

CHINA INSIGHT, SPECIAL ISSUE ON
NPC&CPPCC ANNUAL SESSIONS 2026

THE PRESS OFFICE, INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE



China **i**nsight

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a cityscape at sunrise. The sky is a mix of bright blue, yellow, and orange, with a large sun on the horizon. The city buildings are rendered in a wireframe style with glowing lines. The overall scene is bright and optimistic.

NPC & CPPCC Annual Sessions 2026



Editor's Note

This year marks the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the inaugural year of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026–2030). The annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), collectively known as the "Two Sessions," are a pivotal moment in China's political life. They embody the people's aspirations and pool the wisdom of the entire nation.

A key task of the 2026 Two Sessions is to review the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, which charts the blueprint for China's development over the next five years. These meetings are not only critical to China's domestic development but also carry profound implications for global progress, serving as an important window to understand China's development path and governance model.

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Basic Information of the Two Sessions

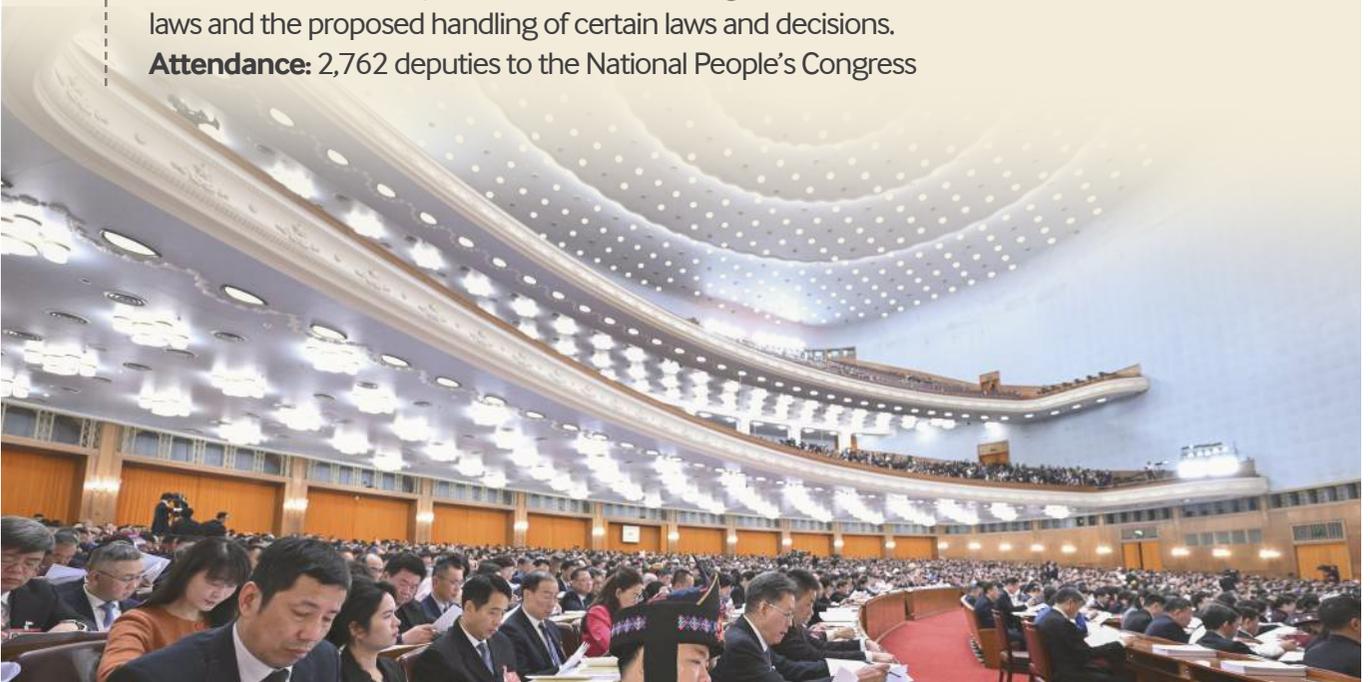
4th session of 14th National People's Congress

Time: March 5 to 12

Agenda:

- Deliberate the report on the work of the government;
- Examine the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development;
- Examine the report on the implementation of the 2025 plan for national economic and social development and on the 2026 draft plan, and the draft plan for national economic and social development in 2026;
- Examine the report on the execution of the central and local budgets for 2025 and on the draft central and local budgets for 2026, and the draft central and local budgets for 2026;
- Deliberate the bill put forward by the NPC Standing Committee on reviewing the draft environmental code;
- Deliberate the bill put forward by the NPC Standing Committee on reviewing the draft law on promoting ethnic unity and progress;
- Deliberate the bill put forward by the NPC Standing Committee on reviewing the draft law on national development planning;
- Deliberate the work report of the NPC Standing Committee;
- Deliberate the work report of the Supreme People's Court;
- Deliberate the work report of the Supreme People's Procuratorate;
- Deliberate the report of the NPC Standing Committee on the work of the overhaul of laws and the proposed handling of certain laws and decisions.

