

“中国与世界”系列报告之二



贡献国际公共产品
——中国抗“疫”做法和经验

China's COVID-19 Response Measures as Global Public Goods

Together We Fight
against the Virus

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Abstract

The COVID-19 has not only posed a critical threat to the safety and health of the Chinese people, but also a serious challenge to global public health. Therefore, the Chinese government, committed to the wellbeing and safety of its people and the rest of the world, has taken comprehensive, thorough and strict prevention and control measures against the epidemic (now declared a pandemic). Meanwhile, the Chinese people have been standing united, helping each other and fighting the virus together. China has succeeded in containing the epidemic outbreak in Hubei Province and preventing a wider spread in the country.

Since the outbreak, the Chinese government and people have been fighting at the forefront of the war against the virus. The whole nation has been mobilized to take on severe challenges, a multiplicity of prevention and control measures have been implemented with strong determination, and a range of effective solutions have been taken to address various difficulties. China’s success in containing COVID-19, at a very high social and economic cost, has gained invaluable time for the global response. China has played our role as a responsible major country, and honored our commitment to a community with a shared future for mankind.

In prompt response to the epidemic outbreak, China has adopted multiple prevention and control measures and put them into practice, which has produced obvious results and won China worldwide acclaim. The epidemic situation in China is improving, economic recovery is accelerating, and social activities are resuming and normalizing. For the prevention and control of the virus, China has shifted from “national unified requirements” to “region-specific and multi-level targeted approach”. It is high time to summarize, review and distill the practices and experience that have proved successful since the outbreak of the epidemic, which will help all countries in the world overcome the coronavirus together. The measures taken by the Chinese government and people since the outbreak cover multiple fields such as politics, society, medicine, science, technology, economy and diplomacy. In

short, they include:

1. Strengthening confidence, exercising strong leadership and establishing a complete epidemic response mechanism;
2. Putting people first, uniting the nation to safeguard people's life, health and safety;
3. Responding quickly, using the science-based approach to prevention and control, and updating the diagnosis and treatment protocol;
4. Tailoring measures to local conditions and implementing targeted policies to ensure that the prevention and control efforts are good fit and effective;
5. Promoting information transparency and knowledge sharing to raise the public awareness of COVID-19;
6. Allocating resources, ensuring adequate medical supplies in hard-hit areas, and trying to rescue people against all odds;
7. Using high-tech and data analytics to make well informed prevention, treatment and control decisions;
8. Providing policy and financial support to enterprises and people affected by the epidemic;
9. Delivering strong support and guarantee measures to ensure safe resumption of economic activities and help people get back to their normal way of life as soon as possible; and
10. Enhancing international cooperation, standing in solidarity to fight the coronavirus.

China's experience and lessons learned can be distilled in 10 key words/phrases: speed, strength, transparency, responsibility, coordination, overall planning, science and technology, balance, cooperation, and timely remedy.

The battle against COVID-19 is a great practice of President Xi's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind. It has already been proved that it is impossible for any city or country to combat this highly infectious coronavirus alone. As all countries around the world belong to a community that shares weal and woe, solidarity is the only weapon to defend global public health security and the wellbeing of all human beings.

I. China’s Measures to Combat COVID-19

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, the Chinese government and people have waged a nationwide war against the virus. Chinese governments at all levels, armed forces, and all relevant organizations and institutions have undertaken a great many actions under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee. We have made a noticeable progress and successfully contained the epidemic through: a strong leadership, coordinated efforts and overall planning; mobilizing the entire country; taking scientific and targeted prevention and control measures; sharing information; allocating resources and providing adequate supplies; using powerful technologies; rendering sound policy support; delivering effective guarantee to ensure safe resumption of business and productive activities; and international cooperation.

1.1 Implementing a comprehensive epidemic response mechanism through a strong leadership, coordination and overall planning

To handle a highly infectious and pathogenic disease like COVID-19, we need a strong leadership and effective coordination throughout the entire society. The strong leadership exercised by the CPC Central Committee has provided a solid ground for an organized and well-functioning prevention and control mechanism which can ensure the effective operation of the entire medical system, secure adequate supplies and prompt logistics, and make all necessary ancillary facilities and services available.

The top national leader is highly committed to active response to COVID-19. President Xi has personally led, commanded and deployed China’s available forces to combat the coronavirus. Frequently, he chaired meetings, listened to reports, and gave instructions. He stressed that prevention and control efforts must be conducted under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, and on the ground of confidence, coordination, and

scientific and targeted measures, with the priority given to people's safety and health. On the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year 2020, President Xi chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, listened to reports and issued prevention and control orders, especially concerning the treatment of patients.¹ After that, President Xi has frequently called such meetings, coordinating efforts between epidemic containment and economic and social development. To have a look at the situation with his own eyes, President Xi went to Wuhan where he expressed his regards to all the patients and the medical workers. His field visit delivered a clear signal to the Chinese people that the government has confidence, capacity and determination to win the battle against the epidemic, protect its people's safety, well-being and health, and realize its social and economic goals for 2020. The visit had not only demonstrated President Xi's genuine care for the people, but also told the world of China's confidence, courage and responsibility in combating the virus. The strong commitment of the top national leader has motivated all Chinese people to stand together and confront the epidemic with strong confidence, which explains China's noticeable progress in COVID-19 control.

The Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism has worked very well. Epidemic containment is well-known to be a complex system, so it requires a comprehensive, well-organized, well-connected and dynamically adjustable response mechanism from top to bottom that ensures adequate supplies and timely provision. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Chinese central government has issued a host of policies to contain the virus spread. At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the Central Leading Group on Responding to the Novel

¹ Remarks by President Xi Jinping on Responding to COVID-19 at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, No. 4, 2020, *Qiushi*.

Coronavirus Pneumonia Outbreak was established to coordinate national efforts covering epidemic prevention and control, medical treatment and material supplies, which is led by Premier Li Keqiang. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan leads the Central Guidance Team which has travelled to the hard-hit areas including Hubei, the very frontline of infection control. Under the guidance of the State Council, the National Health Commission (NHC) has established a joint prevention and control mechanism with 32 groups, each responsible for infection prevention and control, patient treatment, scientific research, publicity, foreign affairs, logistics and supplies, frontline mobilization and so on¹. Each led by a government authority, all the groups have great jobs and formed a synergy in containing the epidemic. They have also issued support policies in their own capacity to ensure supplies and address people’s difficulties amid the efforts to contain the infection, which has contributed to social and economic stability around the country.

1.2 Putting people in the first place and uniting the entire nation to safeguard people’s life, health and safety

As an old Chinese saying goes: “When the people are put in the first place, the state is safe.”² People are essential for a country’s development and prosperity, and they are the key force to conquer difficulties. All the efforts and achievements of China in epidemic containment have proved the value of putting people first and depending on the people, which is a key principle of

¹ Shi Yiqi, Shen Tongrui, To Build ‘Guard Posts’ and ‘Protective Walls’, People’s Daily, Feb. 2, 2020, Page 7.

² Guanzi, Guanzi: Establishing One of the Most Powerful States, “Therefore, a sovereign who is going to establish one of the most powerful states or even to unify the world should put people first. When the people are put in the first place, the state is safe. When the people are badly administered, the state will be in danger. Hence, if the sovereign is sage, officials will treat him with respect. If the policy taken by the regime is suitable, the people will be peaceful. If intellectuals are well educated, the troops will be capable of defeating any enemy. If talented people are used in the government, everything will be put in order. If kind people are trusted, safety of the throne will be guaranteed. If sensible people are used, sovereigns of other states will be obedient.”

the Chinese government.

Saving life is of paramount importance. The Chinese government has attached the utmost importance to people's life, health and safety in the war against COVID-19. We aim to save every single life. Facing the difficult choice between epidemic containment and economic growth, the Chinese government gave the top priority to the former without hesitation, taking epidemic prevention and control and medical treatment of COVID-19 patients as the most urgent task. From the very beginning, all our efforts have focused

on increasing patient admission to hospitals and helping them recover while reducing the infection and mortality rates¹. To realize the life-saving goals, the Central Guidance Team, based in Hubei, has mobilized and gathered resources from around the



On the first day of China's lunar New Year, Shanghai medical team arrived at Wuhan by a chartered plane of China Eastern Airlines

country to deliver on-site assistance. Altogether 346 medical teams consisting of more than 42,600 members, and eight medical expert groups have arrived in Wuhan. In addition to the "big three" hospitals in Wuhan, Wuhan Union Hospital, Wuhan Tongji Hospital and People's Hospital of Wuhan University, Huoshenshan Hospital and Leishenshan Hospital were built to treat and cure severely-ill coronavirus patients. To increase the hospitalization rate, the Chinese government has established the principle of "Four Concentrations":

¹ 346 medical teams consisting of 42,000 personnel arrived in Hubei to fight against epidemic, People's Daily Overseas Edition, March 9, 2020, Page 2.

concentration of patients, specialists, resources and treatment in designated centers. To lower the mortality rate, the aiding medical teams have worked on the model of “One Hospital Taking Charge of a Ward” or “One Province Taking Charge of a Hospital”, which means overall takeover by external medical teams. The Chinese government has managed to increase the hospital capacity for treating severe and critical cases to 9,000 beds¹, formed ward inspection teams consisting of academicians and joint expert groups, revised the COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment protocol seven times. Moreover, we have realized around-the-clock expert consultation, 24-hour critical case reporting, discussion about every single death case, and regular ward inspection for severe cases. As a result, the recovery rate of severely-ill patients increased quickly and sharply.

