



中国传媒大学
COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY OF CHINA



Institute for a Community
with Shared Future
人类命运共同体研究院



Roundtable Discussion Report

“Understanding China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Foreign Policy under President Xi Jinping”



Jointly Organized by
Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future
(PRCCSF) & IQRA University, Islamabad

18th July 2022



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BRIEF OF THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF) in collaboration with IQRA University, Islamabad organized a roundtable discussion, **“Understanding China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Foreign Policy under President Xi Jinping”**, on 18th July 2022 at IQRA University, Islamabad. The aim of the roundtable was to discuss China's path to democracy in a new era under the visionary leader, President Xi Jinping. The event integrated leading national/international experts, researchers, and academicians to highlight China's Global Development Initiative and prospects for collaboration with Pakistan. The report represents a detailed analysis of the collective views and speeches of the panelists presented during the roundtable discussion.

The discussion focused on multiple dimensions. The experts identified a wide range of core areas, i.e., significance of Belt & Road Initiative, regional connectivity, Relevance of China's GDI in attaining UN Sustainable Development Goals, building a Community with Shared Future and Dialogue of Civilizations. The discussion has built a comprehensive analysis and cohesive measures to counter common issues with a shared approach.

The roundtable discussion was moderated by Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future. The event was attended by 40 participants, including students, academicians, and experts from Pakistan and China.

SPEAKERS & SPEECH TOPICS:

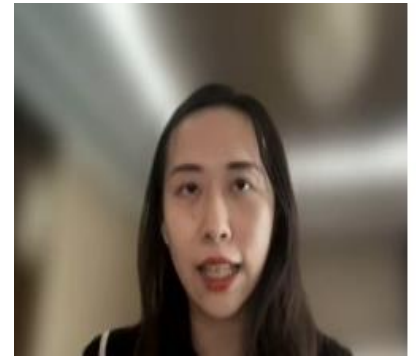
1. **Ms. Maryam Raza, Deputy Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF)**

Topic of Speech: Significance of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and Regional Connectivity



2. **Ms. Hanyin Song, Lecturer in Urdu, Pakistan Research Center of School of International Studies, Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China**

Topic of Speech: Understanding China's Global Development Initiative (GDI): Prospects and Opportunities for Pakistan



3. **Dr. Ejaz Hussain, Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences, IQRA University, Islamabad & Invited Researcher at Fudan University, China**

Topic of Speech: President Xi Jinping: A Visionary Statesman and Role Model for other Leaders





4. **Ms. Shan Dan, Lecturer majoring in Pashto and Regional Studies in the School of International Studies at Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China**
Topic of Speech: Discussing President Xi's Grand Proposal: Building a Community with Shared Future and Dialogue of Civilizations



5. **Dr. Muhammad Saad, PhD Wuhan University, China & Assistant Professor, Social Sciences Department, IQRA University, Islamabad**
Topic of Speech: Relevance of China's GDI in attaining UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, ANALYSIS & KEY-TAKEAWAYS

Executive Summary, Analysis & Key Takeaways

(Based on the speeches of respective panelists)

1. Significance of China's Global Development Initiative (GDI):

- At the 76th session (September 2021) of the United Nations General Assembly, President Xi Jinping announced the launch of the Global Development Initiative (GDI).
- He proposed GDI by realizing the impacts of COVID-19, the development needs of less developed countries, and the importance of green recovery amid the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change.
- President Xi Jinping tagged the goals of GDI with Sustainable Developments Goals. It is a clear manifestation that China will be working to assist the global community and United Nations in achieving the SDGs by 2030 through the GDI.
- It is expected that GDI will help to mitigate inequality and assist in realizing the dream of development by adhering to the principles of ecological civilization.
- China's commitment to SDGs, UN, and global values is a sign of satisfaction for the aspirants of globalization based on equality and respect. The analysis of the GDI shows that it is a well-designed initiative to cater to the most urgent needs of the world.
- The areas of cooperation or work are poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response & vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity.
- President Xi Jinping has always adopted a wise and rational policy to assist the developing world. Therefore, it is important to discuss China's foreign policy in the new era as well as highlight grand projects for global cooperation and assistance under the light of GDI.
- Furthermore, GDI is important for implementing the concept of a community with shared future for mankind. It upholds true multilateralism and the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and common benefits.

2. China's Exemplary Growth under the Visionary Leadership of President Xi Jinping

- Many factors enabled China to emerge as a powerful economic anchor in the last three decades. The first and most important factor is the efficient and coherent role of the Chinese Communist Party, its robust reforms and opening up in the late 1970s.
- The consistency in the economic and social policies played a major role. Moreover, important factors, i.e., uplifting poverty, the overall promotion of a socioeconomic government in all sectors, and effective plans, enabled the state to be more accountable, inclusive, and open.
- Major initiatives such as the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) clearly depict that China has left no stone unturned to enhance multilateral cooperation.
- Under President Xi's leadership, Chinese exports multiplied many times. Moreover, China played a major role in mitigating the Covid-19 pandemic and also facilitated many countries with vaccines and medical aid.
- China's development under President Xi has been exemplary in terms of socio-economic growth. The people-centric approach, poverty eradication strategies, and robust foreign policy remain non-confrontational.
- A profound comparative study of diverse civilizations in world history depicts that no power or civilization in the past five thousand years can reach the achievement of "Soft Power", which makes the People's Republic of China the most respected and admired country in the world.

3. Advancing the Mutual Beneficial Cooperation under Chinese Initiatives:

- The international balance of power has seen profound change, with emerging markets and a large number of developing countries growing apace and gaining international outreach in what is the most revolutionary shift in the balance of international power since the dawn of modern times.



- For centuries, different world powers contended for interests and supremacy through war, colonialism, and influence. But these methods are gradually evolving, and countries balance their relationships and interests through new rules and mechanisms.
- Today, attending to global affairs increasingly demands joint discussions among countries. The majority of countries commonly recognize that what we need is the establishment of a global system with cooperation to pursue justice, quality, and peace.
- Under this discussion, it has been clear that China has always adopted a wise and rational policy to assist the developing world. Thereby, it is important to understand China's foreign policy in the new era as well as highlight grand projects for global assistance, i.e., the Global Development Initiative (GDI).
- These projects are significant in promoting multilateralism and multi-stakeholder solutions to global challenges. The eight priority areas of GDI define a roadmap for achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) by 2030. GDI complements 17 SDGs and will help to attain common goals.
- An ancient Chinese philosopher said, ***"Be benevolent, principled, loyal, and true to one's word; be untiring in one's willingness to help."*** China has set a great example of friendship, a sense of responsibility, and trustworthiness.
- The Chinese culture has always incorporated the fine traditions of helping other countries. The grand initiatives, i.e., BRI, building a community with shared future, dialogue of civilization, and GDI, clearly manifest President Xi Jinping's innovative strategies to enhance global cooperation and development.
- The people-centered development philosophy is not an abstract concept or something that's never implemented. Upholding such a profound philosophy, the GDI will stimulate people's welfare and global prosperity.
- It will promote joint collaboration, information sharing, solidarity, human rights, and sustainable development in defined eight areas and beyond.
- A multilateral approach is a foundational requirement to resolve the challenges and difficulties of global security, economic and social development.



