

共建“一带一路”，推动中阿集体合作站上新起点
——中国-阿拉伯国家合作论坛成就与展望



Joint Development of the “Belt and Road”, A New
Era of Promoting China-Arab Collective Cooperation
—— Achievements and Prospects of the China-Arab
States Cooperation Forum

« La Ceinture et la Route », promouvoir la
Coopération collective sino-arabe pour un nouveau
départ —— Réalisations et Prospectives du Forum
sur la Coopération sino-arabe



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China-Arab States Cooperation Forum



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Preface

The friendly exchanges between China and the Arab states are long-standing and well-established. The ancient maritime and land-based Silk Road has closely linked the Chinese and Arab states. The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the successive independence of the post-Arab states have created a new era of China-Arab friendly exchanges. In 1956, China established diplomatic relations with Egypt. In the same year, China established relations with the League of Arab States. By 1990, China had established diplomatic relations with all 22 Arab states. In 1993, the Arab League established a representative office in China. In 1999, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Arab League's secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a political consultation mechanism. In 2005, China appointed personnel to work as ambassador to Egypt and plenipotentiary representative to the Arab League.

In 2004, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was established and developed into a collective cooperation platform covering a wide range of fields with more than 10 mechanisms. The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has played an increasingly important role in promoting China-Arab strategic cooperation in the 21st century. In June 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the opening ceremony of the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing, proposing that China and the Arab states make joint efforts for the "Belt and Road initiative" to create a new structure for China-Arab cooperation. The Arab states responded positively to this proposal, and China-Arab collective cooperation has now entered a new era of comprehensive upgrading. High-level China-Arab exchanges have become increasingly frequent and strategic mutual trust has continued to increase. In particular, President Xi visited Saudi Arabia and Egypt in January 2016 and delivered a speech at the Arab League headquarters to comprehensively expound the "China Plan" and "Chinese Wisdom" for the governance of the Middle East. President Xi also discussed new ideas and new strategies for China-Arab cooperation in the new era.

Furthermore, leaders of Arab states have made frequent visits to China and jointly planned future strategic cooperation with China.

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, and particularly, China's initiation of the Belt and Road initiative in 2013, China-Arab cooperation has continuously made significant progress and important achievements in all fields. The Belt and Road initiative has created a new platform for and brought new vigor and vitality into China-Arab cooperation. The momentum has been accelerating the progress of the China-Arab strategy, creating closer economic and trade cooperation. It has widened social development, strengthened peace and security cooperation, flourished cultural exchanges and enhanced people-to-people contacts. Institutional activities have been organized in an orderly manner under the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, creating normalized and positive interactions, and the Forum itself has also been continuously improved.

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China-Arab cooperation has been advancing with fruitful results. Due to the limited space in this paper, this study is not exhaustive but a summary of all the achievements from the China-Arab collective cooperation over the past 10 years. The cooperation achievements listed here are just a few of the overall number. However, this small glimpse not only reveals the brilliant achievements that the China-Arab cooperation has achieved since the establishment of the Forum, but also clearly shows that the historic ship of China-Arab cooperation is rapidly beginning a new voyage.

The contents of this research report have received strong support and comprehensive guidance from the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs, Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Secretariat of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. For this, we would like to express our sincere gratitude.

1. A new voyage for China-Arab cooperation led by summit diplomacy

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in January 2004, high-level exchanges between China and the Arab states have become increasingly close. In particular, since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, summit diplomatic relations between China and the Arab states have become increasingly frequent and mutual trust has steadily grown. With China and the Arab states working hand in hand, they are cooperating to establish a bright future for China-Arab relations, bringing about a remarkable impact on strategic leadership. In January 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and exchanged views with the heads of state of the two countries on bilateral relations, areas of common concern and international issues, and reached a far-reaching important consensus. Egypt and China issued the “People’s Republic of China Five-Year Implementation Outline with the Arab Republic of Egypt on Strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Two Countries”. China and Saudi Arabia made a decision to upgrade bilateral relations between the People’s Republic of China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into a comprehensive strategic partnership. President Xi also delivered an important speech entitled “Working Together for a Promising Future for China-Arab Relations” at the Arab League headquarters, and systematically explained the new concept and strategy of China-Arab cooperation in the new era. President Xi put forward a series of important measures to promote China-Arab cooperation in a pragmatic manner, establishing a new historical orientation for the development of China-Arab strategic cooperation, and opening up a new era of China-Arab cooperation. From the perspective of global governance, President Xi also comprehensively expounded on the “China plan” and “Chinese wisdom” to promote governance in the Middle East. President Xi stressed that China is willing to work together with Arab states to jointly solve development problems in the Middle East, become a peace builder in the Middle East, a promoter

of development, a booster of industrialization, a supporter of stability, and a cooperative partner.

Since 2014, leaders of Arab states have also frequently visited China and jointly planned strategic cooperation with China for the future. In June 2014, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited China and met with President Xi Jinping. In November 2014, Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar visited China. The two heads of state jointly announced the establishment of a China-Qatar strategic partnership. In December 2014, the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi visited China, and made two consecutive visits to China in September 2016 and 2017. At the invitation of China, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi attended the G20 Summit in Hangzhou and the Dialogue of Emerging Markets and Developing Countries. In December 2015, the UAE Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed visited China and met with President Xi. In May 2016, King Mohammed VI of Morocco visited China and held talks with President Xi. In March 2017, King Salman of Saudi Arabia visited China and the two heads of state agreed to work continuously to achieve new achievements under the comprehensive strategic partnership. In July 2017, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visited China and held talks with President Xi. President Xi put forward four proposals to promote the settlement of the Palestinian issue.

In this new period, diplomats from China and the Arab states have frequently interacted and pioneered the new voyage of China-Arab cooperation. The achievements of President Xi's visit to the Middle East and related proposals and initiatives put forward in the Arab League's headquarters are gradually being implemented. For example:

©The “Chinese-Arabic Chinese Translation Co-Cultivation Project” has already begun. In September 2016, the “Chinese-Arabic Chinese Translation Co-Cultivation Project” was launched in Shanghai. The first training course started at the same time. This project was established by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Arab League Secretariat, and was organized by Shanghai International Studies University. The project has successfully been carried out over

two phases. The first phase included 13 participants from seven Arab states. The second training course started in September 2017 with a total of nine trainees from six Arab states. The third phase of recruitment began in March 2018.

