

China nsight

Illustrated Guide to the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee



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Basic Information of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee



Time: From July 15 to 18, 2024



Place: Beijing



Attendance:

A total of 199 members and 165 alternate members of the Central Committee attended the session. Members of the Standing Committee of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and leading officials from other relevant departments were present at the meeting in a non-voting capacity. Some of our colleagues working at the primary level and a number of experts and scholars who were delegates to the 20th National Party Congress also attended the meeting in a non-voting capacity.



Agenda:

At the session, the Central Committee heard and discussed a report on the work of the Political Bureau, presented by Xi Jinping on behalf of the Political Bureau, and considered and adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization. Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft version of the resolution.



Communiqué of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China



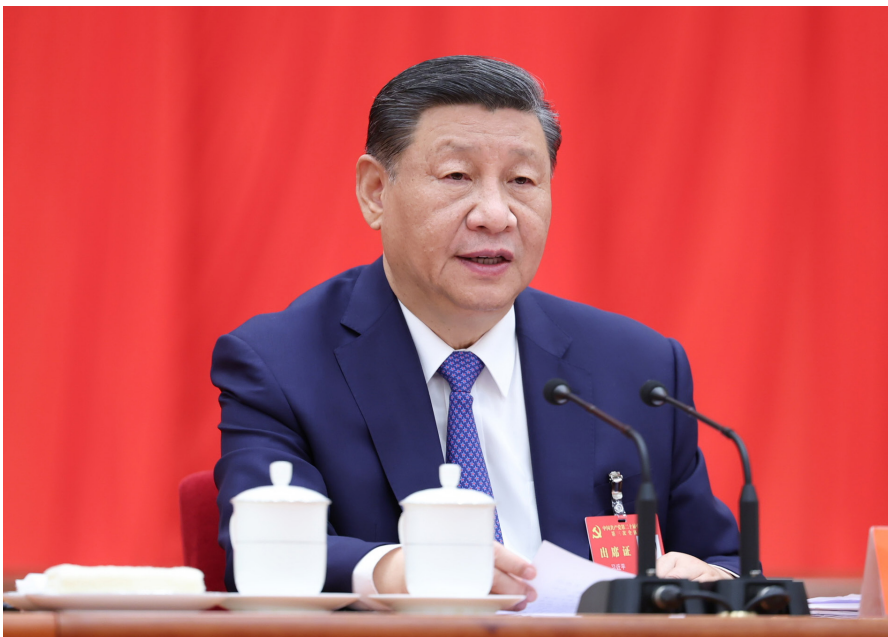
Resolution of CPC Central Committee on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization



Explanation of resolution of CPC Central Committee on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization

Outcomes of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee

CPC Central Committee Adopts Resolution on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an important address at the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Beijing, capital of China. The plenary session was held from July 15 to 18, 2024 (XINHUA)

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted a resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization at its third plenary session held in Beijing from July 15 to 18, 2024.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presided over the meeting. General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping delivered important addresses, according to a communique released on July 18, 2024.

At the session, the Central Committee heard and discussed a report on the work of the Political Bureau, presented by Xi on

behalf of the Political Bureau, and considered and adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization. Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft version of the resolution.

The overall objectives of further deepening reform comprehensively are to continue improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance, according to the communique.

"By 2035, we will have finished building a high-standard socialist market economy

in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized our system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization," it said.

All of this will lay a solid foundation for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century, it noted.

The reform tasks laid out in the resolution shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th founding anniversary in 2029, said the communique.

The Central Committee made systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively, it added.

In building a high-standard socialist market economy, the role of the market must be better leveraged, with a fairer and more dynamic market environment to be fostered and resource allocation to be made as efficient and productive as possible. Restrictions on the market will be lifted while effective regulation will be ensured to better maintain order in the market and remedy market failures, said the communique.

In promoting high-quality development, the communique urged deepening supply-side structural reform, improving incentive and constraint mechanisms for promoting high-quality development, and creating new drivers and strengths for realizing growth.

"We will improve the institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy, for developing the service sector, for modernizing infrastructure, and for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains," it stated.

In supporting all-around innovation, the



The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee is held in Beijing, capital of China. The plenary session was held from July 15 to 18, 2024 (XINHUA)

Party will deepen comprehensive reform in education, structural scientific and technological reform, and institutional reforms for talent development.

In improving macroeconomic governance, the communique urged pursuing coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors and enhancing the consistency of macro policy orientation, with the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms to be improved.

On integrated urban and rural development, the Party must promote equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between the cities and the countryside, so as to narrow the disparities between the two and promote their common prosperity and development, according to the communique. Reform of the land system will be deepened, it added.