- Constant communication vis-à-vis systematic dialogue process and exchange of ideas are necessary for the current environment. Under GDI, prospects for revitalizing global development with a peaceful approach are high.
- Thereby, all states must join hands to cope with global threats and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind under China's Global Development Initiative.



TRANSCRIPTS OF THE SPEECHES



Speaker 1

Ms. Maryam Raza, Deputy Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF)

Topic: Significance of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and Regional Connectivity

Greetings to all!

Today, we will be discussing different topics. But I would focus on one specific aspect which is Belt and road initiative and how this concept and its extended pillars can help enhance regional connectivity. Starting off, I would give a little historical background of China and Pakistan's relationship, but would focus more on new major themes introduced by president Xi Jinping under BRI and CPEC.

In May 1961 the relationship of Pakistan and China started. It goes beyond a mere economic tie, and has turned into an All-weather strategic partnership. The relationship of Pakistan and China is based on some major principles which include equality, respect of each other's sovereignty and mutual trust and assistance. I would like to highlight the major dimensions of our relationship with China where the most important one is the belt and road initiative. Another important dimension is regional connectivity through the vision of community with shared future.

Historical Perspective:

- On 21 May 1951, Pakistan and China established their diplomatic relations.
- However, the attachment of true friendship date back to centuries-old trade relations, when Chinese traders travel through the sub-continent for business trips to Europe, Middle East, and the world's other parts via the ancient Silk Route.
- Both countries are enjoying strong cordial ties since the commencement of diplomatic relations. The relationship bloomed into an "**All-weather cooperative partnership**" with many projects of inclusive economic development.
- 71 Anniversary: 2022
- Principles: **Equality, Respects of each other's sovereignty, integrity and independence, Trust and mutual assistance**
- Two Major aspects:
 - a. BRI/CPEC
 - b. Regional connectivity by building a Community with Shared Future for mankind

Discussing CPEC we now know that it has gone beyond being just an infrastructure project, it now has many other aspects to it. When discussing regional connectivity in today's world, with a lot of socio-economic transformations taking place, several things need to be kept in mind. Under regional connectivity, BRI and SCO hold immense importance in two main concepts, i.e. Community with shared future which is an umbrella approach and dialogue among civilizations. Community with shared future was an idea proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2015, it was not just for economic development or common prosperity but also a way to deal with common challenges faced in the modern world, like climate change and other non-traditional challenges.

The second important paradigm is dialogue among civilizations. In the 21st century, where there are multiple common issues and challenges, there are several projects launched by China in other countries to curb the challenges equally affecting everyone. The world now, is moving from Clash of Civilizations to Dialogue among Civilizations. The important pillars of this dialogue are inter-civilizational and intercultural harmony. It holds immense importance because knowing a country's socio-economic dynamics and its culture is very important in order to propose mutual solutions for their challenges and issues. This concept shall allow to modernize economies and open borders, allowing cooperation, moving towards a more inclusive and progressive world.

Regional Connectivity through BRI (extend pillars):

- ***Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)***
 - a. **Community with Shared Future for Mankind (an Umbrella approach)**
 - Grand concept given by President Xi in 2015
 - Economic development and Common prosperity
 - a new concept to tackle common issues, i.e., Non-traditional security challenges
 - b. **Dialogue among Civilizations**
 - From clash of Civilization to Dialogue among civilization
 - Inter-civilizational and intercultural harmony
 - Modernize economies, open borders, cooperation

These two important paradigms under regional cooperation drive towards either regionalism or regionalization. This concept has emerged as a significant trend in international affairs. On the other side there are many aspects that we see need a lot of technological transformation required in transport, communication, information sharing to move towards a cohesive global community to counter common threats.

The idea of Community with shared future brings paradigm shift within the institutional frameworks. When countries make alliances, the thoughts behind it are to create balance of

power and to counter offense coming from other countries. Balance of power results in alliances that benefit everyone on the longer run. And counter opt counter-offensive strategies that are cohesive and inclusive in nature, through alliances.

In today's world, a lot of development is taking place in regards to regional connectivity and China is playing a major role in this. BRI, CPEC and all other such projects can help curtail common challenges and shift the world to becoming a community with shared future with mutual growth and development.

Regionalization or Regionalism:

- The advanced mechanism in international relations has been going through a profound transformation and evolutionary development.
- New regionalism or regionalization has emerged as a significant trend in international affairs.
- On the other side, technological transformation in various areas, i.e., transport, communication, information sharing and inclusive economic development projects, contributes to establishing a cohesive global community of states countering common global issues.
- Along with the explicit benefits these processes bring, fundamental pillars of the new regionalism are ***institutions and organizations*** that provide integrated platforms to the countries.
- It is important to highlight that what are those concepts or visions such institutions follow

Speaker 2

Ms. Hanyin Song, Lecturer in Urdu, Pakistan Research Center of School of International Studies, Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China

Topic: Understanding China's Global Development Initiative (GDI): Prospects and Opportunities for Pakistan

My speech today will be about the Global Development Initiative proposed by president Xi Jinping, and the prospects and opportunities for Pakistan. President Xi Jinping on Sept 21 2021 at the United Nations general assembly proposed the global development initiative in steering global development towards a new stage of balanced, coordinated and inclusive growth. It focuses on practical cooperation in eight key areas by building a global partnership and global community of development.



GDI provides Chinese research and Chinese solutions for the implementation of the United Nations 2030 agenda of sustainable development. And as we all know since the establishing diplomatic ties in 1951 China and Pakistan have stood together in rain or shine and built an exceptional time pass all-weather friendship. CPEC as a flashy project of the Belt & Road has strengthened the connectivity between the two countries and contributes to Pakistan's economic development. It proves how a community with shared future can benefit both countries and people and we know development is an eternal pursuit of human society it holds the keys to people's well-being and highlighting peace and development.

GDI aims to revitalize the economy and pursue more robust greener and more balanced global development and china and Pakistan are both developing countries the national security policy 2022-2026 released by Pakistan at the beginning of this year also highlights the signal that development promotes security the policy states to place economic security as a core element of national security and to come from challenges in population health climate water resources food security gender equality and more.

