

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP PRESSES URGENCY OF US-CHINA LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL COORDINATION OF PEOPLE-CENTERED POLICIES

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The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of global cooperation and coordination over geopolitical tensions and conflict. For the rest of the world, no two countries are more important in this crisis than the United States and China.

Scholars and experts who have examined the dynamics between China and the U.S. concluded that embracing the complexity and multifaceted nature of this relationship is the first step toward managing competition and cooperation responsibly.

The blame game between the US and China needs to stop, and conflicting issues need to be set aside to deal with the severity of the crisis. It is incumbent on the world's largest economies to take responsibility for overcoming it.

Domestically, this means an intense global effort to create conditions for social inclusion and personal security which have been undermined in recent years by economic globalization, financial crises, climate change and, now, by the global health crisis.

In the bilateral relationship, this means setting aside differences in order to lead the world in a global effort to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout in the immediate term and to focus on social inclusion and the existential threat of climate change in the long-term.

In 2016, during the China G20 presidency, the United States and China cooperated in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 that had been endorsed by all members of the United Nations in 2015. *The SDGs are a useful framework for responding to today's crisis, and to assure that social impact is the focus of people-centered policies for global public health and recovery.*

Now, more than ever, is the time for global leadership to bring the world together, and not tear it apart through divisive rhetoric. This entails a common effort to lift people out of poverty, anxiety and fear *by forging new systems of economic, social and environmental sustainability, as envisioned by the SDGs for 2030.*

China and the United States have a special responsibility for leading these global coordination efforts. The countries of Europe, Latin American, Africa and Asia also need to take responsibility for defining a new multilateralism by playing assertive roles.

The deeper question is: can humanity emerge out of this catastrophic crisis by tapping greater empathy, social responsibility and reimagined global governance that are needed now and for the future ?

This statement is issued by participants in the BU-CWD Workshop on “China-West Relations: The Search for a 21st Century Global Order” hosted by Boston University on March 20, 2020, in cooperation with the founding members of the **China-West Dialogue (CWD)** created to generate alternative frameworks for managing the global order.

The China-West Dialogue (CWD), this Workshop and this group experts from Europe, Canada, China, Chile and the United States were convened by the principals of the VISION20 (V20), an informal G20 engagement group co-chaired by Alan Alexandroff, Colin Bradford and Yves Tiberghien. (www.thevision20.org).

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CWD papers and other CWD publications can be found on the Global Summitry Project website of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto at [www.http://globalsummitryproject.com.s197331.gridserver.com/china-west-dialogue/](http://globalsummitryproject.com.s197331.gridserver.com/china-west-dialogue/)