

2019 Two Sessions Readout: Addressing the Elephants in the Room

At the 2019 Two Sessions, Premier Li highlighted two significant risks—downward economic growth and increasing frictions in US-China relations. This pessimism contrasted with the Party's confident tone expressed during the 2018 gathering.

It has been one year since President Xi Jinping removed China's presidential term limits. Since assuming office six years ago, his grey hair has expanded, as observed at the Two Sessions this year, much like his power. The China Communist Party (CCP) leadership has a tradition of sending signals to the China observers with sartorial symbolism. Some [speculate](#) that Xi's new hair color is an intentional symbol of his power over the Party and his devotion to the people. After all, it has been a year of turbulence for Xi and China. The robust economic growth, a great source of the CCP legitimacy, is losing steam. Pessimism over the bilateral relationship with the US looms.

To better understand China's fluid political landscape and policy trends for 2019, this report analyzes the differences between the 2018 and 2019 *Annual Government Work Reports* and updates P+ members on three relevant government agencies' movements post-restructuring.

Key Takeaways

The fragile economy at home and year-long tensions with the US have made the Xi administration prioritize social stability.

Challenging economic and political factors appear to be driving Xi to strengthen controls over the Party and local officials. These factors may make him less willing to compromise further with the US.

Foreign businesses in China should prepare for more inconsistent policy interpretations and enforcement at the local level as provincial leaders are under pressure from Beijing to shoulder more responsibilities.

Comparing the 2018 and 2019 Annual Government Work Reports: What Are the Elephants?

It has been a year of hardship for China since the conclusion of the 2018 Two Sessions, when Xi declared himself the core leader without term limits. The economy is losing momentum due to a range of factors, especially Beijing's year-long deleveraging campaign. Worse, the ongoing bilateral trade

Did you know that...

tensions have put the US-China relationship at its lowest point since the establishment of diplomatic ties 40 years ago. Xi and his administration fear that current challenges could give rise to social instability. Under such circumstances, Premier Li Keqiang delivered the [2019 Annual Government Work Report](#) in front of more than 3,000 delegates at the Great Hall of the People.

2019 Annual Government Work Report Highlights:

- ◆ *The economy is really cooling down.* Li acknowledged in the 2019 report that “the Chinese economy is facing new downward pressure.” The projected 2019 annual GDP growth was set to be between 6% and 6.5%, which is lower than last year’s “around 6.5%.” Although the actual GDP growth of 2018 was 0.1 percent higher than the prediction, Li said it was achieved by “forging ahead and overcoming difficulties.” To keep 2019 GDP growth within the forecast, Li called for: prioritizing employment; properly handling relationships with foreign countries, and with the market; balancing steady growth and risk guarding.
- ◆ *The strained relationship with the US further complicates China’s domestic policymaking.* In the [2018](#) report, Li warned to look out for an extremely complex environment both at home and abroad. But this year, he claimed the environment has become so challenging that it is “a rare kind seen in many years.” Later in his remarks, he even directly brought up the term “Sino-US” in the context of economic and trade frictions, a gesture that has only been repeated six times over the past 19 years (see the Appendix for a full comparison).
- ◆ *Stability is key.* This year’s report toned down the optimism of Beijing’s official principle of economic management, shifting from “strive for stable and positive growth” (稳中求进) to “work holistically to maintain stable growth” (稳中有进). “Ensure stability” (保稳定) was also added as a new stand-alone mandate to the 2019 policy directions, on top of other directives to maintain stable growth and make structural adjustments. Statistically, there was a significant jump in the number of times that Li mentioned “stable or stabilize” (稳)—appearing 74 times in 2019, versus 41 times in 2018.

Political Implications at Home and Abroad

2019 also marked the first time in the history of *Annual Government Work Report* that *Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development* were not cited, and instead only featured *Xi Jinping’s Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era*.

Nevertheless, this is not the first time Xi [downplayed](#) his predecessors in important speeches. When Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao referred to previous leaders, respectively, at the 20th and 30th anniversaries of China’s reform and opening up, both used the terms “collective leadership” (集体领导) and “as its core” (核心). Yet, when commemorating the 40th anniversary last December Xi replaced “as its core” with “as its main representative” (主要领导) and left out reference to “collective leadership” completely. Some [argue](#) that Xi may have felt the need to present himself as a strong leader without depending on traditional sources of ideological legitimacy. This phrasing suggests that a number of dissenting voices may be growing within the Party.

