

# Progress Report on the Global Development Initiative

2025



中国国际发展知识中心  
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL  
KNOWLEDGE ON DEVELOPMENT

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Global Development Initiative 2025

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# 01. Preface



The world's once-in-a-century transformation is gathering pace. The rise of anti-globalization, unilateralism and protectionism, the weak world economic recovery, and the increasingly frequent conflicts and turmoil, have all dealt a blow to international rules and order, challenging the authority and effectiveness of multilateral institutions and increasing the instability and uncertainty in global development. The progress in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the UN 2030 Agenda) has fallen far below expectations. By 2025, only 35% of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track or making moderate progress, nearly half of them have seen little progress, and 18% have regressed. The challenges facing developing countries are even more severe.

In September 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, with a view to focusing on

development, rallying consensus on promoting global development, and fostering new drivers of global development for faster implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Initiative adheres to six core principles, namely development as a priority, a people-centered approach, inclusiveness and benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between man and nature, and results-oriented actions. It focuses on eight priority areas, namely poverty reduction, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and digital-era connectivity. With its forward-looking vision and pragmatic measures, the GDI has become another important public good provided by China to the international community in the new era, and is also an important practice of the community with a shared future for humanity in the field of global development. Since then, the GDI has received support and participation from over 100 countries and international organizations

including the UN.

As the initiator, China has continuously promoted international consensus on fostering development together, developed cooperation mechanisms, mobilized development resources, and deepened practical cooperation. These efforts have effectively helped address global challenges and the development needs of developing countries and injected impetus to SDGs.

**The consensus on giving priority to development has continued to build up.** In June 2022, leaders from 18 countries with broad representation and global influence attended the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development. They engaged in in-depth discussions on accelerating global economic recovery, deepening practical cooperation, implementing the GDI, and building a global partnership for development in the new era, sounding a powerful call for achieving shared development and prosperity. During the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly from 2022 to 2024, high-level events were held consecutively for the GDI, reinforcing the resolve of all parties to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and clarifying the initiative's role as an accelerator for the Agenda and its priority direction in supporting the development and revitalization of the Global South. Since its establishment in 2022, the Group of Friends of the GDI has convened multiple high-level meetings at UN headquarters in New York, Vienna, and Geneva and delivered joint

statements at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and UN General Assembly high-level meetings on food security and financing for development, calling on the international community to jointly uphold multilateralism, prioritize development, and advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In April 2024, the high-level meeting of GDI Group of Friends submitted a non-paper on the development-related issues of the Summit of the Future, which appealed for revitalizing the global development partnership through win-win cooperation and common development based on extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and called on the international community to jointly address global challenges, strengthen international development cooperation, and support a central and coordinating role for the UN in implementing the 2030 Agenda. At the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council meeting held in May 2024, over 30 members spoke in support of China's proposal to improve the WTO's approaches to development, further solidifying the consensus among WTO members on the importance of development. China has also further consolidated international consensus on promoting development through establishing international exchange platforms such as the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, and working with all parties to give full play to many existing international mechanisms such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China-Community of Latin

American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Forum, China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Cooperation, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, G20, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and China-Central Asia mechanism.

**Cooperation mechanisms have kept improving.**

By August 2025, more than 80 countries had joined the Group of Friends. The UN Task Force on Leveraging Partnerships towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will forge greater synergy between the GDI and the 2030 Agenda while enhancing the coordination among the UN development agencies. In January 2025, the first policy dialogue meeting between the Group of Friends and the UN Task Force was held, providing a vital platform for strengthening partnerships, mobilizing development resources, and sharing solutions. More than 80 countries and international organizations have joined the Global Development Promotion Center Network. China has signed more than 80 cooperation documents with developing countries, international organizations and financial institutions to deepen GDI cooperation. Fifty-three African countries, the African Union and China jointly issued the *China-Africa Joint Statement on Deepening Cooperation within the Framework of the Global Development Initiative*. In March 2025, the Global South Research Center was inaugurated, which has a council composed of more than 20 senior experts from the Global South and the Global North and representatives of international

institutions to jointly provide intellectual support for the revitalization of development in Global South. As of September 2024, the GDI has seen over 30 mechanisms established across its eight priority areas, pooling collective efforts to advance cooperation in each area.

**Development resources have been pooling.**

The Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund totalling US\$ 4 billion has supported over 20 international organizations including the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in implementing more than 180 projects in over 60 countries such as Ethiopia, Pakistan and Nigeria, benefiting more than 30 million people. China has increased its support for the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund (PDTF), continuing its contributions to the Fund for an additional five-year period from 2026-2030. The 2030 Agenda Sub-fund under the PDTF has supported multiple UN development agencies to implement over 30 collaborative projects tailored to the practical needs of developing countries. China also supports the WTO's Aid for Trade initiative, continuing to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs), in integrating into the multilateral trading system. Through innovative ways such as co-funding, donation with designated purpose and match funding by beneficiaries, the Global Development Capital

Pool has attracted the participation of official and private entities and has so far mobilized special funds of US\$ 14 billion. China actively calls for countries with surplus resources to re-channel their special drawing rights (SDRs) to countries in need, and was among the first to act. In late 2021, President Xi Jinping announced that China would re-channel US\$ 10 billion worth of SDRs to African countries.

**Pragmatic cooperation has yielded remarkable results.** Over the past four years, the GDI has implemented a series of practical cooperation projects. As of September 2025, more than 1,800 projects have been included in the Global Development Project Pool. China has announced that it is willing to implement the duty-free treatment for 100% tariff lines of products from 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China through negotiating and signing agreements on economic partnership for shared development, while facilitating African LDCs' exports to China. China has so far signed agreements on economic partnership for shared development with 31 African countries and has formally initiated negotiations on an agreement with the Republic of the Congo. Since the GDI was proposed, 14 countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad and São Tomé and Príncipe, have signed with China 15 project documents on South-South Cooperation to address climate change. The cooperation intends to support other developing countries including African countries, small island countries, and LDCs

to tackle climate change through building low-carbon demonstration zones, carrying out mitigation and adaptation projects and holding exchange seminars. Under the GDI framework, the training sessions completed for 60,000 people have helped human resources development in developing countries, covering all countries in the Group of Friends. The Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD) has issued four editions of the *Global Development Report*, and has set up the Global Knowledge Network for Development, which covers ASEAN, Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, pooling wisdom and forging cooperation for global development. From capacity building to knowledge sharing and technical cooperation, from poverty reduction and education to digital economy, from high-yield rice and *juncao* processing to health and wellness, GDI cooperation is going deeper and deeper, bringing benefits to countries in the Global South.

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the fourth anniversary of the GDI. In the past four years, the initiative has made tangible progress from China's proposition to international consensus, from a conception for cooperation to common action, providing important impetus for closing the development gap and building a better world together. At this important juncture, the call and aspirations for common development

are growing stronger. This report aims to comprehensively and systematically review the main actions and achievements in the eight priority areas since the GDI was put forward and provide reference for all parties to advance development cooperation.

# 02 Progress in GDI cooperation in priority areas

Over the past four years, in the eight priority areas of poverty reduction, food security, pandemic response and vaccines, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy, and digital-era connectivity, the GDI has built a number of cooperation platforms, implemented a series of practical cooperation projects, and conducted knowledge sharing and capacity building, boosting confidence and injecting impetus for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

## A. Poverty Reduction



Eliminating all forms and dimensions of poverty, including extreme poverty, is the primary goal of the 2030 Agenda, the biggest global challenge, and also the essential requirement of sustainable development. According to the latest updated poverty line by the World Bank, 808 million people around the world are still living in extreme poverty in 2025, and by 2030, 8.9% of the world's population will still be plagued by extreme poverty. The GDI aims to facilitate all countries in strengthening policy communication, deepening pragmatic cooperation, and sharing poverty reduction experience, to jointly explore the pathway of poverty reduction and sustainable development in line with their respective national circumstances.

