

A Shared Future of Mankind: a New Concept and Its Paramount Pedagogical Importance

Fabio Marcelli

*Institute for International Legal Studies
National Research Council
Rome, Italy*

Abstract—The recent Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, held in Beijing, marked a very important evolution in the political international thinking, enucleating the concept of the “shared future of mankind”. This concept presents a series of very important implications concerning various issues and themes confronting nowadays the international community. Topics such as the preservation of international peace and security, the solution of urgent environmental problems, like climate change, the need for a sustainable growth of world economy, and others. The attitude of the Popular Republic of China is very constructive and reflects the aforesaid new concept, paving the way to unprecedented developments of international cooperation in different areas. The present essay illustrates the main features of this concept and highlights its paramount importance in the framework of the current international situation. It also evidences the pedagogical implications of the concept, given the growing interconnectedness among different national society and the need to create a common conscience of humankind especially of the younger generations.

Keywords—*gobalization, humankind, peace, China*

I. INTRODUCTION

The recent Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, held in Beijing, marked a very important evolution in the political international thinking, enucleating the concept of the “shared future of mankind”. Indeed, this concept is absolutely central in the documents of the Congress, beginning with the Report of its Secretary General Xi Jin Ping.

It is worth recalling that such a concept is evocated in the framework of the two great goals to be achieved, namely the building of a “moderately prosperous society”, on one hand, and the great success of “socialism with Chinese characteristics” on the other.

The first goal implies the commitment of the Chinese Communists to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. However, this commitment takes place in a complex and changing international context.

Corresponding Author: Fabio Marcelli was born in Rome March, the 15th, 1956, research director in the Institute for International Legal Studies of the National Research Council (www.isgi.cnr.it). Author’s 15 books and more than 100 articles study on issues of International European and constitutional law.

There is, in other terms, a mutual dependence between the national and the international sphere. This is true for every country, but especially for a country like the People’s Republic of China, which has an important position and importance in the framework of the international community today. On the other hand, this is also an undeniable effect of the process of globalization which intensified the interconnections among States and emphasized the dependence of local phenomena from worldwide factors and causes.

Analyzing the achievements accomplished in the last five years, Xi Jin Ping’s Report enunciates an important concept, that is, “law-based governance”. This constitutes no doubts a major feature of the Chinese strategy, along with economic growth, supply-side structural reform, infrastructures, modernization of agriculture, innovation-driven development strategy and the new institutions of open economy.

It is worth to mention that the rule of law is put together with socialist democracy, which is characterized by the direct role of the people and by the coexistence and synergy among various factors such as the improvement of the party leadership, the expansion of intraparty democracy and the development of socialist consultative democracy. Such participation in public affairs corresponds to the consolidation of rule of law, consisting in soundness of legislation, strict enforcement of law, impartiality of justice and observation of law by everyone. The point of convergence between participation and rule of law is to be seen in the development of systems to apply checks and oversights over the exercise of power. In fact the problem of controlling power through a system of democratic participation of the people is nowadays a major issue at stake at national and international level [1].

It is also worth underscoring that the emphasis on the rule of law is a relatively new understanding of the Chinese political thinking. Anyhow, it also represents a very strong feature of the present leadership.

This point is confirmed by the importance attributed by the Report to public awareness of the rule of law. The Report further affirms that the efforts to build a government, a country and a society based on that are mutually reinforcing. Of course, given the paramount importance assumed by the Popular Republic of China in the international arena, also the need to affirm the rule of

law at that level should be mentioned.

In fact, the evocation of a “shared future of mankind” which is present in the Report implies the need to assert a new international order based on the rule of law. This is clear, for instance, in the reference to the “driving seat in international cooperation to respond to climate change” which is contained in the part of the Report devoted to the “notable progress made in building an ecological civilization”. On the other hand, it is clear that no solution to the environmental problems can be found at merely national level.

Therefore, it is easy to argue that a shared future of mankind must be based itself on common rules, that is rule of law at international level. However, it is worth recalling that the first quotation of the concept is made, in the Report, with reference to the initiatives adopted by Chinese diplomacy in order to secure “a favorable external environment for China’s development”. Such initiatives are the Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Silk Road Fund, the First Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, the G20 2016 Summit in Hangzhou, the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, and the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. In these and other occasions China encouraged a new global government.

Which should be the main goal of this global government? The Report states clearly that the development must be people-centered. In this sense “the principal contradiction facing Chinese society in the new era is that between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people’s ever-growing needs for a better life”.

