

**Achievements, Opportunities,
and Prospects of China–Arab Cooperation
in the New Era**

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Preface

Centuries ago, China and the Arab states exchanged goods and ideas along the overland Silk Road and the maritime spice routes, where "relay couriers raced along the post roads and lofty sails billowed across the seas." Together, these two great civilizations composed a timeless tale of friendship, proving that "true friends feel close to each other, no matter the distance between them."

As the years have passed, exchanges have never ceased. Over the centuries, China and the Arab states have built mutual trust through trade and travel and have shared weal and woe in their respective struggles for national liberation. They have engaged in win-win cooperation amid the tide of economic globalization and have upheld fairness and justice in a changing international environment. Together, China and the Arab states have nurtured a spirit of friendship featuring "solidarity and mutual assistance, equality and mutual benefit, and inclusiveness and mutual learning," setting a model for solidarity and cooperation among developing countries.

In December 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the first China-Arab States Summit together with leaders of Arab states. The two sides agreed to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era, ushering in a new era of fully thriving and ever-deepening ties between China and the Arab world.^① In May 2024, at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, President Xi stated China's readiness to work with the Arab side to put in place "five cooperation frameworks" to step up the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future.^②

When one follows the right path, success will follow. Under the joint guidance of President Xi and Arab leaders, strategic mutual trust has deepened, and the bonds of cooperation have grown ever closer, forming a new landscape of complementary strengths and mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation. China and Arab states have steadily advanced the "eight major cooperation initiatives" of practical cooperation alongside the "five cooperation frameworks," making every effort to advance the China-Arab community with a shared future. China has remained the largest trading partner of the Arab states for many consecutive years; cooperation documents on jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) now cover all relevant areas, and alignment in fields such as science and technology, finance, and energy has continued to deepen. People-to-people ties have been strengthened through educational cooperation, youth exchanges, and tourism. The scope of cooperation has broadened, its depth has increased, its forms have diversified, and its results have become ever more fruitful, continuously

①Xinhua News Agency, Xi Jinping Attends the First China-Arab States Summit and Delivers a Keynote Speech

②Xinhua News Agency, Xi Jinping Attends the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and Delivers a Keynote Speech

writing new chapters of shared development.

At present, profound changes unseen in a century are accelerating. The momentum for common development among Arab states is on the rise, yet the Middle East remains the region where global hotspot issues are most concentrated. On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched a joint military strike against Iran, and the repercussions of the conflict continue to spill over, sharply increasing security risks for Arab states.

Countries in the Middle East have long suffered from the scourge of war and the hardships of displacement. Arab people's desire for peace and development has grown ever more urgent, and their call for fairness and justice ever stronger. Against this backdrop, building a China-Arab community with a shared future reflects the shared aspiration of both sides to open a new chapter in their relations and to create a better future for the world. It will not only add stability to peace in the Middle East and provide greater certainty in a turbulent world, but also better benefit the people on both sides and contribute to the progress of humanity.

The year 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Arab states. Looking ahead, both sides will continue to be guided by head-of-state diplomacy to elevate strategic mutual trust to new heights; deepen mutually beneficial cooperation through high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and advance China - Arab modernization on a new journey; promote regional peace and stability through a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, making new progress in addressing hotspot issues in the Middle East; deepen exchanges and mutual learning by jointly promoting the common values of humanity, advancing China-Arab civilizational exchanges to a new stage; and uphold true multilateralism through the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits in global governance, steering the international order toward a more just and equitable direction.

Chapter One: Fruitful Results in China–Arab States Cooperation

China will work with the Arab side in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit to make our relations a fine example of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. The Silk Road spirit is passed on from generation to generation. It keeps China–Arab relations abreast with the times to the benefit of the two peoples. In this interdependent world, we will further synergize development strategies with the Arab side. We will strengthen cooperation in key areas such as oil, gas, trade and infrastructure, step up fostering new growth areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), investment, financing and new energy, and embark together on an innovative and green path to prosperity.

—From Xi Jinping’s keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China–Arab States Cooperation Forum

Since the successful convening of the first China – Arab States Summit in 2022, China and the Arab side have taken the goal of building a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era as their guiding principle and have fully implemented the summit's outcomes and the "eight major cooperation initiatives," advancing cooperation across various fields more deeply and substantively. This cooperation has displayed distinctive features: strong strategic guidance, fruitful practical results, comprehensive expansion of cooperation areas, and a solid foundation of people-to-people ties. Against the backdrop of a sluggish global economic recovery, rising protectionism, and profound adjustments in the geopolitical landscape, China has signed BRI cooperation documents with all 22 Arab states and the League of Arab States, and has aligned development strategies with multiple Arab countries. China-Arab relations have remained at a high level, with strategic mutual trust continuing to deepen, and have become a model of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit among developing countries.

I. A Dynamic Innovation–Driven Cooperation Framework

At present, a new wave of global scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is accelerating. Innovation has become the core engine driving global development and the key to sustaining national progress. Arab states are vigorously advancing economic diversification, and their demand for cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, the digital economy, and green and low-carbon development is growing increasingly urgent. Building on its strengths in technological innovation, China is working with Arab states to advance joint R&D, the commercialization of research outcomes, and industrial application. In fields such as digital infrastructure, clean energy,

advanced manufacturing, and aerospace technology, the two sides are fostering a number of flagship cooperation projects, gradually forming a more dynamic, resilient, and sustainable innovation-driven cooperation framework that provides a steady stream of scientific and technological momentum for building a China-Arab community with a shared future.

