

# The People's Republic of China

## Position for the General Assembly Plenary

### **I. Migration and its Effects on Economic Development**

There are 258 million migrants globally as of 2017, which affects all economies, especially those of the developing world. China, as a developing Member State, and the largest contributor to growth globally since 2008, has been at the forefront of addressing this issue.<sup>1</sup> Internationally, China has joined several other Member States in ratifying the United Nations (UN) Refugee Convention, the 1967 Refugee Protocol, the 1989 Convention on the rights of the child, and the 2000 Human Trafficking protocol. Furthermore, by taking in 775,344 migrant stocks—defined by the UN as, “the total number of international migrants present in a given country at a particular point in time”—annually from 2000-2013, China was able to reach all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015, become the second largest economy in the world, and collect an inflow remittance of 5,342 million USD annually.<sup>2</sup> Domestically, we have achieved this success by setting our Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China. This Five-Year Plan has resulted in widespread economic growth and an increase in the return of students studying abroad to China to 85 percent—as opposed to just 55 percent six years ago.<sup>3</sup> In large part, this has been due to a focus on diversifying and integrating migrants into our economy. While immigrants only comprise a small fraction of our labor force, international traders—immigrants who start or headquarter multinational industries in China—have helped bolster our export-oriented economy.<sup>4</sup> Likewise, foreign student fees, which range between 3,000 USD and 10,000 USD per semester, are a sustainable contributor to our post-secondary education system.<sup>5</sup> However, China also works to maintain a sustainable level of economic development and control the presence of illegal and under-qualified migrants.

Presently, China has been focusing on increasing domestic economic opportunities, in order to encourage Chinese citizens abroad to return home and entice to migrants to work in China. As such, the 13th edition of the Five-Year Plan, which sets the planned growth rate at a 6.5 percent increase of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), focuses on sustainable growth and has a goal for China to become a “moderately prosperous society”. Additionally, the Chinese economy has been bolstered by a focus on a proactive fiscal policy. China's 2018 fiscal policy seeks to expand on past efforts by cutting 1.68.3 trillion USD in taxes and nontax fees, such as those levied on businesses, increasing the opportunity for companies to apply for taxes breaks in the research and development fields, and maintaining a high level of public spending.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, we have implemented measures to allow small and micro-enterprises to access financing. This has diversified our economic structure and provided more domestic opportunities to returning Chinese. Moreover, the role of migrants in our Member State has been addressed by the Exit and Entry Administration Law enacted in July 2013. This law expands the use of our Hukou System to include both internal and external migrants, requiring migrants coming into and moving throughout the People's Republic of China to register their housing with local police.<sup>7</sup> Using this system, we have increased our GDP by two points and provide better security for migrants and citizens alike.<sup>8</sup>

China would recommend that the Member States with issues involving high levels of emigration in their economy be encouraged to create long-term economic plans which create domestic opportunities for their citizens who would otherwise seek employment abroad. This would be focused primarily on diversifying an economy towards more manufacturing industries while keeping a robust agricultural sector and stimulating job markets to create job opportunities through fiscal action. Additionally, we believe this body can best handle international migration and migrant safety by supporting the creation of systems like China's Hukou system. This would foster trust between migrants and their host countries and help to protect bodies locate potentially endangered migrants.

<sup>1</sup> "Overview." World Bank. 2018. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/china/overview>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Central Compilation & Translation Press. "The 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China" (2016–2020)." <http://en.ndrc.gov.cn>. 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Vioreanu, Dana. "Study Abroad in China. All You Need to Know about Tuition and Living Costs." MastersPortal. <https://www.mastersportal.com/articles/1587/study-abroad-in-china-all-you-need-to-know-about-tuition-and-living-costs.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "Overview." World Bank. 2018. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/china/overview>.

<sup>7</sup> Haugen, Heidi Østbø. "Destination China: The Country Adjusts to Its New Migration Reality." <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/destination-china-country-adjusts-its-new-migration-reality>.

<sup>8</sup> 宋婧祎. "Benefits of Hukou Reform Outweigh Costs." [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2015-10/27/content\\_22292395.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2015-10/27/content_22292395.htm).