“The Party is facing sharp and serious dangers of a slackness in spirit, lack of ability, distance from the people, and being passive and corrupt...we must uphold baseline thinking, and defuse major risks in areas including politics, ideology, economy, science and technology, society, the external environment and Party

“Two Sessions” (or *lianghui*) refers to the annual meetings of the National People’s Congress (NPC), and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). The NPC reviews and approves the *Annual Government Work Report* and budget for the coming year, whereas the CPPCC reviews and make proposals related to political, economic and social issues.

From the 2019 AmCham China Business Climate Survey:

-64% of member respondents are optimistic about domestic market growth, down 16pp from last year;

-“Expectations of slower growth in China” is listed as a top three reason why companies are considering moving or have moved capacity outside of China;

-32% of respondents, 6pp more than last year, have no plans to expand investment or will invest less in China;

-96% of members regard positive bilateral relations as important and nearly 75% believe bilateral relations will deteriorate or stay the same in 2019.

building," Xi [stated](#) at a study seminar on January 21, 2019.

According to one news [report](#), the study seminar hosted by Xi on the topic of mitigating risks with "baseline thinking" was announced to provincial officials so suddenly that many of them scrambled to reschedule their local people's congresses. While many could presume that Xi simply felt a strong sense of urgency to prepare local top bureaucrats for a year of turbulence, some have speculated that he instead "[manufactured](#)" a Party-wide anxiety to prevent political opponents from taking advantage of this vulnerable period.

In light of possible economic and political crises at home, Xi may be more reluctant to compromise on certain structural reforms when negotiating with the US. State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), for instance, are a [critical engine](#) for state-guided economic growth as they in effect function as part of the State apparatus. Given gloomy projections of the Chinese economy, Beijing is more likely to accept and execute negotiation terms that can be easily achieved in the short run term (e.g., addressing the trade deficit). On the other hand, since SOE reforms could draw more internal discord within the Party and impact employment rates, a crucial measurement of social stability, Xi may resist pressures from the US.

Government Structure Overhaul: Dust Settled, Uncertainty Persists

The 2019 Two Sessions also marked the completion of the government restructuring plan that began last year. This overhaul has put Xi at the reigns of several significant central committees and central commissions (e.g., Central Committee for Deepening Overall Reform, Central Financial Economic Affairs Commission, National Security Commission of the Central Committee of the CCP).

While the dust appears to have settled, some [believe](#) that there is still a long way to go before the new government organizations can function efficiently, as some of these revamped "ministries and commissions" (*buwei*, 部委) struggle to adjust. The *Civil Servants Law* (公务员法), [revised](#) during the Two Sessions this year, prioritized "political caliber" (政治素质) as part of the promotion assessment. Against this backdrop, Bloomberg's [recent interviews](#) point to a trend among cadres of growing discontent with the Party's tightened control over them. Although it is unclear how government officials' dissatisfaction might carry over to policy design and implementation, this warrants close monitoring.

China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC)

The merging of the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) and the CIRC allow Beijing to mitigate financial risks with one strong fist. The deleveraging campaign launched in late 2015 was designed to reduce excessive borrowing by local governments, financial institutions and businesses. However, it is also known for drawbacks in stripping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) of opportunities to borrow, which has contributed to sluggish growth.

"Over two years of hard work, several kinds of financial misconduct have been effectively curbed...[This] debunks the prediction from the international community that the barbaric growth of Chinese shadow banking and overheated real-estate financing might lead to systemic financial risks and crises in China," Wang Zhaoxing, Vice Chairman of the CBIRC at a [press conference](#) organized by the State Council on February 25, 2019.

Political Risks

- Be aware of rising tensions between central and local governments and how that could impact your business outside of Beijing;

- Expect more tightening and control of ideology, media and Party disciplines;

- We may see an uptick in the number of falling senior officials as Xi's anti-corruption campaign continues.

Business Environment

- Be on the lookout for the rollout of more detailed measures and implementation rules that will help improve the business environment (e.g., China Foreign Investment Law);

- Be aware that while the general trend of support for the private sector will remain unchanged, including more favorable terms in areas such as borrowing, social benefits, and VAT for private businesses, "mishaps" could happen as the bilateral trade talks progress.