Describing opening up as a "defining feature of Chinese modernization," the communique said that the Party will "steadily expand institutional opening up, deepen the foreign trade structural reform, further reform the management systems for inward and outward investment, improve planning for regional opening up, and refine the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative."

On developing whole-process people's democracy, it said: "We must firmly stay on the path of socialist political advancement

with Chinese characteristics and uphold and improve our country's foundational, basic, and important political systems."

On the rule of law, efforts were demanded to ensure full implementation of the Constitution and uphold its authority, coordinate the reforms to promote sound legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, and observance of the law, and improve the mechanisms for ensuring that all are equal before the law.

The communique urged boosting cultural confidence and working to develop advanced socialist culture, promote revolutionary culture, and carry forward fine traditional Chinese culture.

In ensuring and enhancing the people's wellbeing, the Party will improve the income distribution system, the employment-first policy, and the social security system, further reform the medical and healthcare systems, and improve the systems for facilitating population development and providing related services.

On ecological conservation, the communique said: "We must improve ecological conservation systems, take a coordinated approach to carbon cutting, pollution reduction, green development, and economic growth, actively respond to climate change, and move faster to improve the systems and mechanisms for applying the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets."

On national security, it noted that the Party must fully apply a holistic approach to national security, improve the institutions and mechanisms for safeguarding national security, and ensure that high-quality development and greater security reinforce each other, so as to effectively safeguard the country's stability and security over the long term.

On national defense, the communique urged maintaining the Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces and fully implementing the strategy of strengthening the military through reform to provide a strong guarantee for realizing the goals for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army in 2027 and achieving basic modernization of national defense and the armed forces.

In improving the Party's leadership, it said: "We must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era."

The communique stressed that Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. "In foreign relations, China remains firmly committed to pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future," it noted.

Studying and implementing the guiding principles from the session represent a major political task for the entire Party and nation both at the present and for some time to come, according to the communique.

The session conducted an analysis of the present situation and the tasks the Party faces, urging firm commitment to accomplishing the goals for this year's economic and social development.

Both development and security must be ensured, with various measures to be implemented for preventing and defusing risks in real estate, local government debt, small and medium financial institutions, and other key areas, the communique said.

According to the communique, the session decided to accept Comrade Qin Gang's resignation from the Central Committee, and confirmed the Political Bureau's earlier decision to expel Li Shangfu, Li Yuchao and Sun Jinming from the Party.

A total of 199 members and 165 alternate members of the Central Committee attended the session. **C**

Key Points of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization

I. Great Significance and Overall Requirements

(1) Importance and necessity

Advancing reform is essential for upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance, for putting the new development philosophy into practice and better adapting to the evolution in the principal contradiction in Chinese society, and for adhering to a people-centered approach to see that the gains of modernization benefit all our people fairly. It is also crucial for responding to major risks and challenges and ensuring steady and sustained progress in the cause of the Party and the country, for promoting the development of a human community with a shared future and winning the strategic initiative amid accelerating global changes of a like not seen in a century, and for further advancing the great new project of Party building in the new era and making our Marxist party stronger.

(2) Guiding philosophy

We must stay committed to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development and fully implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must thoroughly study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's new ideas, viewpoints, and conclusions on comprehensively deepening reform and fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts. We will channel greater energy into making our reforms integrated, focused, and effective.

(3) Overall objectives

We will continue to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance. By 2035, we will have finished building a high-standard socialist market economy

in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized our system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization. All of this will lay a solid foundation for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century.

In particular, we will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Building a high-standard socialist market economy.
- Advancing whole-process people's democracy.
- Developing a strong socialist culture in China.
- Improving the people's quality of life.
- Building a Beautiful China.
- Advancing the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level.
- Improving the Party's capacity for leadership and long-term governance.

The reform tasks laid out in this resolution shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2029.

(4) Guiding principles

Upholding the Party's overall leadership.

Adhering to a people-centered approach.

Upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground.

Strengthening institutional building as our main task.

Staying committed to law-based governance on all fronts.

Applying systems thinking.

II. Building a High-Standard Socialist Market Economy

A high-standard socialist market economy provides an important guarantee for Chinese modernization. We must

better leverage the role of the market, foster a fairer and more dynamic market environment, and make resource allocation as efficient and productive as possible. We need to lift restrictions on the market while ensuring effective regulation and strive to better maintain order in the market and remedy market failures. By doing so, we will ensure smooth flows in the national economy and unleash the internal driving forces and creativity of the whole of society.

(5) Upholding and fulfilling the commitments to the public and non-public sectors

(6) Building a unified national market

(7) Refining the systems underpinning the market economy

III. Promoting High-Quality Economic Development

High-quality development is our primary task in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects. It is essential that we apply the new development philosophy to steer reform and ground our efforts in the new stage of development. We must deepen supply-side structural reform, improve incentive and constraint mechanisms for promoting high-quality development, and strive to create new growth drivers and strengths.

