

## China's UN role applauded

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### Experts hail efforts since nation's seat in world body was restored 50 years ago

**Editor's Note:** Fifty years ago China resumed its seat at the United Nations on this day. This page highlights the country's adherence to the UN Charter, pursuit of the world body's Sustainable Development Goals and efforts to help other nations.

China's achievements and contributions to global peace and development since the restoration of its lawful seat at the United Nations 50 years ago have been applauded by current and former UN officials and scholars.

On Oct 25, 1971, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758, restoring the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the world body.

"China has played a most constructive role as a member of the Security Council and beyond," said Erik Solheim, former UN under-secretary-general and former executive director of the UN Environment Programme. "China has voiced opinions of the developing world, been a force for restraint and dialogue and made sure the UN focused on economic development and the environment."

He said that the role of China in the UN is inseparable from China's unprecedented economic and social rise.

"China's huge achievements during these 50 years, bringing all Chinese out of poverty and putting China on the path to becoming the world's largest economy, inspire numerous developing nations in the UN," Solheim told China Daily on Saturday, adding that China is now a key economic contributor to the UN and critical to UN peacekeeping missions.

A Norwegian politician, Solheim said he expects China in the coming years to be a force for peace, a multipolar world order, a rules-based system and the idea of a common destiny for humankind.

"China will resist all temptations toward increased global tensions, a new Cold War or global decoupling. China will inspire the world on its path toward an ecological civilization," he said.

Siddharth Chatterjee, the UN resident coordinator in China, said that China, having lifted more than 750 million people out of poverty, serves as an inspiration to all developing countries hoping to improve the lives and livelihoods of their most vulnerable citizens. "The achievements of China over the past 50 years are an important reminder of China's development trajectory and must not be underestimated," he said.

Chatterjee, who assumed the post in January, said the UN has been in China since 1979 and remains a trusted partner.

"As the UN resident coordinator to China, I hope China will continue to play a global leadership role in tackling challenges like the climate emergency, reducing inequalities, advancing global public health and bridging the digital divide," he said.

"China's role in advancing South-South cooperation is crucial."

Ted Carpenter, a senior fellow for defense and foreign policy studies at the Washington-based Cato Institute, said that 50 years ago, the United States finally abandoned its foolish effort to prevent the PRC from representing China at the UN.

"Since then, China has played a cooperative and constructive role throughout the organization, especially in the Security Council," he said.

Carpenter expressed the view that Beijing has exercised its veto power in a restrained manner, but it has been willing to use it to block some of Washington's more egregious efforts to gain international backing for its regime-change wars.

### **Prominent example**

He said that a prominent example was China's veto of a US resolution to deepen involvement in Syria's civil war behind the fig leaf of a UN "humanitarian" mission — as Washington had done earlier in Libya.

"The veto was a prudent restraining role that a major power should exercise," Carpenter said.

"I expect that China's future UN role will be similar to its conduct over the past 50 years, with a probable modest increase in both the range and depth of Beijing's activities. Such an increase would reflect the impressive growth in China's economic, diplomatic, and military capabilities."

In a recent forum hosted by the China's Permanent Mission to the UN in Vienna to mark the 50th anniversary, Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said: "The IAEA is part of the UN family, and here China is playing a thoughtful and important role, supporting the agency in its mandate to make the many benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear available to everyone."

He said that through the agency's programs, China is sharing its expertise in a variety of areas, from training regional experts in security and safety techniques to the provision of scholarships that support PhD candidates from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"I congratulate China on this meaningful anniversary and look forward to working together closely in the future," said the chief of the Vienna-based agency, which is an autonomous international organization within the UN system.