◎The “China-Arab Reform and Development Research Center” has been established. In April 2017, the China-Arab Reform and Development Research Center was established in Shanghai. The center is jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the Ministry of Education, and the Shanghai Municipal Government, and organized by Shanghai International Studies University. The center is aimed at implementing the achievements of President Xi’s visit to the Arab League, and strengthening China-Arab exchanges regarding state governance and economic development. In April 2017, November 2017, April 2018, and May 2018, the center successfully held four seminars for officials from Arab states and achieved positive results. In April 2018, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the China-Arab Reform and Development Research Center hosted the “China-Arab State Reform and Development Forum” in Beijing. Yang Fuchang, former Deputy Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, former Prime Minister of Egypt Sharaf, and Sudan’s former Speaker of Parliament Fatih were in attendance, among other former Chinese and foreign officials. More than 50 former officials, experts, and scholars attended the opening ceremony. Deng Li, Director of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Honorary Chairman of the China-Arab Reform and Development Research Center presided over the opening ceremony. Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong emphasized that China and the Arab states are natural partners of this new journey of reform and development. They can make joint progress through exchanges and mutual learning, and accelerate their development by complementing advantages of each other.

◎The “China-Arab BeiDou Cooperation Forum” was held. In May 2017, the first China-Arab BeiDou Cooperation Forum was held in Shanghai. The Forum was jointly sponsored by the Chinese Secretariat of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the China Satellite Navigation

System Management Office, and the Arab Information and Communication Technology Organization. China and the Arab states signed the “Statement of the First Session of the China-Arab BeiDou Cooperation Forum” and agreed to cooperate on the basis of existing cooperation. Both sides agreed to promote the implementation of major project cooperation in accordance with priority areas and needs of Arab states’ development so as to continuously improve the development of the Arab states’ satellite navigation field.

◎ The “China-Arab Civilization Dialogue and Deradicalization Roundtable” was held. In August 2017, the “China-Arab Civilization Dialogue and Deradicalization Roundtable” was held in Chengdu, China. The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States. More than 70 people from China, 16 Arab states and Arab League officials, as well as experts and scholars, and religious figures attended the event. The seminar on China-Arab relations and the dialogue between China and the Arab states is an important institutional activity under the framework of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. Deng Li, Director of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in his speech that the purpose of this roundtable was to establish a dialogue among civilizations and that in the future there will promotion of a consensus on China-Arab deradicalization and cooperation.

◎The Palestine-Israel peace symposium was held. In December 2017, the third Palestine-Israel peace symposium was held in Beijing. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with representatives from Palestine and Israel. The two sides reached a consensus on the document titled “Implementing a Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Based on the Plans of the Two Countries”, and China welcomed the document and expressed support. China has always supported the “two-state solution” and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty based on the 1967 border and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Many strategic consensuses reached by China’s and Arab states’ summit diplomats are leading the new voyage of China-Arab cooperation. Many proposals

and initiatives put forward by President Xi 's visit to the Middle East and his speeches at the Arab League headquarters have been implemented in succession. This clearly shows that China-Arab collective cooperation has entered a new era of comprehensive upgrading.

2. Continuous strengthening of political mutual trust

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, high-level exchanges between the two sides have become increasingly close, political mutual trust has continued to increase, and pragmatic cooperation has been strengthened. In 2010, China and the Arab states established a strategic cooperative relationship based on comprehensive cooperation and common development. At present, China has established comprehensive strategic partnerships, strategic partnerships, and strategic cooperative relationships with 10 Arab states. In 1956, China established relations with the Arab League. In October 2005, China appointed ambassadors to Egypt and the Arab League. In June 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the Arab League Secretariat established a high-level strategic political dialogue mechanism. In 2016, the Chinese government issued “China’s Arab Policy Paper” and made a comprehensive strategic plan and a top-level system design for the future development of China-Arab relations in the new era.

The political dialogue mechanism under the framework of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has been running in an orderly manner. To date, seven ministerial meetings, 14 senior official meetings, and three high-level strategic-level political dialogues have successfully been held, effectively speeding up the development of promoting political trust and pragmatism between China and the Arab States. The 7th Ministerial Meeting held in Doha in 2016 reaffirmed the common will of the two sides to consolidate their traditional friendship. There was a formulation of joint action to promote mutual political trust, economic mutual benefit, and cultural mutual recognition. Both sides expressed their common expectations regarding their deepening strategic cooperation. Furthermore, two important documents, the Doha Declaration and the 2016-2018 Action Plan, were signed. At the 14th Senior Officials’ Meeting held in Beijing in 2017, there was a review of the progress of the work since the 7th Ministerial Conference of the Forum, an assessment of the Forum’s implementation of the 2016-2018 Action Plan, as well as preparatory work consisting

of an exchange of opinions and review of the outcome document.

China and the Arab States are developing countries and their total economic output accounts for one-eighth of the world total, their total area accounts for one-sixth of the world total, and their population accounts for one fourth of the world total. They always sympathize with each other and support each other in international exchanges. They are jointly committed to maintaining the purposes of the UN Charter, adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, actively fulfilling the Declaration of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and the Action Plan of the Forum, and focusing on building a new type of international relations centered on win-win cooperation. At the UN, the G20 and the international multilateral arena jointly safeguard the rights and interests of developing countries. China-Arab cooperation is a model for contemporary international cooperation.

Mutual respect and firm support for core interests of each other are the basis of political cooperation between China and Arab states. China supports the Arab states' independent exploration of development paths and development models that suit their own national conditions and support the just cause of the Arab people. The Arab states also give China valuable support on issues involving China's core interests and major concerns.

©China firmly supports the Arab states in strengthening unity and safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity. It advocates comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East based on the Arab Peace Initiative. China firmly supports the peace process in the Middle East and supports the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. China supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty based on the 1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital. In 2016, China announced that it would provide Palestine with a grant aid of 50 million RMB. Through the establishment of the special envoy to the Middle East, China has actively played its role as an impartial mediator. On November 29, 2017, the United Nations held a commemorative meeting, the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People". In a congratulatory message to the General Assembly, President Xi Jinping

stressed that the Palestine issue is the root cause of Middle East issues and that it is related to the long-term stability and prosperity of countries in the Middle East. The permanent members of the UN Security Council and responsible great powers are willing to continue working with the international community to make unremitting efforts for the early realization of comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East. China believes that dealing with the status of Jerusalem should respect pluralistic history, adhere to fairness and justice, implement international consensus, and achieve peaceful coexistence.

◎ China has advocated and promoted the political resolution of the Syrian issue, actively participated in the Geneva talks and focused on humanitarian disasters and refugee assistance in Syria. China advocates that counter-terrorism, dialogue, and reconstruction are the three focal points to resolve the Syria issue, and that there needs to be a special envoy for the Syrian issue, as well as the giving of advice and the facilitation of talks. In recent years, China has provided emergency assistance to Syrian refugees through the International Red Cross and UNICEF. As of 2016, China has provided nine batches totaling 685 million RMB in humanitarian assistance to Syria and regional countries.

