



# The Global Community of Shared Future for Mankind under the COVID-19 Epidemic

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**Abstract:** Since the 1990s, economic globalization has entered a period of intensive development, and the world has gradually developed into a global village. The outbreak of Covid-19 proves the necessity of building Community of Shared Future for Mankind, and China has been working actively on the construction of it for human health and wellness after the epidemic. Considering the international response to Covid-19 epidemic, there are numerous challenges to overcome in building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. One reason is that Covid-19 epidemic is extremely contagious, and another reason is the frequent and necessary people to people contact as well as region to region exchanges. The most fundamental reason behind the Covid-19 is that all of people are an interdependent whole. After the outbreak, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Chinese government, fought the epidemic with unity of purpose, demonstrating China's institutional advantage of concentrating its efforts on major issues and the institutional advantage of its socialist system. The outbreak of Covid-19 has actively promoted the need to build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind for human health. However, there are numerous challenges to overcome. The paper, based on background discussed above, is to study the challenges and necessities of building Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

**Key words:** Global Community of Shared Future for Mankind, global governance, public governance

## Introduction

The sudden outbreak and rapid spread of the corona-virus pneumonia at the end of 2019 was a serious crisis and a severe test for the world. On February 11, 2020, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced in Geneva, Switzerland, that the corona-virus-infected pneumonia was named "COVID-19".[1]

After the outbreak of the COVID-19, China, under the unified leadership and timely deployment of the Chinese government, put the pandemic under control in a short period of time. The Chinese government actively fought the epidemic and took a series of timely and effective preventive and control measures to protect the lives and health of the people and maintain the smooth operation of the society and economy through scientific, open and transparent precision measures, which reflects the institutional advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The epidemic was a major test to a country's governance system and ability to govern, and it shows Chinese spirit and highlighting the superiority of the Chinese approach to governance.[2]

## The Necessity of Building a Community of Shared Future For Mankind

The outbreak of the epidemic demonstrated the necessity of building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, and China has actively promoted the construction of a Community of Human Health after the outbreak. The idea of Community of Shared Future for Mankind contains a universal, equal, just and deep concern for human destiny, an ethical and inclusive concern stemming from the affirmation of the equality of life. The construction of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind requires not only economic, political and cultural paths, but also ethical ones to advance holistically and effectively. In the context of the epidemic, the distance between interests, politics and values in the world is widening, while the restoration of the role of family and community means that the ethical distance is gradually decreasing, so the focus on the recovery of the ethical spirit is a new breakthrough in building Community of Shared Future for Mankind.[3] The international ethical spirit of symbiosis and coexistence needs to be further highlighted in the promotion, communication and dialogue of Community

[Received 17 May 2022; Accepted 25 June 2022; Published (online) 30 Jun 2022]

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of Shared Future for Mankind idea, and in the cooperation of building Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

1. The extremely infectious nature of the COVID-19 epidemic proves that the interdependence of human beings. Since 1990s, economic globalization has entered an in-depth development period, and the world has gradually become a global village. With the continuous spread of security threats in COVID-19, people can clearly see that the global destiny is closely linked.

In December, 2019, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 appeared in China. In the following six months, a large number of confirmed cases appeared in most regions and countries in the world, including Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Oceania. By December 28, 2021, there were 212 countries and regions with epidemic cases in the world. In the face of the epidemic, few countries were safe. COVID-19 epidemic is highly contagious, and the world today is a globally linked closely. Despite the measures taken by various countries to restrict the circulation of people and goods after the outbreak, COVID-19 is still raging all over the world, in spite the efforts that all countries made.