A mass movement was started to fight the virus. No one has remained a bystander in the battle against COVID-19. The whole society of China has been mobilized. In the combat against the epidemic, the Chinese government has always put people in the first place, valuing their safety and wellbeing, which has united the whole country. The Chinese people have shown remarkable solidarity in this battle. Every single individual has contributed his or her own strength and done his or her own part to jointly create a defense line against the epidemic. This is how and why the outbreak has been basically controlled. To defeat the epidemic, primary-level communities, including rural communities, have been fully mobilized, and grid management and blanket coverage have been carried out so that each household and individual could be monitored. Measures to guarantee “early detection, early reporting, early quarantine and early treatment” have been strictly implemented to guard against imported cases and prevent the spread and outflow of the epidemic.

¹ Central Guidance Team’s Press Conference on Current Epidemic Control: Consolidate Current Achievements and Remain Committed to Our Missions, Xinhua News Agency, Wuhan, Feb. 29, 2020.

The current situation in China has proved the effectiveness of joint prevention and control and the significance of society-wide efforts in fighting the epidemic. This demonstrates the institutional advantages of China's system of governance and the power of the people getting united. During this extraordinary period, CPC members have fought on the very frontline against the virus, despite dangers and risks. They have managed to build a solid and efficient network of epidemic prevention and control covering all districts, towns, counties and urban and rural communities, and to ensure that epidemic monitoring, screening, early warning and containment are fully and strictly carried out¹. Their efforts have greatly enhanced the joint prevention and control of the epidemic across China. Through social mobilization and the exemplary acts of role models, the public awareness of the epidemic has been impressively raised, the people's sense of social responsibility has been enhanced, and their support for epidemic prevention and control has significantly improved.

Frontline medical workers were given stronger support and protection. In the battle against the coronavirus, medical workers and other frontline workers are not only heroes who have risen to the challenge and rushed to the fronts to save lives, but also ordinary individuals who are exposed to the virus at work. They deserve the most effective protection. In the early days of the outbreak, due to limited awareness of the infectiousness of virus and the lack of control and prevention measures, more than 3,000 medical workers in Hubei province were infected, some of whom have died on duty². Realizing the special risk, however, the Chinese government quickly formulated policies and measures to protect the frontline medical workers and provide

¹ Building a Solid Line of Defense Against the Epidemic, *People's Daily*, January 30, 2020, Front Page.

² SCIO briefing on the progress of COVID-19 control and medical treatment (full text), March 6, 2020. http://www.china.org.cn/china/2020-03/09/content_75793086_3.htm.

comprehensive support for them to ensure their safety, strength, energy and morale. Under the overall requirements for epidemic containment, Chinese health authorities at all levels have taken measures to strengthen the protection of frontline medical workers: working out technical guidelines for infection prevention; carrying out supervision, inspection and training of all medical workers, and ensuring that they get well-trained before taking on any frontline duty; ensuring adequate supplies of protective equipment and making sure that medical workers work in shifts so that they take enough rest; mobilizing psychiatrists from around the country to provide psychological counseling to frontline medical workers; and offering frontline medical workers higher wages and subsidies, as well as favors in job promotion or professional title application.

1.3 Responding quickly, using the science-based approach to prevention and control, and updating the diagnosis and treatment protocol

Every minute counts in the battle against the coronavirus. Therefore, swift action is essential for creating opportunities for effective prevention, control and treatment and mobilizing all necessary resources. As an offset to the diagnostic delays in the first few days, China’s governments at all levels have jumped to the most determined epidemic control, treatment and quarantine measures, and China’s scientists been carrying out scientific research on COVID-19 prevention and control to curb the spread of the virus. By these efforts, China has saved the world invaluable time for the global response.

China has studied the characteristics of the virus to develop science-based response measures. Studies of the early cases have shown that the new coronavirus (COVID-19) spreads faster than SARS. Over 80% of the infected patients exhibited mild symptoms¹, while a small number were severe and

¹ Press conference on the role of scientific and technological innovation in supporting epidemic

critical cases, with the patients' heart and other organs affected. Most of the patients who died had serious underlying diseases. There were also some young patients whose condition worsened rapidly, making the treatment very complicated and difficult. The early experiments have provided convincing evidence that COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets or close contact, so it's necessary to take precautions and use personal protections to minimize the potential exposure to the virus. Based on the findings, Chinese medical experts suggested concentrating patients, experts and resources to implement centralized treatment (the principle of "Four Concentrations"), and pooling all resources to treat and save severe and critically-ill patients. The Chinese government has done as they suggested. We have also realized "Four Combinations" in the fight against COVID-19. First, we combined preclinical medicine with clinical practice. We have conducted research on etiology, morbid anatomy and immunology in order to provide theoretical support and clinical evidence to improve the effectiveness of our clinical treatment. Second, we combined frontline clinical treatment with back-office multidisciplinary technical support, with consultations held to make the very best treatment plan for severe cases. Third, we combined clinical treatment with nursing. We have established unified nursing procedures and assessment standards at the wards for severely-ill patients, with an aim of properly attending to all. Fourth, we combined clinical treatment with outstanding management. We have adopted a model of overall takeover, with the medical staff from one assisting hospital taking charge of one specific department. On that basis, we have established JOINT medical affairs departments, nursing departments and nosocomial infection control departments, set up expert groups at the national, provincial and municipal

prevention and control (full text), English.gov.cn, Feb. 21, 2020,
http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-02/22/content_75738264.htm.

levels, and updated procedures and unified standards. Medical consultations and inspections have been carried out by multidisciplinary expert groups to improve the treatment and care of severe patients. By promptly summing up the experience gained in clinical treatment, we have been able to update the medical treatment procedures and standards and have issued seven editions



A community-level “grid administration and service” during the epidemic, at Taiyangcheng, Jinxuyuan, Hedong district, Tianjing

of the national diagnosis and treatment guidelines for COVID-19. We’ve also drawn up management standards for mild and common cases, and a treatment protocol for severe and critically-ill patients separately to standardize treatment procedures.

China has implemented early screening measures to stop virus spread. COVID-19 spreads very fast, as said above. Early screening makes it possible to spot and treat mild cases when they are still in the early phases; and early hospitalization of infected patients is essential for stopping the community spread as soon as possible. Therefore, the Chinese government implemented the strategy of “Four Earlies”: early identification, early reporting, early quarantine and early treatment. The government has built a network to monitor the epidemic transmission, tracking and reporting separate cases, cluster outbreaks, community outbreaks, as well as the individuals and workplaces involved. We demanded reporting potential outbreaks at the earliest possible time. Screening has been widely carried out to stop community spread, which covered confirmed cases, suspected cases, patients

with fever and close contacts. Any individual belonging to these “Four Categories” (confirmed cases, suspected cases, close contacts, and patients with fever) could get help from the community, and the help would be provided by five persons: a community official, a grid-based community worker, a community medical worker, a community-based police officer and a volunteer. All COVID-19 testing and treatment were offered free of charge in China, which encouraged all infected people and close contacts to find medical help, and we’ve managed to make sure that every single patient could be hospitalized. Communities were put under close-off management, and managed in grids, with no blind spot left out for infection, and the routes of transmission were totally cut off, so the vulnerable population were kept safe from infection. To make sure that every single patient could be hospitalized, the municipal government of Wuhan converted gyms, convention centers and training centers into temporary hospitals and quarantine facilities. Sixteen temporary hospitals were built housing more than 13,000 beds, and have admitted more than 12,000 mild cases¹. Also called Mobile Cabin Hospitals, the temporary hospitals represented a major innovation of China and relieved the shortage of hospital beds in Wuhan, allowing a great number of mild patients to be properly quarantined and treated. They have made a record of zero infection, zero fatality and zero recurrent infection.

Professionals made the decisions based on scientific research. In the fight against COVID-19, scientific research conducted by scholars and medical practitioners has played as important a role as the mobilization of the entire nation and the firm political commitment of the top leadership. Under the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Health Commission, the National

¹ Central Guidance Team’s Press Conference on Current Epidemic Control: Consolidate Current Achievements and Remain Committed to Our Missions, Xinhua News Agency, Wuhan, Feb. 29, 2020.

Medical Products Administration, and Ministry of Education established a joint leading group for research and development initiatives. Giving the top priority to improving the recovery rate and reducing mortality rate, the leading group set up 9 task forces to work on five major areas: drugs and clinical treatment, vaccine development, testing products, etiology and epidemiology, as well as development of animal testing models, and has started 42 national emergency R&D projects conducted by top scientists in China. Meanwhile, Chinese scientists have kept tracing the origin of the coronavirus and studying its transmission mechanism. Basic medical science studies, including pathological studies, have also been conducted to provide a solid foundation for epidemic containment and clinical practices. On the medical treatment side, expert groups consisting of top scientists worked together and communicated with each other closely. The national expert group consisted of big-name professors like Zhong Nanshan, Li Lanjuan, Wang Chen (modern medicine), Tong Xiaolin and Huang Luqi (TCM). They are all academicians of the Chinese Academy of Engineering or Chinese Academy of Sciences. Based on their practicing experience and scientific research outcomes, they have updated the diagnosis and treatment protocol from time to time, giving medical workers throughout China a clear roadmap and exact knowhow to treat patients properly.

1.4 Tailoring measures to local conditions and implementing targeted policies to ensure that the prevention and control efforts are good fit and effective

Epidemic response requires well-coordinated efforts and differentiated measures and treatment practices that suit the conditions in different provinces and infected patients' health status. Since the COVID-19 outbreak started, the Chinese government has remained flexible and dynamic in coordinating nationwide epidemic prevention and control efforts as the

outbreak evolved.