To echo Beijing's call for reviving the private sector, CBIRC officials [signaled](#) at the Two Sessions that the finance regulators are now willing to make a [U-turn](#) on shadow banking, but it remains unclear how much wiggle room private companies will have in practice if risk prevention stays as the top priority.

The financial system in China has long been seen as a hotbed for corruption since the stock market rout in summer 2015. As a result of Xi's drive to clean up the financial sector, about 7,000 individuals, including Xiang Junbo, who had led the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) until last June, have been put under investigation or jailed.

"Risk prevention must be done in a way that can push ahead high-quality economic development," Xi Jinping, at a group study session for senior party leaders on February 26.

Xi's remarks with a group of Party leaders in combination with an [op-ed](#) named "China's financial anti-corruption drive enters new era" from CCP mouthpiece *The Global Times* signal that financial de-risking is not going away anytime soon. Zhou Liang, co-Vice Chairman of the CBIRC, [stressed](#) at the Two Sessions that regulators should continue to remain on high alert, citing the [fall of Lai Xiaomin](#) last November as an example. Lai previously served as Chairman of the largest financial asset management company in China—Huarong. If the economy stagnates, we might see a more expansive corruption crackdown in the finance sector and the Party.

Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE)

The term "nine dragons rule the waters" (九龙治水), previously used to describe the overlapping responsibilities of government agencies in overseeing the environment, no longer applies. The 2018 government structure revamp empowers the MEE to battle some of the most formidable challenges confronting China today—pollution, sustainability, and conservation. Establishing this new ministry has been largely welcomed by those in favor of bureaucratic efficiency. Nevertheless, human resource and policy coordination challenges confront the MEE as it copes with changes. For instance, some ex-NDRC cadres, who believe that climate change is an energy-related structural problem, are reluctant to see the MEE being tasked to tackle this environmental challenge.

At the Two Sessions this year, MEE Minister Li Ganjie acknowledged that much of the past year had focused on internal institutional reforms and warned that the crack-down on all of types of pollution will only get tougher.

"The things that could easily be done have already mostly been done, and the things that need to be done afterwards are much harder," Li Ganjie, Minister of MEE, speaking at the National People's Congress (NPC) on March 11, 2019.

Despite the downward pressure on economic development, Li's commitment to combat pollution is backed by Xi's grand "ecological civilization" [scheme](#) of building a Beautiful China by 2035. As the United States undercuts the fight against climate change, China has [become](#) increasingly important in leading international efforts on this issue. It is possible that the struggling economy is not yet a convincing enough reason for Xi to give up a legacy that separates himself from his predecessors. Additionally, it would be perceived as a sign of weakness if China rolled back on its promise to curb pollution.

"Do not ever think about launching environmentally damaging projects for growth, or any attempt to breach the red line of ecological protection, even when we meet some difficulties in economic development...pollution prevention and environmental governance are important barriers to cross," Xi said to delegates from Inner

Environmental Regulation

Look out for:

- More unannounced inspections at the local level;
- Increased decentralization of regulations suggests a higher possibility for local "selective ruling" (which could be in favor of foreign businesses);
- Broader implementations of technology in environmental supervision and inspection.

From the 2019 AmCham China Business Climate Survey:

- while 56% of respondents report no increase in non-tariff barriers, 20% report an increase in inspections (e.g., environmental);
- among environmental factors, pollution concerns remain a major hindrance to foreign companies' recruitment in China.

Mongolia at the NPC.

Under mounting pressure to improve the business environment in China, the MEE [announced](#) that businesses will be granted an opportunity to consult with local regulators for rectification if any environmental violations were found. This decentralizing move could open the backdoor for more inconsistent policy enforcement, though local decisions may fall [in favor of](#) businesses. Either way, the dilemma of complying with what some view as conflicting mandates—stimulating economic growth and reducing environmental degradation—will pose a serious challenge to many local governments in 2019. To unite the front against the “war on pollution,” Beijing [vowed](#) to offer more support for local governments with favorable policies and technical guidance. But it is unclear what this entails.

State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR)

Newly established SAMR is a mega regulatory body that oversees many market activities formerly managed by MOFCOM, NDRC, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC), the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), and China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA). Its expansive jurisdictions and underlying interest groups suggest a longer adjustment period for the SAMR, compared with other *buwei*, is inevitable. Given the fragile economy, Beijing will likely seek other areas in which it can consolidate its power. Sporadic scandals in food, health, and drug safety across China, for instance, will give Beijing a strong incentive to hold officials accountable and set an example for others.

