

共同行动 共创未来 Collective Action for One Future





广东省人民政府 People's Government of Guangdong Province



Global Leaders and China Gathered in Madrid Call for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future

- Over 130 leaders and experts from 40 countries, and a Chinese delegation, gathered in Madrid for two days to formulate joint solutions for a more equitable and sustainable future.
- Hu Chunhua, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the 14th Chinese People's Political
 Consultative Conference, inaugurated the event and –reading a message from President Xi
 Jinping– stated that: "China stands ready to work together with other countries to promote
 win-win cooperation and sustainable global development".
- Through dialogue with China, a key actor for maintaining global stability, solutions have been sought to address shared challenges amidst an international context of growing polarisation and uncertainty.

Madrid, 12 December 2024 – Under the theme "Collective Action for One Future" the ninth edition of the <u>Imperial Springs International Forum</u> (ISIF 2024), co-organised by <u>Club de Madrid</u>, and held for the first time outside China, addressed the profound transformations being experienced by the international system. The Forum underscored its commitment to broadening multilateral dialogue by engaging a more diverse range of stakeholders and advancing towards a more inclusive and collaborative global order. Held in Madrid, the Forum called for joint action to reduce prevailing antagonism and prevent the escalation of strategic tensions, including nuclear threats, trade wars, and unresolved regional conflicts.

Over 130 political leaders, dignitaries, experts, and representatives from more than 40 countries, including former Heads of State and Government (Members of Club de Madrid), scholars, and members of international organisations, alongside representatives and officials from the Chinese and Spanish authorities, have reached agreements on specific measures to revitalise multilateralism, strengthen international cooperation, and rebuild trust among nations. Hu Chunhua, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, has shared a message from President Xi Jinping, noting that "since its establishment, the Forum has adhered to advocating multilateralism, conducted in-depth discussions on global governance issues, and actively shared China's propositions".

Diego Martínez Belío, Spain's Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs, remarked: "The responsibility to generate inclusive economic growth transcends borders, and Spain defends and will continue to advocate for a constructive role between our country and China". José Luis Martínez-Almeida, Mayor of Madrid —host and institutional partner of Club de Madrid— underscored the importance of the Forum saying that, "Only by strengthening ties and relationships can we build stronger and more cohesive societies". He also presented Madrid as a "global capital of dialogue and collaboration," emphasising that "we are a meeting point, a place of mutual recognition: that is Madrid's hallmark".

The global economic situation was one of the central discussion topics of the Forum. Mounting challenges such as inflation, protectionism, and the fragility of supply chains, leaders advocated for reforming the World Trade Organisation and stabilising international trade. They also emphasised the role of multilateral financial institutions—such as the G20 and development banks— in promoting financial stability and reducing debt in low-and middle-income countries.

ISIF underscored the need to accelerate sustainable and inclusive development, prioritising a more equitable international tax system, the restructuring of debt in vulnerable countries, and the creation of inclusive financial frameworks. It also highlighted the need for a more effective international financial architecture to support developing economies.

Technology and innovation were also key focal points. The Forum emphasised the need to establish global governance frameworks for artificial intelligence and green technologies, ensuring equitable access and preventing the concentration of power around these technologies. International cooperation has to ensure that emerging technologies contribute to global equity rather than exacerbating inequalities. As Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, noted: "It is essential to develop equitable governance frameworks, ensure inclusive financing, and prevent the monopolisation of technological advancements, particularly in the most vulnerable regions".

In a context of escalating geopolitical rivalries and a multipolar world, Forum's discussions focused on the reform of global governance. Particular emphasis was placed on the implementation of the Pact for the Future, adopted at the United Nations Summit on the Future in September 2024. This Pact encompasses critical commitments to sustainable development and financing, international peace and security, climate action, and digital cooperation. Participants highlighted the need for robust mechanisms for monitoring and accountability, mobilising resources, and setting concrete timelines to fulfil the Pact's objectives.

The Forum called to advance these priorities and foster a more equitable, sustainable, and cooperative future, Danilo Türk, President of Club de Madrid, stated: "This edition of ISIF has illustrated that, even in a fragmented world, dialogue and cooperation remain our most effective tools for addressing shared challenges. The collective action we take today will shape the global governance of tomorrow".

Audience with King Felipe VI at the Royal Palace of Madrid

As part of the activities of the Imperial Springs International Forum 2024, His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain will receive a delegation of global and Chinese leaders on 13 December. This meeting underscores Spain's commitment to multilateralism and reinforces its role as a key player in fostering international dialogue and cooperation.

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ABOUT CLUB DE MADRID:

Club de Madrid is the world's largest forum of democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers, who leverage their individual and collective leadership experience and global reach to strengthen inclusive democratic practice and improve the well-being of people around the world. As a non-partisan and international non-profit organisation, it counts on the hands-on governance experience of more than 100 Members from over 70 countries, along with a global network of advisers and partners across all sectors of society. This unique alliance stimulates dialogue, builds bridges and engages in advocacy efforts to strengthen public policies and effective leadership through recommendations that tackle challenges such as inclusion, sustainable development and peace, at the national and international levels.