



This aerial photo taken on December 15, 2023 shows the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in south China. The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge tour officially started on Friday. The entire Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge tour lasts approximately 140 minutes. *(Xinhua/Liu Dawei)*

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Diplomacy

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In 2023, under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, we have upheld fundamental principles while breaking new ground and forged ahead in China's external work. We have created a favorable environment for building a great modern socialist country and advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and made new contribution to maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

Successful head-of-state diplomacy has led the way and opened up new vistas in China's diplomacy. President Xi Jinping was personally involved in the planning and execution of major diplomatic actions. He chaired two diplomatic events held in China, attended three multilateral summits, made four important overseas visits and held more than 100 meetings and phone calls. With the vision of the leader of a big party and a big country, he advanced friendly cooperation and discussed global issues with his counterparts. From the extensive talks at the Kremlin to the summit in Guangzhou's Songyuan, from the "Chang'an reunion" with the leaders of Central Asian countries to the state visit to the "comradely and brotherly" neighbor, from the BRICS moment in the "rainbow nation" to the Asia-Pacific blueprint at Sunnylands, and from the FISU World University Games in Chengdu to the Asian Games in Hangzhou, the President showcased the spectacular achievements of China in the new era, strengthened the exchanges with the rest of the world, and opened up new prospects in China's foreign relations.

Head-of-state diplomacy involves not only high-level dialogues of strategic significance but also heart-to-heart communication with the people. President Xi Jinping met cordially with and held a luncheon for Dr. Henry Kissinger at Villa No.5 of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, where Kissinger stayed during his first visit to China more than five decades ago. This special arrangement reflected China's fine tradition of never forgetting old friends. President Xi Jinping also delivered an important speech to the American people, had cordial exchanges with young Vietnamese, and wrote heart-warming and encouraging letters to many foreign friends including Greek scholars, a Bangladeshi kid, South African university students, and a Cuban scientist. These communications have sown the seeds of friendship and written a new chapter of interactions and mutual understanding.

Following the guidance of head-of-state diplomacy, big strides have been made in building a community with a shared future for mankind. China and Vietnam upgraded the bilateral relationship to a community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, and the inclusion of Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in this endeavor has brought its coverage to the whole of the Indochina Peninsula and Central Asia. China is working with Cambodia and Laos on a new, five-year action plan, and has reached agreement with Malaysia, in addition to Thailand and Indonesia, adding to the good momentum toward a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future. In his visit to South Africa, President Xi Jinping announced with President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa the decision to build a high-quality China-South Africa community with a shared future, taking China-Africa relations to a new stage of jointly building a high-quality community with a shared future. Between China and Arab, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Pacific Island countries, regional-level efforts of building communities with a shared future are also making refreshing developments. Over the past decade since its inception, the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind has developed from a conceptual proposition to a scientific system, from a Chinese initiative to an international consensus, and from a promising vision to substantive actions. It has been included in resolutions of the U.N. General Assembly for seven consecutive years. Extending to various regions and covering various areas, it has served as a glorious banner leading the progress of the times.

We have promoted sound interactions with other major countries to maintain global strategic stability. Relations among major countries have a bearing on the global architecture, and major countries have special responsibilities. China is always ready to do more, to strive for more positive results, and to unequivocally oppose major-power competition and confrontation. China is committed to coordination and cooperation with other major countries to promote major-country relations featuring peaceful coexistence, overall stability, and balanced development.

How China and the United States interact with each other affects the future of humanity and the world. At the beginning of 2023 when this relationship went through serious difficulties, China stated its solemn position, urging the U.S. to change its wrong perception of China and reinstate a reasonable and pragmatic

China policy. After painstaking efforts, the two sides managed to rebuild communication and dialogue and stabilized bilateral relations from further deterioration. In November, President Xi Jinping accepted the invitation and held a historic meeting with President Joe Biden in San Francisco, during which they had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on issues of strategic and overarching importance to the direction of China-U.S. relations. President Xi Jinping incisively pointed out that for China and the United States, turning one's back on another is not an option; it is unrealistic for one side to remodel the other; and conflict and confrontation have unbearable consequences for both sides. The right way forward is to follow the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation. President Biden reaffirmed the five commitments he made in Bali, stated that the United States is glad to see prosperity in China, and that the U.S. does not seek to contain or suppress China's development or to decouple with China, and does not support "Taiwan independence." The two sides reached more than 20 deliverables, restored and established a series of dialogue and communication mechanisms, and formed the future-oriented San Francisco vision.

China continued to deepen its comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era with Russia, with a view to boosting their respective development and revitalization, and promoting world multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations. President Xi Jinping chose Russia for his first overseas trip in 2023 and held two meetings with President Vladimir Putin, showing a high level of mutual trust and providing strategic guidance for practicing true multilateralism, enhancing practical cooperation across the board and upholding global strategic stability. China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership entered its 20th year. President Xi Jinping held in-depth exchanges on multiple occasions with leaders of European countries, such as France and Germany, and EU institutions, facilitated the delivery of fruitful results in high-level dialogues in strategic, economic and trade, green and digital areas, and stayed committed to the strategic consensus that China-Europe relationship is not targeted at any third party, nor is it subjugated to or controlled by any third party. China-Australia relations returned to the right track, enabling a fresh start of the comprehensive strategic partnership and a virtuous cycle of sound and stable development. Chinese and Japanese leaders reaffirmed their commitment to comprehensively promoting a strategic relationship of mutual benefit, and agreed to properly handle existing problems to build a constructive and stable China-Japan relationship fit for the new era.

We have been firmly committed to openness and cooperation for the common prosperity of the world. Global economic recovery remains sluggish, and tendencies of de-globalization and overstretching the concept of national security are on the rise. However economic globalization is an irreversible process, and openness and cooperation are the only right way forward. China has continued to expand high-standard opening up and provide new opportunities for the world through its new progress.

Belt and Road cooperation was taken to a new stage of high-quality development. The year 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) put forth by President Xi Jinping. Ten years on, Belt and Road cooperation has extended from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America, and expanded from physical connectivity to institutional connectivity and people-to-people bonds. It has created the largest platform for international cooperation with the broadest coverage in the world. For participating countries pursuing development together, BRI sets them on a road to cooperation, a road to opportunity and a road to prosperity. In October, the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was held in Beijing. It was the most important diplomatic event hosted by China in 2023. In his keynote speech at the Forum, President Xi Jinping gave a summary of the experience drawn from BRI's success over the past decade, reaffirmed China's commitment with the announcement of eight major steps, declared a new stage of high-quality development for Belt and Road cooperation, and called on all countries to jointly pursue global modernization. Over 10,000 delegates representing 151 countries and 41 international organizations came to China to attend the BRF, and reached 458 important outcomes and 97.2 billion U.S. dollars worth of cooperation documents. As the saying goes, "The fire burns high when everyone adds wood to it." Belt and Road cooperation will surely provide enduring impetus for world economic growth and common development across the globe.

We have worked actively to provide platforms for opening up. We brought back face-to-face events, such as the China International Import Expo, the China International Consumer Products Expo, the China International Fair for Trade in Services and the Canton Fair, to share our development opportunities with countries from around the world. We made robust efforts to enhance the protection of foreign investment and intellectual property rights, and accelerated the development of a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment. We kept expanding cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, industries, economy and trade, and scientific and technological innovation with other countries, helping them generate more job opportunities and incomes. We took further measures to facilitate travels to and from China, applying unilateral visa-free policy to more countries, simplifying visa procedures, increasing international flights and providing more convenience to foreign tourists. China is taking real actions to open its door even wider to the world.

We have acted on the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness to jointly build an amicable and harmonious home. China and its neighboring countries enjoy geographical proximity, cultural affinity and integrated interests with a shared future. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, President Xi Jinping further elaborated

on the Asian values featuring peace, cooperation, inclusiveness and integration, and set forth a new vision of building a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful, amicable and harmonious Asian home.

The China-Central Asia Summit was successfully held, creating a new platform for good-neighbourliness and friendly cooperation in the region. At a key moment in the evolving international landscape, President Xi Jinping and the heads of state of the five Central Asian countries gathered in the historical city of Xi'an, the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, for the inaugural China-Central Asia Summit. This was an event that carried great historical significance and practical relevance. President Xi Jinping comprehensively elaborated on China's foreign policy toward Central Asia, and decided, together with the heads of state of the five Central Asian countries, to build a closer China-Central Asia community with a shared future, formally establish the mechanism of meetings between the heads of state of China and Central Asian countries, and set up a permanent secretariat for the China-Central Asia mechanism. During the summit, a number of multilateral and bilateral documents were signed, blueprints were drawn up for cooperation in various fields, and consensus was reached on key cooperation initiatives, including building a China-Central Asia energy development partnership and supporting the development of the trans-Caspian international transport corridor. This historic summit completed the platform building and overall planning of China-Central Asia cooperation, and opened up a new channel for the cooperation to move to higher levels. It will be a new monument in the history of China-Central Asia relations. Cooperation between the two sides, which is based on equality, respect, openness, inclusiveness and mutual support, contributes positive energy and stability to the region and the world at large.

China-ASEAN comprehensive strategic partnership continued to be close and pioneering. General Secretary Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Vietnam, which marked a new level in the "comradely and brotherly" relations between the two countries. Landmark achievements including the commissioning of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway complemented China-Indonesia relations. China and Singapore elevated their relationship to an all-around high-quality future-oriented partnership. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation made solid and rapid progress. We released the Outlook on China's Foreign Policy on Its Neighborhood in the New Era, the first of its kind, showing China's commitment and resolve in working together with neighboring countries to safeguard regional tranquility amid fluid international dynamics and promote development despite challenges and difficulties.

We have stood firmly in solidarity with the Global South to boost confidence in seeking strength through unity. As a natural member of the Global South and a crucial force in the big family of developing countries, China has always worked closely together with other developing countries to safeguard common interests and promote common development.

We have secured a historic expansion for the BRICS mechanism, adding new strength to unity and cooperation in the developing world. During China's chairmanship in 2022, President Xi Jinping called on fellow BRICS countries to pursue development with open doors and boost cooperation with open arms, and appealed for admitting new members to pool greater strengths. With the unanimous consent of all members, the BRICS expansion process was launched in the China Summit year. After a year of preparation and consultation, leaders of the five BRICS countries made a political decision on expansion at the Johannesburg Summit, and officially welcomed new members to the BRICS family. The expansion marks a milestone in the development of the BRICS mechanism, and ushers in a new era of strength through unity for the Global South. The expanded "greater BRICS" will surely play a stronger role in shaping a more just and equitable global governance system, and increasing the representation and voice of the Global South in international affairs.

China is committed to assisting other countries through its own development, and has worked with other developing countries to advance the cause of modernization. President Xi Jinping visited Africa, first in five years, co-chaired the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue, and announced the launch of the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, drawing the blueprint for future China-Africa cooperation. We continued to strengthen strategic mutual trust with Arab countries, accelerated the implementation of the outcomes of the first China-Arab States Summit and the first China-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit. We received over 10 leaders from Latin American countries and attended the Group of 77 plus China Summit in Havana, speeding up the upgrading of China's relations with Latin America. The reinvigoration of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the collective rise of developing countries and a new awakening of the Global South are starting a new chapter of world modernization.

We have made efforts to improve global governance and to jointly address global challenges. Facing the widening governance and trust deficit in the international community, China is committed to true multilateralism, and firmly upholds the U.N.-centered international system and the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter. Championing the principle of planning together, building together, and benefiting together, China has actively provided global public goods and encouraged collective efforts by the international community to pursue development, security and vibrant civilizations.

We have delivered on the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Over 70 countries have joined the

Group of Friends of the GDI. More than 200 cooperation projects have been implemented. The 4 billion U.S. dollars Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund has been put into use. The Global Development Promotion Center Network has brought more members on board. In response to the growing impacts of climate change, China played a positive role in bringing about the UAE consensus at the U.N. Climate Change Conference and helping capacity building in developing countries.

The Global Security Initiative (GSI) has gained greater influence. It has garnered support from over 100 countries and international and regional organizations, and is written into a host of bilateral and multilateral documents. The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper identifies 20 priorities of international security cooperation. The vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security has taken deeper root. The Beijing Xiangshan Forum and the Global Public Security Cooperation Forum (Lianyungang) have strengthened cooperation consensus. China has also proposed the Global AI Governance Initiative for joint efforts toward secure AI development.

The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) has turned from vision to practice. The Center of Chinese and Greek Ancient Civilizations was launched in the University of Athens. The Understanding China Conference and the Liangzhu Forum were successfully held. The increased communication, mutual learning and mutual appreciation between the Chinese and other civilizations have added new splendor to world civilizations.

We have actively participated in mediating hotspot issues to uphold world peace and tranquility. As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China plays a constructive part in resolving international hotspot issues. We facilitated the historic reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, setting a new example of political settlement of hotspot issues. President Xi Jinping had in-depth communication with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Iran, persuading the two countries to let go of past grievances and meet each other halfway. With strong support from China, the trilateral Beijing Agreement was reached, and Saudi Arabia and Iran announced the restoration of their diplomatic ties, setting off a “wave of reconciliation” across the Middle East. Syria has rejoined the family of the League of Arab States; Qatar, Syria, Iran and Türkiye have restored diplomatic ties or normalized their relations respectively with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, with Tunisia and Saudi Arabia, with Sudan and with Egypt; and the people of regional countries are taking the future of the Middle East back into their own hands.

