID-19 in China. These are the only measures that are currently proven to interrupt or minimize transmission chains in humans." ¹This suggests that China has lived up to its role as a responsible major country, provided vital lessons and a high-quality and most effective public product for a global response to the epidemic.

4.2 Earning Trust for Jointly Tackle Global Challenges

Committed to protecting the common benefits of all nations, out of a keen sense of responsibility for the wellbeing of all peoples, China is actively participating in, and even leading international cooperation on COVID-19 prevention and control, and working hand in hand with the international community to contain the spread of the virus. As of March 14th, a cumulative total of 61,518 confirmed cases were reported in 135 countries and regions outside China. The epidemic is spreading². The WHO, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and many epidemic-stricken countries and regions upgraded their risk assessment level. ³On promoting international health cooperation, China has always been determined and proactive. When meeting and talking over the phone with foreign leaders, Chinese leaders have expressed many times that China is willing to deepen cooperation with the international community on epidemic prevention and

¹ Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Chinese version), *the official website of the Chinese National Health Commission*.

<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/jkj/s3578/202002/87fd92510d094e4b9bad597608f5cc2c.shtml>.

² WHO: confirmed cases of COVID-19 exceeded 60,000, CRI Online, 15 March 2020.

<http://news.cri.cn/20200315/142182bc-ebd8-cc63-2003-ae2ad7e9fa24.html>.

³ China has made great contributions to global public health governance. *People's Daily*, 4 March 2020.

control and share relevant experiences with other countries to improve global public health governance.

China has worked closely with relevant international organizations, neighboring countries, and other countries concerned and injected positive energy to global epidemic control. After the COVID-19 outbreak, fully committed to the "people-centered" philosophy of development, China has not only endeavored to protect Chinese people's wellbeing but also kept the common benefits of the entire human race in mind. Now, China's efforts are gradually paying off. On the one hand, China is actively participating in and even leading international cooperation on COVID-19 prevention and control, releases information about the epidemic in an open and transparent way, conducts in-depth cooperation with the WHO and some other relevant organizations to push forward scientific studies on the prevention and treatment of the

disease, works in coordination with the rest of the world to curb the international transmission of the virus. On the other hand, China is actively clearing up doubts and rumors to enhance international understanding and

mitigate the negative impacts of the epidemic on international cooperation in various areas. President Xi personally communicated with leaders of many countries and relevant international organizations. At his meeting with WHO



Chinese experts from Hubei medical teams share lessons of treating severe COVID-19 cases on a SCIO briefing.

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, President Xi stressed that China thinks highly of its cooperation with the WHO, welcomes the WHO to participate in the epidemic containment and is more than willing to work with the WHO and the international community to safeguard regional and global public health security¹. Since the outbreak, President Xi has altogether talked with leaders of over 10 countries to introduce in detail China's epidemic containment measures. When speaking over phone with the U.S. President Donald Trump, President Xi expressed his hope that the U.S. would calmly evaluate the epidemic, and reasonably respond. China and the U.S. should stay in contact and work together to contain the disease. Meanwhile, despite its own shortage of medical supplies, China has offered epidemic prevention and control supplies to other epidemic-stricken countries.

In face of a possible sustained global spread of the virus, China has contributed significantly to a joint global response to contain the disease through sharing its research results and relevant containment measures with the rest of the world. Standing at the forefront of the fight, the Chinese scientists and researchers have raced against time to understand the new virus at the earliest time possible. Hard work and great efforts have brought them extensive experience in the application of non-pharmaceutical epidemic containment measures and balancing epidemic containment and socio-economic development. These experiences can be vital lessons for the global response against the COVID-19 outbreak. After the epidemic broke out, Chinese researchers have voluntarily shared their research results on the new coronavirus, actively communicated with the international scientific community and laid a solid scientific foundation for other countries' fight against the virus. A prestigious international journal pointed out that China

¹ Xi Jinping meets with visiting World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, *the official website of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.
<https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/zyxw/t1736790.shtml>.

has paved the way for the international scientific community to join the fight and laid the foundation for the mobilization of global scientific and research collaboration ¹ . In addition, China has actively introduced its non-pharmaceutical containment measures to the world for policy references. After a series of site visits in China, WHO experts recommend other countries with outbreaks of COVID-19 to “immediately activate the highest level of national Response Management protocols to ensure the all-of-government and all-of-society approach needed to contain COVID-19 with non-pharmaceutical public health measures”². This has not only affirmed the effectiveness of China's non-pharmaceutical containment measures against the disease but also exemplified China's contribution to protecting global public health.