China-Arab innovation cooperation has achieved breakthroughs on multiple fronts and delivered tangible results. A number of landmark projects have taken root, ensuring that people on both sides benefit from innovation. In Saudi Arabia, the Al Shuaibah photovoltaic power plant, constructed by Chinese companies, has been successfully commissioned, delivering clean electricity to thousands of local households. In Egypt, the South Cairo power distribution loss-reduction pilot project, led by China Southern Power Grid International, has generated significant energy-saving benefits, reducing daily electricity losses by approximately 15,000 kilowatt-hours. In the United Arab Emirates, Chinese-made new-energy vehicles are widely seen; autonomous taxis operated by Chinese companies have been put into service; and Chinese-produced drones are being used for food delivery, demonstrating the deep integration of technological innovation with everyday life.

China and the Arab states are seizing the opportunities presented by technological innovation to promote industrial integration and coordinated advancement. They have established many high-quality benchmarks for cooperation across technology transfer, the digital economy, science and technology parks, and aerospace technology.

— **Remarkable progress in technology transfer.** China has actively transferred advanced and applicable technologies to Arab states, helping them enhance their capacity for independent innovation, localize technological achievements, and address practical development challenges. The China-aided livestock technology demonstration center in Mauritania has successfully cultivated nearly 1,000 mu of forage crops on the edge of the Sahara Desert, turning barren land into an oasis. Since its establishment in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in 2015, the China-Arab Technology Transfer Center has released more than 1,300 advanced and applicable technological achievements and signed over 100 scientific and technological cooperation agreements, facilitating the application of Chinese technologies—such as smart water-saving irrigation, intelligent agriculture, and agricultural product processing—in countries including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. An article in Oman's *Al Roya* noted that platforms such as the China-Arab Technology Transfer Center, the China-Arab Clean Energy Cooperation Center, and the International Research Center on Drought, Desertification, and Land Degradation have formed a network connecting thousands of research institutes and innovative enterprises across China and the Arab world.

— **Rapidly expanding digital cooperation.** China and the Arab states are jointly seizing opportunities in digital development and comprehensively advancing cooperation in areas such as digital infrastructure. Huawei has helped the United Arab Emirates establish its first 5G-enabled smart warehousing center, significantly advancing the country's

digital transformation of its logistics sector. Saudi Arabia's Data and AI Authority is actively promoting cooperation with Chinese companies such as Huawei and Alibaba Cloud, covering areas including high-performance computing and big data platforms, thereby enhancing the country's digital infrastructure. According to its spokesperson, Majid Al-Shehri, China possesses strong technological capabilities in artificial intelligence and is an important partner for Saudi Arabia in advancing AI and the digital economy.

— **Science and technology parks are taking root.** China has worked with Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Oman, and Morocco, to develop several high-standard science and industrial parks jointly. These parks closely align with the needs of China – Arab innovation cooperation and focus on strategic emerging industries such as the digital economy, new energy, biomedicine, and high-end manufacturing, providing important platforms for Arab countries to cultivate indigenous innovation capacity and promote industrial upgrading. The Mohammed VI Tanger Tech City in Morocco is a major China – Morocco industrial capacity cooperation project and it is located in the northern port city of Tangier. As of March 2026, the tech city has signed contracts with 42 enterprises, 34 of which are from mainland China, with a total estimated investment of approximately US\$3.5 billion. Among them, Chinese lithium battery materials company BTR New Material Group has invested in facilities with an annual capacity of 50,000 tons of cathode materials and 60,000 tons of anode materials, expected to create over 1,100 high-skilled jobs.

— **Vigorous growth in space cooperation.** On January 31, 2026, President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on the successful launch of AlSat-3 remote sensing satellites from Jiuquan. Xi Jinping noted that the AlSat-3 remote sensing satellites project, following the Alcomsat-I communications satellite, is another successful cooperation between China and Algeria in the aerospace field, and is an important manifestation of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Algeria. Abdelmadjid Tebboune said that the successful launch of the AlSat-3 remote sensing satellites is another substantial achievement in aerospace cooperation between Algeria and China, and a new milestone in the development of bilateral relations, which will help both sides expand cooperation prospects. The Algerian side is willing to work with the Chinese side to continue deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Building on the China – Arab BeiDou Cooperation Center, the first overseas center of China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, the two sides have established a relatively mature cooperation mechanism, with the BeiDou system already applied at scale across Arab countries in areas such as transportation and smart agriculture. China and the Arab states have also expanded cooperation in satellite launches, space tracking and control, satellite applications, and data sharing. Egypt is the first country to undertake joint satellite development with China under the Belt and Road framework. The Fifth Academy of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation undertook the con-

struction of Egypt's Satellite Assembly, Integration, and Testing Center, making Egypt the first country in Africa with satellite assembly capabilities. In December 2023, China successfully launched EgyptSat-2, a China-aided satellite for Egypt. Now operational in orbit, it provides strong technical support for Egypt's land and resource surveys, environmental monitoring, and disaster assessment, helping enhance the country's capacity for natural resource management and disaster response. China has also successfully launched satellites, including Algeria- I, the SaudiSat- 5A/5B satellites, and Sudan's first scientific experimental satellite.

II. An Investment and Financial Cooperation Framework Taking Shape

In recent years, through a series of strategic measures, including exploring multilateral currency settlement in oil trade and participating in multilateral financial cooperation mechanisms, China and the Arab states have emerged as key participants in the reform of the global monetary system. By steadily advancing practical initiatives such as local currency cooperation and strategic investment partnerships, the two sides have provided concrete support and facilitation for the real economy, trade, and investment and financing, enabling China and the Arab states to move from "each shining on its own" to shared prosperity.

Local currency cooperation serves as a strategic pillar for enhancing financial security and autonomy and for underpinning long-term cooperation between China and the Arab states. The People's Bank of China has signed and implemented bilateral local-currency swap agreements with the central banks of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Egypt. In November 2023, the People's Bank of China signed a bilateral local-currency swap agreement with the Saudi Central Bank, with a scale of RMB 50 billion / SAR 26 billion.^①The agreement, valid for three years and renewable upon expiration, has further strengthened China-Saudi financial cooperation, expanded the use of local currencies, and facilitated trade and investment.

