

INSIGHTS

China and the UN at 80: Forging a Shared Future

Voice of the World

By SUN Jin

The UN marked its 80th anniversary on October 24, celebrating eight decades of promoting peace, human rights, social progress, and sustainable development.

"This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations. It is a milestone prompting us to remember the past and create a better future together," President Xi Jinping said at the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus" meeting in September.

Xi said history has revealed that multilateralism, solidarity and cooperation are the right answer to global challenges.

The UN's indispensable role

Since its establishment in 1945, the UN has achieved landmark successes in advancing decolonization, promoting human rights, and safeguarding international peace and development.

Dozens of countries have gained independence from colonial rule, women's rights have been institutionally strengthened, and the international judicial system has steadily improved.

The role of the UN in maintaining world peace and driving sustainable development is irreplaceable. Agencies and programs such as the UN Development Programme, the World Food Programme and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have provided emergency relief and livelihood support to hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once commented that it is fair to say that without the UN, the world



The photo shows a United Nations General Assembly special session to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN at its headquarters in New York, September 22, 2025. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

today would be far more unstable and turbulent.

French radio network RFI commented that over the years, the UN has developed a number of missions that were not envisioned by its founders in 1945, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 and an agreement by member states on climate action to limit global warming.

China's commitment to UN agenda

From its founding to the present, the UN has remained the heart of global cooperation. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has always been a firm supporter of and active contributor to the UN's endeavors.

The 17 SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Guided by the UN agenda, China has taken a series of measures aligning

with the SDGs. Large-scale greening programs have been implemented in a well-planned manner, including the development of shelterbelt networks in northwest, north, and northeast China. Data shows that China's forest coverage rate increased from 4.24 percent in 2012 to 5.07 percent in 2024.

China has eradicated extreme poverty — a milestone recognized by the UN as a historic achievement — and has shared its expertise through platforms like the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to the World Bank, over the past 40 years, the number of people in China with incomes below 1.90 USD per day has fallen by close to 800 million. Former UN General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces said China's poverty reduction work provides an example for other countries.

President of the New Development

Bank K.V. Kamath said that never in human history has a country lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short period of time and led them onto a path of sustainable development.

China's efforts to continue

As the UN embarks on its next chapter, its collaboration with China will be indispensable in reshaping it into an even more effective and inclusive body for global cooperation, ultimately forging a shared future for humanity.

As the climate crisis intensifies, the UN is urging nations to collaborate and shoulder their responsibilities, fostering global consensus on climate governance through the Paris Agreement.

One of China's new Nationally Determined Contributions, announced at the United Nations Climate Summit on September 24, was as follows: China will, by 2035, reduce economy-wide net greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent to 10 percent from peak levels, striving to do better.

Compared with the peak level, China's absolute emissions reduction is projected to exceed one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2035. This reduction will surpass the total absolute cuts achieved by the U.S. and Europe in five years after their emission peaks.

"Climate change is clearly one of the greatest challenges of our time, and China has been playing a very constructive role on this issue," Peter Dujarric, director of the Asia and the Pacific division in the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, told the *Bastille Post*.

China has deepened cooperation with the UN in numerous areas beyond peacekeeping and the SDGs, including advancing gender equality and promoting the vision of a "community with a shared future for mankind."

International Cooperation

Chinese Investment Aids Senegal's Growth

Edited by WANG Xiaoxia

To facilitate Senegal's development, the Forum on Chinese Enterprises' Investment (FCEI) was recently held in Diamniadio, a new city project about 30 km from Senegal's capital Dakar.

As an important part of the second Senegal Investment Forum, the FCEI brought together over 300 participants, including Senegalese government officials, representatives of more than 150 Chinese and Senegalese enterprises and business associations. Several cooperation agreements were signed in areas such as energy, finance and environmental protection.

Over several decades, Senegal and China have jointly built a partnership based on South-South cooperation and oriented towards common development, achieving fruitful results.

To date, there are over 100 Chinese-funded enterprises in Senegal, active in multiple fields such as transportation, energy, agriculture and digital economy, injecting vitality into Senegal's industrial transformation and economic revitalization.