**Actively building platforms and mechanisms for international cooperation and strengthening the exchange and sharing of experience in poverty reduction.** The GDI promotes the establishment of a long-term and institutionalized collaborative network, mobilizing the participation of diverse stakeholders including governments, international organizations, social groups, academic institutions, enterprises, and media outlets to foster a cooperative framework characterized by cross-sector, multi-level and synergistic collaboration. A number of conferences, such as the Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum, the International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnership, the China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction,



the FOCAC Conference on Poverty Reduction and Development, the CELAC-China Forum on Poverty Reduction and Development, and the SCO Forum on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development were held successfully, which helped participating countries exchange and share their experience in poverty reduction and explore common paths of action. China is actively preparing for the Global Alliance for Poverty Reduction and Development and has launched the Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation, providing platforms for world institutions committed to poverty reduction and development cooperation to build consensus, stimulate vitality, promote cooperation, conduct consultations and share benefits. Besides, 32 Chinese and foreign organizations have joined the International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation as sponsors to jointly help the global poverty reduction cause.

**Implementing practical cooperation projects to reduce poverty and helping developing countries to eliminate poverty through development.**

Global poverty issues are complex and diverse, with different and varying causes. To eliminate poverty, the poverty reduction strategies must align with reality and local circumstances. The GDI has carried out different poverty reduction projects according to the national circumstances of different countries, helping them break bottlenecks of development and build the momentum for poverty reduction. Under the Global Development and South-

South Cooperation Fund, China has worked with the UNDP and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Lebanon, Pakistan, Cambodia, and Sudan, among others, on cooperation projects to restore livelihoods and help farmers tackle poverty, facilitating local families in escaping poverty. China, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar have jointly carried out the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project, which helped the project villages build rural infrastructure and public services facilities, and develop industries according to local conditions. The Project has effectively reduced local poverty, improved people's livelihoods, and enhanced the self-development capability of the project villages. China has also carried out a South-South and triangular cooperation project with the FAO and Uganda to help Uganda industrialize its agriculture and farmers reduce poverty and increase income (see Box 1). The *Juncao* technology has been adopted by many developing countries (see Box 2), unleashing huge potential in poverty reduction and employment generation, effectively harnessing science and technology innovation to help increase farmers' income, and enabling local communities to meet the No Poverty Goal and other SDGs.

**Carrying out a variety of poverty reduction capacity-building activities to help developing countries enhance their self-development capabilities.** Fostering endogenous drive and

## Box 1> South-South and triangular cooperation helps Uganda reduce poverty and industrialize agriculture

China and the FAO have jointly launched a South-South and triangular cooperation project in Uganda to promote the optimization and upgrade of farming, animal husbandry and aquaculture, explore the promotion and demonstration of green integrated technology, create a new model of environmental-friendly and ecologically sustainable agricultural development, and enhance local agricultural productivity and industrial chain integration, so as to help farmers increase their income and reduce poverty.

Project implementation includes three key directions. The first is the promotion of technologies. In terms of farming, the project has introduced 126 new crop varieties and screened out 19 varieties of hybrid rice, sorghum and millet suitable for local conditions; in animal husbandry, demonstration center of raising chickens and cows were established in Luweero, and Jianzhou big-eared goats were introduced, with 36 demonstration households

supported, and 330 people trained; in terms of aquaculture, a demonstration zone for fish farming in rice fields was established, with practical aquaculture manuals compiled, and efficient tools distributed.

The second is to promote agricultural industrialization. With the Sino-Uganda Friendship Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center as the core platform of aquaculture, the annual output of fry exceeds 2 million and that of fish feed is 250 tons; the Sino-Uganda Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park promotes the processing of agricultural products such as millet and beef jerky, and has established a sales network; the Butaleja Demonstration Project uses hybrid rice and millet to demonstrate high-yield techniques and promote regional agricultural development.

The third is to promote industrial integration and development. Yield and quality are improved and disaster resistance enhanced; deep processing of agricultural

products is developed with extended industrial chain and increased added value of agricultural products; a seed supply and agricultural machinery service system has been built to promote and improve a socialized agricultural service mechanism.

The projects have achieved remarkable results. 5,000 acres of hybrid rice have been planted, benefiting nearly 5,000 households, with the average household income increased by about US\$ 1,060. Foxtail millet has been rolled out to cover 182 acres, involving nearly 150 households, whose average household income increased by US\$ 600. The income from livestock and poultry breeding and aquaculture has increased significantly, creating income-generating opportunities for tens of thousands of farmers. The symbiosis of water-saving and drought-resistant rice and fish and the ecological pattern of planting-breeding cycle have been promoted, helping Uganda to build a green and sustainable agricultural development system.

sustainable capability for poverty reduction is fundamental to poverty elimination. In view of the gaps in human resources and capacity building in the field of poverty reduction, the GDI commits to stepping up education, training and experience sharing. Since September 2021, China has held 470 international training sessions covering over 70 countries and regions, with more than 10,000 trainees, focusing on key issues such as poverty reduction, rural development, development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and poverty reduction by non-governmental organizations, and urban-rural integration. These training sessions not only systematically introduced the

policy experience and implementation path for reference, but also organized on-site observation and field visits to help the trainees gain deeper understanding on the specific practices of poverty reduction and the grassroots governance in poverty-stricken areas. In May 2024, the Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation held the first seminar on poverty reduction and development for African officials. Twenty-seven grassroots officials from six countries, including Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, conducted field visits to the rural areas of China to learn from and inspire each other through face-to-face exchanges with Chinese grassroots officials.

## Box 2> *Juncao* technology: the role of a plant in global poverty reduction

The GDI upholds innovation-driven development, emphasizing the vital role of scientific and technological innovation in poverty reduction. By promoting advanced practical technologies, it strengthens developing countries' capacity for self-sustaining development. The *juncao* technology, characterized by low investment, rapid returns, and multiple benefits, achieves efficient utilization of light, heat, and

water resources while enabling a three-way cycle of plant, animal, and fungal production. It has become a model project in technology-based poverty reduction.

Under the GDI framework, China actively collaborates with other developing countries to leverage *juncao* technology for livelihood improvement. The *juncao* projects prioritize deep integration with local

natural conditions, governments, communities, and needs. These projects feature localization of *juncao* technology, streamlined operation, standardized production, systematic industrialization, and farmer organization. Professional-level training equips agricultural technicians with hands-on expertise covering the entire process from greenhouse construction to environmental control. At the individual level, cooperative



On February 21, 2023, staff at a mushroom farm in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, introducing mushroom cultivation to visitors (Image source: Xinhua News Agency).

leaders, demonstration households, and agricultural school students are cultivated through a practice-problem-theory closed-loop teaching approach, enabling them to master standardized production techniques and develop problem-solving capabilities. At the household level, experiential promotion is adopted: organizing visits to demonstration bases and mushroom tastings to spark interest, followed by theoretical

instruction and simplified hands-on practice to help new farmers quickly get started. Concurrently, online communities are established to facilitate real-time expert guidance and mutual learning among farmers.

The *juncao* projects have significantly advanced poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries, substantially empowering women and

boosting youth employment. In African countries like South Africa and Rwanda, *juncao* technology reduces fungal strain costs by 90% and triples yields, benefiting over 20,000 households. In Papua New Guinea, it has been spread to 17 districts across 9 provinces, training over 2,000 individuals and benefiting more than 40,000 people, becoming a pillar industry.

## B. Food Security



Food security is a fundamental issue concerning human survival. Currently, global food security continues to deteriorate. In 2024, over 295 million people worldwide faced severe hunger, with the number experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger reaching an all-time high. Regional conflicts, economic shocks and extreme climate, among other factors have aggravated global food insecurity and malnutrition. The GDI works actively to establish platforms for communication and exchange on food security, carry out practical cooperation projects on food security, and help countries enhance their capability to ensure food security, making positive contribution to the implementation of relevant SDGs.

**Building communication platforms to forge and promote the global food security consensus.** China has proposed a cooperation initiative on global food security under the G20 framework, calling for increased support to help developing countries increase food production, improve storage and reduce losses. At the high-level special meeting on food security during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, the Group of Friends articulated a common position, urging the international community to take concerted action not only to jointly address the immediate food crises, but also to strengthen long-term global cooperation in agriculture and food security. The China-Pacific Island Countries

Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers Meeting, the 2nd Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture, the 3rd China-CELAC Ministerial Forum on Agriculture, the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Agriculture Ministers' Meeting and the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste released a series of policy initiatives and cooperation consensus documents, such as the *Nanjing Consensus on China-Pacific Island Countries Cooperation in Agriculture and Fisheries*, the *China-CELAC Ministerial Consensus on Agricultural Priority Areas*, the *Action Plan on Strengthening China-CELAC Agricultural Cooperation*, and the *Jinan Initiative of the International Conference on Reducing Food Loss and Waste*, continuously consolidating the global cooperation consensus on food security.

