

COP27 - Time to Walk the Talk

Voice of the World

Edited by QI Liming

COP27 will take place from 7-18 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where thousands of delegates and world leaders will gather to discuss climate change.

While COP26 saw many new promises made and new commitments promised, COP27 will aim to assess the progress in reaching these goals.

New steps to be announced for the first year

In 2021, countries agreed to return annually with new national determined contributions (NDCs), rather than waiting for the five years as agreed upon in the *Paris Agreement* in 2015. NDCs are steps which each country will take to meet emissions targets.

Therefore, COP27 will be the first year in which new steps will be announced by participating countries. Egyptian COP27 President Sameh Shoukry has also said that he hopes the summit will have a focus on climate finance and mitigation.

COP27 needs to ensure that no one is left behind. Shortly after COP27, it would be more than a quarter of the way through the decisive decade: what will the world have to show for it?

From words to deeds

Now is the time for solidarity and ambitious, real, on-the-ground action and support that will deliver justice for vulnerable countries and communities. While re-



To save biodiversity, there is no time to waste. (PHOTO: VCG)

alizing countries' differentiated responsibilities and capacities, the world needs to be all in and all together on climate.

Speaking at Chatham House this January, COP26 President Alok Sharma gave a clear message that, "Unless we honor the promises made, to turn the commitments in the *Glasgow Climate Pact* into action, they will wither on the vine."

According to Chatham House, an announcement in early 2022 by UK and Egypt, and ideally other countries too, that they will strengthen their targets before the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit, would set a precedent for others.

Measures to help vulnerable countries

A recent report from the Intergov-

ernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reveals that the *Paris Agreement's* goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C is still on "life support," leaving almost 3.6 billion people worldwide dangerously exposed and vulnerable to climate impacts. The report makes clear that these impacts will not be felt equally.

Vulnerable countries, despite their limited contribution to climate change and ambitious climate commitments, are and will continue to shoulder the bulk of this burden.

World Resources Institute has put forward five things that COP27 must achieve for vulnerable countries:

- Bridge the mitigation gap to help

limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

- Deliver high-quality and scaled-up finance flows, especially to the most vulnerable.

- Enhance efforts to implement adaptation measures.

- Secure finance for loss and damage.

- Implement the Paris Rulebook to hold countries and non-state actors accountable.

Voices from authorities

Rachel Kyte, dean of the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a UN climate adviser, said that COP27 must focus on "implementation, implementation, implementation." That means ensuring that the promises made in Glasgow are not forgotten about or fought over, but put into practice as swiftly as possible.

Renewable energy is a hot topic when it comes to solutions to climate issues.

Tina Stege, climate envoy for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who played a key role at Cop26 in bringing together the High Ambition Coalition, said, "I hope that it is now clear that investing in renewable energy is an investment for [the] future," adding that, "the evidence that climate is a national security issue is mounting higher and higher."

Frans Timmermans, vice-president of the EU Commission, said, "In Sharm El-Sheikh, we need to see progress on the commitments made in Glasgow," noting that, "this is about humanity's very survival, and the future of our children and grandchildren."

Opinion

Attacking DZCP Is to Make Excuses for Western Failures

By YU Haoyuan

Because of adopting a dynamic zero-COVID policy (DZCP), China can maintain a low infection rate and save thousands of lives. Meanwhile, the deadly virus has killed one million Americans. However, some so-called mainstream U.S. media forget to mention this fact when attacking DZCP and China. In their media reports, the policy was labeled as "unsustainable," "harm to the world economy," or even a "violation of human rights."

So why does the China's DZCP attract so much criticism from the U.S.?

In fact, this is just the same old acrobatics to cover up the failure of the U.S. government by finding any excuse to criticize China.

For the purpose of economic growth, many countries have to announce their victory in the fight against COVID-19 and choose to live with the virus. Unfortunately, this approach has not positively impacted the U.S. economy, which fell by 1.4 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 2022. "With a high rate of inflation, higher prices outpace wage growth, making things like gas and rent more expensive for consumers," wrote *CNBC*.

Actually, U.S. media have been blaming China's DZCP for some time. In an article titled *The World Tries to Move Beyond COVID, China May Stand in the Way* published in *The New York Times*, Alexandra Stevenson cited the observation of an "unnamed economist" that DZCP is "zero movement, zero GDP."

The funny thing is that the "unsustainable method" has been used for two years in China and the country's GDP has still maintained its growth rate. In 2021, China's GDP grew by 8.1 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

In terms of social prevention, China has successfully lowered the infection rate and reduced the burden of medical expenditure. The latest study published in *Nature* indicated that if Omicron was allowed free rein in China, the country could expect 112 million symptomatic cases, 5.1 mil-

lion hospital admissions, 2.7 million ICU admissions and 1.6 million deaths in just six months, and its health systems would collapse catastrophically. Such an infection rate will definitely cause damage not only to China, but also to the world.

The U.S. also blamed China for violating human freedom during Shanghai's latest wave of Omicron variant outbreaks. Bloomberg labeled those volunteers from all walks of life who help people take the nucleic acid test, deliver food and maintain other basic life support in the lockdown neighborhoods as "Big White Army," as they can't help ordinary people get "luxury e-cigarettes." The truth is the so-called members of the "Big White Army" are at the risk of getting infected while helping people recover from Omicron as soon as possible.

Many foreigners in Shanghai accept China's DZCP, because of China's value system of the most important human right is the right to life.

