

## **Joint Statement of Proposals**

### **On Strengthening Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity**

We, over 300 representatives from 80 countries, gathered on 18 October 2023 in Beijing for the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity during the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

We are of the view that, thanks to the endeavor to strengthen people-to-people connectivity among Belt and Road partner countries in the past decade, people-to-people exchanges and cooperation on livelihood programs have thrived, with major progress achieved and bridges of friendship built among peoples of partner countries. Their mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual appreciation have thus been boosted, and the consensus on and resources for Belt and Road cooperation have been pooled from various countries and sectors.

We align ourselves with the Chinese saying that delicious soup is made by combining different ingredients. We need to respect the diversity, commonality, creativity and the inclusive nature of civilizations, embrace the vision on civilization featuring

equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness, and let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority.

We hope that partner countries pursue people-centered development with priorities given to economic growth, job creation, livelihood protection and poverty reduction, and channel more resources toward livelihood programs to ensure that the modernization of a country better meet its people's aspiration for growth. Partner countries should pursue shared benefits through extensive consultation and joint efforts so as to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and achieve global common development that is more inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

We are committed to carrying forward the Silk Road spirit, championing the common values of humanity, and taking concrete measures to strengthen international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation, with an aim to enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust among different countries, nations and peoples. Continued efforts will be made

to build people-to-people connectivity at a high standard and with high quality, so as to cement public support for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation among partner countries.

Let us make concerted efforts to build the Belt and Road into a “belt of development” that benefits the world and a “road to happiness” that benefits all peoples, so as to contribute our share to the building of a human community with a shared future and the creation of a better world!