Attendance: 2,762 deputies to the National People's Congress



4th session of 14th CPPCC National Committee

Time: March 4 to 11.

Agenda:

- Hear and deliberate on a work report of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee;
- Hear and deliberate on a report on the work of proposals from political advisors since the last session of the CPPCC National Committee in March 2025;
- Sit in on the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress; hear and discuss reports including a government work report, and discuss the draft outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development;
- Review and approve a political resolution of the fourth session of the 14th CPPCC National Committee;
- Review and approve a resolution on the work report of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee;
- Review and approve a resolution on the work of proposals from political advisors since the last session of the CPPCC National Committee;
- Review and approve a report on the examination of proposals.

Attendance: 2,059 members of the CPPCC National Committee



**Report on the Work of
the Government**



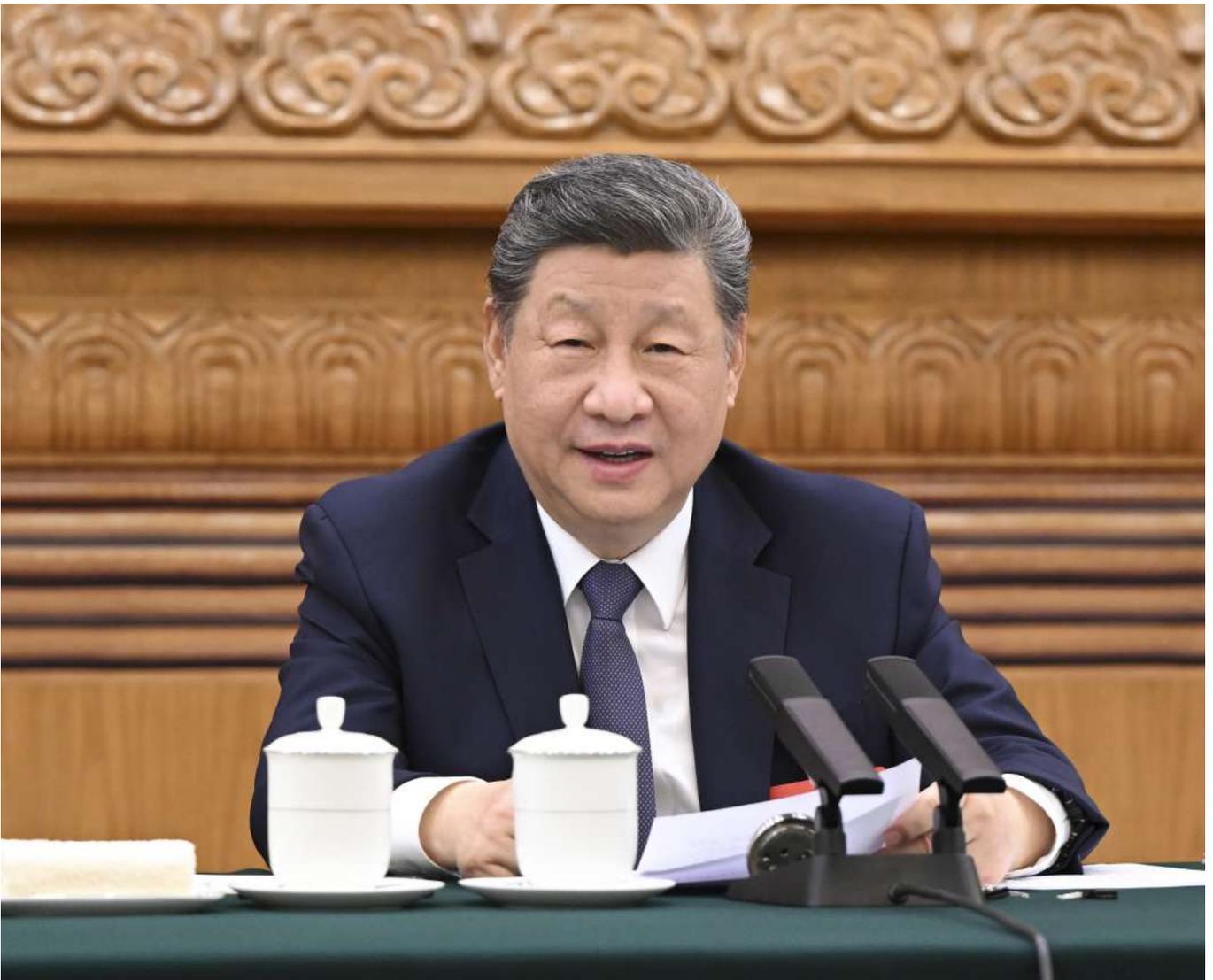
The 14th National People's Congress (NPC) opens its fourth session at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 5, 2026 (XINHUA)



The fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) kicks off at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 4, 2026 (XINHUA)

Xi Jinping's Important Speeches During the Two Sessions

Xi Urges Major Provincial Economies to Gain Experience in Solving New Problems



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, takes part in a deliberation with his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu Province at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing, capital of China, on March 5, 2026 (XINHUA)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 5 urged major provincial economies to redouble efforts to gain experience in analyzing new situations and solving new problems.

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while taking part in a deliberation with his fellow deputies from the delegation of Jiangsu Province at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

To fulfill the development goals of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), China must navigate a more complex environment and resolve more deep-seated contradictions, he said.

After listening to presentations from several NPC deputies, Xi laid out the requirements for Jiangsu, an economic powerhouse in east China, to advance economic and social development over the next five years.

With solid foundations, the province should take the lead

in developing new quality productive forces, which is crucial to driving high-quality development and enhancing economic competitiveness, Xi said.

Xi urged the province to promote the integrated development of education, technology and talent, and strive to make breakthroughs in original innovation and core technologies in key fields.

Jiangsu should break new ground in upgrading traditional industries, bolstering emerging industries, and making forward-looking plans for future industries, Xi said, calling for new progress in further deepening reform and removing the institutional barriers that hinder the development of new quality productive forces.

Stressing the role that major provincial economies play in underpinning national economic stability, Xi said that Jiangsu needs to continue strengthening its economic resilience and comprehensively integrate into the unified national market, while expanding its high-standard opening up and broadening its access to global markets.

Noting that Chinese modern-

ization is the modernization of common prosperity for all, he said that Jiangsu must take the initiative to tackle such tasks as promoting high-quality and sufficient employment, increasing the incomes of urban and rural residents, and improving basic public services and social security, as part of efforts to explore effective ways to achieve common prosperity for all.

Xi said effective Party governance provides a stronger guarantee for economic and social development, urging earnest efforts to organize and carry out the Party-wide education campaign on establishing and practicing the correct view of what it means to perform well.

He also called for efforts to strengthen public trust through concrete steps in full and rigorous Party self-governance.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, attended the event. **C**

Xi Calls for Decisive Progress in Healthy China Initiative During 15th Five-Year Plan Period

Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 6 stressed unwaveringly following the path of health development with Chinese characteristics to ensure decisive progress in advancing the Healthy China Initiative during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030).

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while attending a joint group meeting during the fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body.

The meeting was attended by national political advisors from the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the Jiusan Society, the sector of medicine and health,

and the sector of welfare and social security.

Building a Healthy China by 2035 is a strategic decision made by the CPC Central Committee, and the 15th Five-Year Plan period is critical to achieving this goal, Xi said, emphasizing the need for coordinated planning and accelerated implementation.

Six political advisors spoke at the meeting. After hearing their remarks, Xi delivered a speech. He noted that over the past year, the CPPCC has faithfully fulfilled its duties and responsibilities, offering advice and suggestions on areas including the 15th Five-Year Plan, thus making new contributions to the development of the cause of the Party and the country.

China is a socialist country, and a developing nation with a huge population and relatively large urban-rural

and regional gaps, Xi said, adding that it is essential to proceed from China's actual conditions to advance the Healthy China Initiative.

As the situation evolves, certain specific policies and measures related to health work need to be optimized and improved, Xi noted. He stressed the need to keep a clear mind and maintain strategic resolve on fundamental issues.