Dynamic management is adopted and classified region-specific measures are implemented. As the situation improved and new cases dropped, China's epidemic response shifted from "static management" to "dynamic management", from following "national unified requirements" to "regional classification", and from "society-wide prevention and control" to "targeted prevention and control". In Wuhan, the practices and measures which have been proven effective will continue although they will be finetuned. We will still focus on preventing the disease from further spreading both in and outside the city, and step up efforts in medical treatment and mass prevention and control. The policies for other city-level areas outside Wuhan in Hubei Province will be implemented with the focus on stringent management and control to prevent the virus from spreading both within and beyond the borders of Hubei to cause another outbreak. Measures for people belonging to the "Four Categories" will be strictly implemented to ensure that virus transmission is completely blocked. The focus will rest on preventing transmission, especially from external sources, and containing the infection from spreading in the rest of the country. Differentiated response measures will be developed to handle high, medium and low levels of risk based on risk assessment conducted at the county level to strike a balance between epidemic response and economic and social development¹. In terms of medical treatment, the diagnosis and treatment protocol will be updated based on the experience of curing patients. Classified and personalized treatment will be offered according to the patients' actual conditions. TCM, western medicine, nutrition enhancement, psychotherapy, and rehabilitation training will be

¹ SCIO briefing on progress of Central Guidance Team in Hubei to organize and guide epidemic control and medical rescue (Feb. 28, 2020). Official Website of China's State Council Information Office: http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-03/02/content_75763551_0.htm.

integrated in actual treatment plans and practices¹.

One province helped one city. In the early days of the outbreak, Hubei Province, especially Wuhan the provincial capital, suffered from a serious shortage of medical resources including medical supplies and workers, which resulted in severe delays in patient treatment and caused a high mortality. To pool medical resources, the Chinese central government requested 19 provinces to support different cities of Hubei Province. The pairing assistance was known as “one province helping one city”. The medical teams coming from different provinces set up their own command centers at the frontline to coordinate epidemic containment and medical treatment activities. They have teamed up with local medics to treat the patients, which helped reduce the workload on the latter and enable them to have a reasonable rotation arrangement². Prestigious hospitals like Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Beijing Hospital, China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Affiliated Hospital of Peking University, as well as some large provincial hospitals organized special task forces, consisting of experts and key medics and led by their own hospital head or Party secretary, each of which took over an entire department of newly built or renovated designated hospitals. In other words, the task forces were fully responsible for the treatment of severe and critical cases in the designated hospitals. Thanks to the unremitting efforts and strong support from outside Wuhan and Hubei Province, the peak of the coronavirus outbreak was dragged lower, and by doing so, China has bought time for itself and the international community to curb the spread of COVID-19.³

¹ Li Ruyi. “Zero Case” in Medics of the Army, *Beijing Daily*, March 3, 2020, Page 12.

² Press conferences on further improving epidemic prevention and control in key areas, improving cure rates and reducing infection rates (Feb. 7, 2020). Official Website of China’s State Council Information Office:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/xwfbh/gbwxfwbh/xwfbh/wsb/Document/1672984/1672984.htm>.

³ SCIO briefing on epidemic control and medical rescue in Hubei (Feb 25, 2020). Official Website of China’s State Council Information Office:

Classified diagnosis and treatment and online medical consultation services were offered. To relieve the shortage of medical supplies during the outbreak and address the needs of patients having other diseases, the Chinese government rolled out flexible and effective classified diagnosis and treatment guidelines to make sure that severe and critical cases would be treated properly and patients would be saved, tried to secure medical supplies for patients having chronic diseases, and guaranteed access to medical services for ordinary patients¹. Particularly, the needs of patients with kidney failure, tumor, and patients who needed regular treatment were addressed, special groups such as pregnant women, women in labor, young children and elderly people received medical services, and vital emergency services were available. Under circumstances where medical resources were limited, hospitals tried their best to meet the needs of vulnerable groups². Meanwhile, the application of online medical services was expanded, and online medical platforms were encouraged to roll out services including online medical consultation, free consultation, and online drug sales to ease the pressure on physical health facilities brought by lack of medical resources³. Assistance was offered to health facilities to provide patients with online consultation, non-hospital prescription drug sales, online payment, and courier delivery of drugs. Medical insurance applied to eligible health institutions and covered online consultation fees, so that patients in need had equitable and easy access to medical resources and received timely treatment.

http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/pressroom/2020-02/16/content_75710579.htm.

¹ Xi Jinping, A Speech at a Meeting to Advance the Work on Coordinating the Prevention And Control of the COVID-19 and Economic and Social Development, Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, Feb. 23, <http://cpc.people.com.cn/n1/2020/0223/c64094-31600380.html>.

² A Circular on Strengthening Medical Services to Meet the Public's Basic Needs Released by the General Office of the National Health Commission, No. 141 [2020] of the General Office of the National Health Commission, Feb. 17, 2020.

³ Does the Spring Come for Internet Medical Services? *Workers' Daily*, March 4, 2020, Page 4.

1.5 Sharing information and knowledge to raise the public awareness of COVID-19

China is committed to openness and transparency in disclosing the pathogenesis of COVID-19, information about confirmed cases, response measures, and the diagnosis and treatment protocol of the disease. While it is essential to respect the people’s rights to know and to supervise, information



The State Council Information Office of China held a news conference of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism on COVID-19

transparency is the most effective tool to raise public awareness of the virus and hence curb its fast spread. Since the outbreak started, the Chinese government has acted in an open and transparent manner, sharing relevant and accurate information with

the world. We have reviewed and updated treatment practices, strengthened public education, developed and updated the diagnosis and treatment protocol which we’ve also shared with the world.

Information has been disclosed regularly and press conferences were held to brief the media on the progress of epidemic prevention and control in China. Transparency of epidemic response information is not only the basis for accurate research and evaluation of the outbreak, but also an important tool to develop effective measures, assure the people, arouse empathy and build confidence. The Chinese government has proactively released information on the outbreak and its epidemic prevention and control measures through various channels. Reports on China's fight against the epidemic are accurate

and reliable. In terms of media briefing, the State Council Information Office, also in the name of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism, has held more than 40 televised and webcast special press conferences. Chinese governments at different levels also held press conferences to communicate the local epidemic outbreak and response, the availability of consumer goods, fiscal policies, international cooperation, support for businesses and resumption of economic activities, and support for the frontline medical workers. They have also released timely information on the progress of COVID-19 containment and medical treatment to the public to address people's concerns and ensure public awareness of the virus and to create positive social and economic expectations. In terms of online disclosure, governments at all levels have promptly publish information on confirmed cases, fatalities and discharged cases through various channels like official websites, official media and social media platforms. The activities and travel information of confirmed cases were available to the public on the premise of ensuring the confidentiality of personal information, and potential infected people were isolated. Under the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism, they managed to ensure that communities and enterprises effectively disseminated information to everyone.

Technological guidance was strengthened and education was offered to raise public awareness. Successful epidemic response depends on wide public participation, so people must have a correct and full understanding of the virus and the outbreak. The Chinese government has tried to strengthen technological guidance and organized more education activities to raise public awareness of personal hygiene. In order to ensure the epidemic prevention and control measures are more scientific and precisely targeted, the Chinese government has issued 15 highly practical technical guidelines for communities, enterprises and schools to carry out epidemic prevention and

control work. The Chinese government also distributed guidance materials to teach the public how to protect themselves against COVID-19 and feel less stressed, both offline and online, especially through new media channels. Easy-to-understand materials are popular with the local community residents and raised their awareness of self-protection. As a result, cluster infections in household settings have fallen.

1.6 Allocating resources, ensuring adequate medical supplies in hard-hit areas, and trying to rescue people against all odds

The overloading of the medical system and the depletion of the public health infrastructure were the main reasons for the high mortality rate and so many mild cases aggravated into severe cases in the early days of the outbreak. In response to the sudden outbreak in Wuhan, China has deployed all available medical resources to help Wuhan and other cities in Hubei Province, mobilizing material provision and productivity around the country to ensure adequate medical supplies. Meanwhile, the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism effectively guaranteed that daily life necessities were not in short supply.

Medical workers were sent in from other parts of the country to help treat patients. As a public health emergency, the COVID-19 outbreak tests the response capacity of medical systems around the world. The key to improving the recovery and discharge rates and reducing the mortality rate rests with the adequacy of medical supplies. Above all, we need more medical workers to give patients diagnosis and treatment, and make sure that frontline medical workers can rotate and have enough rest. In order to address the shortage of medical personnel and medical supplies and ensure there is no delay in the treatment of any patient, the Chinese central government mobilized and allocated resources from around the country. PLA medics stood ready as soon as they received orders, and went to Wuhan via air, rail and road. Since

January 24, the eve of Chinese Lunar New Year, China's PLA authority has sent over 4,000 medical professionals in three groups to assist in the combat against COVID-19 in Wuhan.

They formed a relief force consisting of a warfront leading group and joint logistic support units in addition to frontline medical workers¹. They were mainly responsible for treating



severe and critical cases in Huoshyenshan Hospital

Chinese Air Force sent 8 large transport aircraft to airlift medical workers and supplies to Wuhan

and Taikang Tongji Hospital in Wuhan². Meanwhile, many Chinese provincial governments sent excellent medical personnel to assist the patient treating efforts in Hubei. Altogether 330 medical teams with more than 40,000 medical personnel had gone to Hubei, among whom over 15,000 were experts in critical care medicine, infectious disease, respiratory medicine, circulatory medicine and anesthesiology³. As said above, they formed teams capable of treating severe cases and took over the responsibility to treat severe and critical cases in designated hospitals. This practice was called “a province taking charge of a hospital” and “a hospital taking charge of a department (or ward)”. Also, these teams teamed up with the medical staff of the host

¹ Press Conference of the joint prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council, *Four Thousand PLA Medics Were Sent to Help Wuhan*, People's Daily, March 3, 2020, Page 4.