It is important to underscore that the standpoint from which China takes such stances is that of a country which still considers itself a developing country, emerging from a liberation struggle against imperialism and colonialism. In this framework takes place the dream of national rejuvenation, purporting to bring China again to the heights of its past glory, preceding the unfortunate events beginning with the Opium War of 1840 which marked the beginning of a period of decadence and submission, ended only with the Revolution of 1949, nearly hundred years later. This goal was achieved after 28 years of “painful struggle” through a New Democratic Revolution toppling the “three mountains” (imperialism, feudalism, bureaucratic capitalism).

Socialism with Chinese characteristics, therefore, remains the framework in which to act (“the fundamental institutional guarantee for progress and development in contemporary China”) avoiding two opposite risks: that of isolation and rigidity and that of changing the nature and abandoning the system.

For the sake of our analysis it is worth to underscore two features of socialism with Chinese characteristics: the goal of law-based governance and that of building a diplomacy in order to foster a new type of international

relations and build a community with a shared future of mankind.

These aspects are to be evaluated in the framework constituted by the 14 points enunciated by the Report: 1. Ensuring Party leadership over all work. 2. Committing to a people-centered approach. 3. Continuing to comprehensively deepen reform. 4. Adopting a new vision for development. 5. Seeing that the people run the country. 6. Ensuring every dimension of governance is law-based. 7. Upholding core socialist values. 8. Ensuring and improving living standards through development. 9. Ensuring harmony between human and nature. 10. Pursuing a holistic approach to national security. 11. Upholding absolute Party leadership over the people’s armed forces. 12. Upholding the principle of “one country, two systems” and promoting national reunification. 13. Promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. 14. Exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party.

II. MEANING AND CONTENT OF THE SHARED FUTURE OF MANKIND

It is now worth concentrating our attention on point 13. First of all it contains a very important statement of principle: the Chinese dream cannot be seen as separated from the dreams of other peoples. That means that it can be realized only “in a peaceful international environment and under a stable international order”. This goal is articulated in a series of concepts: to uphold justice pursuing shared interests; to foster new thinking on common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security; to pursue open, innovative and inclusive development that benefits everyone; to boost cross-cultural exchanges characterized by harmony within diversity, inclusiveness and mutual learning; to cultivate ecosystems based on respect for nature and green development. Summing up, China will continue its effort for peace, development and international order. These three aspects are closely interrelated. There is no peace without development, no development without peace, and neither peace nor development without an international order.

The concept of international order, that is international legal order, is to some extent new in the elaboration of doctrine and represents a meaningful step forward in the evolution of mankind and of legal thought in particular. Traditionally, international law theoreticians were used to base the international norm on the will of the State, not recognizing any type of collective productions of norms not requiring the acceptance and/or the approval by every State concerned. This kind of reasoning was accepted also by the Soviet doctrine of international law, which interpreted it as a sort of guarantee of the independence of Socialist countries vis-à-vis the rest of international community.

The XIX Congress of the Chinese Communist Party apparently reversed this old-fashioned approach to international society and to global issues. This new way of thinking represents a big contribution to the development of socialist thinking and to international community as such,

in the light of the urgent need for a solution of global issues.

The approach based on the revalorization of international legal order is also antithetical to the so-called “contractualization” invoked by private powers in order to elude the obligations imposed by international law [2]. While not necessarily and entirely hostile towards soft-law, which may constitute in some circumstances a useful tool [3], the Chinese approach, in conformity to the principles contained in the Chinese Constitution [4], contemplate of course the full submission of private sphere to public decisions.

The concept of the shared future of mankind is more thoroughly coped with in a subsequent part of the Report, under Title XII, “Following a Path of Peaceful Development and Working to Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”.

The first consideration to be done in this framework is that in the perspective of the Report “wellbeing of the Chinese people” and “human progress” are seen as two faces of the same coin. They go hand into hand and you cannot imagine an increase of the wellbeing of the Chinese people not implying human progress more in general and human progress in general which doesn’t promote the wellbeing of the Chinese people, as well as of the other peoples inhabiting our planet.

This point is very important since mankind is divided into different sovereign states with their own conditions due to various historical, political, social, cultural and economic factors. Of course it is not possible to erase completely such differences which constitute aspects of present reality, but it is very important to enunciate in formal and explicit way, like the Report does, the interdependence among the destinies of the different countries on one side and that of mankind in the whole on the other side.

