



'Co-operative Globalisation' should drive the rise of sustainable globalisation.

Address by Steve Howard, Secretary General, the Global Foundation, to China Center for International Economic Exchanges Symposium, 'Prospects for China's and global economic recovery after the epidemic', Shanghai, 6 November 2021

Thank you for the invitation to address this Symposium, which is examining both China's new domestic economic model of 'dual circulation' and, at the same time, prospects for global economic recovery.

The China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) continues to provide important leadership in the interface between China and the world, more important now than ever.

I appreciate that the speakers who will follow me are much more expert in the matters of economic knowledge and forecasts. I will therefore focus my remarks on the geo-political underpinnings that should better inform great powers and the ways in which they and others might better organise their interactions for the future.

Just a few weeks ago, I addressed a world forum also organised by CCIEE, where I was invited to speak about the next phase of globalisation and the implications for China and the world at large, given contemporary geo-political considerations.

The topic of that speech was *"Common Prosperity' and 'Our Common Home' - shaping the next phase of globalisation"*, where I proposed a new framework that would encourage the East (including China) and the West (including the United States) to come closer together, for the sake of the world as a whole, rather than pulling further apart. I used the term *'co-operative globalisation'* which the Global Foundation has promoted now for several years,

with the endorsement of an increasing number of world leaders and citizens.

Today, I would like to build upon this concept, in the spirit of further encouraging a shared path for a sustainable global economic future, which brings East and West closer together.

What might our sustainable global human future look like

if we could blend these concepts together, to agree and to prosecute actions that both respect *'common prosperity'* and *'our global common home'*? I believe that this is both possible and necessary. It is the key to a sustainable global existence for all of humanity.

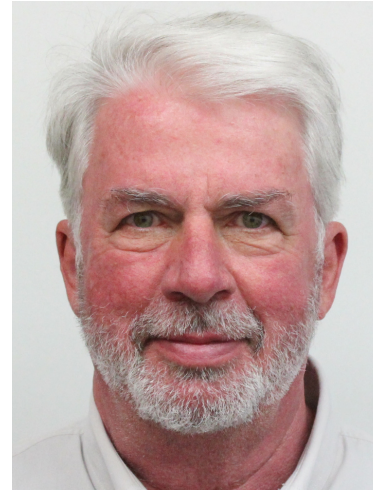
Let me say at the outset, however, I am generally opposed to the continuing use of the term, 'global economic recovery', as I believe that this is misleading. It suggests that the world economy needs to somehow go back to where it might have been, previously. This is no longer possible or desirable.

The global geo-political fracturing of recent years has been further accelerated by the global health pandemic. This is occurring at the same time that our planet faces an existential crisis due to climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Going back – recovery – implies falling into many of the same traps that led us to this place. Instead, I strongly urge a way forward which is, in many ways, different from business as usual and certainly the recent past.

This will be, of course, about economics, but choices of strategies and policies need to come from a deeper place, to be informed by the much more fundamental premise of the co-existence of civilisations.

It is a consequence of great civilisations being unable or unwilling to understand each other, to appreciate their



Steve Howard, Secretary General, the Global Foundation



strengths in difference, to align for global common goods even as they continue to have their disagreements, that has led us to this cross-road that we face as citizens of earth today.

We actually need new models of co-operation, new language and new intentions that guide how we can learn to co-exist together, across differences and divides, on our single, fragile planet.

This *'dialogue between civilisations'*, between East and West, in which China and the United States are at the centre, needs to be better informed, by a better appreciation for and a better respect of, the other.

Greater efforts are needed to understand each other and find high-level agreement, that then make it possible for more effective economic transactions, trade and commerce, to take place.



CCIEE Shanghai Symposium

At the same time, I want to emphasise to you the importance of balanced and sustainable growth which also ensures fair and inclusive societies. Growth at all costs, that ignores the consequences, to societies and the planet, is no longer tolerable.

'Common Prosperity' is a significant strategy of the Chinese leadership to achieve a more balanced and fair Chinese society from economic growth. *'Our Common Home'* is a phrase used in the West which has a similar intention and also refers to a holistic concept of balanced or sustainable growth, that places human flourishing at the forefront. Both concepts have remarkably similar meaning.

The rise and stumble of globalisation

The recent rise of China and the elevation of hundreds of

millions of its citizens from poverty towards a decent standard of living is perhaps the biggest economic and social story of our lifetimes.