Since the inception the GDI has received warm response from the international community. China in January this year launched a group of friends of the GDI which was joined by Pakistan and more than 50 other countries it shows that the GDI has effectively united the international community and plays an important role in carrying out practical cooperation in various fields and understanding current macro settings principles and philosophy of the GDI. My speech today attempts to analyze the prospects and opportunities of Pakistan and to put forward suggestions on promoting the cooperation and development of the two countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable growth at large.

First I would like to talk about the current macro sighting of the GDI last month the first edition of the global development report was launched in which the change of global landscape, Covid19 pandemic, digital revolution and green transformation are identified as the four fundamental valuables in our time. So first the global economic pattern is changing dramatically on the one hand emerging market countries and developing countries are racing faster than ever before. The GDP share of the both two mentioned countries in the global economy has increased to nearly 60% in 2020. The world's economic center of gravity has been shifting from the north to the developing countries on the other hand developed



countries still maintain a leading position in major international economic falls and their per capita GDP is about 48 000 us dollars which is many times that of developing economies.

Secondly, the pandemic has aggravated the imbalance of development. The COVID 19 pandemic not only strengthened people's health and safety but also put greater pressure on the already weak and vulnerable global economy. The populations at the bottom of global income contribution, media enterprises and the economics of developing countries have become the most vulnerable and deeply affected by the pandemic further excavating the problem of global inequality. Thirdly, digital transformation is building a new ecology of digital economy. The technological revolution has greatly promoted productivity and nowadays the digital economy has become the most important feature of the false industrial revolution. Digital technology has been integrated and applied in various fields which not only promotes the transformation of production methods but also people's consumption mind set and behaviors.

However, some developing countries especially the less developed countries still have little access to digital infrastructure resulting in the widespread digital divide among regions and loss is that the green transition is an inherent requirement of sustainable development and is related to the future of all mankind. We all know that climate change lives off by biodiversity and pollution are the three major ecological and environmental crisis faced by the earth today. The ongoing impact of the pandemic of the global economy has weakened the investment of relevant countries in climate change so under these circumstances GDI was proposed by china to solve the global issues.

My next part will focus on the principles and philosophy of the GDI. Firstly, development is a priority. The GDI incurs the resolution of outstanding problems and the challenges of governance in the course of development. Secondly, people-centered philosophy is the core. The GDI strives to ensure that development is for the people and by the people and that its fruits are shared among the people through improving their livelihood and enhancing their sense of happiness fulfilment and security. Thirdly, benefits for all is the inherent acquirement. the GDI works as a global public good for bridging the development divide and addressing the development deficit is committed to promoting inclusive group development addressing unbalanced and inadequate development and making global developments more equitable, effective and inclusive so that no country and no people will be left behind. The



GDI upholds the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities with a view to strengthening global climate and environmental governance and building a community of shared destiny.

So, the prospects and opportunities possible for Pakistan through GDI. In my opinion both the north and the south need to work in the same direction to forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development cooperation and build a global community of development in other words the core is still the north-south cooperation and soft source cooperation is a useful supplement. To be more specific the first aspect I want to discuss is poverty reduction. Ending poverty in all its forms is a primary goal of the 2030 agenda. The World Bank has estimated that poverty rate in Pakistan has increased from 4.4 percent to 5.4 in 2020 and 34 of the Pakistani population was living on just 3.2 us dollars a day income. Industrial backwardness, poor public services, high unemployment, terrorism are all attributes to the situation. To build a global community of development and work together to reduce developed countries are expected to increase financial and technical support to developing countries including Pakistan such as introducing latest agriculture technology to increase yield and by sending agriculture experts for technical assistance when the country encounters a large-scale agricultural disaster improves the production and living conditions of the poverty stricken population. Establish compulsory education and mathematical systems through investment in infrastructure and public services. On the other hand, it is also crucial for Pakistan to strengthen experience exchanges and knowledge sharing with other developing countries to explore a path suitable for its national conditions Pakistan could learn lesson from the success story of China in alleviating poverty. Meanwhile China should bring the advantage of the CPEC into full play so that the fruits of governments will be able to benefit more locally and polished people.

The second aspect is in terms of promoting industrialization in developing countries. According to Pakistan economic survey 2020 to 2021, in financial year 2021 services sectors accounts for about 6 to 62 percent of GDP, while the agricultural and industrial sector each account for about 19 percent. The rough economic structure seems to have a high proportion of the services sector showing a consumption level post-industrialization. However, our agricultural sector is indispensable to Pakistan's economic growth, employment generation and poverty elevation not only does it contribute 19.2 to the GDP but also provides



employment to around 38.5% of the labor falls besides more than 65 to 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture for its livelihood. To promote industrialization in developing countries including Pakistan first we should strengthen the cooperation on new industrialization, integrate digital economy and traditional manufacturing this would technologically transform the developing countries. We should support developing countries to better integrate into global industrial change. Pakistan should seize the opportunity of the current technological revolution seek new drivers and new ways to promote economic growth and develop an industrial policy which is centered on revitalizing the manufacturing industry.

Developing countries besides Pakistan should seize the opportunity as CPEC has entered its second phase, nine special economic zones will be established in Pakistan where enterprise from china and other countries could set up their business and manufacturing facilities so as to create more employment opportunities, improve logistics, develop remote areas and expand experts in Pakistan. So in conclusion, GDI is another public good provided by china for the world which shows china's commitment as a responsible major country and is an important measure for practicing the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind it upholds true multilateralism and the spirit of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. Pakistan is expected to actually participate in cooperation in eight key areas through existing global, regional and bilateral mechanisms especially the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to accelerate domestic economic growth or limit its poverty and promote industrialization. Pakistan looks forward to work hand in hand with China and other members of the GDI group of friends to promote our common aspiration for a peaceful prosperous and shared future for all of the humankind.



Speaker 3

Dr. Ijaz Hussain, Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences, IQRA University, Islamabad & Invited Researcher at Fudan University, China

Topic: President Xi Jinping: A Visionary Statesman and Role Model for other Leaders

I would like to thank you, Mr. Taimur and your institution for providing the opportunity to co-host this event with Communication University of China based in Beijing. As you can see the title of my talk is President Xi Jinping: A Visionary Statesman and Role Model for other Leaders. Since most of the people present today have a background in International Relations, you might know the basics, but for the general audience of Pakistan, I would like to focus more on the historical development of China in emerging into a prosperous nation. So, it is the context of the Second World War, on the Eastern Front, where a war was being waged, initially, between the Japanese and the Chinese, the latter being led by two different sections, one of which was being led by Chairman Mao. This actually result in the successful culmination of their movement for independence and China emerged as a communist country in 1949. 1950s-1960s is a period which I would describe as China's consolidation culturally, nationally, and to an extent, economically. 1970s is the period where China realized because of its own calculations, that it needed to reconnect with the international community and institutions led by the USA, which is resulted in what we call an International Relations approach between China and the USA. This was made possible because of Pakistan, which played a very important role in the late 1960s up until 1972 to provide an enabling environment in terms of playing a role of an emissary or a diplomat between these two countries. This resulted into a meeting between President Nixon and Chairman Mao in 1972, which helped China for re-entry into international systems such as the UNO and later on, IMF.

