

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Gives Interview to Xinhua News Agency and China Media Group on International Situation And China's Diplomacy in 2021

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Question: In 2021, the Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrated its centenary, and China completed the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieved its first centenary goal. China's head-of-state "cloud diplomacy" was also very frequent. What is your overall assessment of China's diplomacy in 2021?

Wang Yi: The year 2021 will go down in history as an important year for both the world and China.

Across the world, the evolution of unprecedented changes picked up speed due to the pandemic unseen in a century. We witnessed the U.S. Capitol riot, the Kabul Moment, vaccine nationalism, resurgence of the Cold War mentality, and many other turmoils. The world is entering a period of turbulence and transformation at a faster pace.

In China, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, we have completed the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, solemnly celebrated CPC's centenary, and proudly embarked on a new journey toward the second centenary goal. On the diplomatic front, we drew strength from the 100 years of CPC's achievements, forged ahead through competitions and challenges with courage and grit, writing a new chapter of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

First, head-of-state diplomacy has played the guiding role on China's diplomatic front. President Xi Jinping had 79 telephone calls with leaders of foreign countries and international organizations, and attended 40 major diplomatic events via video link. He has stepped up strategic communication with foreign leaders to build consensus and promote cooperation across the globe, thus drawing up the grand blueprint and forming strong synergy for building a community with a shared future for mankind. Head-of-state diplomacy has effectively promoted the overall stability of the relations among major countries, deepened friendship between China and its neighbors, and enhanced the mutually beneficial cooperation with developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America

记者：2021年是中国共产党成立100周年，中国全面建成小康社会、实现第一个百年奋斗目标。今年中国元首“云外交”活动十分密集，您对今年的外交工作有何总体评价？

王毅：2021年，无论对世界还是中国来说，都是注记载入史册的一年。

对世界而言，在世纪疫情作用下，百年变局加速演进，“占领国会山”、“喀布尔时刻”、“疫苗民族主义”、冷战阴影回潮等一幕幕乱象纷纷呈现，世界加快进入动荡变革期。

对中国而言，在以习近平同志为核心的党中央坚强领导下，我们全面建成小康社会，隆重庆祝中国共产党百年华诞，昂首踏上第二个百年新征程。中国外交从百年成就中汲取力量，在博弈较量中勇毅前行，书写了中国特色大国外交新的篇章。

首先，元首外交发挥了引领作用。习近平主席同外国领导人和国际组织负责人通话79次，以视频形式出席重大外事活动40起，同各国领导人加强战略沟通，在全球范围内凝聚共识，谋划合作，为构建人类命运共同体擘画了宏伟蓝图，汇聚了强大合力。元首外交有力促进了大国关系的总体稳定，深化了与周边国家的睦邻友好，提升了同亚非拉发展中国家的互利合作，为中国构筑起更加全面、更为坚实的全球伙伴关系网络。

and the Caribbean. It has enabled China to build a more comprehensive and solid global partnership network.

Second, anti-COVID diplomacy has attested to China's strong sense of international responsibility. We have always been among the first to promote global cooperation against the pandemic, always advocated the number-one feature of vaccines to be global public goods, and always stood at the forefront for the equitable distribution of vaccines. We were among the first to commit to making COVID vaccines a global public good, to support waiving intellectual property rights on vaccine research and development, and to start joint production with other developing countries. We were also among the first to conduct global origins-tracing cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), to reject politicization and stigmatization, and to call for fighting not only the coronavirus but also the political virus. With firm commitments and real actions, China has helped keep the international COVID response in the right direction, and vigorously promoted the building of a global community of health for all.

Third, China's development-oriented diplomacy has contributed a lot to this global cause. On many occasions including the Boao Forum for Asia, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the China International Fair for Trade in Services, and the China International Import Expo, President Xi Jinping announced a string of new measures, such as a shorter negative list, a more business-friendly environment and greater institutional opening-up, to open wider to the world. This has provided opportunities and made contributions to global economic recovery. In response to the grave challenges of COVID-19 to other developing countries, President Xi Jinping put forth the Global Development Initiative (GDI), with a view to building global synergy on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that no country or individual will be left behind. As of today, the GDI has received positive response and support from the UN system and nearly 100 countries.

Fourth, we have defended justice in multilateral diplomacy. We have held high the banner of multilateralism, championed the common values of humanity, and upheld the international system with the UN at its core and the international order underpinned by international law. We have taken an active part in shaping global governance system on climate, the environment, health and digital development. We have expounded on the building of a community of life for man and nature, and a community of all life on Earth, offering China's solutions and vitality to the reform of the global governance system.

Fifth, we have lived up to our solemn commitment of diplomacy for the people. We have worked actively to support the building of a new development paradigm, and to facilitate the opening of "fast tracks" for essential personnel exchanges and "green lanes" for the shipment of emergency supplies, so as to prevent the spread of the virus from abroad and secure the gains in epidemic control at home. We have adhered to a people-centered approach, built a system on the protection of the interests of people overseas and on risk alert and prevention, and successfully rescued dozens of Chinese hostages. We have timely carried out the Spring Sprout program by vaccinating millions of Chinese

第二，抗疫外交展现了国际担当。我们始终站在国际抗疫合作“第一方阵”，秉持疫苗公共产品“第一属性”，担当疫苗公平分配“第一梯队”。我们最早承诺将新冠疫苗作为全球公共产品，最早支持疫苗研发知识产权豁免，最早同发展中国家开展合作生产。我们还率先同世卫组织联合开展全球溯源合作，率先倡导反对疫情政治化和病毒标签化，率先提出不仅要抗击新冠病毒，还要扫清政治病毒。中国以自己的坚定承诺和实际行动维护了国际抗疫的正确方向，有力推进人类卫生健康共同体的建设。

