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CREATING A COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF  
MANKIND

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In preparation for this paper I have studied the text of Xi Jinping's presentation titled Secure a Decisive Victory in Building a Moderately Prosperous Society in All Respects and Strive for the Great Success of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era delivered at the 19th Annual Congress of the Communist Party of China on October 18, 2017. It is apparent that China's leadership and Central Government has been giving thoughtful and focused attention to these issues for some time. This Conference is another step toward creating awareness for a Shared Future for Mankind and gaining support to achieving this outcome.

The issues and concerns of President's Xi's presentation are not only the focus for China but clearly are the focus for our world. We are at a pivotal point in our global development where we must address our common cause for humanity. As global citizens, we must connect our concerns with others and through communication and collaboration choose paths to progress that will unite and benefit all mankind.

To build and construct a shared future for mankind it is important to first know the current status of the issues facing mankind and second, to make a powerful commitment to discover what is

needed to create a future that will truly address these issues and impact humanity ensuring that no one is left out. A shared future must consider equality and diversity of all people. Basic to making decisions on these issues is having a shared commitment that embraces respect and inclusiveness of all people .... the agreed upon outcome being 'each and every person' having a sharing future.

The United Nations in 2000 initiated the Millennium Development Goals to address eight areas of critical concern to humanity: hunger, poverty, maternal and childcare, universal education, eliminating domestic violence, malaria and HIV-AIDS, environmental sustainability and global partnerships. With a fifteen-year timeline to achieve these goals, while great progress was achieved, not one country achieved even one goal. Progress was made, yet the basic issues continue and the outcomes were not achieved. We know we can do better!

Resources, strategies, technologies, knowledge and materials were sufficient to have achieved the outcomes for these eight goals. What was missing was leadership focused on these issues. Not a lack of leaders; a lack of leaders committed to achieving these goals. There has been a lack of leadership focusing on humanity and the lives of our global family. The world has an abundance of leaders, but a scarcity of leaders whose focus in on humanity. It is essential that we commit to developing leaders who are committed to the future of humanity and have concern for equality and justice.

We have been successful in putting a man on the moon, yet we have not been successful in putting food in the mouths of children in our communities.

We have been successful in connecting people electronically and sharing news, research, entertainment and ideas, yet we have not been successful in putting books in the hands of children in villages and remote areas.

We have been successful in increasing the numbers of students in our secondary and tertiary institutions of education yet there are far too many children who have never entered a classroom to begin their education and far too many children will not have adequate skills to have healthy lives or decent jobs.

We continue to be successful in extending the life expectancy of aging populations, yet high incidences of infant mortality and girls and women who die delivering babies has not been prevented.

Manufacturing of goods and consumerism has grown exponentially but the distribution of goods is dramatically unequal. More than seventy per cent of the food produced never reaches the consumers and yet everyday children and adults die of hunger.

Our affluence has produced conditions that have adversely impacted the climate causing air quality, marine life, and our water supplies to raise alarming concerns for our health and quality of life.

The resources to address these dire conditions exist. There are answers to the many concerns we face worldwide. The most important question is WHY? With solutions to these preventable and unacceptable social issues why is leadership lacking to resolve these issues? How do we know there is inadequate leadership? Because the conditions continue to exist. The lives of millions, predominately women and children, around the world are marginalized and they do not have equality nor a future that will ensure equality. This Conference could be the turning point for accelerating responsible leadership and committing to achieving a shared future for humanity.

We all know a better world is possible. We have conversations about things that we believe need to change. We identify conditions that are unacceptable and unnecessary. We know possibilities for addressing the issues we see in our communities, our countries and the world. However,

knowing is not sufficient. Taking action on what we know and beginning to apply what we know to what we do will produce the results we want. We are smarter than we act. We are more capable than we perform. Recognizing conditions that we know could be better and not responding, will not achieve the outcome we desire. We know we could do a better job in conserving energy, improving our health, being more responsible, implementing changes in our jobs, companies, or communities. We talk with purpose and passion. Yet our actions do not follow our conversations. We know ways to engage and contribute, yet we have not delivered sufficient support. How do we know? The unacceptable conditions impacting millions of people around the world continue to exist. Now is the time to create the world we want to live in. A world with a shared future for humanity.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals address the basic issues for achieving a shared future. They respond to the conditions that President Xi's spoke about in his address to Congress and to the issues of this Conference. Let us give attention to the leadership needed to achieve these results.