◎The Arab states also uphold the maintenance of China's core interests, support China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and actively participate in China's humanitarian crisis assistance. Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory and the Arab side firmly abides by the One-China policy, opposes all forms of "Taiwan independence", does not establish any official relations with Taiwan or conduct any official exchanges, supports the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Strait and the peaceful reunification of China, and is against religious extremist forces, national separatist forces, and violent and terrorist forces engaged in anti-China separatist activities. On the issue of the South China Sea, the Arab states spoke collectively in May 2016 at the signing of the Doha Declaration at the 7th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. They stated that they would unanimously support China's principled position and emphasized respect for sovereign states and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the right of states parties to

freely choose the means of dispute settlement, making the plan of some countries to internationalize the South China Sea fail.

After the devastating earthquake in Wenchuan, Sichuan province, China in May of 2008, Saudi Arabia immediately donated US\$50 million to the disaster area and provided US\$10 million in material assistance. It was the largest individual assistance received from overseas for a disaster-stricken area in China. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia again provided 1,460 sets of movable board houses and donated US\$1.5 million. The Oman government also provided massive material assistance to the disaster-stricken area in Sichuan, built an “Oman Aid Village” in Guangyuan City, Sichuan Province, and other Arab states also donated money and material assistance.

3. The formation of a new platform for China-Arab cooperation through “Belt and Road initiative”

In September and October of 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the construction of the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road” initiatives with countries along the route. The Belt and Road upholds the principles of common business, mutual development, and sharing. It is based on economic cooperation and supported by people-to people exchanges. Through implementing policy communication, connectivity of facilities, smooth flow of trade and accommodation of funds, the Belt and Road promotes the common development of China and countries along the route.

The Arab states are an important cooperative partner for China to build the Belt and Road. In June 2014, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech entitled “Promoting the Silk Road Spirit and Deepening China-Arab Cooperation” at the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing, and gave an in-depth explanation of the spirit of the Silk Road – “peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and win-win results”. President Xi made a clear proposal for China and the Arab states to build the Belt and Road, emphasizing: “China and the Arab states enjoy mutual understanding and friendship because of the Silk Road, and are natural cooperative partners in jointly building the Belt and Road.” In January 2016, President Xi once again stressed in his speech at the Arab League headquarters that China is willing to work with the Arab states to jointly build the Belt and Road, adhering to the concepts of actions including peace, innovation, leadership, governance, and integration. China promotes stability, innovative cooperation, link production capacity, promotes friendly actions, and jointly promotes the rejuvenation of China and the Arab states and the formation of more exchanges. President Xi’s two important speeches to the Arab world guided the direction for the development of China-Arab relations.

The China-Arab initiative to build the Belt and Road has received enthusiastic responses from many of the Arab states. The majority of countries are actively planning to link the country's development strategy with the construction of the Belt and Road, such as Egypt's "Revitalization Plan" and Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030", the construction of the Silk City in Kuwait, the construction of the Mohammed VI Tangier Tech City in Morocco, Jordan's "Vision 2025", among other projects. The construction of the Belt and Road has created a new platform to upgrade China's pragmatic cooperation in this new period, adding new impetus and creating new opportunities. China has signed agreements with nine Arab states to jointly build the Belt and Road. The building of the Belt and Road between China and the Arab states has become the most distinctive feature of China's collective cooperation and is reflected in all aspects of China-Arab cooperation.

◎ The "1+2+3" cooperation pattern was initially formed. In June 2014, President Xi Jinping put forward the Belt and Road initiative between China and the Arab states at the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, with energy cooperation as the principal axis, and infrastructure construction and trade and investment facilitation as the two wings, and nuclear energy, space satellites and new energy sources as the three major high-tech fields creating a breakthrough "1+2+3" cooperation pattern. The construction of this new pattern has already achieved initial success. In 2016, China imported 5.09 million tons of liquefied natural gas from Arab states, accounting for 19.9% of total imports. In 2017, China imported 157 million tons of crude oil from Arab states, accounting for 37.03% of the total import volume. By 2017, China's newly signed project contracts with Arab states amounted to US\$32.805 billion. Both sides have launched major projects in the areas of production docking, petroleum refining, and port infrastructure and China is already the second largest trading partner of Arab states and the largest trading partner of 10 Arab states. China and the Arab states set up a technology transfer center under the framework of the Forum, signed the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System landing agreement, and reached cooperative agreements with the training centers for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and clean energy. Both sides

also launched relations as partners in technology and will establish 10 joint national laboratories in areas such as new energy, public health, modern agriculture, and telecommunications. China has conducted bilateral space cooperation with Egypt, Algeria, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan. In 2017, China successfully launched the AlComSat-1 Communications Satellite for Algeria. In 2018, the China-Arab States BeiDou Center was established in Tunisia. As of 2017, China and Saudi Arabia already confirmed the first batch of 30 key projects regarding China-Saudi capacity and investment cooperation, of which the construction of eight projects are already underway.

© Financial cooperation continues to expand. The Arab states actively participated in the construction and operation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Jordan became the founding members of the AIIB. Representatives from Saudi Arabia and Egypt also served as directors of the AIIB's Middle East selection and African constituency respectively. At present, the AIIB has approved four projects involving Arab states, namely, the Oman Duqm Commercial Port Terminal and Operation Zone Project, the Oman Railway System Preparation Project, the Oman Broadband Infrastructure Project, and Egypt's Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation Project, with loan commitments, totaling US\$663 million and accounting for 15.67%. In January 2017, the AIIB loaned US\$265 million to Oman, which was the first time the AIIB has provided a loan to an Arab state. China has also established a total of US\$20 billion in mutual investment funds with the UAE and Qatar. The Doha branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Dubai branch of the Agricultural Bank of China have begun RMB liquidation business operations.

© Cultural exchanges are rich and vibrant. Humanities exchanges are an important pillar of the Belt and Road initiative for China and the Arab states. Both sides rely on the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum to actively carry out cultural exchanges in various forms to promote mutual recognition of civilizations and help people communicate with each other through culture, arts, education, health, media, etc. Exchanges and cooperation in various fields such as tourism are continuously being

enriched and expanded. President Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech to the Arab League: “The extension of the Belt and Road is where lively people-to-people exchanges take place. The integration of the common spirit of the people requires intensive work.” By the end of 2017, China and 11 Arab states had signed a new annual implementation plan for bilateral cultural cooperation, promoted 53 cultural delegations from the Chinese and Arab governments for exchange visits, organized 196 cultural performance delegations consisting of 4604 people to conduct exchange visits, promoted 105 Arab cultural institutions to develop cooperation with Chinese counterparts, invited 258 Arab cultural and artistic talents to study in China, and promoted seven national Arab theaters to join the “Silk Road International Festival of the Arts” and five Arab International Art Festival Organizing Committees to join the “Silk Road International Arts Festival Union”. In 2015, the China-Arab Health Cooperation Forum was held in Yinchuan, China. In April 2016, the China-Arab State Party Dialogue was held in Yinchuan, China. The theme of the conference was “The Mission of Political Parties in Co-building A China-Arab Community of Shared Destiny”. Since 2016, China, Egypt, UAE, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and five other countries have signed memorandums of understanding for media cooperation promotion programs. During the 2017 and 2018 winter and spring airlines seasons, regular scheduled passenger flights between China and Arab states totaled 150 flights per week.