(8) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions

(9) Improving the systems for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy

(10) Refining the institutions and mechanisms for developing the service sector

(11) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for modernizing infrastructure

(12) Improving the systems for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains

IV. Supporting All-Around Innovation

Education, science and technology, and talent function as basic and strategic underpinnings for Chinese modernization. We must fully implement the strategy of invigorating China through science and education, the strategy of developing a quality workforce, and the innovation-driven development strategy, make coordinated efforts to promote integrated reform of institutions and mechanisms

pertaining to education, science and technology, and talent, and improve the new system for mobilizing resources nationwide, so as to boost the overall performance of our country's innovation system.

(13) Deepening comprehensive reform in education

(14) Deepening scientific and technological structural reform

(15) Deepening institutional reforms for talent development

V. Improving Macroeconomic Governance

Sound macro regulation, along with effective governance by the government, is essential for ensuring that we can fully leverage the institutional strengths of our socialist market economy. It is, therefore, vital that we improve our macro regulation systems. We must pursue coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors and work to enhance the consistency of macro policy orientation.

(16) Improving the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms

(17) Deepening reform of the fiscal and tax systems

(18) Deepening reform of the financial system

(19) Improving mechanisms for implementing the coordinated regional development strategy

VI. Promoting Integrated Urban-Rural Development

Integrated urban and rural development is essential to Chinese modernization. We must pursue coordinated progress in new industrialization, new urbanization, and all-around rural revitalization, facilitate greater urban-rural integration in planning, development, and governance across the board, and promote equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between urban and rural areas, so as to narrow the disparities between the two and promote their shared prosperity and development.

(20) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for advancing new urbanization

(21) Consolidating and improving the basic rural operation system

(22) Improving supporting systems to strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas

(23) Deepening reform of the land system

VII. Pursuing High-Standard Opening Up

Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. We must remain committed to the basic state policy of opening to the outside world and continue to promote reform through opening up. Leveraging the strengths of China's enormous market, we will enhance our capacity for opening up while expanding international cooperation and develop new institutions for a higher-standard open economy.

(24) Steadily expanding institutional opening up

(25) Deepening the foreign trade structural reform

(26) Further reforming the management systems for inward and outward investment

(27) Optimizing the layout for regional opening up

(28) Improving the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative

VIII. Advancing Whole-Process People's Democracy

Developing whole-process people's democracy is integral to Chinese modernization. We must firmly stay on the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics and uphold and improve our country's foundational, basic, and important political systems. We will develop diverse forms of democracy at all levels and ensure that the principle of the people running the country is manifested in concrete and visible ways in all aspects of China's political and social activities.

(29) Strengthening the institutions through which the people run the country

(30) Improving the mechanisms for consultative democracy

(31) Enhancing democracy at the primary level

(32) Building a broad united front

IX. Promoting Socialist Rule of Law with Chinese Characteristics

The rule of law provides an important guarantee for Chinese modernization. We must ensure full implementation of the Constitution and uphold its authority, coordinate the reforms to promote sound legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, and observance of the law, and improve the

mechanisms for ensuring that all are equal before the law, so as to promote socialist rule of law, uphold social fairness and justice, and see that all work of the state is carried out under the rule of law.

(33) Deepening reforms in legislation

(34) Advancing law-based government administration

(35) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for impartial law enforcement and administration of justice

(36) Improving the mechanisms for building a law-based society

(37) Strengthening the rule of law in foreign-related affairs

X. Deepening Reform in the Cultural Sector

Chinese modernization is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement. We must boost our cultural confidence and work to develop advanced socialist culture, promote revolutionary culture, and carry forward fine traditional Chinese culture. We must move faster to stay abreast of new dramatic developments in information technology, cultivate a vast pool of talented personnel in the field of culture, and ignite the cultural creativity of the entire nation.

(38) Improving the responsibility system for ideological work

(39) Refining the mechanisms for supplying cultural services and products

(40) Improving the system for comprehensive cyberspace governance

(41) Establishing a more effective international communication system

XI. Ensuring and Improving the People's Wellbeing

Ensuring and enhancing the people's wellbeing in the course of development is one of the major tasks of Chinese modernization. In line with the principle of doing everything within our means, we will refine the systems of basic public services, with the focus on providing inclusive services, meeting essential needs, and providing a cushion for those most in need. We will strive to resolve the most practical problems that are of the greatest and most direct concern to the people so as to meet people's aspirations for a better life.