This transformation, over such a short period of time, is unprecedented in human history and has been made possible through the globalisation of the world economy.

This economic globalisation process did not happen by accident. It was made possible by the deliberate policies that unleashed human dynamism and millions upon millions of enterprises. It was a conscious choice to encourage co-operation between nation-states, facilitated by international institutions and, more recently, by technologies, in particular, the internet.

Yet, instead of widespread celebration of what has been achieved to date and excitement about the new prospects that lie ahead, we have reached a kind of global stalemate, about the very future of globalisation itself and hardening positions about whose model of globalisation should prevail over others.

In other words, the global commons is now at serious risk. This is happening at the very same time that the need for a shared vision of the global common good and the need for the shared management of universal threats, such as climate change and pandemics, is now greater than ever.

Why is this so?

The other side of economic globalisation to date has been the creation of too few winners and too many losers. This is the case in those nation states that are experiencing a backlash from their populations that feel left behind, who believe that globalisation has raised some boats, elsewhere, while their boats have been lowered. This sense of inequality is factual in many cases, but it is also strongly perceived.

While this is evident in many parts of the West, this has apparently also emerged as a very real issue in China, as elsewhere in the East.

In the West, including in the United States, there are calls for a selective economic withdrawal from the world, in favor of preferential treatments at home. This may be a false prospect, but it cannot be ignored, politically and socially.



Also, in China, the recent determination by the Chinese leadership for a new era of **'common prosperity'**, that serves to reduce excess and to reverse the trends towards inequality, is a significant development. This is occurring at the same time as authorities are promoting the 'dual circulation' model of the Chinese economy.

Worldwide, overarching these concepts of economic growth and consumption, is a long overdue re-balancing, a more urgent focus on addressing the environmental and social costs of growth. Whether through the loss of biodiversity across the planet or the drastic prospects of an unliveable world due to climate change, growth at all costs is no longer the mantra. **'Our common home'**, for a sustainable planet that will enable all of humanity to flourish, must be the new, central mandate of all governance systems, local, national, and international.

Towards a new form of sustainable globalisation, that is transformative, inclusive, fair & prosperous.'

In our work, in our advocacy at the Global Foundation, we have long called for a renewed, more sustainable form of global co-operation and internationalisation. We call this **'co-operative globalisation'**, a re-shaped form of globalisation that is underpinned by a more thoughtful and holistic set of principles, that balance economic, environmental, and social dimensions.

The four principles that we believe must underpin and inform sustainable globalisation are these: **'transformative, fair, inclusive, and prosperous'**.

At global level, despite considerable disagreement and fracturing between various governments, there are signs of hope for the adoption of this new model of **'co-operative globalisation'**.

We are playing our part, but there must be more genuine, global conversations that involve East and West, and China must be at the table, playing a leading role. This has not been as possible in the past as it will need to be in the future. The West must make room for recently emerged as well as still-emerging nation-states to have their proportionate voice in shaping the goals and machinery that will inspire future global co-operation.

It is imperative that China and emerging nations of the East are at the global table, playing their vital roles in helping to shape better forms of international and global governance, the machinery to guide the next phase of sustainable globalisation, on matters affecting the global commons, whether for economy, health, climate and other areas that require collaboration.

📢 We do not want China to withdraw from being an active contributor in the world. We do not want the Middle Kingdom to become the 'Hermit Kingdom'. 📢

Governments must be at the forefront of cementing these new arrangements, however think-tanks, institutions, citizens, all have a powerful role to play in nudging the world towards a brighter, more sustainable global future.

The Global Foundation itself is deeply committed to playing its ongoing role in bringing together global leaders from across societies, to seek common ground, to help to shape the future. We will convene a global online **'State of the World' Roundtable** next February, just after Chinese new year, to assess official progress on global issues and to help set an agenda for the year ahead.

'Our World to Lead' - The 'Assisi and Rome Roundtable', May 2022

We will then convene the next in our ongoing series of face to face, global roundtable meetings over 3 days in May 2022, in the small Italian town of Assisi, the global city of integral ecology and then in Rome, where we have convened four global roundtable meetings in the past. We expect that representation at that meeting will come from across the world, including from China.

My preferred outcome, then, is for a world that embraces a new form of sustainable globalisation, for **'co-operative globalisation'**, that seeks consensus over conflict, that strives for 'win-win' for all – including for the long-term sustainability of societies and for the survival of our planet.