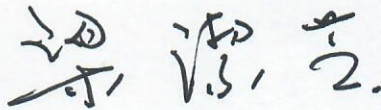


## **Macao's unique advantages and active participation in the construction of "The Belt and Road" Initiative**

Year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of China's proposal of the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Over the past decade, the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) had taken the initiative to align with the country's development strategy and actively participated in the construction of the BRI, facilitated exchanges and cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as countries and regions of the BRI in the areas of economics and trade, tourism and culture. The efforts had achieved fruitful results. For example, according to Macao's external merchandise trade statistics, in the year of 2022, merchandise import from the BRI countries and regions has increased by 3.5% year-on-year and reached 26.21 billion pataca (MOP). Meanwhile, the total amount of exports to the BRI countries and regions was MOP 523 million, which also expanded by 69.8%.

In the future, Macao will continue to leverage its unique advantage as a free port and its development positioning of "the world center of tourism and leisure, the commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, the exchange and cooperation hub with Chinese culture as the mainstream combined with a diverse multi-cultural coexistence" to make more contributions to the construction of the BRI.

While upholding the aforesaid development positioning of “One Center, One platform and One Base”, Macao will also enhance resources synergy of both domestic and international market to open a new horizon to achieve new developments. In addition, Macao will keep on striving to promote people-to-people ties along the BRI through actively advancing comprehensive and in-depth cooperation. By fully grasping the great opportunities of the construction of BRI, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Macao aims to make due contributions to the country's high level opening-up and high quality development.



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