Urbanization is a fundamental, strategically important issue for China’s modernization. Given the profound changes currently taking place in the international economic environment, and the fact that China has now joined the ranks of middle-income countries while also facing downward pressures on its economy, it is all the more important and necessary for us to carry out an in-depth debate on the future development of urbanization, in line too with our responsibility to implement the Scientific Outlook on Development.

1. Urbanization – an Essential Element of and Basic Strategy for Modernization

The study and exploration of issues related to urbanization need to be considered within the wider context of human development, and the broader trend of economic and social development. Modernization is the process whereby a traditional society undergoes a multifaceted, comprehensive transformation into a modern society. In a certain sense, modernization was brought about by the industrial revolution, and the modernization process is in effect the combined process of industrialization and urbanization.

Shortly after the founding of New China in 1949, the objective was proposed of transforming China from an agricultural to an industrial country. Even in the latter part of the Cultural Revolution, when the national economy was on the brink of collapse, the Party proposed to achieve modernization in the areas of agriculture, industry, national defense, and science and technology - together known as the “four modernizations” - by the end of the last century. With the implementation of the policy of reform and opening up, the three-step strategic plan for modernizing China was proposed, which aimed to basically achieve modernization by the middle of the current century. Our resolve to achieve the goal of modernization - to build a prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious modern socialist country - is firmer than ever.

What is modernization? What sort of country is considered a modern country? Internationally, a range of different criteria are utilised. But, regardless of whether one uses the United Nations’ or the OECD’s criteria, the respective proportions of the urban population and of people in non-agricultural employment are always considered important, and serve as clear indicators for distinguishing between developed and developing countries. We say that China is still a developing country, and an important reason for this is that China’s urbanization rate is still relatively low. In developed countries that have achieved modernization, on the other hand, where the level of urbanization is typically 75-80% and sometimes higher, the proportions of the
population living in urban areas, and of people in non-agricultural employment, are very high. Some people have questioned why some Latin American countries possessing a very high level of urbanization, up to 80% in some cases, are still not considered developed countries. This is mainly because they have a dual, or divided, urban structure, which makes it difficult to resolve industrial and employment problems, and has led to a large number of slums. As a result, they have fallen into the “middle income trap.”

China’s per capita GDP currently stands at more than US$5,000, which means, according to the World Bank’s classifications, that it is already a middle-income country. Some people believe that China is also falling into the “middle-income trap.” But China’s situation is unique. The total number of people from countries that have so far achieved modernization amounts to several hundred million, but there is no precedent for a huge country like ours, with a population of more than one billion, achieving modernization. It is even more unprecedented in the history of modernization for a country to sustain approximately 20% of the world’s population whilst having only 9% of the world’s farmland.

Industrialization and urbanization are inevitable requirements, and also the main indicators, of modernization. And although countries always face problems and challenges in the process of industrialization and urbanization related to food security, energy resources, ecology and environment, we must continue along the path of coordinated development between industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization. This path is indeed unavoidable; we have no other choice.

Per capita income is another important indicator of modernization. For a country to become a high-income one, it must have a per capita income greater than $10,000. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to coordinate the processes of industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization. Industrialization must be given primary importance, as it is the driving force behind development. Agricultural modernization provides an important foundation and is at the root of development. Urbanization plays an indispensable role because it helps promote coordinated agricultural and urban development, and can effectively raise both agricultural labor productivity and also the incomes of urban residents.

While working in Henan, I calculated that it is not possible to significantly to both raise the incomes of farmers and narrow the income gap between urban and rural residents, if farmers work only 1.2 mu (0.08 hectares) of land on average. It would be very difficult even if each farmer had 5 mu (0.33 hectares) of land. It is, therefore, essential that the surplus rural labor force move to the cities. At the same time, we must be aware that the coordinated development of industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization – whilst being both an established goal and an inevitable historical process – cannot and will not be accomplished overnight.

China’s basic national conditions dictate that China is, and will long remain, in the primary stage of socialism, that it will for a long time to come be considered a developing country, and that we still have far to go along the path to urbanization. We must have a clear understanding of these facts. During the urbanization process, we must carry out in-depth studies into the relationships
between, respectively, urbanization and modernization, urbanization and industrialization, and urbanization and agricultural modernization. In taking the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and with our commitment to achieve the goal of socialist modernization, we are engaged in a long-term process of exploration and praxis, as we face and address the most significant and challenging problem in the history of human development. Starting from our analysis of China’s specific national conditions, we must carry out research and experimentation, and through these determine the appropriate development strategy, development goals, and path for achieving urbanization.