As a result, more bureaucratic reshuffling should be expected in the market regulatory system, apart from Xi’s ongoing anti-corruption crackdown. One demonstration of this trend is the [sacking](#) of Bi Jingquan, former Party Secretary and deputy director of SAMR until last August, after the [public outrage](#) over the Changsheng Bio-tech vaccine scandal. Despite his reform-oriented approach and solid industry reputation, the decision by the Politburo’s Standing Committee to fire Bi was likely intended to appease the angry public and keep the blame away from Beijing.

Prior to the 2019 Two Sessions, the SAMR released [guidelines](#) emphasizing that local governments and party committees must shoulder the responsibility for food safety, indicating that food safety is a top priority for the SAMR this year. That said, it remains uncertain whether tying food safety to local cadres’ performance reviews will adequately address the growing food safety concerns of the Chinese people.

“In less than a year, we have made some progress...but we also face a lot of problems. First, SAMR has wide jurisdictions and a [well-regulated] market fits the immediate interests of the people...we are entrusted with tasks to supervise and enforce the law comprehensively, but we lack mature experience in integrating comprehensive supervision and professional supervision...therefore, we feel that the responsibility is enormous, and the task is extremely daunting,” Zhang Mao, Director of SAMR, at a press conference at the NPC.

Zhang’s [candid remarks](#) at the Two Sessions this year reflects the pressure that the SAMR is under. Against the backdrop of increasing criticism towards Beijing’s efforts on a range of business environment-related issues, the SAMR [pledged](#) at the NPC to tackle IPR violations and ensure market fairness. Upcoming detailed measures will focus on increasing the cost for IP infringement and stipulating compensation for intentional abuses. It was also [reported](#) that efforts to accelerate the revision of China’s Antitrust Law are underway.

Market Regulation

-Expect more regulatory and enforcement moves in areas such as utilities, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), consumer goods, and construction materials;

-Monitor the China Antitrust Law closely and consider submitting comments when available through AmCham China;

From the 2019 AmCham China Business Climate Survey:

-Nearly 40% of R&I sector members (8pp more than last year) and 41% of Consumer sector members (6pp more than last year) were pessimistic about the regulatory environment in China;

-Insufficient protection and difficulty in prosecuting IP infringements are the top two IP challenges member companies face.

Conclusion: taming the elephants

In the 2019 Two Sessions, Party leaders were more upfront about two major risks to social stability: the sluggish economy and the ongoing trade tensions with the US. When compared with the 2018 *Annual Government Work Report*, the language of the 2019 report suggested that the Party views these risks as very serious. In light of this new internal and external environment, the Party is taking steps to shore up social stability. Xi may protect SOEs and other core interests of the Party in the bilateral trade negotiations. Tightening controls over provincial governments will continue. Beijing will insert more pressure onto local officials to meet targets in pollution and health. On top of that, Xi's anti-corruption campaign will likely to continue and intensify.

Foreign businesses should be mindful of the rising tensions between the central and local governments and how that could impact their businesses. Facing regulatory uncertainty, companies should engage with local governments more frequently and be prepared for unannounced inspections. Companies should also be on the lookout for the rollout of more detailed measures and implementation rules that will help improve the business environment.

Appendix: reading between lines

The diction of China's *Annual Government Work Reports* indicates the priorities and concerns of the Party. The chart below highlights the Chinese keywords found in the 2018 and 2019 *Annual Government Work Report* and compares the number of times the Chinese keywords appeared in the past two years respectively.

Keyword in Chinese	Keyword Translated to English	2018 Frequency	2019 Frequency
发展	Development	151	144
改革	Reform	102	109
增	Increase	101	80
稳	Stable/Stabilize	41	74
经济	Economy	78	68
创新	Innovation	59	46
降	Decline	36	45
减	Reduce	39	42
政府	Government	44	39
人民	The People	40	32
升	Up/increase	26	28

地方	Local	18	22
党	CCP/Party	28	22
环境	Environment	16	22
科技	Science and Technology	16	18
生态	Ecological/Ecology	18	15
习近平	Xi Jinping	13	13
外资	Foreign Capital	6	10
国企	SOE	2	3
知识产权	Intellectual Property	1	3
中美	Sino-US	0	1

The following chart compares the wording around similar concepts expressed in the 2018 and 2019 *Annual Government Work Report* in Chinese.