Chinese enterprises have long been recognized by the Senegalese community for their professionalism and innovative

capabilities. They not only help grow the economy, but also bring technology and experience, providing strong support for the modernization of agriculture and food security in the country.

Chinese-funded enterprises have also played an important role in the construction of Senegalese industrial parks. The active participation of chambers of commerce from Fujian, Zhejiang and Hunan provinces has boosted cooperation between the two sides in areas such as industrial investment, innovative technology and new energy.

China has become Senegal's largest trading partner, with cumulative investment of over 430 million USD in the country, creating 11,000 jobs.

Looking ahead, China will promote the in-depth alignment of its Belt and Road Initiative with Senegal 2050 Vision, and assist Senegal in advancing its industrialization, digitalization and agricultural modernization processes, said Li Zhigang, Chinese ambassador to Senegal.

In addition, the two sides will expand openness and sharing, deepen technological cooperation, and promote people-to-people exchanges, enabling the benefits of cooperation to improve the well-being of people.



The Léopold Sédar Senghor Stadium in Dakar, Senegal. The renovation and upgrading of the stadium was done with Chinese assistance. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Global Experts Applaud Sci-tech Achievements

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In the energy sector, solar power stands out as a transformative success. Radamson emphasized China's breakthrough in scaling photovoltaic technology from research to mass production. Recent years have seen record installations of solar capacity, supported by advances in materials science.

"This is accelerating the global transition to clean energy," Radamson said. "China is not just producing solar panels, it is advancing the science behind them."

In environmental health, Professor Francesco Faiola from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the CAS said, "What makes this achievement so remarkable is that it has been realized in a developing nation of over 1.4 billion people, proving that robust economic growth and environmental protection can be pursued simultaneously."

Faiola is particularly impressed by a cutting-edge scientific innovation beyond macro-level progress: "China has done pioneering work in human stem cell-based testing systems for emerging

pollutants."

By using organoids to simulate human liver and nervous system responses, Chinese scientists have created tools that overcome the limitations of animal testing. "This is groundbreaking because it allows regulators to assess health risks before pollutants become a widespread problem, fundamentally shifting policy from passive management to active intervention," he said.

The impact of science on daily life and public safety is also evident in geoscience. Chevalier highlighted how large-scale geophysical observation has advanced both knowledge and resilience.

"In Earth sciences, what has most inspired me is China's rapid advancement in large-scale geophysical observation and active fault research, especially across the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau," she said.

Improved infrastructure, including better roads and access to remote areas, has made fieldwork more efficient and safer. "This combination of scientific ambition, practical infrastructure and societal relevance is one of the most inspiring aspects of China's geoscientific

development to me," she added.

Advancing inclusive global development

Professor Felix Dapare Dakora, a member of the African Academy of Sciences, drew attention to large-scale scientific programs such as Genome to Phenome. He described them as "mega science" with real humanitarian value.

"This research helps smallholder farmers in Africa adapt to drought, salinity and climate change," Dakora said. "China's leadership in this area is visionary."

He praised platforms like the Belt and Road Initiative for creating new opportunities for scientists from developing countries. Through joint research, training and infrastructure support, these programs are narrowing the global science gap.

"Scientists from Africa, Asia and Latin America are now co-creators of knowledge," Dakora said. "This spirit of unity is essential. In the sci-tech field, collaboration multiplies strength."

Chevalier also noted the increasing openness of China's research community. International collaborations in earth

sciences, climate modeling and high-tech industries are now common.

"Large joint programs foster meaningful exchange. The benefits extend far beyond national borders," she said.

In cultural heritage preservation, China's cooperation with other nations reflects a commitment to shared human values. Irina Bokova, former director general of UNESCO, emphasized the significance of the Beijing Central Axis being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

She said China is sharing its experience to help other countries preserve their own heritage. A prime example is China-ASEAN cooperation in cultural heritage protection.

"Collaborative digitalization efforts, such as 3D scanning of monuments or creating online cultural archives, have begun to emerge," Bokova said. "These initiatives are crucial for safeguarding heritage from climate change, conflict and time."