2. Urbanization is the Key to Unlocking China’s Domestic Demand

I have said many times, and many comrades agree, that urbanization is the key to unlocking China’s domestic demand. In 2011, China’s level of urbanization of population, including the resident population of people who have lived in cities for more than six months, exceeded 50% for the first time. According to official statistics on the urban population, however, the actual urbanization rate [as measured by registered permanent households] is only approximately 35%. This shows that China’s actual urbanization rate is still very low. It is lower than the average level of urbanization of developed countries, which is almost 80%; it is lower than some developing countries at broadly the same stage of development as China which have an average level of urbanization of around 60%; and it is lower than the world average of 52%.

Many comrades have pointed out that the core of urbanization is the ‘urbanization of people’, and that we need to actively consider accelerating the process by which rural migrant workers are made into fully-fledged urban residents. The fact is, we need a process to increase the granting of household registrations. Achieving this will be difficult, and we must move forward one step at a time. On the positive side, the urbanization gap provides potential for progress. According to recent statistics, China’s level of urbanization has increased at an average annual rate of 1.2% over the last 20 years. If it continues at this rate, it will take a relatively long time for China’s level of urbanization to increase by a further 20%.

Given that the level of urbanization measured in terms of the population of registered permanent households is far lower than the level of urbanization as measured by the actual resident population, even more time will be needed to achieve full urbanization. The real level of urbanization should be measured by the population of registered permanent households, which will ultimately ensure that access to basic public services is fair and equal. This is a long-term process with great potential in which China has vast room to grow.

The latest United Nations report on World Urbanization Prospects predicts that China will maintain a relatively fast rate of urbanization between now and 2030, when the level of urbanization will reach 65-70%. Many domestic and international research institutions and experts have made similar predictions. At present, more than 10 million rural residents - the equivalent of the population of a medium-sized European country - move to the city each year in China. It is expected that in the medium- to long-term, China’s urban population will increase by approximately 300 million, which is the equivalent of the entire population of the United States.
The scale and potential of urbanization in China is unprecedented in the history of world development. We must be aware of the long-term, strategic, and epochal nature of China’s urbanization, and continue to open up new spaces for economic and social development.

The urbanization process is in effect the process of rural residents becoming urban residents. This involves the transformation of consumer attitudes and the upgrading of the structure and patterns of consumption, which will in turn unleash a huge amount of consumption potential. The per capita income of China’s urban residents is currently 3.1 times higher than that of their rural counterparts, and per capita consumption is similarly 3.1 times higher. As such, the income and consumption of every rural resident who becomes an urban resident increases on average more than 3 times. Some comrades have pointed out that not all rural residents want to register their households in cities, while some urban residents want to move out of the city and register their households in rural areas. This sort of things exists all over the world, but it does not and must not alter the overall trend or direction of urbanization.

A rural woman told me, in the course of a conversation while I was visiting Zibo in Shandong Province, that she no longer has to worry about having enough food and adequate clothing, and her family now has enough to live comfortably. However, her greatest desire is to live as well as do people in the cities. I consider this to be the basic driving force of urbanization. For example, one important factor is whether or not newly-built rural communities have indoor plumbing. This is currently a major point of difference between villages and cities. We must not underestimate the importance of indoor plumbing. A key policy of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the United States was the New Deal, which included the construction of new houses, and an important factor for determining whether houses were of an acceptable standard was whether they had flushing toilets. Afterwards, some economists used the presence or absence of a flushing toilet in the home as a means of deciding whether or not a family was a middle-income household. This is not always entirely accurate, but is certainly an effective indicator.

The movement of rural surplus labor to urban areas in the process of urbanization leads to increased labor productivity and improvements in the quality and efficiency of economic development. Like other countries around the world, the productivity of China’s agricultural land is very high, but labor productivity is low. The main reason for this is the large amount of rural surplus labor. While in Henan I conducted an investigation into how much labor it takes to plant one mu of land with wheat twice a year. At that time, farmers were typically engaged in agricultural work for no more than two months every year. Fourteen years have passed, and improvements in mechanization have reduced the amount of time that farmers work. It therefore appears that there is a great deal of surplus labor in rural areas, or in other words, there is not sufficient work for farmers.

