

**Vision and actions to promote the construction of the  
Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime  
Silk Road**

**National Development and Reform Commission  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Commerce**

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Pref

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to

the

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e

I.

Background

II. Principles

of co-

construction

III.

Framework

ideas IV.

Focus of co-

operation V.

Co-operation

mechanisms

VI. Openness in various

parts of China VII.

China's positive actions

VIII. Creating a better future together

**foreword**

More than 2,000 years ago, the industrious and courageous people of Asia and Europe explored a number of routes connecting Asia and Europe.

**The Silk Road is a pathway** of trade and humanistic exchanges between several civilisations, collectively known as the **"Silk Road"** by later generations. For thousands of years, the Silk Road spirit of "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and understanding, and mutual benefit and **win-win**" **has been** passed on from one generation to the next, advancing the progress of human civilisation, promoting the prosperity and development of the countries along the route, and symbolising the exchanges and cooperation between the East and the West and the historical and cultural heritage shared by all countries of the world.

Entering the 21st century, in the new era of peace, development, cooperation and win-win situation, in the face of the weak recovery of the global economy and the complicated international and regional situations, the inheritance and promotion of the Silk Road spirit is even more important and precious.

In September and October 2013, during his visits to Central Asia and Southeast Asia, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the major initiatives of building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (hereinafter referred to as **"Belt and Road"**). (hereinafter referred to as **"One Belt, One Road"**), which has attracted

great attention from the international community. When attending the China-ASEAN Expo 2013, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang emphasised the importance of paving the Maritime Silk Road towards ASEAN and creating a strategic pivot to drive the development of the hinterland. Accelerating the construction of the Belt and Road is conducive to promoting economic prosperity and regional economic cooperation among countries along the route, strengthening exchanges and mutual understanding among different civilisations, and promoting world peace and development, and it is a great cause for the benefit of all peoples of the world.

"The construction of the Belt and Road is a systematic project that should adhere to the principles of common business, common construction and common sharing, and actively promote the mutual docking of the development strategies of the countries along the route. In order to promote the implementation of **the** "Belt and Road" initiative, the ancient Silk Road will be given new vigour and vitality, and new forms of cooperation will be established between the countries of Asia, Europe and Africa.

In view of the closer ties between China and the United States and the fact that mutually beneficial cooperation has reached a new historical high, the Chinese Government hereby formulates and issues the following recommendations.

The Government of the People's Republic of China has promulgated the

Vision and Actions for Promoting the

Construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt

and the Maritime Silk Road in the 21st

Century. **I. Background**

The world today is undergoing complex and profound changes, with the deep-rooted impacts of the international financial crisis continuing to emerge, the world economy recovering slowly and development diverging, and profound adjustments brewing in the international investment and trade landscape and multilateral investment and trade rules, with the development problems faced by all countries remaining severe. The “One Belt, One Road” **initiative is** in line with the trend of multi-polarity, economic globalisation, cultural diversification and social informatisation in the world, upholds the spirit of open regional cooperation, and is committed to safeguarding the global free trade system and the open world economy. The Belt and Road initiative aims to promote the orderly and free flow of economic factors, the efficient allocation of resources and the deep integration of markets, to facilitate economic policy

coordination among countries along the route, to carry out regional cooperation on a wider scale, at a higher level and at a deeper level, and to jointly build a regional economic cooperation framework that is open, inclusive, balanced and universally beneficial. The joint construction of the Belt and Road is in line with the fundamental interests of the international community, manifests the common ideals and aspirations of the human community, and is a positive exploration of new modes of international cooperation and global governance, which will add new positive energy to world peace and development.

The "Belt and Road" is dedicated to connecting Asia, Europe, Africa and the nearby oceans, establishing and strengthening partnerships for connectivity among countries along the routes, building an all-round, multi-level and complex connectivity network, and realising the diversified, autonomous, balanced and sustainable development of the countries along the routes. "The Belt and Road connectivity project will promote the docking and coupling of the development strategies of the countries along the routes, explore the potential of the markets in the region, promote investment and consumption, create demand and employment, enhance humanistic exchanges and civilisational cross-fertilisation among the peoples of the countries along the routes, so that the peoples of all countries can meet and get to know each other, have mutual trust and respect, and share a harmonious, peaceful and affluent life.