Following the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, President Xi Jinping put forward four points about what must be done, four things the international community must do together and three observations of the crisis. He personally engaged with leaders of various countries and multilateral institutions, including the U.N., in in-depth communication and made it clear that China is determined to facilitate peace talks and never seeks selfish gains by fanning the flames. We released China’s Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis, and engaged extensively with relevant parties through the special envoy of the Chinese government. We have remained unequivocal in advocating respect for the sovereignty of all countries and rejecting the Cold War mentality, and made active efforts for resuming peace talks and restoring peace as we built up the conditions for the cessation of hostilities and peace talks.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict bears on the overall situation in the Middle East. President Xi Jinping presented China’s position on many occasions. He noted that the imperatives are to end hostilities, prevent the conflict from spilling over, effectively protect civilians and increase humanitarian assistance. He emphasized that the only viable way lies in implementing the two-State solution and pushing for a comprehensive, just and sustainable solution to the question of Palestine at an early date. Working in unity with Arab and Islamic countries, China held a high-level meeting on the Palestinian-Israeli issue at the U.N. Security Council, sent its special envoy to work on the ground and promote peace talks, and increased humanitarian assistance to extend a helping hand to the people in Gaza at a perilous time. As the rotating president of the U.N. Security Council, China pushed the UNSC to adopt a resolution—the first of its kind since the conflict broke out. We also released China’s Position Paper on Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. China’s contribution has been highly commended by the international community.

China supports Afghanistan in building an inclusive political framework, adopting moderate policies, and pursuing peace and reconstruction. Through our mediation efforts, conflict is giving way to reconciliation in northern Myanmar, showcasing our firm commitment to maintaining peace and stability in border areas. We have consistently promoted the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue and the Iranian nuclear issue, and have become a much-needed constructive force for safeguarding world peace and tranquility.

We have firmly upheld our national interests, and wholeheartedly serve the people through diplomatic work. We have resolutely defended China’s sovereignty, national dignity and territorial integrity. In the face of external interference and provocation, we fought back resolutely and forcefully. In response to various acts of unjustified suppression, we took legitimate and reasonable countermeasures. The international community’s commitment to the one-China principle has been further cemented and the 1.4 billion Chinese people’s resolution to advance national reunification remains rock-solid.

China’s diplomacy is the people’s diplomacy. Serving the people is the original aspiration and mission that we bear in mind all the time. After the transition in China’s COVID-19 response measures, more Chinese people traveled abroad. Our consular protection and services have been adapting to this development. We started implementing the Regulations on Consular Protection and Assistance, made

available the “China Consular Affairs” mini program, and handled over 530,000 calls for assistance and over 80,000 cases through the consular protection hotline 12308, providing round-the-clock services to overseas compatriots in all time zones. We evacuated thousands of Chinese nationals from war-torn regions around the globe, clearing the way for their long journey back home. We acted in conformity with the central tasks of the Party and the country, committed ourselves to creating favorable conditions for domestic development, built bridges for international cooperation and worked relentlessly for people’s well-being.

In late December 2023, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs was held successfully in Beijing. General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important address in which he comprehensively summarized the historic achievements and valuable experience of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, and gave a profound exposition on the international environment and historical mission of China’s external work on the new journey and made comprehensive plans for China’s external work for the current and coming period. The conference identified building a community with a shared future for mankind as the theme of China’s diplomatic work, setting a noble goal for major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and laying out the top-level design of China’s diplomatic strategy on the new journey. We will continue to follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy in particular, and act with a stronger sense of historical responsibility and a more vibrant spirit of innovation to make new headway in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, and create a more favorable international environment and provide more solid strategic support for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through the Chinese path to modernization.

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress^[1]

Delivered at the Second Session of the 14th National People's Congress
March 8, 2024

Zhao Leji

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Fellow Deputies,

On behalf of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), I now present this report on its work for your deliberation.

The Major Work of the Past Year and the Past Five Years

The year 2023 was the first year in which we fully implemented the guiding principles from the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). In the face of an unusually complex international environment and the challenging tasks of advancing reform and development and ensuring stability, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core brought together the Chinese people of all ethnic groups and led them in following the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability, withstanding external pressure, overcoming internal difficulties, and forging ahead with fortitude and tenacity.

As a result, China secured a smooth transition in COVID-19 response, achieved continued economic recovery and growth, ensured social stability, and took concrete steps to promote high-quality development. Solid progress has thus been made in building a modern socialist country in all respects.

The past year was the first year in which the Standing Committee of the 14th NPC performed its functions in accordance with the law. We fully studied and implemented the guiding principles from the 20th National Party Congress, grasped the missions and tasks of the people's congresses on our new journey in the new era, and adapted to the general trend of development and the demands of our times.

We acquired 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 became 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 stayed confident in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We upheld Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and upheld the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership.

Throughout the year, we stayed true to the following six principles that guide the work of the people's congresses:

The first is to uphold the overall leadership of the Party, especially the centralized, unified leadership of its central committee, and ensure that the Party's theories, lines, principles, policies, decisions, and plans are fully implemented in the work of the people's congresses.

The second is to use Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to equip our minds, guide our initiatives, and advance our work as we make studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law and his key ideas on upholding and improving the people's congress system an essential prerequisite for carrying out our duties in accordance with the law.

The third is to remain firmly committed to socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics and uphold, improve, and run the people's congress system to good effect.

The fourth is to practice and develop whole-process people's democracy and ensure that all initiatives of the people's congresses embody the will of the people, protect their rights and interests, and are aligned with their needs and wishes.

The fifth is to uphold comprehensive law-based governance, promote socialist rule of law, and ensure that all work of the state is carried out under the rule of law.

The sixth is to promote high-quality development in the work of people's congresses in accordance with the principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability and provide legal guarantees for building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

This past year, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, we acted on the guiding principles from the Central People's Congress Work Conference in 2021 and the first session of the 14th National People's Congress, stayed true to the unity of leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance, and performed our functions as stipulated in the Constitution and the law. We made fresh progress and achieved new results in the work of the people's congresses, thus getting off to a good start.

Promoting the Spirit of the Constitution, Fulfilling Our Constitutional Missions, and Improving Our Competence in Implementing and Overseeing Compliance with the Constitution

The Constitution is the fundamental law of China. It is the concentrated embodiment of the will of the Party and the people, and it enjoys supreme legal status, legal authority, and legal force.

Over the past year, we faithfully performed our statutory duties of ensuring the implementation of the Constitution and strengthening oversight of its compliance. We incorporated implementation of the Constitution, oversight of constitutional compliance, and public outreach and education regarding the Constitution into all aspects of our work, including legislation, oversight, decision-making, the appointment and removal of officials, and deputy-related work. We firmly safeguarded the authority and sanctity of the Constitution and upheld uniform implementation of the rule of law.

We improved the legal framework for ensuring the implementation of the Constitution.

The very life of the Constitution lies in its implementation, from which its authority also stems. Full implementation of the Constitution is a primary task and foundational work for comprehensive law-based governance and the development of China into a socialist country under the rule of law.

Adhering to the principle of enacting laws in accordance with the Constitution, we fully leveraged the central role of the Constitution in legislation and ensured that the Constitution is observed throughout the entire legislative process, so that each and every law adopted complies with the spirit of the Constitution, reflects its authority, and ensures its implementation.

We worked to improve the legal framework pertaining to the Constitution. We enacted a patriotic education law to instill in the people undivided love for the country, the Party, and socialism and implement constitutional provisions on patriotic education, national unity, and ethnic solidarity. Our goal was to nurture and promote closer bonds among the entire Chinese people with their motherland and their nation as a big family, thus forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation. We conducted two rounds of deliberation on the draft revisions to the Organic Law of the State Council, which will be submitted to this session for deliberation. This is an important step in implementing the principle of legality in the organization of state institutions, ensuring that the State Council performs its functions in accordance with the Constitution and the law, and advancing the modernization of China's system and capacity for governance.

We strengthened oversight to ensure compliance with the Constitution.

The Constitution is the highest legal norm of political and social activities in our nation. No other law, regulation, or normative document may contradict the Constitution, and all actions must be corrected if they are in violation of the Constitution and the law.

Constitutional review and normative document recording and review are important means for the NPC to oversee the implementation of the Constitution. We brought the work of constitutional review to a new depth. We conducted constitutional review of all of the draft laws submitted for deliberation, examined and studied issues regarding the constitutionality and constitutional implementation in regulations, judicial interpretations, and other normative documents, and pushed relevant formulating bodies to correct their normative documents in conflict with the provisions, principles, or the spirit of the Constitution.

We improved the recording and review of normative documents. We made a decision on improving and strengthening the recording and review system. We continued to follow the practice of putting on record all documents that are subject to recording, reviewing all recorded documents, and correcting all errors identified. We reviewed all 1,753 normative documents submitted for recording, including administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations and separate regulations, judicial interpretations, and local laws of the special administrative regions. We examined 2,878 suggestions for review made by citizens and organizations. In doing so, we urged relevant formulating bodies to revise or rescind more than 260 normative documents. To ensure the effective implementation of the Yellow River Protection Law and the Law on Ecological Conservation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, we pushed the parties concerned to overhaul relevant normative documents.

We explored methods of using typical cases to guide recording and review work and supported local people's congresses in building databases of their regulations, rules, and other normative documents.

We stepped up public outreach and education regarding the Constitution.

The foundation of the Constitution is built upon the sincere support of the people, and the strength of the Constitution comes from their genuine faith. We took a holistic approach to constitutional implementation, public outreach, and education and worked to make China's Constitution-related theories

and practices more compelling and influential.

Following General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on the Constitution, we held a symposium marking the 10th National Constitution Day on December 4, 2023 in order to promote the spirit of the Constitution, strengthen the implementation of the Constitution, and provide a constitutional guarantee for building China into a great country and advancing national rejuvenation. This is part of our efforts to build firm confidence in our Constitution, foster a Constitutional culture, and help all of our people become more mindful of complying with the Constitution.

We gave full play to the role of NPC deputies in exemplarily abiding by the Constitution, taking the lead in promoting public awareness regarding the Constitution, and advancing its implementation. In line with the current constitutional system and practices, we stepped up research on the socialist constitutional theory with Chinese characteristics, strengthened public outreach and education in this regard, and spread inspiring stories to the people about China's Constitution.

We exercised our constitutional power of appointment and removal.

We made 55 appointments and removals of vice chairpersons and members of NPC special committees, members of the Credentials Committee, deputy secretary-generals of the Standing Committee, persons in charge of the Standing Committee working bodies, and members of the Committee on the HKSAR Basic Law and the Committee on the Macao SAR Basic Law. We approved or decided on 251 appointments and removals of officials of the State Council, the Central Military Commission, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

We organized seven ceremonies for officials to pledge allegiance to the Constitution as they took office in order to encourage our public servants to be loyal to the Constitution, respect the Constitution, and uphold the Constitution.

We performed well in examining the qualifications of the deputies. We confirmed the by-election results for 3 deputies to the NPC and terminated the credentials of 24 deputies. Currently, the NPC has 2,956 deputies.

Improving the Quality of Legislation and Better Designing the Socialist Legal System with Chinese Characteristics to be More Complete, Unified, and Authoritative

Legislation is of sacred value as it sets the rules for our country and society. We conscientiously exercised our country's legislative power, bolstering legislation in key areas, emerging areas, and areas involving foreign affairs and improving laws that are urgently needed for national governance, necessary for meeting the people's needs for a better life, and imperative for safeguarding national security.

Over the past year, we deliberated on 34 items of legislation and adopted 21 of them, which include 6 new laws, 8 revised laws, and 7 decisions on legal issues and major matters, and we terminated deliberation on 1 item of legislation. We also made decisions on ratifying or entering into 10 treaties and important agreements. Currently, China has 300 laws in effect.

We drew up and began to implement a new plan for legislation.

Members of the Council of Chairpersons presided over eight meetings soliciting opinions and suggestions from the standing committees of provincial people's congresses, the central CPC and state institutions, NPC deputies, experts, and scholars. We thoroughly reviewed the deputies' proposals and suggestions and sought advice from 177 central and local organizations on items of legislation.

Based on in-depth research and discussions, we drew up a legislative plan and released it for implementation after approval from the CPC Central Committee. The plan sets out overall legislative arrangements of the 14th NPC, including 79 items in Category I, 51 items in Category II, and items in need of further research in Category III. It also includes arrangements for enacting new codes in areas where the necessary conditions are met and the legislative items to be submitted to the NPC sessions for deliberation. We held a meeting on the legislative work of the NPC Standing Committee and a national forum on local legislation to make arrangements for the implementation of the legislative plan, further improving our legislative work in the new era.

We strengthened legislation concerning the economy.

We thoroughly revised the Company Law to refine the modern corporate system with distinctive Chinese features, improve the business environment, strengthen property rights protection, and unleash the creativity of market players.

We made decisions on authorizing the State Council to extend the trial period allowing lawyers from Hong Kong and Macao to practice in mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and granting the Macao SAR jurisdiction over related land and sea areas in the southeast side of the Gongbei Port in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, so as to support Hong Kong and Macao in better integrating themselves into China's overall development.

To implement the principle of legality of taxation, we reviewed draft laws on value added tax and tariffs. We conducted a first review of draft revisions to the Mineral Resources Law to safeguard the security of these resources and promote their rational development and use in accordance with the law. We continued to review the draft law on rural collective economic organizations to consolidate and improve the basic rural operation system and develop new rural collective economies.

We strengthened legislation to improve the people's wellbeing.

We formulated a barrier-free environment law to establish sound systems and regulations for building

barrier-free facilities and providing barrier-free information and social services. This legislation facilitated the resolution of pressing difficulties and problems faced by the elderly and people with disabilities. We revised the Charity Law to improve the transparency and credibility of charity organizations and activities and promote the healthy development of charity.

In response to public concerns regarding inadequate resources in public-interest preschool education and issues with the academic degree administration system, we conducted an initial review of draft laws on preschool education and academic degrees. Draft revisions to the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases and the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law also went through initial review in order to provide stronger legal safeguards for public health.