2018	2019
工作回顾 Government Work Review	
极其错综复杂的国内外形势	多年少有的国内外复杂严峻形势
Extremely complex situation both at home and abroad	Many years of rare, complex, and severe situations at home and abroad
砥砺前行	砥砺奋进，攻坚克难
Forge ahead	Forge ahead and overcome difficulties
经济实力跃上新台阶	经济运行保持在合理区间
Economic power has leapt to a new level	Economic cooperation maintained at a reasonable range
改革开放迈出重大步伐	改革开放取得新突破
Reform and opening up has taken significant steps	Making new breakthroughs in reform and opening-up
“一带一路”建设成效显著	“一带一路”取得重要进展

The construction of “Belt and Road” has achieved remarkable results	Important Progress has been made in the “Belt and Road” Initiative
生态环境状况逐步好转 Ecological environmental conditions have gradually been improving	生态文明建设成效显著 The construction of an ecological organization has had remarkable effects
稳中求进 Steadily forward	稳中有进 Steady and progressive
N/A	深刻变化的外部环境 A profoundly changing external environment
N/A	中美经贸摩擦 Sino-US economic trade tensions
以钢铁、煤炭等行业为重点加大去产能力度 An increase in production capacity with an emphasis on steel, coal, and other industries	加强生态环保督察执法。积极应对气候变化 Strengthen the enforcement of eco-environmental inspectors and actively address climate change
实施“中国制造2025” Implementation of “Made in China 2025”	深入实施创新驱动发展战略 In-depth implementation of innovation-driven development strategies
国资国企改革扎实推进，公司制改革基本完成 Solid progress has been made in state capital and state-owned enterprise (SOE) reform; the reform to convert SOEs into standard companies has now basically been completed;	国有企业优化重组、提质增效取得新进展 Reforms of state capital and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) were deepened and new gains were made in upgrading and restructuring SOEs and in improving their quality and performance.
积极推进京津冀协同发展、长江经济带发展 Actively pursued the coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei, and the development of the Yangtze Economic Belt, drawn up and implemented related plans, and undertaken a number of key projects	京津冀协同发展取得明显进展，长江经济带生态优先、绿色发展格局不断巩固。粤港澳大湾区规划建设迈出实质性步伐，港珠澳大桥建成通车 Major progress was made in boosting the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. Along the Yangtze Economic Belt, efforts to prioritize ecological conservation and boost green development were strengthened. Substantive steps were taken in the planning and building of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was opened to traffic.

反腐败斗争压倒性态势已经形成并巩固发展 This anti-corruption campaign has built into a crushing tide, and is being consolidated and developed	反腐败斗争取得压倒性胜利 Steps were taken to bring the corrupt to justice, and the fight against corruption was a resounding success
中国特色大国外交全面推进 Pursued distinctively Chinese major country diplomacy on all fronts	中国特色大国外交取得新成就 Attained new achievements in pursuing diplomacy with our own characteristics as a major country
在空气质量、环境卫生、食品药品安全和住房、教育、医疗、就业、养老等方面，群众还有不少不满意的地方 People still have a lot of complaints about air quality, environmental sanitation, food and drug safety, housing, education, healthcare, employment, and elderly care	教育、医疗、养老、住房、食品药品安全、收入分配 There is still public dissatisfaction in many areas, such as education, healthcare, elderly care, housing, food and drug safety, and income distribution

今年经济社会发展总体要求和政策导向 **Overall Requirements and Policy Directions for this year**

以马克思列宁主义、毛泽东思想、邓小平理论、“三个代表”重要思想、科学发展观、习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想为指导 Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a new Era	以习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想为指导 Follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era
统筹推进稳增长、促改革、调结构、惠民生、防风险各项工作 Coordinate all work to maintain stable growth, promote reform, make structural adjustments, improve living standards, and guard against risk	统筹推进稳增长、促改革、调结构、惠民生、防风险、保稳定工作 Make coordinated efforts to maintain stable growth, advance reform, make structural adjustments, improve living standards, guard against risks, and ensure stability
我国发展面临的机遇和挑战并存 China, in its development, faces both opportunities and challenges	今年我国发展面临的环境更复杂更严峻 We will face a graver and more complicated environment as well as risks and challenges, foreseeable and otherwise, that are greater in number and size
国内生产总值增长 6.5%左右 GDP growth of around 6.5 percent	国内生产总值增长 6%—6.5% GDP growth of 6-6.5 percent
积极的财政政策取向不变，要聚力增效	积极的财政政策要加力提效