The UN SDG's, when achieved, will be a great leap forward toward improving the lives of Chinese people, as well as being a model for the world in the construction and development of a shared future for mankind. China could lead the way by focusing on achieving the Goals by the 2030 timeline set by the United Nations. By creating and focusing leadership for humanity this outcome can be realized.

A recent Conference, The Women Deliver 2019 Conference: Power. Progress. Change, held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2019, attended by more than 6000 women from around the world, reported that not one country is on target to achieving the UN Sustainable Goals by 2030. After failing to achieve the original eight Millennium Goals during the 2000-2015 time frame, and the

establishment of 17 goals for the new 15 year timeline (2015-2030), we have yet to engage the leadership necessary to align our resources to the outcomes that are basic and essential to the well-being of our world's most fragile and vulnerable people... women and children.

China has the largest population of any country on the planet, thus they have more at stake than any other country in the world. It is a powerful choice to take on this challenge.

I recently saw a document that said, "100 THINGS TO ENSURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UN SDG

Educate girl children

Prepare women for leadership roles

THEN IT SAID .... If you do numbers 1 and 2 you don't have to do the other 98!

Could that truly be the solution? Could it really happen by doing those two things?

Let's take it on and find out. Let's focus our scope on women and children and measure our outcome. This is not to say we have not already done work in this area. We have. Yet the issues and challenges continue to loom high. Our progress has been impeded ... and our results are far from the finish line.

The UN SDG's have a vast amount of data and a 20-year history of what has worked and what has not worked in countries around the world. What is missing is identifying and training, sufficient numbers of passionate and purposeful leaders committed to the human needs of women and children who will focus the resources on achieving the outcomes described in the UN SDG's. That is where the World Academy for the Future of Woman began its work implementing action leadership to accelerate women's leadership worldwide.

Because the future belongs to our youth, it is imperative that we engage them in understanding the conditions and in creating solutions. University students represent a large population who

have already proven themselves academically. They are at an age of making career, life, and economic decisions that will impact their future. Their choices will influence the future of many because they will be the decision makers and the consumers, as well as the role models, for those who observe and follow their lifestyle choices.

Aligned with President Xi's vision of a shared future for mankind the UN SDG's research and 17 goals provide data and a baseline for beginning our work and measuring our results.

Poverty, Goal 1 and Quality Education, Goal 4, are intertwined by recognizing that without education people will be unable to support themselves economically. Education must be more than basic skills and job training. With artificial intelligence, our workforce must be prepared to be flexible and resourceful, not merely to have skills to do tasks that ultimately will be done robotically. Educating people to communicate and to build strong relationships and care about their health and well-being will not only strengthen their ability to work, it will strength them to have a better quality of life. Education will prepare them for living a meaningful life, not just a life focused on achieving wealth and affluence.

Goal 2, Zero Hunger, and Goal 3, Good Health and Well Being, are also intertwined. While millions of people lack adequate food, more than seventy per cent of the world's food production never reaches the consumers. It is never harvested from the fields or processed by the vendors and does not reach the market or the tables or the mouths of the people who are dying of starvation. This is an example of lacking leadership to ensure that the resources are allocated to utilize the commodities that exist to solve this crisis.

Good Health is not merely the result of adequate food; it is the consumption of quality food that is nutritious and provides a balance of vitamins and nutrients that support children's growth and development. Good health prepares women for healthy pregnancies, so their baby's lives, and

their lives, are not in jeopardy. It allows for women to have good mental and physical health and to have the energy and strength to enjoy life as they care for their families. Good Health and Well Being also address over consumption of food that has resulted in obesity, as well as the misuse of drugs, alcohol and lifestyles that damage and diminish the health of large sectors of our population.

Goals 6, Clean Water and Sanitation and Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy speak to the alarming environmental issues causing populations to have water that is not consumable and air that is toxic and damaging to our health. Scientists and environmentalists already have answers and resources to prevent and improve these conditions. We do not have sufficient numbers of leaders who are committed to addressing the pollution caused by manufacturing and over consumption of items that contribute to these issues. Recognized and widely acknowledged examples are manufacturing that pollutes our rivers and air, as well as transportation emissions that contaminate our environment. We know how to eliminate these causes; we don't have responsible leadership to direct and manage the resources to alter these practices and policies that continue to accelerate the problem. We have answers but we lack the courage to implement the laws and policies to bring forth the changes. We sell out to corporate, commercial or consumer demands.