Moreover, the report reiterates this fundamental global compromise, pointing out that “to make new and greater contributions for mankind is our Party’s abiding mission”. That is, the Chinese Communist Party assumes a compromise transcending the Chinese borders. Such a compromise represents on one hand a coherent development of the internationalist tradition of the communist left, but, on the other hand, appears nowadays more necessary than ever in order to cope efficaciously with the challenges of globalization, requiring a concerted approach among all the different States and peoples of the world.

The fundamental values to be asserted are peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. These are at the same time the main goals enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in fundamental Treaties and Declarations of Principles approved by the United Nations General Assembly. It is however worth underscoring the special importance given to “mutual benefit”. Such an ideal implies a refusal of conflicts and the adoption of a

cooperative approach which is reaffirmed by the mention of “win-win cooperation” which is an eminent characteristic of the new international relations to be built, together with mutual respect, fairness and justice. Friendship and cooperation on the other hand are to be developed on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

It is well known that these Principles were at first conceived in the framework of the bilateral Sino-Indian relationship. They include mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit, peaceful co-existence. Such Principles derive directly from the ones contained in the United Nations Charter (sovereign equality, non-recourse to force, cooperation, and non-interference in internal affairs).

The international scenario has undergone profound changes in the last years, but the report reiterates the fundamental goals: peace and development. These goals are to be pursued in a framework characterized by some trends: global multi-polarity, economic globalization, IT application and cultural diversity, while countries are increasingly interconnected among themselves.

On the other hand, these positive aspects are counterbalanced by some problematic factors like the lack of energy of global economic growth, the widening of the gap between rich and poor, hotspot issues arising in some regions and the spreading of unconventional security threats like terrorism, cyber-insecurity, major infectious diseases and climate changes. Humanity faces all the common challenges .

In this situation isolationism represents a vane illusion: “No country can address alone the many challenges facing mankind; no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation”.

Therefore, the Chinese Communist Party calls on all peoples of the world to build an “open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity”. To this end every Cold War approach should be rejected and dialogue promoted, privileging communication over confrontation and partnership over alliance. Economic globalization should be made more open, inclusive, and balanced. Diversity of civilizations and environment should be respected. The idea of whatsoever superiority should be abolished and replaced with coexistence, implying exchanges, mutual learning, reciprocal respect and common cooperation.

In accordance with this model of conduct China is developing global partnerships, expanding the convergence of interests with other countries, promoting coordination and cooperation with other major countries, working to build a framework for major country relations featuring overall stability and balanced development. Chinese relations with its neighbors will be guided by the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness. Exchanges and cooperation will be relaunched and

reinforced at every level, promoting the direct initiative by people's congresses, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Committees, the military, local governments and people's organizations.

On one hand China will build a new platform for international cooperation, especially through the One Road one Belt initiative, and on the other hand it will increase its cooperation with the other developing countries in order to contribute to the reduction of the development gap.

China stands for shared growth, democracy at international level, reasserting the principle of sovereign equality among States, and supporting United Nations in playing an active role.

The concept of "shared future of mankind" is connected with a powerful vision of harmony in international relationships, articulated in catchwords like "mutual benefit" and "win-win cooperation". At the same time this approach constitutes the best and most suitable way of revitalizing the ideals of the founders of United Nations in the new context of globalization the beginning of the third Millennium. Of course, the fundamental idea contained in this approach doesn't exclude the need to struggle against other approaches which do not mean mutual benefit and win-win cooperation at all. In order to enucleate more precisely the related problems we have to recur to the fundamental notion of common goods and common values of mankind which represent the necessary basis of every cooperative approach [5]. Reviving the concept of peaceful coexistence represents a powerful obstacle to the attempts of some Western States to revive the colonial policies of interventions under the shroud of human rights protection and the doctrine of so-called responsibility to protect.

Such goods and values represent a very wide array of goals and situations. In some instances they are already incorporated in an objective normative regime, in other cases they still represent an aspiration which needs to be translated into precise norms. It is undeniable that struggling to overcome the dangers of the present historical era, such as climate change, terrorism, tendencies to war and growing inequalities, consists fundamentally in protecting and developing the common goods. On the other hand all history of mankind is characterized by the research of cooperation, which has been realized with growing efforts and alternate outcomes, configuring permanent structures such as the existing international organizations. However, the new challenges posed by globalization require a step forward in this construction.