**Carrying out agricultural technical cooperation and food aid projects to enhance the food production capacity and security level of developing countries.** China has cooperated with African, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Pacific island countries to implement a large number of agricultural technology popularization and innovation projects according to local conditions. Since September 2021, agricultural projects have been implemented in more than 10 countries, including Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Burundi (see Box 3), Dominica

and Tonga, with more than 200,000 beneficiaries. A total of 29 high-quality varieties of rice, corn and vegetables have been introduced to these countries, with nearly 5,000 new technologies shared in crops, poultry, animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, water conservancy and

gardening, and more than 20,000 agricultural talents trained, sowing the seeds for agricultural development in these countries. In cooperation with the FAO, IFAD, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), etc., China has carried out projects in Uganda, Rwanda,

### **Box 3> China-Burundi rice cultivation cooperation promotes local agricultural self-development**

The Burundian government places high priority on agricultural development and food security, incorporating poverty reduction and food security into its national development strategy. To help Burundi enhance its food production capacity, China has launched a high-level agricultural expert technical cooperation project with Burundi. China has dispatched a total of six teams comprising 67 experts to Burundi to help establish the demonstration villages of rice cultivation for poverty reduction. By piloting hybrid rice cultivation, introducing investment funds for production, and selecting and fostering local leaders, the project promotes the localization of agricultural technologies.



**A Chinese expert is explaining rice cultivation techniques to a Burundian farmer in the rice paddies (Image source: People's Daily)**

So far, the project has established 76 demonstration villages in 15 major rice-producing regions, successfully bred seven rice varieties suitable for local conditions, and achieved a planting area of 3,800 hectares for hybrid rice, delivering an annual increase of 28,500 tons in production and an

additional income of US\$ 14.25 million. The project has not only significantly increased Burundi's rice production, but also cultivated a group of agricultural technical experts, enhancing Burundi's capacity for agricultural self-development.





Ugandan students are enjoying school meals made from food aid provided by China. (Image source: China International Development Cooperation Agency/CIDCA)

Tanzania, Ethiopia and other countries, such as improving the capacity of sustainable soil management, promoting agricultural development by using satellite digital solutions, and mechanized agricultural systems. These projects have promoted local agricultural production while accumulating experience for global agricultural development and food security cooperation. Under the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, China has also cooperated with the WFP to provide food aid to more than 20 countries, including the Republic of Congo, Liberia, Timor-Leste, Laos, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, etc., effectively addressing their urgent need for food.

**Strengthening cooperation in agricultural science and technology innovation and human resources training, and enhancing the capacity**

**for food security of developing countries.** The GDI has established cooperation platforms for agricultural science and technology innovation to share agricultural technologies in a systematic and orderly manner. In December 2022, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the FAO signed an agreement to jointly establish an innovation platform and a joint collaboration mechanism to carry out innovation cooperation at regional and global levels. In November 2024, the CAAS and the African Academy of Sciences founded the China-Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Alliance (CAASTIA) to build a non-governmental, non-profit international cooperation platform to promote exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and African agricultural research institutions, universities and agriculture-related enterprises,

strengthen exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa in agricultural science and technology, promote the development of modern agriculture in China and Africa, and help Africa reduce hunger and poverty. Since September 2021, China has held more than 300 training sessions for developing countries, covering topics such as tropical fruit cultivation, biotechnology, food storage and post-harvest management, and food loss and waste reduction. These have benefited tens of thousands of policy makers, agricultural technicians and rural grassroots officials in nearly 150 countries, effectively helping Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean to improve their governance capacity

in key links such as food production and storage and improve their production efficiency and food security. At the same time, leveraging the WFP South-South cooperation knowledge sharing platform and its Cloud School, a number of practical knowledge products have been released, such as the development of a standard system for food saving and loss reduction, pest control technology and post-harvest drying technology. And a series of popular science videos have been launched, including Expert Views on Food Storage. These knowledge products have facilitated experience sharing in food saving and loss reduction with countries of the Global South and enhanced the overall capacity for food security of developing countries.

## C. Pandemic Response and Vaccines



At present, global progress in health-related SDGs is slow, with infectious and non-infectious diseases posing a major threat to human health. At a time when countries are interdependent and closely linked with increasingly frequent cross-border population movements and intensifying climate change, the spread of major infectious diseases and vaccine-related issues are becoming more global, complex and systemic. This not only poses a severe challenge to the public health system of all countries, but also raises requirements for the capacity of global health governance. The GDI aims to promote innovative

research and development (R&D) of vaccines and joint production and technology transfer, and strengthen medical and health cooperation and grassroots public health system, improving the ability of all parties to respond to public health emergencies.

**Building mechanisms and platforms for coordination and collaboration to jointly tackle the pronounced problems of cross-border spread of major infectious diseases and uneven distribution of vaccine resources.** In 2021, the BRICS Vaccine R&D Center-China Center was



established. The center, in concert with BRICS countries and others, cooperates with universities, scientific research institutes, disease control institutions and industries to monitor epidemic changes and virus variation and promote vaccine R&D, industrialization and application. In the end of 2023, a laboratory of Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) built with Chinese assistance officially commenced operations. As the core technical support platform for joint disease prevention and control among African Union member states, it has significantly enhanced African countries' capabilities in disease diagnosis, epidemic surveillance, and emergency response. In 2024, the China-SCO Emergency Medical Center was established, providing a regional platform for emergency medical cooperation. The Center has carried out a series of events, such as academic exchanges, personnel visits and training exercises. In July 2025, the China-Arab States Science and Technology Cooperation Center for Public Health was launched. The Center intends to strengthen the exchanges and cooperation between China and Arab countries in the fields of health talent, technology, equipment, scientific research and application, build a joint research system, and focus on creating a Sino-Arab vaccine innovation and R&D cooperation alliance. China has strengthened connections with the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) to promote the exchange and cooperation in cutting-edge technologies and the conversion and application of innovation

outcomes, and continuously deepened multilateral cooperation in public health.

**Carrying out health human resources training to help developing countries train medical and health talent.**

The GDI commits to strengthening human resources training and capacity building to address the needs of all countries for professionals in epidemiology, pathogen detection and vaccine application, raise the coverage of modern diagnosis and early warning technology, strengthen maternal and child health services, and improve the level of health services. Up to now, more than 25,000 training and academic activities have been held, benefiting a total of 88,000 medical personnel. 12,000 personnel of developing countries from medical and management fields have been organized on trips to China for training and further study. Doctors from developing countries who have completed the training have independently performed more than 3,100 operations and 15,000 physical examinations and medical tests. As a result, multiple first-of-its-kind operations have emerged in these countries and local surgical teams are gradually taking shape. The project Building the Capacity in Local Communities of Developing Countries to Achieve SDG3, funded by the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, has enhanced the skills and knowledge of healthcare workers in developing countries to utilize original technologies, thereby helping to build bridges for a global community of health for all (see Box

## Box 4> China's original technology helps build a global community of health for all

Supported by the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and China's National Health Commission have collaborated to implement the project of "Strengthening Treatment Capacity for Structural Heart Diseases Using Percutaneous and Non-

fluoroscopic Procedures in Developing Countries" in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Tanzania, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan. The project uses the Percutaneous and Non-fluoroscopic procedure (PAN), which was independently developed by the team from Fuwai Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and awarded by WHO as an innovative solution to health

challenges. The project has enhanced the medical skills and knowledge of healthcare professionals in developing countries. It has also established collaborative networks among stakeholders including local medical institutions, healthcare systems, and international organizations, thereby increasing access to cardiovascular disease treatment.