² *Two Hospitals Commissioned by the PLA Have Been Put into Operation According to the Model of Huoshenshan Hospital*, Xinhua, Wuhan, Feb. 19, 2020. http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-02/20/c_1210482086.htm.

³ Central Guidance Team's Press Conference on Current Epidemic Control: Consolidate Current Achievements and Remain Committed to Our Missions, Xinhua News Agency, Wuhan, Feb. 29, 2020.

hospitals to set up joint medical affairs offices, nosocomial infection control departments, nursing departments and expert groups to carry out joint evaluation and management of all severe cases. In the temporary “cabin” hospitals, we made a deployment in which medical workers from a province took charge of a ward, so that the hospitals quickly acquired a standard medical treatment capacity with nursing and clinical examination units. As a result, these temporary hospitals could receive patients with well-allocated resources immediately after handover. The arrival of PLA and provincial medical staff alleviated the shortage of medical resources in Hubei. Their dedication, courage and sense of responsibility created a favorable doctor-patient relationship which is good for patient treatment. The recovery and discharge rates improved very soon.

External supplies were sent to Hubei and production capacity was raised. Medical protective equipment is usually the first defense against infection. However, the shortage of medical supplies became the weak link in China’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak, which hindered the treatment of patients and put medical workers at risk. The Chinese governments at all levels, under the State Council's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism, had managed to secure supplies to meet the demand at the frontline in two major ways: working around the clock to gather external supplies and optimize the distribution and use of external supplies; and resuming production and increasing factory capacity to increase production. By March 5, over 5.3 million protective suits, around 10 million N95 masks, and 65,000 sets of medical treatment gear (in 38 categories), including 22,000 respiratory therapy devices (67 ECMOs and 15,000 ECG monitors included) had been sent to Hubei¹. 163 million pieces of epidemic prevention and control gears

¹ SCIO briefing on the progress of COVID-19 control and medical treatment (Full Text), English.gov.cn, March 6, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-03/10/content_75795280_0.htm.

were transported, totaling 61,900 tons, by 20,700 vehicles and 321 flights¹. On the production side, Chinese governments implemented an emergency approval process to accelerate review and qualification for drugs and medical devices and issued incentive policies to encourage businesses to repurpose their factories for emergency supplies. The capacity for producing medical supplies soared by resuming production, increasing capacity, and repurposing streamlines. The daily output of protective suits soared from under 20,000 to 500,000, N95 masks from 200,000 to 1.6 million, and ordinary masks to as many as 100 million². They could well meet the frontline demand.

People's daily necessities were adequately supplied. In addition to the medical workers on the frontline, people staying home to cut off the transmission of the virus needed supplies, too. Food and other necessities must be made available, even when transportation and logistics were shut down, in order to avoid panic-buying, hoarding, and supermarket raiding. The Chinese governments coped with the challenge on two sides: provision and delivery of supplies. The State Administration for Market Regulation had managed to keep prices within a reasonable range, guarantee the quality of supplies, and ensure the availability of supplies. Local communities and businesses were involved in stabilizing the market order and ensuring the supply of basic daily necessities. Over 7,000 businesses responded proactively to the call of governments, which ran more than 200,000 stores in cities and villages all over the country³. In terms of logistics, new modes of services were

¹ SCIO briefing on efforts to support the development of transportation, logistics, and express delivery amid the COVID-19 outbreak (Full Text), English.gov.cn, March 6, 2020, http://www.china.com.cn/zhibo/content_75777221.htm#fullText.

² SCIO briefing on the progress of COVID-19 control and medical treatment (Full Text), English.gov.cn, March 6, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-03/10/content_75795280_0.htm.

³ SCIO briefing on securing market order to support work and production resumption (Full Text), English.gov.cn, Feb. 25, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-02/28/content_75754311_2.htm.

put into operation, including instant delivery, warehouse-delivery integration, and supermarket + courier delivery. Government services were available by courier delivery, while drugs and medical supplies could be sent by courier as well. The focus rested on the delivery of food and other necessities including protective masks, sanitizers and disinfectants. E-commerce operators were encouraged to connect buyers with sellers precisely based on data analytics, thus ensuring efficient supply. The collective efforts of communities and businesses had fended off massive panic-buying or hoarding during the outbreak and guaranteed social stability.

1.7 Using high-tech and data analytics to make well informed prevention, treatment and control decisions

Social intervention and active drug use are equally important for epidemic response and medical treatment. The Chinese government has not only mobilized all communities to engage in epidemic prevention and control, but also used high-tech means to improve the efficiency of treatment and to contain virus transmission. Meanwhile, Internet Plus has helped meet people’s basic needs, and deliver supplies and online services. As a result, virus transmission has been blocked and the society has kept in good condition.

Medical means and technologies were combined to trace the origin of COVID-19 and figure out its transmission dynamics. To defeat the epidemic and to prove that COVID-19 is preventable and treatable, the Chinese government has focused on five areas: etiology and epidemiology; testing technologies and products; drugs and clinical treatment; vaccine development; and animal testing models, all of which were essential to address the pressing needs for epidemic prevention and control ¹. Focusing on infection

¹ *Press Conference on the Role of Scientific and Technological Innovation in Supporting Epidemic Prevention and Control*, Official Website of the SCIO, Feb. 21, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-02/22/content_75738264.htm.

containment and medical treatment of patients, efforts were made to promote scientific and technological R&D to optimize the response measures. Meanwhile, researchers furthered etiological studies, paving the way for fast development of diagnostic technologies, drugs and vaccines. Scientific research was combined with clinical treatment and infection containment practices to improve results and promote application. Special task forces were established to work on a clear road map, with each member having a clearly defined job. They followed "wartime" rules and raced against time to advance major tasks including drug screening and vaccine development¹. In terms of new means for clinical treatment, safe and effective methods, such as convalescent plasma and stem cell therapy, were explored to reduce the mortality rate of severe and critical cases. The NHC organized forces to conduct epidemiological investigations using Internet technologies and data analytics. They selected over 400 workers from outside Hubei to guide epidemiological investigations in the province, especially in Wuhan, which prepared the ground for developing targeted measures for epidemic prevention and control².

Data analytics were used to contain epidemic transmission. One of the difficulties and key points in COVID-19 response is how to identify, isolate, and hospitalize people belonging to the "Four Categories". In addition to conventional grid-based screening in communities, the Chinese government applied data analytics in a legal and scientific way to support and advance epidemic monitoring and evaluation. In this process, great importance was attached to the confidentiality of citizens' personal information. The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) issued *A Circular on Protecting Personal Information and Using Big Data to Support the Joint Prevention*

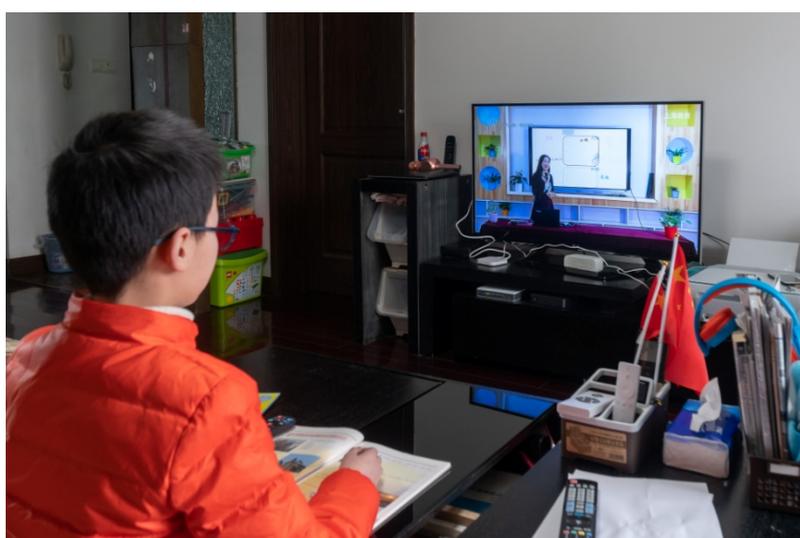
¹ *Ibid.*

² *SCIO Briefing on Progress of Central Guidance Team in Hubei to Organize and Guide Epidemic Control and Medical Rescue (Full Text)*, English.gov.cn, February 28, 2020, http://www.china.org.cn/china/2020-02/29/content_75759175.htm.

and Control Mechanism. Except organizations authorized by the health departments of the State Council, no other entities or individuals can collect or use personal information without the consent of the person in question in the name of epidemic prevention and control or disease treatment; personal information collected by any organization must not be used for other purposes except as provided. While ensuring information confidentiality, organizations were encouraged to use big data to analyze, among other things, the distribution of mass gatherings and trans-regional flow of population, and to produce real-time data reports of epidemic risks, thus helping forecast its development and allocate medical resources more efficiently. Retrospective analysis was also conducted to help disease control authorities carry out “contact tracing”, identify suspected cases and close contacts as soon as possible, and perform timely isolation to cut off the source of infection.

Internet+ modes and online services were promoted. Since the outbreak started, face-to-face services including government services involving individual citizens, logistics, catering, education, and health care were heavily affected, thus bringing inconveniences to daily life and work. To minimize such inconveniences and satisfy people’s basic needs as much as possible,

the Chinese central government encouraged governments at all levels, public institutions and enterprises to actively apply Internet-based technologies to offer online services. In terms of government services, non-contact services were



A primary school student in Shanghai taking online courses at home

offered through official websites, e-government apps, WeChat official accounts, Alipay Lifestyle, and hotlines, which were “Online Offices” or “Mobile Offices”. Meanwhile, notices were issued to postpone or extend time limits, lift certain restrictions, and cut documentation requirements to reduce unnecessary on-site meetings and mass gatherings. In terms of logistics and delivery, enterprises were encouraged to introduce new delivery models and apply new technologies to improve efficiency and reduce cross-infections, such as big data, AI, 5G, and smart logistics equipment such as automatic sorting drones. TV and Internet-based channels were utilized to provide students across the country with educational resources to keep learning before their schools reopen. Internet-based medical services such as online consultation, follow-up, payment, and drug delivery were also offered to meet people's medical needs as much as possible.