At present, the Chinese economy and the world economy are highly interconnected. China will consistently adhere to the

China has adopted a basic national policy of opening up to the outside world, building a new pattern of opening up on all fronts and integrating deeply into the world economic system. Promoting the construction of the Belt and Road is not only a need for China to expand and deepen its openness to the outside world, but also a need to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with Asia, Europe, Africa and other countries around the world, and China is willing to take on more responsibilities and obligations within its capacity to do so, so as to make greater contributions to the peaceful development of humankind.

## **II. Principles of co-construction**

Adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Adherence to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, namely, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual benefit.

We insist on openness and cooperation. "The countries associated with the Belt and Road are based on, but not limited to, the ancient Silk Road, and all countries and international and regional organisations can participate, so that the fruits of co-construction can benefit a wider region.

Adhere to harmony and tolerance. We advocate civilizational tolerance,

respect for the choice of development paths and modes by all countries, strengthening of dialogue among civilizations, seeking common ground while reserving differences, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and coexistence and co-prosperity.

Adhere to market operation. Follow the laws of the market and internationally accepted rules, give full play to the decisive role of the market in the allocation of resources and the main role of various types of enterprises, and at the same time give good play to the role of the Government.



Adhere to mutual benefits and win-win situations. Take into account the interests and concerns of all parties, and seek to find points of convergence of interests and the most favourable conditions for cooperation.

A large number of conventions, reflecting the wisdom and creativity of all parties, with each giving its own strengths and doing its best to give full play to the advantages and potentials of all parties.

### **III. Framework ideas**

"The Belt and Road is a path of win-win cooperation for common development and prosperity, and a path of peace and friendship that enhances understanding and trust and strengthens exchanges on all fronts. The Chinese Government advocates upholding the concepts of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual appreciation, and mutual benefit and win-win situation, promoting practical cooperation on all fronts, and building a community of interests, destiny and responsibility based on mutual political trust, economic integration and cultural inclusion.

The "One Belt, One Road" runs through the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, with the active East Asian economic circle at one end and the developed European economic circle at the other, and the vast hinterland countries in the middle of it have great potential for economic development. The Silk Road Economic Belt focuses on unimpeded access from China to Europe (Baltic Sea) via Central Asia

and Russia; from China to the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea via Central Asia and West Asia; and from China to Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Indian Ocean. The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road focuses on the extension of the Indian Ocean from China's coastal ports to the Indian Ocean via the South China Sea, and from China's coastal ports to the South Pacific Ocean via the South China Sea.

According to the direction of **the** "Belt and Road", on land, relying on international corridors, supported by central cities along the routes, and with key economic and trade industrial parks as cooperation platforms, we will jointly build international economic cooperation corridors such as the New Asia-Europe Continental Bridge, China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-Southwest Asia and China-China-South China Peninsula. China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West Asia, China-Central Asia-South China Peninsula and other international economic cooperation corridors; and jointly build smooth, safe and efficient transport corridors by taking key ports as nodes on the sea. The China-Pakistan and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridors are closely related to the promotion of the Belt and Road construction, and cooperation should be further promoted to achieve greater progress.

"The construction of the Belt and Road is a grand economic vision of openness and cooperation among the countries along the route, which requires countries to

We should join hands in our endeavours and move towards the goal of mutual benefit and common security. Efforts should be made to achieve better regional infrastructure, with a network of safe and efficient land, sea and air corridors basically taking shape and connectivity reaching a new level; further enhancement of the level of investment and trade facilitation, with a network of high-standard free-trade zones basically taking shape, closer economic ties and deeper political mutual trust; and broader and deeper humanistic exchanges, with different civilisations learning from each other and sharing their common prosperity, and with the people of all countries knowing each other and sharing their friendships in peace and goodwill.

#### **IV. Focus of cooperation**

The countries along the route have different resource endowments and strong economic complementarities, with great potential and space for mutual cooperation. With policy communication, facility connectivity, trade facilitation, financial integration and people-to-people exchanges as the main elements, we will focus on strengthening cooperation in the following areas.