4). Besides, in 43 countries (regions), China has built 48 paired hospital cooperation mechanism projects and jointly established 26 key specialized clinical centers to fill hundreds of local medical technology gaps. Chinese experts have worked with local medical institutions to complete more than 1,200 difficult and complicated operations under cooperation projects, and carried out 283 consultations and 663 CT and other imaging remote diagnosis through the telemedicine system, directly benefiting local patients and improving the health and well-being of local people. Chinese experts have continued to work at the Africa CDC in support of the development of the disease prevention and control system in Africa.

**Implementing a series of practical cooperation projects to deepen cooperation in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and maternal and child health.** The GDI actively supports developing countries' response to infectious and non-communicable diseases (see Box 5). Actively implementing the GDI, China has sent medical teams to 59 countries and regions, serving a total of 7.31 million patients, ensuring the healthy birth of 201,000 newborns, organizing more than 1,900 public health prevention activities, and covering 286,000 people in remote areas on pro bono medical tours. China has worked with Tanzania, Comoros and other countries on endemic infectious disease prevention and control projects that cover malaria and schistosomiasis,

and also participated in international joint actions on major epidemics such as Ebola, yellow fever, plague and Zika in Africa. The Chinese medical team in Sierra Leone launched the nation's first Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening project, providing professional technical support and practical experience to advance Sierra Leone's national public health goal of eliminating cervical

cancer by 2030. In 2025, the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund supported a cooperation project on traditional Chinese medicine for the first time, and funded the WHO in jointly implementing the project of promoting the integration of traditional Chinese medicine into basic public health services to enhance the resilience of the health system, benefiting

## **Box 5> Cooperation on prevention and treatment of infectious and non-infectious diseases**

**Assisting in achieving the malaria-free goal.** China has provided sustained technical assistance in malaria control to São Tomé and Príncipe, introducing proprietary artemisinin-based combination therapies and promoting China's malaria control strategy of prioritizing source elimination to help the country achieve its 2025 malaria-free goal. The Chinese expert teams have worked closely with the Ministry of Health of São Tomé and Príncipe to conduct malaria epidemiological investigations, implement mass drug administration campaigns, establish laboratories, build information systems, and train local personnel. To enhance the efficiency of disease surveillance, they also developed a simple yet

practical data collection system covering 75% of the national population, enabling real-time epidemic monitoring. With the joint efforts of the anti-malaria teams from both countries, the incidence of malaria in São Tomé and Príncipe has been significantly reduced.

**Supporting the implementation of cervical cancer screening and vaccination programs.** The 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027) supports African nations in launching programs related to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including cervical cancer. In 2024, the Chinese medical team in Sierra Leone spearheaded the country's

first nationwide HPV screening program for cervical cancer. Spanning over four months, the team travelled more than 3,000 kilometers across the country, covering nine major towns and completing over 8,000 high-quality tests. The program significantly enhanced Sierra Leone's capacity to identify high-risk groups for cervical cancer, bolstered the nation's public health efforts, and provided critical data support for developing more scientific prevention and control policies. The achievements received high recognition from the government of Sierra Leone and international organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the WHO.



A WHO project aiming to eliminate schistosomiasis in Lao PDR, supported by the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, has been promoting the inclusion of schistosomiasis knowledge in the curricula of primary and secondary schools in schistosomiasis-prevalent regions. (Image source: CIDCA)

Pakistan, Iraq and Morocco. China has worked with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to build a demonstration training base for maternal and child health. It has carried out 15 online and on-site maternal and child health training activities, and conducted 16 special training sessions to

systematically share the development experience of maternal and child health, attracting 607 students from 34 countries and effectively promoting the capacity of developing countries in maternal and child health policy and practices.

## D. Financing for Development



Financing for development is an important guarantee for and means to implement the 2030 Agenda. According to UN data, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the world faces a financing gap of more than US\$ 4 trillion every year. And many developing countries have long-term and structural financing shortages

in key areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, education and health. The UN's 4th International Conference on Financing for Development called on all parties to take further actions to expand the financing scale of sustainable development, innovate financing mechanisms and raise more resources for development. The GDI commits

to leveraging the role of all platforms and mechanisms to forge development consensus, strengthen policy coordination, project synergy and resource complementarity, and mobilize all parties to increase their commitments for concrete contributions to the realization of the SDGs.

**Strengthening the coordination and alignment of multi-level policy mechanisms to promote resource complementarity.** The GDI emphasizes the platform role of multilateral mechanisms to build international consensus on development as a priority. In September 2023, the Group of Friends delivered a joint statement at the UN High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, stressing that the international community must revitalize the global development partnership and place development at the core of the international agenda, and that developed countries must fulfill their official development assistance commitments. The Group of Friends called for enhancing the representation and voice of developing countries in global economic governance, with strengthened macroeconomic policy coordination among nations and a favorable environment for development. At the sub-regional level, the GDI has actively promoted the synergy with the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC) and the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation (GMS) to enhance policy coordination, project docking and resource complementarity. Policy dialogue and exchanges on international development cooperation with multiple developed

countries have been strengthened under the framework of financial and economic dialogues, building consensus on enhancing the global development partnership for implementing the SDGs and jointly advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Building an institutionalized cooperation platform to provide financial support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** In 2022, the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund was upgraded to the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund. The Fund's capital was increased to US\$ 4 billion to support the development of key areas such as poverty reduction, food security, public health and climate change adaptation in developing countries. In the past few years, the Fund has seen expanded partnership, widened project coverage and enriched cooperation models. So far, with the support of the Fund, over 20 international organizations have implemented more than 180 projects in over 60 countries, benefiting more than 30 million people. Through innovative ways such as co-funding, donation with designated purpose and match funding by beneficiaries, the Global Development Capital Pool attracts the participation of official and social entities, mobilizing US\$ 14 billion in special funds. Since the initiative was launched, the Development Sub-Fund of the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund has supported over 30 collaborative projects undertaken by UN development agencies in response to the practical needs of developing

## Box 6> China-FAO SSC Trust Fund supports agricultural development in Global South countries

In 2022, the China-FAO SSC Trust Fund was launched. Since the inception of the GDI, the fund has implemented six South-South cooperation country projects in Madagascar, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Malawi, two regional projects on cross-border animal disease prevention and control in the Greater Mekong Subregion and the impact of CELAC's response to and recovery from COVID-19 on rural livelihoods

and food systems, three global projects on capacity building for the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention and sustainable control of fall armyworm, as well as 11 capacity-building activities in areas such as freshwater aquaculture, plant inspection and quarantine, digital innovation, and food loss and waste reduction. In particular, approximately 50 Chinese agricultural experts and technicians were dispatched

under the country projects to host countries to carry out South-South cooperation technical assistance tasks, training a total of nearly 7,000 local agricultural science and technology personnel and farmers and benefiting nearly 100,000 small-scale farmers. The regional and global projects have benefited over 20 countries, and the capacity-building activities have trained a total of 722 participants.

countries. Phase III of the China-FAO South-South Cooperation (SSC) Trust Fund with a total commitment of US\$ 50 million was launched (see Box 6). China has renewed the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Facility with an additional contribution of US\$ 10 million equivalent in RMB to support the agricultural development of countries in the Global South. A donation of US\$ 50 million has been pledged to the Pandemic Fund to support developing countries in improving their pandemic surveillance systems, laboratory systems and human resources, while US\$ 20 million was donated to UNCTAD. China has continued to

provide financial support for the Global Trust Fund (GTF) of the WTO to help other developing countries, especially the LDCs in integrating into the multilateral trading system.

**Supporting multilateral development banks to increase investment in development resources and supporting countries in the Global South in accelerating development.** China has actively participated in the replenishment of the International Development Association and the Asian Development Fund to support the provision of larger-scale financing for poverty reduction and development in developing countries. In

2024, the China-World Bank Group Partnership Facility was replenished. A total of US\$ 90 million has been donated to the People's Republic of China (PRC) Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund of the Asian Development Bank to support the poverty reduction and development of developing members. Members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have received support in meeting the development challenges in connectivity and green infrastructure. The Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF) initiated by China has become

an important platform to promote multilateral cooperation and coordination since it was officially put into operation in 2021. The MCDF has actively implemented infrastructure projects and mobilized financing from other channels. As an important platform for South-South Cooperation, the New Development Bank (NDB) has projects covering transportation, new energy, digital infrastructure and other fields. The NDB has been issuing panda bonds and become the largest multilateral development institution issuer in the inter-bank market in China.