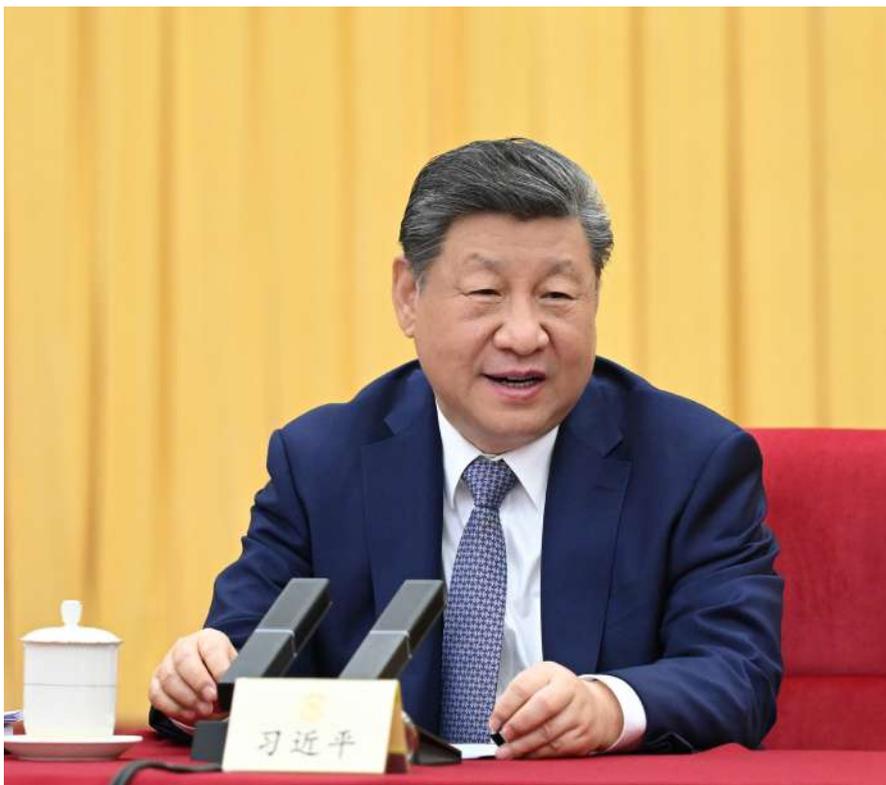
Xi called for efforts to pool strength and resources and take effective measures to improve the public health system, build a high-quality and efficient healthcare service system, and promote healthy and positive lifestyles.

Xi underscored the importance of improving the framework of policies and institutions for the promotion of health, further deepening reforms, and advancing the application of scientific and technological innovation.

Noting that advancing the Healthy China Initiative requires the joint efforts of the entire society, Xi said the CPPCC should fulfill its roles as a specialized consultative body and put forward practical and effective policy recommendations.

As International Women's Day approaches, Xi, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, extended festive greetings and best wishes to female lawmakers, political advisors, and staff members at the "two sessions." He also extended greetings to women from all ethnic groups and sectors across the country, including those in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macao Special Administrative Region, and Taiwan, as well as overseas Chinese women.

Xi was accompanied by Wang Huning, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, and Cai Qi, director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, who are both members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. **CI**



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits national political advisors from the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the Jiusan Society, the sector of medicine and health, and the sector of welfare and social security, who are attending the fourth session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), in Beijing, capital of China, on March 6, 2026.

Xi Stresses Enhancing Political Loyalty in Military to Advance Defense Modernization



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, attends a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the People's Armed Police Force at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, capital of China, on March 7, 2026.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 7 stressed fully leveraging the unique strengths of enhancing political loyalty in the military, and called for concerted efforts to advance the modernization of national defense and the armed forces in a steady and sustained manner.

Xi, also General secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks while attending a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force at the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

Six lawmakers spoke at the meeting. After hearing their remarks, Xi delivered an important speech.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the Party Central

Committee has led the armed forces to improve political rectification and advance political loyalty in the military with unprecedented resolve and intensity, achieving significant results, Xi said.

There must be no place in the military for those who are disloyal to the Party, nor any place for corrupt elements, Xi warned, adding that the fight against corruption must be unwaveringly advanced.

At the very start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), efforts must be made to establish rigorous rules for strict oversight, and closely monitor key areas such as fund flows, the exercise of power, and quality control, Xi said.

It is essential to fully strengthen the Party's leadership and Party building in the military, and make Party organizations at all levels even stronger, Xi said,

stressing the need to translate the Party's leadership strength into development momentum.