Goal 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth targets jobs that are harmful to the workers and jeopardize their safety and health. Many poor workers do the jobs of animals such as hauling wood and water, plowing fields, or working in landfills amidst toxic materials. Others risk their lives with unsafe equipment or working long hours in factories where air, noise and lighting are at harmful levels for their health. Better safety and health standards are needed; leaders can change these conditions. Attention to the number of hours employees work each day, the number

of days they work each week, and the low pay workers receive for their labor, calls for more humane management. Better education will provide options to these laborers who jeopardize their health and receive salaries that are insufficient for their basic needs and never gain skills to ever rise to a higher level of employment.

Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 9, and Goal 12, Responsible Consumption and Production speak to the necessity of over production and consumer marketing that encourages the widening of the economic and education gap by promoting quantity over quality and creates the desire to consume more when less is adequate and a wiser decision. Upgrading products that make current models obsolete requiring more purchases on the believe that the 'latest is the greatest' has created landfills of computers, cars, electronics, and cell phones that represent irresponsible manufacturing and leadership. Demolition of buildings and new construction in cities around the world, where there is insufficient housing for homeless is another example of misuse of resources and poor fiscal and resource management.

Climate Change, Life Below Water and Life On Land, Goals 13, 14, and 15 speak to the protection of our environment. This is an immediate and critical concern we have faced in recent years that has not gotten sufficient attention or support. Answers abound but solutions are not being implemented at a rate that is causing a decline in the mounting dangers. We face extinction of many species if these practices continue. Without question there is a threat to our own well-being and survival.

Leaders are currently considering Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals. However, evidence is lacking that there is adequate attention given to the immediate changes that must occur to reverse the trends. More attention appears to be spent on growth and quantity than the attention spent on

long term maintenance and controlled growth. Replacing rather than repairing, increasing size rather than efficiency, and demanding more rather than realizing what is adequate will only contribute to the problem. Sufficiency rather than abundance requires thoughtful decisions for responsible leaders who must consider maintaining progress without reckless consumption.

The two goals that offer the greatest possibilities are Goal 5, Gender Equality and Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities. They offer the greatest possibilities because they impact the greatest number of people. These two bring women, and those who have not had adequate resources available to them, onto the playing field. By making education, jobs, access to health, wealth, safety, and well-being part of their future they can become independent, self-supporting and contributing members in their families and communities. Their inclusion builds capacity and increases our supply of human resources to achieve the other fifteen UN SDG's.

Women represent 49.6 of the world's population. Women are considered a minority because they do not share the same power, privileges, rights and opportunities as men. They are among the lowest paid, poorest educated, have less wealth, less earning power, and receive less health care than men. All my life conditions for women on the planet have improved. Each year more women are educated, receive better health care and more get jobs. Yet on every measure of economic, education, health and social well-being, women remain at the bottom of society. Every year conditions have gotten better but they never rise to reach a level of equality compared to their male counterparts.

Data on women and girls are indicators of the dire and urgent need to meet these goals.

One in four girls will be born into poverty.

Childbirth is the number one cause of death for girls between 15-18 years of age.

One half of girls in developing countries do not enter high school.

One in three women are victims of domestic violence.

Sixty percent of malnourished people are women.

Data on women in job with leadership roles is equally alarming.

Only 24.3% of members of National Parliaments are women.

Only 5% of Fortune 500 CEO's are women.

Only 7% of top executives are women.

Only 10% of S&Ps top management are women.

Only 19% of corporate board seats in S&Ps are women.

Only 20% of the highest paid executives are women.

Women and men working together bring different perspectives and skill sets to decision making.

Corporations report a greater financial bottom line when more women are involved in executive decisions.

Women's engagement results in allocating resources differently. Women have a greater capacity to enhance and control local food security, shape laws and address social issues differently than men, and to engage more collaboratively in teamwork and shared values for diverse populations.

Women are more inclusive and bring a different perspective giving added value to the process and outcomes.

Without minority and underrepresented populations engaged and contributing, the imbalance of power and resources will continue to diminish the possibilities of their futures. When only a few speak and decide for the masses, all others' concerns are marginalized.

A plan for the China's 70 Year Development and the Development and the Construction of the Community with a Shared Future for Mankind is a visionary step toward a world that works for everyone ... with no one left out. When China achieves the UN SDS's they will be a model for

the rest of the world. Embracing the UN SDG's as the baseline for what is needed for humanity, focusing on the equality of women and the inequalities among groups and geographic areas is the starting point. Accelerating and advancing leadership of women and underrepresented groups is a key factor.

The task is large. The importance is urgent. The need for engagement and action at all levels can produce the impact and create the future we know is possible. This is a Call for Action. A Call for Leadership to create a Shared Future for Mankind.