1.8 Providing policy and financial support to enterprises and people affected by the epidemic

While fighting the epidemic, we also need to ensure life and business as usual. So long as the society and economy remain functioning during the outbreak, we can generate and deliver adequate material supplies to the frontline of the battle against COVID-19, and we will be able to return to normal life and production rapidly after the outbreak is over. To relieve the impacts on the society, economy and people's daily life of the epidemic outbreak and the containment measures, the Chinese government acted decisively and issued a range of support policies to promote economic growth and help enterprises and people get through the crisis.

New policies were issued to ensuring stable economic performance. In order to make sure that economy activities continue, the Chinese government issued a range of support measures, from macro-economic policy adjustments to emergency response policies and measures. In terms of macro-economic

policies, China promised that the government would implement all the deployments made at the Central Economic Work Conference, and that proactive fiscal policies would be more active and prudent monetary policies would show an appropriate degree of flexibility. China would continue to roll out more targeted interim policies like tax and fee cuts to help SMEs tide over difficulties. Efforts would be made to expand domestic demand, stimulate consumption and unleash the public's consumption potential¹. China would make let effective investment play the key role, and provide a strong support to major factors, including labor, land use, and funding to fast track ongoing and newly started projects. China would ensure stable performance in six key areas: employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and market expectations, in a bid to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and ensure the successful completion of the 13th Five-Year Plan. On the side of emergency policies and measures, the Chinese government offered support and assistance to key industries, covering SMEs, by fully honoring its commitment to reducing taxes and fees, providing financial services, securing rent cuts and exemptions, and providing subsidies to enterprises that kept their employees². Measures would be deployed and coordinated to ensure stable production and supply of daily necessities to meet people's basic needs. In the meantime, the Chinese government would make sure that spring farming is done as usual, complete the task of poverty alleviation, step up efforts to keep employment stable, and strive to meet the needs of protective supplies for enterprises that have already resumed production or are getting ready to do so, in order to minimize the impact of the outbreak on the economy, and strive to complete

¹ SCIO briefing on efforts to coordinate COVID-19 control with economic, social development, SCIO, Feb. 24, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-02/26/content_75746207.htm.

² How could SMEs pull through the difficulties with the help of 800 policies? Xinhua News Agency, Taiyuan, March 9, 2020.

the economic and social development goals for the year.

Differentiated and targeted measures were taken to guarantee people's life quality and stable employment. To relieve the impacts of the epidemic outbreak, the Chinese government introduced a range of policies and measures to guarantee people's livelihood and stabilize employment. In terms of daily life, the State Council promised to deploy and implement more proactive fiscal policy mainly to finance basic livelihood, wage distribution and social functionality. The basic needs of the affected people would be met. Any urban and rural residents who couldn't get a job or operate their business, those who had trouble with their daily life due to the decline in income, and those who meet the requirements would be covered by the minimum subsistence allowance in time. Enhanced efforts will be made to support COVID-19 patients and affected families and to ensure that no one is left behind. Efforts would also be made to guarantee the basic life quality of migrants caught unprepared by the closing off, offer basic services to people with special needs, and ensure that people in need have access to timely assistance. In terms of employment, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security issued more than 30 documents including a range of targeted support policies and measures. The needs of key enterprises for labor would be satisfied as much as possible by assistance to get people back to work, local recruitment, surplus exchange, targeted recruitment, organized cross-regional labor transfer, labor services and other methods. Up to date, more than 8,300 key enterprises have recruited or borrowed a total of 280,000 workers¹. Efforts would be made to simplify recruitment and contract signing procedures and green channels would be open to emergency response positions in medical institutions. Point-to-point and one-stop services would

¹ MOHRSS briefing on efforts to support COVID-19 control with stable employment, Chinese Government, March 6, 2020, http://www.china.com.cn/zhibo/content_75778413.htm#fullText.

be offered and chartered buses and trains would be arranged to send migrant workers from low-risk areas back to work in large scale and batch by batch.

Emergency measures were taken to help SMEs pull through the crisis. As the largest and most dynamic element of market economy, SMEs were the hardest hit by the outbreak. Mitigating the impact of the epidemic on SMEs means a lot to China's economic growth, but also to employment stability. To solve their problems, such as difficulties in resuming production, lack of funding, heavy burdens and lack of order from customers, various departments of the State Council introduced special emergency assistance mechanisms in their own capacity. First, to get their employees back to work in safe conditions, region-specific and multi-level policies were issued. Local governments and communities were mandated to understand the needs and situation of SMEs and offer them special aid and necessary material support, as well as simplify the approval process, so that SMEs could resume operation batch by batch, category by category, and step by step¹. Meanwhile, financial institutions were encouraged to defer loan repayments and increase lending at concessional rates to MSMEs. The Chinese government tried to relieve the burden on SMEs through favorable fiscal, tax-based and financial policies as well as social security. The government also acted to repay debts that governmental departments and large SOEs owed to SMEs, thus reducing their financial pressure. With large enterprises taking the lead, the Chinese government encouraged SMEs to combine production recovery with the fight against COVID-19².

¹ Feng Hao, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology: Focus on three aspects to effectively solve the dilemma between resumption of production and epidemic prevention in SMEs, Guangming.net, Feb. 28, 2020, <http://society.people.com.cn/n1/2020/0228/c1008-31610065.html>.

² SCIO briefing on work of supporting the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and assisting self-employed business owners, The State Council Information office, March 2, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-03/02/content_75763552_0.htm.

1.9 Delivering strong support and guarantee measures to ensure safe resumption of economic activities and help people get back to their normal way of life as soon as possible

After enterprises resume production, they still had to face the global supply chain disruption, insufficient market demand and the risk of cluster infections. In order to keep the supply chain functioning, the Chinese government issued a range of targeted support policies to manufacturing enterprises of different kinds. As a result, the overall resumption rate has steadily increased, and productive activities gradually returned to normal.

China tried to get the global supply chain to recover. China is the world's second largest economy and a key link in the global supply chain or the multinational manufacturing industry with Asia at its core. In order to keep the global supply chain from disruption by the outbreak, the Chinese government launched a range of targeted policies and measures to promote the resumption of work and production of manufacturing enterprises. The priority was given to the industries and producers of great influence in the global supply chain, and the measures considered the situations or the levels of warning in different regions¹. The Chinese government also helped coordinate between the upper streams and down streams of the industrial chain, and realized simultaneous resumption of production in sectors where there was stronger demand, such as medical supplies, daily necessities, and logistics, to ensure normal operation of the industry chain². To help foreign trade companies address their problems, including their inability to fulfill contracts and the inadequacy of international logistics, the Chinese government offered support in areas of export tax rebates, trade financing and

¹ China will remain the anchor of the stability of the global industrial chain, *People's Daily Overseas Edition*, March 17, 2020, Page 6.

² SCIO briefing on efforts to coordinate COVID-19 control with economic, social development, the net of The State Council Information office, February 26, 2020, http://english.scio.gov.cn/pressroom/2020-02/26/content_75746207_0.htm.

export credit insurance. Special support was given to the new forms of foreign commerce such as cross-border e-commerce and market procurement, and the construction of international marketing networks was accelerated. Meanwhile, the Chinese government also strengthened communication and coordination with its economic and trade partners, and called on other WTO members to remove unnecessary restrictions as soon as possible to create an enabling international trade environment and make joint efforts to maintain a stable and sound global supply chain¹.

SOEs under the central government served as examples in resuming normal operation. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, following the call of the CPC Central Committee, SOEs under the central government have worked at



Closing projects of the supporting power grids for Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics are orderly resumed

the frontline of fighting the epidemic, regardless of the cost. They are not only the pillars of China’s economy, but also played a central and exemplary role in supporting the fight against the epidemic and resuming production as

the "national team". First, SOEs under the central government in key industries such as petroleum, petrochemicals, electricity, telecommunications, food, and air transport managed to guarantee the supply of basic goods and services, playing a significant role in the epidemic response and ensuring the supply of daily necessities.² Second, SOEs under the central

¹ Feng Qiyu, Gu Yang, Guaranteeing orders, fulfilling contracts, increasing market share to precisely help foreign trade companies to expand exports, *Economic Daily*, March 11, 2020, Page 8.

² Wen Yuan, SOEs under the Central Government greatly support resumption of work, *Guang*

government were responsible for designing, constructing and renovating more than 100 specialized hospitals around China, and mobilized more than 20,000 management and construction personnel to work around the clock on the construction sites. Thanks to the full support of electricity, petroleum and telecommunications companies, Huoshenshan Hospital and Leishenshan Hospital in Wuhan were completed as scheduled.¹ Third, SOEs under the central government converted their capacity to produce medical supplies and accelerated production like in the wartime. Fourth, SOEs under the central government strived to get back to normal operation as soon as possible.² Of the more than 20,000 manufacturing subsidiaries of SOEs under the central government, over 80% have restarted operation, and the rate was as high as 95% in petroleum and petrochemicals, communication, electricity and transport. This gave a strong boost to related industries in resuming production in an orderly manner.³

Enterprises followed strict safety and health rules while they tried to resume operation and helped cut off transmission. Although they were encouraged to resume production, factories, enterprises and public institutions had to prevent any possible infections after their employees come back to the office. The Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council issued the *Guidelines on Strengthening Enterprises and Public Institutions' Measures for Preventing and Containing COVID-19 during Resumption of Production and Operation*. This document mandated epidemic response efforts in four aspects: staff health monitoring, workplace

Ming Daily, March 2, 2020, Page 1.