Policy communication. Strengthening policy communication is an important guarantee for the construction of the Belt and Road. It is

important to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation and actively build a multi-level intergovernmental mechanism for macroeconomic policy communication and exchanges, so as to deepen the integration of interests, promote mutual political trust and reach a new consensus on cooperation. Countries along the Belt and Road can engage in full exchanges on economic development strategies and countermeasures, jointly formulate plans and measures to promote regional cooperation, consult to resolve problems in cooperation, and jointly provide policy support for practical cooperation and the implementation of large-scale projects.

Facility connectivity. Infrastructure connectivity is a priority area for the construction of the Belt and Road. On the basis of respect for the sovereignty and security concerns of the countries concerned, it is appropriate for countries along the Belt and Road to strengthen the docking of infrastructure construction planning and technical standard systems, jointly promote the construction of international backbone corridors, and gradually form infrastructure networks connecting the various subregions of Asia as well as Asia, Europe and Africa. They should strengthen green and low-carbon infrastructure construction and operation and management, and give full consideration to the impact of climate change in their construction.

Seize the key corridors, key nodes and key projects of transport infrastructure, and give priority to opening up the

It has also improved road safety and protection facilities and traffic management facilities and equipment, and upgraded the level of road accessibility. Promote the establishment of a unified coordination mechanism for the entire transport process, promote the organic connection of international customs clearance, loading and unloading, and multimodal transport, and gradually form compatible and standardised transport rules to facilitate international transport. It will promote the construction of port infrastructure, unimpeded land and water intermodal transport corridors, push forward the cooperative construction of ports, increase sea routes and frequencies, and strengthen the cooperation in maritime logistics information technology. Expanding the establishment of platforms and mechanisms for comprehensive cooperation in civil aviation, and accelerating the upgrading of aviation infrastructure.

It will strengthen cooperation on energy infrastructure connectivity, jointly maintain the safety of oil and gas pipelines and other transport corridors, promote the construction of cross-border power and transmission corridors, and actively cooperate in upgrading and transforming regional power grids.

Jointly promote the construction of cross-border fibre-optic cables and other communications trunk networks, improve the level

of international communications connectivity and smooth the information Silk Road. Accelerate the construction of bilateral cross-border optical fibre cables, plan and build intercontinental submarine optical fibre cable projects, improve air (satellite) information channels, and expand information exchanges and cooperation.

Smooth trade flow. Investment and trade cooperation is a key element of Belt and Road construction. It is desirable to focus on studying and resolving investment and trade facilitation issues, removing barriers to investment and trade, building a favourable business environment in the region and in other countries, and actively discussing the establishment of free trade zones with countries and regions along the routes, so as to stimulate and release the potential for cooperation, and to enlarge and make a better "cake" of cooperation.

It is advisable for the countries along the route to strengthen customs cooperation in terms of exchange of information, mutual recognition of supervision and mutual assistance in law enforcement, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation in inspection and quarantine, certification and accreditation, standards and metrology, and statistical information.

Promote the entry into force and implementation of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Improve border crossing access

It will also accelerate the construction of "single windows" at border crossings, reduce customs clearance costs and enhance customs clearance capacity. Strengthen supply chain security and facilitation cooperation, promote coordination of cross-border regulatory procedures, promote international Internet verification of inspection and quarantine certificates, and carry out mutual recognition of "accredited operators" (AEO). Reduce non-tariff barriers, jointly improve the transparency of technical trade measures, and raise the level of trade liberalisation and facilitation.

Broaden trade areas, optimise trade structure, tap new growth points in trade and promote trade balance. Innovate trade methods and develop cross-border e-commerce and other new business forms. Establish a sound system to promote trade in services, consolidate and expand traditional trade, and vigorously develop modern trade in services. Organically combine investment and trade, and use investment to drive trade development.

Accelerate the process of investment facilitation and eliminate barriers to investment. Strengthen consultations on bilateral investment protection agreements and double taxation avoidance agreements to protect the legitimate rights and interests of investors.