We improved the legal framework for environmental protection.

We formulated a law on ecological conservation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to coordinate comprehensive, systematic, source-based improvement of the area's various ecosystems, including mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland, desert, and glacial ecosystems. This law provides legal guarantees for ecological conservation and sustainable development of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

We revised the Marine Environment Protection Law to strengthen monitoring and management of the marine environment and intensify efforts to protect and restore marine ecosystems. Our goal was to use strict measures and legal provisions to protect and improve the marine environment.

We established by law the 15th of August as National Ecology Day, with a view to helping our people embrace the idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets and encouraging the whole nation to pursue harmony between humanity and nature both in thinking and through action.

We began codifying environmental laws and established a task force to carry out this work. In a solid and orderly manner, we worked toward completing an environmental code within our term that is guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Conservation, carries distinct Chinese characteristics, embodies the features of our time, reflects the will of the people, and provides systematic, standardized, and coordinated provisions.

We improved legislation to safeguard national security.

We formulated a food security law to establish systematic provisions regarding the protection and use of arable land and all other aspects of food security, including food production, storage, circulation, processing, emergency response, and conservation, thus consolidating the legal foundation for enhancing food security on all fronts.

We made revisions to the Counterespionage Law to prevent and mitigate risks at an early stage and provide more legal tools for the struggle against infiltration, subversion, and the theft of secrets. We revised the State Secret Protection Law to improve relevant administration systems and regulations.

We advanced legislation on social governance.

We deliberated and passed Amendment XII to the Criminal Law. In following the principle of punishing both bribe takers and givers, we increased penalties for the offense of offering bribes. We added provisions on corruption-related crimes committed by personnel of private enterprises to provide equal legal protection of the property rights of private businesses and the rights and interests of entrepreneurs.

We revised the Administrative Reconsideration Law to refine the procedures for accepting and handling cases. This gave better play to the institutional strengths of administrative reconsideration in providing impartial, efficient, and convenient legal services to the people.

We conducted an initial review of draft revisions to the Cultural Heritage Protection Law to improve the administrative system for protecting cultural heritage and promote the rational utilization of cultural heritage. We continued the deliberation on a draft law on emergency management to enhance China's capabilities in preventing and responding to emergencies.

We deliberated draft revisions to the Public Security Administrative Penalties Law for the first time, which made acts such as cheating in national exams, obstructing public transport vehicles, releasing objects from a dangerous height, and illegally selling or offering personal information punishable offences.

We strengthened the legal system involving foreign affairs.

We enacted a foreign relations law, affirming in law the diplomatic principles and policies that China has long upheld, as well as the guidelines, basic principles, ideas, propositions, responsibilities, and missions for developing foreign relations in the new era. This law laid a solid foundation for establishing a complete system of laws and regulations related to foreign affairs.

We formulated a foreign state immunity law establishing comprehensive and systematic regulations on the jurisdiction over civil cases concerning foreign countries and their property, thus filling the legislative gaps in this field. We revised the Civil Procedure Law to refine the procedures for civil suits involving foreign affairs, appropriately expand the jurisdiction of China's courts in civil cases involving foreign affairs, and promote the development of a market-oriented, law-based business environment in keeping with international standards.

We advanced legislation in a scientific and democratic way in accordance with the law.

Upholding the Party's overall leadership over legislative work, the NPC fully played its leading role in legislation. As we took coordinated steps to enact, revise, abolish, interpret, and codify laws, we worked hard to find the right balance between the timeline, pacing, and efficacy and make our legislative work more systematic, holistic, coordinated, and responsive.

In conforming to the objective laws and the laws underlying legislative work, we exercised effective

supervision over all links of legislation, including the launching of projects, drafting, deliberation, and voting. We prioritized quality over speed and worked to see that our legislation responds to the needs of economic and social development. Our goal was to ensure that each of our laws represents the will of the people, attends to their wellbeing, and has their support.

Of the legislative items we deliberated on over the past year, 14 items, or 41 percent of the total, were drafted under the guidance of NPC special committees and working commissions and committees of the Standing Committee. We established more local legislative outreach offices and helped them to improve their work. To date, the total number of such offices under the NPC Standing Committee Legislative Affairs Commission has increased to 45. This has inspired provincial and municipal people's congresses to establish more than 6,500 local legislative outreach offices, expanding channels for directly hearing the views of the general public on legislation. We solicited 24 rounds of public opinion on draft laws and received more than 200,000 comments and suggestions from all sectors of society. Broad consensus has been built on legislation through legislative research, meetings, debates, and assessments.

Making Good Use of the Oversight Power Conferred on us by the Constitution and the Law and Ensuring that Our Oversight is More Targeted and Effective

Oversight by people's congresses is an important part of the oversight system of the Party and the country; it is carried out by organs of state power on behalf of the people with the force of law.

Focusing on the central task of economic development, overall national interests, and work in key areas, we carried out appropriate, effective oversight in accordance with the law. In this way, we helped advance implementation of the CPC Central Committee's decisions and plans and ensured that the Constitution and the law were fully and effectively implemented, state organs exercised their powers in accordance with the law, and the people's legal rights and interests were safeguarded and advanced.

Over the past year, we heard and reviewed 22 reports from the State Council, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, conducted inspections into the implementation of 5 laws, held 2 special inquiries, carried out 7 research projects, and adopted 2 resolutions. We also handled 157,212 letters and visits from the public in accordance with laws and regulations.

We facilitated efforts to create a new pattern of development and promote high-quality development.

We heard and reviewed the State Council's midterm assessment report on the implementation of the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2021–2025) and Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035 and its report on the implementation of the 2023 plan for economic and social development. By doing so, we contributed to the effective upgrading and appropriate expansion of economic output and the fulfillment of the main targets for economic and social development.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on financial work and put forward suggestions on refining and strengthening financial regulation, improving the financial sector's ability to serve the real economy, and taking active and prudent steps to guard against and mitigate financial risks.

We carried out an inspection into the implementation of the Scientific and Technological Progress Law in an effort to promote more effective allocation of scientific and technological innovation resources, accelerate breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, and improve mechanisms for applying scientific and technological achievements.

We also conducted an inspection into the implementation of the Seed Law to boost China's self-reliance and strength in seed technology, which will ensure that our country exercises greater independence and control over its seed resources.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on ensuring China's food security and held a special inquiry, the results of which helped advance the implementation of the national food security strategy and ensure that China's food supply remains firmly in its own hands.

We carried out an inspection of the implementation of the Special Equipment Safety Law and the Workplace Safety Law in a move to prevent and reduce safety incidents and safeguard the lives and property of our people.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on promoting coordinated regional development and carried out research projects examining efforts to consolidate and further build upon our achievements in poverty alleviation and to promote high-quality development of areas with large ethnic minority populations. Through these efforts, we worked toward more balanced and coordinated regional development, integrated urban-rural development, and full revitalization of the countryside.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on work related to overseas Chinese nationals in the new era in order to improve this work in accordance with the law and continue to pool the support and energy of overseas Chinese nationals.

We reviewed the State Council's midterm report on temporarily adjusting the application of relevant provisions of certain laws in the China (Hainan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, thereby providing legal support for the exploration of a higher standard of opening up.

We conducted examinations and oversight of budgets and final accounts.

Acting on the CPC Central Committee's decisions and plans, we passed a resolution to approve the State Council's proposal to issue additional government bonds and adjust its 2023 central budget, so as to support post-disaster recovery and reconstruction and increase our capacity for disaster prevention,

mitigation, and relief.

We heard and reviewed the State Council's reports on the central final accounts, budget execution, transfer payments, and the allocation and use of government funds for cultural purposes. We reviewed and approved the State Council's report on the 2022 central final accounts and, in doing so, helped the State Council and relevant departments improve the structure of their spending, strengthen performance management and accounting oversight, and make coordinated, well-regulated, and efficient use of government funds. We also made a decision to authorize the State Council to approve a proportion of new local government debt ceilings in advance.

We heard and reviewed an audit report by the State Council and its report on the rectification of problems discovered during the audit. In this process, we worked to ensure that problems were not only detected but also corrected.

We continued to deepen the reform of expanding the focus of budget review and oversight by people's congresses to include expenditure budgets and policies, made further progress in developing the online budget oversight system, and stepped up the establishment of local liaison offices for our Budgetary Affairs Commission.

We conducted research on efforts to improve mechanisms for ensuring basic funding for county-level governments and the management of certain government-managed funds.

We enhanced oversight of state-owned asset and government debt management.

We improved the reporting and oversight systems for the management of state-owned assets and formulated a five-year plan for the oversight of state-owned asset management (2023–2027).

In order to boost the high-quality development of state-owned capital and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in the financial sector and help state-owned capital and SOEs better serve economic and social development, we reviewed the State Council's comprehensive report on the management of state-owned assets for 2022, as well as its special report on the management of state-owned assets held by financial enterprises. We advanced online oversight of state-owned assets and explored the establishment of standards of oversight by people's congresses and evaluation of state-owned asset management.

Acting on the decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee, we established a system for the Standing Committee to hear and review the State Council's reports on government debt management.

We worked toward the resolution of the prominent problems in people's lives.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on the reform of the examination and enrollment systems in education and put forward suggestions on expanding the supply of quality education resources, promoting the healthy growth of students, and advancing fairness in education.

To promote peaceful, harmonious households and social stability, we heard and reviewed a State Council report on the fight against domestic violence. We heard and reviewed a State Council report on mental health initiatives. During this process, we paid particular attention to the mental health of young people and worked toward improving mental health services. We carried out a research project to examine the efforts to establish insurance schemes for long-term care to better support the everyday lives of people with physical and intellectual disabilities and protect their rights and interests.

We also conducted research on the efforts of supervisory bodies to address misconduct and corruption that occur at people's doorsteps.

We promoted a high level of environmental protection.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on the state of the environment and progress in meeting environmental protection targets for 2022 and carried out an inspection of the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Law. Our work helped implement the principles from the national conference on environmental protection, strengthen the protection and restoration of ecosystems, and further advance the critical battle against pollution.

We heard and reviewed a State Council report on combating crime in environmental protection and resources conservation, a Supreme People's Court report on the people's courts' adjudication of cases related to the environment and resources, and a Supreme People's Procuratorate report on the work of the people's procuratorates in this area. We also conducted a special inquiry based on our review of these reports. Through these efforts, we encouraged the State Council, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate to enhance their capacities for law enforcement and judicial administration in these areas and lawfully crack down on all illegal and criminal activities that damage the environment and resources.

We carried out a research project to examine the development of a renewable energy supply and integration system.

We improved our systems, mechanisms, and methods for oversight.

After reviewing our practical experience since the Law on the Oversight by the Standing Committees of People's Congresses at All Levels went into effect in 2007, especially since the Party's 18th National Congress in 2012, we drafted revisions to the law and conducted an initial review of these revisions, with the goal of broadening the scope of oversight, refining procedures and mechanisms, and thus providing better institutions through which standing committees of people's congresses at all levels perform their duties of oversight.

We carried out inspections of the implementation of various laws and delegated standing committees of provincial people's congresses to conduct inspections and research within their respective administrative regions, thereby facilitating coordination and collaboration between people's congresses at different levels

and creating synergy for enhancing oversight.

We increased the efficacy of our oversight and strengthened public communication on the rule of law by means of preliminary research, exchanges and inquiries, random sampling, questionnaires, Q&A sessions regarding legal knowledge, and third-party assessments.

We closely integrated oversight with legislation. On issues like food security and environmental protection, we made overall plans for hearing and reviewing work reports, carrying out inspections into the implementation of relevant laws, conducting research projects, and enacting and revising laws, and we worked to solve problems, improve our work, and refine our systems through legal means.

Strengthening the Competence of Deputies and Providing Them Support and Safeguards for Performing Their Duties in Accordance with the Law

Giving full play to the roles of deputies to people's congresses reflects the idea that our country is run by the people, and it provides an important foundation that allows us to carry out our work well. With the establishment of a deputies affairs commission, we strengthened the ties between the Standing Committee and deputies and between deputies and the public and advanced and expanded our work related to deputies. We provided them support and safeguards for exercising their rights and performing their duties in accordance with the law to help them fulfill their role as the bridge linking the Party and the country with the people.

We refined and implemented systems and mechanisms for communication with deputies.

Members of the Standing Committee established direct contact with 418 deputies, and special committees and working commissions and committees stayed in direct touch with deputies from relevant fields. We expanded deputies' participation in the work of the Standing Committee, special committees, and working commissions and committees. We sent 273 invitations to deputies to attend Standing Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity and held 5 follow-up meetings to solicit their opinions and suggestions.

Through the online NPC deputy work platform, we solicited deputies' opinions on draft laws and received 2,985 comments. We invited deputies to take part in inspections of the implementation of laws, research projects, budget examination and oversight, and international exchanges, with the total participation exceeding 740. We also supported the standing committees of provincial people's congresses in increasing communication with the deputies that they elected to the NPC.

We took advantage of the unique strengths of our deputies who come from and are rooted in the people.

We established NPC deputy groups and encouraged deputies to listen to and convey the opinions and wishes of the general public through channels such as deputy group activities and outreach and liaison offices. We organized research projects and group inspections for deputies. We arranged for deputies from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan to carry out research and inspections in Guangdong, Gansu, Tianjin, Zhejiang, and Fujian. We also organized deputies to carry out trans-regional research projects, such as those on advancing high-quality integrated development in the Yangtze River Delta and working faster to increase the shipping capacity on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

We handled deputies' proposals and suggestions more effectively.