(42) Improving the income distribution system

- (43) Improving the employment-first policy**
- (44) Improving the social security system**
- (45) Further reforming the medical and healthcare systems**
- (46) Improving the systems for supporting population development and providing related services**

XII. Deepening Reform in Ecological Conservation

Chinese modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature. We must work to improve ecological conservation systems and make concerted efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, and boost economic growth. We must actively respond to climate change and move faster to improve the institutions and mechanisms for applying the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

- (47) Improving the basic systems for ecological conservation**
- (48) Improving environmental governance systems**
- (49) Improving the mechanisms for green and low-carbon development**

XIII. Modernizing China's National Security System and Capacity

National security provides a pivotal foundation for ensuring steady and sustained progress in Chinese modernization. We must fully apply a holistic approach to national security, improve the institutions and mechanisms for safeguarding national security, and ensure that high-quality development and greater security reinforce each other, so as to safeguard the country's long-term stability and security.

- (50) Improving the national security system**
- (51) Improving the public security governance mechanisms**
- (52) Improving the social governance system**
- (53) Improving the mechanisms for ensuring national security in foreign-related affairs**

XIV. Deepening National Defense and Military Reform

National defense and military modernization is an integral part of Chinese modernization. We must maintain the

Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces and fully implement the strategy of strengthening the military through reform, in order to provide a strong guarantee for realizing the centenary goal of the People's Liberation Army in 2027 and basically modernizing national defense and the armed forces.

- (54) Improving the institutions and mechanisms for leading and managing the people's armed forces**
- (55) Deepening reform of joint operations systems**
- (56) Deepening military-civilian reforms**

XV. Improving the Party's Leadership

Leadership by the Party provides a fundamental guarantee for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. We must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must be more conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership. We must stay confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must uphold Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership.

We must maintain a keen awareness of the need to use the Party's self-reform to steer social reform and continue to apply both the spirit of reform and rigorous standards in conducting Party self-governance. We will improve the systems and regulations for the Party's self-reform and continue working to purify, improve, renew, and excel ourselves. All this will enable our Party to remain the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

- (57) Upholding the Party Central Committee's centralized, unified leadership over the endeavor to further deepen reform comprehensively**
- (58) Deepening institutional reforms related to Party building**
- (59) Intensifying efforts to improve conduct, build integrity, and combat corruption**
- (60) Ensuring the implementation of reforms with relentless perseverance**

Xi Jinping's Expositions on Comprehensively Deepening Reform and Opening up and Injecting Sustained and Strong Impetus into Chinese Modernization

The following are excerpts from General Secretary Xi Jinping's expositions on comprehensively deepening reform and opening up and injecting sustained and strong impetus into Chinese modernization from December 2012 to March 2024. Originally appeared in *Qiushi Journal*, Chinese edition, No. 10, 2024.

2012

Reform and opening up has been crucial in making China what it is today, and will remain crucial to achieving the Two Centenary Goals and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. As vital today as it ever was, reform and opening up, along with the development of our practice and the freeing of minds, are processes without end; halting or reversing our course will lead us nowhere. Although there are great difficulties to be faced in carrying out reform, we cannot afford to not reform. We need to be courageous, adhere to the correct direction of reform and opening up, grapple with the toughest of problems, and brave the most treacherous waters. We must summon the courage to break through fixed ways of thinking, smash the barriers of entrenched interests, and never pause or falter in pressing ahead with reform and opening up.

—Excerpt from a collection of speeches given during a visit to Guangdong Province (December 7-11, 2012)

Reform and opening up is revolutionary and must move in the right direction along the right path.

The direction determines the path, and the path determines the future. What is most important for the success of China's reform and opening up is that we take our Party's basic line as the lifeline of the Party and the country. In building socialism with Chinese characteristics, we have always kept economic development as our central focus while adhering to the two basic points of upholding the Four Cardinal Principles and carrying out reform and opening up. We have rejected the old and rigid closed-door policy as well as the erroneous path of abandoning socialism.

—Excerpt from a speech at the second group study session of the Political Bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee (December 31, 2012)

2013

We will remain committed to improving and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance as our overall objective for comprehensively deepening reform. In 1992, Deng Xiaoping said that it would probably take another 30 years for us to build a complete set of mature and established institutions. On the basis of his strategic thought,

the decision is made at this Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee to modernize China's system and capacity for governance.

This is necessary for improving and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, and is an inseparable part of our efforts to achieve socialist modernization. We decided that this plenary session would focus on comprehensively deepening reform; not on pushing forward reform in just one or two particular areas, but in all areas. We made this decision based on our overall thinking about improving China's system and capacity for governance.