Background

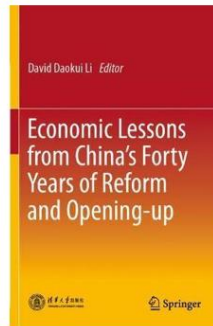
- WWII
- China's independence in 1949
- Chairman Mao & China
- China-US rapprochement
- China's re-entry in global institutions

Before I say something more on China later on, focusing on President Xi Jinping's role as a leader, I would look you to look at this picture and make a guess on what sort of meaning you get from this image and describe the personality in the picture?

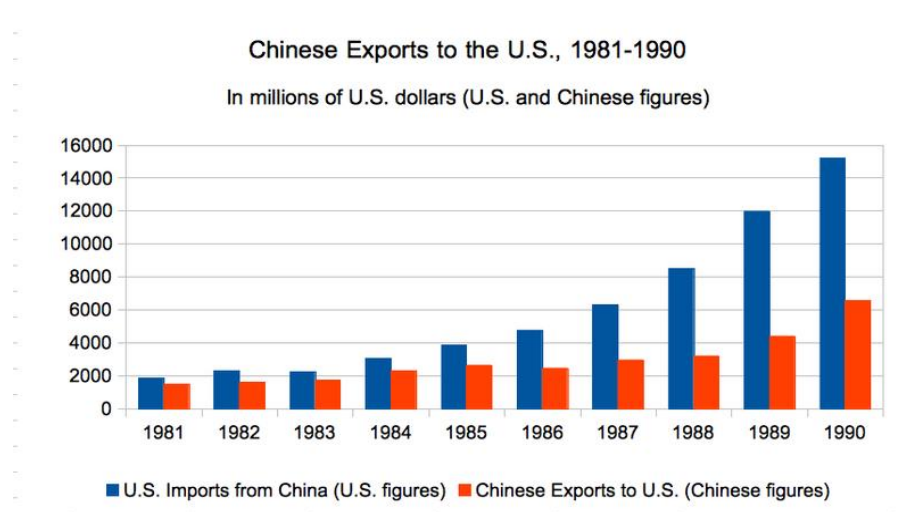


The man in the picture was the Chinese President who assumed power in China during the late 1970s known as Deng Xiaoping, and the man in the front, who is holding a camera, is a Western tourist somewhere in Shanghai, taking photos. My analysis of this picture is that it reflects on China getting open to the rest of the world. It was realized under a policy introduced by the then President Deng Xiaoping in 1978 introduced reforms and opening up and if you want to read more on reforms and opening up because in my view, it provides an institutional and policy background which enabled modern China to lead the world in all respects for the last 15 years and the man in the picture on the right is a Harvard graduate Chinese economist based in Tsinghua University in China, which is one of the leading universities in China.

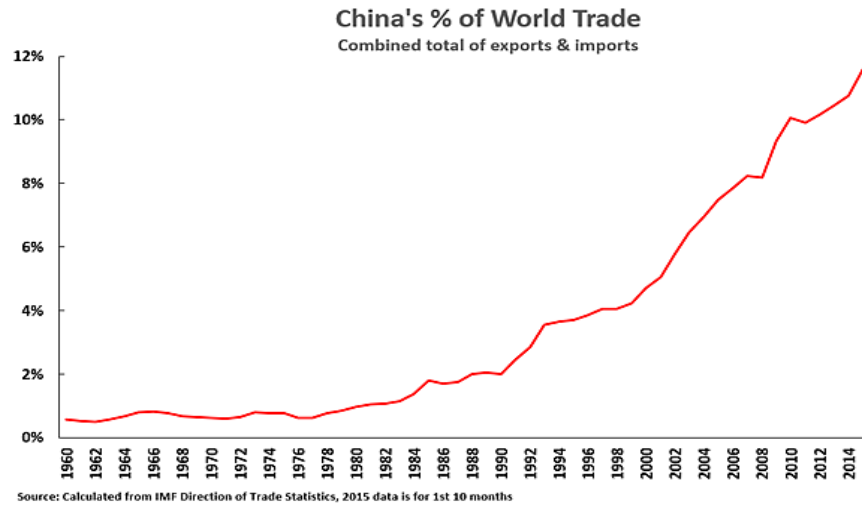
Further read



He, among others, wrote this book which stipulates the policy and decision making led by Deng Xiaoping with implications for Chinese and global economies for the following decades. For example, if you look at this image, before 1972, there was almost zero trade between China and the USA. The bilateral trade started in the late 1970s because of this policy of reforms and opening up. Chinese and American bilateral exchange is actually going into millions of US dollars. If you look at the figure from the Chinese side which is highlighted in red during 1990, it is crossing around 6000 million US dollars, which is quite significant if you look at China's trade with Western countries in the preceding decades.



Similarly, as a result of this policy of reforms and opening up, if you look at the data from the Chinese sources at the bottom of this image (image given below), China's share in the global trade is incrementally going up, which will be further explained in a while.



Before I analyze China's growing position in international politics and commerce with a focus on President Xi Jinping later on, I will propose certain factors which, in my view, enable China in the last 30 years to emerge as a powerful economic anchor. I believe that since 2010, it is the second leading economy in the world. The first biggest dominant factor in my view is the very efficient and coherent role of the Chinese Communist Party (also known as CPC) through which President Deng Xiaoping introduced his policy of reforms and opening up in the late 1970s. The second factor is the consistency in their economic and social policies which is quite a takeaway for most of the developing countries or countries in the South. Lastly is the role of the leadership within the Communist Party of China whereby the focus remained on uplifting poverty, overall promotion of a socioeconomic government in all sections and constituencies within the country.