Opposing irrational containment measures, radical statements and overreactions are also part of the fight against the epidemic. Earlier, some countries overreacted and announced major travel restrictions on China, trapping many Chinese citizens overseas; certain countries wrongfully accused China of inaction on controlling the spread of the disease; some even exploited the situation to attack the Chinese government. Racial and national prejudices were laid bare in these actions and they compromised the public interest of Chinese people. In response to the epidemic-related discriminatory comments and behaviors that appeared in certain countries, foreign affairs departments of China have resolutely safeguarded Chinese citizens' lawful rights and dignity. After the outbreak, racism and provocative theories like clash of civilizations were once again gained their ground, and some overseas

¹ Wang Yi, Resolutely Defeating the COVID-19 Outbreak and Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, *the official website of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, 2 March 2020. <https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjzbzd/t1751263.shtml>.

² Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Chinese version), *the official website of Chinese National Health Commission*. <http://www.nhc.gov.cn/jkj/s3578/202002/87fd92510d094e4b9bad597608f5cc2c.shtml>.

media, enterprises, and scholars issued a number of frightening, insulting and discriminatory comments against China, seriously affecting the life of overseas Chinese citizens and even resulting in a few personal attacks against them. In view of such a situation, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and overseas embassies and consulates expresses firm objections to relevant countries, refuted derogatory remarks of all kinds, coordinated resources to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens overseas and urged all countries to evaluate the epidemic calmly and respond reasonably and properly. Through China’s diplomatic efforts and international communication, the international community has gained a more rational and objective perspective on the epidemic outbreak in China and China’s efforts to contain its spread, and discriminatory comments and behaviors against Chinese people have been significantly reduced as well. China’s above-mentioned diplomatic efforts to refute radical statements and correct irrational actions are in fact favorable for the whole world to jointly fight against the epidemic, to ease fear and to eliminate prejudices, which also serves as evidence of China's fulfilling responsibility as a major country in the world.

4.3 A Good Example for Global Public Health Governance

The COVID-19 outbreak is a major test for China's governance system and capacity, and also for the global governance system and capacity. As with all new diseases, there are critical gaps in knowledge about the COVID-19. To contain its spread not only requires extensive scientific attempts, but more importantly, relies on coordinated non-pharmaceutical measures based on social mobilization and community engagement. The international community has shown its appreciation for China's great leadership, response, mobilization, and implementation capabilities. China has set an excellent example for the world in coping with emergencies caused by infectious diseases and offered valuable experience in advancing global public health

governance.

Immediately after the outbreak, the response structures in China were rapidly put in place and aligned from the top to the bottom. The whole country is under the unified command, coordination and direction of the CPC Central Committee. The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee convened several special meetings to discuss the prevention and control measures; the Chinese State Council initiated the joint prevention and control mechanism. Many important response and risk management decisions have been implemented under the strong leadership of the CPC. Closely aligned with the Party Central Committee, all levels of local governments in China—provincial, municipal, county, township, and village—has functioned in an orderly way, accomplishing missions like the production, transportation, and distribution of medical and basic living materials, the mobilization of medical resources to support medical treatment of patients in Wuhan, the implementation of joint prevention and control measures, and the isolation of confirmed cases, suspected cases, close contacts, and fever clinic patients who cannot be ruled out of COVID-19 infection. The whole nation is mobilized to support the epidemic areas of Hubei and ensure the supply of medical and basic living materials. Regarding epidemic prevention and control as the country's current top priority, China is aligned from the top to the bottom and working in solidarity to secure the victory over the epidemic, setting model for the rest of the world in tackling public health energies.

There is a synergy between medical treatment and social mobilization. Standing at the forefront of the fight, medical experts are treating patients, conducting epidemiological investigation and other relevant studies; while tasks, like containing spread within China, curbing international transmission, ensuring people's life supplies, and directing broad community engagement, are carried out by people from all levels of society. In this battle,

medical treatment measures and non-pharmaceutical containment measures have worked in synergy and complemented one other under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the direction of the Chinese State Council and all levels of local Party committees and governments, providing lessons for the improvement of global public health governance.

All the Chinese people are working together with China’s local Party committees and governments to overcome challenges and ensure social stability in such a difficult time. Social stability in various respects, such as political stability and unity, good social order, sufficient production materials, and life maintenance supplies and close ties between government and people, is fundamental to China's concerted efforts to fight against the virus. At this special time, the low-level economic activity in China, particularly in Hubei Province, has brought new challenges to social stability. In face of this, the Party and government have mobilized all resources possible to the front of this anti-virus battle; all levels of Party committee and government have used their full strength to coordinate and safeguard the production, allocation, and supplies of producer and consumer goods and maintain market stability; community workers have delivered medical materials and basic living materials to the homes of isolated residents. All these measures have successfully ensured social stability. With a deep commitment to collective action, the Chinese people have cooperated fully with the government and adhered to containment measures. The fact that the CPC, the Chinese government and Chinese people can rapidly join efforts to fight against the disease is also a useful reference for global public health governance.

