

*This document is a draft translation of [Xi Jinping's speech published in the fourth issue of the Qiushi Journal in February 2022](#). The translation has been done by Swayamsiddha Samal from the The Takshashila Institution. Highlights are not part of the original text. These are done to bring attention to key points.*

**Title: Adhere to the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics and better promote the construction of socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics**

**By: Xi Jinping**

The Central Committee's Political Bureau carried out the thirty-fifth collective study on establishing a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics today. The goal of organising this study is to encapsulate the accomplishments of the construction of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics, evaluate the current problems and stay on the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, and better promote the construction of the socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics.

Since its inception, our party has placed a high value on the development of the rule of law. During the New Democratic Revolution, our party drafted the "Outline of the Constitution of the Chinese Soviet Republic" and a slew of laws and decrees, developed the "Ma Xiwu Trial Method," and gained practical experience in establishing a new legal system. During the socialist revolution and construction period, our Party led the people in the formulation of a number of important laws and regulations, including the Constitution, the Organic Law of State Institutions, the Election Law, and the Marriage Law, as well as the establishment of a socialist legal framework system and a socialist judicial system. During the period of reform and opening up, and socialist modernization, our party advanced the policy of "laws to abide by, laws to be followed, strict law enforcement, and punishing violations". A basic strategy of governing the country by law was established, and the construction of a socialist country was identified under the rule of law. The primary goal of modernization is to gradually establish a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics, with the Constitution as its foundation.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC Central Committee has strongly advocated the comprehensive rule of law into a strategic layout, made a series of major decisions and arrangements for the rule of law, established the Central Committee for Comprehensive Rule of Law, improved the Party's leadership in legislation, and ensured law enforcement. The Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC stated unequivocally that the overall goal of championing the rule of law is to build a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics. We have comprehended the overall beginning of establishing the rule of law system, abided by the unity of the

party's leadership, and the rule of law. We will robustly intensify reforms in the field of the rule of law, develop the construction of the legal system, the implementation system of the rule of law, the supervision system of the rule of law, the guarantee system of the rule of law, and the intra-Presidential system of the rule of law with Chinese Characteristics.

At the same time, we must recognise that there are still some drawbacks in my country's legal system, namely: the legal norm system is incomplete, the legal system in key areas has some weak points, the legal implementation system is inadequate, and law enforcement is weakly effective. ***The judicial powers' operation mechanism is not scientific enough; the legal supervision system is not strict enough, and supervision in all aspects has not truly formed a convergence. The construction of specialised legal teams needs to be strengthened; foreign-related legal shortcomings are relatively obvious. These issues must be researched and resolved as soon as possible.***

I have repeatedly stated that the rule of law's prosperity will make the nation vibrant, and the rule of law's strength will make the country powerful. Our country is currently in a crucial phase of realising the Chinese nation's great rejuvenation. The world has undergone unprecedented changes in a century, and the process is accelerating. Reform, development, and stability tasks are becoming particularly complex, and the country's opening to the outside world is strengthening.

Domestically, we have entered into a new journey of building a modern socialist country in all aspects and marching towards the second centennial goal. We implemented the new development concept, built a new development pattern, endorsed high-quality development, and met people's needs based on a new development stage. The ever-increasing requirements on democracy, rule of law, fairness, justice, security, environment, and so on, as well as improving people's quality of life and promoting common prosperity, have all placed new and higher demands on the rule of law's construction. ***We must improve our ability and level of governance to comprehensively govern the country in accordance with the law, as well as provide a strong legal guarantee for the overall construction of a modern socialist country.***

***The world has entered a phase of volatility and change from an international perspective, and international competitiveness is increasingly represented in the conflict between systems, rules, and laws. We must strengthen the creation of a foreign-related legal and regulatory structure, enhance the judicial efficacy of foreign-related law enforcement, and steadfastly protect national sovereignty, security, and development interests.***

To create a socialist legal system with Chinese features, we must fulfil the needs of the cause's development, stick to the system's principle, and promote it throughout the country. We should concentrate on the following aspects of work in the current and future periods.