All of the 271 proposals deputies put forward during the first session of the 14th NPC were reviewed by relevant special committees, and feedback was given to deputies. Among these submissions, 16 legislative items addressed in deputies' proposals were adopted after review or have been submitted for review, and 59 legislative items have been included in our five-year or annual legislative plans. All 8,314 suggestions submitted by deputies during that session and the 130 suggestions raised when the NPC was not in session were forwarded to relevant organizations for examination and handling, with feedback given to deputies. 75 percent of the issues raised in these suggestions were either solved or addressed with plans to resolve them over time. Of these, 19 priority suggestions were processed under the supervision of relevant special committees, and a number of practical problems have been solved as a result.

We improved coordination mechanisms for the forwarding and processing of deputies' suggestions to ensure that relevant organizations handle their responsibilities appropriately and increase their communication with deputies. We held meetings to advance the processing of suggestions and made every effort to improve the quality and effectiveness of this work. We worked hard to see that replies and explanations on paper are followed up with concrete actions and practical solutions, so that our people feel a stronger sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

We improved services and safeguards to help deputies better perform their duties.

To provide deputies with more systematic, targeted, and specialized training, we held five study sessions, including one session specifically for ethnic minority deputies, with a total attendance of more than 1,300. This ensured that all newly elected NPC deputies from the primary level received basic training in performing their duties.

We upgraded the functions of the online NPC deputy work platform to provide deputies with convenient and efficient services and support. We improved record keeping to strengthen oversight and management of deputies' performance of their duties. We provided guidance for the standing committees of provincial people's congresses regarding their deputy-related work.

Conducting International Exchanges in Alignment with China's Overall Diplomatic Agenda

As an important part of China's international diplomacy, the exchanges of the people's congresses with

other countries have unique features and strengths, such as covering a variety of fields, multiple levels of engagement, and flexible approaches. We thoroughly studied and implemented Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and actively and effectively engaged in international exchanges in accordance with the overall plan of the CPC Central Committee on external work.

Over the past year, we sent 57 delegations to 65 countries for official visits or to attend international conferences. We received delegations from 30 countries and 3 multilateral parliamentary organizations, held 25 video events, and signed 6 cooperation agreements with the legislative bodies of other countries and multilateral parliamentary organizations.

We carried out more active exchanges and cooperation with foreign parliaments.

Members of the Council of Chairpersons led delegations to 21 countries and met and held talks with more than 150 foreign dignitaries visiting China. We designated leaders and members for 25 exchange mechanisms and established a total of 141 bilateral friendship groups. NPC special committees, working commissions and committees, friendship groups, and deputies enhanced their exchanges with congress members and working bodies of foreign parliaments. The eighth meeting of the China-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee was held. We engaged in dialogue with the Congress of the United States, conducted extensive exchanges with parliaments of European countries, and deepened friendship and cooperation with parliaments of neighboring countries and developing countries.

In the first year following China's transition in COVID-19 response, we actively went abroad and invited people to China for more face-to-face communication. Through these efforts, we played an important role in increasing mutual understanding and trust, boosting practical cooperation, reinforcing friendship with other peoples, and safeguarding our core interests.

We conducted fruitful multilateral parliamentary communication.

We sent 28 delegations to multilateral events, including the G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum. During these occasions, we worked to increase international support for Chinese ideas and proposals. At our invitation, the President and the Secretary-General of the IPU, the Speaker of the Arab Parliament, and the President of the Central American Parliament visited China.

We formally established a mechanism of exchange with the Arab Parliament. We contributed to the decision of the Central American Parliament to revoke the permanent observer status of the "Legislative Yuan" of the Taiwan region and instead grant the NPC of China status as a permanent observer. We held seminars for members of parliaments from developing countries, English-speaking countries in Africa, Pacific island countries, and Nepal, and we received a total of 95 parliamentarians and high-level parliamentary officials from 23 countries through visits and exchanges.

We acted more confidently and proactively in international communications.

When conducting international exchanges, we introduced Chinese ideas and proposals on Chinese modernization, a human community with a shared future, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, also sharing insight into the successes of their practical implementation. We also thoroughly discussed the strengths of whole-process people's democracy and the system of people's congresses. In doing so, we helped increase the influence and appeal of China's path, theory, system, and culture.

We arranged for visiting delegations to visit the Museum of the Communist Party of China, deputy outreach and liaison offices, local legislative outreach offices, and other sites, where they learned first-hand about China's development achievements and experience in governance.

In response to the negative legislation and wrongful remarks and actions involving China by certain countries' parliaments, we clarified our principles and stance, presented facts, and refuted rumors in the remarks of our spokespeople, statements, media interviews and through other means, so as to defend our national interests and dignity.

Intensifying Self-improvement Efforts in All Aspects in Line with the Requirement to Uphold the Four-fold Role

General Secretary Xi Jinping clearly stated that people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees should function as political institutions that consciously uphold the leadership by the Party, institutions of state power that ensure the running of the country by the people, working institutions that fully assume functions conferred by the Constitution and the law, and representative institutions that always maintain close ties with the people. In order to better fulfill this four-fold role as our goal for self-improvement, we adopted a holistic approach and took integrated steps to continuously improve our ability and competence in lawful performance of duties.

We strengthened ourselves theoretically and politically.

We carried out a campaign to study and implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and made notable progress in forging inner strength, acquiring new knowledge, rectifying our conduct, and improving work performance. We hosted nine lectures and organized eight study sessions for the committee's leading Party members' group to fully, systematically, and thoroughly study and implement the Party's latest theory. We worked hard to creatively apply this theory in carrying out our duties in line with actual conditions.

We held seminars to share our studies and application of General Secretary Xi Jinping's key ideas on

upholding and improving the people's congress system and encouraged people's congresses at all levels to further study, research, communicate, and implement these ideas. In studying and applying General Secretary Xi Jinping's key ideas on strengthening the Party, we strengthened Party organizations in NPC, implemented the requirement for full and rigorous Party self-governance, and increased theoretical, political, and organizational support for law-based exercise of our duties.

We conducted extensive research.

For people's congresses, research is a fundamental approach to the performance of their functions, and it is also one of their legal responsibilities. As part of our efforts to implement the CPC Central Committee's requirement for extensive research, the Standing Committee's leading Party members' group identified 16 key topics as research subjects. Members of the Council of Chairpersons conducted more than 120 research trips and law implementation inspections, and special committees, working commissions and committees, and NPC bodies conducted over 490 research trips.

We strictly complied with the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving work conduct and the detailed rules for its implementation, visited local people and communities, and worked toward producing real results. During the process of our research, we conscientiously learned from the people, developed closer ties with them, and improved our work conduct. This strengthened popular support for our work.

We improved the institutions and procedures for our work.

We made comprehensive revisions to the rules for members of the NPC Standing Committee, setting new and higher requirements for their political integrity, theoretical competence, ability, and conduct. We revised the procedural rules of the Council of Chairpersons, the working procedures for the Standing Committee meetings, and the personnel appointment and removal measures of the Standing Committee. These efforts improved the quality and efficiency of deliberation.

We established a mechanism for the Council of Chairpersons to hear regular reports on the NPC's processing of public complaints and suggestions and its foreign affairs work. We guided NPC bodies to formulate and revise 39 working procedures.

We gave full play to the roles of special committees and working commissions and committees.

We held meetings to discuss the work of the NPC special committees and working commissions and committees, and we also coordinated efforts to revise the working rules for all special committees. This has enabled them to better perform their duties in accordance with the law. Focusing on the central tasks of the Standing Committee, special committees and working commissions and committees carried out a great deal of regular, fundamental tasks to fulfill their duties and responsibilities, thereby making positive contributions to the high-quality development of the work of people's congresses.

We improved our work in media and public communication and theoretical research.

By providing comprehensive media coverage of the NPC's institution building and its achievements, we presented the people's congresses, democracy, and the rule of law in China to a broader audience. During the process of legislation, we paid attention to providing information and explanations to the public, worked to address hotspot issues, and actively responded to major public concerns. All of this helped increase understanding and support on all sides for our legislation. We increased publicity related to deputies' work performance, shining a spotlight on their accomplishments in the new era.

We implemented the responsibility system for ideological work, further consolidated our position in media and public communication, and promoted greater integration of our outreach efforts through publications, the internet, microblogs, WeChat, and mobile applications.

We carried out thematic outreach activities, such as the Environmental Protection in China: Trip of the Century and the first National Ecology Day events. We released English translations of another 27 laws and decisions, spreading China's achievements in law-based governance to the international audiences. We gave full play to the role of the China Institute of Theory on the People's Congress System and published collected papers and compilations on theoretical research of the people's congress system.

We strengthened the development of NPC bodies.

We strengthened education and discipline of our personnel to enhance their awareness in regard to political institution work and Party loyalty. We consolidated our achievements made in rectifying problems discovered during the central discipline inspection.

We improved the competence of the staff of NPC bodies, so that they may better fulfill their primary responsibilities of providing advice, services, and safeguards. We formulated a study and training program for the 14th NPC and strengthened the development of the NPC online school. We improved the national database of laws and regulations and advanced IT application in NPC bodies.

We strengthened our ties and coordination with local people's congresses.

We held workshops for the heads of local people's congresses at provincial and city (with districts) levels. After two training sessions on local legislative work, we completed a new round of training for the staff of local people's congresses with legislative power as well as those working in local legislative outreach offices. We called a meeting for local legislative outreach office staff to share their work experience.

We briefed standing committees of provincial people's congresses on relevant work in a timely manner and earnestly heard their views and suggestions on our work. The special committees strengthened exchanges and communication with corresponding bodies in local people's congresses through meetings and seminars.

Fellow Deputies,

We have made these achievements under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. They are the result of the diligent, hard work of the NPC deputies, members of the NPC Standing Committee and special committees, and the employees of NPC bodies. They are the result of close collaboration and cooperation from the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and local people's congresses at all levels and their standing committees. And they are the result of the full trust and strong support of the Chinese people of all ethnic groups. On behalf of the NPC Standing Committee, I would like to express our sincere gratitude.

We are also keenly aware that there are a number of gaps and shortcomings in our work. We need to give more play to the NPC's leading role in legislative work and further improve the quality of our legislation. Our oversight systems, mechanisms, and methods need to be further improved, and our oversight needs to become more binding and effective. We need to further strengthen our ability to provide services and support for deputies in the law-based performance of their duties. We need to make new strides in our media and public communication work and theoretical research. We take these problems very seriously and will listen to suggestions and advice from deputies and all sectors of society with an open mind. We will readily place ourselves under the oversight of the people and continue to improve our work.

The Year Ahead

The year 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and it is crucial for fulfilling the goals and tasks set in the 14th Five-Year Plan. This year is also the 70th anniversary of the founding of the NPC.

We must uphold the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and fully implement the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress.

We must acquire a deeper 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 become 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 will thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law and his key ideas on upholding and improving the people's congress system. We will uphold the unity between the leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance, advance whole-process people's democracy, and strengthen the institutions through which the people run the country. We will exercise the powers of enacting laws, conducting oversight, decision-making, and appointing and removing officials as conferred by the Constitution and the law. We will make steady progress in pursuing high-quality development of the work of people's congresses and provide legal guarantees for building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

Strengthening the Implementation of the Constitution and the Oversight of Constitutional Compliance

We will thoroughly study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important statements on the Constitution. We will improve the systems for ensuring full implementation of the Constitution, refine working mechanisms for the direct implementation of relevant constitutional provisions, strengthen constitutional review, and implement the procedures and mechanisms for interpreting the Constitution.

We will implement the decision on improving the system for recording and reviewing normative documents, improve the quality of our recording and review work, and correct or rescind in accordance with the law any normative documents that conflict with the Constitution and the law.

We will uphold constitutional order and the rule of law in the special administrative regions as laid down in the Constitution of China and the Basic Laws of those regions and see that the legal systems and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security are properly implemented there.

We will enhance public outreach, education, and theoretical research regarding the Constitution, implement the system of pledging allegiance to the Constitution, and organize activities for National Constitution Day. We will hold a symposium to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the promulgation and implementation of the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy.

Improving the Socialist Legal System with Chinese Characteristics

We will conscientiously work to implement the five-year legislative plan of the Standing Committee. We will compile a draft environmental code to submit for deliberation.

To strengthen the institutions through which the people run the country, we will revise the Law on Deputies to the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses at All Levels, the Law on the

Oversight by the Standing Committees of People's Congresses at All Levels, the Supervision Law, and the Organic Law of Urban Residents' Committees.

In order to accelerate the creation of a new pattern of development and deepen reform across the board, we will formulate a financial stability law, a law on rural collective economic organizations, a value-added tax law, and a private sector promotion law; and we will revise the Mineral Resources Law, the Enterprise Bankruptcy Law, the Unfair Competition Law, the Accounting Law, the Public Bidding Law, the Statistics Law, and the Civil Aviation Law.

In regard to advancing the strategy for invigorating China through science and education and the workforce development strategy and to building a strong culture, we plan to enact a preschool education law and an academic degrees law and revise the Science and Technology Popularization Law, the Cultural Heritage Protection Law, and the Law on the Standard Spoken and Written Chinese Language.

With a focus on ensuring and improving public wellbeing and ensuring social stability and harmony, we will formulate a civil compulsory enforcement law, a law on publicity of and education on the rule of law, a public health emergency response law, and a social assistance law; and we will also revise the Arbitration Law, the Prison Law, the Public Security Administrative Penalties Law, and the Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

To modernize China's system and capacity for national security, we will enact an emergency management law, an energy law, an atomic energy law, and a hazardous chemicals safety law, while also revising the National Defense Education Law and the Cybersecurity Law.

We will formulate a tariff law and revise the Frontier Health and Quarantine Law and the Anti-Money Laundering Law in an effort to strengthen legislation in areas involving foreign affairs and develop a system of laws for extraterritorial application. We will carry out the work related to the authorization and reform decisions.

