

Premier Li Qiang's Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 140th Session of China Import and Export Fair

李强总理在第140届中国进出口商品交易会开幕式上的主旨演讲

Vice President Han Zheng's Statement at the General Debate of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

韩正副主席在第81届联大一般性辩论上的讲话

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Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

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Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

It is a great pleasure to join you in the beautiful Flower City Guangzhou for the 140th Session of China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair). On behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all, and express heartfelt appreciation for your long-standing, positive contribution to the economic and trade cooperation and development between China and other countries.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Canton Fair. President Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory letter to the Fair, acknowledging its past achievements and reaffirming China's commitment to expanding high-standard opening up. Over the past 70 years, the Canton Fair has grown from strength to strength. Its exhibition area has expanded from 9,600 square meters in the first year to 1.55 million square meters today. The number of buyers has increased from 1,200 in the beginning to more than 300,000 this year. Among all the international trade exhibitions hosted by China, the Canton Fair has the longest history, the largest participation and the highest transaction volume. It is also an important window for the international community to observe China. Through this window, the world has

尊敬的各位来宾，

女士们，先生们，朋友们：

很高兴同大家相聚在美丽的花城广州，共同出席第140届中国进出口商品交易会。我谨代表中国政府，对各位的到来表示热烈欢迎！对大家长期以来为促进中外经贸合作和发展所作出的积极贡献表示衷心感谢！

今年是广交会创办70周年。习近平主席专门发来贺信，充分肯定广交会取得的成绩，重申了中国扩大高水平开放的坚定决心。过去70年，广交会一步步发展壮大，展览面积从首届的9600平方米扩大到现在的155万平方米，采购商从最初的1200人增加到今年的30多万人，已经成为中国举办的历史最长、规模最大、成交最多的国际贸易盛会，同时也为国际社会了解中国提供了重要窗口。透过广交会这扇“窗”，世人看到了

witnessed the surging vitality of China's economy and society, the enterprising journey undertaken by hundreds of millions of Chinese people, and the deepening connection between China and the world.

First, a China that keeps opening itself creates new opportunities for the world. Over the past 70 years, the Canton Fair has established itself and thrived on openness. Its circle of friends has grown bigger, with buyers coming from over 220 countries and regions, and the total value of business deals reaching US\$1.6 trillion. What underlies this success is China's strategic choice of boosting development through openness, and the practical need for countries around the world to leverage their economic strengths for mutual empowerment. China is now a key trading partner of over 160 countries and regions, and the top export destination for nearly 80 countries and regions. China's stock of overseas investment has reached US\$3.4 trillion. While developing itself, China has also brought benefits to the world.

Second, a China that keeps innovating itself provides new impetus for the world. Over the past 70 years, exhibits at the Canton Fair have been continuously transformed and upgraded. From agricultural and subsidiary products and local specialties in the 1960s and 70s, to industrial and electromechanical products in the 1980s and 90s, and to embodied artificial intelligence (AI) and smart medical services today, each session of the Canton Fair presents an updated selection of exhibits. What underlies this transformation is China's rapid progress in innovation-driven development, and the world's scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation. In recent years, new technologies, products and business forms in such areas as AI, green energy and biomedicine have continued to emerge in China, and generated new dynamism and space for the world economy.

Third, a China that always keeps its promise brings certainty to the world. Over the past 70 years, no matter how the international situation evolved, the Canton Fair has never been interrupted, and its commitment to the principle of honoring contracts and maintaining credibility remains steadfast. What underlies such commitment is the Chinese philosophy of matching words with actions, and the world's recognition of and trust in China. China has all along kept its policies stable and consistent, firmly delivered on its commitment of lowering tariffs, increasing development assistance and addressing climate change, and undertaken the responsibilities of a major country in this turbulent and changing world.

Looking back on the past 70 years, the Canton Fair has stood the test of international vicissitudes and brimmed with new vigor and vitality. This is because it has all along followed the trend of economic globalization and answered the call of the international community for joint development. The journey of the Canton Fair offers some simple yet profound takeaways worthy of deep reflection. Here, I would like to share with you three main observations.