First, stay on track in terms of establishing a rule-of-law system. As I previously stated, if the major event of comprehensively furthering the rule of law can be done well is secondary to whether the political guarantee is strong. Socialism's rule of law theory is distinct. The socialist rule of law system with Chinese features is an important component of the socialist system with Chinese features. **We must grasp the nature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, stick to the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, and handle politics and the rule of law, reform and the rule of law correctly.**

**Concerning the relationship between governing the country and governing the country by virtue, between governing the country according to the law and governing the party according to regulations, we must be especially clear-headed and firm on major issues such as upholding the party's overall leadership and ensuring that the people are the masters of the country.** We must always take a people-centred approach, follow the rule of law for the people, rely on the people, benefit the people, and protect the people, and carry out the entire process of establishing a rule of law system that reflects the people's interests, aspirations, rights and interests, and well-being. **The socialist rule of law system with Chinese characteristics that we want to build must be a rule of law system rooted in Chinese culture, based on China's national conditions, and solve China's problems. It cannot be misled by the wrong trend of thinking in the West.**

Second, in key areas, legislation should be accelerated. "If good laws are established in the world, the world will govern; if good laws are established in one country, one country will govern," the ancients said. **Legislation in critical areas such as national security, scientific and technological innovation, public health, biosecurity, ecological civilization, and risk prevention must be strengthened. Accelerate legislation in the fields of digital economy, Internet finance, artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, and so on, and aim to better the legal system that is desperately required for national governance and meets people's growing needs for a better life. It is necessary to fully realise the political guarantee role of governing the party in accordance with regulations for the development of the party and the country, as well as to establish a pattern in which national laws and intra-party regulations supplement each other.** It is critical to focus on people's immediate expectations and enhance legislation in the field of people's livelihood. **Concerning pressing issues in the entertainment industry, such as telecom and network fraud, new drug crimes, "cult-style" star chasing, "fan circle" chaos, "yin-yang contract," and other prominent problems in the entertainment industry.** It is essential to initiate by perfecting the law to carry out regulation, filling in the loopholes in supervision, and weaknesses must not be left alone. **The issue of capital's disorderly expansion has grown in prominence over time. The rapid growth of some platform economies and digital economies, combined with a lack of oversight, has resulted in a slew of issues. Accelerating the revision of the Anti-Monopoly Law and the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, as well as the improvement of relevant legal systems is required.**

"To engage in the constitution is to engage in science," said Comrade Mao Zedong. We must grasp the key to legislative quality, promote scientific legislation, democratic legislation, and law-abiding legislation, develop overall legislative plans, reform, abolition, interpretation, and codification, improve legislative efficiency, and strengthen the system and integrity of legislation. Maintaining the country's rule of law unity is a grave political issue. **Legislative bodies and working departments at all levels must strictly adhere to legislative powers, avoid overstepping, duplicating, and blindly enacting legislation, and effectively prevent the influence of departmental interests and local protectionism.**

"It is not difficult to legislate the world's affairs, but it is difficult to put the law into effect." The crucial and complicated point in promoting the development of a rule of law system is to promote the correct enforcement of policies through stringent law enforcement, unbiased administration of justice, and abiding by the law by all people. All acts that violate the Constitution and laws must be investigated in order to improve the mechanism for ensuring equality before the law and to safeguard the unity, dignity, and authority of the country's legal system. Party organisations and top leaders at all levels must unambiguously support judicial organs in exercising their independence.