<p>The proactive direction of our fiscal policy will remain the same, and we will concentrate efforts to increase efficiency</p>	<p>We will pursue a proactive fiscal policy with grater intensity and enhance its performance</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>今年首次将就业优先政策置于宏观政策层面，旨在强化各方面重视就业、支持就业的导向。当前和今后一个时期，我国就业总量压力不减、结构性矛盾凸显，新的影响因素还在增加，必须把就业摆在更加突出位置。稳增长首要是为保就业</p> <p>This year, for the first time, we are elevating the employment-first policy to the status of a macro policy. This is to increase society-wide attention to employment and support for it. Both in the immediate future and for some time to come, the pressure on aggregate job creation will continue unabated, the related structural issues will become more pronounced and new factors that affect employment will continue to grow. All this means we must give greater priority to increasing employment</p>
<p>二是加大改革开放力度</p> <p>Second, we will be bolder in reform and opening up</p>	<p>二要平衡好稳增长与防风险的关系</p> <p>Second, we need to achieve the right balance I the relationship between maintaining stable growth and guarding against risks</p>
<p>三是抓好决胜全面建成小康社会三大攻坚战</p> <p>Third, we will ensure success in the three critical battles against potential risk, poverty, and pollution, battles that are important for decisively bringing to completion the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects</p>	<p>三要处理好政府与市场的关系，依靠改革开放激发市场主体活力</p> <p>Third, we need to balance the relationship between government and market, and energize market entities through reform and opening up</p>
<p>政府工作任务 Tasks this year</p>	
<p>今年经济社会发展任务十分繁重</p> <p>The tasks of economic and social development this year are formidable.</p>	<p>今年经济社会发展任务重、挑战多、要求高</p> <p>This year, in pursuing economic and social development, we will face weighty tasks, many challenges, and high demands</p>
<p>加快制造强国建设</p> <p>We will speed up work to build China into a leader in manufacturing</p>	<p>推动传统产业改造提升。围绕推动制造业高质量发展，强化工业基础和技术创新能力，促进先进制造业和现代服务业融合发展，加快建设制造强国</p> <p>We will work to transform and upgrade traditional industries. To promote the development of high-quality manufacturing, we will strengthen the foundations of industry and the capacity for technological innovation,</p>

	boost the integrated development of advanced manufacturing and modernized services, and work faster to make China strong in manufacturing
<p>推动集成电路、第五代移动通信、飞机发动机、新能源汽车、新材料等产业发展，实施重大短板装备专项工程，推进智能制造，发展工业互联网平台，创建“中国制造2025”示范区</p> <p>We will promote the development of integrated circuits, 5G mobile communications, aircraft engines, new-energy vehicles, and new materials, launch an initiative to shore up weaknesses in major equipment manufacturing, develop industrial Internet of Things platforms, and create Made in China 2025 demonstration zones</p>	<p>深化大数据、人工智能等研发应用，培育新一代信息技术、高端装备、生物医药、新能源汽车、新材料等新兴产业集群</p> <p>We will strengthen R&D and the application of big data and artificial intelligence technologies, foster clusters of emerging industries like next-generation information technology, high-end equipment, biomedicine, new energy automobiles, and new materials</p>
<p>加强生态系统保护和修复，全面划定并严守生态保护红线，完成造林1亿亩以上，耕地轮作休耕试点面积增加到3000万亩，加强地下水保护和修复，扩大湿地保护和恢复范围，深化国家公园体制改革试点</p> <p>We will redouble efforts to protect and restore ecosystems, and finish setting redlines for ecological conservation across the country. This year, more than 6.67 million hectares of land will be afforested, and crop rotation and fallow land trials will be increased to cover 2 million hectares of farmland. Wetland protection and restoration will be expanded and pilot reforms for the national parks system will be continued</p>	<p>改革创新环境治理方式，对企业既依法依规监管，又重视合理诉求、加强帮扶指导，对需要达标整改的给予合理过渡期，避免处置措施简单粗暴、一关了之。企业有内在动力和外部压力，污染防治一定能取得更大成效</p> <p>We will reform and improve financial support mechanisms, establish a science and technology innovation board that will pilot an IPO registration system, encourage the issuing of special bonds for innovation and entrepreneurship, expand the use of intellectual property pledge financing, and support the growth of venture capital investment</p>
<p>推进国资国企改革</p> <p>We will advance the reform of state capital and SOEs</p>	<p>加快国资国企改革</p> <p>We will accelerate state capital and SOE reforms.</p>
<p>支持民营企业发展</p> <p>We will support the development of private enterprises</p>	<p>下大气力优化民营经济发展环境</p> <p>We will work for big improvements in the development environment for the private sector</p>
<p>促进外商投资稳定增长</p> <p>We will promote a steady growth in foreign investment</p>	<p>促进外贸稳中提质</p> <p>We will promote stable and higher quality growth of foreign trade</p>
<p>实施健康中国战略</p>	<p>保障基本医疗卫生服务</p>

