

INSIGHTS

Sharing New Opportunities for Global Supply Chain

Voice of the World

Edited by TANG Zhexiao

China will take a clear-cut stand against protectionism and various forms of "decoupling and severing industrial and supply chains," integrate at a deeper level into the global system of industrial and supply chains, and actively participate in international cooperation in green development, Premier Li Qiang said at the first China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE). This prompted Reuters to report that China had hit back at the West's de-risking strategy as evidenced by the expo.

As the world's first national exhibition on supply chains, the just-concluded CISCE yielded fruitful outcomes including more than 200 deals and intention agreements signed with a total value of more than 150 billion RMB (about 21 billion USD), according to official data from China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

More than 500 domestic and foreign firms exhibited their latest products and technologies at the expo, focusing on smart cars, green agriculture, clean energy, digital technology, and the health and lifestyle sector.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo highlighted the need to strengthen global supply chains with new solutions and better collaborations, saying that Indonesia welcomes the first CISCE to fully support global efforts to build a stronger and more stable global supply



Foreign friends visit the first China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing, on December 5, 2023. (PHOTO: VCG)

chain.

"The inaugural supply chain expo is the right event at the right time," said Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization.

The remarks were being cognizant of the COVID-19 pandemic and supply disruptions that followed exposing general vulnerabilities in the way global production networks organized.

Meanwhile, Eddie Yue Wai-man, chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, said China is to play a dominant role in the global supply chain as it transitions to complex, high-end products, and the country will become even more crucial going forward.

The CISCE also highlighted China's advancements in clean energy and new energy vehicles, said *the Helsinki Times*.

Data from the National Energy Administration showed that by the end of this September, the country's total installed renewable energy capacity reached 1.38 terawatts, which accounted for nearly half of the country's total installed power generation capacity and exceeded that of coal-fired power.

This is more than double the number of US and European installations combined, according to a report titled *How China Became the Global Renewables Leader* by Wood Mackenzie, a glob-

al research and consultancy company. Moreover, Mackenzie forecasted that China will hold more than 80 percent of the world's polysilicon, wafer, cell, and module manufacturing capacity from 2023 to 2026.

China has become an important force in stabilizing the global clean energy industry chain and supply chain, and has cooperated with more than 100 countries and regions on green energy projects, according to Zhang Shaogang, vice chairman of CCPIT.

Tomasz Szyplula, president of the Poland Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, recognized China as a prime market when it comes to clean energy cooperation. He told Xinhua News Agency that there are many projects that they would like to cooperate with Chinese business.

Emphasizing the mutual benefits of supply chain cooperation and the importance of expanding Chinese technologies to broader markets globally, Chris Pereira, CEO of the North American Ecosystem Institute, told *the Helsinki Times* that new energy is China's "most internationalized and sustainable advantage."

The first CISCE is a big step toward fostering innovative exchanges among companies that have achieved technological breakthroughs, according to foreign affairs commentator Hannan R. Hussain. It also significantly reflects China's vision to share new opportunities for global supply chain resilience, particularly during a period of rapid global transformations in technology, science and resources, said Hussain.

Opinion

Human Rights Still Central in New Era



A woman picks tomatoes at a greenhouse in Huimin county, east China's Shandong province. The local specialized fruit and vegetable planting cooperatives have greatly help villagers increase their income. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

By Juan Jose Vazques & Francisco Rojas Aravena

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is a time for profound reflection on the progress and ongoing challenges in the global pursuit of human rights. This milestone offers an opportunity to reassess our collective efforts, understand diverse perspectives, and renew our commitment to human rights in a diverse, increasingly interconnected and conflictive world.

The interpretation and application of human rights have evolved since the Universal Declaration was adopted in 1948. Across diverse cultural and political landscapes, nations have grappled with integrating these universal principles into their unique contexts.

For instance, China's approach to human rights, which often emphasizes collective well-being alongside individual freedoms, provides a contrasting yet instructive perspective. Such diversity in understanding and implementing human rights underscores the necessity of ongoing dialogue and adaptability in our global human rights discourse. A multilateral space is the area where this dialogue must be developed.

The intersection of environmental sustainability and human rights has become increasingly prominent. The global climate crisis poses a direct threat to fundamental human rights, including the right to live, to health, water, and a safe environment. China's environmental targets, like its commitment to carbon neutrality and significant investments in renewable energy, exemplify the scale and urgency of action required on a global level. These efforts highlight the critical link between environmental stewardship and the protection and fulfillment of human rights and effective compliance, serving as a call to global action.