¹ Wang Yupeng, SOEs under the Central Government design, construct and renovate more than 100 specialized hospitals to support the fight against the epidemic, *People's Daily Online*, Feb. 18, 2020.

² SCIO briefing on central SOEs' support for epidemic prevention and control (full text), *English.gov.cn*, February 18, 2020, http://www.china.com.cn/zhibo/content_75714333.htm#fullText.

³ Over 80 percent of central SOEs' production subsidiaries resume operation, *People's Daily Overseas Edition*, Feb. 19, 2020, Page 3.

prevention and control, individual protection, and emergency response. To minimize the risk of virus transmission while they tried to get back to normal operation, targeted and differentiated management measures must be implemented to contain the epidemic. First, efforts were strengthened to prevent and control virus transmission on the road, so more chartered trains were arranged to make sure that passengers could keep a safe distance from each other, ventilation and disinfection were improved, and body temperature checks were intensified. In labor-intensive regions, targeted measures were taken to ensure the safe and smooth resumption of work and production. For instance, migrant workers who want to go back to work must be registered, and they must return batch by batch. In addition, technological guidance, publicity of infection containment knowledge and guidelines on work resumption reduced the risk of transmission on the road and the risk of mass gatherings. All these measures helped enterprises prevent the risk of infection and get back to normal operation.

1.10. Enhancing international cooperation, standing in solidarity to fight the coronavirus

No one is an island in the globalized world. No one is immune from the global public health emergency. A virus respects no national borders and the epidemic is a challenge facing all human beings. All countries must stand in solidarity in the fight against the epidemic.¹

Head-of-state diplomacy conveyed messages of confidence. The top political leader of a country is not only the supreme commander of the war against the epidemic, but also a major voice in international communication. Since the outbreak started, President Xi has attached great importance to international cooperation in COVID-19 response, giving important directions on strengthening communication and coordination with different countries

¹ Join hands to win the battle against the epidemic in the spirit of a community with shared future, *People's Daily*, Feb. 6, 2020, Page 3.

and especially the World Health Organization (WHO) ¹. President Xi has talked over the phone with leaders of 19 countries and international organizations, and held meetings with the Prime Minister of Cambodia, President of Mongolia, and WHO's DG during their special visits to China². President Xi wrote a reply letter to Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation, in which he thanked the foundation for their support, and called for the international community to enhance coordination and take concerted efforts to fight the coronavirus³. On many occasions, President Xi pointed out that, committed to community with a shared future for mankind, China had not only done its best to protect the safety and health of its own people, but had also made positive contributions to the global public health security. He conveyed the message that, in solidarity with all other countries, China has the confidence to win the battle against the epidemic⁴.



China's medical expert team with supplies arrived at Iraq

China actively participated in international cooperation to combat COVID-19. The international epidemic situation has been changing rapidly.

¹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: China sticks to the forefront of epidemic prevention and control, *People's Daily*, March 6, 2020, Page 3.

² Xinhua News Agency.

³ President Xi Jinping wrote back to thank Bill Gates for his support for China's fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, Feb. 22, 2020, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/22/c_138807381.htm.

⁴ The State Council Information Office held a press conference to brief the media about international cooperation in response to COVID-19, www.gov.cn, March 5, 2020, http://www.china.com.cn/zhibo/content_75772225.htm.

China’s situation has improved, but the epidemic started to spread more quickly in some countries and regions, and has become a pandemic. As the risk of the cross-border spread is higher than before, cooperation at the global level to fight the epidemic is extremely important and urgent. In an open, transparent and highly responsible manner, China has shared its COVID-19 response experience, practices and measures in both infection containment and patient treatment. China shared the coronavirus' full genome sequence, primers and probes with the WHO at the earliest date possible. China shared many technical documents with more than 100 countries around the world and over 10 international and regional organizations, including our guidelines on epidemic prevention and control, and guidelines on disease diagnosis and patient treatment¹. Through expert seminars and video conferences, China shared the experience, practices and findings including laboratory testing, epidemiology investigation, as well as clinical diagnosis and treatment². China initiated international cooperation in diagnostics, therapeutics, drugs and vaccine development. China supported Chinese public health facilities and entities and medical institutions in cooperating with national technical institutions and offering technical trainings to improve the knowhow of epidemic control workers in certain countries. China also explored ways to carry out joint prevention and control, strengthen international communication and coordination, and share epidemic information, so as to safeguard global public health and the wellbeing of people around the world.

China offered supplies to support the international efforts to fight COVID-19 and improve the shared wellbeing. Solidarity is a key to victory. In the early days of the outbreak, China received a lot of assistance from around the world that saved lives from the shortage of medical and protective supplies.

¹ The State Council Information Office held a press conference to brief the media about international cooperation in response to COVID-19.

² Mao Qiang, How can international cooperation promote China’s image as a responsible power? *Study Times*, March 11, 2020, Page A1.

To help China combat the epidemic, many countries, international organizations and non-governmental groups donated and sent medical supplies and other goods to China. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 79 countries and 10 international organizations donated supplies to China for infection prevention and control such as masks and protective suits which China needed badly¹. As the situation improved in China and China mobilized enough capacity to produce medical supplies, China turned to help countries struggling with the outbreak. For example, China sent medical and protective supplies to countries such as Pakistan, Laos, Thailand, Iran, South Korea and Japan, as well as the African Union. China pledged to do what it can to help dozens of countries such as Italy, France, Spain, Greece and Serbia in the form of donations or medical expertise, and supported friendly countries in purchasing medical supplies from the Chinese market. Apart from bilateral cooperation, China decided to donate \$20 million to the WHO to support the international solidarity in combating COVID-19 and help strengthen the capacities of other developing countries to tackle the crisis and to improve public health systems². Facing the epidemic, human beings have a shared future. Thus, only by avoiding discrimination, contempt and bigotry, and making concerted efforts to combat the virus can we win the battle and defend the health and dignity of all human beings.

¹ Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press Conference on March 18, 2020, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, March 18, 2020, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1757799.shtml.

² The Chinese government has decided to donate \$20 million to the World Health Organization (WHO), *People's Daily*, March 8, 2020, Page 3.

II. Lessons from China’s Combat against COVID-19

COVID-19 has not only posed a huge threat to the Chinese people’s safety and health, but also a major challenge to the global public health security. Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission (NHC) of China and deputy director of the NHC Publicity Department, said at the press conference of the State Councils’ Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism on March 12 that the peak of the current outbreak of COVID-19 in China was over and new cases were declining to a very low level. By March 16, confirmed or death cases outside China had outnumbered those in China. There had been no newly confirmed indigenous cases in China outside Wuhan for several consecutive days. At the same time, imported confirmed cases of COVID-19 in China surpassed the newly confirmed indigenous cases, as the daily reports said. In the next stage, China’s main task is to rein in the imported cases and defend ourselves from cross-border infection. China will update the response measures to prevent the resurgence of the epidemic. As new COVID-19 cases skyrocketed in other countries, China’s experience in fighting the epidemic will offer lessons and clues for the rest of the world to contain COVID-19. China's experience can be distilled in 10 words/phrases: speed, strength, transparency, responsibility, coordination, overall planning, technology, balance, cooperation, and timely remedy.

2.1 Speed: Rapid response

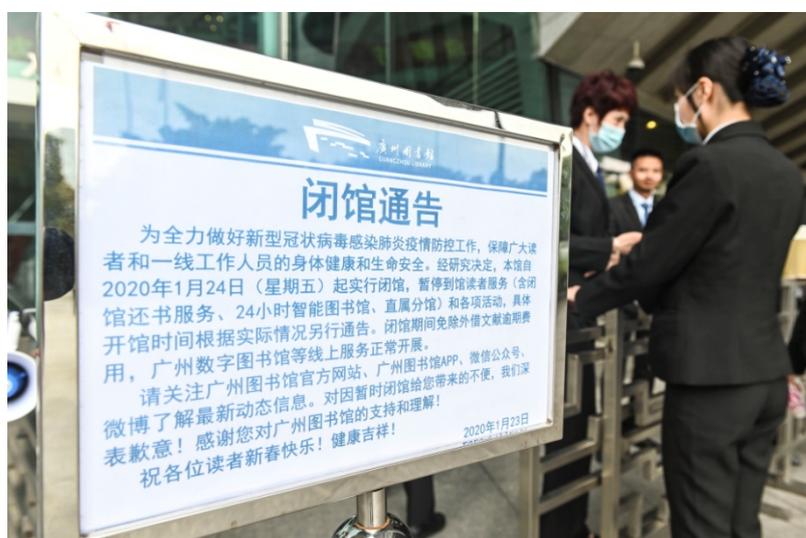
COVID-19 is a very special virus. There are many unanswered questions about the outbreak of COVID-19. China’s experience in combating COVID-19, however, shows that it is possible to control the epidemic if effective measures are taken as early as possible.

Since COVID-19 spreads very fast, time is a critical factor in containing its spread. Great efforts should be made to control the source of infection and cut

off routes of transmission. Rapid response makes it possible to control and prevent infections, make all necessary resources available, and treat patients properly. As said above, China implemented the abovesaid strategy of “Four Earlies”. This is the most valuable experience of China in fighting COVID-19, and an internationally recognized recipe to combat the epidemic and reduce the number of infections.