In following the principle that laws are made for the people and by the people, we will fully leverage the leading role of the NPC in legislative work, strengthen our research on the development of the legal system and on the laws underlying legislative work, and make constant efforts to legislate in a more scientific, democratic, and law-based manner, so as to further improve the quality of legislation.

Taking Solid Steps to Exercise Effective Oversight

Our oversight will focus on major decisions and plans laid out by the CPC Central Committee, respond to the people's concerns and expectations, and be oriented toward solving problems. We will employ a combination of statutory oversight methods to strengthen the oversight of law implementation and the work of state institutions and make our oversight more binding and effective. We have prepared 35 oversight programs for this year.

We will conduct inspections into the implementation of five laws, namely the Law on State-Owned Assets of Enterprises, the Agriculture Law, the Social Insurance Law, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Law, and the Yellow River Protection Law.

We will exercise oversight of the implementation of the plan for economic and social development, the execution of budgets, final accounts, auditing work, financial work, and state-owned asset management. We will hear and review the work report on government debt management for the first time.

We will hear and review reports of the State Council, the National Commission of Supervision, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on the work related to the private sector, allocation and use of government funds for disaster prevention and mitigation and emergency management, development of world-class universities with Chinese features and strong disciplines, childcare, elderly care, the environment, arable land protection, desertification control, the hearing of administrative cases, procuratorates' oversight of administrative litigation, and elimination of misconduct and corruption that occur at people's doorsteps.

We will carry out special inquiries on the basis of hearing and reviewing the reports on the development of world-class universities with Chinese features and strong disciplines and on inspections into the implementation of the Yellow River Protection Law.

We will conduct field research on financial services provided to support full rural revitalization, efforts in strengthening stability, security, and development in border areas in the new era, development of commercial agricultural services, implementation of the Budget Law, management and reform of government procurement, construction of safer cities, implementation of the resolution on the eighth five-year initiative to increase public legal literacy, and potential ways to make use of the strengths of Chinese nationals overseas.

We will also improve the NPC's handling of complaints and suggestions from the public and put this work on a more solid legal footing.

Giving Full Play to the Roles of NPC Deputies

With a view to providing better services and support for deputies' performance of their duties in accordance with the law, we will formulate guidelines on how to improve the competence of NPC deputies. We will improve the systems and mechanisms through which the Standing Committee, special committees, and working commissions and committees stay in contact with deputies, and we will refine our work to ensure that they engage deputies on a broader range of issues and by more diverse means. We will give full play to the roles of deputies in legislation, oversight, and international exchanges. We will hold regular meetings for non-voting deputies attending Standing Committee meetings. We will work to

see deputies' inspections and research trips produce real results and make prudent progress in organizing trans-regional field surveys, inspections, and research trips for them.

We will support deputies in maintaining close ties with the people through diverse channels and refine mechanisms for handling and giving feedback on public opinions brought forward by deputies. We will overhaul the working mechanisms for the entire process of submitting and handling deputy proposals and suggestions, so as to improve their quality and handle them more effectively. We will improve study seminars and training for deputies, organize more special training sessions, and promote the sharing of experience gained in the course of performing their duties. We will keep deputies informed of developments in state affairs and government work by promptly providing them related information and materials.

Expanding International Exchanges

In implementing the major diplomatic policies, decisions, and plans of the CPC Central Committee, we will leverage our unique features and strengths in conducting international relations and strive to make our foreign exchanges more proactive, better targeted, and more fruitful, so as to make even greater contributions to advancing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

We will conduct exchanges and cooperation with parliaments of other countries on multiple levels, through different channels, and in various fields and forms, extensively participate in activities organized by multilateral parliamentary organizations, and continue to host seminars in China for the members and staff members of foreign parliaments. We will communicate China's path, systems, ideas, propositions, and achievements to the rest of the world in a proactive, targeted, and effective manner. We will also use legal means to stand up for our country in the international arena and resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty, security, and development interests.

Strengthening Self-improvement Efforts

We will take solid steps to fulfill the four-fold role and better shoulder the missions and tasks entrusted to us by the CPC and the people. We will consolidate and build on the achievements of the thematic educational campaign and continue to apply Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in enhancing cohesion and building inner strength. We will work hard to ensure our full comprehension of this theory, place our sincere faith in it, and earnestly apply it in practice.

In compliance with the requirement for full and rigorous Party self-governance, we will give top priority to strengthening the Party politically and build stronger Party organizations in the NPC.

We will improve the NPC's democratic platforms and vehicles through which the general public can express their opinions, refine working mechanisms for soliciting public comments and collecting ideas from the people, and conduct in-depth research and investigations. This will allow us to better listen to the people's opinions and suggestions and better respond to their needs.

We will implement the responsibility system for ideological work and enhance our media and public communication work.

We will encourage special committees and working commissions and committees to better play their roles, strengthen the development of NPC bodies, and build an NPC team that is politically steadfast and dedicated to serving the people, respects the rule of law, promotes democracy, and works hard with a strong sense of responsibility.

We will strengthen our ties, collaboration, and coordination with local people's congresses, increase coordination and cooperation with all sides, and develop effective mechanisms to create synergy for pursuing our shared missions. All of this will enhance the overall effectiveness of the work of people's congresses.

The system of people's congresses is a political system fundamental to the unity between the leadership by the Party, the running of the country by the people, and law-based governance. It is an important institutional vehicle for realizing China's whole-process people's democracy.

We will further study and apply General Secretary Xi Jinping's key ideas on upholding and improving the people's congress system. We will organize activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the NPC and review, research, and communicate the glorious history, practical experience, and unique strengths and functions of the people's congress system. This will help us maintain firm confidence in our system, show greater historical initiative, and advance whole-process people's democracy, so as to uphold, improve, and run this system to good effect and stay firmly committed to socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics.

Fellow Deputies,

On our new journey in the new era, let us rally more closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core.

Let us remain focused on building a great country and advance national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

Let us work hard in unity, forge ahead with determination, and deliver real results through solid work to secure excellent achievements by the time we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Natural Resources

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China

Overview of Natural Resources

Land Resources

According to the results of the 2022 Survey of National Land-Use Changes, there are 127.58 million hectares of arable land, 20.11 million hectares of garden land, 283.55 million hectares of forest land, 264.29 million hectares of grassland, 23.57 million hectares of wetland, 35.97 million hectares of urban, village, industrial and mining land, 10.19 million hectares of land for transportation, and 36.3 million hectares of water area and land for water conservancy facilities.

Mineral Resources

As of the end of 2022, 173 kinds of mineral resources had been discovered in the country, including 13 kinds of energy minerals, 59 kinds of metal minerals, 95 kinds of non-metallic minerals, and six kinds of water gas minerals. In 2022, nearly 40 percent of China's mineral reserves increased, with the most notable growth in the reserves of copper, lead, zinc, nickel, fluorite, and crystalline graphite.

Major Solid Mineral Reserves in China as of the End of 2022

Mineral	Unit	Reserve	Mineral	Unit	Reserve
Coal	100 million tonnes	2,070.1	Tungsten Ore	WO ₃ 10 thousand tonnes	299.6
Iron Ore	Ore 100 million tonnes	162.5	Tin Ore	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	100.5
Manganese Ore	Ore 100 million tonnes	2.8	Molybdenum Ore	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	590.1
Chromite	Ore 10 thousand tonnes	279.5	Antimony Ore	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	66.7
Vanadium Ore	V ₂ O ₅ 10 thousand tonnes	734.4	Gold Mine	Metal tonne	3,127.5
Perovskite	Equivalent to TiO ₂ 10 thousand tonnes	10,604.6	Silver Mine	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	7.0
Copper Mine	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	4,077.2	Magnesite Ore	Ore 100 million tonnes	6.8
Lead Ore	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	2,186.5	Ordinary Fluorite	Equivalent to calcium fluoride 10 thousand tonnes	8,592.1
Zinc Ore	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	4,607.9	Sylvite	KCl 100 million tonnes	2.9
Bauxite	Ore 100 million tonnes	6.8	Barite	Ore 10 thousand tonnes	10,735.6
Nickel Ore	Metal 10 thousand tonnes	434.7	Crystalline Graphite	Ore 10 thousand tonnes	8,100.8

Note: The standard of mineral reserves is based on the Classification of Solid Mineral Resources Reserves (GB/T17766-2020), which came into force on May 1, 2020.

According to data from the 2023 National Statistical Report on Oil and Gas Reserves, the new proven reserves of oil and gas in the country have generally remained at a high level, the new proven geological reserves of oil have remained stable at more than 1.2 billion tonnes for four consecutive years, and the total new proven geological reserves of natural gas, shale gas, and coal bed methane have remained above 1.2 trillion cubic meters for five consecutive years. The new proven reserve of Kaiping 11-4 Oilfield in the South China Sea has reached a large scale, making it the first large-scale deep-water proprietary oilfield in China. The new proven reserves of the Sulige gas field in the Ordos Basin, the Hexingchang and Anyue gas fields in the Sichuan Basin, and the Kelasu gas field in the Tarim Basin have reached a large scale. The new proven reserves of the Shenfu coal bed methane field and the Daji coal bed methane field in the

Ordos Basin have also reached a large scale.

A total of 1.27 billion tonnes of new proven geological reserves were added to petroleum exploration, of which 220 million tonnes were newly proven and technically recoverable.

By the end of 2023, the country's remaining technically recoverable oil reserves were 3.85 billion tonnes, up one percent year on year.

A total of 981.2 billion cubic meters of proven geological reserves were added to natural gas exploration, of which 415.52 billion cubic meters were newly proven and technically recoverable. As of the end of 2023, the remaining technically recoverable reserves of natural gas in China were 6.68 trillion cubic meters, up 1.7 percent year on year.

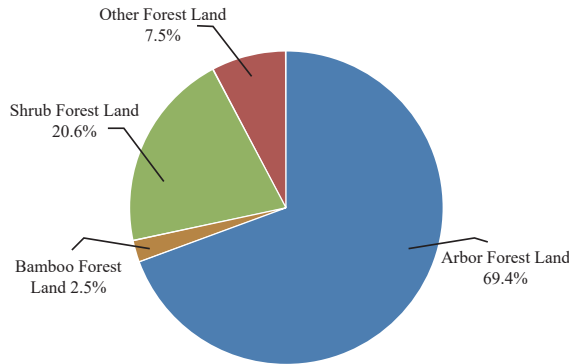
There were no new proven reserves of shale gas exploration. By the end of 2023, the remaining technically recoverable reserves of shale gas in China were 551.61 billion cubic meters.

The new proven geological reserves of coal bed methane were 317.93 billion cubic meters, of which 161.34 billion cubic meters were newly proven and technically recoverable, up 712.1 percent year on year. Key progress was made in the exploration and development of deep coal bed methane, with 248.42 billion cubic meters of new proven geological reserves of deep coal bed methane, contributing 78.1 percent to the total increment, and 119.98 billion cubic meters of new proven technically recoverable reserves of deep coal bed methane, contributing 74.4 percent to the total increment. By the end of 2023, the remaining technically recoverable reserves of coal bed methane in China were 534.84 billion cubic meters, up 40.4 percent year on year.

Forest Resources

According to the results of the 2022 Survey of National Land-use Changes, there were 283.55 million hectares of forest land in the country, including 196.81 million hectares of arbor forest land, 6.99 million hectares of bamboo forest land, 58.36 million hectares of shrub forest land, and 21.39 million hectares of other forest land.

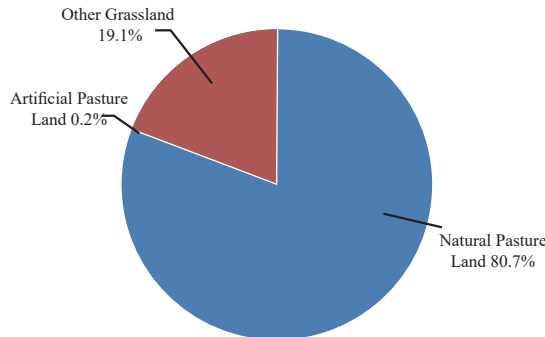
In 2023, four million hectares of afforestation were completed across the country, and the grass planting and improvement area reached 4.38 million hectares.



National Forest Land Structure by the End of 2022

Grassland Resources

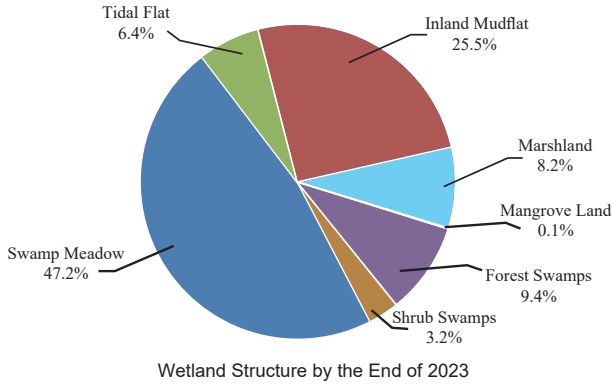
According to the results of the 2022 Survey of National Land-use Changes, there were 264.29 million hectares of grassland in China, including 213.3 million hectares of natural pasture land, 587 thousand hectares of artificial pasture land, and 50.4 million hectares of other grassland.



Grassland Structure by the End of 2023

Wetland Resources

According to the results of the 2022 Survey of National Land-use Changes, there were 23.57 million hectares of wetlands in the country^[1], including 29 thousand hectares of mangrove land, 2.21 million hectares of forest swamps, 754 thousand hectares of shrub swamps, 11.13 million hectares of swamp meadow, 1.5 million hectares of tidal flat, 6.02 million hectares of inland mudflat, and 1.93 million hectares of marshland.



Water Resources

In 2022, groundwater storage was 52.1 trillion cubic meters.