Chinese experts worked hand in hand with Cambodian teams to revive one of the world's most iconic sites, the Angkor Wat. "This collaboration is not just technical," Bokova remarked, "it is deeply symbolic of mutual respect and enduring friendship."

Industrial Tourism Gains Momentum

Opinion

By Staff Reporters

China's factories are drawing a new kind of visitors — tourists. Once regarded mainly as production sites, these facilities are now becoming popular travel destinations, especially among younger travelers seeking hands-on learning experiences.

Applications to visit Xiaomi's manufacturing plant in Beijing exceeded 150,000 between April 2024 and mid-2025. According to data from online travel agency Ctrip, high-tech and heavy-industry study tours have emerged as a fast-rising category during this year's National Day holiday travel season.

Smart factories spark curiosity about science

During the summer vacation, more than 1,000 students visited the manufacturing base of CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles Co. in northeast China to learn how the country's high-speed trains are built.

Standing before the assembly line, they watched the entire process unfold — from the installation of core components to the completion of a full bullet train. The construction principle and precise collaboration mechanisms of high-speed trains became visible and comprehensible as the awe-inspiring industrial scenes corroborated the abstract engineering principles in textbooks.

Such immersive encounters not only demystify complex technologies, but also sow the seeds of scientific curiosity in young visitors.

Liu Boying, associate professor at the School of Architecture, Tsinghua

University, said industrial tourism is a new concept and form of travel that has emerged alongside the expansion of tourism products and the integration of industrial aesthetics. It makes profound technological knowledge tangible and accessible in authentic industrial settings.

Industrial tourism serves the purpose of science and technology education, enhancing the science literacy of the public, Liu added.

Interactive experiences redefine factory tour

While smart factories offer a glimpse into China's technological might, food-related tours appeal to the senses with their playful, hands-on approach.

At a dairy factory in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province, children can wear lab coats and try their hand at milking cows, packaging products and monitoring operations. In a beer museum in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province, tourists can take part in theatrical beer-themed tours and night experiences, and taste bread made with heritage beer yeast.

Further southwest in Baoshan, Yunnan province, coffee enthusiasts can pick berries from trees, watch roasting and brewing demonstrations, and trace the product's journey from plant to cup.

Zhang Hui, director of the Modern Tourism Research Institute at Beijing Jiaotong University, said young people tend to choose personalized tourism products and services, and industrial tourism that blends local characteristics with interactive design meets their demand.

Through immersive and interactive tour design, the sector is evolving from simple production-line visits to "co-creative" tourism experiences that connect manufacturing with lifestyle and culture, according to Zhang.

China's Sci-tech Leap During 14th FYP Period

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As a result, multiple general-purpose large models have emerged, with over a hundred application scenarios. Humanoid robots are used in automotive manufacturing, logistics, and power inspection. Homegrown brain pacemakers have helped 30,000 Parkinson's disease patients improve their motor functions.

Reform to unleash talent potential

The 14th FYP stresses that reform is necessary to improve a full spectrum of talent management practices, including training, recruitment, and placement,

thus giving full play to the role of talent, the most essential resource.

Over the past five years, the reform of the science and technology system has been continuously deepened to fully unleash the vitality of innovation. The evaluation and incentive policies for sci-tech talent have been further optimized. The pilot program of classified evaluation has been further advanced to support young researchers.

In recent years, institutional and fundamental frameworks supporting innovation have been basically established,

such as a talent evaluation system oriented towards innovative value, ability and contribution.

Policy measures have empowered researchers, giving them greater power in the distribution of benefits from the technological transformation, as well as reducing their burden by simplifying administrative procedures.

An increasing number of scientific researchers are benefiting from reform. The number of R&D personnel in China has increased from 7.55 million in 2020 to 10.79 million in 2024, ranking first in

the world for years. They are the "source of vitality" that makes China's science and technology thrive.

Yin Hejun, minister of science and technology, said with only 10 years left now to achieve the goal of building a strong country in science and technology by 2035, the next five years will be highly challenging but also full of potential. He said China will strive to overcome difficulties and forge ahead with determination to make decisive progress in building a country strong in science and technology.