4. Increasingly close economic and trade cooperation

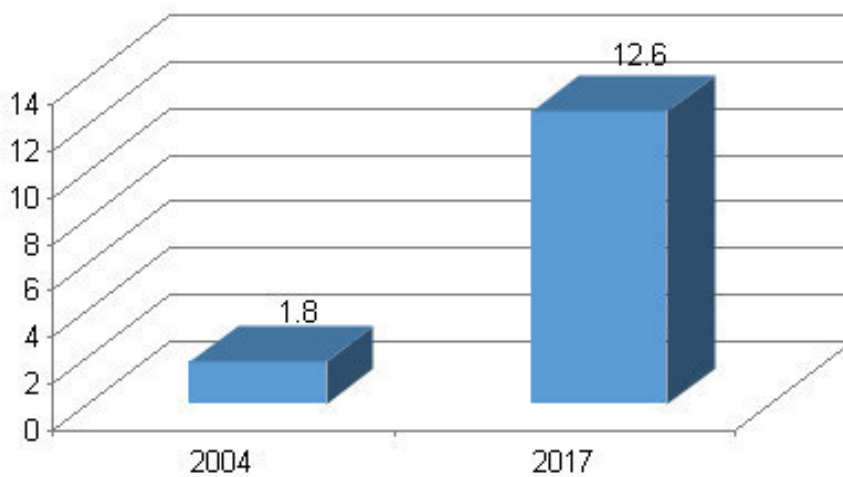
China has established a joint economic and trade cooperation mechanism with all 22 Arab states and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Furthermore, China has signed bilateral economic, trade, and technical cooperation agreements with all Arab states. Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the China-Arab trade volume, China's direct investment flow to Arab states, and recently signed contracts in Arab states have achieved remarkable and significant growth (see the table below). China has become the second largest trading partner of Arab states. In 2004, China-Arab trade volume was US\$36.7 billion. This figure exceeded US\$100 billion in 2008, US\$200 billion in 2012, and reached US\$251.2 billion in 2014. Thus, there has been an increase of 5.2% year-on-year, accounting for 5.8% of China's total foreign trade volume. The trade volume reached US\$191.352 billion, which is an increase of 11.9% over the same period last year.



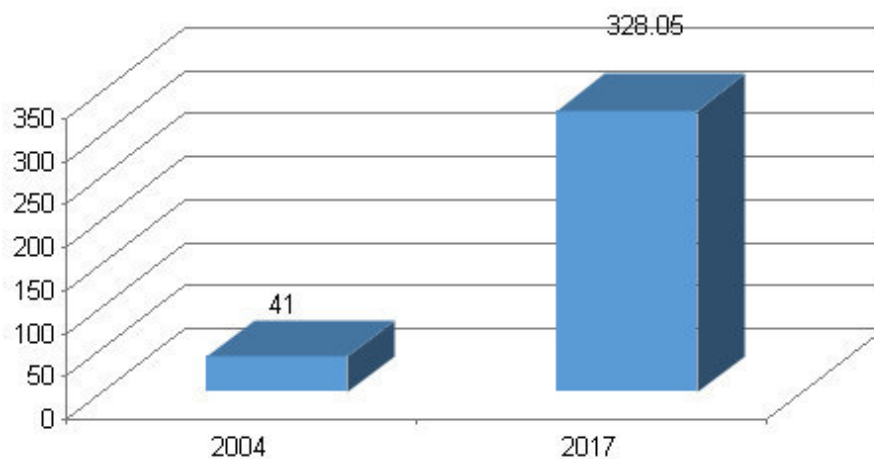
©In 2004, China's direct investment flow to Arab states was US\$180 million, and reached US\$760 million by the end of that year. In 2012, China's investment flow to Arab states was US\$890 million and investment stock reached US\$7.2 billion by the end of that year. At the end of 2016, the stock of China's direct investment to Arab states was US\$15.1 billion. In 2017, China's direct investment to Arab states was US\$1.26 billion, an increase of 9.3% year-on-year. In 2004, Chinese companies' newly signed contracted projects in Arab states amounted to US\$4.1 billion. In 2012,

these projects amounted to US\$19.9 billion, and in 2014 they reached US\$35.9 billion, an increase of 23% year-on-year, accounting for 1/5 of China's newly signed engineering contracts worldwide. In 2017, China newly signed contracted projects in Arab states had a total value of US\$32.805 billion.

China's Direct Investment in the Arab States (\$100 million)



China's Contracted Projects in Arab States (\$100 million)



© China and Arab states attach importance to the establishment of cooperation in the fields of economy and trade in Arab states, and actively promote the China Industrial Park in Saudi Arabia's Jazan Economic City, the Chinese Industrial Park in Duqm of Oman, the China-UAE Capacity Cooperation Demonstration Park, and the

China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, and the construction of the China-Sudan Agricultural Cooperation Development Zone. In the area of utilities and connection, Chinese companies have extensively participated in port construction and investment in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria, and Djibouti, and implemented projects such as roads, railways, oil pipelines, and water supply networks. In the field of utilities and connections, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, and other countries have cooperated with Huawei, ZTE, and other companies for international roaming and international direct dialing services. Nearly 20 telecommunications companies in Arab states have carried out cooperation in fields such as fixed networks, wireless networks, and intelligent terminals. Furthermore, China and the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Qatar and Egypt have opened direct flights to seven countries.

◎ In the process of China-Arab economic and trade cooperation, both China and the Arab states have attached great importance to the construction of bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms, which has not only enhanced the efficiency of pragmatic cooperation, but has also promoted the sustainability of bilateral exchanges. China-Saudi Arabia, China-United Arab Emirates, and China-Algeria have established mechanisms for mutual visits by entrepreneurs and established bilateral business councils with Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and UAE. Since 2005, seven sessions of the China-Arab Entrepreneurs Conference have been held. Four institutions including the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Federation of Arab Agro-Commercial Chambers of Commerce, the GCC Federation of Industry and Commerce, the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Arab Banking Union have established multilateral industrial and commercial cooperation mechanisms with the Arab states. A total of 28 cooperation agreements have been signed between the national counterparts' associations, trade and investment promotion agencies and large enterprises. Since 2010, the Ministry of Commerce, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the People's Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region have jointly organized the 3rd China-Arab Economic and Trade Forum and the 3rd China-Arab Expo.