It is important to consolidate the ideological foundation that ensures officers and soldiers follow the Party and its guidance, and ensure that modern weaponry and equipment are placed in the hands of politically committed personnel, Xi said.

Xi called for systematically training personnel for joint operations, new types of combat forces, high-level sci-tech innovation, and high-level strategic management.

He also highlighted the need to vigorously carry forward and promote the fine traditions of the Party and the military.

Zhang Shengmin, vice chairman of the CMC, participated in the meeting. **C**

Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) for National Economic and Social Development

As the world's second-largest economy, China charts its course through medium- and long-term plans that clarify policy direction, development goals, and reform pathways, offering a degree of predictability that contrasts with governments fixated on short electoral cycles.

The outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for national economic and social development sets a slew of goals, with high-quality development high on the agenda. Key indicators span areas including economic development, innovation, public well-being, green transition, and security.

In an era of heightened geopolitical turbulence and rising economic uncertainty, China's consistent long-term development strategy has made the country a rare anchor of stability in the global economy.

Graphics: China Sets Key Development Targets in 15th Five-Year Plan

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

	2025	2030	2026–2030
 GDP growth rate (%)	5.0	–	Within an appropriate range, annual growth determined in light of actual conditions
 Annual labor productivity growth (%)	6.1	–	Faster than GDP growth
 Permanent urban residents (%)	67.9	71	–



2. INNOVATION-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT



Growth of total R&D spending (%)

2025 2030 2026-2030

9.1 - >7



Number of high-value patents per 10,000 people

16 >22 -



Value-added from core industries in digital economy as a proportion of GDP (%)

10.5* 12.5 -

*Data in 2024



3. PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS AND WELFARE



Surveyed urban unemployment rate (%)

2025 2030 2026-2030

5.2 - <5.5



Growth of per capita disposable income of residents (%)

5 - In step with GDP growth



Average schooling years of working-age population

11.3 11.7 -



Number of practicing physicians per 1,000 people

3.1 3.7 -



Number of registered nurses per 1,000 people

4.3 5.1 -



Proportion of nursing beds in elderly care institutions (%)

68 73 -



Increase of daycare enrollment of children under 3 (percentage points)

- - (6)



Average life expectancy (years)

79.25 80 -

4. ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION

	2025	2030	2026-2030
 Reduction of CO ₂ emissions per unit of GDP (%)	(17.7)	-	(17)
 Proportion of non-fossil energy in total energy consumption (%)	21.7	25	-
 PM _{2.5} concentration in cities at and above prefecture level (μg/m ³)	28	<27	-
 Proportion of water of good or better quality (%)	80	85	-
 Forest coverage rate (%)	25.1*	25.8	-



5. SECURITY AND SAFETY

	2025	2030	2026-2030
 Overall grain output (million tonnes)	695	≈ 725	-
 Overall energy production capacity (100 million tonnes of standard coal)	51.3	58	-

Overall grain output refers to the level of grain output that can be stably achieved.



Source: CGTN

Xinhua Commentary: China's 15th Five-Year Plan a Global Invitation to Shared Prosperity



Humanoid robots dance at a Chinese New Year gala at the UN headquarters in New York, on February 12, 2026 (XINHUA)

With the adoption of China's new development blueprint for the next five years, the world is seeing far more than a national development roadmap--it is embracing inclusive growth, technological advancement and

win-win cooperation that transcend borders.

The global community is grappling with growing division and conflicts--from rising protectionism and a widening wealth gap to dis-

rupted supply chains and mounting strains on multilateralism.

To avoid beggar-thy-neighbor practices, the international community must prioritize enhanced



An aerial drone photo shows people watching a "village gala" in Taipan Village of Taijiang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on February 3, 2026 (XINHUA)

cohesion, foster a spirit of openness, and cultivate a long-term vision.

China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) reinforces a message that the country is a stable anchor for the world economy and a reliable partner in addressing common challenges. The modernization drive of a country with 1.4 billion people brings certainty and positive momentum to a turbulent world, providing an alternative path in exploring a new form of modernization.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period is critical to basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035. Its focus on high-quality development prioritizes innovation, sustainability, and making domestic demand a more prominent economic driver, which will translate into tangible opportunities across key sectors for investors and businesses worldwide.