China-Arab investment and financing cooperation has developed a sound pattern of two-way engagement and mutual benefit, with a steadily expanding investment scale and continuously broadening fields. In recent years, sovereign wealth funds from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait have become shareholders in dozens of Chinese A-share-listed companies across sectors, including petrochemicals, information technology, social media, and new energy.

At the same time, Chinese enterprises have been actively investing and expanding their presence in Arab countries. Major Chinese companies, including China National Petroleum Corporation and Sinopec, have undertaken direct investment and engineering contracting projects in Kuwait across sectors such as energy, finance, and infrastruc-

^① Xinhua News Agency, "China and Saudi Arabia Sign Bilateral Local Currency Swap Agreement."

ture. In countries including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, Chinese enterprises have invested in and built multiple industrial parks, contributing to the Arab side's economic diversification. The China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, established in 2008, has continued to attract enterprises and project investments in recent years, gradually becoming a flagship project aligned with the BRI and Egypt's Suez Canal Corridor development. Former Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf highly praised the TEDA Cooperation Zone, describing such economic and trade zones as "key to industry, trade, and global connectivity." The expansion of the cooperation zone is currently progressing steadily, with its total planned area expected to exceed 10 square kilometers, further promoting Egypt's industrial development.

III. A Diverse and Multi-Dimensional Energy Cooperation Framework

Arab states possess abundant oil and gas resources, while China is one of the world's largest energy consumers, making their cooperation in the energy sector highly complementary. China - Arab cooperation in traditional energy has a long history and a solid foundation, and has consistently served as the "ballast stone" of bilateral cooperation, forming a mature pattern characterized by stable supply, in-depth collaboration, and mutual benefit. Over the years, the two sides have continued to deepen cooperation in oil and gas trade, with steadily expanding trade volume and continuously optimized cooperation models. Arab states have become an important source of China's crude oil supply, with imports from them consistently accounting for a high proportion of China's total crude oil imports. Through a combination of long-term supply agreements and spot trade, both sides have ensured the stability and security of energy supply.

On the shores of the Red Sea in western Saudi Arabia, the small city of Yanbu is brimming with vitality, where employees are busy working at the Yanbu Aramco Sinopec Refining Company (Yasref). As an energy cooperation flagship project between the two countries witnessed by the heads of state of China and Saudi Arabia, it has helped drive Saudi Arabia's economic transformation and upgrading, benefited local development and people's livelihoods, and written a warm story of win-win cooperation between the two nations. Jointly built by Sinopec and Saudi Aramco, the Yasref is a world-class refinery and a key example of synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Saudi Vision 2030. Covering an area of approximately 5.2 million square meters in Yanbu Industrial City, it stands as a major benchmark enterprise in the region and has been hailed by the Saudi side as a "model refinery." The refinery processes 430,000 barrels of Saudi heavy crude oil per day, producing refined oil products and high value-added products for the global market. In April 2025, Sinopec and Saudi Aramco signed a framework agreement to expand their joint venture. Upon its commissioning, the project will effectively raise the production capacity of high-end petrochemical products, ad-

vance the diversified development of Saudi Arabia's industry, and meet global market demand.

In 2013, Sinopec International Petroleum Exploration and Production Corporation entered Egypt's upstream and midstream oil and gas markets by acquiring equity in the Apache Egypt project, becoming one of the largest foreign crude oil producers in the country. As of the end of 2025, the Egypt project had cumulatively produced 57.76 million tons of oil equivalent attributable to Sinopec. Since completing the transaction, Sinopec has actively fulfilled its corporate social responsibilities in Egypt, carrying out public welfare programs such as education for girls from impoverished families, care for orphans, and youth development training.

China-Arab energy trade has not only stabilized fiscal revenues and employment in Arab countries but also reinvested funds in local livelihood projects, effectively improving living standards and development outcomes for local communities. Taking Iraq as an example, the country ranks fifth globally in proven oil reserves. China-Iraq energy cooperation has continued to upgrade in both quality and scope, with China becoming Iraq's largest importer of crude oil. The crude oil output of Chinese-invested oil companies in Iraq accounts for roughly half of the country's total production. Iraq's Ministry of Oil requires international oil companies operating in the country to allocate annual social contribution funds to improve local livelihoods. In 2024, the combined social contribution budget of Chinese central state-owned energy enterprises in Iraq reached approximately US\$60 million, significantly improving conditions in healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Among these efforts, Zhenhua Oil funded the construction of the "Hope School" in Baghdad. By the end of 2025, 54 local students had received the "Zhenhua Scholarship" to pursue master's and doctoral degrees at Southwest Petroleum University. The first group of graduates has already returned to Iraq in early 2026 to work in the country's oilfields.

China has also leveraged its strengths in new energy technologies, manufacturing, and management to actively support Arab countries in unlocking their renewable energy potential. The two sides have implemented a number of flagship projects in solar power, wind energy, and hydrogen. China-Arab energy cooperation is now expanding beyond wind and solar to include energy storage, hydrogen, smart energy systems, and ultra-high-voltage power transmission.

IV. A Diversified and Balanced Pattern of Mutually Beneficial Trade and Economic Cooperation

In recent years, China and the Arab states have adhered to the principles of equality and mutual benefit, inclusiveness and mutual learning, and win-win cooperation. They have sustained and deepened all-round trade cooperation, achieving notable results. These efforts have not only lent sustained momentum to the economic and social development of both sides but have also emerged as a key driver of economic globalization

and global economic growth.