## E. Climate Change and Green Development



Climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss are common challenges for human society, and green development is essential to addressing them. Global warming is speeding up. In 2024, the annual mean global temperature was 1.5 °C higher than the pre-industrialized level for the first time. Climate change has caused a large number of extreme weather events and natural disasters, resulting in serious loss of life and economic damage. At the same time, environmental pollution remains severe, imposing a heavy burden on the whole world, especially on the developing countries. The biodiversity loss is accelerating. The GDI is committed to harmonious coexistence between man and nature. It deepens cooperation among all parties

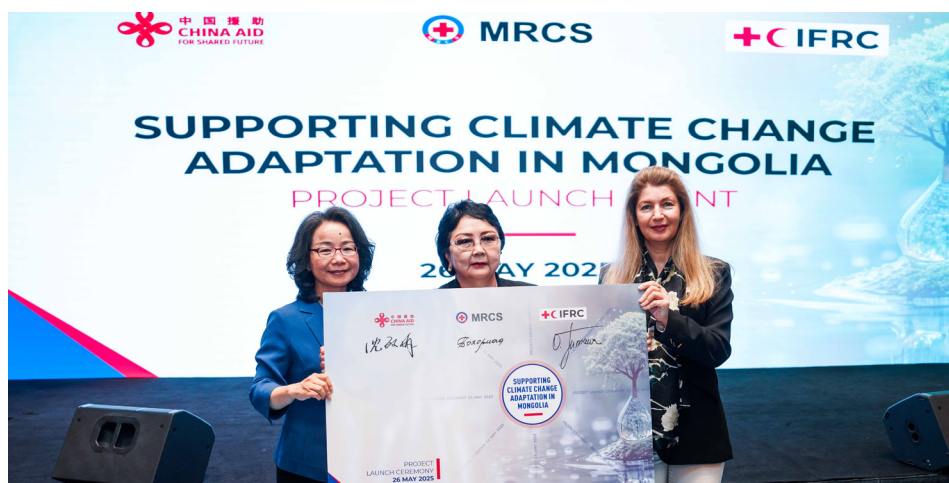
in key areas such as climate response, natural disaster prevention and control, environmental pollution control, ecosystem conservation, among other areas, to contribute to a global ecological civilization and sustainable development with concrete actions.

**Strengthening international cooperation in clean energy and climate response and jointly addressing the deteriorating climate crisis.** Under the GDI framework, partners have actively built a Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership, and initiated the International Coalition for Energy Transition, providing new drivers for international energy low-carbon transition. In December 2021, China



and African countries issued the *Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation on Combating Climate Change*, launching a three-year China-Africa action plan on climate change and a demonstration program for China-Africa cooperation in PV resources utilization. In September 2023, the implementation of the “Africa Solar Belt” Program was announced at the first Africa Climate Summit, aiming to help about 50,000 impoverished families living without electricity gain basic power access through in-kind assistance, exchanges and dialogues, joint research and capacity building. Up till now, cooperation documents on Africa Solar Belt have been signed with six countries, namely Chad, São Tomé and Príncipe, Togo, Burundi, Gabon and Nigeria, with steady progress in project implementation. Since the GDI was initiated, 15 documents about South-South Cooperation projects on climate response have been signed with 14 countries, including

Burkina Faso, Chad and São Tomé and Príncipe. Support has been provided to African countries, small island countries and the LDCs to respond to climate change through cooperation in building pilot low-carbon industrial parks, climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and training programs on capacity building. A climate action cooperation center has been jointly established with Pacific Island Countries, effectively helping these countries improve their ability to respond to climate change by holding dialogues on climate change, providing training programs, jointly building laboratories and weather stations, and implementing climate assistance projects. During the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in November 2024, the *International Zero-Carbon Island Cooperation Initiative* was launched by Yantai City of Shandong Province of China, which represented 32 initiating members. This Initiative advocates strengthened zero-carbon transition cooperation



In May 2025, a project supporting climate change adaptation in Mongolia, sponsored by the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, was launched in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. (Image source: CIDCA)



among island countries around the world based on existing cooperation outcomes.

**Promoting international cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation and helping developing countries improve their ability for climate adaptation.**

Actively responding to the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative proposed by the UN Secretary-General, China and the World Meteorological Organization have signed a cooperation agreement to support this initiative and to jointly help relevant developing countries improve their risk response and early warning capabilities for meteorological disasters. Efforts are being made to actively build international platforms for early warning systems and develop meteorological early warning systems in African countries, such as Ethiopia and South Africa. Sponsored by the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and in collaboration with UNDP, early warning projects for climate information have also been implemented in Pakistan, Maldives, Madagascar, Seychelles, Djibouti and other countries. China worked with neighboring countries, such as Mongolia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Pakistan and Nepal, to conduct joint prevention and control on cross-border forest fire, organize joint exercises and technical training, build fire monitoring and early warning platforms, thus effectively enhancing regional abilities of risk prevention for climate disasters. Working with the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

(UN-SPIDER), technical consultation has been provided for space-based disaster reduction and remote sensing monitoring for disasters in Southeast Asian countries and Pacific Island Countries, enhancing their ability to apply technologies against disaster risks. In 2024, a total of 53 special training programs were held, covering natural disaster prevention and control, emergency rescue, among other areas, helping other developing countries improve their capabilities in disaster prevention and mitigation, and emergency management.

**Strengthening cooperation in environmental pollution control and improving global environment quality.**

China and Mekong countries organized regional roundtables to improve regional atmospheric quality, conducted joint investigations on “seasonal haze”, provided portable air quality monitors and technical guidance and training, built real-time automatic atmospheric monitoring stations and display systems of outdoor air quality data, and improved the software and hardware facilities of air quality monitoring in Mekong countries, benefiting over 10,000 people. China worked with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) to launch the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative, promoting bamboo alternatives for energy-intensive and difficult-to-degrade plastic products, providing effective solutions for reducing plastic pollution (see Box 7). China worked with the WTO to initiate the “Dialogue on Plastic Pollution

## Box 7> The Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative



On August 10, 2024, an Ethiopian woman was processing bamboo products in a bamboo and rattan workshop called “Green Gold” in Addis Ababa, the capital city. (Image source: Xinhua News Agency)

Plastic pollution has become a global problem, and over 140 countries and regions have enacted bans or restrictions on plastics. Bamboo has become an important alternative to plastics as it is renewable and biodegradable, with a low carbon footprint. In November 2022, the government of China worked with INBAR to launch the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic (BASP) Initiative, with the aim to promote bamboo materials as a substitute for plastics, providing effective solutions to reduce plastic pollution and facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In November 2023, the INBAR and China jointly issued the *Global Action Plan for Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic (2023-2030)*, which outlined six key goals and 23 specific actions. In 2024, the INBAR implemented the pilot projects of R&D and demonstration for key BASP technologies in 7 member countries. The projects cover resource management, processing and use, evaluation and promotion, among other aspects. They provide the world with pilots and demonstrations for the whole-process development model of BASP and increase the international com-

munity’s understanding on the value and potential of bamboo resources. China and the INBAR have worked together to strengthen marketing and publicity of BASP through international exchanges, training programs and thematic exhibitions, and comprehensively displayed the great potential of bamboo in replacing traditional materials and promoting SDGs. At present, the BASP initiative has integrated policies, standards, R&D and promotion, with positive responses and participation from all parties.

and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP)”, and actively participated in the discussions of WTO trade and environmental issues. The United Nations Global Compact launched the GDI for Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration (GDI for SDG) pilot project, focusing on issues such as alleviating marine plastic pollution, promoting circular and low-carbon development of new energy batteries, and building cross-sectoral innovative partnerships to help achieve SDGs.

