**Appendix 3: Most predominant topics of Chinese central authorities and diplomats**

The following table shows the preliminary results of the LDA model applied to a selection of central authorities and diplomats abroad. The parameters of the model, including the number of topics selected, replicate the ones implemented in the manuscript. The central authorities correspond to the ones marked as “government institution” or “government official” in Appendix 1. In total, 16,511 tweets in English published by seven authorities were considered. The “Diplomats” are those authorities appearing in Appendix 1 as embassies, ambassadors, missions, diplomats in mission, diplomats (other), consuls and consulates. The sample for this group was 169,271 tweets in English posted by 152 authorities. The timeframe selected was the one considered in the study, from January 1st, 2020, to March 11th, 2021.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topics** | **Central authorities** | | **Diplomats** | |
|  | Most representative words | Approximate Description | Most representative words | Approximate Description |
| **1** | china, health, people, 2019ncov, africa, million, drtedros, covid19, world, country, day, public, effort, 2020, drtedro, moon, friend, billion, probe, outbreak, chinese, sample, african, need, mars, whowpro, whosearo, whoemro, mission, whoafro | COVID-19, China’s achievements | china, hongkong, national, security, usa, year, law, foreign, country, chinese, affair, market, trade, billion, 2020, international, economy, hong, kong, growth, company, business, accord, investment, internal, yuan, government, percent, global, economic | Hong Kong |
| **2** | poverty, xinjiang, china, people, life, ethnic, cpc, chinese, alleviation, province, party, village, million, central, lie, year, country, local, group, rural, region, live, lift, committee, minority, end, time, help, national, tibet | Development of Chinese regions | usa, chinese, people, china, cpc, party, general, consulate, political, sanction, iran, question, committee, look, communist, jcpoa, central, unilateral, director, member, american, houston, like, year, war, ask, demand, issue, good, geng | USA |
| **3** | china, country, free, region, dr, trade, south, area, world, open, day, sea, xinjiang, zhong, aircraft, risk, covid19, chinese, land, million, control, foreign, bring, away, 19, use, airport, province | Undetermined | china, fact, covid19, chinese, story, people, c ome, video ambassador, time, read, tell, welcome, speak, true, life, country, rumor, virus, article, friend, national, watch, pandemic, word, hope, stay, look, work, science | COVID-19, Controversy |
| **4** | wuhan, hospital, covid19, patient, coronavirus, day, chinese, doctor, time, fact, medical, usa, china, lie, use, stay, people, novel, friend, test, speak, worker, evidence, video, today, new, tell, claim, strong, truth | COVID-19, early fight | chinese, million, 000, year, people, xinjiang, population, mask, day, food, 10, china, festival, family, time, traditional, increase, old, know, panda, wear, spring, like, dance, eat, rice, local, online, good, ethnic | Cultural appeal |
| **5** | china, wang, president, minister, yi, foreign, state, xi, chinese, councilor, jinping, cooperation, fm, meeting, support, people, relation, phone, friendship, covid19, meet, visit, africa, new, epidemic, video, express, hold, bilateral, fight | Agenda | china, province, city, world, year, beautiful, tigh, train, beijing, railway, speed, build, new, project, area, region, shanghai, 000, construction, amazingchina, road, tibet, km, bridge, look, mountain, winter, river, view, autonomous | Developmental achievements |
| **6** | china, cpec, zlj517, cathaypak, bri, wangxianfeng8, chinese, pakistan, asimsbajwa, foreign, report, medium, pakamchina, covid19, objective, news, support, mushahid, development, asad\_umar, terrorism, ambnong, vice, ministry, international, interview, country, people | Pakistan | china, covid19, chinese, medical, fight, help, support, country, supply, africa, team, people, african, donate, government, thank, expert, mask, provide, pakistan, 000, arrive, send, 19, assistance, health, pandemic, epidemic, include, covid | COVID-19, global fight |
| **7** | china, cooperation, development, country, world, economic, global, new, work, share, economy, africa, promote, future, build, mutual, trade, high, community, continue, international, win, benefit, people, open, market, need, relation, common, year | Economy & Trade | china, usa, people, country, world, right, human, chinese, interest, life, war, political, uk, development, peace, stop, history, taiwan, attempt, politician, way, need american, relation, system, stability, great, time, good, respect | Discord with the West |