Factors in China's rise

- Communist Party of China (CPC)
- Reform and Opening-up
- Consistent socioeconomic policies
- Leadership role

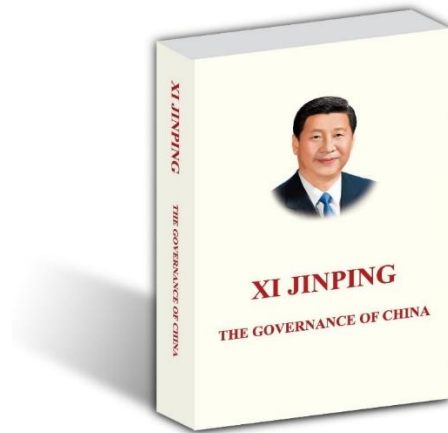


Now since my topic is mostly on President Xi Jinping, in terms of personality, he is currently assuming three powerful positions in Chinese government which I will talk about in a while before that, the following is his brief profile. He was born in Beijing in 1953 and had a schooling from the city. His family already had a major role within the CPC and he, as a student, joined the party at the age of 15, in 1974. He was enrolled at a very young age at Tsinghua University in China which is now the leading university in China and also the world. This meant that he had a lot of interaction with people from other parts of the country to know the challenges China was facing in the 1970s. He even got closer to the then President in terms of getting into the policies that he introduced. Later on, he had further training, as you probably know that in China, it is a different political party system and when you are a member of a party, you are put through different tasks working as a layman, maybe as a farmer in different parts of the country, which is part of the training. So, he had a lot of training in Xi Jiang and Hebei in the 1980s. The 1990s is the crucial period when he progressed towards the top echelons of the Communist Party of China. He joined the Central Committee of the Standing Committee of CPC in 2010 and within the next 3-4 years, he assumed three prominent positions within the CPC and the country. First one is that he became the general secretary of the CPC in 2012 which is a powerful slot within the party and county, as well as being the chairman of the CMC, which is the Central Military Commission in China since 2012 and he has been the president of China since 2013.

Xi Jinping

- Born in 1953 in Beijing
- Joined CPC in 1974 in Shaanxi
- Enrolled at Tsinghua University in 1975
- After graduation, worked in the general office of Central Military Commission (CMC) before moving to Hebei in 1982
- Later, worked at grassroots level in different provinces

Now based essentially on this text, which is produced in different volume for the last five or six years, which I was gifted when I was in China in 2015 at a conference in Peking University. I mostly read this book which comprises of the policy speeches of President Xi Jinping as well as his vision for China and the global community



In my view, there are a lot of indicators through which we can map his overall personality and aura for the Chinese and the original leaders and population. In my view, there are three to five indicators through which we can assess that he is a very solid statesman and a visionary leader. One of them is he went on with the CPCs tradition to consolidate the existing gains in terms of economic development and the policies that they've already adopted and very importantly, visually emphasized in the modern context of the 21st century that China needs to further reform and open up.

Visionary leader

- Consolidated existing gains
- Ensured political stability
- Emphasized socioeconomic development
- Reflected strategic confidence in foreign policy
- Practiced global connectivity and cooperation

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So, in other words, he went on with Deng Xiaoping's policies with a lot of initiatives that he introduced as a leader and you can see those in the text given below. For example, with the assumption of the Presidency of the country in 2013, he introduced a mega project known as One Belt One Road, or in other words, Belt and Road Initiative, the same year. By the way, there are six economic corridors which are proposed for global economic connectivity, of which China Pakistan's economic corridor is known as CPEC, is a part.

Similarly, although the BRICS as a platform was already there since 2006 or 2009, as some say, as it held its first session then, it was actually a project of China to extend with Russian consultations. In the second decade of this century, he consolidated the institutional and structural gains which were already achieved through their BRICS.

Thirdly, it was actually his initiative to think about an institution, which developed in to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which was not launched to counter the World Bank or IMF but was a Chinese vision to provide economic assistance to countries in the South for their respective socio-economic development. Fourthly, it was also his visionary leadership in terms of expansion of Shanghai Cooperation Organization that initially had members from the countries of Central Asia, with Russia and China as the top leaders, but 2016-17 onwards, both India and Pakistan, who are very crucial countries from this region and are both neighbors to China, are also members of this organization. There are also a lot of countries which are observers, such as Iran, which will maybe get a membership in the coming years.



Another initiative, which reflects visionary leadership, is known as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, also known as RCEP. The idea was floated five or six years ago and was signed in 2020 and based on my online reading, it will be enforced by this year, or the start of the next year.

I was in Shanghai in 2018, when I took pictures of different books or projects in terms of highlighting China's International Import Expo which was a crucial institution as the Chinese leadership were somehow concerned with other nations. China is everywhere in terms of its export and products and Chinese market is not that open to products or exports from other countries. So, in order to encourage imports and products from other countries such as the USA or the European Union or Asia or even Pakistan, the Chinese government led by Xi Jinping introduced this expo, which has developed itself in the last three or four years as a proper institution whereby every country and their companies have the opportunity to share their experiences and promote their exports. For the last two years, we have been involved in COVID-19 and in my view, China played a very important and perhaps an important role with the rest of the countries and companies in terms of winning its patents, being approved by the WHO, and getting the license to produce vaccines. You all already know a multitude of vaccines from China are already in Pakistan and are quite effective. In terms of military modernization, which is crucial for any country's global projection, and enhancing and putting more R&D in weapons system, the Chinese military which is the largest in the world by numbers and perhaps, also in funds that it is receiving from the government, is in the paths to get even further modernized. Lastly, the Global Development Initiative has been introduced by President Xi Jinping, which the other speakers have already discussed, in 2021. This is a very important initiative in terms of projecting on major issues that the world is facing such as climate crisis, chronic hunger diseases and even abject poverty, and to share Chinese experiences to the world. Let me cite one big development or human experience that China has effectuated in the last 30 years and every scholar on China or economics agreed empirically to the fact that China has uplifted more than 700 million people out of abject poverty in the last 30 years and that is unprecedented in the last 30 years and I believe the credit goes to President Xi Jinping, being the General Secretary of his party, being the President of the country and a very wise role that he is playing within China's overall policy mechanism.

Multiple initiatives

- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), (2013)
- Consolidation of BRICS
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), (2016)
- Expansion of SCO (2017)
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), (signed in 2020)

Contd.

- China International Import Expo (CIIE), (2018)
- Covid-19 and China's pharmaceutical contribution
- Enhancing China's space program
- Military modernization
- Global Development Initiative (GDI), (2021)

So, lastly before I wind up, let me here provide you some economic figures so that you can assess that because of his leadership in an important role that he is playing within the country china is on a very gradual path of realizing economic goals and that is amid this pandemic. This is a figure from global times which could be cross verifying that china despite the common implications for example on global supply chains or even in industrial products or potential it actually even crossed the earlier projection of the government to get 8.1 of the GDP target in 2022. I got from global times, two days ago is that even within this year 2022 if you look at china's economic interaction or trade ties with all the important stakeholders for example European union and BRICS it actually is on the rise right for example in the h1 stand for first half, so in the first half of 2021. It's just a year ago if you look at the bilateral trade between china and the European Union, the numbers stood out in terms of percentage at 13.7. So this year in the first half of 2012 six months of this year it actually is two percent percentile up compared to the previous year.