The Party’s leadership, our institutional advantages and our policy responses have together played a vital role in sustaining China’s rapid development over the past 30 years, and also in strengthening our ability to cope with international financial crises. But another basic driving
force and important foundation for our progress has been the hard work of the Chinese people, and the long hours they put in. While working in Liaoning Province, I realized that many rural residents in northeast China tend to “stay idle” during the winter months. Later on, as they slowly realized that there were many opportunities to earn money in the city and that wages there were relatively high, they would not spend so much time “staying idle” during wintertime. They would finish planting their land and then go to work in cities, and fewer people would want to stay at home. There is insufficient employment for China’s agricultural labor force, but there is plenty of room for expansion. This is where our development potential lies. Accordingly, urbanization can help to unlock potential domestic demand, as well as to significantly increase labor productivity.

Unleashing the potential domestic demand brought about by urbanization is of course dependent on the population transfers that urbanization entails. In recent years we have curbed excessive increases in house prices and promoted the large-scale construction of affordable housing, which is both a practical need to ensure and improve people’s wellbeing, and also necessary to ensure that the processes of industrialization and urbanization are not hindered. At present, around 50% of the work associated with affordable housing projects involves redeveloping run-down areas in order to avoid the emergence of a dual urban structure. In reality, there are already signs of this in some cities, and we must not let this continue unchecked; otherwise a similar situation to that in Latin America could develop. We must pay a great deal of attention to the issue of redeveloping run-down areas.

We often talk about how the dual urban-rural structure constrains modernization, but in fact, the dual urban structure also has a huge impact on development, which is manifested in the urban slums of some Latin America countries. In China, run-down urban areas also show characteristics of a dual urban structure. Some full-time workers in old enterprises and people who work in cities but come from outside, including rural migrant workers, experience living conditions in cities which fall below even basic standards, and fail to provide a basic environment to meet their developmental needs. This restricts progress in industrialization, urbanization, and modernization. We need to carry out in-depth research, statistical analysis and scientific planning in relation to these issues and adopt effective measures to resolve them. This is a long-term task that cannot be completed in the space of only three to five years. We must constantly research and resolve problems that arise in the course of urbanization, including the emergence of concentrations of crude building structures and poor quality inner-city settlements.

The aim of constructing affordable housing, other than curbing house prices, is to solve the housing difficulties of urban low- and middle-income families and gradually provide housing for rural migrant workers to live in when they arrive in the city. The dwellings may be small, but it is important that people have a place to live. In Hong Kong, public housing and rented housing account for 50% of the total accommodation available. This attracts a variety of labor groups and helps make the city a more vibrant place to live and work.

Cities are complex entities, and for them to operate effectively and develop sustainably they need the support of all trades and professions, which means workers in different fields and positions of employment. It has been said that cities need people who use razors as well as people
who use scalpels, and people who wear safety helmets as well as people who wear glasses. Particularly during this period of rapid development, China’s cities need a large number of ordinary laborers and builders. We must adhere to the principle of putting people first, and promote the healthy development of urbanization by providing these ordinary laborers and construction workers with a positive and pleasant environment in which to work.

3. Urbanization Requires Increasing Industrial Support

Urbanization and industrialization are two complementary aspects of the same problem. Urbanization must be enriched by industrial development to promote employment and entrepreneurialism. At the same time, urbanization can provide a better platform for industrial development. We can see that some East Asian countries have achieved modernization by coordinating urbanization and industrial development. Conversely, in some Latin American countries and other East Asian countries, the modernization process has slowed down or even come to a halt. Important reasons for this include the inability to develop industry in line with the pace of urbanization, the existence of irrational enterprise structures, and overall difficulty in resolving problems related to employment and entrepreneurship. Together, these issues have led to the emergence of urban slums and other social problems.

These experiences, positive and negative, are worthy of our consideration. While promoting urbanization, we must lay equal stress on co-developing both cities and industry, combining urbanization with adjustments to the industrial structure, fostering emerging industries, developing the service sector, and promoting employment and entrepreneurialism.

China’s industrialization is not yet complete, and there is still considerable room for development, thanks in particular to the rare opportunity afforded us by the international industrial restructuring process. In responding to the international financial crisis, the US has proposed reindustrializing and returning to manufacturing. There has also recently been heated debate internationally about the “third industrial revolution,” which is characterized by a combination of next generation Internet-based technologies and renewable energies, and oriented toward digital manufacturing and the application of new materials. In the process of promoting urbanization, we must take a broader international perspective, adapt to new global trends in science and technology, accelerate the development of strategic emerging industries, and seize the high ground in international competition.