2. In COVID-19 epidemic, the World Health Organization made efficient response measures. The international health system, with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, made great effort to put the pandemic under control, including working with China who is to establishment of Community of Shared Future for Mankind. The World Health Organization (WHO), a specialized agency under the United Nations, is the largest intergovernmental health organization in the world. Its purpose is to protect people all over the world from any health issues. [4] In the epidemic prevention and control field against COVID-19, the World Health Organization worked closely with experts, governments and partners around the world to get to know the virus, trace the source and advise countries and individuals on how to take measures. In the timeline of WHO's response to COVID-19 epidemic, people can see that on December 31st, 2019, the Health and Health Commission of Wuhan, China reported a group of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province, and finally confirmed corona virus. The next day, on January 1st, 2020, WHO set up an accident management support team at three levels of its organization (headquarters, regional headquarters and national level), and WHO entered a state of anti-epidemic emergency. After that, WHO published "Disease Outbreak News" on viruses, issued a set of comprehensive technical guidance, convened a meeting of the Emergency Committee, convened a research and innovation forum on the COVID-19 epidemic situation, sent officials to visit various countries, launched the COVID-19 solidarity response fund and so on. The practice of the World Health Organization has set up the implementation channel

and practice route of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind concept for the world.

3. The world economy affected by the COVID-19 epidemic needs mankind to tide over the difficulties together. Since the global financial crisis in 2008, the world economic growth has been sluggish. In 2020, the spread of COVID-19 epidemic brought the global economy into a disaster, and major global stock indexes fell. After the outbreak, countries have taken various measures such as entry control, travel ban, strict flight control, which have seriously affected the global production and trade activities, and the economic recession has become inevitable. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicted on March 2nd that the global economy would grow by 2.4% in 2020, the lowest since 2009. Since March, people have seen the epidemic spread further in North America, South America and India, while since June, the epidemic in China has rebounded again. Global economic growth fell below 2%. [5] As the world factory, China is the hub of the world manufacturing supply chain. In 2019, China's manufacturing industry accounted for about 30.9% of the global manufacturing output. According to the calculation of the European Commission, \$10 billion less manufacturing production happened in China, the production or sales of other countries in the world would be lowered by \$6.7 billion. Chinese Premier pointed out in the government work report that China's economy experienced negative growth in the first quarter of 2020. The global industrial chain and supply chain have also been affected. The depressed world economy needs the cooperation of all countries in the world to overcome the difficulties.

### **China's Efforts to Build a Community of Human Health.**

Chinese President notes that in the era of economic globalization, such major emergencies will not be the last, and various traditional and non-traditional security issues will continue to bring new tests. The international community should establish a sense of Community of Shared Future for Mankind, help each other to deal with risk challenges and build a better global home. All countries should plan for human development and future generations. The following efforts that China put against Covid-19 will be discussed.

1. China cooperates with the World Health Organization to combat the epidemic

As the largest international intergovernmental health organization, WHO's role in building a Community of Human Health is self-evident. During the epidemic, China has actively engaged in cooperation and information exchange with WHO, among others. China was the first to share the gene sequence of COVID-19 with WHO on January 11, 2020, which has important implications for the

development of specific diagnostic tools in other countries. On February 11, 2020, WHO convened a forum on research and innovation on COVID-19, where CDC Director Gao Fu and CDC Epidemiology Chief expert Zunyou Wu gave introductory remarks.

China has supplied more than 480 million doses of vaccines to the international community whenever possible, provided vaccine assistance to nearly 100 countries, and exported vaccines to more than 50 countries, making it the world's largest provider of vaccines to foreign countries. China has also made a \$50 million donation to the World Health Organization, shared its epidemic prevention and control and treatment programs with the international community. China established an epidemic online knowledge center and many experts were invited for international cooperation on vaccine and drug R&D.

2. China supports other countries in the international community to combat the epidemic

By February 21, 2020, a meeting of the China Central Political Bureau has been held and Chinese official leaders emphasized the need to actively carry out international cooperation in epidemic prevention and control from the height of building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. In a March 12 call with UN Secretary-General, Chinese President expressed China's willingness to share its experience in prevention and control with relevant countries, to carry out joint research and development of drugs and vaccines, and to provide assistance within its capabilities to some countries where the epidemic has spread. By April 19, China has provided 127 countries and four international organizations with material assistance, including medical masks, protective clothing, nucleic acid testing reagents and ventilators, and has sent 17 batches of medical experts to 15 countries.[6] At the request of the countries concerned, China has sent experts, donated testing reagents and medical supplies to assist in the fight against the epidemic. China has made its own efforts to build a Community of Human Health with its own practical actions.