Third, deepen the rule of law reform. At the moment, some notable contradictions and problems in the field of the rule of law are the result of the reform not being fully implemented. We must deepen the comprehensive reform of the judicial system and accelerate the construction of a fair, efficient, and authoritative socialist judicial system, with the goal of making the individuals feel of justice in every legal system, every law enforcement decision, and every judicial case. It is necessary to improve the legal protection system for social fairness and justice, the public interest litigation system, the operation mechanism of law enforcement power, supervision power, and judicial power, and to strengthen power restraint and supervision. **Accelerating the construction of a comprehensive, standardised, and efficient law enforcement and judicial restraint and supervision system is required, as is strengthening the supervision of legislative power, law enforcement power, supervision power, and judicial power, as well as improving the discipline inspection and supervision organs, public security organs, procuratorial organs, judicial organs, and judicial administrative organs.** Its responsibilities, as well as the system and mechanism of mutual restraint between the investigative, procuratorial, judicial, and execution powers, ensure that all links and the entire process of law enforcement and justice are carried out under effective restraint and supervision. It is necessary to strengthen overall planning, improve the talent training system for the rule of law, accelerate the development of legal service teams such as lawyers, notaries, judicial appraisal, arbitration, and mediation, and strive to build a socialist legal team loyal to the party, country, people, and the law. It is necessary to deepen the reform of the management system of law enforcement and judicial personnel, as well as to strengthen management education and training of rule of law specialised teams. It is necessary to continue to crack down on corrupt practises in the field of law enforcement and justice in

accordance with the law, as well as to deepen the education and rectification of the political and legal teams.

***What needs to be emphasised is that the reform in the field of rule of law is political and policy-oriented, and we must grasp the principles and stick to the bottom line.***

Fourth, apply the rule of law to international conflicts. We have coordinated the promotion of domestic and foreign-related rule of law since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and our ability to use the rule of law to safeguard the interests of the country and the people has significantly improved. In accordance with the principle of emergency first, ***it is necessary to adhere to the overall promotion of the domestic rule of law and the rule of law related to foreign affairs, strengthen legislation in the field of foreign affairs, further improve the laws and regulations of anti-sanction, anti-interference, and promote the construction of a legal system applicable outside my country's jurisdiction. To protect my country's overseas interests, it is necessary to include the expansion of law enforcement and judicial cooperation as an important issue in the development of bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as to extend the safety chain. It is critical to strengthen the development of foreign-related legal talent.***

Fifth, increase theoretical research and public awareness of the rule of law. We summarise the laws of socialist rule of law practise with Chinese characteristics, pass down the essential nature of Chinese legal culture, draw on the beneficial achievements of the world's rule of law civilization, and develop new concepts and measures to comprehensively govern the country through law. At the Central Work Conference on Comprehensively Governing the Country by Law, I summarised it as "Eleven Persistence." In my country, it is necessary to strengthen research on original concepts, judgments, categories, and theories of the rule of law, as well as to strengthen the construction of a legal discipline system, academic system, and discourse system with Chinese characteristics. It is necessary to incorporate the socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics into textbook compilation and teaching work in various legal disciplines in the new era, to promote the introduction of textbooks, classrooms, and minds, and to aspire to nurture more people with firm beliefs and ideals, strong family and country feelings, and solid legal studies. It is essential to boost the political guidance of the lawyer team, enlighten and assist the majority of lawyers to consciously abide by the basic requirements of supporting the leadership of my country's Communist Party and the socialist rule of law in China, and strive to be good lawyers who satisfy both the party and the people. It is necessary to make the promotion of law-abiding behaviour by the entire population a primary project, and to enact the responsibility system of "whoever enforces the law will popularise the law." Leaders at all levels should take the lead in respecting the law, studying the law, following the law, and guiding the general public to consciously follow the law, seek the law in times of trouble, and rely on the law to solve problems. It is necessary to summarise my country's experience with rule of law system construction and

rule of law practice, to elucidate my country's excellent traditional rule of law culture, and to tell the story of China's rule of law.

Party committees at all levels must take the lead, focusing on major deployments, important tasks, and key tasks, strengthening organisational leadership, taking the initiative to act, and avoiding formalism and bureaucracy. The Central Office for Governing the Country by Law must play an important role in promoting the implementation of Party Central Committee decisions and the application of the rule of law. On all fronts, all departments must work together to manage, consolidate responsibilities, form joint forces, and improve the level of legalisation of work.