With the BRIC countries it actually is on the rise and with Russia is also on the rise so this is this is a good data for an economist even for political economists to actually you know think more meaningfully that china, under president Xi Jinping, is continuing with further opening up and making reforms where required to progress and to provide economic developmental goals to their audiences and sharing their experiences with the rest of the world through forums such as the belt and road and even through the GDI. If you look at the economist intelligence unit's analysis, it empirically suggests that china would surpass the leading economy. Some studies argued that within next two years' china would be the leading economy of the world but in any way within next 10 to 15 years, china is going to be the leading country in the world. Lastly, in view, there are certain lessons or takeaways for leaders especially in the south like India, Pakistan or even Nigeria and Latin American countries. One of the major lessons that we learn from Chinese story of development and particularly under President Xi Jinping, is to have political stability. Without political stability, you cannot have consistency, especially in economic terms.

Another lesson is that the Chinese leaders, from Chairman Mao to President Xi Jinping, are all working on a national developmental policy in terms of providing economic relief to their people. In other words, their development is pro-people and I have just cited this example of 700 million people being taken out of abject poverty. One more lesson that we can draw from is within their foreign policy. It is a term I made myself, but since the war with India in 1962, China is actually buying peace. This means that China is non-confrontational in its foreign policy. We may say that China has had territorial disputes with some countries, especially India and they have had seen some skirmishes recently as recent as till 2017, but China has marked restraint, which is actually a reflection of Chinese policies under Xi Jinping, that they are not going to militarily fight with any country because it would be waste of their economic and other resources, even allowing an opportunity to pass. This is the key lessons for the other countries in Africa and Asia and even Latin America. Lastly, through BRI, one lesson I can draw, in terms of policy making in our country is to realize connectivity or commercial connectivity through global and regional cooperation, especially economic cooperation.



Role model for other leaders

- Political stability
- Policy consistency
- Pro-people development
- Buying peace
- global & regional partnership
- Economic cooperation

That is from my side. I have lived in China for a number of years, and I work there as well. It is our neighbor and is a great civilization and great country and have been great in sharing new trends. In the last couple of the years, the Chinese government, especially the municipal in Shanghai are working on this project of getting electricity from solar sources by putting the plates within the sea. For me, this was something new and not seen before. So, thank you very much.

Speaker 4

Ms. Shan Dan, Lecturer majoring in Pashto and Regional Studies in the School of International Studies at Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China

Topic: Discussing President Xi's Grand Proposal: Building a Community with Shared Future and Dialogue of Civilizations

My speech is on discussing President Xi Jinping's grand proposal: building a community with shared future and dialogue of civilizations so we're not alone on the great way and the whole world is one family following the win-win cooperation. President Xi Jinping put forward the important idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind which embodying china's worldview in the new era and vision of fair and equitable global order. A community with a shared future is the guiding principle of china's international relations and



embodiment of china's foreign policy goals it is china's answer to the call of the time for a world besides by numerous challenges and risks like terrorism slow growth climatic change protectionism and anti-globalization. It has contributed Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions and the above concept is rooted in Chinese civilization. Caring and Sharing are in the DNA of Chinese culture.

President Xi Jinping proposed to build such a community and vigorously advocated exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. China recognized that diversity is inherent in civilizations of the world, no civilization is more superior to others as each civilization has its profound heritage and unique charm. Diversity of human civilizations not only defines our world but also drives good progress of mankind as he put it. There should be dialogue among civilizations not exclusion to exchange not to supplant the history of mankind, which is a magnificent picture of the exchanges, mutual learning and integration of different civilization. He has repeatedly expressed the view that civilizations are colorful due to exchanges and civilizations are enriched by mutual learning and as a new development concept. It has unique connotation and the core of which is building a world of lasting peace universal security, common prosperity, openness, inclusiveness, cleanness and beauty.

In short the significance of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations in promoting building of such a community is mainly reflected in the following three aspects. So first it can provide new inspiration for all countries to achieve better development and second it can lay a solid foundation for countries to carry out practical collaboration and third it can unite the strength of all parties to improve global governance.

Over the past few years' China has actively taken the initiative and made continuous contributions to deepen exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. The initiative is vivid manifestation of the spirit of shared benefits with the world when you are better off. In the realm of international corporations and in particular president Xi Jinping clearly proposed to build the Belt and Road into a road of civilization and regarded as a platform for realizing the goal of building a community with a shared future. There is a long history of the cultural exchanges between china and Pakistan with the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor public opinion plays an important role in promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries. During the constructions of the Belt and Road, China is willing to share its experience in reform and opening up, industrialization and poverty elevation we



take the initiative as an important method to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges to deepen cultural cooperation academic and ideological exchanges so that people can view each other's differences more objectively and understand others particularities and exchanges between universities and think tanks. Non-governmental diplomacy and interactions between the mainstream media of the two countries have made fruitful achievements in the people-to-people bond.

In recent years, the cultural educational and artistic exchanges activities between china and Pakistan have been held one after another which are bridges between china's which are bridges between people's hearts. China and Pakistan, lack a common cultural cognition and foundation. It is necessary to find common grounds of exchanges for mutual understanding and recognition in culture in building strong political and cultural mutual trust to get rid of from these harmonious factors, so we better use media platform to carry out a variety of online and offline cultural exchanges activities, seek commonalities in differences, take advantages of various activities like the culture week year of exchanges. Equality and mutual trust promotes stability and harmony, promote future oriented and youth targeted activities. Enhance understanding, deepen friendship and build a platform for youth to pursue peace and progress with a joint support of all sectors of society and countries along the belt road. Young people hand-in-hand and forge ahead enter the framework of the national community to promote international political and economic and trade cooperation it is of great significance to actively carry out exchanges and performances exhibitions and other cultural artistic and literary activities. In this world, diversity of civilizations in Asia is the most prominent over the past thousands of years many unique and colorful civilizations have been nurtured in the yellow and Yangtze River, Bases of the Indus and again Ganges River bases, the Euphrates and the Tigris river bases and south Asia. Nowadays the people of all countries in Asia are constantly absorbing nourishment from the long-lasting civilizations. The contemporary value of civilization is manifested in economic and social development, so building people-to-people bonds make the belt and road run steadily and far adhering to the spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win result in the process of realizing common development of all countries. Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations will surely play an irreplaceable and important role becoming a shock absorber to reduce misunderstanding and friction and



becoming an adhesive to enhance pragmatic collaboration thus lay a more solid foundation for building a community with a shared future for Asia and for mankind.

Thank you so much for listening.

