



China active in global climate: NPC deputy

China has been actively participating in global climate governance and making contributions, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress said **3**

Is China's economic policy strong enough?

The assertion that China has "done too little" reflects a misunderstanding of its approach, which combines an effective market with a proactive government **4**

China's low-altitude economy shifts from concept to application

Through an on-site visit to Chinese drone maker EHang Holdings Limited, reporters explore how China's low-altitude economy is moving from technological breakthroughs to large-scale commercialization **10**

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Press Conference for the Fourth Session of the 14th National People's Congress



Journalists raise hands to ask questions at a press conference for the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) on economy in Beijing, on March 6, 2026. Photo: Xinhua

► Nation aims for economic growth of over 6 tln yuan in 2026

China has solid basis to achieve GDP goal: NDRC

By GT staff reporters

China's GDP is expected to grow by over 6 trillion yuan (\$869.6 billion) in 2026, equivalent to the total annual GDP volume of a developed economy, Zheng Shanjie, head of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner, told a press conference on the sidelines of the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress in Beijing on Friday.

A day after China unveiled its economic growth target of 4.5-5 percent this year, five Chinese government



agencies including the NDRC, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), People's Bank of China, and China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) held an economy-themed conference.

During the two-and-a-half-hour conference, five officials took 17 questions, with topics such as how China will boost domestic demand, promote sci-tech innovation, expand high-level

opening-up, and foster the healthy development of foreign trade in 2026 receiving high attention.

Solid foundation

China's economic growth target is prudently proposed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council after comprehensive assessment, systematic analysis, and scientific demonstration, Zheng said, in response to a question from a foreign media outlet over how China will achieve its pre-set GDP growth target in 2026.

"To achieve this target,



US-Israel war against Iran enters Day 7 amid thick smoke in Tehran, concerns of quagmire for Washington

By Wang Qi and Liu Xin

With thick smoke and explosions engulfing Tehran, the joint US-Israeli military operation against Iran has entered its one-week mark. Meanwhile, in Washington, concerns are mounting over whether the US is being dragged into another Middle East quagmire and the enormous military expenditures involved.

In the past week, barrages of missiles, waves of airstrikes, AI-assisted precision targeting, and killing of the top leadership have fallen short of US-Israel's goal of "regime change" in Tehran. Instead, the campaign has ignited an even fiercer spirit of resistance within Iran.

Tit-for-tat exchanges

Day seven began with midnight strikes. Massive explosions rocked several sites in Tehran overnight, including residential neighborhoods and areas near Tehran University, according to Al Jazeera. The network also reported that Hezbollah positions in Lebanon have become targets, as Israeli forces intensified strikes there.

Israel's military says its air force hit six Iranian missile launchers overnight, and also destroyed three advanced Iranian defense systems in recent strikes.

According to Al Jazeera, US President Donald Trump said Iran is being "demolished..." "ahead of schedule and at levels people have never seen before," claiming the country now has "no air force, no air defense."

Israel's military chief, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir, said on Friday that the Israeli Air Force has conducted 2,500 strikes, dropped over 6,000 munitions, and destroyed approximately 60 percent of Iran's ballistic missile launchers and 80 percent of its air defense systems, as reported by Xinhua News Agency.

Yet Tehran continues to project defiance, vowing to persist in the fight. In a statement, the Islamic Revolution



▶ Robot service



Robotic bartenders prepare drinks at an automated bar in a commercial zone of Longfu Temple during the Longfu Temple Fair in Beijing on March 6, 2026. Photo: Liu Yang/CT

Opening-up signals 'support of intl trade amid protectionism'

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we have a solid foundation, which can be reflected in at least three aspects – namely aggregate scale, innovation capacity, and risk response," the official said.

As for the topic of technological innovation, which drew a great deal of attention at the conference, Zheng said China's six emerging pillar industries are expected to surpass 10 trillion yuan in total value in 2030.

Furthermore, in order to step up support for innovation, the country will establish a national-level mergers and acquisitions (M&A) fund this year to further smoothen exit channels for venture capital investment and improve capital turnover efficiency, which is expected to guide and leverage more than 1 trillion yuan of investment from various sources, the official said.

Equally important are questions about stimulating the potential of China's consumption – a frequently mentioned phrase during the press conference. Commerce Minister Wang Wentao said that measured by purchasing power parity, the scale of China's consumer market topped the world during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

"MOFCOM will adhere to combining benefiting people's livelihoods with promoting consumption, uphold the 'policy+activity' dual-wheel drive, deepen the implementation of the special campaign to boost consumption, and spare no effort to promote consumption and expand domestic demand," Wang said, highlighting measures including extending the consumer goods trade-in program, expanding service consumption opening-up, and sparking the vitality of lower-tier markets.