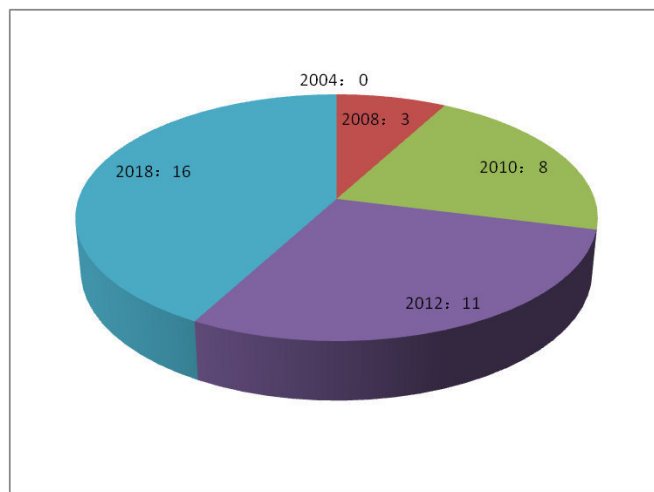
5. Steady expansion of social development cooperation

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China and the Arab states have cooperated extensively in many fields of social development such as health care, education, science and technology, agriculture, forestry, and environmental protection. Cooperation in various fields has developed rapidly and the achievements have been outstanding.

© Achievements in cooperation in the medical and health fields: China has sent a total of 313 batches of aid to foreign medical teams in Algeria, Djibouti, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Yemen, and the Comoros. Since 2004, there has been a total of 313 dispatches and with 2301 people sent for the missions. At present, apart for Yemen, there are eight teams in total with 307 people working in the Arab states. Since 2006, China and the Comoros have jointly carried out a project of the rapid elimination of malaria using artemisinin and the number of malaria-related deaths has reduced to zero in the past eight years. In 2014, China launched actions operations in five countries, Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan, Comoros and Morocco, with free reconstructive surgery for 2,486 patients, and established an eye center in Mauritania. In 2015, China and the Arab states' Cooperation Forum was held in Yinchuan, Ningxia. Seven Arab national hospitals including in the UAE and Egypt and 12 Chinese hospitals signed a statement in preparation for the establishment of the China-Arab Health Alliance for Health Cooperation and Development. In 2016, China and the Arab states hosted the China-Arab Exhibition in Egypt with the “Green Medical Treatment Health Action” activity. In 2016, the annual meeting of the China-Arab Health Alliance for Health and Development was convened, and the 2nd China-Arab Meeting for Senior Health Officials and Experts was held at the Arab League headquarters. In 2017, three cooperation projects were signed: the “China-Egypt Joint Laboratory for Original Medicine”, the “China-Morocco Original Medical Taiji Health Cooperation Project” and the “China-Egypt Joint Laboratory of Chinese Medicine”.

© Achievements in cooperation in education and human resources development: China has established 12 Confucius Institutes and four Confucius Classrooms in nine Arab states. Since 2004, China has trained approximately 70,000 trainees and organized 4,952 cultural events, 680,000 people have participated, and a total of 13,336 people sat the HSK examination. The number of international students studying in China increased from 1,130 in 2004 to 18,050 in 2016 with an average annual growth rate of 26%. The number of Chinese international students studying in the Arab states was 242 in 2004. It has grown to 2,433 in 2016 with an average annual growth rate of 21%. Since 2004, China has provided training for professionals and officials in various fields in the Arab states, with 90 customs officials in 18 Arab states, and 862 scientific and technical management personnel, 26 senior officials in environmental protection, and 248 related professionals.

China’s Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms in the Arab States since 2004



© Cooperation achievements in the field of science and technology: In 2013, since the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology initiated the work plan for outstanding young scientists in China, 123 Arab scientific researchers have conducted short-term scientific research in China. In December 2014, President Xi Jinping with visiting Egyptian President el-Sisi witnessed the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Construction of the Joint Laboratory for Renewable Energy between China and Egypt” signed by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and the Egyptian Ministry of Scientific Research. The China-Arab Technology

Transfer Center was officially opened in 2015. In 2015 and 2017, two sessions of the China-Arab Technology Transfer and Innovation Cooperation Conference were held. In 2016, President Xi announced the launch of the “China-Arab National Science and Technology Partnership Program” when he visited the Arab League headquarters. In March 2016, China and Egypt jointly established a renewable energy laboratory and the construction of the laboratory is progressing steadily. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China is also negotiating with the relevant science and technology authorities of the Arab states to build laboratories in areas of common interest. At present, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, and Libya have inter-governmental cooperation agreements with the Chinese government on science and technology. Egypt, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia have also established a scientific and technological cooperation mechanism with China’s Ministry of Science and Technology.

© Cooperation achievements in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and environmental protection: At present, China has signed memorandums of cooperation in agriculture with Oman, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Mauritania, and established agricultural working groups with Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan and signed bilateral environmental cooperation documents. In 2006, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum organized many important events in the field of environmental protection cooperation. In March, the first “China-Arab Environmental Cooperation Conference” was held in the UAE. At the 2nd Ministerial Meeting in June, the “Joint Communiqué on Environmental Cooperation between the People’s Republic of China and the League of Arab States” was signed. In October, the “China-Arab Environmental Cooperation Partnership Seminar” was held in Beijing. In 2008 at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Forum, the two sides formally signed the “People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection Implementation Plan of the League of Arab States for Environmental Cooperation (2008-2009)”. In 2012, China hosted the China-Arab Forum on the Prevention and Control of Desertification. In 2015, the China-Arab Environmental Cooperation Forum was held and a memorandum of understanding on environmental cooperation was signed. In 2016, China held the

China-Arab Prevention and Control of Desertification Forum in Sudan. In order to strengthen relevant exchanges, cooperation and work norms, China published a monograph on “Supporting the Green Belt and Road Initiative: Building a China-Arab Green Development Partnership”, and in 2017, released the Belt and Road Ecological Environmental Protection Cooperation Plan.

6. Flourishing people-to-people exchanges

The two great civilizations of China and the Arab states have long histories and deep foundations. They are both important civilization systems that have made tremendous contributions to the progress of world civilization and occupy important positions in the contemporary international civilization system. Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech to the Arab League: “The Chinese and Arab civilizations each have their own systems and distinctive features, yet they both embody the common ideals and aspirations of mankind for development and progress, and they both champion such values as moderation, peace, forgiveness, tolerance and self-restraint. We should promote dialogue among civilizations in a spirit of inclusiveness and mutual learning and explore together the values in our respective cultural traditions that remain relevant today as positive guidance for good relations.” Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the intercourse between China-Arab civilizations has brought about new historical opportunities. Under the framework of the Forum, the humanities exchange mechanism has been operating effectively and a variety of exchange activities have flourished with fruitful results.