To realize early response, China improved its epidemic surveillance network very soon after the outbreak started to monitor related cases, cluster infections, communities, workplaces and individuals, to find infected people as soon as possible. At the same time, epidemiological investigations and necessary community-based screening were conducted to find close contacts and suspected cases as quickly as possible. The system involving monitoring, reporting and investigating proved helpful to find potential infections asap and prevent the spread of infections.

To make sure that no patient avoided seeing a doctor for fear of expensive fees, and that no local community failed to combat the epidemic effectively because of financial problems, the Chinese governments at all levels decided very early to finance epidemic



On January 23, Guangdong province initiated a first-level public health emergency response, with a suspension of public places

prevention and control, and subsidize treatment costs for COVID-19 patients. Such measures made the “Four Earlies” possible, as they encouraged patients to seek treatment as early as possible and allowed every single patient to

receive timely treatment in hospitals.

To deal with the growing number of confirmed and suspected cases, China built temporary hospitals and fully functional specialized hospitals for respiratory infections in hard-hit regions. Remarkable achievements had been made within one month. The shortage of beds disappeared; instead, there were spare beds available for any patient. Within a short time, number of gymnasiums, convention centers and training centers had been transformed into temporary hospitals for mild cases. Called “mobile cabin hospitals”, these temporary hospitals offered enough beds for severely infectious areas. While they ensured isolation and treatment of mild cases, they allowed severe cases to receive treatment in better conditions and helped reduce possible cluster infections caused by home quarantine.

In general, the regular facilities and measures of any health system for disease surveillance, isolation and treatment available before the outbreak cannot cope with the highly infectious and cunning COVID-19. Without proper and prompt expansion and upgrading, the existing system is likely to be overwhelmed, which would hinder rapid epidemic prevention and control. It is necessary to adjust the prevention and control facilities and measures, and even the whole system, flexibly and quickly to ensure rapid and effective response.

2.2 Strength: Intensified measures

Infection prevention and control and patient treatment require both speed and strength. China showed super strong determination to block the transmission of COVID-19. The Chinese governments at all levels and all communities worked hard to fully implement joint prevent and control measures. Instead of putting in average efforts, China adopted region-specific and multi-level targeted approaches based on an accurate understanding of the virus and a precise evaluation of risks.

Due to the high infectiousness of COVID-19, intensified prevention and control measures are needed. The Chinese governments and the public must not underestimate the risk of infection. They must neither panic nor let down their guard. Within just a few days, in a succession, almost all provincial regions of China declared first-level public health emergency and issued corresponding response measures. COVID-19 was classified as a category-B infectious disease by the NHC, but prevention and control measures for a category-A infectious disease was mandated. The strictest measures were implemented, following the national guidelines. All these efforts helped allocate resources in time to fight the epidemic.

To be really effective, all measures must be implemented to the letter. For infection prevention and control, it is of pivotal importance to limit the population movement, while increasing supplies to hospitals and communities. First, China tried our best to limit and reduce the population movement, in a bid to reduce the risk of transmission. It is not an easy task for a country with a population of 1.4 billion. What's more, the outbreak started shortly before China's Lunar New Year, which made it more challenging to contain the epidemic. Culturally, the Lunar New Year is the most important festival in China and a major occasion of family gatherings. People would go back to their family, which means a huge population movement involving millions and millions of people. Under this tricky circumstance, the Chinese government took bold steps to restrict travels or social gatherings. Then, the central government extended the holiday and called for people to work from home. Some local governments even locked down communities and villages. All these efforts demonstrated China's strong determination to contain the epidemic. Currently, the pathogenic mechanism and the transmission mechanism of COVID-19 remain unclear, so the primary physical methods, which had been proven effective, would be the only choice. Several local

governments carried out strict screening on people belonging to “Four Categories”: confirmed patients, suspected patients, patients with fever and close contacts. Community workers were dedicated to finding out every infected case, and every single suspected case was tested. People belonging to the Four Categories were demanded to take a 14-day quarantine at home or a designated location, which helped find out the source of infection and block community transmission.

Meanwhile, China significantly increased supplies to hospitals and communities. Both hospitals and communities were key frontlines of China’s war against COVID-19 and they needed resources badly. Hospitals must be well-equipped with supplies and medical workers in order not to be overwhelmed. Well-equipped hospitals were crucial to increase patient hospitalization and recovery rates and decrease infection and mortality rates. Communities were responsible for carrying out infection prevention and control measures, including fever screening, epidemiological investigations, quarantine facilities, body temperature monitoring, disinfection and basic medical services. Community workers were working at the warfront, and a key link in guarding against imported cases and curbing the spread within communities. As the situation worsened, China directed a great abundance of manpower and supplies to epidemic containment and patient treatment, mobilizing and transporting medical workers and supplies from around the country to areas hard hit by COVID-19. Considering the dire and worsening situation in Wuhan, the Chinese government established the principle of “Four Concentrations”. Medical workers and protective supplies poured into Hubei Province and the epicenter Wuhan in particular, thus overcoming the shortage of medical staff and supplies within a short period of time. On the other front, nearly 4 million urban and rural community workers joined the fight and tried to keep COVID-19 infection away from 650,000 communities.

Every community was guarded by an average of six workers, each serving 350 residents. These facts demonstrate that it is entirely possible to hold back the spread of the virus when the entire society is fully mobilized within a short time and when public health measures are proactively taken.

2.3 Transparency

As the COVID-19 pandemic threatens every person and every country, real-time information sharing is a must for both China and the international community. Transparent information disclosure can never be over emphasized during the war against COVID-19.

Committed openness and transparency, the Chinese government has released trustworthy epidemic-related information in a timely without reservation. China has shared its experience in epidemic containment and patient treatment, and responded openly to concerns at home and abroad. As a result, China has avoided public panic and put down rumors and misinformation, and succeeding in communicating the progress in epidemic prevention and control. The State Council and all provincial and municipal governments called regular press conferences to share information about infection prevention and control, provision of supplies, fiscal policies, international cooperation, assistance policies for SMEs, resumption of work and production activities, and support for the frontline medical workers. Besides, the Chinese governments at all levels, under the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism, tried to keep the public well informed through community, corporate, and government channels. Globally, China shared its measures and progress in COVID-19 containment with WHO, other countries and international organizations. WHO experts were invited to China for field inspections. Technical documents on epidemic containment and diagnostics haven been sent to more than 100 countries and over 10 international or regional organizations. Chinese experts have exchanged their findings in

infection containment, patient diagnosis and treatment, and testing reagent and vaccine development with their international colleagues through seminars and videoconferences. In addition, China’s experience and findings in laboratory testing, epidemiological investigations, and clinical diagnosis and treatment have been shared globally, which would surely increase the preparedness of the world against COVID-19.

It has been proved that prompt disclosure of COVID-19 information had not only helped keep the public informed of relevant Chinese laws and regulations and how the outbreak was going, but enhanced their awareness of self-prevention and confidence in winning the battle against COVID-19, encouraging them to participate in epidemic containment. Meanwhile, no panic had been triggered by misinformation. Yet this is an era of media and self-media, so the COVID-19 outbreak would inevitably create various voices among the public, even rumors, which would exert a negative influence on the battle if they were not handled properly or promptly. Remaining a confident, open and transparent in its epidemic response, China has kept publicizing correct information, including scientific evaluation results, to ensure the transparency to the greatest extent. The public was assured and they could make informed decisions about their daily life and what they could do to prevent infection.

It is worth noting that information disclosure was not limited to the outbreak. The China government has continued to educate the public about personal hygiene and provide technological guidance that helped the public understand the disclosed information and take correct response actions. Aiming to raise public awareness and ensure the epidemic response of the whole country was scientific, precise and targeted, China has issued a range of highly practical guidelines and technical measures that can be implemented by communities, enterprises and schools to give their members the more

much-needed protective knowledge and improve their joint prevention and control efforts. China also organized experts to write handbooks like *A Guide to Community-level Prevention and Control of the COVID-19 Outbreak*. The Chinese government also distributed materials to teach the public how to protect themselves against COVID-19 infection, both offline and online, especially through new media. Easy to understand, the materials were popular with community residents, raised their awareness of protection and eased their anxiety. This move helped lower COVID-19 cases from family gatherings.

2.4 Responsibility

China demonstrated strong courage and a strong sense of responsibility to fight the coronavirus. COVID-19 is our enemy. If we compare epidemic response to a “war”, it is people’s war. WHO encouraged every people, especially every leader at any level and from any sector to stand in solidarity and seize every single opportunity to prevent, contain, curb, delay and reduce the impact of the virus. It is a collective commitment to the humankind. UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivered a speech saying “we must declare war on this virus” and calling on governments to cooperate in order to “ensure targeted support for the people and communities most affected by the disease.” As the first country to move, in fact, China had already mobilized its governments at all levels, all its communities and all its people to kick out the virus. No one was alone in the combat. Every single member of the society, from governments to citizens, from the medical system to other industries, were actively involved in this fight by playing different roles in preventing infection and treating the disease.

All Chinese people were united in the battle. We’re confident and take collective and differentiated actions. The Chinese central government worked as a coordinator, implementing region-specific and multi-level approaches to enable society-wide efforts in joint epidemic prevention and control, and

defining clear responsibilities for each region, each sector and every individual. Medical workers and scientists fought at the front line of defense, responsible for treating the infected patients, making epidemiological investigations, conducting virology research and developing drugs and vaccines. All communities and their residents joined the war, offering every bit of their strength and wisdom, in addition to staying home as much as possible to make isolation rules work. Enterprises focused on producing preventive and protective supplies and daily life necessities.