The scale of new government bonds this year has reached 11.89 trillion yuan, Finance Minister Lan Fo'an told the press conference, representing the most significant fiscal effort in recent years, enabling the country to boost domestic demand, stabilize growth and drive transformation.

Comparing exports and imports to two wheels of a vehicle, Wang said the more balanced the two wheels are, the more stable the vehicle will be and the further it will go, stressing that the country will promote balanced development of foreign trade – expanding imports while stabilizing exports.

"We all know that markets are the scarcest resource in the world today. Some countries treat the market as a weapon or a bargaining chip and pursue protectionism. As a responsible major country, China proactively opens its ultra-large market, regarding it as an opportunity and a platform for cooperation," Wang Wentao said.

Positive resonance

The press conference centers on three major directions – expanding domestic demand, expanding high-level opening-up, and technological innovation – all serving the core goal of high-quality economic development, laying the foundation for the start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30). Hu Qimu, a deputy secretary-general of the Forum 50 for Digital-Real Economies Integration, told the Global Times on Friday.

On the one hand, expanding domestic effective demand will help boost the total economic scale and hedge external impacts with domestic consumption. On the other hand, the development of new quality pro-

ductive forces, institutional opening-up and capital market reform will help adjust economic structure, cultivate new drivers and enhance economic resilience, Hu said.

The information-packed press conference also resonated positively among some foreign journalists on site. "I'm very happy to be here with this great government to see the successful events and successful investments for the humanity. Thank China who brings many solutions for the world," Hedi Harizi, a reporter from Tunisia, told the Global Times after the press conference.

"China's 15th Five-Year Plan shows the unique strength of the world's second largest economy in long-term planning. By carefully mapping out multi-year strategies, China not only supports its own economic growth but also provides stability and predictability for the global economy," said Simon Lichtenberg, founder of Trayton Group in Shanghai and All China Founding Chairman of the Danish Chamber of Commerce in China.

John Quelch, executive vice chancellor and distinguished professor of social science at Duke Kunshan University, spoke highly of China's measures to broaden market access for foreign investment, particularly in services and financial sectors.

"In an era when protectionist tendencies have emerged in some parts of the world, China's continued emphasis on opening-up sends an important signal in support of international trade, investment, and economic cooperation. China's continued commitment to innovation and opening-up has the potential to make several contributions to the global economy," Quelch told the Global Times in a written interview.

Asymmetric warfare makes it difficult for US to achieve a quick and decisive victory: expert

▶ US, from Page 1

Guards Corps (IRGC) said Friday that they have launched a wave of drones and missiles at targets in Tel Aviv on Friday.

The Iranian army reported that its forces have also launched drone attacks on US bases in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as various Israeli targets. It also struck a US oil tanker in the northern Gulf with missiles, per Xinhua.

In a statement, IRGC spokesperson Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini affirmed that Iran is fully prepared for a "prolonged war" and is set to introduce advanced weaponry that has not yet been used in the conflict.

Despite Iran's clear military inferiority, its adoption of asymmetric warfare tactics has made it difficult for the US to achieve a quick and decisive victory, Chinese military affairs expert Zhang Junshe told the Global Times on Friday.

Iran has launched over 500 ballistic and cruise missiles and over 2,000 drones since the start of the war, an Iranian military source told the Iranian Fars news agency.

Despite multiple rounds of intense strikes, the US and Israel have failed to compel Iran to submit, with Tehran's counteroffensives displaying remarkable resilience, Zhang noted. "The US and Israel have not succeeded in fully crippling Iran's command-and-control architecture or its intelligence networks," he added.

Surging doubt and cost

Although House lawmakers rejected an effort on Thursday to halt the war with Iran, public support for the conflict remains low. Some are questioning whether the intervention upholds the "America First" principle that propelled Trump to victory in the election, with growing fears that it risks dragging the US into yet another protracted and costly Middle East quagmire.

Politico reported that US Central Command is requesting that the Pentagon deploy additional military intelligence officers to its headquarters in Tampa, Florida, to support operations against Iran "for at least 100 days but likely through September."

The Wall Street Journal noted signs of escalating funding needs for the military operation. In a Thursday report, citing sources, the paper said Pentagon officials are preparing plans to replenish US munitions expended in the past week's fighting. Lawmakers and defense industry officials anticipate a forthcoming funding request from the Pentagon to cover war-related costs.

An analysis by Washington-based think tank the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) underlined the colossal cost of the war: it is estimated to have cost Washington \$3.7 billion so far in its first 100 hours alone, or nearly \$900 million a day.

According to Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, after one week of warfare, the conflict has entered a critical stalemate phase. However, without launching a ground invasion, it is extremely difficult for US and Israel to achieve their objective of toppling the Iranian regime.

It is possible that, once it becomes clear that regime change in Iran is unattainable and the cost becomes extremely unaffordable, the US will seek to end the conflict and declare "victory," said Liu.