The eradication of poverty is integral to the realization of human rights. China's recent strides in lifting a huge portion of its population out of poverty demonstrate the impactful role of targeted economic policies and development strategies in advancing human rights. This achievement provides a powerful example for global poverty reduction efforts, emphasizing the need to focus on economic rights as a fundamental com-

ponent of the human rights agenda. Also, this is a fundamental achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Large-scale development initiatives like China's Belt and Road Initiative illustrate the complex relationship between global development and human rights. Such initiatives underscore the importance of balancing economic development with the principles of sustainable growth and equitable practices, ensuring that human rights remain at the forefront of global development agendas to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The advent of digital technologies, particularly advancements in AI, introduces new challenges to the human rights landscape. Issues of privacy, data security, and the ethical use of technology are increasingly relevant in a digitalized world. The policies and practices adopted by nations at the forefront of these technological advancements will play a crucial role in shaping global norms and standards in technology, with significant implications for human rights. We need global standards in this area.

As we observe the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the journey towards achieving these rights globally remains a work in progress. Nations like China, with their unique approaches to human rights, environmental policies, poverty reduction, and technological advancements, offer valuable lessons and challenges.

In many places, violations of human rights and violence continue to prevail. How can we get out of this situation?

This can be achieved only through education and more education. It is a task that we must undertake every day, continuing day by day with perseverance. This opens the path to new dialogues, understanding others and seeking the basis for substantive agreements amid differences. This is what will allow us to work to "live together" as humanity in our common home, as a human family, protecting human rights.

Juan Jose Vazques is a legal advisor and professor at the UN-mandated University for Peace; Francisco Rojas Aravena is an expert on international relations and human security and serves as the rector of the university.

Global Climate Governance Needs Action, not Criticism

Comment

By TANG Zhexiao

The recently concluded 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is seen as a global stocktake of progress in limiting the temperature rise since the Paris Agreement was signed. However, instead of strengthening joint efforts to address global climate governance, some critics missed the point, focusing on shirking responsibilities and discrediting others.

According to the UK's *The Guardian*, electricity generation in China and India, and oil and gas production in the U.S., have produced the biggest increases in global greenhouse gas emissions since 2015.

Lacking scientific basis, this comment is one-sided and inconsistent with the facts and failed to demonstrate the positive attitude needed for climate response, the Chinese Embassy in the UK said on December 6.

Global warming is the result of cu-

mulative emissions of greenhouse gases. Developed countries have been releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere for more than 200 years of industrialization. They have unshirkable historical responsibility for climate change, including the UK, said the Embassy spokesperson.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, historical cumulative CO₂ emissions from 1850 to 2019 are estimated at 2,400 ± 240 Gt CO₂, of which more than half (58 percent) occurred before 1990. Among them, North America and Europe ranked the highest in cumulative emissions, accounting for 23 percent and 16 percent respectively.

Data from the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research showed that the 2022 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita of EU members are nearly 1.2 times more than global GHG emissions per capita.

The Party GHG Inventory Submissions to the UNFCCC secretariat suggested that among the 15 developed countries and the EU, only nine parties have achieved their GHG emission reduction targets in 2022.

Even worse, the 100 billion USD of climate finance that is promised by developed countries for developing countries has not been provided. Estimates by a British-founded confederation of charitable organizations Oxfam and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development suggested that the actual flow of climate finance from developed to developing countries in 2020 was between 21 billion USD and 83.3 billion USD.

Erik Solheim, former UN under-secretary-general and former executive director of the UN Environment Programme, said that developed countries that have caused the major part of global warming should take on their due responsibilities for climate change.

Wealthy investors have the capital to take risks, and indeed, should be taking more of them, said Bill Gates, the billionaire founder of Microsoft. "Very wealthy individuals should also be making changes to their lifestyles to bring their emissions close to zero," he told *the New York Times*.

It is an objective fact that developed and developing countries have different historical responsibilities, develop-

ment stages and capabilities to combat climate change.

China has stayed true to its promises and made significant contributions to global climate response. The country's emission intensity of carbon dioxide decreased by more than 51 percent from 2005. Compared to developed countries' general programme of 40 to 70 years to move from carbon peaking to carbon neutrality, China has given itself 30 years.

Fatih Birol, head of the International Energy Agency, told pan-European media network Euractiv that China did the world "a big favour" by bringing down the cost of clean technologies such as solar panels.

As the Chinese Embassy in the UK remarked, the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities should be upheld in tackling climate change.

The key to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement lies in fulfilling commitments and actions, as well as strengthening unity and cooperation. Shirking responsibilities and passing crisis on to others will only continue to hamper the global climate governance process.

Hi! Tech

5G Technology Transforms Social Lives

Editor's note: As a core component of the new generation of information technology, 5G brings profound changes to the mode of social production and people's way of life. To demonstrate how 5G exerts influence on social development, some 5G applications were presented at the 2023 World 5G Convention held in Zhengzhou, Henan province.



5G intelligent robot dog.



5G remote inspection unmanned aircraft system.



5G + intelligent control platform for mine management.



AI simulation cockpit.

(All photos by ZHOU Weihai)