**Advancing cooperation in ecosystem conservation and enhancing the diversity, stability and sustainability of global ecosystems.** On November 6, 2024, China and 17 intentional member countries signed an agreement on the establishment of the International Mangrove Center (IMC) in Shenzhen. The IMC provides a platform for deepening exchanges and cooperation with all parties and promotes global joint actions for mangrove conservation. China, ASEAN countries, UN agencies and other international organizations, research institutions and local governments, jointly advanced the project of “Nature-based Solutions: ASEAN-

China Mangrove Conservation Cooperation Partnership and Regional Models” (see Box 8). In October 2023, the forestry departments of Cambodia, China, Fiji, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal and other countries jointly launched the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management. The network promotes sustainable development of global forestry through such activities as international dialogue on forestry policies, demonstration projects, capacity building and information sharing. In December 2024, the China-WBG Global Center for Ecological Systems and Transitions (Global Knowledge Center/GKC) was established, aiming to advance ecosystem conservation and green development. The Big Science Program on Chemical Earth has been actively implemented with developing countries, developing a global geochemical baselines network, and providing big data support for environment-friendly land conservation and sustainable agricultural development (see Box 9). Cooperation in marine science, capacity building and ecological conservation has also been continuously deepened, promoting the establishment of a network of marine partners with a shared future.

## Box 8> Cooperation on China-ASEAN Mangrove Conservation

Mangrove, as an important coastal ecosystem with strong carbon sink capacity and functions as an ecological barrier, is a typical blue carbon resource. It is of great significance in climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation and maintaining coastal ecological security. In recent years, China has worked with ASEAN countries to launch regional ecological and climate cooperation projects, such as the ASEAN-China Mangrove Conservation Cooperation Partnership, jointly promoting the GDI, responding to climate change and pursuing green development.

The outcome documents of the 24th China-ASEAN Summit and the *ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Enhancing Green and Sustainable*

*Development Cooperation* specified that cooperation on mangrove conservation will be strengthened. Regional dialogue and capacity-building networks have been established with ASEAN countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar. And many activities, such as the China-ASEAN Green Envoys Program and Mangrove Conservation Forum, were held with an aim to share policies, technologies and experience in the region. Capacity building and knowledge sharing were promoted. More than 10 training sessions, forums and exchanges have been held with relevant parties on topics like mangrove ecological restoration, mechanisms for community participation and climate response, with over 500 participants from ASEAN and some African countries. A

number of research reports have been compiled, such as *Case Report on Regional Practices of Climate Change Adaptation for Mangroves in China and ASEAN Countries* and *Atlas of Carbon Dynamics in Major Mangroves in ASEAN Countries*, which provide technical paths and management experience that ASEAN countries could draw on.

The projects have effectively promoted the implementation of the China-ASEAN cooperation policy on climate change, enhanced ecological awareness and sense of responsibility for the public, especially the youth, and improved the research ability and comprehensive management of ASEAN countries in mangrove resource investigation, ecological restoration and climate response.

## Box 9> Big Science Program on Chemical Earth promotes sustainable development of global resources and environment

The Big Science Program on Chemical Earth is dedicated to documenting baselines and changes of nearly all natural chemical elements

in the Earth's surface and creating a digital Chemical Earth platform. The Internet-based Chemical Earth platform enables the management,

display and query of global geochemical big data, providing support for the environment-friendly conservation and use of land, improving crop yield and

quality, and serving sustainable development of global resources and environment.

Under the framework of the Big Science Program on Chemical Earth, China has actively deepened cooperation with relevant international parties and continued to implement cooperation projects on global geochemical baselines. It has worked with several countries to collect global-scale geochemical baseline samples and compiled global-scale

geochemical baseline atlas to provide basic data for resource and environmental assessment. The project of Global Geochemical Observatory Network and Digital Chemical Earth for the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has been conducted in coordination with the Big Science Program on Chemical Earth to promote the sharing of global observational data. The international cooperation network of geological survey has been actively expanded. And the *Initiative on Digital*

*Chemical Earth for Global Green Development* was jointly issued with UNESCO to promote global land conservation and sustainable use. International training programs on geochemical mapping were also held to share knowledge and technologies in this area. Over 1,000 students from Asia, Africa and Latin America were trained to help improve their ability to protect and utilize land in an environment-friendly manner with geochemical data.

## F. Industrialization



Industrialization is an important engine of economic structural transformation and technological progress. It plays a critical role in economic growth, economic diversification and value addition. It is also a key path for developing countries to advance the 2030 Agenda and achieve modernization. At present, amid a growing trend toward unilateralism and protectionism, restructuring of global industrial and supply chains, rapid development of digital technologies, and faster green and low-carbon transition, industrialization in developing

countries is facing new environment and conditions. The GDI is committed to helping developing countries improve their industrial production capacity and manufacturing, better integrate into global industrial, value and supply chains, and promote universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization by building multilateral cooperation platforms and training more engineering and technical personnel.

**Actively building multilateral cooperation platforms to increase the synergy for**

**industrialized development of Global South countries.** In April 2023, the GDI Partnership on New Industrial Revolution was launched. With more than 110 members, it has compiled industrial policies and practical cases, among other activities. China, together with other parties, pushed for the conclusion of the *Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement* under the WTO framework. As the first multilateral investment agreement in the world, it will help developing countries and the LDCs to improve their investment and business environment and accelerate industrialization. The BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center in Xiamen has built eight empowerment platforms for new industrial revolution around collaborative innovation of industrial and supply chains, among other areas. Since 2021, it has organized over 80 personnel training programs online and onsite, serving over 3 million people in over 100 countries. The China Center for BRICS Industrial Competencies will be committed to building a platform to promote experience sharing, technology transfer and capacity building for industrialization, and speeding up industrialization and digitalization of developing countries.

**Strengthening Global South cooperation on industrialization and increasing the added value of resources and productive employment.** In December 2021, the third Ministers' Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum released the *China-*

*CELAC Joint Action Plan for Cooperation in Key Areas (2022-2024)*, announcing that the two sides would strengthen industrial policy exchanges, deepen cooperation in the fields of raw materials, equipment manufacturing, green and low-carbon industries, and industrial and supply chains, and promote smart, digital and green development of industries in China and CELAC countries. In November 2022, the 25th China-ASEAN Summit adopted the *China-ASEAN Joint Statement on Strengthening Common and Sustainable Development*, stating that the two sides will promote cooperation on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and digital transformation, including smart manufacturing and green industrialization, jointly explore building economic corridors and demonstration zones for international industrial capacity cooperation, and jointly enhance regional supply chain connectivity and resilience. In 2023, the *Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization* was proposed, facilitating Africa in its development of the manufacturing and digital industries and the development and facility-building of renewable energies, stepping up knowledge sharing and technology transfer to Africa, improving trade facilitation measures for Africa, expanding imports of high-quality manufactured goods from Africa, calling for accelerating the reform of the global financial system to provide financial support for Africa's industrialization, and pooling strong support for Africa's industrialization. The African SMEs empowerment initiative provides financing

support for their growth, holds matchmaking activities, and trains management personnel. In 2024, the China-Africa-UNIDO Centre of Excellence was unveiled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A number of projects, such as capacity building to upgrade the livestock value chain, support to mechanized agriculture systems and overseas workshop on leadership development for high and mid-level civil servants were implemented, and early harvests were made in the three key areas, namely industrialization, agricultural modernization and cooperation on human resources development.

**Increasing exchanges and cooperation in technical skills to help developing countries lay a solid foundation for industrialization.** The GDI is committed to providing support for global industrialization and capacity building with engineering personnel. Through various means, such as training programs, forums and regular workshops, engineering education resources have been shared and personnel training conducted to make up for the “talent deficit” and facilitate localization of engineering capabilities. By promoting mutual recognition agreements on engineering skills, the GDI builds cooperation mechanisms on standardization, focuses on improving the mutual and universal recognition of professional qualifications among different countries, and promotes effective matchmaking and sharing of human resources. The GDI

deepens international cooperation in vocational training through vocational colleges, training programs and professional competitions, with an aim to help other developing countries cultivate high-caliber skilled talents and inject vitality into local development. Under the framework of the GDI, China actively promotes the implementation of the Engineering Capacity Building for Africa Programme, building technical talent reserves and industrial development capabilities of African countries with the support of engineering technologies. The first phase of the program has been implemented in Kenya. Focusing on the theme of “digital plus engineering”, it provides systematic training for engineers and technicians in Africa. About 100 African engineers have participated in the first phase. China has signed Memorandum of Understandings or mutual recognition agreements with engineering organizations in 16 countries, continuously expanding the international cooperation network. In addition, China and the International Labour Organization (ILO) signed a partnership agreement promoting the GDI with a focus on South-South Cooperation in employment, and jointly implemented cooperation projects on employment and development with an emphasis on ASEAN countries (see Box 10). The cooperation has made positive progress in enhancing employment abilities and promoting talent exchange.