First, market connectivity is not a tool for zero-sum games between countries, but an effective measure to foster new space for growth. The past few years have seen a notable rise in man-made market barriers of various sorts around the globe. Some have even chosen to politicize, instrumentalize, and weaponize economic and trade issues. However, no matter their forms, protectionism is always at the core. It has been fully proven by both theories and practices that the market is not static—it is more like a network that reaches out in all directions. Only

中国经济社会蕴藏的巨大活力，见证了中国亿万民众一路奋发进取的壮阔历程，更感受到中国与世界与日俱增的深厚联结。

一是日益开放的中国为世界带来新机遇。70年来，广交会因开放而生、因开放而兴，国际“朋友圈”越来越大，采购商遍布220多个国家和地区，累计成交额达到1.6万亿美元。这背后，是中国以开放促发展的战略选择，也是各国经济优势互补、相互赋能的现实需要。中国已是160多个国家和地区的主要贸易伙伴，也是近80个国家和地区的第一大出口目的地，对外投资存量达到3.4万亿美元，既发展了自己，也造福了世界。

二是持续创新的中国为世界提供新动能。70年来，广交会的展品不断焕新升级，从上世纪六七十年代的农副土特产品，到八九十年代的轻工机电产品，再到现在的具身智能、智慧医疗等，可以说日新月异。这背后，是中国坚持创新发展的快速进步，也是世界科技革命和产业变革的生动缩影。近年来，中国人工智能、绿色能源、生物医药等领域的新技术新产品新业态持续涌现，为世界经济增添新动力、打开新空间。

三是重信守诺的中国为世界注入确定性。70年来，无论国际局势如何变化，广交会从未间断，对“重合同、守信用”的办会原则奉行不渝。这背后，是中国“言必信、行必果”的价值追求，也是国际社会对中国的认可信任。中国长期保持政策稳定性连续性，坚定履行降低关税水平、加强发展援助、应对气候变化等各方面承诺，在动荡变革的世界中展现出大国的责任担当。

纵观这70年，广交会之所以能够经受住国际风云变幻的考验，不断焕发新的生机活力，正是因为始终顺应经济全球化的大势、始终响应国际社会携手发展的期盼。这其中蕴含着一些朴素而深刻的启示，值得我们深入思考。这里我想分享三点体会，同大家交流。

第一，市场联通不是国与国博弈工具，而是创造增量的有效举措。这些年，全球各类人为市场壁垒明显增多，有的甚至把经贸问题政治化、工具化、武器化，然而将这些外衣层层剥下，就会发现，保护主义总是深藏其中。理论和实践已经充分证明，市场从来就不是一成不变的，而更像一张四通八达的网络，只

when connected to more such networks, can a market achieve economy of scale, match supply with demand more efficiently, and create more value and space. Protectionism may seem effective for a country to sustain its market, but it also makes it impossible for the country to broaden its market. Worse still, it may even lose its place in the new global network of markets. At the end of the day, protectionism will only produce more losses than gains.

Throughout the years, China has been committed to integrating its domestic market with the international markets for joint growth. China has been the second largest importer in the world for 17 consecutive years, exceeding RMB 18 trillion yuan last year, and growing by another 22.3 percent in the first three quarters this year. Decades have passed since China opened itself to the world, yet its market has not contracted. Instead, the introduction of new products and industries from other countries, such as automobiles and home appliances, has unlocked and cultivated new market demands. Meanwhile, the export of quality Chinese products, especially innovative products, is opening up new space for the global marketplace. China is ready to work with all countries to build an open world economy and strengthen market connectivity so as to make the global market bigger and deliver greater benefits to all.

