

3. Pushing forward economic globalization

As the number of countries participating in international trade and investment increases, the world economy continues to grow steadily and in a balanced manner. In most of the years since World War II, the growth rate of international trade has been about 3 percentages faster than that of the world economy. Since 1990, the growth rate of international trade has been about twice that of the world economy. The world Gini coefficient has steadily declined from a high of 0.787 in 2000 to hit 0.694 in 2013. The number of developing countries with high Gini coefficient has decreased. According to the World Bank's World Development Report, the Gini coefficient exceeded 0.6 in 4 countries in 2009, but now there is only one country with the coefficient higher than 0.6. In addition, international trade and investment have extended the global industrial, value, and supply chains. As a result, personnel exchanges have increased, so have exchanges among different civilizations; and economic and trade exchanges have become the ballast of inter-national relations. In short, the development of international trade and investment has led to the interdependence of different countries and the deepening of interactions among different interests; promotion of economic globalization contributes to world peace and stability.

IV. New Progress in Promoting Trade and Investment Opening-up under the New Situation

At present, the openness cooperation in global trade and investment have entered a new stage. More and more countries are benefiting from openness cooperation. A higher level of openness has become the common pursuit of all countries. With the continuous emergence of new technologies and products, demand for openness cooperation in new areas has also been increasing.

1. Digital trade and new issues on e-commerce attracting attention

With the application of big data, cloud computing, internet of things, blockchain, and artificial intelligence, digital economy and digital trade have become a new growth point. The establishment of a global digital trade service supervision and openness rule system has become a common demand from almost all countries as they pursue openness cooperation in new areas. In 2019, 76 WTO members launched trade-related e-commerce negotiations. In regional bilateral negotiations, digital trade

and e-commerce have also become hot topics. However, the participating countries have been quite divided in interest distribution, and, therefore, progress in relevant negotiations has been limited. For example, there is no consensus among countries regarding the definition of digital trade. Another controversy is how to balance privacy protection and free flow of data. The United States stresses that personal privacy protection should give way to data flow, while the European Union attaches more importance to personal privacy protection. Then how to deal with cultural exceptions? The European Union and some developing countries require exceptions regarding digital trade rules, while cultural industry powers, such as the United States, disagree.

2. New rules cover more economic and social issues

The scope of areas that international trade and investment rules involve has continually expanded in recent years. Some new issues, such as environmental protection, have attracted increasing attention and become a focus of multilateral and bilateral economic and trade negotiations. For example, in the face of severe climate change, there has been very heated discussion on restricting carbon emission. The EU promoted the legislation of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, and China announced that it would strive to achieve carbon peak in 2030 and carbon neutralization in 2060. The issue of carbon emission is closely related to a country's energy structure and economic growth patterns and involves the transformation of the country's national economic restructuring and future development space. Therefore, reactions of various countries have been mixed. Economic globalization has brought about job competition among different economies. In general, these new *non-economic and trade* issues, to an extent, reflect the new requirements brought about by the development of human society and scientific and technological progress. They have a different bearing on economies at different development stages. It is also necessary for all countries to cooperate and push forward a set of new rules that are relatively fair and equitable and cater to different levels of development.