—Excerpt from a speech at the second meeting of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee (November 12, 2013)

The people are the ones who make history, and they are the source of our strength. The most fundamental reason the people wholeheartedly support and actively participate in reform and opening up is that from the very beginning we have deeply rooted it among them. The resolution made at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee incorporates valuable experience accumulated through reform and opening up. A very important lesson derived from this is to stress the necessity of always putting the people first, respecting their principal position, giving free rein to their creativity, and relying heavily on them in carrying out reform. Without the people's support and participation, no reform can possibly succeed, but with it, we can overcome any difficulties and challenges we may encounter. Therefore, as we implement the Party's mass line, we need to maintain close affinity with the people, stand alongside the people through times of hardship and times of

joy, and mount a common effort with the people.

—Excerpt from a speech at the second meeting of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee (November 12, 2013)

To uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, we must adjust the relations of production to adapt to the development of productive forces and improve the superstructure to adapt to the economic base. After 35 years of reform and opening up, we have made major achievements in social and economic development. The fundamental reason is that we have unlocked the vitality of productive forces through adjusting the relations of production and adapted to the development of the economic base through improving the superstructure. This is also why we conduct reforms of economic, political, cultural, and social systems and those pertaining to ecological conservation and development of our Party.

In emphasizing reform, we are committed to promoting social development by adapting to the changes in the movement of the basic social contradictions. The basic social contradictions are always developing, so we need to keep adjusting the relations of production and improving the superstructure. I have said that the evolution of our practice, the freeing of minds, and reform and opening up are processes without end. Reform and opening up is an ongoing process that will never be complete. This is in line with historical materialism.

—Excerpt from a speech at the 11th group study session of the Political Bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee (December 3, 2013)

As early as when we were considering the agenda for the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, we decided to adopt a plan for

comprehensively deepening reform rather than just focusing on the reform of economic structure or economic and social structures. We made this decision because it would be very difficult to solve the outstanding problems and difficulties we face through reform confined to one sector or one level. It is necessary to strengthen top-level design and overall planning, and make reforms more interconnected, more systemic, and better coordinated. To produce an all-around effect, we have to solve the problem of the relations of production being out of synch with the productive forces, and of the super-structure not meshing with the economic base.

—Excerpt from a speech at the 11th group study session of the Political Bureau of the 18th CPC Central Committee (December 3, 2013)

2014

It is no easy job to advance reform in a country like China with a population of over 1.3 billion. After more than 30 years, China's reform has entered a more critical phase. The easy reforms that make everyone happy have all been completed. The choice cuts have been eaten, and all that is left now is hard nuts to crack. This requires us to be courageous and take sure steps. Being courageous means pressing ahead no matter how difficult reform is, daring to take responsibility, grappling with the toughest of problems, and braving the most treacherous waters. Taking sure steps means being certain of our orientation and maintaining stability as we move ahead, taking particular care not to make catastrophic mistakes.

—Part of an exclusive interview with Russia TV (February 7, 2014)

What direction should we be taking in moderniz-

ing China's system and capacity for governance? This is a fundamental question that demands a correct answer. In considering this question, we must fully understand the overall objective of comprehensively deepening reform. This objective is comprised of two parts: to improve and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics; and to modernize China's system and capacity for governance. The relationship between the two is very important.

—Excerpt from a speech at the Seminar for Principal Officials at the Provincial and Ministerial Level on Studying and Implementing the Guiding Principles of the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee and on Comprehensively Deepening Reform (February 17, 2014)

2016

All local authorities and central departments should develop a holistic view of reform and maintain a strong sense of responsibility, making reform a political priority. With strong resolve and confidence in reform, they should take a more proactive approach to reform both in thinking and through action, simultaneously promoting and implementing reform. They should work tenaciously to implement reforms with targeted and persistent efforts, and dare to take on the toughest problems until they have achieved their goals.

—Excerpt from a speech at the 21st meeting of the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reform (February 23, 2016)

2017

We will continue to comprehensively deepen reform. Only with socialism can we save China; only with reform and opening up can we develop China, develop socialism, and develop Marxism. We must

uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and continue to modernize China's system and capacity for governance. We must have the determination to get rid of all outdated thinking and ideas and all institutional ailments, and to break through the blockades of vested interests. We should draw on the achievements of other civilizations, develop a set of institutions that are well conceived, fully built, procedure-based, and efficiently functioning, and do full justice to the strengths of China's socialist system.

—Excerpt from the Report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (October 18, 2017)

2018

It is precisely the belief in reform and openness that makes Chinese civilization the only one in human history to have stretched on for more than 5,000 years without interruption. This belief is expressed in many traditional Chinese sayings. For example, "As Heaven maintains vigor through movement, a man of virtue should never cease to pursue self-improvement; as the Earth is vast and receptive, a man of virtue should continually cultivate the virtue to bear all things." A review of the past several thousand years shows that reform and openness have been the norm throughout China's history. Such a profound historical and cultural heritage indicates that the Chinese nation will continue to embrace the future in the same way: through reform and opening up.