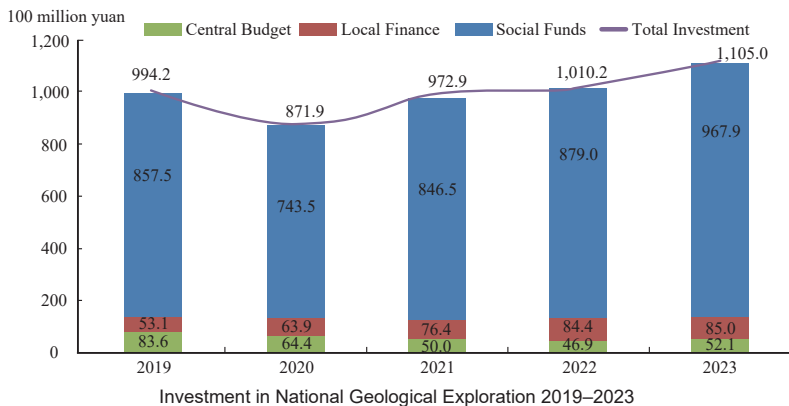
Strictly Guaranteeing Resource Security

Arable Land

According to the results of the 2022 Survey of National Land-use Changes, there were 127.58 million hectares of arable land across the country, with a net increase in the total amount, achieving the target of retaining 1.87 billion mu (about 124.33 million hectares) of arable land determined by the National Territorial Space Plan (2021–2035), with the arable land staying above the red line of 120 million hectares.

Mineral Resources

In 2023, 110.5 billion yuan was invested in geological exploration across the country. Among them, the investment in oil and gas geological exploration was 90.43 billion yuan (including 590 million yuan from the central budget and 89.84 billion yuan from social funds), up 9.8 percent year on year, while the investment in non-oil and gas geological exploration was 20.07 billion yuan (including 4.62 billion yuan from the central budget, 8.5 billion yuan from local finance, and 6.95 billion yuan from social funds), up 7.7 percent year on year.



In 2023, 37,000 square kilometers of 1:50,000 regional geological surveys, 49,000 square kilometers of 1:50,000 mineral geological surveys, 49,000 square kilometers of 1:50,000 regional hydro-geological

[1] In the classification of the third national land survey, “wetland” includes seven secondary land categories: “mangrove land,” “forest swamp,” “shrub swamp,” “swamp meadow,” “tidal flat,” “inland mudflat,” and “marshland.” It does not include “river water surface, lake water surface, reservoir water surface, pit pond water surface (excluding aquaculture ponds), ditches” and shallow sea water included in the Wetland Protection Law.

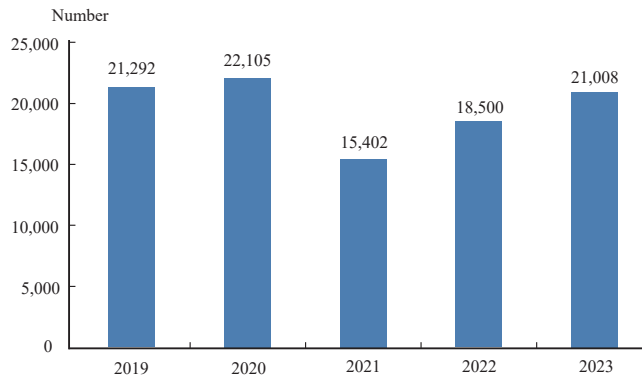
surveys, 20,000 square kilometers of 1:50,000 regional environmental geological surveys, 9,000 square kilometers of 1:50,000 ecological geological surveys, 2,000 square kilometers of 1:250,000 land quality geochemical surveys, and 70,000 square kilometers of 1:250,000 ecological geological surveys were completed, in addition to 12,000 kilometers of multi-beam marine geological surveys, 17,000 kilometers of aerial geophysical surveys, 9.16 million meters of mechanical core drilling, and 2.23 million cubic meters of trenching.

According to preliminary statistics, 124 new non-oil-and-gas mineral fields were discovered in the country, including 96 large and medium-sized mineral fields, an increase of 12.9 percent from 85 in 2022. Moreover, 112 prospecting areas were delineated, and 102 target areas were submitted for commercial exploration and prospecting. China's first 100-billion-cubic-meter deep coal bed methane gas field was discovered in the eastern margin of the Ordos Basin, with proven geological reserves of coal bed methane exceeding 110 billion cubic meters. Another breakthrough was achieved in the deep, tight gas sandstone reservoir in the Sichuan Basin, with a daily gas production capacity of 220 thousand cubic meters. New progress was made in the exploration of iron-rich ore in the Qihe-Yucheng region of Shandong, with nearly 100 million tonnes of iron-rich ore resources proven. High-yield brine potash ore was drilled in the Dalangtan-Heibei Concave in the Qaidam Basin. Other breakthroughs were also made with the mineral exploration in the Laizhou Gold Mine in Shandong, the Zhaotong Phosphate Mine in Yunnan, the Yajiang Lithium Mine in Sichuan, the Niobium-Tantalum Rare Earth Mine in Zhushan county, Hubei, and the Hongde Petroleum Field in Gansu.

Surveying and Mapping Geographic Information

In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources and local natural resources authorities received 7,511 applications for the use of classified basic surveying and mapping results, and approved 5,969 of them. They received and approved three applications for international access to China's confidential surveying and mapping results. They received 178 applications for the demolition of permanent survey markers, and approved 162 of them. They also received 16,521 maps for review and approved 13,762 of them.

As of the end of 2023, there were 21,008 units with surveying and mapping qualifications in the surveying, mapping, and geographic information industry, an increase of 2,508 over the end of the previous year, up 13.6 percent year on year. Among them, there were 2,076 Grade A units and 18,932 Grade B units, up 12.1 percent and 13.7 percent year on year, respectively.



Number of Units with Surveying and Mapping Qualifications 2019–2023

Geological and Marine Disasters and Their Prevention and Control

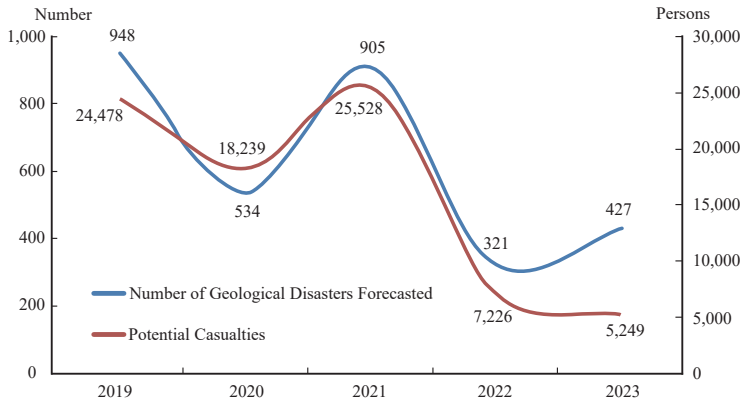
In 2023, China reported 3,668 geological disasters, including 925 landslides, 2,176 collapses, 374 mud-rock flows, and 193 land-sinking accidents. The number of persons dead or missing in geological disasters had decreased for a number of years in a row, generally remaining at a low level.

Experts and technicians with natural resources authorities at all levels across the country made more than 1.76 million visits to more than 2.52 million potential hazard points (including repeated counts), and responded to 10,185 geological disasters and hazards.

During the year, 427 geological disasters were successfully forecasted, involving 5,249 possible casualties and avoiding 500 million yuan of direct economic loss; universal monitoring and early warning equipment successfully issued alerts in 26 of these disasters and 103 disastrous situations.

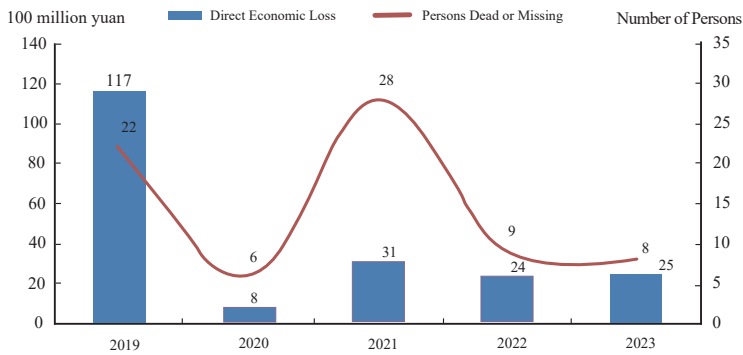
According to preliminary statistics, in 2023, a total of 13 catastrophic marine disasters occurred across the country, causing direct economic losses totaling 2.51 billion yuan and eight persons dead or missing, down 45 percent and 70 percent, respectively, compared with the average of the previous five years (2018–2022). The main types of disasters were storm surges, ocean waves, and red tides, with sea ice and green tides occurring to certain degrees. Among them, the direct economic loss caused by the storm surge was 2.48 billion yuan, accounting for 99 percent of the total loss, making it the most economically detrimental marine disaster; the direct economic loss caused by ocean waves was

30 million yuan, as well as eight persons dead or missing. A total of 288 storm surge and wave alerts were issued, 18 marine disaster emergency responses were initiated, and 45 marine disasters were successfully predicted.



Number of Geological Disasters Forecasted and Potential Casualties 2019–2023

In 2023, China's coastal sea level was 72mm higher than average (1993–2011), and coastal erosion and seawater intrusion were intensified in some of the monitored coastal sections. Storm surges and coastal city flooding occurring during periods of high sea level had a heavy impact on Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan Provinces, and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.



Direct Economic Loss and Persons Dead or Missing in Marine Disasters

Occurrence of *Ulva Prolifera* Green Tides in the Yellow Sea of China 2019–2023

Year	Time of decline	Maximum distribution area (km ²)	Maximum coverage area (km ²)
2019	Early September	55,699	508
2020	Late July	18,237	192
2021	Late August	61,898	1,746
2022	Early August	18,002	135
2023	Mid-August	61,159	998

A total of 46 red tides were reported throughout the year, covering a cumulative area of 1,466 square kilometers. The maximum distribution area of *Ulva prolifera* green tide was 61,159 square kilometers, and the maximum coverage area was 998 square kilometers.

Optimizing Territorial Space Layout

Formulation and Implementation of the Territorial Space Plan

As of the end of 2023, except for the territorial space plans of Beijing and Shanghai that were approved in 2017, all provincial-level governments and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps had compiled and submitted their respective territorial space plans to the State Council. Among them, 17

provincial-level plans, including those of Jiangsu, Guangdong, and Ningxia, had been approved by the State Council and put into force. The formulation of the master territorial space plans for cities and counties across the country had been completed, and a total of 66 city-level master plans for territorial space had been approved in Jiangsu, Guangdong, Ningxia, Hainan, Shandong, Shanxi and Jiangxi, and 114 county-level plans had been approved in Jiangsu, Guangdong, and Hainan. The first national-level regional territorial space plan, The Territorial-Space Master Plan for the Eco-Green Integrated Development Demonstration Zone in the Yangtze River Delta (2021–2035), had been approved and implemented by the State Council.

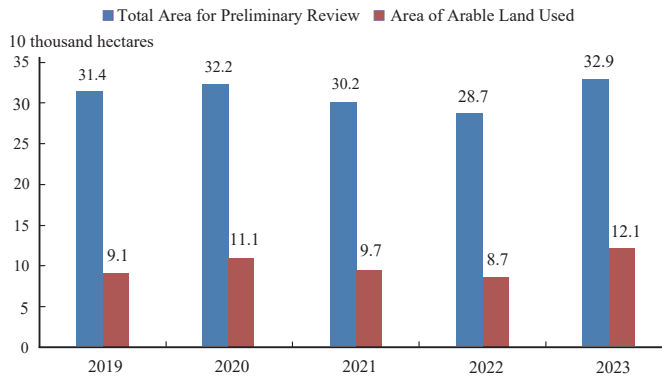
According to the annual evaluation of the implementation effects of national plans and the plans of key cities, the area of arable land and permanent basic farmland remained above 124.33 million hectares and 103.07 million hectares, respectively, in 2023, and the area of the national red lines for ecological conservation remained stable above 3.15 million square kilometers. Mangrove forests were included in the red lines for ecological conservation, which increased by about seven square kilometers, and 99 percent of the mangrove forests are now included in the red lines. Residential land accounted for 34.1 percent of the total urban construction land in 105 large cities across the country, an increase of two percentage points over 2009, while transportation land accounted for 11.7 percent and parks and green spaces accounted for four percent, an increase of 28.5 percent and 31.4 percent respectively over 2009. Based on the results of the Survey of National Land-use Changes, 683 cities were organized to accurately determine the total area of 78 thousand square kilometers of urban entities for the first time within the scope of standardized statistical areas for urbanization.

Nature Reserve System

In 2023, China accelerated the building of a system of nature reserves with national parks as the mainstay, nature reserves as the foundation and supplemented with various types of nature parks. The master plans for the first batch of five national parks were issued and implemented, and targeted flexible management was fully implemented. Remarkable results were achieved in the rescue protection of more than 300 species of rare and endangered wild animals and plants, such as giant pandas, pangolins, and cycads.