Expand mutual investment areas, carry out in-depth cooperation in the fields of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, agricultural machinery and production and processing of agricultural products, and actively promote cooperation in the fields of mariculture, offshore fishing, aquatic product processing, seawater desalination, marine biopharmaceuticals, marine engineering technology, environmental protection industry and maritime tourism. Increase cooperation in exploration and development of traditional energy resources such as coal, oil and gas, metal minerals, etc., actively promote cooperation in clean and renewable energy such as hydropower, nuclear power, wind power, solar energy, etc., and promote cooperation in processing and transformation of energy resources in the vicinity of the location, so as to form an integrated upstream and downstream industrial chain of energy resources cooperation. Strengthen cooperation in deep processing technology, equipment and engineering services for energy resources.



Promote co-operation in emerging industries, in accordance with the principles of complementary advantages and mutual benefit and win-win situation, and promote co-operation along the border.

The country has strengthened in-depth cooperation in new-generation information technology, biology, new energy, new materials and other emerging industries, and promoted the establishment of a cooperation mechanism for venture capital.

Optimise the layout of the industrial chain division of labour, promote the synergistic development of upstream and downstream industrial chains and related industries, encourage the establishment of research and development, production and marketing systems, and enhance the supporting capacity and comprehensive competitiveness of regional industries. Expand the mutual opening up of service industries and promote the accelerated development of regional service industries. Explore new modes of investment and cooperation, encourage cooperation in the construction of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones, cross-border economic cooperation zones and other types of industrial parks, and promote the development of industrial clusters. It will highlight the concept of ecological civilisation in investment and trade, strengthen cooperation in ecological environment, biodiversity and climate change response, and jointly build a Green Silk Road.

China welcomes enterprises from all countries to invest in China. It encourages its own enterprises to participate in infrastructure

construction and industrial investment in countries along the routes. It promotes the operation and management of enterprises in accordance with the principle of territorialisation, actively helps local communities to develop their economies, increase employment and improve people's livelihoods, takes the initiative in assuming social responsibility, and strictly protects biodiversity and the ecological environment.

Financing. Capital financing is an important support for the construction of the Belt and Road. Deepen financial cooperation and promote the construction of the Asian currency stabilisation system, investment and financing system and credit system. Expand the scope and scale of bilateral local currency swaps and settlements among countries along the route. Promote the opening up and development of Asian bond markets. Jointly promote the preparatory work for the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS Development Bank, and the parties concerned will hold consultations on the establishment of the financing institutions of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Accelerate the establishment and operation of the Silk Road Fund. Deepen the practical cooperation between the China-ASEAN Banking Association and the SCO Banking Association, and carry out multilateral financial cooperation in the form of syndicated loans and bank credit. Support governments, enterprises with high credit ratings

and financial institutions of countries along the route to issue RMB bonds in China. Fu

Eligible financial institutions and enterprises in China may issue RMB bonds and foreign currency bonds overseas.

currency bonds and encourage the use of the funds raised in countries along the route.

Strengthen financial regulatory cooperation, promote the signing of memorandums of understanding on bilateral regulatory cooperation, and gradually establish an efficient regulatory coordination mechanism in the region. Improve institutional arrangements for risk response and crisis management, build a regional early warning system for financial risks, and form an exchange and cooperation mechanism for dealing with cross-border risks and crisis management. Strengthen cross-border exchanges and cooperation among credit management authorities, credit agencies and rating agencies. Give full play to the role of the Silk Road Fund and sovereign funds of various countries, and guide commercial equity investment funds and social capital to participate in the construction of key projects under the Belt and Road Initiative.

People-to-people communication. People-to-people communication is the social foundation of the construction of the Belt and Road. Inheriting and carrying forward the spirit of friendship and cooperation along the Silk Road, we should widely carry out cultural exchanges, academic exchanges, human resources exchanges and cooperation, media cooperation, youth and women's exchanges, and volunteer services, so as to lay a solid

foundation of public opinion for the deepening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

China is expanding the number of foreign students from each other, running schools in cooperation, and providing 10,000 government scholarships to countries along the routes each year. Countries along the routes will organise activities such as cultural years, art festivals, film festivals, TV weeks and book exhibitions, cooperate in the creation and translation of broadcasting, film and television dramas, jointly apply for world cultural heritage, and carry out joint preservation work for world heritage. Deepening the exchange and cooperation of talents among countries along the route.