— **Steady expansion of trade scale.** China and the Arab states are important trading partners to each other, with a solid foundation for cooperation and strong growth momentum. China has become the largest trading partner of several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Bilateral trade has continued to grow steadily, standing out as a bright spot against the backdrop of sluggish global trade. For example, China-Kuwait bilateral trade increased from US\$22 million at the time of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1971 to US\$18.58 billion in 2025—an expansion of more than 800 times.^①

— **Continuous optimization of trade structure.** China-Arab trade cooperation has consistently been grounded in the resource endowments and industrial strengths of both sides, gradually promoting diversified trade structures and forming a model of "mutual demand and mutual benefit, with two-way empowerment," contributing to win-win and multi-win outcomes. China's exports to Arab countries—including electromechanical products, new energy vehicles, textiles and garments, and high-tech products—have met the diverse needs of economic development and improved livelihoods in the Arab states. Meanwhile, exports from Arab countries—including specialty agricultural products, handicrafts, and chemical products—have enriched the supply of the Chinese market. Products such as Egyptian oranges, Saudi white shrimp, Tunisian olive oil, and Sudanese sesame have become increasingly popular among Chinese consumers.

— **Fruitful outcomes of mutual benefit.** China-Arab trade cooperation has moved beyond a single-commodity trade model. It is increasingly integrated with industrial cooperation, forming a stable, complementary pattern that leverages China's manufacturing strengths, Arab energy and resource endowments, and shared market demand. In Kuwait, Chinese goods and technical services have become deeply embedded in the local market, creating a mutually reinforcing chain of Kuwaiti energy exports and Chinese industrial manufacturing and technology supply. Chinese-made products account for a significant share of Kuwait's imports of electromechanical equipment, household appliances, construction materials, and light industrial goods. In major retail systems across Kuwait, a large proportion of electrical and electronic products come from Chinese supply chains. Khalid Al-Falih, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment, has noted that Saudi Arabia and China are moving beyond traditional energy cooperation to explore new areas such as renewable energy, technology, logistics, and advanced manufacturing, opening a new chapter in bilateral economic relations.

V. Deeper and Broader People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges

As the saying goes, amity between people holds the key to relations between coun-

^①People's Daily, "Deepening China-Kuwait Friendship and Cooperation Has Become a Strategic Choice for Both Countries (Ambassador's Column)," March 22, 2026, p. 3.

tries, and such amity grows from a meeting of hearts. China and the Arab states both possess profound historical ties and distinctive cultural traditions, embodying the wisdom and heritage of millennia-old civilizations. In advancing the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future, both sides have consistently placed people-to-people exchanges and cultural engagement at the forefront. By promoting mutual learning among civilizations and fostering closer bonds between their peoples, they have gradually formed a people-to-people exchange framework marked by both depth and breadth, providing strong cultural momentum for comprehensive China-Arab cooperation.

— **Ancient civilizations are reaching out to each other, steadily strengthening the foundation of people-to-people bonds.** In recent years, China and the Arab states, drawing on their respective civilizational roots and cultural characteristics, have promoted mutual understanding and affinity between their peoples through cultural exhibitions, joint archaeological projects, and reciprocal tourism. Egypt, as one of the first Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with the newly established People's Republic of China, stands as an important model of China-Arab cultural exchange. The two countries have engaged in in-depth cooperation in archaeological excavation and cultural heritage protection, allowing these two ancient civilizations to spark new vitality in the modern era. People-to-people exchanges between China and Saudi Arabia have also continued to deepen. At the beginning of 2025, the first China-Saudi Cultural Year was held in Saudi Arabia. A series of exchange activities was launched, including promotional events on China's intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities and tea culture, as well as themed exhibitions hosted by the national museums of both countries. Performances such as the opera *Carmen* staged by the China National Opera House and a special choral concert by the National Centre for the Performing Arts were presented in Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, the Saudi Tourism Authority held immersive experience events in Shanghai, attracting large numbers of visitors to participate interactively. Beyond Egypt and Saudi Arabia, cultural exchanges between China and other Arab countries have also continued to gain momentum. In recent years, initiatives such as the China-Arab Classics Translation and Publication Project and the Silk Road Book Program have advanced steadily, with Chinese publications featured prominently at book fairs in Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries, bringing the peoples of both sides closer together.

Chinese culture is entering Arab countries in increasingly diverse forms. In 2025, events such as the China - Qatar Calligraphy Exchange Exhibition and the first Qatar-China Film Festival were held at Katara Cultural Village, the country's largest cultural complex. Countries such as Kuwait and Oman have hosted activities including International Chinese Language Day, further sparking public interest in Chinese culture across the Gulf region. The Chinese animated film *Ne Zha: The Devil's Carnival* was released in Gulf countries during the summer of 2025. Its Arabic dubbing director, Saudi animator Malik Nejer, noted that Chinese animation, with its high production quality,

presents elements of Chinese culture to the world and resonates across borders.

— **Chinese language education is flourishing, highlighting its role as a bridge of communication.** Language is not only a tool of communication but also the foundation of people-to-people connectivity. In recent years, a "Chinese language boom" has emerged across the Arab world. Chinese language education has continued to expand, becoming one of the most dynamic areas of China-Arab cultural exchange and building a solid linguistic bridge for deeper cooperation.

Among Arab countries, Egypt is among the earliest and most advanced in developing Chinese-language education. As early as 1958, Ain Shams University began training Chinese language specialists in structured programs. Today, 34 Egyptian universities offer Chinese majors or courses across major cities, and more than 40 secondary schools offer Chinese as an elective subject. Chinese has been fully incorporated into Egypt's national education system, forming a comprehensive talent-training pathway from primary and secondary education through to doctoral studies.

Chinese language education in Saudi Arabia has seen rapid growth, becoming a new highlight of China-Arab linguistic cooperation. At present, two universities in Saudi Arabia host Confucius Institutes, four universities offer Chinese majors. Since Saudi Arabia first hosted the university-level "Chinese Bridge" competition in 2022, the contest has become an important platform for Chinese-language students to showcase their abilities and engage in academic exchange, further stimulating enthusiasm for learning Chinese. Since 2024, Saudi Arabia introduced Chinese language courses across more than 100 public middle schools nationwide, drawing widespread media attention and further fueling the growing interest in Chinese.