## Box 10> China-ILO project on South-South Cooperation in employment

In December 2022, China and ILO signed a cooperation agreement to launch the South-South Cooperation employment project for ASEAN countries. The project fully aligns the SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) with the GDI, focusing on three main areas, namely optimizing employment policies, enhancing public employment services and improving entrepreneurship support mechanisms. It helps ASEAN countries build more resilient labor markets and

serve the development needs of new industrialization.

The project creates an innovative and integrated exchange platform featuring “policy dialogue + joint research + practice and observation”. It has established a multi-level cooperation mechanism for employment between China and ASEAN, covering annual high-level policy dialogues, professional exchange platforms and regional co-operation networks, with an aim to help

ASEAN countries build talent support systems in manufacturing transformation, green industrial upgrading and entrepreneurship in emerging industries. Up till now, the project has supported ASEAN countries in three thematic studies, 41 policy dialogues and trainings, and six national recruitment events, directly serving over 46,000 people and further connecting human resources and industrial development.

## G. Digital Economy



Digital economy features digitized knowledge and information as the core factor of production, greatly improving the efficiency of resource allocation and productivity, profoundly changing operating models of the society and transforming industrial structure, and giving a new impetus to promoting the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development. At present, digital transformation faces such challenges as protectionism, widening

gaps in digital infrastructure and capacity. The GDI is committed to creating an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for scientific cooperation and innovation-driven development, bridging the digital divide and enhancing digital capacity building, jointly promoting the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging digital technologies with economic and industrial transformation, building



people-centered, inclusive and safe digital ecosystems, and striving to provide new drivers for the global development of digital economy and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Building an open digital business ecosystem and facilitating the sharing of digital dividends.**

By building cross-border e-commerce platforms, the GDI actively provides integrated services covering customs clearance, warehousing, logistics, payment and technical training. Such cooperation lowers the threshold for business entry, enhances the competitiveness of SMEs in developing countries and makes global trade fairer for relevant countries. The electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP) built by a Chinese company has established a low-cost and high-efficiency global trading channel in Malaysia, Thailand, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Belgium and other countries. With the help of Internet technology, eWTP has created new opportunities for local SMEs to overcome physical restrictions and easily integrate into the global market. Under the GDI, capacity building for cross-border e-commerce has been strengthened for developing countries. Technical solutions have been shared with other developing countries through the multi-dimensional training system of “theory study + field trip + industrial matchmaking”. The cascading effects of digital economy have been continuously unleashed through system alignment, technical cooperation and joint development of platforms, accelerating the process of digital transformation.

**Building digital infrastructure and sharing technologies to help bridge digital and AI divides.**

The GDI actively supports the establishment of multinational networks and cross-border communication lines in developing countries and provides smart city solutions. These projects not only improve basic communication capacities, but also provide technical support for digital transformation in transportation, government affairs, education, medical care and other sectors for relevant countries. MOUs on cooperation in satellite data application have been signed with relevant institutions and regional organizations in 13 African countries. Nearly 40,000 scenes of high-resolution data from China’s natural resources remote sensing satellite have been provided to 23 African countries. China-Africa Cooperation Center on Satellite Remote Sensing Application has been established to help African countries improve their capabilities in this regard. China and Africa have jointly built digital technology cooperation centers and digital demonstration projects to support African countries in digital transformation at a faster pace.

**Strengthening communication and coordination in digital policies and promoting the healthy development of AI.**

Starting from 2022, the GDI has hosted the Digital Cooperation Forum for three consecutive years, providing an important platform for better coordination of digital policies and regulations across countries, promoting the formulation of international rules and technical

standards with broad consensus, and accelerating the efforts to build a global AI governance system. In order to implement the GDI, China actively promoted multilateral cooperation and the alignment of rules. It proposed the *Global AI Governance Initiative* and the *Global Cross-border Data Flow Cooperation Initiative*, and continued to work for the implementation of the *Global Initiative on Data Security*. At the UN General Assembly, the GDI partners promoted the adoption of the resolution on enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of AI to help implement the 2030 Agenda. China and 35 other countries jointly proposed the *Initiative on International Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework for Digital Economy and Green Development*, advocating for sharing dividends of digital and green development through practical economic cooperation and trade. China and Africa launched the *FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027)*, and are jointly implementing the *China-Africa Action Plan for Digital Cooperation and Development*. China worked with all other parties to reach the *WTO Agreement on Electronic Commerce*, the first set of multilateral rules for digital trade in the world. In 2025, the World AI Cooperation Organization (WAICO) was proposed at the World AI Conference. WAICO advocates the principle of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit, with the aim to build global consensus, deepen cooperation in innovation, bridge global AI divide, and promote the development of AI for good and for

all. At the same time, the World AI Conference also released the *Global AI Governance Action Plan*, calling for speeding up the construction of relevant infrastructure, such as clean power, next-generation networks, intelligent computing power, and data centers.

### **Supporting enhanced digital literacy and providing talent support for digital transformation in developing countries.**

The GDI actively helps developing countries break the bottleneck of digital talent shortage through joint scientific research, human resources development, theoretical study and field trips, joint development of teaching materials, and digital transformation of education. Since the GDI was put forward, three World Digital Education Conferences (WDEC) have been held. In 2024, the World Digital Education Alliance was officially launched to promote the sharing of information, resources and knowledge for digital education across countries. By the end of April 2025, the alliance had 115 members, including international organizations, colleges and enterprises in 43 countries and regions. Vocational education projects, such as the “Luban Workshop”, train technical personnel with both digital and vocational skills for developing countries. China digital education centers overseas focus on supporting digital technology training for developing countries. Platforms, such as the Joint China-Africa Partnership Plan on Digital Innovation in Africa, Talented Young Scientist Program and Cirrus Program, continue

to support African youth for further study and practice in cutting-edge technologies including distance education, AI and Internet of Things, and help them integrate into global digital industrial

chains (see Box 11). The Global Exchange and Cooperation Center for Digital Empowerment of Women has been launched. It aims to create an international exchange platform that integrates

### **Box 11> Digital economy revives the entrepreneurship boom for African youth**

As a practical measure to implement the GDI, African youth have been invited to study digital economy-related majors in China through scholarships, practical training and entrepreneurial competitions. During their stay in China, they gained theoretical knowledge, participated in internship programs and incubation camps for entrepreneurship, and practiced what they had learned at school in the real market. Back in their own countries, these young people actively adapted digital technologies to the local contexts and developed digital platforms in areas concerning people's livelihood, such as employment, medical care and payment. At the same time, young volunteers and institutions in China also actively provided online courses, project guidance and

platform support for African entrepreneurs, enhancing positive interactions between China and Africa in digital cooperation. Up to now, more than 100 young people from over 10 African countries have received training on digital entrepreneurship through platforms from China, and many of these projects have started commercial operation.

Joseph Olivier Mendo'o, a young Cameroonian who studied in China for six and a half years, has traveled across China to experience the digital life. He shares China's experience with African youth through the China-Africa Youth Federation (CAYF), and helps rapidly expand access to electronic payment, takeout services and online shopping in Africa. After receiving a master's degree from Tsinghua

University, Nael Hailemariam, a young Ethiopian, returned to his home country to start a digital payment company. He also works with Tencent WePay to facilitate cross-border payment in Central and East Africa. Gilbert, born in Rwanda, founded an employment platform after returning to his home country, effectively matching local supply and demand for medical resources. Clivate Maiba, a young Zambian, provides drone delivery services for medical supplies to remote villages as far as 300 kilometers away. Wu Yunong, a young volunteer from China, implements the C-STAR African youth innovation and entrepreneurship program in Africa, which plans to train 150 young entrepreneurs in five years to inspire them to build the African versions of Alibaba and Meituan.

training, education and practice, and to improve the ability to participate and opportunities for women in developing countries in the digital age. China worked with the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia to launch "small yet smart" cooperation projects to promote the successful

experience of the "Spring Bud Project" and donated training equipment worth RMB 1 million to improve digital literacy and skills of local girls and women, help them better integrate into the digital economy and promote their all-round development.