Strengthen tourism cooperation, expand the scale of tourism, hold mutual tourism promotion weeks and months, jointly create international boutique tourism routes and tourism products with characteristics of the Silk Road, and improve the visa facilitation level for tourists from countries along the route. Promote cooperation in cruise tourism along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It will actively carry out sports exchanges and support countries along the route in bidding for major international sports events.

Strengthening communication with neighbouring countries on infectious disease information, prevention and control technology exchange, professional personnel

We will cooperate in the training of talents and improve our ability to deal with public health emergencies. We will provide medical assistance and emergency medical aid to the countries concerned, carry out practical cooperation in the areas of maternal and child health, rehabilitation of the disabled, and major infectious diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and expand cooperation in the field of traditional medicine.

Strengthening scientific and technological cooperation, building joint laboratories (research centres), international technology transfer centres and maritime cooperation centres, promoting exchanges of scientific and technological personnel, cooperating in major scientific and technological research, and jointly upgrading scientific and technological innovation capabilities.

Integrate existing resources and actively develop and promote practical cooperation with countries along the route in areas of common interest, such as youth employment, entrepreneurship training, vocational skills development, social security management services and public administration.

Give full play to the role of political parties and parliaments as a bridge, and strengthen friendly exchanges among legislative bodies,

major parties and political organisations among countries along the route. In order to carry out city exchanges and cooperation, we welcome the establishment of friendship cities between important cities of the countries along the routes, focusing on humanistic exchanges and highlighting pragmatic cooperation, so as to form more vivid examples of cooperation. Joint research and forums among think tanks of the countries along the route are welcome.

Strengthen exchanges and cooperation among civil society organisations of countries along the routes, focusing on the grassroots, and carry out a wide range of public welfare and charitable activities in education and medical care, poverty reduction and development, biodiversity and ecological protection, so as to promote the improvement of the production and living conditions of impoverished areas along the routes. We will strengthen international exchanges and cooperation in culture and media, and actively make use of online platforms and new media tools to create a harmonious and friendly cultural ecology and public opinion environment.

## V. Mechanisms for cooperation

At present, the integration of the world economy is accelerating and regional cooperation is on the rise. We will actively make use of the existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms to promote the construction of the Belt and Road and the flourishing of regional cooperation.

Strengthening bilateral cooperation, carrying out multi-level and multi-channel communication and consultation, and promoting the comprehensive development of bilateral relations. We will promote the signing of memorandums of understanding or cooperation plans, and build a number of bilateral cooperation models. Establish and improve the bilateral joint working mechanism, and study the implementation programme and action roadmap for promoting the construction of the "Belt and Road". Give full play to existing bilateral mechanisms such as joint committees, mixed committees, coordinating committees, steering committees and management committees to coordinate and promote the implementation of cooperation projects.

Strengthening the role of multilateral cooperation mechanisms, giving full play to existing multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), **China-ASEAN "10+1"**, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Asia-Xinhua Cooperation (CICA), China-Arab Cooperation Forum (ACF), China-GCC Strategic Dialogue, Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



Economic Cooperation, and Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC). The role of existing multilateral cooperation mechanisms, such as the "10+1" of APEC, ASEM, ACD, CICA, the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum, the China-GCC Strategic Dialogue, the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Economic Cooperation, and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), will be strengthened, and the relevant countries will enhance communication so as to allow more countries and regions to take part in the construction of the "One Belt, One Road."

We will continue to play a constructive role in the relevant international forums and exhibitions in the regions and subregions of the countries along the routes, as well as in the Boao Forum for Asia, the China-ASEAN Expo, the China-Eurasia Expo, the Eurasian Economic Forum, the China International Fair for Investment and Trade, the China-South Asia Expo, the China -Arab Expo, China West International Expo, China-Russia Expo, Qianhai Cooperation Forum and other platforms. Support the local and private communities of the countries along the route to explore the historical and cultural heritage of the "Belt and Road", jointly organise special investment, trade and cultural exchange activities, and organise the Silk Road (Dun

(Huang) International Cultural Fair, Silk Road International Film Festival and Book Fair. Initiative to establish the "One International Summit Forum on "Belt and Road".