Chinese language education is also progressing steadily in countries such as Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Kuwait, forming a pattern of broad-based development. The Confucius Institute at the University of Carthage has long been dedicated to Chinese language education. During the 2026 Spring Festival, its New Year gala featured lanterns, Spring Festival couplets, and traditional attire, conveying the festive atmosphere of the Chinese New Year and promoting cultural exchange between China and Tunisia. The university's president, Ajil, noted that over the past five decades, Chinese language courses have not only disseminated the Chinese language and civilization but have also fostered extensive exchange and deep interaction between Tunisian society and China's long-standing linguistic and cultural traditions.

— **Cross-border tourism continues to gain momentum, and people-to-people exchanges are enhancing mutual understanding.** The main actors in cultural exchange are the people themselves, and mutual acquaintance and interaction between the Chinese and Arab peoples are vital. China has now achieved full visa-free coverage for member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. At the same time, countries such as Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Tunisia have also implemented visa-free entry policies for Chinese citizens in recent years, greatly facilitating two-way tourism and personnel exchanges and providing strong momentum for bilateral cultural interaction and

closer people-to-people bonds.

China-Arab tourism cooperation has entered a fast track, with steadily growing numbers of visitors in both directions and increasingly convenient and efficient travel. Egypt, a country with a long-standing civilization, holds an important position and broad influence in the Arab world and has a strong appeal for Chinese tourists. In 2025, the number of Chinese visitors to Egypt reached 360,000. At the same time, enthusiasm among Egyptians for traveling to China continues to rise. "Drawing closer to one another and achieving one another" has become a vivid reflection of the people of both countries, especially the younger generation. Meanwhile, tourism exchanges have become an important vehicle for fostering closer bonds between their peoples.

Chapter Two: Opportunities and Challenges in Deepening China–Arab Cooperation

China is willing to work with Arab states to deepen political mutual trust, foster mutually beneficial cooperation, enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges, move forward together on their respective paths to modernization, and build a higher-level China–Arab community with a shared future.

— Xi Jinping Sends a Congratulatory Letter to the 34th Session of the Council of the League of Arab States

Entering the new era, China-Arab relations have achieved leapfrog development and have become a model of solidarity and cooperation among developing countries. At present, profound changes unseen in a century are accelerating, global economic growth remains sluggish, unilateralism and trade protectionism are on the rise, and regional geopolitical risks are increasing. Under these circumstances, China and the Arab states have an even greater need than ever to strengthen unity and coordination and jointly address shared challenges. China – Arab cooperation will not only provide new momentum for the development of both sides but also make a positive contribution to building an open world economy and improving the global governance system.

I. Broad Prospects for Advancing Practical Economic and Trade Cooperation

China and the Arab states have highly complementary economic structures and closely aligned development strategies. As the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation is fully aligned with Arab national development plans, such as Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, Egypt's Vision 2030, the UAE's Vision 2031, and Iraq's reconstruction and development program, the scope for cooperation continues to expand in areas including energy transition, industrial investment, technological innovation, and financial cooperation.

— **The energy partnership is transitioning from traditional to green development.** In response to the global energy transition, China and the Arab states are moving with the trend, positioning new energy cooperation as a new growth driver and gradually forming a pattern characterized by the coordinated development of traditional and renewable energy, as well as mutual empowerment through both technology and projects. While maintaining a high level of cooperation in traditional oil and gas trade, the two sides have significantly accelerated collaboration in areas such as hydrogen energy and solar power. At the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation

Forum, China explicitly proposed building a more multi-dimensional energy cooperation framework, further strengthening strategic cooperation in oil and gas while jointly advancing research and development and equipment manufacturing in new energy technologies. China also supports its energy enterprises and financial institutions in participating in renewable energy projects in Arab countries with a total installed capacity exceeding 3 million kilowatts.

— **Industrial capacity cooperation is advancing the industrialization of Arab countries.** In recent years, the scope and depth of China-Arab industrial capacity cooperation have continued to expand. Cooperation between China and countries such as Egypt and Algeria has progressed steadily in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, including electricity and telecommunications. The strong demand for infrastructure development in Arab states is highly complementary to China's industrial and construction capacity. The technological expertise and management experience accumulated by Chinese enterprises in infrastructure, energy, and the digital economy have provided solid support for the economic transformation of Arab countries. The China - UAE Industrial Capacity Cooperation Demonstration Park has been established in Abu Dhabi, where several Chinese enterprises have already completed their industrial deployment.

— **Cooperation in scientific and technological innovation and the digital economy holds enormous potential.** As a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation accelerates, China and the Arab states are working together to seize development opportunities. At the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, China proposed building a more dynamic innovation-driven cooperation framework. The two sides plan to jointly establish 10 joint laboratories in areas such as life and health, artificial intelligence, green and low-carbon development, modern agriculture, and spatial information, as well as to build a joint space debris observation center and a BeiDou application cooperation and development center, with promising outcomes ahead. In addition, cooperation between China and the Arab states continues to deepen in high-tech fields such as 5G communications, satellites, and nuclear energy. Chinese companies such as Huawei have already become key partners for Arab countries in developing 5G communications.

II. Unlimited Potential for People-to-People Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

Chinese and Arab civilizations have long complemented and illuminated each other, creating a compelling example of how diverse civilizations can flourish together through inclusiveness and mutual learning. At present, as profound changes unseen in a century are accelerating, in a more diverse world, the more dialogue there is, the less confrontation there will be; the greater the inclusiveness, the fewer the divisions. In a world marked by turbulence and transformation, the need for China and the Arab states in the new era to strengthen mutual learning among civilizations and pursue har-

monious coexistence is more pressing than ever, and of particular significance.