As pointed out by Fernando Moreno Bernal, "history of mankind is the development of cooperation and coordination in ever bigger territorial frameworks. From villages to cities-States, kindgoms, empires and, finally, globalization. Here we are" [6]. We have to carefully specify that the overcoming of the international structure based on the coexistence among sovereign and independent States is not at all necessary, but that, at the same time, we need a qualitative leap in international cooperation, and the

concept of shared future of mankind seems of particular support to this end.

III. ONE BELT ONE ROAD INITIATIVE

The One Belt one Road initiative (OBOR) launched by the Chinese government has a central place and role in the strategy and ideology of the shared future of mankind. This is undeniable despite of its economic content. We can say that it represents the complete overturning of the traditional neoliberal vision of the relationship between economics and politics. Neoliberalism subordinates the policy to the imperatives of economy, that is, the needs of capitalism. At the contrary the One Belt and One Road Initiative subordinates economy to the imperatives of a new policy on global scale aimed at overcoming a series of problems.

In president Xi Jin Ping's vision the connection to be established is far more than a merely physical one, although, following a healthy materialist approach, facilitating transport and communications represents an indispensable basis for new relations at world level. The final aim, however, is that to render possible a common growth and an unprecedented intensification of cultural and social exchanges, quitting to war and conflicts its terrain [7].

Focusing mainly on infrastructures, constructions, railways, highways, iron and steel, OBOR represents one of the most important investment projects in history, interesting more than 68 countries, equivalent to 65% of the world's population and 40% of the global GDP as of 2017. It is structured along 6 corridors (1: New Eurasian Land Bridge, running from Western China to Western Russia through Kazakhstan; 2: China–Mongolia–Russia Corridor, running from Northern China to Eastern Russia; 3: China–Central Asia–West Asia Corridor, running from Western China to Turkey; 4: China–Indochina Peninsula Corridor, running from Southern China to Singapore; 5: China–Myanmar–Bangladesh–India Corridor, running from Southern China to Myanmar; 6: China–Pakistan Corridor, running from South-Western China to Pakistan) and the maritime silk road [8].

The political goal of OBOR consists in "promote the common development of all countries as well as the peoples' joint enjoyment of development fruits" [9].

Following the Report the Belt and Road Initiative constitutes a useful tool in order to promote international cooperation, achieving "policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity and thus build a new platform for international cooperation to create new drivers of shared development".

IV. A DIFFERENT VIEW ON THE FUTURE OF MANKIND IN SEVERAL RECENT US DOCUMENTS

The vision expressed by some recent documents issued by the government of United States present a notably different approach, based much more on competition than on cooperation. In fact, it seems that the first task of the

government is not to build a global governance system that can effectively deal with the major problems facing mankind, but to re-establish the hegemony and dominance of the United States on the world stage, which nowadays is apparently in great crisis.

To clarify the concrete features of this approach we will focus specifically on one very important topic, which is of strategic importance for the future of mankind, that is peace and nuclear disarmament. Other elements can be poised from other important and strategic issues, like environment and climate, and trade negotiations.

A. *Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*

1) *National Defense Strategy*

In an important document dedicated to the national security of United States [10] we can find several quotations expressing this kind of competitive and conflictual approach.

The first concept appearing in the document is that “Inter-state strategic competition, not terrorism, is now the primary concern in U.S. national security”.

This affirmation of a general character is followed by the identification of the main competitors, which are listed in the following order, namely

“China is a strategic competitor using predatory economics to intimidate its neighbors while militarizing features in the South China Sea. Russia has violated the borders of nearby nations and pursues veto power over the economic, diplomatic, and security decisions of its neighbors. As well, North Korea’s outlaw actions and reckless rhetoric continue despite United Nation’s censure and sanctions. Iran continues to sow violence and remains the most significant challenge to Middle East stability. Despite the defeat of ISIS’s physical caliphate, threats to stability remain as terrorist groups with long reach continue to murder the innocent and threaten peace more broadly”.