—Excerpt from a speech at a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up (December 18, 2018)

2019

We have taken comprehensive steps to further reform with unprecedented determination and strength. As we traversed dangerous rapids and broke down one barrier after another, we pushed forward reform across the board, achieving breakthroughs in multiple areas. Moreover, the principal frameworks for reform in major areas have generally been established, enabling the vigorous promotion of all kinds of undertakings.

—Excerpt from a speech at the meeting reviewing further reform of Party and state institutions (July 5, 2019)

When making plans for furthering reform comprehensively in the new era, we must focus on upholding and improving Chinese socialism and modernizing the state governance system and capacity, with a deep understanding of the requirements for national development and the trends of the times. To achieve this, we will continue to reform systems and mechanisms in all sectors and areas, ensuring that our institutions become more mature and better-defined, and thus modernize the state governance system and capacity.

—Excerpt from the Note to the Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Upholding and Improving Chinese Socialist System and Modernizing State Governance System and Capacity (October 28, 2019)

2020

We must reaffirm our conviction, pool our strengths and make persistent efforts to press ahead with reform in the new development stage, so that greater breakthroughs and contributions can be made.

—Excerpt from a speech at the 17th meeting of the Central Commission for Deepening Reform (December 30, 2020)

2022

We must remain committed to deepening reform and opening up. We must intensify efforts to advance reform and explore new ground, and we must remain steadfast in expanding opening up. We must work hard to remove deep-seated institutional barriers so as to fully tap into the strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics and continuously imbue our socialist modernization endeavors with fresh dynamism and vitality. We must do better in translating our country's institutional strengths into effective governance.

—Excerpt from the Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (October 16, 2022)

We must utilize reform effectively as a crucial tool to develop the socialist market economy, make such reform more systematic, integrated, coordinated, and efficient, and consolidate and further our reform achievements in removing institutional obstacles and creating new policies, so that new breakthroughs can be made in key areas and critical links.

—Excerpt from a speech at the First Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee (October 23, 2022)

2023

We must uphold and improve China's basic socialist economic system. To this end, we will further reform state-owned capital and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and strengthen the core competitiveness of SOEs. We will provide an enabling environment for private enterprises to boost their confidence and facilitate their growth. We will improve the modern corporate system with distinctive Chinese features, put in

place a high-standard market system, improve the system of macroeconomic governance, and ensure that the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation and that the government better plays its role. We will strengthen and refine modern financial regulation, reinforce the systems that safeguard financial stability, and conduct law-based regulation and guidance to promote the healthy development of capital. We will pursue high-standard opening up. To do so, we will steadily expand institutional opening up with respect to rules, regulations, management, and standards. We will push for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative. While prioritizing economic reforms, we should also make overall plans for reforms in the fields of education, science and technology, human resources, politics, the rule of law, culture, society, ecological conservation, national security, and Party development.

—Excerpt from a speech at the second meeting of the Second Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee (February 28, 2023)

As we strive to achieve our goals on the journey in this new era, deepening reform across the board is not only the fundamental driving force for Chinese modernization but also the basic method for maintaining overall stability, responding to changes, and opening up new vistas. We must pinpoint the correct direction, uphold fundamental principles and break new ground, and make concrete efforts so as to write a new chapter in reform and opening up on the new journey.

—Excerpt from a speech at the first meeting of the 20th Central Commission for Deepening Reform (April 21, 2023)

Reform and opening up is China's decisive move that has enabled it to make great strides in catching up with the times. It is also crucial to the success of Chinese modernization. Thus, in advancing Chinese modernization, we must further comprehensively deepen reform and opening up so as to continuously unleash and develop our productive forces, and unlock and boost social dynamism. It is imperative to adapt to the new trends of the times, meet the new requirements of development, and fulfill the new expectations of the people. Steeling our resolve to see reform through, we must have the courage to tackle the toughest problems to achieve real results, and put in targeted, coordinated, and persistent efforts to remove all institutional obstacles that impede the smooth progress of Chinese modernization.

—Excerpt from a speech at a meeting to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong (December 26, 2023)

2024

It is imperative to further structural reforms both in the economy and in science and technology in order to remove any impediment to the development of new quality productive forces. We also need to develop a high-standard market system and allocate factors of production in innovative ways so that they can flow smoothly toward the development of new quality productive forces. Meanwhile, high-level opening up must be expanded to create a sound international environment for the development of new quality productive forces.