© Various forms of exchange and cooperation in culture and art have been rich in content. Since the establishment of the Forum, seven sessions of China-Arab Relations and Civilization Dialogue Seminars have been held, along with three Arab Art Festivals and three Chinese Art Festivals. Through holding the “Happy Spring Festival” and “Chinese Culture Week” with the Arab states, China has built the “China-Africa Silk Road Cultural Journey” brand. Since 2009, China has hosted the “Understanding China – Arab Creative Activities for Famous Artists China Visit” for the past nine consecutive years, with a total of 91 artists and 44 artists from 18 Arab states having participated in the event. Sculptors have visited China and created 416 pieces of works that reflect Chinese style and features. Since 2012, China has sent 167 art groups with 3,958 people performing in 16 Arab states, holding performances, exhibitions, intangible and cultural heritage events, and lectures. China-Arab related

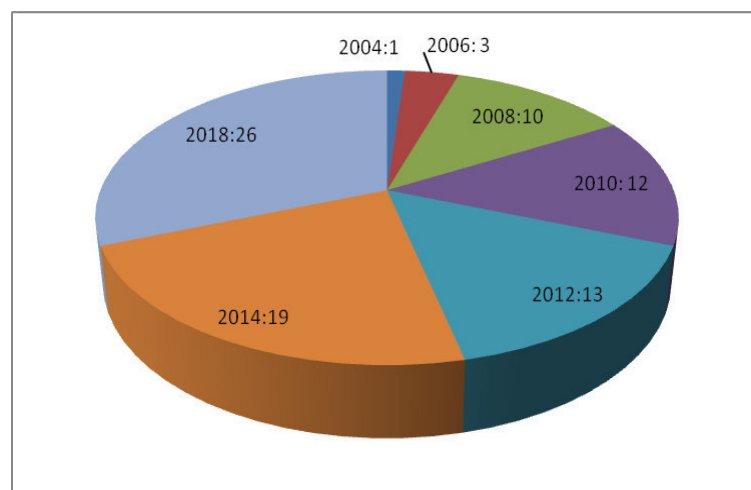
organizations have cooperated and held multi-phase Arabic language homes, as well as stage technician seminars with 258 people in attendance at the training. Since 2016, the “Understanding China” brand has held master-art workshops, Arab art festivals, as well as exchange activities for theater principals to visit China.

© There has been rapid development in exchanges and cooperation in broadcasting, television, news and publishing, and think tanks. Since its establishment, the Forum has held three sessions of China-Arab News Cooperation Forum, three sessions of the China-Arab Radio and TV Cooperation Forum, and two sessions of the China-Arab Think Tank Forum. Since 2004, China’s People’s Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Central Television, and China Foreign Languages Bureau have signed 50 business cooperation agreements with 21 mainstream media organizations in the Arab states. 17 radio and television management and technical training courses for Arab states have been held with 240 Arab trainees. China has screened more than 300 films in Arab states and Arab states have screened more than 10 films in China. In 2010, China and the Arab League Secretariat signed the “Memorandum of Understanding on Translation and Publication of Chinese and Arabic Ancient Books and Records” under the General Administration of Publication of the People’s Republic of China and Secretariat of the League of Arab States and agreed to launch the “Chinese-Arabic translation and publication project”, and have translated and published more than 30 Chinese and Arabic books. In 2011, China Daily entered the UAE market and has 20,000 issues per week. Since 2012, China Radio International has been aired in Arab states such as Mauritania, Comoros, Djibouti and Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Yemen, Algeria, and other major countries in the Arab states have signed radio and television media broadcasting agreements in China. More than 10 TV series reflecting contemporary Chinese themes have been broadcast in Arab states. Since 2014, more than 50 Arabic-Chinese film and television productions have been translated. Since 2015, China has held seminars for news reporters and journalists from Arab states and seminars on journalism and media in Lebanon for three consecutive years. 103 news reporters and journalists from 14 Arab states have participated in the training. In 2017, China hosted senior media personnel from Arab

states. During the seminar, 22 media personnel from nine Arab states participated in the event. The Central Radio and TV Station of China receive full coverage in Arab states, and CCTV international channels are aired in 21 Arab states but not in Somalia.

◎ People-to-people exchanges between China and the Arab states have become increasingly active. The peoples of China and the Arab states have a long history of friendly exchanges. Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the people-to-people contacts between the two sides have become increasingly active, and the fields of communication have been expanding. The form and content of the contacts are rich and varied. China and the Arab states successfully hosted five China-Arab States Friendship Conferences, two China-Arab Women Forums, two China-Arab Travel Business Conferences, and conducted two China-Africa Youth Ambassadors' Friendship Projects. China has established 26 friendship city relations with nine Arab states. In June 2014, the first China-Arab City Forum was held in Quanzhou, Fujian province, China. Tourism cooperation in the field has also developed rapidly with 13 Arab states having become outbound tourism destination countries for Chinese tourist groups, and tour businesses in nine countries have already been set up. The Chinese and Arab religious communities interact well with each and personnel exchanges are becoming more frequent. Chinese Muslims have been on orderly pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia. Since 2007, the number of persons going on pilgrimage has risen to more than 10,000 persons each year.

Number of Sister Cities of the China-Arab States since 2004



7. Gradual deepening of peace and security

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, cooperation between China and Arab states in the area of peace and security has intensified. In recent years, both sides have been actively responding to a new common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept. China supports the Arab states in building inclusive and shared regional collective cooperation security mechanisms and is playing an active role in solving regional affairs and hot issues. The Arab states welcome China's positive role as an impartial mediator in the security affairs of the Middle East and a promoter of peaceful resolution of regional conflicts.

◎ China supports the initiative of the Arab League and its member states to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East and opposes the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. China also advocates that countries in the Middle East accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and promotes the early convening of an international conference to make the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. China supports the Arab states in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and transfer of peaceful energy technology to the Arab states.

◎ China and Arab states have strengthened anti-terrorism exchanges and cooperation, established a long-term security cooperation mechanism, strengthened policy dialogues and exchange of intelligence information, carried out technical cooperation and personnel training, and jointly dealt with international and regional terrorist threats. Both China and Arab states are victims of terrorism. The two sides oppose and condemn terrorism in all its forms. They oppose linking terrorism with specific nationalities and religions and oppose double standards against terrorism. China supports the initiative of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, supports the Arab states' anti-terrorist efforts and supports the Arab states in strengthening anti-terrorist capabilities. In recent years, China and the Arab states have cooperated closely to fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, blocked

terrorist financing sources, cracked down on cross-border organized crime, and had exchange experiences on deradicalization.