Technological self-reliance and strength, a core pillar of the plan, are not about isolation. China's massive investments in artificial intelli-



A live-streamer from Pakistan sells products via live-streaming at an Internet information industrial park in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province, on September 22, 2025 (XINHUA)

gence, quantum computing, smart economy, and advanced manufacturing will create new demand for international talent, technology, and partnerships.

Multinational corporations, research institutions, and startups worldwide stand to benefit from expanded access to China's innovation ecosystem--through joint R&D projects or participation in emerging industrial clusters.

Sustainability, another cornerstone of the plan, aligns China's development with the global fight against climate change and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The plan reinforces China's commitment to achieving peak carbon emissions and carbon neutrality, with ambitious targets for renewable energy deployment, the development of a circular economy, and

investments in green infrastructure. This creates substantial market opportunities for green technology cooperation, spanning European renewable energy firms to African clean energy partners. China is not advancing its green transition in seclusion; rather, it acts as a catalyst for global green initiatives.

By turning its vast population into a primary engine of domestic demand, China is building a more resilient domestic market that is less vulnerable to the whims of global trade cycles and foreign tariffs.

In 2025, final consumption expenditure contributed 52 percent of China's economic growth, up by five percentage points from a year earlier. Its ongoing transition to a consumption-driven economy means fresh opportunities for foreign goods, services and investments.

Contrary to the narrative of decoupling promoted by some, China is doubling down on connecting its market with the world as enormous opportunities lie in the plan's emphasis on high-standard opening up.

The plan pledges to further liberalize trade and investment, upgrade pilot free trade zones, and optimize the business environment for foreign investors, including stronger intellectual property rights protection and fairer competition policies. This means greater access to China's super-large consumer market, where demand for high-quality goods and services is on the rise.

The plan reaffirms China's commitment to inclusive global development through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative to boost connectivity, green development, and people-to-people exchanges.

In addition, the adoption of



An aerial drone photo taken on August 19, 2025 shows a wind power project in Qiubei County, southwest China's Yunnan Province (XINHUA)



Photo shows the opening ceremony held at the Yiwu Global Digital Trade Center on February 28, 2026 (XINHUA)

the law on national development planning, which sets the rules for formulating and implementing the country's five-year plans, marks a pivotal step in institutionalizing long-term economic governance. The legislation delivers greater policy transparency and predictability for foreign investors, which reinforces China's appeal as a stable, high-potential destination for global capital.

The 15th Five-Year Plan is a testament to China's conviction that unity, strength and resolve will prevail. Global prosperity is by no means a zero-sum game. China's development is closely intertwined with the development of other countries.

The world needs neither new divisions nor confrontations; it requires vision, cooperation, and action. China's new Five-Year Plan extends an invitation to those willing to collaborate for a safer, cleaner, and brighter future. It embodies a promise of stability and partnership, offering a gift to a world that is desperately seeking direction and hope. **C**



People view an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft during an exhibition in Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on November 13, 2025 (XINHUA)

Stories of Xi Jinping

Shaping Prosperity by Addressing Everyday Concerns

When China's annual "two sessions" convene in Beijing each spring, the discussions of national lawmakers and political advisors extend well beyond macroeconomic targets and national blueprints.

The meetings are also opportunities for them and President Xi Jinping, who is a national lawmaker himself, to drill down into the everyday concerns of ordinary people -- safe housing and transport, employment, healthcare, education and other concrete details that shape daily life.

"The village has truly taken a big step forward"

More than 2,100 kilometers from Beijing, the fate of a small mountain village in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, had long weighed on the mind of Xi, who is also General secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission.

During the 2017 "two sessions," while joining a deliberation with lawmakers from Sichuan, Xi spoke of his concern after seeing media reports that residents of Atulie'er, widely known as the "cliff village," had to climb rattan ladders clinging to a sheer precipice to reach the outside world.

"Seeing it left me with a heavy heart -- it was deeply distressing," Xi recalled. He said he later felt somewhat relieved after learning that a new steel ladder with handrails had been completed by the end of 2016, improving travel conditions for villagers.

Perched in a mountain hollow at an altitude of 1,600 meters, Atulie'er was emblematic of

poverty-stricken areas in western China. After Xi took the top office, China launched a nationwide campaign against poverty, aiming to lift all rural residents above the absolute poverty line within about a decade, nearly 100 million people in total. The entire nation was mobilized in support of this effort.