—Excerpt from a speech at the 11th group study session of the Political Bureau of the 20th CPC Central Committee (January 31, 2024)

It is essential to deepen reform and opening up across the board in order to boost the internal momentum and vitality of development. We will plan major measures to further deepen reform on all fronts, so as to continuously inject strong impetus into the endeavor to promote high-quality development and advance Chinese modernization. We will improve and implement the institutions and mechanisms to firmly consolidate and develop the public sector and encourage, support and guide the healthy development of the non-public sector. We will deepen the reform of systems involving science and technology, education and professional personnel, and work to remove barriers obstructing the development of new quality productive forces. We will step up institutional opening up. We will continue to create a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized so as to foster new strengths for a higher-level open economy.

—Excerpt from a speech at the deliberation session of the Jiangsu delegation to the Second Session of the 14th National People's Congress (March 5, 2024)

A problem-oriented approach should be adopted when furthering all-round reform. Efforts should focus on overcoming the bottlenecks and obstacles constraining the creation of a new development pattern and the promotion of high-quality development, responding to the challenges and difficulties related to the environment for development and people's well-being, and addressing the key hot issues that conflict with social fairness and justice, so as to effectively prevent and mitigate major risks. In this way, we will provide engines and energy for economic and social development.

—Excerpt from remarks on an inspection tour to Hunan Province (March 21, 2024)

Key Points of Press Conference of Central Committee of the CPC



The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) holds a press conference on the guiding principles from the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee on July 19, 2024 (XINHUA)

The session's most important achievement

The session's most important achievement is the consideration and adoption of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization.

The drafting of the resolution

The drafting of the resolution was conducted under the leadership of the Party Central Committee. General Secretary Xi Jinping was head of the drafting group. He personally steered the process, organized surveys, delivered guidance, and set the directions, playing a decisive role throughout the process.

The resolution

The resolution consists of 60 items in 15 parts and is divided into three major sections. The first section is an overview, highlighting the great significance of and the general requirements for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. The second section presents a detailed account of comprehensive arrangements for reform across all fields and aspects, with economic structural reform as the spearhead. The third section mainly addresses strengthening the Party's leadership over reform and deepening institutional reforms related to Party building. The resolution puts forward over 300 important reform measures, all of which pertain to systems and mechanisms. Some of these measures are designed to improve and enhance past reform practices, while others are new initiatives driven by practical needs and based on pilot efforts and explorations.

Position of the resolution

It has been agreed that the resolution carries forward steps for comprehensively deepening reform since the third plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. It is seen as a new chapter for advancing Chinese modernization on the new journey and another important guiding document in the history of our Party.

Evident achievements in further deepening reform comprehensively in the new era

First, the strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics have been consolidated and developed. Our foundational systems have been increasingly reinforced, basic systems have been continuously improved, and innovations in important systems have yielded fruitful results.

Second, a strong impetus has been injected into economic development, driving China's economy toward high-quality development.

Third, historic, systemic, and holistic transformations have been achieved in many fields, and China's system and capacity for governance have been further modernized.

Fourth, the people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security has continued to improve.

Fifth, the Party has strengthened itself through revolution and grown stronger.

Key reform measures for accelerating the development of a high-standard market system

First, it aims to build a unified national market. This includes establishing a unified urban-rural construction land market, building a nationwide integrated technology and data market, developing a standardized and information-sharing platform for bidding and public resource transactions, implementing cohesive circulation rules and standards, and forming an integrated national electricity market.

Second, it aims to advance reforms for the market-based allocation of production factors by improving the systems and rules governing labor, capital, land, knowledge, technology, management and data.

Third, it seeks to refine the systems underpinning the market economy. This includes improving mechanisms

for property rights protection, information disclosure, market access, bankruptcy exit, and credit supervision. The market economy is essentially a law-based economy.

The resolution emphasizes preventing and rectifying the use of administrative means or criminal law to interfere with economic disputes. It also stresses that the violations of property rights and legitimate interests across all forms of ownership are subject to equal responsibility, penalties and legal consequences.

Improve the institutions and mechanisms for promoting integrated urban-rural development

Focusing on promoting people-centered new urbanization, the resolution proposes implementing a system where basic public services are provided based on household registration at the place of permanent residence, and accelerating the process of granting urban residency to rural migrants.

In order to continuously consolidate and expand the achievements of poverty alleviation, and strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas, the resolution proposes improving the regular mechanism to prevent rural populations from falling back into poverty, establishing a tiered and categorized support system for low-income rural populations and underdeveloped areas, coordinating the establishment of a trans-provincial compensation mechanism between grain-producing and grain-consuming regions, improving the funding mechanism for rural revitalization, and fostering new industries and new business formats in rural areas.