Speaker 5

**Dr. Muhammad Saad, PhD Wuhan University, China & Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Social Sciences, IQRA University, Islamabad**

Topic: Relevance of China's GDI in attaining UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

It's my honor and great privilege to present the topic relevance and overlap of china's GDI in attaining the United Nations SDGs since we all know that Covid-19 pandemic has slowed down global development both at macro, micro formal and informal level, we are still lagging behind the strategic developmental goals since 2015 to 2020

As soon as the pandemic hit the world, massive changes took place. In 2021 we entered a new world that required immediate action. President Xi Jinping, in September 2021 in the 76th session of the United Nations general assembly proposed a great vision of the GDI, the global development initiative which is actually not parallel to the SDGs but instead it is a congruent idea. It favors the promotion and achieving of the SDGs as quickly as possible.

Introduction

- Covid 19 pandemic and slowed global development.
- Limitation of remaining time frame.
- Creativity, know how, technology and financial resources from all societies is required.
- President Xi Jinping's timely GDI.
- GDI's coherence with the SDGs spirit: "Prompt action in one area leads to effects in another area."
- GDI: Not cherry-picked goals but a recommitment to respond to urgent calls in the ambit of SDGs.

In this slide, I'll be sharing with you the main uh goals of the SDGs and the global development initiative. If you look at the green shaded objectives for poverty reduction, food security, financing for development, industrialization and climate change and green development and if you look at the other side of the table you will see that the GDI goals. The first five GDI goals and the first five sustainable developmental goals they are all congruent. Number six, seven and eight goal in the GDI is connectivity, the response to COVID 19 which is actually the provision of vaccinations, ventilators and training and the eighth one is promoting digital economy in the whole world especially in the Asia, Pacific, South Asia and Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. Now six, seven and eight are the goals that president Xi Jinping's GDI has for the first time included in their Grand strategy vision in accordance with the time and situation if you look at the yellow shaded goals on the sustainable developmental side these are the goals that we have been hearing of but we have seen very little developments upon them

Relevance and Overlap of GDI and SDGs

Global Development Initiative (GDI)	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
1. Poverty Reduction	Poverty Reduction
2. Food Security	Zero Hunger
3. Financing for Development	Decent Work and Economic Growth
4. Industrialization	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
5. Climate Change/Green Development	Climate Action
6. Connectivity	
7. Covid 19 Response/ Vaccination	
8. Digital Economy	
Directly Relevant/Overlapping	Affordable and Clean Energy
	Quality Education
	Gender Equality
	Clean water and Sanitation
Additional GDI goals	Reducing Inequalities
	Sustainable Cities/Communities
	Responsible Consumption and Production
	Life Below Water
Other SDGs	Life on Land
	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
	Partnership for the Goals



In his opening speech at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in 2022 which was actually held through a video link on April 21 2022 President Xi Jinping he propagated the spirit of Chinese GDI, he said we have to work together to promote recovery and a sustainable shared future.

Similarly, he also uttered that health and better living are the prerequisites for human development and progress now if you take into account the spirit of President Xi Jinping's speech at Boao Forum, you would certainly come to the conclusion that poverty reduction and food security are the main concerns upon which the whole development and even the political stability of a society or a region depends.

Spirit of Xi Jinping at Boao Forum

- President Xi Jinping while addressing the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022 via video link on April 21 said, “*We have to work together to promote recovery and a sustainable shared future*”.
- He also stressed that, “*Health and better living are the prerequisite for human development and progress*”.

So I'll be talking in a little detail about poverty reduction and food security concerns because these are the first two these are the first two objectives of both GDI and SDG and they both overlap. Since the start of Covid-19 the progress on poverty reduction has been almost reversed, it has gone into a decline, such a decline that we didn't even see since last 1990s Asian financial crisis even before Covid-19, the world was not on the track to achieve the United Nations sustainable developmental goals by 2030 and without any immediate and significant action we will be unable to achieve these goals. In these times China's GDI has come like a blessing especially upon the global south upon the underdeveloped and the least developed countries.

If you look at this graph it shows that in 2015 around 741 million people were under the line of poverty, in 2017 globally 689 people were under the line of poverty so you see a decline in poverty, in 2019 it came to 645 million people which is again a gradual and steady decline but by the end of 2019. Start of the pandemic you see a steep incline in poverty. In 2020 United Nations sustainable developmental goals report it was reported that 738 people have gone under the poverty line. Pandemic not only did this but it also magnified the working poverty in 2010 from 2010 to 2019 around 14% increase in working poverty was observed however looking at this situation you can consider different factors for example the lockdowns had severely affected the informal economy where most of the working poor are employed in the corporate sector or in different sort of industries. By 2020 around 46.9 percent of the global population was severely affected and in fact 49.6 of the population was still not covered by any sort of cash benefit or any sort of uh medical insurance and still today in 2022 around 4 billion people are living under the working poverty line and they do not have any sort of social or medical security.

1. Poverty Reduction

- COVID-19 → reversed progress on poverty reduction
- Since late 1990s Asian financial crisis, extreme global poverty rose in 2020.
 - Even before COVID-19, the world was not on track to achieve the goal of ending poverty by 2030, and without immediate and significant action, it will remain beyond reach.
 - Here, China's GDI becomes a timely catalyst and a recommitment to SDGs.

Around 650 million people were living under the hunger level and in post-coverage scenario the global food security and nutrition situation has further exacerbated two things are here. The first one is malnutrition especially in children below the age of five, more than 60 percent of these children they are living in the least developed countries. Today, around 230 million children worldwide suffer from malnutrition. The main reasons for malnutrition are

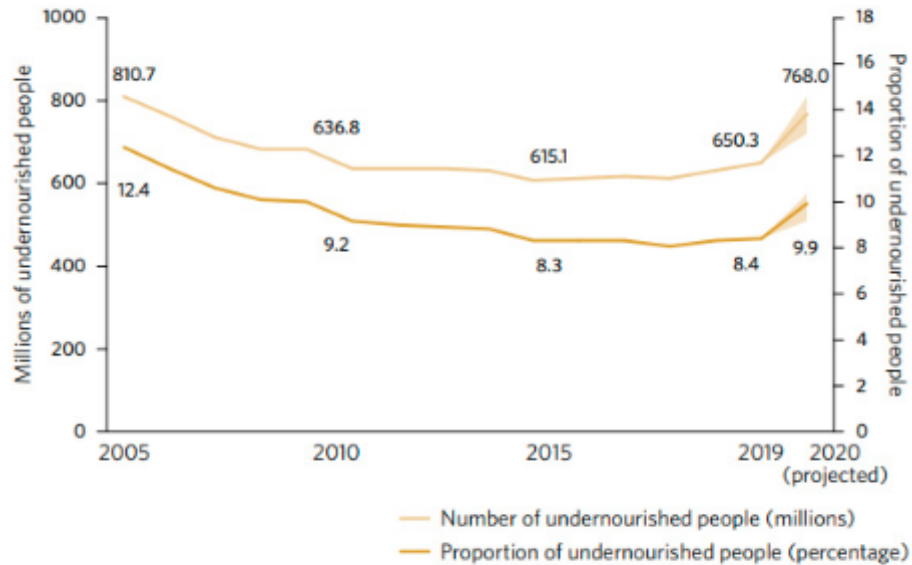
the loss of household income or perhaps the reduction in some cases in the total household income. Secondly, the lack of available and affordable nutritious foods. Thirdly reduced physical activity due to lockdown and disruptions in essential nutrition services so at this point here we need some urgent and shared short-term actions so that we can mitigate the situation and perhaps we need some sort of transformation and overhauling in the food system so that the supply chains they work efficiently and effectively and continuously.