◎ China-Arab peace and security cooperation has become an important force for international peacekeeping under the UN framework. China actively carried out peacekeeping and escort operations in Somali waters in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. As of March 2018, China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations had a total of 2,491 personnel, of which four peacekeeping missions were undertaken in the Arab world and South Sudan, accounting for about three-quarters of the total number of China's peacekeeping personnel. 1032 people were deployed in South Sudan, 410 in Lebanon, 365 in Darfur in Sudan, and 12 in Western Sahara. Since 2008, Chinese naval vessel formations have traveled to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to carry out escort missions, safeguard the safety and protection of those sailing through the Gulf of Aden and Somalia, and protect the World Food Programme and other international organizations' transport of ships carrying humanitarian materials. Such activities have been welcomed by the Red Sea and Arabian Sea countries. By April 2018, China had sent a total of 29 convoys to the Gulf of Aden. The Arab states and the international community are working together to maintain the safety of the sea lanes. The Arab states firmly support China's anti-piracy operations. In 2017, with the support of Arab states, China's first overseas logistics support base was formally put into use in Djibouti, enhancing China's ability to provide safe public goods.

◎ China and the Arab states have both effectively safeguarded the personal safety of the citizens of their countries, consolidated cooperation between the two sides in judicial assistance, extradition and repatriation, and strengthened cooperation in areas of the signing of treaties for mutual legal assistance, the pursuit and recovery of money and stolen goods, drug control, and the crackdown on transnational crimes and anti-corruption. China has also carried out mine-clearance operations in multiple Arab states, and provided assistance to Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Somalia, and other countries in mine-clearance and sanitation. This has become a successful example of China-Arab security cooperation.

8. Continuous improvement of the development of the Forum

The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has always adhered to the principles of dialogue, cooperation, peace and development. It has continuously strengthened itself and improved each of its mechanisms. Since the establishment of the Forum, its development has been smooth and effective, the scope of coverage has continuously expanded, cooperation results have become increasingly abundant, and regularization and institutionalization have been continuously promoted. It has become an important platform for collective dialogue and cooperation between China and the Arab states on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, enriching the strategic connotation of China-Arab relations and playing an increasingly significant and important role to promote practical cooperation between China and the Arab states.

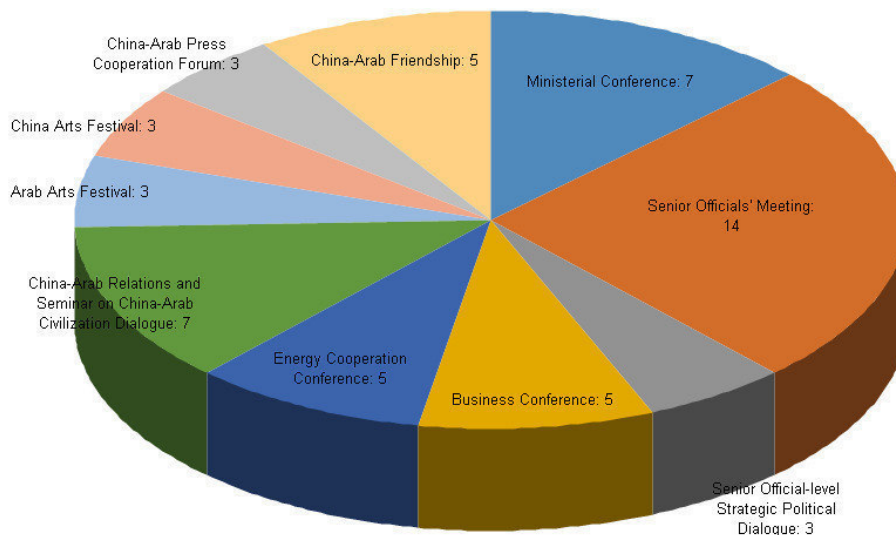
◎ The construction and development of the Forum has always been highly valued by the heads of state of both China and the Arab states. Chinese President Xi Jinping was very concerned about the construction and development of the Forum, pointing out a new direction for the future construction and development of the Forum and putting forward new requirements. President Xi stressed that the building of the Belt and Road by China and the Arab states is a new opportunity and a new starting point for the development of the Forum: “The Forum’s construction must be implemented well and serve as a pivot”, it must stand at this new starting point and seize the historical opportunities, be a stimulating momentum for sustainable development and gain greater space for development. Both sides should rely on the support of the Forum to strengthen policy communication, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and constantly blaze new trails, apply new ideas, launch new measures, and create new mechanisms. We must try to solve the problems encountered during pragmatic cooperation and break through bottlenecks with innovation and cooperation.

© Since the establishment of the Forum, various institutional activities in various areas under the framework have been carried out in an orderly manner and have been continuously expanded and enriched: seven Ministerial Conferences, 14 Senior Officials' Meetings, three senior official-level strategic political dialogues and seven business conferences, five China-Arab Energy Cooperation Conferences, seven China-Arab Relations and Seminars on China-Arab Civilization Dialogue, three Arab Arts Festivals and three China Arts Festivals, three China-Arab Press Cooperation Forums, and five China-Arab Friendship. In addition, the two sides have also held a number of symposiums, in areas including business cooperation, petrochemical cooperation, agricultural trade and cooperation, and China-Arab investment. The operation and construction of the official website of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum hosted by the Chinese Secretariat of the Forum (<http://www.chinaarabcf.org/ara/>) has also been continuously improved. The website's bilingual content of Chinese and Arabic language has been continuously enriched and the timeliness of the release of information has been continuously improved.

© The operation and construction of the Forum has received strong support from the governments of China, Arab states, and all relevant parties. Among them, the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Secretariat of the Forum Office have made important contributions to the smooth operation and development of the Forum. In order to further improve the efficiency of the forum and communicate closely with the Arab side, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs established the post of Ambassador for Forum affairs in July 2016 and appointed senior diplomat Mr. Li Chengwen to serve as ambassador at the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the member organizations of the Secretariat of the Forum are the International Liaison Bureau of the Central Propaganda Department, the Energy Administration of the National Development and Reform Commission, the Administrative Department of Politics and Law of the Ministry of Finance, the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce, the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the

International Relations Department of the CCPIT, and the Department of West Asian and North African of the National Association of Friends of the People’s Republic of China. Many departments and units including the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce, and Chinese embassies and consulates in Arab states have provided valuable support and assistance for the construction and development of the Forum. The operation and construction of the Forum has also benefited from vigorous efforts of support and assistance from various parties from the Arab side (the Arab League and its representative offices in China, Arab governments and their foreign ministries, Arab states’ diplomatic ambassadors’ committees, and Arab states’ embassies and consulates in China, etc.). In summary, the continuous improvement and development of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum itself is also an important achievement of close and sincere cooperation between the two sides.