Promote high-standard opening up

The resolution calls for proactively aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules, steadily expanding institutional opening up, and developing new mechanisms for a higher-standard open economy. It proposes expanding unilateral openness to the least developed countries and increasing independent opening up.

It also calls for the orderly expansion of the openness of goods, services, capital and labor markets. Additionally, the resolution proposes improving systems to provide more convenience for people from overseas to live, seek medical services and make payments in China. The resolution also calls for coordinating the advancement of

major landmark projects and “small yet impactful” livelihood projects, promoting high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and turning China’s vast market into an excellent opportunity for the world.

Deepen reforms in ecological conservation

The resolution emphasizes the need to accelerate the improvement and implementation of mechanisms and systems that embody the principle that “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets,” while calling for establishing mechanisms to realize the value of ecological products.

The resolution also underscores the planning and construction of a new energy system, and developing a carbon accounting and verification system, a product carbon labeling and certification system, and a product carbon footprint management system.

Deepen structural scientific and technological reform

The resolution emphasizes the need to optimize the organizational mechanisms for major scientific and technological innovations, to strengthen building our country’s strength in strategic science and technology, and to step up coordinated efforts to secure breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields.

It calls for improving the management of science and technology initiatives, strengthening the forward-looking and pioneering planning in basic research fields, interdisciplinary frontier areas, and key areas.

With an eye on the comprehensive integration of scientific and technological innovation and industrial innovation, the resolution reinforces the principal role of enterprises and promotes closer enterprise-led collaboration between industries, universities, and research institutes.

It asks us to deepen the reform of the mechanism for applying scientific and technological achievements and build a technology finance system that is compatible with scientific and technological innovation.

Develop whole-process people’s democracy

The plenary session stressed that developing whole-

process people’s democracy is integral to Chinese modernization. It made important arrangements for “advancing whole-process people’s democracy” and put forward reform tasks to strengthen the institutions through which the people run the country, improve the mechanisms for consultative democracy, enhance the institutions of democracy at the primary level, and build a broad united front. The overall requirement is: We must firmly stay on the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics and uphold and improve our country’s foundational, basic, and important political systems. We must diversify the forms of democracy at all levels and ensure that the principle of the people running the country is manifested in concrete and visible ways in all aspects of China’s political and social activities.

The plenary session made important arrangements for “promoting socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics”

It emphasized focusing on developing the system of the rule of law to systematically advance the rule of law in China. This entails forming a complete set of legal norms, efficient enforcement measures, rigorous oversight mechanisms, effective legal protections, and a complete body of internal Party regulations at a higher level.

Uphold the Party Central Committee’s centralized, unified leadership over the endeavor to further deepen reform across the board

The resolution emphasizes the Party Central Committee’s leadership in designing reform on an overall basis, arranging and coordinating reforms of different sectors, and pushing forward reforms as a whole, and encourages various regions and departments to innovate with their own realities and create replicable and generalizable new experiences. It proposes to effectively implement the Party’s mass line in the new era, fully incorporating social expectations, the wisdom of the masses, expert opinions, and grassroots experience into the design of reform. It proposes to set the reform agenda around solving prominent issues, optimize the mechanism for generating key reform plans, and discover problems and correct deviations promptly.

CPC's Third Plenums Since 1978

- **The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC (1978)**
The meeting laid out China's working focus — "comprehensive reform" and "opening up."
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 12th Central Committee of the CPC (1984)**
The meeting urged to speed up economic reforms in cities, shifting the focus from the rural to urban areas.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 13th Central Committee of the CPC (1988)**
The meeting reiterated the guidelines of economic reforms and opening up. At times of chaotic economic situation and surging prices, it laid out a plan on price and wage reforms to improve the economic environment.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 14th Central Committee of the CPC (1993)**
The meeting endorsed the concept that the "socialist market economy system" was integrated with a basically socialist system, in which the market plays a fundamental role in resource allocation "with state macro control." It also urged state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to create modern enterprise mechanisms.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 15th Central Committee of the CPC (1998)**
The meeting focused on advancing rural development — mapping agricultural and rural development goals and plans, and narrowing the rural-urban income gap.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee of the CPC (2003)**
The meeting was held under the theme "new goals, new beginning" — mapping out reform and economic plans for the next 10 years and emphasizing the need to improve people's livelihood and social development.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 17th Central Committee of the CPC (2008)**
The meeting called on further rural reforms by promoting modern agricultural methods and increasing agricultural industry production capacities and public services.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC (2013)**
The meeting vowed to deepen reform, giving the market a "decisive role" and strengthening judicial reforms.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the CPC (2018)**
The meeting decided on deepening reform of Party and State institutions as well as a plan for the reform.
- **The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC (2024)**
The meeting focused on further deepening all areas of reform and advancing Chinese modernization.



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