We will implement the Healthy China strategy	We will ensure access to basic medical and health services
<p>落实全面从严治党要求，加强政府自身建设</p> <p>Act on the requirement for full and rigorous Party self-governance</p>	<p>落实全面从严治党要求，勇于自我革命，深入推进简政放权</p> <p>Exercise full and rigorous self-discipline in the Party, have the courage to conduct self-reform, further streamline administration and delegate power</p>
<p>支持香港、澳门融入国家发展大局，深化内地与港澳地区交流合作</p> <p>We will support Hong Kong and Macao in integrating their own development into overall national development, and will boost exchanges and cooperation between the mainland and the two regions</p>	<p>支持港澳抓住共建“一带一路”和粤港澳大湾区建设的重大机遇</p> <p>We will support the two regions in seizing the major opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay area development strategy</p>

This chart highlights the frequency with which the terms *meiguo* (“the US”) and *zhongmei* (“Sino-US”) are mentioned in Chinese in [all Annual Government Work Reports](#) since 1954. Please note that reports from Year 1961-1963 and 1965-1974 were not available.



Year	Frequency	Quotes
1954	44	<p>以美国为首的国际侵略集团却一直敌视我国，并且不顾世界舆论和许多国家政府的反对，至今仍蛮横无理地剥夺我国在联合国中的合法地位和权利</p> <p>The aggressive international group, headed by the US, has always been hostile to China, and despite world public opinion and the opposition of many governments, it still ruthlessly deprives our country of its legal status and rights in the United Nations</p>
1955	3	<p>我国在第一个五年计划完成之后，钢的产量仍然不过四百多万吨，不仅远远落后于美国和英国，而且也落后于日本</p> <p>After the completion of the first Five-Year Plan, China's steel output is still less than 4 million tons, not only far behind the US and the United Kingdom, but also behind Japan</p>
1956	1	<p>帝国主义者还在侵占着我国的领土台湾，还在用组织侵略性军事集团的办法包围我们，还在拖延日内瓦的中美两国大使级谈判</p> <p>Imperialists are still encroaching on the Chinese territory of Taiwan and continue to encircle the US by organizing aggressive military blocs. They are also delaying negotiations at an ambassadorial level between China and the US in Geneva</p>
1957	27	<p>我们从事社会主义建设，不向苏联学习，难道向美国学习建设资本主义的经验么</p> <p>If we are engaged in Socialist construction, yet do not learn from the Soviet Union, do we learn from the United States to build a capitalist experience</p>
1959	17	<p>中国愿意同一切国家建立平等的外交关系。现在中美两国没有外交关系，而且关系很恶劣</p> <p>China is willing to establish equal diplomatic relations with all countries. Currently, however, China and the US have no diplomatic relations, with the relationship status being very poor</p>
1964	26	<p>关于中美会谈，周总理说，我们坚持美国的一切武装力量必须撤出台湾和台湾海峡；在这个根本问题没有解决之前，谈不上解决中美关系中的具体问题</p> <p>Regarding Sino-US talks, Premier Zhou has stated that we must insist that all armed forces of the US withdraw from Taiwan and the Taiwan strait; before this fundamental issue is resolved, we cannot talk about solving specific problems in Sino-US relations</p>