Conscious of being losing its primacy in international community due to political, social and economic developments and the emerging of a multipolar model, US government is eager to keep at least its pre-eminence in the military field and emphasizes therefore the need to improve and strengthen its armed forces. Otherwise “Failure to meet our defense objectives will result in decreasing U.S. global influence, eroding cohesion among allies and partners, and reduced access to markets that will contribute to a decline in our prosperity and standard of living. Without sustained and predictable investment to restore readiness and modernize our military to make it fit for our time, we will rapidly lose our military advantage, resulting in a Joint Force that has legacy systems irrelevant to the defense of our people”. The threats to US pre-eminence are of two types: “revisionist powers” (China, Russia) and rogue States (North Korea, Iran). The document characterizes openly the present situation as marked by “the reemergence of long-term, strategic competition” by the so-called “revisionist powers”, i.e. China and Russia, which “want to

shape a world consistent with their authoritarian mode gaining veto authority over other nations’ economic, diplomatic, and security decisions”.

As highlighted, the main preoccupation is that of losing military superiority: “Challenges to the U.S. military advantage represent another shift in the global security environment. For decades the United States has enjoyed uncontested or dominant superiority in every operating domain. We could generally deploy our forces when we wanted, assemble them where we wanted, and operate how we wanted. Today, every domain is contested: air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace”. The point to be stressed in this framework is that the US government not only aims at modernizing and reinforcing its military apparatus but also explicitly declares that its main goal is to reassert its “dominant superiority” nowadays in crisis.

2) *State of the Union Speech*

Such kind of discourse is also contained in the final part of the State of the Union speech delivered by president Trump the 20 of January, 2018 [11]. Trump lists the enemies of the United States, affirming that “Around the world, we face rogue regimes, terrorist groups, and rivals like China and Russia that challenge our interests, our economy, and our values. In confronting these dangers, we know that weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unmatched power is the surest means of our defense”. China and Russia, which are world powers being a substantial part of the new multipolar governance model to be structured, are indicated as enemies to be confronted on the military level, as well as “terrorist groups” and “rogue regimes”. This second category is rather vague and includes every government dissenting to some meaningful extent from that of the United States. Also the State of the Union Address contains a precise plea in favor of rearmament, especially in the nuclear sector: “As part of our defense, we must modernize and rebuild our nuclear arsenal, hopefully never having to use it, but making it so strong and powerful that it will deter any acts of aggression. Perhaps someday in the future there will be a magical moment when the countries of the world will get together to eliminate their nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, we are not there yet”.

3) *Nuclear Posture Review*

In the same vein, the Nuclear Posture Review adopted in 2018 stresses the need to modernize nuclear weapons in order to exert deterrence against nuclear and non-nuclear attacks, assure allied and partners, achieve U. S. objectives if deterrence fails and have the capacity to hedge against an uncertain future. A key passage contained in the Executive Summary of this document is the following:

“U.S. nuclear capabilities, and nuclear command, control, and communications (NC3), must be increasingly flexible to tailor deterrence strategies across a range of potential adversaries and threats, and enable adjustments over time. Accordingly, the United States will maintain the range of flexible nuclear capabilities needed to ensure that nuclear or non-nuclear aggression against the United States, allies, and partners will fail to achieve its objectives and

carry with it the credible risk of intolerable consequences for potential adversaries now and in the future” [12].

In the opinion of nuclear experts, this stance paves the way for the dangerous illusion of being capable to unleash and win a nuclear war, rendering possible a nuclear response to non-nuclear attacks or even to cyber attacks. In the words of Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review reveals “a shift from one where the use of nuclear weapons is possible to one where the use of nuclear weapons is likely” [13]. As pointed out by the US international law scholar Marjorie Cohn, “For the first time, Trump’s NPR would allow the United States to use nuclear weapons in response to non-nuclear attacks, including cyber attacks, in “extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States, its allies and partners”.

Of course, every country has the right to organize its military force in the framework of the only legal admissible use of force, which is, following the United Nations Charter, self-defence in front of an armed attack. But the refusal of negotiations aimed at reducing arsenals and especially nuclear ones, and the relaunching of arms race go clearly far beyond this legitimate goal. What is really at stake is the hegemonic position which the US enjoyed for a long time in the international sphere and which is now in danger due to economic, political and social phenomena caused by globalization and the emergence of a new multipolar reality at world level. This is of course not an evil, at the contrary it is a positive development for mankind, but, in the shortsighted perspective of present American ruling class it represents a deadly danger.