## **VI. Openness of localities in China**

In promoting the construction of the Belt and Road, China will give full play to the comparative advantages of various regions within the country, implement a more proactive opening-up strategy, strengthen interactive cooperation between the East, the Middle East and the West, and comprehensively upgrade the level of the open economy.

Northwestern and northeastern regions. Xinjiang will give full play to its unique location advantages and its role as an important window for opening up to the west, deepen exchanges and cooperation with Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia and other countries, and form an important transport hub, trade and logistics, and cultural, scientific and educational centre on the Silk Road Economic Belt, so as to build the core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt. Give full play to the comprehensive economic and cultural advantages of Shaanxi and Gansu, and the ethnic and humanistic advantages of Ningxia and Qinghai, create a new highland for inland reform and opening-up in Xi'an, accelerate the development and opening-up of Lanzhou and Xining, and promote the construction of the inland open economy pilot zone in Ningxia, so as to form a corridor, trade and logistics hub, and an important base

for industrial and humanistic exchanges for Central Asia, South Asia and West Asia countries. Give full play to the location advantage of Inner Mongolia in connecting with Russia and Mongolia, improve Heilongjiang's railway corridor to Russia and the regional railway network, as well as the land and sea intermodal transport cooperation between Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning and the Russian Far East, and push forward the construction of the Beijing-Moscow Euro-Asian high-speed transport corridor, so as to build an important window for opening up to the north.

Southwest China. Guangxi will give full play to its unique advantage of being in close proximity to ASEAN countries by land and sea, accelerate the opening up and development of the Beibu Gulf Economic Zone and the Pearl River-West Economic Belt, build an international corridor facing the ASEAN region, create a new strategic pivot for the opening up of the southwestern and central-southern regions, and form an important gateway for the organic convergence of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt. Give full play to Yunnan's location advantages, promote the construction of international transport corridors with neighbouring countries, and build a Greater Mekong Subregion economic cooperation centre.

A new high ground to be built as a radiation centre for South and Southeast Asia. Promoting cooperation between Tibet and Nepal  
Border trade and tourism and cultural co-operation with other countries.

Coastal, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan regions. Capitalising on the advantages of the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta, West Coast of the Taiwan Strait, Bohai Rim and other economic zones in terms of their high degree of openness, economic strength and radiation-driven effect, we will accelerate the construction of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, and support Fujian's efforts to build the core area of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. Give full play to the role of open cooperation zones such as Qianhai in Shenzhen, Nansha in Guangzhou, Hengqin in Zhuhai, and Pingtan in Fujian, and deepen cooperation with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan to create a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Promote the construction of Zhejiang Ocean Economy Development Demonstration Zone, Fujian Strait Blue Economy Pilot Zone and Zhoushan Islands New Area, and intensify the development and opening up of Hainan International Tourism Island. Strengthen the construction of ports in coastal cities such as Shanghai, Tianjin, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhanjiang, Shantou, Qingdao, Yantai, Dalian, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Quanzhou, Haikou, and Sanya, and enhance the functions of international hub airports such as those in Shanghai and Guangzhou. We will press for in-depth reforms by expanding openness, innovate the system and mechanism of an open economy, intensify scientific and technological innovation, and form new

advantages in participating in and leading international co-operation and competition, so as to become the front-runner and main force in the construction of the “One Belt, One Road” and the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century in particular. Give full play to the unique advantages of overseas Chinese compatriots and the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions, and actively participate in and contribute to the construction of the Belt and Road. Make appropriate arrangements for Taiwan's participation in the construction of the Belt and Road.

Inland areas. Taking advantage of the vast depth of the inland, abundant human resources and better industrial foundation, relying on key regions such as the city cluster in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, the Chengdu-Chongqing city cluster, the city cluster in the Central Plains, the Hubao-Eyu city cluster, and the Ha-Chang city cluster, we will promote regional interaction and cooperation and the development of industrial concentration, and create an important support for the development and opening up of the western part of Chongqing and an open inland economic highland, such as Chengdu, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Changsha, Nanchang, Hefei and so on. Accelerate the promotion of the upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze River and the Volga region of Russia.

Co-operation in the Federal District along the river. Establishment of a mechanism for coordinating railway transport and customs clearance at the Central European corridor.