## II. Humanitarian Relief in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters

China is a world power that has overcome many of the obstacles faced by developing Member States and seeks to share our knowledge with the international community and to create a strong international presence. One way of demonstrating China's emergence as a member of the world community is the introduction of a new aid policy outlined in the 2011 White Papers.<sup>9</sup> The People's Republic of China understands disaster response far better than our fellow Member States due to our massive size, varying terrain and environment, and challenging infrastructural problems. In response to these constant challenges, China has taken large steps towards building up an efficient system of disaster relief within our own borders. In 2014, with the assistance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China pledged 8 million USD in a Memorandum of Understanding, an unofficial agreement to cooperate internationally, that was spent to increase local disaster response capability of the participating Member States.<sup>10</sup>

China is committed to the assistance and safety of neighboring Member States that remain at risk for natural disasters. This is due, in part, to the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, which killed 90,000 Chinese citizens and urged the creation of better disaster preparedness methods; this has driven China to seek, prevent, and assuage the effects of disasters. During Hurricane Matthew, China sent a small contingency of NGO aid workers to Haiti to assist in the relief of over a million people in life-threatening conditions.<sup>11</sup> China has further demonstrated that it values the sanctity and security of all people with China's involvement in aid and relief efforts in the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.<sup>12</sup> When the quake struck, China was able to provide over 3 million USD worth of relief goods as well as dozens of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) aid workers. Because of China's charity, South Asian Member States like India share a new sense of unity with China, as they have built a working relationship around cooperation and a common goal of helping people in need during relief projects as we have seen in Nepal. Over time, China has created a reputation for increasing our ability as an aid provider with other projects as well. In 2010, China proved it how seriously we take our international responsibilities with our assistance with the Pakistani flood situation, where China provided 28 million USD to relieve thousands of displaced Pakistanis, whose homes and villages were destroyed by the waters.<sup>13</sup> China seeks to cooperate with Member States and share our foreign aid funding to allow others to utilize foreign aid spending in a meaningful way.

In this line of cooperation, The People's Republic of China would like to focus on preemptive financial measures that can help provide aid and sustainable development after natural disasters occur. For example, national environmental trust funds (ETFs) have been established in more than 50 developing Member States.<sup>14</sup> ETFs are very versatile and vary in their purpose, legal and political context, human resource capacity, and donor requirements. China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has since pledged 2 million USD annually to the China Trust Fund, which focuses on capacity building in African, ASEAN, and Central Asian regions and South-South cooperation.<sup>15</sup> Another solution we would like to see implement are green bonds; these allow for Member States to monetarily achieve the implementation of sustainable development projects with extra monetary assistance from the green bond market.<sup>16</sup> Under a green bond framework, the proceeds from green bonds are set aside for eligible green projects only, these we would like to see include disaster relief. The latest figures show total green bond issuance from China reached 37.1 billion USD in 2017, up 4.5 percent on the previous record-breaking year; makes China the second largest green bond market in the world. We are intent on creating new ways to reconstruct Member States after a disaster to build a prosperous future.

---

<sup>9</sup> "China's Foreign Aid," Information Office of the State Council, April 2011, [https://www.unicef.org/eapro/China\\_White\\_Paper\\_on\\_Foreign\\_Aid.full\\_text.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/eapro/China_White_Paper_on_Foreign_Aid.full_text.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> "China, ASEAN Land 8.1Mln Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Management: Reports," Sputnik, June 6th, 2014, <https://sputniknews.com/world/20141006193730934-China-ASEAN-Land-81Mln-Memorandum-of-Understanding-on-Disaster/>.

<sup>11</sup> Ji Hongbo, "Beyond Borders: China's NGOs Respond to World's Natural Disasters," The Asia Foundation, October 26, 2016, <https://asiafoundation.org/2016/10/26/beyond-borders-chinas-ngos-respond-worlds-natural-disasters/>.

<sup>12</sup> Shannon Tiezzi, "After Devastating Earthquake, China Rushes Aid to Nepal," The Diplomat, April 28, 2015, <https://thediplomat.com/2015/04/after-devastating-earthquake-china-rushes-aid-to-nepal/>.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> "Environmental Trust Funds," United Nations Development Programme, Accessed October 10, 2018, <http://www.undp.org/content/sdfinance/en/home/solutions/environmental-trust-funds.html>.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> John Smiciklas et. al., "Connecting cities and communities with the Sustainable Development Goals," United 4 SmartSustainable Cities, Accessed October 28, 2018, <https://tinyurl.com/y8mb395y>