At the same time, we must be aware that China’s traditional industries have considerable competitive advantages internationally, and that we should pay attention to upgrading these traditional industries. We need to guide industries toward cities and industrial parks, and promote the development of enterprise clusters. Looking back at the mid-1980s, township and village enterprises sprang up across China as part of the experimentation in industrialization with Chinese characteristics, and this played an important role in pushing forward the industrialization process. However, this model of encouraging rural enterprises is no longer suited to today’s needs. Instead, we need a more concentrated approach which helps and supports enterprises to develop in clusters.
This is something we have already agreed upon.

The issues of urbanization and development of service industries are closely related. Urbanization has created large-scale demand, which has in turn led to the rapid growth of the service sector. China’s traditional agricultural industry was self-contained and self-sufficient, but urban living to a great extent involves complementary services. Concentration of population, changes in lifestyle, and improvements in urban residents’ standard of living that have occurred as a result of urbanization, have all led to an increase in demand for consumer services.

At the same time, the improved allocation of urban factors of production, the inter-linking of primary, secondary and tertiary industries, and refinements to the social division of labor, have all led to an increase in demand for producer services. In terms of secondary industry, as the industrial structure has been enhanced and upgraded and become increasingly automated and information-based, there has been a corresponding decrease in employment.

Although the service sector, due to its fundamental character, is capable of becoming much more information-based, it is nonetheless also capable of greatly increasing employment, by virtue of its highly personalized requirements, and also due its huge diversity and ample space for development. The path taken by developed countries shows that the service sector is the largest generator of urban employment. The industrial systems of developed countries are now dominated by the service sector, which accounts for more than 70-80% of output value and of employment. Developed countries in Europe and the US, for example, spend the equivalent of 10% and 17.6% of GDP respectively on health services.

In China, the service sector currently accounts for 43% of value added and employs 36% of the workforce, whilst spending on healthcare is on average equivalent to 5% of GDP. The potential for development is therefore huge. It must also be noted that China is currently home to 170 million elderly people and has an aging population, so services for older people and health services are industries with huge amounts of employment capacity. In order to fully unlock this enormous potential for development, we therefore need to promote urbanization and the creation of a flourishing service sector in a combined and coherent way, to strengthen policy guidance, and to implement relevant institutional innovations.

4. Ensuring Food Security is the Basis for Urbanization

Urbanization in China is coordinated in step with industrialization and agricultural modernization. As a country with a large population, China must at all times be able to solve its own food problems. This is a top priority for administering the state well and ensuring national security, as well as being the foremost task of agricultural modernization. Even if China’s level of urbanization reaches 65-70% in the future, that will still leave several hundred million people living in rural areas. China faces, and will always face, major challenges and problems related to agriculture, rural areas, and farmers. Unless China’s agricultural industry develops and rural areas and farmers prosper, it will be impossible for China’s towns and cities to develop and prosper. In human history, a number of countries have paid a heavy price for neglecting their agriculture, rural
areas and farmers, in the course of industrialization and urbanization. As a result, agriculture and food security must not be sacrificed for the sake of industrialization and urbanization. We must always remember this.

Overall, urbanization helps utilize land more economically and intensively. Data from Henan Province shows that per capita land consumption in rural areas is 248 square meters, which is far greater than the 100 square meters of land consumption per capita in urban areas. Theoretically, then, urbanization can save a lot of land consumption, but it is not as simple as that in practice, because it is necessary to coordinate and match land use spatially and temporally; and to resolve these issues, the necessary policies and institutional conditions need to be in place. For all these reasons, we must take very seriously the process of coordinating and promoting industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization.

Although China has achieved eight successive years of growth in grain output, in the coming period, as population growth and urbanization accelerate, we will continue to see sustained growth in food demand, and to face difficulties in ensuring food security. To solve food problems we must fundamentally rely on science and technology and agricultural modernization. In order to firmly seize the initiative in relation to food security, we need to focus on raising overall agricultural capacity; improve policies that benefit farmers and make them wealthier; adapt to local conditions when applying modern technology to agriculture, by equipping farms with modern facilities, and running farms with modern organizational methods; and guarantee supplies of grain and essential agricultural products.