It is building the brand of "China-Europe liner" and constructing transport corridors connecting China and the West with the rest of the world. It will support Zhengzhou, Xi'an and other inland cities in the construction of airports and international dry ports, strengthen customs clearance cooperation between inland ports and coastal and border ports, and carry out pilot cross-border trade e-commerce services. It will optimise the layout of special customs supervision zones, innovate the processing trade model, and deepen industrial cooperation with countries along the border.

## **VII. China Positive Action**

Over the past year, the Chinese Government has actively promoted the construction of the Belt and Road, strengthened communication and consultation with countries along the route, promoted practical cooperation with them, implemented a series of policy measures, and endeavoured to reap early results.

High-level leadership and promotion. President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and other state leaders have visited more than 20 countries, attended the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnerships and the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum, and met with the relevant heads of state and

government many times on bilateral relations and regional development, explaining in depth the profound connotation and positive significance of the Belt and Road, and reaching a broad consensus on the joint construction of the Belt and Road. They explained in depth the profound connotation and positive significance of the Belt and Road and reached a broad consensus on the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

Cooperation frameworks have been signed. Memorandums of cooperation on the construction of the "Belt and Road" have been signed with some countries, and memorandums of understanding on regional and border cooperation, as well as medium- and long-term development plans for economic and trade cooperation, have been signed with a number of neighbouring countries. A study has been conducted on the preparation of regional cooperation programmes with some neighbouring countries.

Promoting project construction. Strengthen communication and consultation with relevant countries along the routes, and promote the construction of projects in the areas of infrastructure interconnection.

A number of key cooperation projects with ripe conditions have been promoted in the areas of connectivity, industrial investment, resource development, economic and trade cooperation, financial cooperation, humanistic exchanges, ecological protection and maritime cooperation.

Improving policy measures. The Chinese Government has coordinated various domestic resources and strengthened policy support. It has promoted the preparation for the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, initiated the establishment of the Silk Road Fund, and strengthened the investment function of the China-Eurasia Economic Cooperation Fund. Promote cross-border clearing business of bank card clearing institutions and cross-border payment business of payment institutions. Actively promote investment and trade facilitation, and push forward the reform of regional customs clearance integration.

(c) Playing the role of a platform. A series of international summits, forums, seminars and expositions on the theme of "Belt and Road" have been successfully held in various regions, playing an important role in enhancing understanding, forging consensus and deepening cooperation.



## VIII. Creating a better future together

The construction of the Belt and Road is a Chinese initiative and a common aspiration of China and the countries along the route. Standing on a new starting point, China is willing to work with the countries along the route to take the construction of the Belt and Road as an opportunity to consult on an equal footing, take into account the interests of all parties, reflect the aspirations of all parties, and join hands to promote greater openness, exchanges and integration on a wider scale, at a higher level and at a deeper level. "The construction of the Belt and Road is open and inclusive, and the active participation of all countries and international and regional organisations is welcome.

The approach to building the Belt and Road is based on goal coordination and policy communication, without deliberately pursuing consistency, and can be highly flexible and resilient, as well as a diversified and open process of cooperation. China

Willing to work with the countries along the route to continuously enrich and improve the content and modalities of cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Jointly formulate timetables and road maps, and actively buttress the development and regional cooperation plans of the countries along the route.

China is willing to work with the countries along the routes to promote further understanding and recognition of the connotations, objectives and tasks of the Belt and Road through cooperation and research, forums and exhibitions, personnel training, exchanges and visits, etc., under the framework of the existing bilateral, multilateral and regional subregional cooperation mechanisms.

China is willing to work with the countries along the route to steadily push forward the construction of demonstration projects, jointly identify a number of projects that can cater for bilateral and multilateral interests, and launch the implementation of those projects that are accepted by all parties and are ripe for implementation, with a view to bringing them to fruition at an early date.

**"The Belt and Road** is a path of mutual respect and trust, a path of win-win cooperation and a path of mutual understanding of civilisations. As long as the countries along the route work together in a harmonious manner and move in the same direction, we will certainly be able to write a new chapter in the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, so that the

people of the countries along the route **can share the** fruits of the Belt and Road construction.