1975	2	中美两国之间存在着根本分歧。由于双方的共同努力，三年来两国关系有所改进，两国人民的往来有了发展 There are fundamental differences between China and the United States. Thanks to the joint efforts of both sides, relations between the two countries have improved in the past three years, and the exchanges between the two peoples have developed
1979	4	我国同日本和美国的关系取得了新的重大进展 China's relations with Japan and the United States have made new major progress
1981	1	我国目前能源的产量仅次于美国、苏联、沙特阿拉伯，但是单位能源所创造的国民收入却比许多国家低得多 China's current energy production is second only to the United States, the Soviet Union, and Saudi Arabia, but the national income generated by unit energy is much lower than many countries
1983	9	中国和美国自一九七九年建立外交关系以来，两国关系是有发展的，但是远未达到本来应该达到的水平 Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States in 1979, the relationship between the two countries has developed, but it is far from the level that should have achieved
1984	12	我们处理同美国和苏联这两个大国的关系，同样是坚持和平共处五项原则 China is dealing with the two great powers of the United States and the Soviet Union while e also adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence
1986	2	中美关系在严格遵守历次中美公报所规定的原则基础上稳定发展 Sino-US relations are developing steadily on the basis of strict adherence to the principles laid down in previous Sino-US communiqués
1988	12	我们希望美国政治家们能够认识到，中美之间的正常关系不仅符合中国的利益，也符合美国的利益 We hope that American politicians will realize that the normal relationship between China and the United States is not only in the interests of China, but also in the interests of the United States
1989	7	中美建交十年来，两国在许多领域的合作有了显著的进展

		Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, the two countries have made remarkable progress in cooperation in many fields
1990	9	中美建交后的十年里，两国关系在中美三个公报的基础上得到了发展 In the ten years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, relations between the two countries have been developed on the basis of the three Sino-US communiqués
1992	3	中美关系在去年有所改善，这是值得欢迎的 Sino-US relations have improved last year, which is welcoming
1993	3	只要美国政府遵循中美之间三个公报的原则，就能排除障碍，使两国关系继续得到改善和发展 As long as the US government follows the principles of the three communiqués between China and the United States, it can remove obstacles and continue to improve and develop bilateral relations
1994	4	只要严格遵循中美三个联合公报确立的各项原则，增加信任，减少麻烦，发展合作，不搞对抗，中美关系就会继续得到改善和发展 As long as we strictly follow the principles established in the three Sino-US joint communiqués, increase trust, reduce troubles, develop cooperation, and not engage in confrontation, Sino-US relations will continue to be improved and developed
1996	6	中美关系经历了严重的困难，这完全是由美国不明智的对华政策造成的 Sino-US relations have experienced serious difficulties, which are entirely caused by the US's unwise policy toward China
1997	2	中美关系在经历较大的波折之后，出现改善与发展的势头 Sino-US relations have shown signs of improvements and development after having previously experiencing major ups and downs
1998	4	中美关系进入新的发展阶段 Sino-US relations enter a new stage of development
1999	2	中美两国元首成功地实现了互访，使中美关系进入了一个新的发展阶段 The Heads of State of China and the United States have successfully exchanged visits, which has brought Sino-US relations into a new stage of development

2000	5	中美就中国加入世界贸易组织达成双边协议，有利于两国经贸合作和中美关系的发展 The two countries concluded a bilateral agreement on China's entry into the World Trade Organization, facilitating economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and the development of bilateral relations
2002	1	我国与美国、俄罗斯、欧盟、日本的关系得到发展和改善 Development and improvement have been achieved in China's relation with the U.S., Russia, the European Union and Japan
2008	2	我国同主要大国加强了对话，增进了信任，扩大了合作，中美关系稳定发展 China stepped up dialogue with the major countries and increased trust and expanded cooperation with them, China-U.S. relations developed steadily
2014	1	推进中美、中欧投资协定谈判 Continue negotiations on investment agreements with the United States and the European Union
2015	1	推进中美、中欧投资协定谈判 Continue negotiations on investment agreements with the United States and the European Union
2016	1	加快中日韩自贸区等谈判，推进中美、中欧投资协定谈判，加强亚太自贸区联合战略研究 Speed up negotiations on the establishment of the China-Japan-RoK free trade area. We will work to make progress in negotiations on investment agreements between China and the United States and between China and the European Union. We will help strengthen collective strategic research on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific
2019	3	稳妥应对中美经贸摩擦 Handled economic and trade frictions with the United States appropriately