Epidemic prevention and control and the restoration of normal social and economic operations are kept in balance and helping each other forward. China is the largest and most comprehensive manufacturing country in the world and occupies an essential position in the global supply chain. Shutting

down Chinese factories has a major impact on the global economy. After a careful review of the epidemic situation, the Party Central Committee has decided to resume economic operations in phases and batches, and specifically affirmed China's commitment to "safeguarding the stability of global supply chain." This also shows China's sense of responsibility as a major country. Moreover, the restoration of normal economic operations will bring abundant supplies to continue its battle against the virus. The balanced and orderly advancement of overall epidemic prevention and control together with the restoration of normal social and economic operations in China can also be used for reference in global public health governance.

4.4 Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

President Xi's Report to the 19th CPC National Congress stresses that "the Communist Party of China strives for both the wellbeing of the Chinese people and human progress. To make new and greater contributions for mankind is our Party's abiding mission"; "As a world, we face growing uncertainties and destabilizing factors. Global economic growth lacks energy; the gap between rich and poor continues to widen; hotspot issues arise often in some regions; and unconventional security threats like terrorism, cyber-insecurity, major infectious diseases, and climate change continue to spread. As human beings we have many common challenges to face"; "We call on the people of all countries to work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind, to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity"¹. The COVID-19 outbreak in China and the world has proved the judgment that no country can

¹ 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 delivered at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, *CPC News*, 28 October 2017. <http://cpc.people.com.cn/n1/2017/1028/c64094-29613660.html>.

address alone the many challenges facing mankind; no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation; and mankind is, after all, one community with a shared future.



China held video conference on epidemic prevention and control with Central and Eastern European countries: sharing lessons of battling COVID-19 and adding new substance to “17+1 Cooperation.”

We must firm up our ideal to build a community with a shared future for mankind and unit the world as one to battle against the virus. Only in this way can we secure a final victory. Viruses respect no borders and epidemics do cross borders, posing a

common threat to people of all nations. Nowadays, in a highly globalized world, retreating to self-isolation not only has an adverse effect on epidemic containment in other countries *but also does no good to epidemic control in its own country*. In the face of the new coronavirus, no country can hope to be spared. Only a global response with joint prevention and control measures can, to the largest extent, curb the international spread of the virus. The WHO Director-General TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus has repeatedly emphasized that global coordination is the key to triumph over the virus. This requires major countries in the world to demonstrate extraordinary leadership capability and all countries to be fully committed to sincere cooperation, active and in-depth information-sharing and experience-exchanging and to strike a balance between global epidemic containment and economic development. Without question, only all the relevant parties of global public

health governance resolutely pursue the ideal of building a community with shared future for mankind in various of areas, can full cooperation and policy coordination be possible.

On promoting international health cooperation, China has been and will always be committed and proactive. China encourages all countries to follow the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, actively participate in international and regional cooperation on epidemic control, deeply involve themselves in global public health governance and work in concert to tackle non-traditional security challenges. China will keep up the good communication with the WHO, explore transnational joint prevention and control, push forward joint scientific research and provide assistance in its power for other countries with outbreaks of COVID-19. The outbreak has laid bare inadequacies in global public health governance. China is ready to work with the rest of the international community to address global public health challenges, move up public health issues on the international agenda, improve the global public health governance system and build a “health Silk Road.” China will put into practice its concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, promote greater dialogue and communication on non-traditional security matters, help advance relevant international cooperation processes, and work to build up understanding and trust among different parties. These efforts will help enrich the concept and practice of building a community with a shared future for mankind¹.

¹ Wang Yi, Resolutely Defeating the COVID-19 Outbreak and Promoting the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, *the official website of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, 2 March 2020. <https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjbzhd/t1751263.shtml>.

Conclusion

Only when we concentrate our efforts can we overcome the difficulties together. Security is a kind of superior co-existence of actors. We need to overcome ideological gaps, tolerate historical and cultural differences and sees each other as members of one big international family to go through hard times. To maintain global health security is a point of breakthrough for promoting global cooperation in pursuit of common benefits. The world wants truth instead of fear, needs reason instead of rumor and requires unity instead of slander. Upholding the vision of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind, China is not only striving to battle against the COVID-19 outbreak within its borders but also "putting out fires" outside its borders. China has fulfilled its responsibility for global public health as well as for its own people. All nations shall regard protecting people's safety and health as the value basis, follow the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration in engaging in global governance, evaluate the current epidemic situation rationally and join efforts to achieve win-win cooperation and maintain global public health security.

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