第三，发展外交作出了中国贡献。从博鳌到达沃斯，从服贸会到进博会，习近平主席宣布一系列扩大开放新举措，以更短的负面清单、更优的营商环境、更大力度的制度型开放，为实现全球经济复苏提供了中国机遇，作出了中国贡献。习近平主席还针对疫情给发展中国家带来的严峻挑战，郑重提出全球发展倡议，旨在形成国际合力，加快实现联合国2030年可持续发展议程，不让任何一个国家、任何一个人掉队，目前，这一倡议已得到联合国系统以及近百个国家的响应支持。

第四，多边外交坚守了公道正义。我们高举多边主义火炬，倡导全人类共同价值，坚定维护以联合国为核心的国际体系和以国际法为基础的国际秩序。我们积极参与全球气候、环境、卫生、数字治理体系建设，深入阐释人与自然生命共同体、地球生命共同体，为全球治理体系变革提出中国方案，注入中国力量。

第五，为民外交履行了庄严承诺。我们积极助力构建新发展格局，推动建立必要人员往来“快捷通道”，搭建紧急运输物资的“绿色通道”，守好外防输入国门关，维护国内抗疫成果。我们坚持人民至上理念，主动构建海外利益保护和风险预警防范体系，成功解救数十名被绑架的中国公民。我们及时开展“春苗行动”，为身处180多个国家的数百万同胞接种疫苗。“无论走到哪里，祖国在你身后”，这是中国外交永远不变的使命和诺言。

compatriots living in 180-plus countries. “Wherever you go, your home country is always your strong backing.”—This is the enduring mission and commitment of China’s diplomacy.

Question: The sixth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee this year has become a focus of international discussion. How do you think the Plenum will guide China’s diplomacy? How does the international community view CPC’s centenary?

Wang Yi: The sixth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee comprehensively reviewed the major achievements of the Party over the past century and summarized the Party’s historical experience in ten aspects. Each and every one of them offers important guidance for our work on the diplomatic front.

Upholding the Party’s leadership is the fundamental guidance for China’s diplomacy. In the world today, China’s good governance has gained more and more understanding and recognition. The fundamental reason lies in the Party’s centralized, unified leadership. The leadership of the CPC is the greatest political strength of China’s diplomacy. It is the root of the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and the institutional guarantee for all our achievements.

Putting the people first is the source of strength of China’s diplomacy. Only when we ground diplomatic efforts in serving the people, can we truly stand all tests and forge ahead. We in the diplomatic service will always put the people front and center. We will defend the interests of the Chinese people and actively follow the principle of people-centered diplomacy. And we will deepen friendship and cooperation with people from other countries to promote greater solidarity of people around the world.

Maintaining a global vision is the original aspiration of China’s diplomacy. While pursuing happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the CPC is also committed to promoting human progress and world harmony. This has been the aspiration and mission of the Party since the day of its founding. Keeping in mind both the domestic and international imperatives, we in the diplomatic service will continue to work with other countries to foster a community with a shared future for mankind.

Staying independent is a fine tradition of China’s diplomacy. No matter how the international situation evolves, we will firmly pursue an independent foreign policy of peace, and keep to the path of peaceful development. Meanwhile, we will firmly support all countries, especially developing countries, in defending their sovereignty and independence, and exploring the development path suited to their own national conditions.

Standing up for ourselves is a distinctive character of China’s diplomacy. China’s diplomacy has grown stronger in the fight against invasion, blockade, sanction and intervention. It represents the unyielding and tenacious spirit of the Chinese nation, and keeps a fine tradition of safeguarding national interests and upholding fairness and justice. On the new journey toward national rejuvenation, we will continue to firmly oppose all hegemonic and bullying practices and proactively undertake our international responsibility for world peace and development.

记者：今年召开的中国共产党第十九届六中全会成为国际社会热议焦点。您认为这次会议对中国外交有何指导意义？国际社会对党的百年华诞有哪些评价？

王毅：党的十九届六中全会全面总结了党百年奋斗重大成就，提炼出了十大历史经验，每一条都对外交工作具有重要指导意义。

坚持党的领导是中国外交的根本遵循。当今世界，中国的良政善治得到越来越多的认同和好评，其根本原因在于有了党的集中统一领导。同样，党的领导也是中国外交的最大政治优势，是我们开展中国特色大国外交的根基所在，是我们取得一切成就的制度保障。

坚持人民至上是中国外交的力量源泉。中国外交只有扎根人民，才能真正立于不败之地，获得前进动力。中国外交将始终保持人民外交本色，既维护好中国人民的利益，积极践行外交为民理念，也深化与各国人民的友谊与合作，促进世界人民大团结。

坚持胸怀天下是中国外交的初心所系。中国共产党既为中国人民谋幸福、为中华民族谋复兴，也为人类谋进步、为世界谋大同。这一初心使命从建党之日起就写在我们的旗帜上。中国外交将胸怀国内国际两个大局，同各国一道努力构建人类命运共同体。

坚持独立自主是中国外交的优秀传统。不论国际风云如何变幻，我们都将坚定奉行独立自主的和平外交政策，坚定走和平发展的道路。同时，我们也将坚定支持各国尤其是发展中国家捍卫自身主权独立，坚定支持各国探索符合本国国情的发展道路。

坚持敢于斗争是中国外交的鲜明品格。中国外交是在反侵略、反封锁、反制裁、反干预的斗争中一路成长壮大的，有着不畏强暴、不惧艰险的民族气节，有着维护国家利益、维护公平正义的优良传统。在民族复兴的新征程上，我们仍将坚决反对一切强权霸凌行径，自觉承担起维护和平、促进发展的国际责任。