Nathan Rich, a famous American content curator who lives in China for years and uploads his works on Bilibili and Youtube, agrees with China's DZCP. He listed data to demonstrate why China still sticks to this policy, despite the conjecture that, "It is impossible to achieve." In the past three months, the worldwide COVID-19 death rate has dropped by 0.6 percent. If China is able to keep delaying the large-scale entry of COVID-19 patients into China, the lower death rate will greatly reduce the final death toll, said Rich, noting that people need to delay the entry of COVID-19 into China so as to save more lives.

According to World Socialist Web Site, an American netizen Sean who is now working and living in Shanghai, commented that "As an American living in China, I click on every article regarding China, and many, many are like this: taking perverse delight in putative failure of China's zero COVID policy. This is unseemly but also factually delusional." There is so much ideologically motivated disinformation in Western media, he said, noting that it is infuriating to someone who lives here.

Hi! Tech

AI Helps to Develop Universal Coronavirus Vaccine



Bacterial viruses and gene chains. (PHOTO: VCG)

By LIU Xia & QI Liming

As the novel coronavirus continues to mutate, research on the universal coronavirus vaccine has accelerated in many countries, so as to prevent the next global pandemic. On the other hand, the research also aims to help humans prevent infection from unknown coronaviruses that may come from animals.

During the R&D process, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing an important

role in studying experimental data on immune responses, so as to identify candidate antigens.

In 2020, Baidu launched the world's first LinearDesign algorithm for gene sequencing of mRNA vaccine, which is an efficient algorithm specifically used to optimize mRNA sequence design.

The LinearDesign can greatly improve the stability of vaccine design and protein expression level for the sequence of novel coronavirus mRNA vac-

cine in 16 minutes. It effectively solved the problem of stability, which is the most significant aspect in mRNA vaccine development.

It remains to be seen whether the much-anticipated universal coronavirus vaccine will soon be available for humans. However, even if the vaccine is not ready in time before any future novel coronavirus variant, it still could be a powerful candidate tool for preventing the next pandemic caused by other coronaviruses.

Cutting-edge Scientific Research Going into Daily Use

By YE Qing & QI Liming

The experiments conducted by spallation neutron sources may seem beyond the scope of ordinary people, but some of them could be relevant to public daily life. Spallation neutron sources are like "super microscopes," which are the ideal probes for study-

ing the microstructure of materials.

Recently, the daily use of China's spallation neutron source, which is located in Guangdong province, has been tapped. Neutron scattering, for example, is a useful tool for studying lithium-ion batteries in mobile phones. Spallation neutron sources are also expected to bring pivotal

technological innovations to tumor therapy.

An atmospheric neutron irradiation spectrometer from China's spallation neutron source has been successfully beamed recently, which will provide a test environment of atmospheric neutron irradiation for scientific research in the field of new semi-

conductor devices.

In the future, the number of Chinese spectrometers will be increased to 20, covering a wider range of research fields. The power of accelerator shooting and target station will be increased from 100 kW to 500 kW, greatly advancing the capacity of equipment research.



Prices for gasoline and diesel fuel, at around \$5 a gallon, at a gas station in Washington D.C. on May 11, 2022. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Xi Calls for Intensifying Exchanges and Cooperation on Innovation

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We need to help the global economy upgrade its growth drivers, shift its growth model and adjust its structure so as to steer it onto a track of long-term, healthy and stable growth. We should support the WTO-centered multilateral trading regime, ensure security and stability of the global industrial and supply chains, and make the "pie" of cooperation bigger to allow development gains to better trickle down to people of all countries.

Third, we need to unleash the power of innovation in driving development. We should tap into the potential of innovation in spurring growth, jointly step

up intellectual property protection, make rules on the basis of extensive participation and consensus building, and foster an open, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development. We should intensify exchanges and cooperation on innovation, facilitate integration of science and technology with economic growth, increase the sharing of innovation results, and remove all barriers that hamper the flow of knowledge, technology, talent and other factors of innovation. By doing so, we will better unleash the gushing vitality of innovation.

Fourth, we need to improve on

global governance. In today's world, the future of all countries is closely linked. Seeking exclusive blocs will only lead the world to division and confrontation. We should uphold true multilateralism, embrace a global governance vision featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and mobilize resources from across the world to meet global challenges and advance global development. We should choose dialogue over confrontation, tear down walls rather than erect walls, pursue integration instead of decoupling, opt for inclusiveness, not exclusion, and guide reforms of the global governance system with the principle of fairness and

justice.

Xi reiterated that China's resolve to open up at a high standard will not change, and that the door of China will open still wider to the world. China will continue to foster an enabling business environment that is based on market principles, governed by law and up to international standards. We will pursue high-standard implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and offer more market, investment and growth opportunities to the global business community.

(Source: XINHUA)

Caution for Long COVID Symptoms

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After two years of recovery, 31 percent of the investigated patients suffered from fatigue or muscle weakness, whereas the figure concerning matched non-COVID-19 controls was only five percent. Also 31 percent of the recovered patients have sleep difficulties, and the number for the control group was only 14 percent.

As to mental health, 13 percent of the participants had anxiety, and 11 percent had depression at two years, and the figures for the control group were three and one percent respectively.

Cao Bin, lead researcher and professor at China-Japan Friendship Hospital, said, "Vertical and multi-stage follow-up of COVID-19 survivors, especially those who suffer from long COVID, is of great importance to understand the long course of this new and sudden infectious disease, as it is to the further exploration for recovery plans."

"It is obvious that we need to offer continuous support to a large proportion of COVID-19 patients, and research on vaccines, new treatment methods and whether the virus mutation will impact people's long-term health," said Cao.