The key to ensuring food security is to protect farmland. Valuing and rationally utilizing every inch of land and steadfastly protecting farmland are basic national policies. We must resolutely uphold these basic policies if we are to push forward with industrialization and urbanization. We must also deal effectively with the relationship between land for construction and farmland. This problem, in particular, must be treated seriously in order to ensure food security.

5. To Deepen Urbanization, We Must Study Key Issues In-depth

When one looks at some of the major issues confronting urbanization, we realize that they are many, that they have no ready-made answers, and that there are fairly major differences between localities. We must, therefore, deepen our research and exploration in relation to these major issues in the course of practical work, and take a path to development that is adapted to China’s realities.

(1) Urbanization Strategy Issues

This is in fact the problem of how to link up China’s urbanization strategy with its modernization strategy. It can be said that implementing the urbanization strategy will put China’s advantages to good use. While visiting Europe, I discovered that investors there are worried about a lot of issues, but when we talked to them about China’s urbanization they became very excited,
for they realize China has a huge market and there are opportunities for cooperation. When we talked about accelerating the development and upgrading of industries, however, they assumed we wanted to compete with them, and started to think about how to implement anti-dumping measures to restrict us. China is a large developing country, and we desperately need to raise our core competitiveness and develop the industries we wish to develop. But we also need to create a ‘development space’ which is characterized and supported by international cooperation.

The huge potential that urbanization presents is the most powerful and lasting internal driving force for economic growth in this country, but it is also a new platform on which China can expand cooperation with countries around the world. We must therefore take modernization as our starting point, focus on changes in the international political and economic order, occupy the high ground in ensuring national security, and make overall plans for researching and implementing our urbanization strategy.

In the 1930s, a Chinese geographer named Hu Huanyong drew an imaginary line across China that is used and known by scholars around the world as the “Hu Huanyong line.” The line runs at an angle across 45 degrees latitude, from Heihe in Heilongjiang Province to Tengchong in Yunnan. At that time, the area to the south and east of the line contained 36% of China’s land but 96% of its population, so Hu Huanyong concluded that this area was the most suited to human habitation. In recent years, it is this area that has developed most rapidly, and where the population has become most concentrated. China has a total land area of 9.6 million square kilometers and is home to 56 ethnic groups. If all of them lived to the east of the Hu Huanyong line, it would be detrimental to both modernization and national security.

The spatial configuration and distribution of urbanization must conform to economic laws, but must also take into account national security considerations. Urbanization has developed unevenly in and between China’s eastern, central, and western regions, and the east has become considerably more urbanized than the west. The three relatively mature urban agglomerations in the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta and the Bohai Sea region are all located in the eastern region, while cities in the central and western regions are clearly underdeveloped. This has led to large-scale flows of people and resources over long distances, which has greatly increased the cost of economic and social operations and development. We therefore need to commit ourselves to plan and promote the development of new urban agglomerations and growth poles in areas of the central and western regions which possess favorable conditions.

China’s urbanization suffers from a lack of coordination in terms of the scale and levels of urban development. Small and medium-sized cities are underdeveloped, small towns are numerous but small-scale, and the ability to concentrate industries and population is limited. There are more than 19,000 designated towns in built-up areas with an average population of 7,000 people, and there are many towns with a population of less than 5,000. We are thus faced with a set of pressing issues – how to find effective ways to tap the potential of existing small and medium-sized cities, how to develop small towns, and how to gradually develop hub towns in the eastern region, and county towns and important border crossings in the central and western regions.
(2) Land Use Issues

A large population and too little land are the biggest constraints on China’s urbanization. However, given that the levels of China’s agricultural technology and irrigated land are both quite low, there is considerable room to raise the efficiency of cultivated land. For example, in major grain-producing provinces, such as Heilongjiang and Henan, only one- to two-thirds of the land area is irrigated, and there exists great potential for improving medium- and low-yield land. The process of promoting urbanization is also the process of optimizing the allocation and use of resources and factors of production. Of these, the most important is the intensive use and efficient allocation of land resources.

We need to maintain a process of intensive and orderly development, rationally determine the scale of urban development based on the carrying capacity of resources and the environment, improve standards in relation to urban construction land, strengthen controls on per capita land consumption, and tap the potential of land stocks. The initiative in Yunnan to build towns and cities in mountainous areas is one example of experimentation with changing land use methods in the course of urbanization.