— **Educational cooperation is expected to continue advancing. Arab countries show a strong interest in deepening people-to-people exchanges with China.** Countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia are actively promoting cooperation in Chinese language education and vocational education. Since 2013, China has trained approximately 25,000 professionals from Arab countries and provided about 11,000 Chinese government scholarship quotas,^① covering fields such as economic management, healthcare, and engineering technology. Cooperation between universities in China and countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt continues to deepen, with steadily expanding two-way flows of international students and an increasingly solid foundation of public support for friendly exchanges.

— **Mutual learning among civilizations continues to deepen.** China and the Arab states have successfully held 11 sessions of the China-Arab Civilization Dialogue Seminar, engaging in in-depth exchanges on topics such as the harmonious coexistence of different civilizations and de-radicalization. Together, they advocate dialogue among civilizations, oppose discrimination against any civilization, and safeguard the diversity of world civilizations. Within the framework of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the two sides have established regular mechanisms for people-to-people exchange, including the China-Arab Reform and Development Forum, the China-Arab Friendship Conference, the China-Arab Women's Forum, and China-Arab Young Ambassador exchanges. Platforms such as the China-Arab Think Tank Alliance, the China-Arab University Alliance, and the China-Arab Research Center for Cultural and Tourism Cooperation are being steadily advanced, providing institutionalized channels of exchange for scholars, youth, and media professionals on both sides. Arab countries generally attach importance to drawing on China's development experience, and exchanges on governance have become an important component of mutual learning among civilizations. China invites around 200 political party leaders from Arab countries to visit each year, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and political trust.

— **Tourism cooperation is emerging as a new growth driver.** Egypt has set an ambitious target of attracting 30 million tourists by 2030, and its tourism authorities have repeatedly expressed their expectation that Chinese visitors will be a major driver of inbound tourism growth. Morocco, with its unique geographic position of bordering both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, and its rich cultural and tourism resources, regards China as an important source market. Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are stepping up efforts to promote their tourism cities to the Chinese market, introducing Chinese-language services and convenient payment options to attract Chinese visitors. China and the Arab states are accelerating visa facilitation and increasing direct flight routes, aiming to achieve 10 million mutual tourist visits within the next five years.

① Xinhua News Agency, "Taking Solid Steps Toward Building a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future."

Located at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, Arab countries boast long histories and diverse cultures, sharing a natural affinity with Chinese civilization. As the scale of people-to-people exchanges continues to expand, the level of educational cooperation continues to rise, and mechanisms for civilizational dialogue become increasingly well developed, China-Arab cultural exchanges are moving toward greater diversity, depth, and sustainability, providing sustained cultural momentum for building a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era.

III. Broad Scope for Jointly Addressing Regional and Global Hotspot Issues

The Middle East has long been troubled by geopolitical conflicts, and peace and stability remain the region's pressing aspirations. China has consistently acted as a defender of peace and a promoter of stability, actively fulfilling its role as a responsible major country. It upholds a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. It works with Arab states to strengthen communication and coordination, jointly advancing the political settlement of hotspot issues and contributing positively to long-term peace and stability in the region.

On the question of Palestine, China has consistently and firmly supported the just cause of the Arab side. For many consecutive years, President Xi Jinping has sent congratulatory messages to the United Nations' International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. It has clearly put forward a four-point proposal for resolving the Palestinian issue, with the core being a firm commitment to advancing a political settlement based on the two-state solution. Arab countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan highly recognize China's position and look forward to China playing a greater role in promoting a just resolution of the Palestinian issue. On issues concerning Syria, Yemen, and Libya, China has adhered to the correct direction of pursuing political solutions, advocated respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region, and opposed external interference in internal affairs, thereby earning broad trust from Arab states.

China-Arab **strategic coordination within multilateral frameworks continues to deepen, jointly safeguarding the interests of developing countries.** In recent years, countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have successively joined the BRICS cooperation mechanism and become dialogue partners of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, elevating China-Arab strategic coordination from the bilateral level to regional and multilateral dimensions. Within the United Nations framework, China and the Arab states have maintained close coordination on key issues, including the Palestinian question, the Syrian question, and the situation in Yemen. Together, they uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and oppose unilateralism and power politics. On matters involving each other's core interests, Arab countries have for many years voiced firm support for China,

through joint or individual statements in multilateral settings, on issues concerning China's sovereignty and rights. Since 2002, the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Arab League has consistently adopted resolutions expressing friendship toward China and explicitly commending China's diplomatic efforts to support the Arab cause and promote the peaceful resolution of regional crises. This strategic mutual trust, built on mutual respect, has enabled China and the Arab states to become a key force in safeguarding the common interests of developing countries and in promoting a more just and equitable international order.

Chapter Three: Stepping up the Building of a China– Arab Community with a Shared Future

At the first China–Arab States Summit, I put forward "eight major cooperation initiatives" for our practical cooperation. Since then, the BRI cooperation documents we signed have expanded to cover a full range of areas thanks to our joint efforts over the past one year and more. New progress has been made in scientific R&D and technology transfer. Trade and energy cooperation have scaled new heights. Small and beautiful livelihood projects are advancing in parallel with signature flagship projects. Cooperation in areas such as food security, green innovation, and health is deepening and getting more substantial. Platforms for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation are functioning well. Early harvests have been achieved in all the "eight major cooperation initiatives." Moving forward, China is ready to work with the Arab side on that basis to put in place the following "five cooperation frameworks" to step up the building of a China–Arab community with a shared future.