| **8** | china, covid19, virus, fight, russia, world, pandemic, solidarity, support, covid, 19, stand, country, chinese, spread, defeat, health, victory, cooperation, people, face, battle, global, epidemic, work, combat, wuhan, win, outbreak, help | COVID-19, global fight | covid19, case, wang, china, yi, minister, foreign, state, new, confirm, councilor, hospital, patient, chinese, report, wuhan, death, day, hubei, number, fm, feb, total, province, novel, cure, virus, discharge, mainland, interview | COVID-19, updates |
| **9** | china, train, pakistan, railway, speed, year, new, zlj517, chinese, project, time, km, construction, high, cpec, build, line, 000, cathaypak, bridge, operation, local, long, welcome, port, pdchina, xhnews, station, freight, rail | Infrastructure, development, and Pakistan | xinjiang, china, usa, lie,j chinese, médium, people, western, uyghur, fact, report, student, terrorism, truth, know, force, school, trump, like, claim, news, education, anti, time, ethnic, genocide, fake, right, language, bbc | Xinjiang governance confronting Western Criticism |
| **10** | case, china, year, usa, new, report, covid19, confirm, time, number, people, death, day, cure, 000, feb, 2019, chinese, past, close, total, life, million, population, rate, 2020, hubei, 10, increase, suspect | COVID-19, controversy | covid19, wuhan, control, outbreak, virus, epidemic, china, measure, novel, people, coronavirus, work, spread, fight, prevention, test, life, health, time, city, beijing, expert, day, contain, disease, prevent, pandemic, worker, lockdown, effort | COVID-19, early fight |
| **11** | china, covid19, medical, vaccine, chinese, country, fight, supply, expert, help, conference, team, support, provide, donate, government, epidemic, mask, 000, press, control, health, 10, arrive, hold, prevention, outbreak, share, assistance, need | COVID-19, vaccine | police, chinese, dr, spokesperson, debt, foreign, people, national, discrimination, china, ministry, hongkong, start, safe, hero, love, twitter, african, protest, good, award, member, life, embassy, racial, hua, zhang, officer, racism, video | Tensions within countries |
| **12** | chinese, people, china, new, covid19, ambassador, government, year, support, iran, measure, nuclear, effort, pakistan, base, spring, life, wish, strong, great, thank, believe, travel, fight, mr, fact, coronavirus, work, development, strategic | COVID-19, cooperation to international partners | president, un, china, xi, chinese, jinping, anniversasry, united, general, meeting, military, countril, summit, cgtnofficial, peace, nations, secretary, republic, xijinping, pla, mark, today, 2020, world, member, special, attend, 来自,force, video | Agenda |
| **13** | china, chinese, year, pakistan, yuan, national, 2020, good, billion, pakistani, trillion, student, project, australia, australian, total, people, government, uk, covid19, trade, 000, country, usa, foreign, export, reach, foreignofficepk, accord, brother | Economic prospects and relations | vaccine, china, covid19, chinese, develop, good, country, trial, phase, clinical, public, use, dose, news, million, health, sinoavc, sinopharm, pvodie, approve, test, receive, president, global, research, usa, safe, emergency, available, drug | COVID-19, vaccines |
| **14** | china, usa, country, international, right, chinese, security, people, interest, hongkong, law, political, affair, national, human, safeguard, world, issue, oppose, relation, global, stop, internal, un, pompeo, fact, system, need uk, sanction | Hong Kong | year, china, chinese, new, wish, happy, day, friend, premier, good, uk, li, launch, thank, space, today, beijing, llunar, festiva, congratulation, celebrate, keqiang, moon, hold, national, satellite, great, mission, live, probe | Cultural celebrations, achievements |
| **15** | year, china, people, chinese, world, accord, usa, 2020, billion, growth, 2019, month, consecutive, report, foreign, country, national, investment, new, premier, briefing, large, li, family, scio, annual twosessions, increase, ago, visit | Economic achievements | china, cooperation, global, country, international, world, covid19, development, community, share, support, work, win, future, pandemic, solidarity, fight, effort, new, economic, promote, continue, gealth, build, strengthen, multilateralism, president, challenge, common, africa | COVID-19, solidarity and development |
| **16** | usa, china, chinese, world, journalist, foreign, launch, system, history, country, state, satellite, new, war, nuclear, russia, international government, good, time, confrontation, let, work, possible, issue, open, wang, know, hope, fm | Discord with the US | china, poverty, xi, development, people, year, president, jinping, economic, chinese, achieve, new, great, world, plan, alleviation, effort, achievement, xijinping, opening, lif, cpec, 19, economy, covid, lift, social, goal, 2020, fight | Developmental achievements |