### **The Challenge of Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind**

Although it is clear that building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind is necessary in the context of the epidemic, China is also making its own efforts to build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. However, the epidemic still shows that there are many challenges to overcome in building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. Three perspectives of the challenges will be discussed in the following part.

1. Cold War mentality and power politics in terms of politics  
After the epidemic, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Chinese government, fought the epidemic with purpose and determination, demonstrating the China's centralized power and merits of its socialist system. Some

western countries feared that the socialist system would win the capitalist system in the war against the epidemic. When China was troubled by the epidemic, some Western countries accused the Chinese government of human rights violations and dictatorship. Some named the epidemic the "Chinese virus" and accused China of faking the results of the epidemic. It seems that the United States regards China as an enemy rather than a partner. With this cold war mentality and power politics, in-depth cooperation between the US and China cannot be achieved, and the construction of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind will be greatly compromised when the world's most powerful developed and developing countries are unable to cooperate effectively.[7]

2. Traditional and non-traditional security threats in terms of security

After the outbreak of the epidemic, human beings should have joined together to overcome this non-traditional security. Despite of working together, United States has been blaming China for the virus. U.S. warships have entered within 12 nautical miles of China's Spratly Islands without the permission of the Chinese government. On June 15, 2020, when there was a major outbreak of the epidemic in India and a rebound in Beijing, Indian troops crossed the line in serious violation of the consensus between the two sides and engaged in illegal activities and provocations. The security threats involving territorial sovereignty and the threat of the epidemic are intertwined, making it even more difficult to build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

3. Counter-globalization phenomenon in terms of economy.  
Trump is an opponent of globalization, and the impact of the epidemic has affected the supply of the global industrial chain.

This provided an excuse for some developed countries to divest from China or move their businesses out of the country. Lawrence Alan Kudlow, an American conservative television personality who served as the Director of the National Economic Council during the Trump Administration from 2018 to 2021, made a proposal to get U.S. companies out of China and call them back into the U.S. He offered to give 100% direct reimbursement for all costs, including plant, equipment, intellectual property, infrastructure, renovations, etc., for those companies to move back to the U.S. from China. The U.S. mandates the return of industries such as ventilators to form a new model of "local production and local consumption. Trump has even proposed to decouple from the Chinese economy. At the same time, the U.S. is still waging a trade war and is cracking down on Chinese technology company Huawei. Rationally, a complete economic decoupling between the US and China is impossible, but there is bound to be some degree of economic decoupling and technological decoupling between

the US and China. This is clearly contrary to the construction of the Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

#### 4. Civilization isolation and cultural superiority in terms of culture.

To build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, it requires people to respect the diversity of civilizations and recognize that civilizations have differences, and there is no superiority or inferiority of civilization. Unfortunately, when China carried out quarantine policies, some Western countries accused China of violating human rights, freedom, and government autocracy, which is not true. To protect more people, quarantine policy is the guarantee of a human right. China is accused of centralization of power but the fact is that nation is based on the rule of law. The Chinese people are not afraid of differences, which is a manifestation of the diversity of civilizations in the world. However, some countries measure China by their own standards and accuse China of not being inclusive of other civilizations. Although it is necessary to build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind and China is actively working for this, there are still a great number of challenges on the way to build it.

#### Conclusion

The world today is of great changes, adjustments in the international system and world order. Contemporary world civilization needs higher wisdom of survival, spiritual principles and civilizational concepts. In this sense, the concept of Community of Shared Future for Mankind embodies the common interests and responsibilities of mankind, reflects the needs of the times of the change of civilization forms, and expresses the basic direction of the spirit of the times in today's world. The concept of Community of Shared Future for Mankind is not only a realistic concept that grasps the inevitability of the times, but also a futuristic ideology that leads the development trend of the world.

Faced with the challenge of the spread of the epidemic, China has taken the initiative to join hands globally to fight the

epidemic, provide medical assistance and vaccines to countries in need, and provide economic assistance to developing countries. The concept of Community of Shared Future for Mankind has been included in many UN resolutions. The goal of Community of Shared Future for Mankind is open, inclusive and promising. It will promote lasting peace and prosperity, which, of course, cannot be achieved without a sustainable and stable international order.

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