Second, international trade is not just statistics in the books, but a voluntary choice aimed to improve people's well-being. Recently, there have been quite some discussions about the issue of trade balance globally. The laws of economics tell us that a balanced position in trade is temporary and relative, while an imbalanced position is more common and non-static. This is determined by countries' differences in comparative strengths, economic structures, distribution of labor, and other variables. We need to see that trade is mutually beneficial in nature. One cannot simply view surplus as "taking advantage" and deficit as "being ripped off." A balanced trade would naturally arrive when the parties can satisfy their respective demands through positive interactions. It is not achieved by building walls, setting up barriers, or even suppressing and containing others. It is simply unrealistic to impose export control on others while looking for balanced trade at the same time. Such a practice will only push up costs, disrupt industrial and supply chains, and further aggravate the imbalance. What we need is "upward balance" achieved by opening up wider and making the economic pie bigger, not "downward balance" resulting from market closure and the inevitable market contraction that follows.

Some current discussions about China's trade focus on import and export statistics, but overlook the real effects behind them. China is both a "super seller" and a "super buyer." As a "super seller," China brings benefits to its trading partners. Quality, affordable goods made by diligent Chinese workers with their labor and wisdom have significantly increased the actual purchasing power of global consumers, improved their quality of life, and helped countries strengthen their capacity for industrial development. As a "super buyer," China helps to boost the prosperity of other countries. China is a major buyer of agricultural, industrial, and consumer goods from many countries, which translate into profits for local businesses, income for the people, and revenues for the governments. China never seeks surplus intentionally, not to mention the fact that most of the times, the benefits are shared by all parties, despite the surplus being recorded in China. A large number of foreign-invested enterprises in China export their products across the world and secure big returns. We would like to buy more prod-

有连接更多新的网络,才能更好地形成规模经济、更高效地匹配供给需求,才能创造更多价值、开辟更大空间。保护主义看似能守住一国市场,却也切断了市场延伸拓展的可能,更会在新的全球市场网络中失去位置,最终是得不偿失。

长期以来,中国致力于推动国内市场与国际市场不断融合、共同成长。我们的进口规模已经连续17年位居世界第二,去年超过18万亿元,今年前三季度又增长22.3%。中国开放了这么多年,市场不仅没有缩小,反而伴随引入各国的汽车、家电等新产品新产业,发掘培育了更多新的市场需求。同时,中国出口的优质产品特别是一些创新产品,也在持续推动全球市场拓展新的增量空间。中国愿同各国一道,继续构建开放型世界经济,加强彼此联通对接,把全球市场越做越大,让各方得到更多收益。

第二,国际贸易不是账面数字,而是增进福祉的自主选择。近段时期,国际上对贸易平衡问题的讨论不少。经济规律表明,贸易平衡是短期的、相对的,不平衡是普遍的、动态的,这是各国比较优势、经济结构、产业分工等差异决定的。我们要看到,贸易的本质是互惠互利,不能简单认为顺差就是“占便宜”、逆差就是“吃亏了”。贸易平衡是在贸易各方各取所需、良性互动中自然趋近的,而不是靠筑墙设垒甚至打压遏制。如果一边搞出口管制,一边指望贸易平衡,这是不现实的,反而会推高成本、扰乱供应链,进一步加剧不平衡。我们需要的,是扩大开放、共同做大“蛋糕”的“向上平衡”,而不是封闭市场、必将导致萎缩的“向下平衡”。

现在一些人谈及中国贸易,往往只看到进出口数字,而没有关注到背后的真实效应。中国既是“超级卖家”,也是“超级买家”。作为“超级卖家”,我们给各方带来的更多是“惠邻效应”。无数勤劳的中国劳动者用汗水智慧铸就的高性价比商品,大幅提升了全球消费者的实际购买力,提高了各国民众生活质量,增强了相关国家的产业发展能力。作为“超级买家”,我们给各方带来的更多是“富邻效应”。很多国家的农产品、工业品、消费品源源不断销往中国,转化为当地企业利润、居民工资和政府税收。中国从不刻意追求顺差,更何况现在很多时候是“顺差在中国,利益在各方”,大量在华外资企业产品出口全球、