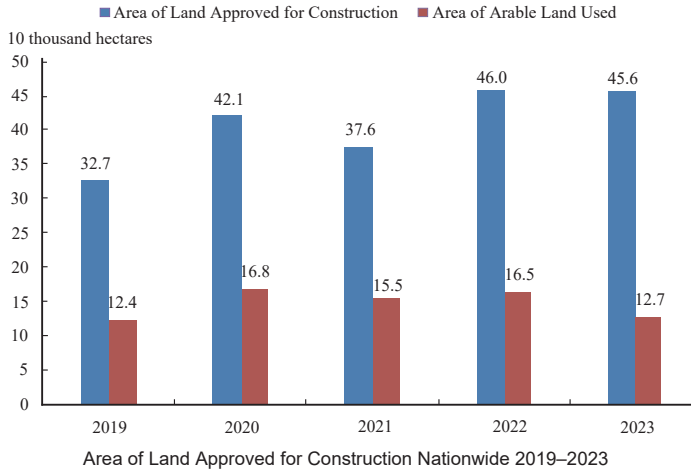
Use of Territorial Space

In 2023, 17,168 preliminary review projects of land use for construction were approved nationwide, involving a total land area of 329 thousand hectares, up 15.3 percent and 14.9 percent year on year, respectively. Among them, 121 thousand hectares of arable land were occupied, accounting for 36.8 percent of the total. In terms of type, transportation, water conservancy facilities, energy, and other projects took up 57.8 percent, 4.2 percent, 13.7 percent, and 24.3 percent of the total land area, respectively.



Statistics of Preliminary Review of Land Use for Construction Across China 2019–2023

In 2023, the land approved for construction nationwide was 456 thousand hectares, down 0.9 percent year on year. Among them, 127 thousand hectares of arable land were used, down 23.1 percent year on year, accounting for 27.8 percent of the total area. In terms of type, the land approved for separate construction was 256 thousand hectares, down 1 percent year on year, accounting for 56.2 percent of the total area approved; 200 thousand hectares of urban and rural construction land were approved, down 0.7 percent year on year, accounting for 43.8 percent of the total area approved.



Comprehensive Land Consolidation Across the Entire Territory

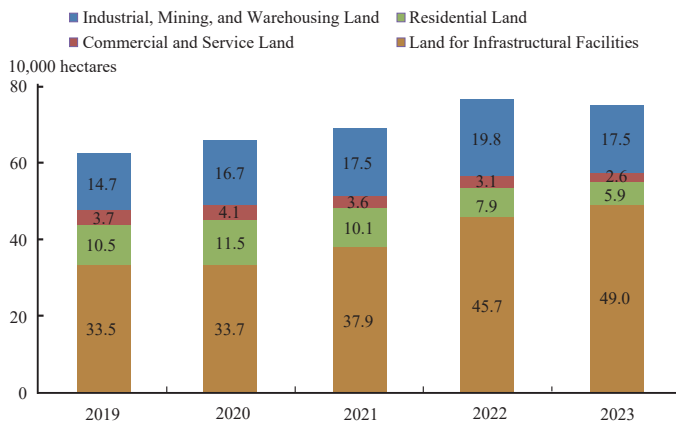
Drawing inspiration from Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Program, the Ministry of Natural Resources actively and steadily advanced the comprehensive land consolidation work across the entire territory, guided localities to strictly abide by the bottom line and implement 356 ministry-level rural pilot projects in a well-regulated manner, and promoted pilot projects in Ningbo of Zhejiang, Conghua of Guangzhou, the transportation routes in Guangxi, and Quanzhou of Fujian. Nationwide, 1,304 pilot projects at all levels and of various types were assessed. A total of 448.8 billion yuan had been invested, and the comprehensive land consolidation of 252 thousand hectares was completed, with an increase of 31 thousand hectares of arable land and a decrease of eight thousand hectares of construction land, which has played a remarkable role in optimizing the rural territorial space layout, providing the supply of factors for the integrated development of primary, secondary and tertiary industries in rural areas, and promoting rural revitalization.

Promoting Green and Low-Carbon Development

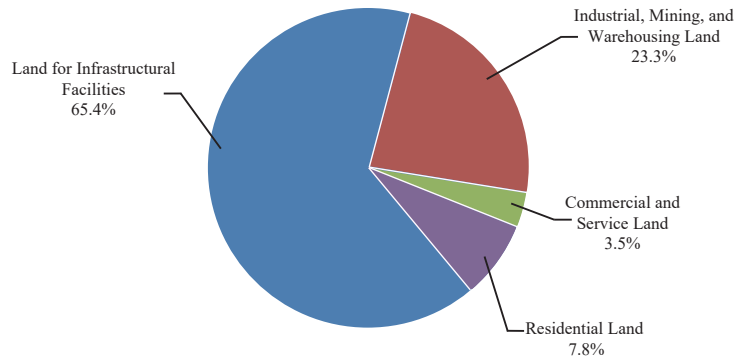
State-Owned Construction Land Supply

In 2023, the supply of state-owned construction land totaled 749 thousand hectares, down 2.1 percent year on year. Among them, the supply area of industrial, mining, and warehousing land, commercial and service land, residential land, and infrastructure facilities land totaled 175 thousand hectares, 26 thousand hectares, 59 thousand hectares, and 490 thousand hectares, respectively, accounting for 23.3 percent, 3.5 percent, 7.8 percent and 65.4 percent of the total land supply respectively. Among them, land for infrastructural facilities increased by 7.2 percent year on year, and industrial, mining, and warehousing land, commercial and service land, and residential land decreased by 11.9 percent, 16.1 percent, and 26.1 percent year on year, respectively.

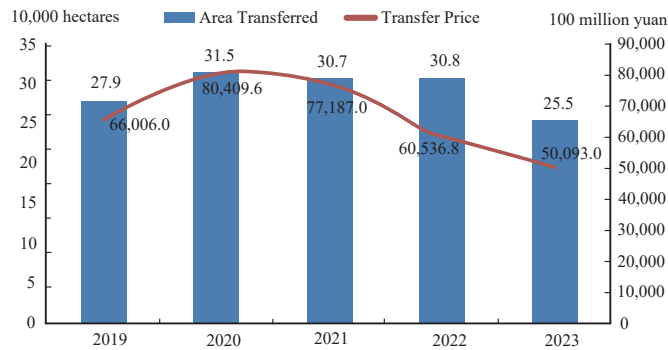
In 2023, 255 thousand hectares of state-owned construction land were transferred, down 17.1 percent year on year, with a transaction price of 5.1 trillion yuan, down 16.4 percent year on year.



Supply of State-Owned Construction Land 2019–2023



Supply Structure of State-Owned Construction Land in 2023



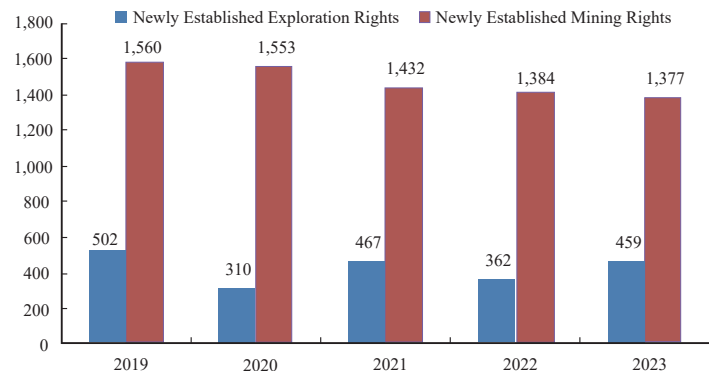
Transfer of State-Owned Construction Land 2019–2023

Transfer of Mining Rights

As of the end of 2023, there were 12,173 exploration rights in the country, with a registered area of 2.63 million square kilometers, both up 10.6 percent year on year. During the year, 459 new exploration rights were established, up 26.8 percent year on year, of which 367 exploration rights were transferred by “tendering, auction, and listing,” accounting for 80 percent of the total exploration rights transferred.

As of the end of 2023, there were 30,514 mining rights in the country, with a registered area of 332 thousand square kilometers, a decrease of 1.3 percent and an increase of 14.8 percent year on year, respectively. During the year, 1,377 mining rights were newly established, a decrease of 0.5 percent year on year, of which 1,070 mining rights were transferred by way of “tendering, auction and listing,” accounting for 99.7 percent of the total mining rights transferred (deducting the conversions of exploration rights to mining rights).

Number of Rights



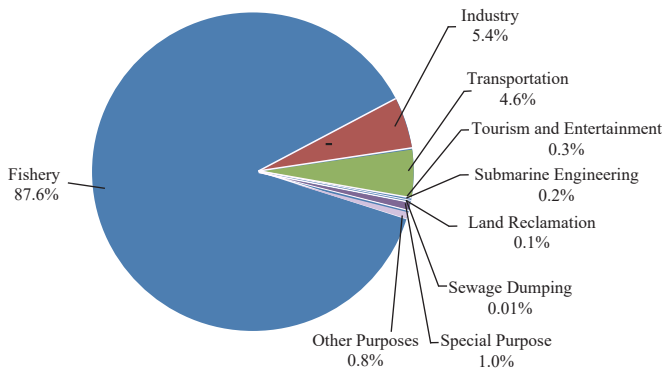
Number of Newly Established Mining Rights 2019–2023

Development and Utilization of Marine Resources

In 2023, the newly approved sea area for utilization was 209 thousand hectares, up 7.4 percent year on year. Among them, 3,963 hectares were approved for land reclamation, including 769 hectares of new reclamation and 3,194 hectares of legacy reclamation.

In terms of the purposes of the approved sea area for utilization, 183 thousand hectares were for fishery, 11 thousand hectares for industry, 10 thousand hectares for transportation, 599.1 hectares for tourism and entertainment, 462.7 hectares for submarine engineering, 27.9 hectares for sewage dumping, 133 hectares for land reclamation, 2,142.1 hectares for special purpose, and 1,646.4 hectares for other purposes.

The large-scale utilization of marine energy was actively promoted. The Fenjin, a domestically developed standalone megawatt tidal energy unit, had been in continuous operation for more than 20 months, with a cumulative grid-connected power generation capacity of more than 2.8 million kWh. The Nankun, a megawatt wave energy generating unit, was successfully connected to the grid for trial operation in the South China Sea. The 20 kW ocean floating thermoelectric power generation device completed a sea trial in the South China Sea. The large-scale development of seawater desalination technology was also facilitated. Preliminary results show that by the end of 2023, the combined capacity of existing seawater desalination projects in the country exceeded 2.5 million tonnes/day.



Percentage of Approved Sea Area for Utilization Purposes in 2023

Supply of Surveying, Mapping, and Geographic Information Data

By the end of 2023, in terms of real-world terrain 3D model reconstruction, a total of 9.6 million square kilometers of 10-meter grid-based digital elevation models covering the whole country, about six million square kilometers of less-than-5-meter grid-based digital elevation models in key areas, and data of about 1.2 million square kilometers of basic geographic entities were completed. In terms of real-world city 3D model reconstruction, data of 306 thousand square kilometers of centimeter-level aerial remote sensing images were collected, 3D models of more than 120 cities covering 54 thousand square kilometers were constructed, and data of about 45 thousand square kilometers of basic geographic entities were generated.

In 2023, at the national level, the 1:50,000 basic geographic information data covering 1.93 million square kilometers of territory were updated and a new database was built, with a one-year timeliness for the updated data. At the provincial level, 1:10,000 basic geographic information data of two million square kilometers were updated, and 144 thousand square kilometers were newly measured.

Throughout the year, authorities overseeing the surveying and mapping results of the natural resources system supplied to external parties 283 thousand topographic maps of various scales, 924.4 TB of “4D” achievement data, 236 thousand points of surveying and mapping benchmark results, 558.8 TB of aerial photography result data, 5,060.9 TB of satellite image data, and 187.3 TB of national geographical condition data. The National Catalogue Service for Geographic Information system newly released 986 thousand entries in 494 batches, responded to 1.74 million user queries, and provided 51 thousand batches of downloads of public surveying and mapping results, with a data volume of 3.2 TB. As of the end of 2023, its registered users totaled 950 thousand, and the average number of daily visits to the map service interface reached one billion on weekdays.

Ecological Conservation and Restoration

In 2023, the 52 projects for the integrated conservation and restoration of mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland, and desert ecosystems that had been implemented since the beginning of the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016–2020) were carried on, completing an ecological conservation and restoration area of more than 7.7 million hectares. In 2023, 14.2 billion yuan of awards and subsidies were allocated from the central budget, and 10.7 billion yuan was allocated in advance for 2024. Since 2016, ecological restoration projects of existing abandoned mines have been implemented in key regional river basins, leading to a total of 32 thousand hectares of restored and improved area across the country. Coastal cities were supported to implement 175 marine ecological conservation and restoration projects, with a total of 1,680 kilometers of coastline and more than 50 thousand hectares of coastal wetlands

restored. Social capital was encouraged to participate in ecological conservation and restoration. By the end of 2023, a total of 350 billion yuan had been invested via policy-backed finance.

In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources supported the implementation of seven new projects of ecological conservation and restoration, with a planned restoration area of more than 550 thousand hectares; 18 demonstration projects for the ecological restoration of long-abandoned mines, with an estimated restoration area of 26 thousand hectares; 16 new marine ecological conservation and restoration projects, with an estimated restoration of 125 kilometers of coastline and 13 thousand hectares of coastal wetlands. The ministry provided guidance for the formulation and promulgation of 28 provincial-level ecological restoration plans for territorial space. It accelerated the construction of a system of standards for the ecological restoration of territorial space and organized spot checks on the ecological restoration effect of active mines across the country.