2. Food Security

- Prior to Covid 19, 650 million people → under hunger level.
 - Post Covid → global food security and nutrition situation exacerbated.
 - Malnutrition especially in children in LDCs is exacerbating.
 - Today around 230 million children worldwide → Malnutrition.
 - Reasons:
 - Loss of household income
 - Lack of available and affordable nutritious food
 - Reduced physical activity
 - Disruptions in essential nutrition services
- Urgent and “shared” short-term actions plus transformation of food systems is required to achieve a healthy, sustainable and shared food future for all.

If you look at this graph you can see on the right hand you can see the proportion of undernourished people around the world and on the left side, you can see a number of people in millions who are actually living under the proper nourishment line in 2020 you can see around 720 to 811 million people in the world faced hunger it is an increase of as many as 161 million from 2019. If you break down this data according to different regions so I can say that in Africa, you can see 21% increase in people who are living under the hunger line. In Asia nine percent and in Latin America 9.1 percent.

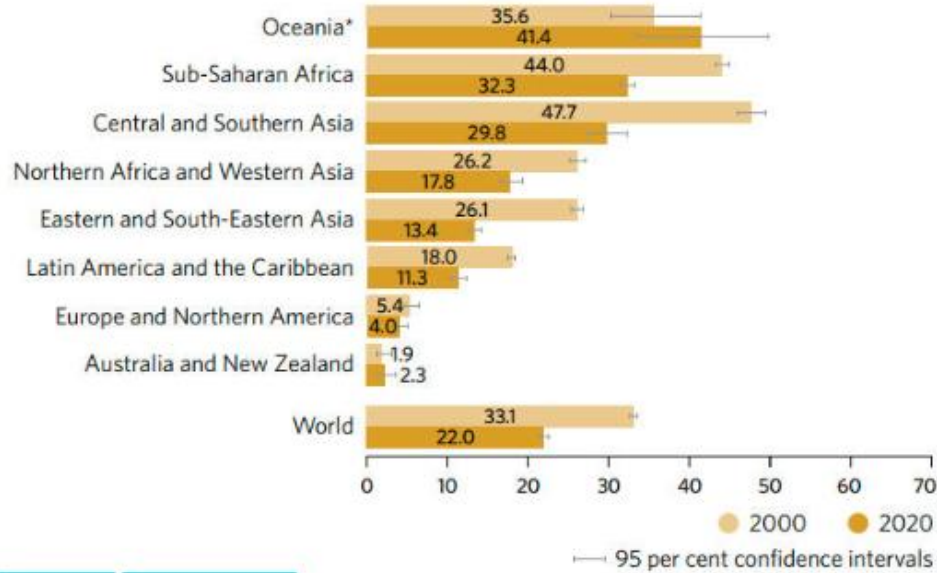
Number and proportion of undernourished people in the world, 2005–2019 (millions and percentage)



Note: Shaded areas show lower and upper bounds of the estimated range that considers statistical uncertainty.

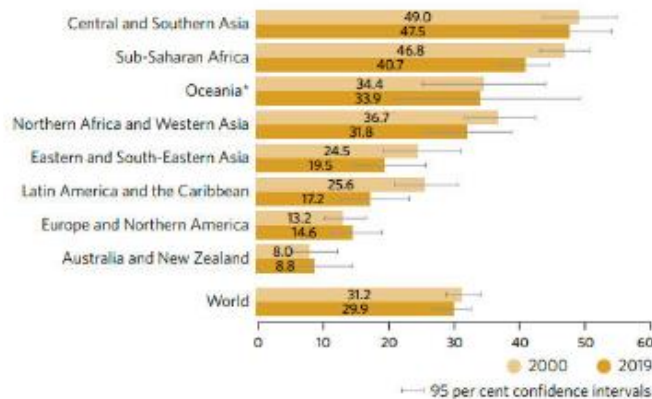
Besides the hunger threshold line the second indicator that we use for measuring food security at the United Nations sustainable developmental goals is the under nourishment threshold. The world under nourishment increased from 8.4 in 2019 to about 9.9 in 2020 and today more than half of the world's undernourished are found in Asia which number around 418 million and more than one-third in the Sub-Saharan Africa which number around 282 million if you look at the proportion of children under the age of five who are actually affected by either hunger threshold or maybe malnutrition and they showed the symptoms of the stunted growth. You can see that Ocean region ranks the first, when I say Oceania I actually am excluding New Zealand and Australia. Central and South Asia which should concern us as Pakistanis the most, it stands at 29.8 percent of our children being the victims of stunted growth. This was something our previous Prime Minister Imran khan was also talking about in his every other speech.

Proportion of children under age 5 who are affected by stunting, 2000 and 2020¹ (percentage)



Now let's talk about women and gender. Adult women in these regions actually have mainly showed the symptoms of different sorts of anemia especially the hemoglobin anemia and vitamins, multivitamins anemia and which results in many different types of other symptoms and disorders in central and south Asia you see that around 49% of women in 2000 and 47.5 percent of women in 2019 showed some sort of anemia again sub-Saharan Africa stands second in 2019 and Oceania this time when we talk about anemia and women it comes to number three.

Prevalence of anaemia^a in women aged 15 to 49, 2000 and 2019 (percentage)





In conclusion, I would just say that china's GDI vision can help us achieve poverty and food security related sustainable developmental goals by focusing especially on sub-Saharan African region and the south Asian region and with special focus on hunger and nutrition because without fulfilling the food needs how can we move towards the high ranking needs of political stability. I believe that there should be healthy human beings first who should ensure political stability.

Conclusion

- China's GDI can help achieve poverty and food security related SDGs by focusing on sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia with special regards to hunger and nutrition.
- President Xi Jinping's proposal demonstrates China's sense of responsibility and unwavering commitment to advancing the global development cause and build a global community of development with a shared future.



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