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Cover Photo: Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, waves to journalists at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on October 23 (XINHUA)

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New Leaders, New Mission

At the First Plenary Session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on October 23, Xi Jinping was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. The session also saw the election of other veteran officials to senior leadership posts.

"Confronted with new challenges and tests on the journey ahead, we must remain on high alert and stay sober-minded and prudent like a student sitting for a never-ending exam," Xi said when the seven newly elected Political Bureau Standing Committee members, the Party's highest-ranking leaders including the general secretary, met the media. "We must make sure that our century-old Party will become ever more vigorous through self-reform and continue to be the strong backbone that the Chinese people can lean on at all times."

The 20th CPC National Congress, which ended on October 22 with the election of a new Central Committee, occurred at a time when the world once again found itself at a crossroads. In the complex settings of domestic and international development, the CPC must have strong central leadership. This can provide a level of stability

amid uncertainty.

The Party has established Xi's core position on the Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and defined the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. This governance philosophy, which Xi developed since he took the helm of the CPC in 2012, features a wide spectrum of ideas, such as a targeted approach to poverty alleviation through which China has eradicated absolute poverty, a double development dynamic with the domestic economy as the mainstay and the domestic economy and international engagement providing mutual reinforcement, and the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to enhance connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

Indeed, the road ahead is arduous, but with determined steps, one at a time, the CPC is poised to reach its goals. It has vowed to rely on the support of the Chinese people and not to be daunted by risks.

At the same time, China will work with other countries to champion humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom. **BR**



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Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, addresses the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on October 23



20TH CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS





or the third time in his career, Xi Jinping led other newly elected Party leaders to make their debut in Beijing on October 23.

"We shall keep in mind the Party's nature and purpose and our own mission and responsibility, and work diligently in the performance of our duty, to prove worthy of the great trust of the Party and our people," he said.

Since he was first elected general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in 2012, Xi has led the world's most populous nation in achieving history-making progress. Hopes are high that the new leadership team will continue to steadily steer China down its path to modernization.

Guiding principles

Ten years ago, when Xi ascended to the Party's top post, China was already the world's second largest economy and top manufacturer. But the economy faced increasing downward pressure and the need to transform the economic structure became pressing. Other tough issues also needed to be resolved, such as corruption, pollution and a wide wealth gap.

Xi has put forward a new development philosophy that promotes innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development for all.

"We will boost the dynamism and reliability of the domestic economy while engaging at a higher level in the global economy," a report Xi delivered to the 20th CPC National Congress on October 16 said. "We will... make China's industrial and supply chains more resilient and secure, and promote integrated >>>



20TH CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

urban-rural development and coordinated regional development, so as to effectively upgrade and appropriately expand China's economic output."

The report underscores the need for high-quality development in aspects including the economy, society, culture and ecology, Mu Hong, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a press conference on October 24.

Xi has come up with new ideas on many national and global issues and his philosophy is considered a new breakthrough in the adaptation of Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times.

Xi has an objective and comprehensive understanding of China's current situation, as well as detailed and rational thinking on its future, a Xinhua News Agency profile of Xi quoted Robert Kuhn, an American scholar who authored the book *How China's Leaders Think*, as saying.

Poverty alleviation, the Belt and Road Initiative and the environmental cleanup all have their place within Xi's thought and all are practical at the grassroots level where ideas become action, driving the historic changes over the past decade, David Ferguson, a British editor who edited the English translation of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, said.

Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, guiding principles developed since Xi assumed the Party's top job in 2012, was enshrined in the preambles of both the Party and national constitutions in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The thought also includes ideas such as a

members on the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 20th **CPC Central Committee** 24 members on the Political Bureau of the 20th **CPC Central Committee** 205 171 members alternate members on the 20th CPC Central Committee ••••• 2.296 elected delegates to the 20th CPC National Congress Over 96 mln Party members by the end of \mathbf{A} =10 mln 2021 (Compiled by Beijing Review; Designed by Pamela Tobey)

Chinese path to modernization, the rule of law and improved Party self-governance.

In international relations, Xi champions a community with a shared future for humanity, one in which people will be able to cope with pandemics, climate change, food and water insecurity, and war by emphasizing mutually beneficial solutions. The Belt and Road Initiative is a plan that aims to enhance connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes proposed by Xi in 2013.

A resolution adopted at the 20th CPC National Congress said the establishment of Xi's core position and the guiding role of his thought has enabled the Party to successfully resolve acute problems and challenges.

It was agreed at the congress the new developments in Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era since the Party's 19th National Congress in 2017 should be incorporated into the Party Constitution, another resolution on Party Constitution amendment said.

Broad consensus

On October 22, the new CPC Central Committee which has 205 members was elected during the closing session of the five-yearly national congress.

According to the Party Constitution, the highest leading bodies of the Party are the National Congress and the Central Committee which it elects. Between plenary sessions of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and its Standing Committee shall exercise the functions and powers of the Central Committee.

At the October 23 plenum, the 24 members of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau were elected; of these, seven were elected to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau, the top leadership, which includes the general secretary.

The plenum endorsed the members of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat and named the members of the CPC Central Military Commission.

In addition, the 20th CPC



The 20th CPC National Congress concludes in Beijing on October 22

National Congress elected the 133 members of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), who then elected their own Standing Committee, secretary and deputy secretaries, who were then approved by the October 23 plenum.

In early 2022, Xi began seeking advice from other members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau on candidates for a new central leadership, according to a Xinhua News Agency report.

On March 24, a plan for the recommendation of candidates

was adopted. According to the plan, candidates should be dedicated, impartial and upright, and emphasis should be placed on merit regardless of background, and on having both integrity and ability, with greater weight given to the former.

One-on-one talks played a major role in the process. Starting from April, Xi talked to 30 senior leaders to seek their opinions. From April to July, other senior CPC leaders also sought advice from 318 senior officials and military officers.

Consultations continued until late September when the proposal on the makeup of the new central authority was adopted. It was then submitted to the first plenary sessions of the 20th CPC Central Committee and the 20th CCDI.

There are also strict procedures for the nomination and election of the CPC Central Committee and the CCDI members. Of the 222 that had been nominated as CPC Central Committee member candidates, 205 were elected.

The world is watching how the new leadership body will steer China through tough challenges and chart a fresh course toward national rejuvenation. **BR**

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson Comments to jijing@cicgamericas.com



General Secretary Of the CPC Central Committee



Xi Jinping

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Members of the Standing Committee Of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee



Xi Jinping



Li Qiang



Zhao Leji



Wang Huning



Cai Qi



Ding Xuexiang



Li Xi



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Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee



Ding Xuexiang



Xi Jinping



Ma Xingrui



Wang Yi



Wang Huning



Yin Li



Shi Taifeng



Liu Guozhong



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Li Hongzhong



He Weidong



He Lifeng



Zhang Youxia



Zhang Guoqing



Chen Wenqing



Chen Jining



Chen Min'er



Zhao Leji



Yuan Jiajun



Huang Kunming



Cai Qi

(Arranged in ascending order of the number of character strokes in the family names of the members)

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Li Shulei



Chen Wenqing



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Central Military Commission Of the CPC



Xi Jinping Chairman



Zhang Youxia Vice Chairman



He Weidong Vice Chairman

Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC



Secretary

WHO'S WHO IN THE



• Xi Jinping, Han ethnicity, was born in June 1953 and is from Fuping, Shaanxi Province. He began his first job in January 1969 and joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in January 1974. Xi graduated from School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsinghua University where he completed an in-service graduate program in Marxist theory and ideological and political education. He holds a Doctor of Law degree.

Xi is currently General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, President of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission.

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