## H. Digital-era Connectivity



In the digital age, connectivity plays an important role in poverty eradication, policy coordination, trade facilitation and partnership. Connectivity in the digital age is not only reflected in the "hard connectivity" of infrastructure, but also in the "soft connectivity" of rules, data and resources. At present, as global economic growth remains tempered, compounded by geopolitical conflicts and backlash against globalization, global development cooperation is facing severe challenges. The GDI is committed to forging united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnerships with high-quality, deepening North-South dialogue and South-South Cooperation, further sharing international development experience, supporting the UN and development agencies in playing a more effective role in global development cooperation, and generating strong impetus for achieving SDGs.

**Strengthening high-tech cooperation to help developing countries achieve leapfrog development.** Innovation is the primary driving

force behind development. The GDI stays committed to innovation-driven development, actively promotes international high-tech cooperation, and helps countries, especially the developing ones, enhance their capabilities for innovation and development. Since 2021, the World Science and Technology Development Forum has attracted representatives from over 50 countries, including over 30 Nobel Prize winners and over 200 top global experts. Over 1,500 participants have joined the forum onsite. With a focus on "scientific and technological innovation promoting sustainable development", the forum invited the world top scientists to share the latest research outcomes and put forward solutions for scientific innovation to meet the challenges of our times. China pushed forward the SDG Satellite Constellation Plan, developed data and information products for SDGs, and donated global SDG data products to the UN to help assess the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and formulate scientific policies (see Box 12). The China-Africa Center for Innovation

and Cooperation is committed to promoting technology transfer and promoting cooperation between Chinese and African youth on innovation and entrepreneurship. By 2024, the Center had

built six sub-centers in Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Senegal and other countries, and 115 institutions have joined the collaboration network of the Center.

## **Box 12> SDGSAT-1 facilitates data sharing and science-based decision-making**

In the current context, when the digital uptake has profoundly changed the global governance pattern, data sharing and technology connectivity on a global scale are important levers for achieving SDGs.

China developed and launched the Sustainable Development Goals Satellite-1 (SDGSAT-1), initiated the SDG Satellite Constellation Plan, built the world's first SDG Big Data Platform, and announced that the SDGSAT-1 data is open and ready to be shared with the world, which has significantly improved digital connectivity of global research on sustainable development. By August 2025, SDGSAT-1 has obtained more than 470,000 scenes of data around the world and shared them through the "SDGSAT-1 Open Science Program" (Website: [www.sdgsat.ac.cn](http://www.sdgsat.ac.cn)).



**Sustainable Development Goals Satellite-1. (Image source: Chinese Academy of Sciences)**

Researchers in 106 countries and regions have used the data for urban development, ecological conservation, disaster monitoring and other research. The platform has served 174 countries and regions, with a total number of visits exceeding 165 million and 2.94 million data downloads. It has provided comprehensive big data services on sustainable development for multiple UN agencies and

international organizations, with one-stop production and sharing of "data-results", promoted integration and deep mining of multi-domain (socio-economy, human activities, resources) and multi-disciplinary data in the big data environment, and dissemination of scientific knowledge, as well as facilitated the formation of the world's largest network for sharing SDG data resource.

**Actively promoting cooperation on smart customs, smart borders and smart connectivity and improving the efficiency of connectivity.**

In order to address the costs caused by the reliance on paper documents and manual processing in cross-border trade, China Customs and the World Customs Organization (WCO) jointly launched the Smart Customs project in December 2023, which promoted the establishment of a global online cooperation platform on smart customs--Smart Customs Community Portal around the “Smart Customs, Smart Borders and Smart Connectivity” concept. This platform strengthens exchanges and cooperation among the members, especially the customs of Global South, and improved customs clearance efficiency and supply chain security through technological innovation. In December 2024, the global “Smart Customs” online cooperation platform was officially launched. At present, 142 countries or regions have registered, accounting for 76% of the WCO members. The platform has five sections showcasing achievements, exchanges among members, and cooperation. It integrates the functions of technical consultation, research outcomes and experience sharing, and has thematic sub-forums around 15 cutting-edge technologies, such as AI, blockchain and cloud computing. The platform has held five meetings with National Contact Points and launched two Global Surveys on Disruptive Technology Adoption in Customs. An efficient interaction mechanism is taking shape.

**Promoting global youth development and building a sustainable and bright future.**

The GDI attaches great importance to the youth as a vibrant force to promote social development and actively promotes global cooperation on youth development. Launched in 2022, the World Youth Development Forum is joined by over 6,000 youth representatives from over 140 countries and over 20 international organizations, encouraging young people from all countries to actively participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. China has also worked with UN agencies and youth organizations in various countries to officially launch the Action Plan for Global Youth Development in 2022. The action plan builds platforms for exemplary projects and youth pioneer communities to implement the 2030 Agenda by selecting, promoting and empowering exemplary youth projects, holds the Youth Expo: Action Plan for Global Youth Development and the Acceleration Week for Global Youth Development, supports the key members of exemplary projects to participate in international conferences, such as the Summit of the Future Action Days, and continues to support them with project publicity, training, workshop, international communication and resource matchmaking. From 2022 to 2025, the 100 Excellence Actions of the Action Plan for Global Youth Development programme collected two groups of 200 exemplary projects worldwide, covering 63 countries. In 2024, the Global South Youth Leaders Program was launched, cultivating young professionals for modernization of the

Global South by inviting young business leaders and representatives from the Global South to study in China, holding thematic conferences and carrying out cooperation projects.

**Promoting the sharing of development knowledge and contributing wisdom to the realization of SDGs.** As an important measure to implement the GDI, CIKD has compiled four issues of *Global Development Report* to analyze the trends and challenges for global development, and explore solutions to issues that have attracted extensive attention of developing countries, such as poverty reduction, food security, global health, climate change, industrialization and digitalization. The Global South Research Center established a council of over 20 senior experts from the Global South and Global North and representatives of international institutions. The center hosted in-depth discussions on the impact of unilateral measures on the multilateral trading system, the impact on global economic growth, especially for the Global South, and

joint efforts of the international community to respond to such measures by organizing the Meeting on Safeguarding the Multilateral Trading System and Jointly Promoting Cooperation and Development of the Global South, and the Seminar on Global South Trade and Investment Cooperation. It also publishes a series of research reports on industrialization, green development, financing for development, among others. Under the framework of the GDI, the Global Knowledge Network for Development covering ASEAN, Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East has been set up, making it an important platform for pooling and building consensus on promoting sustainable development. Together with the UN DESA, the *Global Sustainable Transport Best Practices Compilation* was published, covering green and low-carbon transition for transportation, transportation infrastructure, public transportation and other fields, helping the global transportation sector share successful experience and promote renewed concepts and policy innovation.

# 03. Conclusion

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a common vision and guidelines for the international community to strive for an inclusive and sustainable future, and the implementation of the Agenda remains the biggest consensus and core task of international development cooperation at present. In September 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future, which put forward 56 action plans around five core areas, including sustainable development, peace and security, science, technology and innovation, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance, providing a roadmap for all countries to meet common challenges and create a better future.

We are now in the final five years of the 2030 Agenda, and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations will also mark the beginning of its new journey. The GDI has drawn the attention of the international community to development issues, continuously improved cooperation mechanisms, and advanced cooperation in key areas in an orderly manner, effectively revitalizing global development partnership and promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Looking ahead, it is hoped that the GDI will continue to push the international community to focus on development, strengthen unity and cooperation, pool the wisdom and strength of all parties with openness and inclusiveness, promote synergy in the development processes of all countries, regions and mechanisms, revitalize multilateralism with practical cooperation, defend the development rights of all countries, provide more stability and certainty for global development, and make greater contribution to the realization of the grand plan for global development, the 2030 Agenda.



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