B. Climate Change

The same competitive approach is contained in the position adopted by the Trump administration concerning climate change, which is officially removed from the list containing the global threats [14]. Minimizing the possible impact of that phenomenon on world environment, most scientists consider it extremely worrying, even catastrophic. There is no doubt that a poor understanding of such issues [15] and reveals the will of that administration to remove every possible limitation to the “animal forces” of market and economy, in a completely neoliberal vision. US supposed interest to compete without any kind of constraints in the world market is considered prevailing over the superior goal of safeguarding the world environment and the wellbeing of present and future generations. The most important legal consequence of such an egoistic attitude is the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Treaty on climate change, justified by Trump affirming that such Treaty would have undermined the US economy and put the US at a permanent disadvantage [16]. On the other hand, Trump’s policies on this matter are part of a wider negative stance, leading the US administration to oppose renewable energy sources, to promote noxious practices such as fracturing, to facilitate the fossil fuel industry and to propose trade agreements implying negative

consequences for the environment [17].

C. Protectionist Approach in International Trade Issues

A third demonstration of US egoism and shortsighted approach on global issues is given by the attempt not to respect the norms dictated in favour of free trade. By the way, analyzing US history, it seems not to be a new and original position. Following some commentators that of free trade appears, at the contrary, to be a mere myth, contradicted by concrete choices of the US and even, in less recent times, of other major economic powers, like the United Kingdom [18].

However, a striking feature of present protectionist position of Trump administration is the attack against WTO, responsible, in Trump’s view, of China’s qualification as a developing country, which would imply some undeserved and undue advantages in world trade, fueling US’ deficit [19]. Such criticism appears completely unmotivated as pointed out by some US experts, who emphasize the fact that the US government, unlike the Chinese one, doesn’t respect WTO rulings and is even guilty of impeding the regular functioning of some key bodies of this organization [20].

V. CONCLUSIONS

Risks for international society are deriving, from the recent positions of the Trump administration concerning defence, climate change and the choice to revive a protectionist approach in international trade issues. Altogether, such stances imply a straightforward disavowal of international commitments in very sensitive areas of international cooperation. Unfortunately, this is not theory or mere appearance, since US dangerous choices revive a climate of cold war, impede a compact commitment of the international community on environmental and climatic issues and put international trade at risk.

That of international law is not a neutral arena, but the stage where always different, if not opposite views and visions of the legal phenomenon, collide together in an unceasing struggle. Every person worried about the future of mankind and conscious of the enormous value of international law in order to discipline and stimulate of international cooperation in solving global problems, should look with interest and sympathy to the political and legal lines emerging from the Congress of CPC.

The problem, of course, is not that of replacing one hegemony with another one, but to give birth and shape to a new governance of international society and of the planet itself, acknowledging the new reality of multipolarism. That is, giving shape and content to a really democratic governance of international community, developing and improving the institutional instruments provided for in the United Nations Charter.

Important challenges face mankind in this decisive era. Giving the right answer to such challenges is of crucial importance in order to ensure the very survival of human species. CPC’s unprecedented commitment to find suitable solutions to strategic issues like peace, disarmament,

development, environmental degradation and climate change represents no doubts a very important and positive sign, all independent countries should take into serious consideration for a new phase of international cooperation.

Comparing the Chinese priorities with the US ones, it is impressing that while the first one looks towards the goal of a shared future of mankind, the second one doesn't at all be interested in that, confining itself to the attempt to safeguard a primacy which has gone long time ago in all spheres of human activity, except may be the military one, which is of course the most dangerous [21].

The issues at stake, however, go far beyond that. The unregulated globalization which took place so far created a situation which is not at favourable to international cooperation, pushing all States to make egoistic choices and to neglect the common good, as analyzed by Bunzl and Duffell, who invented the genial slogan of Destructive Global Competition (DCG) and promoted the Simultaneous Policy Solution (SIMPOL) [22]. Will States and governments be at the height of the present challenges? Will they be capable to reverse the current paradigms which revealed themselves as insufficient and even noxious? The new international thinking of the Chinese Communist Party, as enshrined in Xi Jin Ping's Report at its XIX Congress gives some reasons of hope.

We have to highlight, in conclusion, the paramount importance of such a thinking also from a pedagogical point of view, in two different, although converging, significations.

The first one is connected with the need of a new pedagogical approach addressed to decision-makers at every level, which should constantly and increasingly instructed about the many implications of the choices they are concurring every day to make. The second one is addressed to the general public, and in particular to young generations, and concerns therefore the contents of education at every level, from primary school until university and beyond. A common and concerted effort of scientific community has to be promoted in these directions.

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