2.5 Coordination

China demonstrated a strong ability to organize a full-scale battle against the COVID-19 virus. Epidemic response requires the systematic and complex efforts of the health sector and the entire society. Efficient and flexible coordination played an indispensable role in combating the virus and made quick and effective response possible. Efficient coordination enhanced preparedness, enabling the medical system to handle the outbreak in a timely, effective, and calm manner. Good coordination means: the number of severe cases is well controlled to avoid shortage of medical resources for severe cases; infection rate and number are reduced to drag down severe cases; effective quarantine is implemented to block off the source of infection; and monitoring and screening are enhanced to identify the source of infection. Each step must be taken with remarkable speed and strength, and more importantly, with good coordination. Without coordination, chaos would emerge, ultimately delaying and disrupting the response to the epidemic. Effective coordination makes it possible to do more with less. The Chinese governments has won battles against the epidemic through society-wide coordination.

Very soon after the COVID-19 outbreak started, China established a nationwide epidemic response mechanism which created national synergy for

epidemic control. The CPC Central Committee played a leading role in promoting coordination. The Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held regular meetings to discuss and assess the COVID-19 situation and the measures to contain the epidemic. Major decisions included the immediate establishment of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council, the lockdown of Wuhan, and community mobilization, which were implemented effectively and strictly under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee. The Chinese governments at all level, from provincial governments down to communities, established their own coordinating mechanisms for their COVID-19 prevention and control efforts. In this way, all measures went on smoothly, including the mobilization, allocation and deployment medical resources, including medical workers, the production and transportation of supplies, the prevention and control of infection, epidemiological investigations, and the quarantine of people belonging to the “Four Categories”.

2.6 Overall Planning

The epidemic outbreak tested, and proved, the power of the Chinese tradition of overall planning. An outbreak on this scale would surely rock the economy and society. History shows that a severe epidemic or disaster could lead to economic downturn and social disorder, which in turn worsens the situation. No country would like to be trapped in such a vicious circle, and China is no exception. During the outbreak, local governments encountered similar social and economic problems. While trying to ensure the proper functioning of society and economy, all governments must exercise traffic control, keep communities safe from transmission from external sources, and isolate the existing cases to prevent the disease from further spreading. These major tasks needed overall planning.

As time went on, the Chinese government realized the need and managed

to coordinate between virus and disease containment efforts and economic and social activities. First, while strengthening control measures, efforts were made to stable performance in six key areas: employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and market expectations. Second, region-specific and multi-level targeted approaches were implemented to continue or restart production activities and guarantee spring farming and basic daily life needs, considering the risk level in different parts of the country. Last, the Chinese government drew lessons from this battle while pooling all efforts to win the war. We have acted to improve the national system and mechanisms to enhance preparedness for any possible epidemic and public health emergency in the future.

As said above, the COVID-19 outbreak tested China’s governance system and overall planning capacity. The Chinese government recognized that the overarching principle for epidemic prevention and control is that epidemic prevention and control must be done in parallel with economic and social development. So, the Chinese government has made across-the-board and long-term arrangements to ensure the provision of supplies and daily necessities, or minimize the impacts on economic and social development while trying to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The implementation process shows that China has an enormous potential and a strong momentum for growth, and we believe that our 2020 economic and social development goals will be achieved.

2.7 Science and technology

China has taken a science-based approach to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Science and technology are the most powerful weapon against the COVID-19 epidemic, as President Xi said. Without the guidance of science, the fight would be blind. On the other hand, a warrior well equipped with science and technology has a much higher chance of victory. After the breakout

started, Chinese researchers identified the whole genome sequence of COVID-19 in less than a week and isolated the strain of the coronavirus, and the findings were immediately made public to the world.

Under the coordination of the Chinese central government, the Chinese scientific and technological community combined scientific research with clinical treatment and epidemic containment. Multidisciplinary expert groups were established to implement the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism, 9 special task forces were established to conduct research and development in 5 key areas: drugs and clinical treatment, vaccine development, testing products, etiology and epidemiology, as well as development of animal testing

models. While the urgent needs of frontline combat against COVID-19 in key areas like Hubei, especially Wuhan, are among the top concerns, 42 key emergency projects were deployed and made a series of achievements. In this way, China made a great progress in making the



Scientists conduct experiments on COVID-19 mRNA vaccine

COVID-19 more diagnosable, treatable, preventable and traceable.

In terms of disease diagnosis, nucleic acid testing kits for COVID-19 were developed and put into use soon after the outbreak started. On the side of patient treatment, selected drugs were tested for clinical use. In infection prevention, multiple technological routes were followed in advancing vaccine development, for which purpose new technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data were used to forecast the development of the

outbreak and inform the selection of response measures. To trace the origin of the coronavirus, efforts were made in four respects: environment, animals, people and molecules. At the current stage, the science and technology community in China is implementing targeted researches on the routes of transmission and tools for infection prevention in order to reduce and fend off the risk of imported cases and transmission in high-risk places, safeguard the resumption of work and production, and protect the vulnerable population.

The progress above has not only served China, but will also help the whole world to combat the virus.

Technology has not only played a crucial role in epidemic containment, but also displayed its special power in education and easing the inconveniences caused by the prevention and control measures to people's life and work via the Internet, big data and digitalization.

2.8 Balance

Technology can't automatically do everything to fight the outbreak, so non-technology measures must play their roles. There is no specific drug or vaccine yet, but China has effectively contained the epidemic by embracing non-technological means.

Some people in other countries considered China's epidemic response measures as “overreactive”. Some even questioned China's political system. To be honest, China's epidemic response measures were tough for both the government and the people, but they were critical to guarantee the safety and health of every single person in the country and have proven to work.

That's why we had to balance the gains against the losses. A choice that benefits all is seldom available, which poses a harsh test for both the government and the people. We must seriously consider what we want: lockdown or herd immunity, personal freedom or public health, short-time inconveniences or long-term health, the right of life or other human rights,

economic development or epidemic containment. Besides, in many other countries, party politics is an additional consideration.

For the general public, it may be uncomfortable to get out of the comfort zone or the pre-epidemic way of life, customs and habits, and it may also be unacceptable risk the economy. However, for the Chinese people, such temporary changes and inconveniences are a matter of course if they are good for public health and the future.

Since the outbreak started, the Chinese government has consistently put people's safety and health in the first place, and managed to mobilize its people and all resources to fight the epidemic and control the spread of the virus. The priority is given to infection prevention and disease treatment in Hubei Province, above all in Wuhan. China adopted the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough response measures, in a bid to curb the spread of the virus and help the infected patients recover. Thanks to the concerted efforts by the whole nation, China has turned the tide against COVID-19.

2.9 Cooperation

A virus knows no borders. Victory over COVID-19 is of utmost significance to the safety and health of not only the Chinese people, but also people around the world. While China was fighting a hard battle against the virus, we received countless condolences and support as well as large amounts of supplies from many countries. Since the very beginning of the outbreak, China has highly valued international cooperation on public health, provided timely information updates to WHO and the global community, and shared the genome sequence of the coronavirus in an open and transparent manner. We also worked closely with WHO, our neighboring countries and related countries, and offered to work side by side with international experts. For the next step, while remaining committed to our prevention and control measures, China will help the outside world fight the epidemic. We will strengthen

communication and coordination with WHO and the global community, share and exchange epidemic response experience, send medical teams to countries and regions where they are needed, provide medical and protective supplies, and advance R&D cooperation with the global community.

More importantly, despite the absence of any specific drug and vaccine, the Chinese government and people made unremitting efforts to prevent the cross-border spread of the virus. WHO experts estimated that the global spread of the virus had been delayed for several days, and invaluable time was gained for the global response, thanks to China’s self-sacrificing efforts including joint prevention and control mechanism, self-isolation, prevention and control at the community level, hospitalizing and treating all patients, and even lockdown of communities. After we turn the tide against the virus, people go back to work and production resumes in the country, China will be able to provide more help to hard-hit countries.

In today's interconnected world, public health security has become a common concern of the international community, and no one is an island in a global public health emergency. China will honor our promise to help build a community with a shared future for mankind, above all by taking actions to safeguard global public health and wellbeing while protecting the people’s safety and health within our borders.

2.10 Timely remedy

China has a huge population of 1.4 billion, so it is essential to stay alert to and prepared for any major epidemic and public health emergency. As President Xi said, the epidemic was a big test for China’s governance system and capacity, and called on the people to learn from past mistakes and continue to improve. Considering that WHO has declared COVID-19 as a pandemic, China had met with difficulties and showed shortcomings in the first days of the outbreak, while other countries were not well prepared, either,

even after China made some progress in fighting the virus. In short, every country has weaknesses and problems in their epidemic response. China's problems include formalism and bureaucracy which hindered some epidemic prevention and control efforts. China is serious about these weaknesses and has taken quick remedy, adjustment and improvement measures and planned to take even more remedy actions after the outbreak is over.

Human beings make progress by getting wise from mistakes. Facing the global public health emergency, every country must stand together, show mutual respect, learn from one another and get stronger together.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 outbreak poses a severe threat to the life and health of the people from all over the world and a formidable challenge to global public health security. Chinese government and people are fighting on the forefront of the battle against the epidemic to protect every individual with resources mobilized across the nation. China’s forceful actions have limited the spread of the virus both domestically and beyond its borders. With its quick response, China has bought precious time for the international community to enhance preparedness. The further spreading of the COVID-19 in the world poses a great test to the response capability of all countries’ public health system and the capacity of national governance. The effective containment and rescue measures launched by Chinese government are exemplary for the rest of the world, China’s concrete actions have won itself wide endorsement and appreciation from the world and demonstrated its firm commitment to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Virus respects no borders. It requires a collective response from the international community. That leaves the world to cooperate the only choice to defend the life and health of all mankind.

(Written by Jia Xiudong and Li Xiaoyu)

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