

## Highlights of China Unicom's 2021 Work Conference

China Unicom's 2021 Work Conference was convened in Beijing on 21 December 2020. Mr. Liu Liehong, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), attended the conference and delivered a speech.

In his speech, Mr. Liu Liehong fully recognised China Unicom's various achievements in 2020, introduced the development of the information and communication industry in 2020, and conveyed the relevant key work considerations of MIIT in 2021. For the next step of China Unicom, he proposed "Five Deepening": to deepen network transformation and solidify the foundation of infrastructure builders; to deepen transformation of driving force and boost the energy of technology innovation promoter; to deepen business transformation and broaden the influence of the creator of integrated ecology; to deepen service transformation and enhance the reputation of quality service provider; to deepen governance transformation and further enhance vitality of mechanism reform pioneer.

At the conference, Mr. Wang Xiaochu, Chairman of China Unicom, summarised the work achievements in 2020 and "13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan" period, and set out the work plan for the new year building on an analysis of the current landscape.

It was pointed out by the conference that 2020 was a very extraordinary year in the development of China Unicom. Facing complicated internal and external environment as well as the tough and challenging mission of development and reform, especially amidst the detrimental COVID-19 epidemic, China Unicom coordinated and mobilised its efforts, forged ahead, made breakthrough innovations and worked diligently, making big strides in every aspect. Firstly, the Company achieved remarkable results in business and operation development. It well managed both the epidemic prevention and control and the business operation, achieving decent growth in revenue and return while customer perception and service quality were continuously improved. Secondly, the Company made important steps in industry ecology development and network co-build co-share. Industry ecology development was prominent, and remarkable progress was achieved in network co-build co-share. Thirdly, the Company synergistically promoted reform deepening and comprehensive digital transformation. The operational and organizational systems of the Company's six major business units were fully reformed, leading to the expanded scope of market-oriented reform.

It was considered by the conference that during "13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan" period, especially since the implementation of mixed-ownership reform, China Unicom persistently and highly positioned, capitalised on the macro trends, and executed a series of strategically significant initiatives such as Focus Strategy and comprehensive digital transformation, leading to historic enhancement in the Company's growth momentum, overall competitive advantages, brand image and social influence. The Company always regarded reform as the primary driving force. It fully pushed forward the mixed-ownership reform pilot project and systematically established "Five New" China Unicom, achieving iconic breakthrough in mixed-ownership reform among central state-owned enterprises. The Company insisted

on people-oriented development philosophy. It achieved continuous enhancement in customer satisfaction and saw the energy, passion and sense of reward of the people on the rise continuously. There were a number of role models with outstanding performance in value contribution, leading development, business turnaround and efficiency enhancement, product innovation, management innovation, co-build co-share and poverty alleviation, etc.

Building on an analysis of the current landscape, the conference put forward China Unicom's development goals for "14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan" period and its long-term vision for 2035. It was proposed that China Unicom should focus on shaping its "Five High" new development edges in 2021 and aim to achieve three major business goals including steady growth in operating results, overall improvement in development quality and continuous enhancement in service quality. It should endeavour in five aspects: First, it should unswervingly implement the new development philosophy and strive to achieve high-quality development. Second, it should unswervingly implement people-oriented development mindset and strive to offer high-quality services. Third, it should unswervingly leverage the decisive function of market in resource allocation and strive to achieve highly effective governance. Fourth, it should unswervingly implement the innovation-driven development strategy and build an advanced technology engine. Fifth, the Company should unswervingly deepen the mixed-ownership reform and strive to achieve high-vitality operation.

It was emphasised at the conference that the Company should adhere to systemic approach to harmonise development quality, structure, scale, speed, efficiency and security. The Company should uphold work priorities, vigorously drive the five major projects, establish strengths for the future, focus resources for rapid breakthrough, and form new development edges.

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