The Number of Conferences Held within China-Arab States Cooperation Forum Mechanisms (2014-2018)



9. Prospects of the Forum and China-Arab collective cooperation

Looking ahead to the future, we are filled with confidence. In July 2018, Beijing, China will usher in the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. The “1+2+3” cooperation will continue to bear its fruits. China and the Arab states, like a giant ship, is sailing to a new historical starting point and embarking on a new journey of all-round cooperation.

◎First, China and the Arab states will seek to develop strategic links and become good partners in building the Belt and Road and building a community of human destiny. China and the Arab states are developing countries, and they both face tasks of reform, development and stabilization. They are both promoting industrialization, information and intelligence, development of high technology and improvement of people’s livelihood. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that from the 19th to the 20th report of the National Congress, this was a historic period known as the “Two Centenary Goals” struggle. China needs to build a well-to-do society in an all-round way and achieve its goal of the first century of struggle. It must also take advantage of the situation to start a new journey to build a modern socialist country and March toward the second century of struggle. Facing the future, Arab states have also put forward their own development strategies according to their national conditions, such as Egypt’s “Economic Revitalization Plan”, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain’s “Vision 2030”, Algeria’s fourth five-year plan, Jordan’s “2025 Sustainability Development Strategy and Vision”, Kuwait’s “Vision 2035”, the “Construction of the Tangier Science and Technology City” in Morocco, and 157 Key Projects for Reconstruction in Iraq. To achieve the goal of common development, China will work with Arab states through development strategies of working together to build a community of human destiny and will jointly build the Belt and Road.

Secondly, China and the Arab states are strengthening cooperation in regional and international affairs and becoming good friends in regional and global governance. The China-Arab friendship has a long history. In modern times, it has experienced a history of poverty, weakness and slaughter. China and the Arab states oppose hegemonism and power politics, oppose international bullying, oppose the strong bullying the weak, and advocate maintaining the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. China supports the Arab League in playing an important role in international and regional affairs. China and the Arab states are strengthening coordination and communication on hot issues such as Palestine and Israel, Syria, Yemen, and anti-terrorism in the Middle East, and promote peaceful and just solutions to hot issues in the Middle East. At the United Nations and multilateral platforms such as the IMF, World Bank and G20, China and the Arab states are participating in global governance to jointly safeguard the rights of developing countries.

◎Finally, China and Arab states will strengthen their common understanding and become good brothers. The Chinese nation and the Arab nations share the historical memories of the “Ancient Silk Road,” like two giants, standing at either end of the Silk Road. Facing the future, China will continue to “look west” under the Belt and Road initiative. Arab states will continue to “go east” along the Silk Road by sea and by land. The number of Chinese and Arab tourists and students will increase substantially. Women and youth, religious figures, artists, media, universities and think tanks will become ambassadors of civilized dialogue and friendly exchanges. Facing the future, the Chinese people are striving to achieve the “Chinese Dream” of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and the Arab states are realizing the great “Arabic dream” of their countries’ prosperity and national rejuvenation. In the 21st century, 1.8 billion people from China and the Arab states will join hands to build the 21st century “Cultural Silk Road”.

In the context of the China-Arab building of the Belt and Road, collective cooperation between China and the Arab states has entered a new era. The construction and development of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has also entered a new era. We believe that under the joint efforts and sincere cooperation of the two sides, the

forum mechanism will be more systematic and comprehensive, and its operation will be more standardized and effective. Under the framework of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the China-Arab collective cooperation will yield even more fruitful results and brilliant achievements.

Conclusion

At the Arab League headquarters, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in his address: “In their exchanges across time and space, the Chinese and Arab peoples have been sincere with each other, forging friendship along the ancient Silk Road, sharing weal and woe in the fight for national independence, and helping each other in building their own countries. Such trust is unbreakable and cannot be bought with money.” This statement is not only a high-level summary of the historical exchanges and traditional friendship between China and the Arab states, but is also a high-level summary of the current development of the China-Arab relationship. The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum is carrying on its tradition, pioneering and innovating, adhering to the aims of dialogue, cooperation, peace and development, and has developed into an important platform for China and the Arab states to carry out collective dialogue and pragmatic cooperation. The Forum is enriching the strategic connotation of China-Arab relations, promoting the increasingly and important role of pragmatic cooperation of China and the Arab states, and opening up special models and channels for international exchange cooperation.

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China and the Arab states have established a political strategic dialogue mechanism. The heads of states have frequent diplomatic and close high-level exchanges. Both sides always uphold the concepts of mutual respect, mutual trust. They firmly support and safeguard core rights and interests of each other, continuously enhance political mutual trust, consolidate the political foundation of China-Arab cooperation, and play a significant strategic lead role for the future of China-Arab cooperation.

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China and the Arab states have always adhered to the concepts of peace, friendship, mutual benefit, and win-win development, and are committed to building a new type of China-Arab partnership for peace and sustainable development, while continuously expanding and deepening economic and trade cooperation, and actively aligning their development strategies. The China-Arab partnership is discussing and building the

Belt and Road, striving to create the new of “1+2+3” cooperation model and seeking to achieve common and sustainable development for China and the Arab states. The China-Arab collective cooperation has become a stimulating example of the development of China’s country relations and “South-South” cooperation.

Since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China and the Arab states have always upheld the banner of dialogue among civilizations, advocated respect for the diversity of world civilization, and actively carried out rich and vibrant cultural exchanges. In recent years, both sides have been more active, with cultural exchanges surpassing cultural misunderstanding, mutual learning among civilizations surpassing clashes of civilizations, and civilized coexistence surpassing superiority of civilizations. Through mutual contacts and exchanges, mutual learning and realizing harmony and coexistence, they have established a vivid example for mankind’s different civilizations.

In summary, the tremendous achievements made by China-Arab collective cooperation since the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum fully demonstrates that China and the Arab states are committed to putting into practice the new international relations concepts of mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation. Both China and the Arab states are working together to solve development problems in the Middle East, promote governance of the Middle East region, and are developing exchange and mutual learning between different civilizations in the international community, and realizing the great wisdom of harmony and coexistence. The continuous strengthening and intensification of China-Arab strategic cooperation has not only injected a new impetus for the peaceful development of the Arab world and the Middle East. Rather, it has also brought about more hope, and made important contributions to facilitate international cooperation, reform the global governance system, and build and accumulate valuable experiences to create a community for the destiny of human beings.