— Xi Jinping's Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China–Arab States Cooperation Forum

The year 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Arab states, as well as the opening year of China's 15th Five-Year Plan. It is a moment to build on past achievements and chart a course for the future. Looking ahead, China and the Arab states will be guided by head-of-state diplomacy, strengthen strategic mutual trust through mutual support, expand practical cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit, deepen civilizational dialogue through inclusiveness and mutual learning, and pursue global development through close coordination, jointly embracing the bright prospects of building a China – Arab community with a shared future.

I. Mutual Support to Elevate Strategic Mutual Trust to New Heights

In a turbulent world, mutual respect is the path to harmonious coexistence, and fairness and justice form the foundation of lasting security. The Chinese government has repeatedly stated that China stands ready to work with the Arab side to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, respect the independent choices of peoples, respect objective realities shaped by history, and explore solutions to hotspot issues that uphold fairness and justice and ensure long-term stability.

China-Arab relations have always been built on a solid foundation of mutual trust and mutual support. Over the years, both sides have shown understanding and extended support to each other on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns, thereby forging strong strategic mutual trust. Looking ahead, China and the Arab states need to strengthen further coordination and cooperation on regional hotspot issues and global governance, making full use of mechanisms such as the China-Arab States Summit, the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, and strategic consultations across various fields. By doing so, they can elevate mutual trust and support to a higher level, providing greater stability and positive momentum in a turbulent world.

At the same time, on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations Security Council, China, as a permanent member, has consistently spoken up for the just causes of Arab states. For a long time, Arab countries have expected China to play a greater role in international affairs precisely because they recognize China's sincerity in addressing issues, its impartial stance, and its refusal to impose its will on others, qualities that reflect the distinctive wisdom of China's approach to mediation. Against the backdrop of BRICS expansion, the two sides should strengthen policy coordination on issues concerning the Global South and work together to promote a more just and equitable international order.

II. Equality and Mutual Benefit to Forge a New Pattern of Practical Cooperation

In an increasingly interdependent world, China remains committed to aligning its development strategies with those of Arab states, continuing to consolidate cooperation in oil and gas, trade, and infrastructure as key pillars, while accelerating the development of new growth drivers, including artificial intelligence, investment and financing, and new energy. Together, the two sides are pursuing a path of innovation, green development, and shared prosperity.

— **Establishing more stable coordination mechanisms for cooperation.** In project cooperation, both sides should institutionalize mechanisms to align systems and standards, strengthen communication on laws and regulations, and enhance project compliance evaluation to build a transparent and sustainable investment and financing framework. They should deepen the localization of technological cooperation and upgrade the cooperation model from "project contracting" to an integrated approach combining capital, technology, talent, and governance, including the joint establishment of research and development centers and training institutes. At the same time, risk management should be brought forward, with factors such as geopolitics, security standards, and data compliance incorporated into early-stage design to improve project resilience.

— **Upgrading bilateral trade and optimizing the trade structure.** In response to common challenges such as structural imbalances in trade, China will continue to encourage its enterprises to expand imports of non-oil products, high-value-added agricultural

goods, and manufactured products from Arab countries, promoting more balanced and sustainable bilateral trade and ensuring that the benefits of cooperation reach local populations more effectively. For example, exports to China from countries such as Egypt and Morocco remain relatively limited in scale and low in value-added content. In response, China has made clear its intention to expand imports of high-quality agricultural and industrial products, promote a model of "joint manufacturing plus third-party market exports," and support the development of regional production hubs on platforms such as the Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. These efforts aim to shift bilateral cooperation from a "trade-surplus-driven" model toward one of "industrial symbiosis."

— **Expanding the strategic depth of energy cooperation and promoting integration of industrial and supply chains.** China has developed diversified cooperation structures with countries such as Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, with energy as the foundation and extending into manufacturing, finance, and the digital economy.

In North Africa, Morocco is emerging as an important hub for China's deployment of green technologies and new energy vehicle industrial chains. In 2025, China – Morocco trade reached US\$10 billion, a year-on-year increase of 21.2 percent. The advancement of projects such as Tangier Tech City and new energy materials industrial parks reflects a clear shift in bilateral cooperation from simple trade toward industrial capacity cooperation and deeper integration into industrial chains.

— **Building new platforms for industrial, investment, and financial cooperation.** Morocco, for example, is working to position itself as a "reliable and competitive industrial and investment platform." China and Morocco are actively promoting expanded trade and investment cooperation between their business communities, strengthening coordination along industrial and supply chains, and jointly safeguarding the multilateral trading system. These efforts are adding new substance to the China – Morocco strategic partnership and fresh momentum to the development of China – Africa and China – Arab relations.

In the financial sector, China and the Arab states can, under conditions of controlled risk, steadily advance local-currency settlement and the development of investment and financing platforms. Financial cooperation can proceed gradually, focusing on less politically sensitive areas, while strengthening strategic dialogue and long-term investment cooperation among sovereign wealth funds.

III. Inclusiveness and Mutual Learning to Write a New Chapter in Dialogue among Civilizations

Mutual learning among civilizations is an essential foundation for the steady and sustained development of China – Arab relations. Exchange and mutual learning between Chinese and Arab civilizations has a long history. "Inclusiveness and mutual learning" is not a one-way display, but a shared cultural and intellectual resonance that transcends

time and space.

— **Consolidating friendship based on mutual respect.** The distinctive value of China-Arab cultural exchanges lies in equality, mutual respect, and mutual learning, setting a model for the harmonious coexistence of different civilizations. Both sides look forward to further strengthening their deep friendship on this basis and jointly creating broader prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation.

— **Deepening cooperation to build a model of civilizational exchange.** The depth and breadth of China - Arab civilizational dialogue continue to expand. For example, Chinese archaeological teams have conducted excavations at the Montu Temple site in the Karnak Temple complex in Luxor, Egypt, and advanced digital restoration work in Saqqara, promoting the integration of academic research, technology, and talent development. The Shanghai Museum's exhibition "On Top of the Pyramid: The Civilization of Ancient Egypt" has attracted millions of visitors. In addition, tea serves as a bridge connecting China with the world. China has become the largest source of tea imports for Morocco, and sharing tea is a common cultural practice in both countries, helping deepen mutual understanding and emotional ties between their peoples.

