

**CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC
GOODS (I): ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS
AND OTHER WORLD BODIES**

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EAI Background Brief No. 1181

Executive Summary

1. Although still a developing country, China has followed the footsteps of major powers such as the United States in the provision of International Public Goods (IPGs).
2. China became more active in the international community following the 2008 world economic crisis. By end 2008, China's navy was on its first overseas mission to fight piracy off the Gulf of Aden. In 2009, at the G8 summit in Italy, China made its first official pronouncement on global governance.
3. When Xi Jinping became president in 2013, he committed China to playing a much more active international role including the provision of IPGs, thereby discarding Deng Xiaoping's erstwhile dictum for China to keep a low profile.
4. China's IPG contribution can be broadly divided into two groups: those that contribute to the existing IPGs system and those that are completely newly created.
5. China's participation in the existing IPG system can be gleaned from its contributions to the United Nations (UN). From 1996 to 2016, China's share of the UN's regular budget increased more than 10-fold, behind only the United States and Japan.
6. China's share of the UN peacekeeping budget also increased almost threefold from 2010 to 2016 to become the second largest donor among member states.
7. Likewise, China's personnel contribution to UN peacekeeping missions increased from 129 military and police personnel in 2001 to 2,146 personnel in 2008, a more than 16-fold increase. By 2015, this figure rose further to 3,054, ranking first among UN Security Council member states.

8. In 2014, China deployed an infantry battalion to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, marking the first time its combat troops were sent abroad for peacekeeping operations.
9. China's membership with Inter-governmental Organisations (IGOs) and International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs) saw commendable growth. However, there is a shortage of high-ranking Chinese officials and general staff in most IGOs and INGOs.
10. Overall, China's pro-activeness in providing IPGs is driven by China's growing influence, capabilities and interests. China also seeks to show that it is a responsible and constructive member of the international community.
11. In meeting its international obligations and responsibilities, China is seemingly trying to chart a different path from the United States' penchant to enter into alliances and set up military bases abroad. It appears to be focused on establishing partnerships and logistical facilities (such as in Djibouti).