Xi, notably, traveled extensively to inspect poverty alleviation work firsthand. He also used key occasions such as the "two sessions" to press for progress, coordinate action and hear feedback from the grassroots.

At the 2022 gathering, Xi was briefed about fresh updates from the "cliff village." As part of a state-led relocation program designed to assist residents in inhospitable areas, villagers from Atulie'er had begun moving to a nearby county seat. The community was also developing

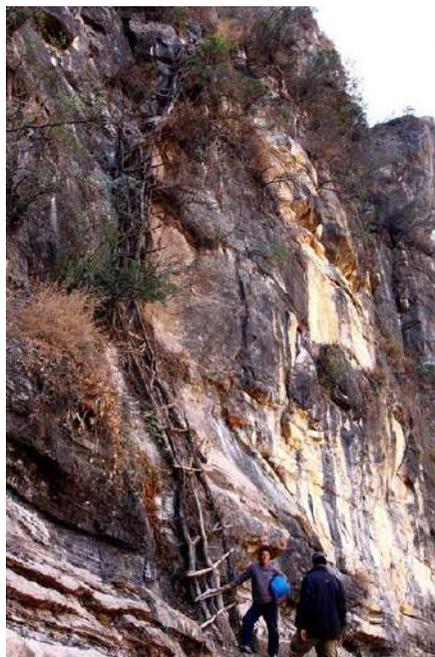
tourism as a new source of income.

After reviewing before-and-after photos of the village, Xi asked detailed questions about children's schooling and access to medical services for the elderly. This time, he appeared reassured.

"The village has truly taken a big step forward -- thanks to the Party and the country's policies. We're planning projects such as a canyon adventure camp and a cultural experience camp, and life is getting better and better," said Jilie Ziri, a lawmaker from Liangshan.

"Chinese modernization puts people's well-being first"

Over the years, improving people's livelihoods has remained central to Xi's agenda at the "two sessions." He has closely followed developments in Shibadong Village in central China's Hunan Province, where



The left photo shows the rattan ladder of "Cliff Village" taken on February 22, 2013; the right photo shows the reconstructed steel ladder (COURTESY PHOTO)



Xi visited primary-level officials and residents in Beijing during a two-day inspection tour from February 9 to 10 (XINHUA)

many young migrants have returned from the more prosperous eastern coastal regions to start businesses, injecting new vitality into their hometown.

His focus on livelihood issues spans diverse regions and varying development needs. During the “two sessions” in 2021, Xi joined lawmakers from Qinghai Province and asked questions about daily life in a small village on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Residents have engaged in distinctive local industries, ranging from ethnic-style embroidery to solar power projects, tailored to the region’s unique conditions.

The people-centered approach was also evident during last year’s “two sessions,” when

Xi met Li Xiaona, a lawmaker from Jiangsu Province in east China. Xi asked in detail about conditions in her community and set out specific expectations.

Senior canteens, he said, should operate in ways suited to local circumstances and remain financially sustainable. Home-based elderly care services should be strengthened, and more professionals in geriatric medicine and nursing should be trained.

This year, a major focus of the “two sessions” is the adoption of the country’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), a key blueprint guiding China’s drive toward modernization.

“Chinese modernization puts

people’s well-being first. All the work of the Party and the government is aimed at ensuring the people a happier life,” Xi has said.

Last October, the Party’s leadership passed a set of recommendations for drafting the plan, which included a dedicated section on ensuring and improving public well-being. This section covers employment, income distribution, education, social security, housing and healthcare, which are areas closely tied to people’s daily lives.

Last month, Xi visited a downtown area in Beijing during his pre-Spring Festival inspection. He dropped by an elderly home and a community canteen where diners aged 60 and above, as well as those in new forms of employment such as delivery workers, are offered a discount.

Xi carefully examined the dishes and asked staff members whether the canteen’s operations were sustainable. He also spoke with delivery workers resting in the restaurant, asking about their work and daily lives.

The CPC has recently launched a five-month Party-wide campaign to guide its members, especially officials, in establishing and practicing a correct view on what it means to perform well. Officials across the governance hierarchy are urged to maintain a people-centered approach and take more concrete action to meet public needs.

“The CPC regards serving the people and improving their well-being as the most important measure of performance, and uses the extent to which officials deliver tangible benefits for the people as an important benchmark in evaluating their performance,” Xi said. **C**

CHINA INSIGHT

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Producer: The Press Office, International Department of the
CPC Central Committee

Content Provider: Center for Americas, China International
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