— **Expanding cultural cooperation to open up broader prospects.** The two sides can further broaden areas of cooperation, focusing on cultural relics protection, maritime archaeology, joint nomination of cultural heritage, the digital cultural industry, and youth innovation and entrepreneurship, thereby strengthening the social foundation of bilateral relations. At the same time, in the digital era, it is important to enhance media cooperation and think tank dialogue, build mutual trust in discourse and perception, and reduce misunderstandings and misperceptions.

IV. Close Coordination to Open New Dimensions in Global Governance

At present, deficits in governance, trust, peace, and development are intensifying, underscoring the need for China and the Arab states to uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits and to continuously improve global governance. The two sides can jointly advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and inclusive, universally beneficial economic globalization, thereby setting a model for South - South cooperation in global governance.

— **Promoting deeper alignment of development strategies.** In December 2025, following visits to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that the three countries he visited, along with the Gulf Cooperation Council, highly commend China's remarkable development achievements, remain confident in China's economy, value the opportunities China offers, and look forward to deepening comprehensive cooperation. Leaders of the three countries have shown strong interest in China's 15th Five-Year Plan and have endorsed the clear signals it conveys of commitment to openness and cooperation, as well as to mutually beneficial de-

velopment. China will continue to provide the world, especially amid turbulence, with a valuable and scarce source of certainty through sound national policies, steady economic growth, and stable development expectations, while creating more sustainable dividends for the development and revitalization of Arab countries.

As an important component of the Global South, Arab countries are accelerating economic diversification and transformation. China will strengthen the alignment of its 15th Five-Year Plan with the development strategies of Arab countries, consolidate traditional practical cooperation, deepen collaboration in emerging sectors, and expand cooperation in frontier areas. It will also promote the upgrading of the "five major cooperation patterns" and continue to act as a trustworthy and reliable friend and partner in each other's journey toward modernization.

— **Building high-quality partnerships.** At the core of China-Arab relations lies long-standing political mutual trust and mutual support. Taking the strategic partnership between China and Morocco as an example, 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of its establishment. The two countries will "continue to share development opportunities, safeguard world peace, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity." This shared commitment indicates that their close coordination has gone beyond the bilateral level and entered a new dimension of global governance collaboration. The distinctive feature of their cooperation lies in the "strategic convergence of development visions." The objectives of China's 15th Five-Year Plan are highly aligned with Morocco's development vision, and this deep synergy has opened up broad prospects for major joint projects. Bilateral cooperation has entered a phase of deep integration, characterized by coordinated development strategies, two-way integration of industrial and supply chains, joint development of technical standards, and joint expansion into third-party markets.

— **Sharing the opportunities of Chinese modernization.** The Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China states that China will "adhere to openness and cooperation and mutual benefit, steadily expand institutional opening-up, build a higher-level open economy, promote high-quality BRI cooperation, expand international circulation, use openness to drive reform and development, and advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and inclusive and universally beneficial economic globalization, to share opportunities and achieve common development with all countries." China's development has never relied on closed and exclusive "small circles," but rather on expanding high-level opening up and sharing opportunities with the rest of the world. Guided by the "five major cooperation patterns," China and the Arab states will continue to deepen political mutual trust, strengthen policy alignment, and upgrade practical cooperation across all fields. By sharing the opportunities of Chinese modernization and advancing their respective modernization processes together, the two sides enjoy broad prospects for cooperation and vast potential for future development.

Conclusion

China-Arab relations have a long and enduring history. Along the overland and maritime Silk Roads, spanning East and West and stretching across millennia, China and the Arab states have built a solid foundation of mutual benefit through exchanges of trade and travel, while leaving lasting marks of mutual inspiration through exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Since the first China-Arab States Summit, both sides have approached their relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective. Cooperation across various fields has yielded a series of landmark and breakthrough achievements, with significant progress in institutional development, the breadth of cooperation, and the depth of practical engagement.

In today's world, unilateralism, protectionism, and geopolitical conflicts are increasingly intertwined, and Arab countries face a more complex internal and external environment for peace and development. At a time when profound changes unseen in a century are accelerating, both China and the Arab states bear the historic mission of achieving national rejuvenation and accelerating national development. Strengthening strategic mutual trust, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, and building a higher-level China-Arab community with a shared future are not only the natural choice for the development of bilateral relations, but also a vivid example of the deepening of South-South cooperation, and will contribute to building a more just and equitable international order.

At present, China-Arab relations are at their best in history. High-quality BRI cooperation is being steadily advanced, driving industrial synergy through connectivity and improving people's wellbeing through project cooperation. At the same time, both sides are committed to promoting peace through dialogue on regional hotspot issues, advocating fairness and justice on multilateral occasions, and advancing political solutions. Cultural exchange is also expanding through exhibitions, publications, and diverse forms of engagement, contributing to a rich chapter of mutual learning among civilizations. Together, these efforts are transforming development momentum and aspirations for peace into sustainable and tangible outcomes, setting a fine example of solidarity, coordination, and mutual benefit among developing countries.

Standing at a new historical starting point and facing an international landscape marked by uncertainties and challenges, China will remain a trustworthy friend and partner to Arab states and firmly stand on the side of the just cause of Arab countries. Looking ahead, China and the Arab states will continue to deepen political mutual trust, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and enhance people-to-people exchanges, advancing together along their respective paths to modernization and elevating the building of a China - Arab community with a shared future to a higher level. In doing so, they will bring greater certainty and positive energy to the world and make an even greater contribution to building a community with a shared future for humanity.