This aerial photo taken on December 24, 2023 shows flowing ice on the Yellow River in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. (Xinhua/Wang Peng)

The Ministry of Natural Resources worked with other departments to release the Implementation Plan for Consolidating and Improving the Ecosystem's Carbon Sequestration Capacity, put forward the main goals and key tasks for 2025 and 2030, and made arrangements for continued work on consolidating ecosystem carbon sequestration capacity, improving the increment of ecosystem carbon sequestration, strengthening technological support and international cooperation, and improving laws and policies governing ecosystem carbon sequestration, etc. It formulated an action plan for consolidating and improving the marine carbon sequestration capacity and carried out carbon storage surveys and carbon sequestration monitoring in blue carbon ecosystems. It completed the carbon storage survey of more than 40 typical distribution areas of mangroves, coastal salt marshes, and seagrass beds across the country, guided the compilation of the Methodology for Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Projects: Mangrove Building, and issued six technical regulations for the investigation and monitoring of marine carbon sequestration, two technical guidelines for the development of marine carbon sequestration projects, and technical regulations for the evaluation of the effectiveness of blue carbon ecosystem protection and restoration projects. Carbon sink trading was piloted for mangrove conservation, and a mid-term evaluation of the effect of the action plan on mangrove conservation and restoration was conducted. The evaluation results show that half of the mangrove planting and restoration tasks were completed within half of the time frame, and the mangrove area had increased to 29 thousand hectares, making China one of the few countries in the world with a net increase in mangrove area.

Safeguarding the Rights and Interests of Resource Assets

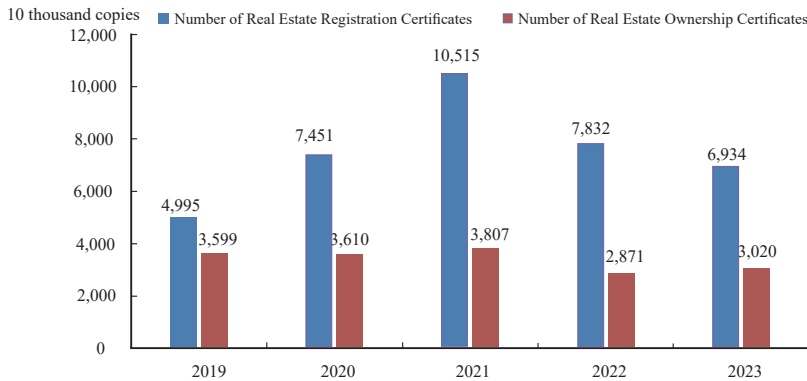
Unified Registration of Natural Resource Rights and Real Estate Ownership

The registration of natural resource rights was promoted in key areas in an orderly manner. The registration of Chongming Dongtan Wetland in Shanghai and the natural resources of Wuyi Mountain and Giant Panda National Park was completed. The pilot project of registering natural resource rights in nine sea areas and 164 uninhabited islands was also completed. By the end of 2023, a total of 49 key areas, including 21 nature reserves, one wetland of international importance, 26 rivers and lakes, and one mining area, had been registered for the first time.

In 2023, 69.34 million real estate certificates were issued nationwide, down 11.5 percent year on year. Among them, there were 47.49 million certificates of ownership of state-owned construction land/home (structure), 13.83 million certificates of homestead use rights/house (structure) ownership, 3.2

million certificates of homestead use rights, 392 thousand certificates of state-owned construction land use rights, and 4.42 million certificates of other rights. Throughout the year, 30.2 million real estate registration certificates were issued, up 5.2 percent year on year. Among them, there were 20.98 million mortgage registration certificates, 9.22 million advance notice registration certificates, and 3,095 objection registration certificates.

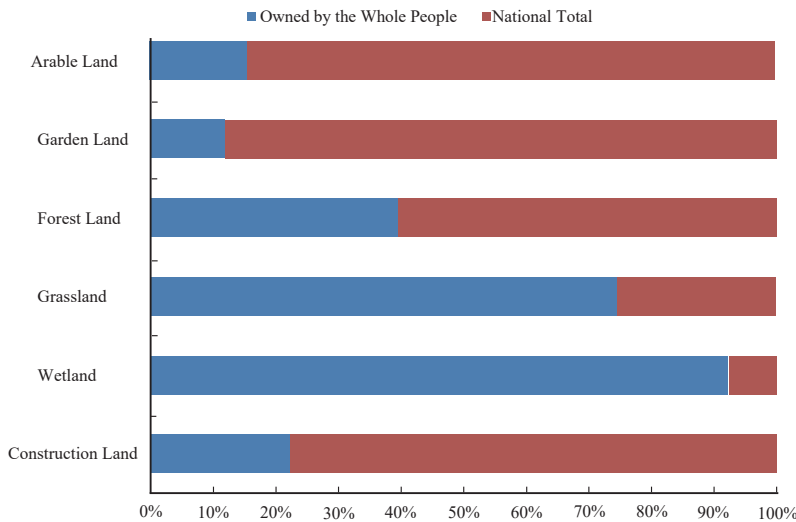
Efforts were made to improve the work style of the real estate registration team regularly. The first national real estate registration skills competition and the public welfare activity of model real estate registrants were organized. Reforms such as “transfer with mortgage” and “issuance of certificates upon delivery of land/housing” were promoted, with a total of 116 thousand cases of transfer with mortgage handled across the country, worth more than 160 billion yuan with mortgages. The land use rights/housing ownership certificates were issued upon the delivery of land/housing in more than 1,900 counties and cities, with over 5.2 million certificates issued, benefiting 56 thousand projects and more than 12 million enterprises and individuals.



Number of Real Estate Ownership and Real Estate Registration Certificates Issued Nationwide 2019–2023

Uniformly Exercise the Responsibilities of the Owner of All Natural Resource Assets Owned by the Whole People

By the end of 2022, the total area of land owned by the whole people in the country was 523.61 million hectares, basically the same as the end of 2020. Among them, 19.58 million hectares were arable land, 2.39 million hectares were garden land, 112.61 million hectares were forest land, 197.41 million hectares were grassland, 21.75 million hectares were wetland, and 18.19 million hectares were construction land.



Percentage of Types of Land Owned by the Whole People in 2022

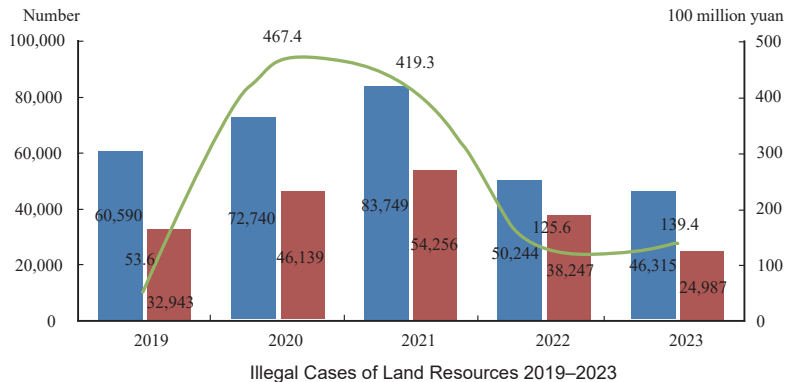
In 2023, the pilot project of the authorized proxy mechanism for the ownership of natural resource assets owned by the whole people was completed, and more than 200 best practices across the country were selected. The natural resource asset management system was improved, and an attempt was made to prepare the balance sheet of all natural resources owned by the whole people, with preliminary results

of the 2022 balance sheet completed. An inventory of assets was made in an orderly manner, establishing the physical amount of natural resource assets owned by the whole people in the pilot areas, estimating the amount of economic value, and developing a preliminary “map” of all natural resource assets owned by the whole people in the pilot areas. The Comprehensive Evaluation Indicators for the Management of Natural Resource Assets (Trial) was released, and the comprehensive evaluation of the management of natural resource assets in relevant areas was carried out. The pilot project and research on the realization of the value of ecological products in the field of natural resources were further advanced, and the fourth batch of best practices for realizing the value of ecological products was publicized.

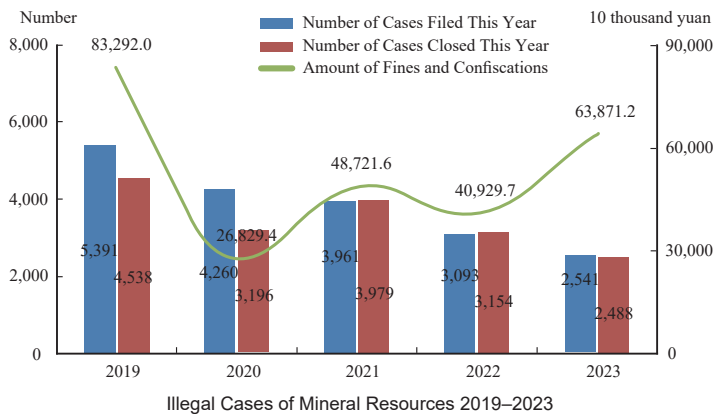
Inspection and Law Enforcement

In 2023, the state natural resources inspection authorities made public 123 typical serious violations of laws and regulations, conducted interviews with the leading officials of 28 prefectures/cities with prominent problems, jointly published five typical cases of misuse of agricultural land with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and issued inspection notices to relevant provincial-level governments to facilitate rectification and investigation.

■ Number of Cases Filed This Year ■ Number of Cases Closed This Year — Amount of Fines and Confiscations



Five cases of cross-border mining and one area with serious illegal mining problems were placed under supervisory monitoring. The results of the investigation and handling of seven cases of land violations placed under supervisory monitoring were publicly announced, and the rectification work of one area and nine areas where the problem of illegal occupation of arable land had been prominent since 2022 was placed under regional supervisory monitoring. The investigation and handling of 13 cases of land and 12 cases of mineral violations, as well as 12 typical cases of illegal occupation of agricultural land, were made public. In addition, 24 new cases of unauthorized occupation of arable land and 53 typical cases were announced, and relevant provinces were urged to rectify the illegal occupation of 585.3 hectares of arable land identified using satellite imagery and froze 14 thousand hectares of supplementary arable land.



In 2023, a total of 209 thousand cases of land violations were reported across the country, involving 88 thousand hectares of land, down 28.4 percent and 22.2 percent year on year, respectively; 46 thousand cases of land violations were filed, involving 30 thousand hectares of land, down 7.8 percent and 7.1 percent year on year respectively; 25 thousand cases of land violations were closed, involving 26 thousand hectares of land, down 34.7 percent and 50.1 percent year on year, respectively. Across

the country, 48 thousand hectares of illegally occupied land were recovered, with related fines and confiscations totaling 13.94 billion yuan, a decrease of 13.9 percent and an increase of 10.9 percent year on year, respectively.

In 2023, a total of 2,541 cases of mining violations were filed nationwide, down 17.8 percent year on year. Among them, 2,446 cases of illegal mining and 65 cases of illegal exploration were filed, accounting for 96.3 percent and 2.6 percent of the national total, respectively, down 18.3 percent and 8.5 percent year on year, respectively. Meanwhile, 2,488 cases of mineral violations were closed, down 21.1 percent year on year, and fines and confiscations of 640 million yuan were collected, up 56.1 percent year on year.

Technological Innovation and International Cooperation

Technological Achievements

In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources actively promoted the formulation and revision of standards in the field of natural resources, issued 51 national standards and 156 industry standards, facilitated the initiation of 43 national standards, and issued 198 industry standard plans.

The registration of technological achievements proceeded smoothly, with a total of 1,226 technological achievements registered, an increase of 47.4 percent over the previous year. In addition, 3,927 patent applications were filed, up 40.2 percent year on year, and 3,450 patents were granted, up 22.7 percent year on year. A total of 296 science and technology awards were conferred, down 17.3 percent year on year, 356 book titles on science and technology were published, up 5 percent year on year, and 2,161 software copyrights were granted, down 3 percent year on year.

The Ministry of Natural Resources organized the recommendation and selection of high-level technological innovation talent (specializing in geological exploration), with 336 teams (individuals) selected. Three persons in the natural resources, forestry, and grassland system were elected as members of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and nine persons were selected for the National Science and Technology Talent Program.

The 39th Antarctic expedition concluded with fruitful research in all fields. The Xuelong (Snow Dragon) and Xuelong 2 research icebreakers conducted the 40th Antarctic expedition in a 163-day voyage of more than 60 thousand nautical miles, and construction started on the Antarctic Ross Sea hub station. The 13th Arctic Ocean scientific expedition lasted 78 days and covered a total voyage of more than 15 thousand nautical miles. It was the first time for a Chinese research vessel to perform scientific tasks in the North Pole region. The Meng Xiang (Dream), China's first homemade ultra-deepwater oceanic research drilling ship, completed its maiden voyage. A new-generation ocean water color observation satellite was successfully launched. The deep-sea ocean survey was conducted, with the Dayang Yihao (Ocean No. 1), Dayang, and Shenhai Yihao (Deep Sea No.1) ships efficiently employed to complete four voyages of survey in the eastern Pacific, western Pacific, and southwest Indian Ocean in 457 days.

International Cooperation

The first Thematic Forum on Maritime Cooperation under the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held. The 2023 World Coastal Forum and the 6th China-EU High-Level Dialogue on Comprehensive Marine Management were also held. China was deeply involved in the formulation of international rules for ocean and polar governance. Solid progress has been made in building a regional tsunami warning center in the South China Sea. China actively participated in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development ("Ocean Decade" for short) initiative and established a National Committee for the "Ocean Decade" led by the Ministry of Natural Resources. By 2023, China had taken the lead in establishing one collaboration center and obtained approval for three partners and 15 actions (including five metascience programs). Among them, the "Digital Deep-sea Typical Habitats" metascience program was jointly launched by 64 institutions in 39 countries around the world and officially launched during the 2023 World Ocean Week in Xiamen. The Deep-time Digital Earth project was launched, which is the first China-led international metascience program. China also participated in the annual tasks of international science and technology programs such as the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program and the International Ocean Discovery Program.

China-Africa cooperation centers in the fields of satellite remote sensing application, geoscience, marine science, and blue economy were established. The United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center was officially launched in China. The 2023 China Mining Congress and Expo, the China-ASEAN Mining Cooperation Forum, and the SCO Seminar on Geoscience Cooperation and Mining Investment were successfully held. The agreements with UNESCO on the International Research Center on Karst and the International Center on Global-Scale Geochemistry were renewed.