Currently some localities are taking the transfer of the rural population and transforming villages as their starting point, and are working on village improvement, land consolidation, and guidance for people from rural areas on living in towns, cities, and hub villages. Such efforts have inspired people to think about raising the efficiency of urban and rural construction land.

However, we need to firmly grasp in practice how to regulate development operations, how to guarantee the legitimate rights and interests of farmers, and how to avoid farmers being forced to move to urban areas, and to prevent the use of prime farmland for construction. Many localities also have experience in areas such as reforming the land expropriation system, gradually establishing a unified urban and rural market for construction land, and implementing rational and differentiated policies. We also need to carry out further careful research into how to summarize and share experiences, and how to make progress more smoothly.

(3) Household Registration Reform Issues

An important task of urbanization is to allow rural migrant workers who meet certain conditions to become urban residents. In recent years, with the focus on reform of the household registration system, various localities have been innovating with residence registration and awarding household registration through use of points systems, and have accumulated a good level of experience in solving problems to do with population and urbanization. We are also looking at having a national unified residence permit system. China currently has 160 million rural migrant workers, with 60% working in cities at and above the prefecture level, 20% in county-level cities, and less than 10% in small towns.

We need to study and explore further how all kinds of cities can scientifically formulate conditions for awarding household registration to rural migrant workers, and implement
differentiated household registration policies, based on their overall carrying capacity and development potential for urbanization. For example, how to control the size of the population but also maintain a dynamic employment structure in large and very large cities; and how to encourage people to move to small and medium-sized cities. All of these problems require focused research. In our work, we should fully respect the right of rural migrant workers to make their own choices. We should also carry out pilot projects focusing on rural migrant workers who meet the necessary conditions, and take into consideration the dual role of household registration reform - in promoting equal access to basic public services, and in optimizing social management and cohesion.

(4) Resource Support Issues

One of China’s basic national features is its lack of energy resources. This means that the development of urbanization in China must follow a path that is economical, intensive and low-carbon, in line with the requirements of scientific development. By the time China’s level of urbanization reaches that of developed countries, we will have approximately one billion people living in cities. The question is, will our natural resources be able to sustain such a large urban population? Further research is needed on this issue. Take electricity, for example. The current level of per capita electricity consumption across the country is much lower than that in developed countries, but people in cities use far more electricity than those in rural areas. When large numbers of rural residents become urban residents, even if calculated at the current rate of urban usage, electricity consumption will increase significantly. How can we produce sufficient electricity? And where will it come from?

There is also the question of oil and gas resources. We currently depend on foreign sources for more than 54% of our oil. The same is true of water. Urban residents consume more water than rural residents, and water consumption will increase substantially as more people move to cities. We have already implemented the large-scale South-to-North Water Diversion Project in order to guarantee the water supply of cities in northern China such as Beijing and Tianjin. What will we do in the future? These problems all impose constraints on China’s urbanization. But they are problems we must resolve in the course of urbanization by relying on domestic solutions.

(5) Ecological and Environmental Issues

As urbanization continues and people’s living standards improve, greater and greater demands will be made regarding the urban environment and ecological quality. The debate that raged in society not long ago concerning fine particulate matter PM2.5 is one example of this. Although there is a great deal of agricultural pollution, as the population moves toward the cities, urban water and air pollution will become more prominent problems. Other questions of overarching importance include: how to control key areas and linkages in relation to urban development and industrial production, how to promote energy conservation and emissions reductions, and how to promote green living and consumption patterns among urban residents while moving forward with urbanization.
To develop urbanization successfully in China, we must make best use of our national conditions, broaden our horizons, consider every possible angle, and examine and review our major policies. Relevant departments of the State Council are currently formulating a plan for developing urbanization, which needs to clarify our long-term orientation and strategic tasks, and to propose major ideas and initiatives to guide urbanization both country-wide and in specific localities. At the city and county levels, we also need to integrate economic and social development plans, urban and rural plans, and land-use plans, in order to better coordinate all aspects of this work.

In summary, as long as we proceed from an analysis of our national conditions, are guided by the Scientific Outlook on Development, and act in accordance with objective laws, we will undoubtedly succeed in carrying out the important strategy of urbanization. In so doing, we will greatly help to accelerate the transformation of the present pattern of development, promote long-term stable but rapid economic development, and so help to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.