

Synthesis of the Theme-based workshops

Session 1 : Major Challenges of China

First things first, we have to compliment everybody for their wonderful contribution to the workshops. The team in charge of the summary was not only overwhelmed by the amount of themes presented in the reports, but also by their quality. The present summary cannot match with the richness of the contributions.

1. Chinese perception

After thirty years of economic and technological development with unrivalled rapidity and extent, triumphal attitudes are not dominating Chinese perceptions. Impression of changing and an almost unanimous consciousness of anew transformation to come are more dominant.

Six main themes sum up this idea of a new necessary change.

Axis A : The first development phase favoured technology and economy. At the same time wealth increase created great imbalances.

Several workshops stated that the challenges China has to face are social, ecological , political and even economic. A first development phase, drawn by production, notably by foreign companies based in China, is coming to an end. Development is unbalanced between rich

and poor people, town and country, coastal land and inland. Damages to the environment, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, brutal use of technologies like chemical agriculture, cities becoming common part of life, the harm done by exploitation of natural resources... such has been the price paid for this first development phase.

Axis B : a new great mutation is under way shifting the balance between society, economy and environment, free market development and public regulation.

For most Chinese territories, a more balanced approach towards economy and technique, a new strategy of benefits distribution, a better capacity to subordinate technical and economic goals to human development and to balance society and environment are essential.

Axis C : China's future is built with asserted cultural heritage and dialogue with the rest of the world that respects differences and nurtured on convergences.

Is there only one kind of modernity and does it apply uniformly in the world, including China or, with the present mutation, can China use its own history and culture as a basis ?

Harmonious society must rely on solidarity tradition and care for the others. Family keeps all its meaning in comprehension of public services. Rich agricultural traditions, including on a technological level, are full of experience for a more balanced environment perception. Can Chinese scientific tradition bring something to the Chinese and the rest of the world ? There is an obvious tension between the assertion that “ China has a very different tradition that must be respected as it is” and the will to participate to an international dialogue.

Axis D : As it became a world-class actor, China has new obligations, new responsibilities, a new role.

China cannot develop anymore just by following the global trend but has to face its own problems. However, China stresses that, because of its weight in the world, if it does its best to resolve its problems, then it will contribute to an effective global governance which necessity is strongly expressed. Several workshops underlined the importance of experience sharing, the growing need for China to respect international rules but also the desire to be treated fairly. China’s emergence will not only change international policies, it is also stated

that in a global governance, that is definitely multi-polar, China can play a stabilising part with other great powers.

Axis E : Because of society’s mutation and the new kind of problems that need to be dealt with, a redistribution of responsibilities and powers is on its way.

This redistribution affects all aspects of society : relations between central government and local authorities, rising importance of NGOs and citizen voices, rebalance between economic power and the others, redistribution of financial resources, relations between big companies focusing mainly on international issues and smaller companies strictly local-focused, restoring the balance between “top-down” logic which is dominating and “bottom-up” logic.

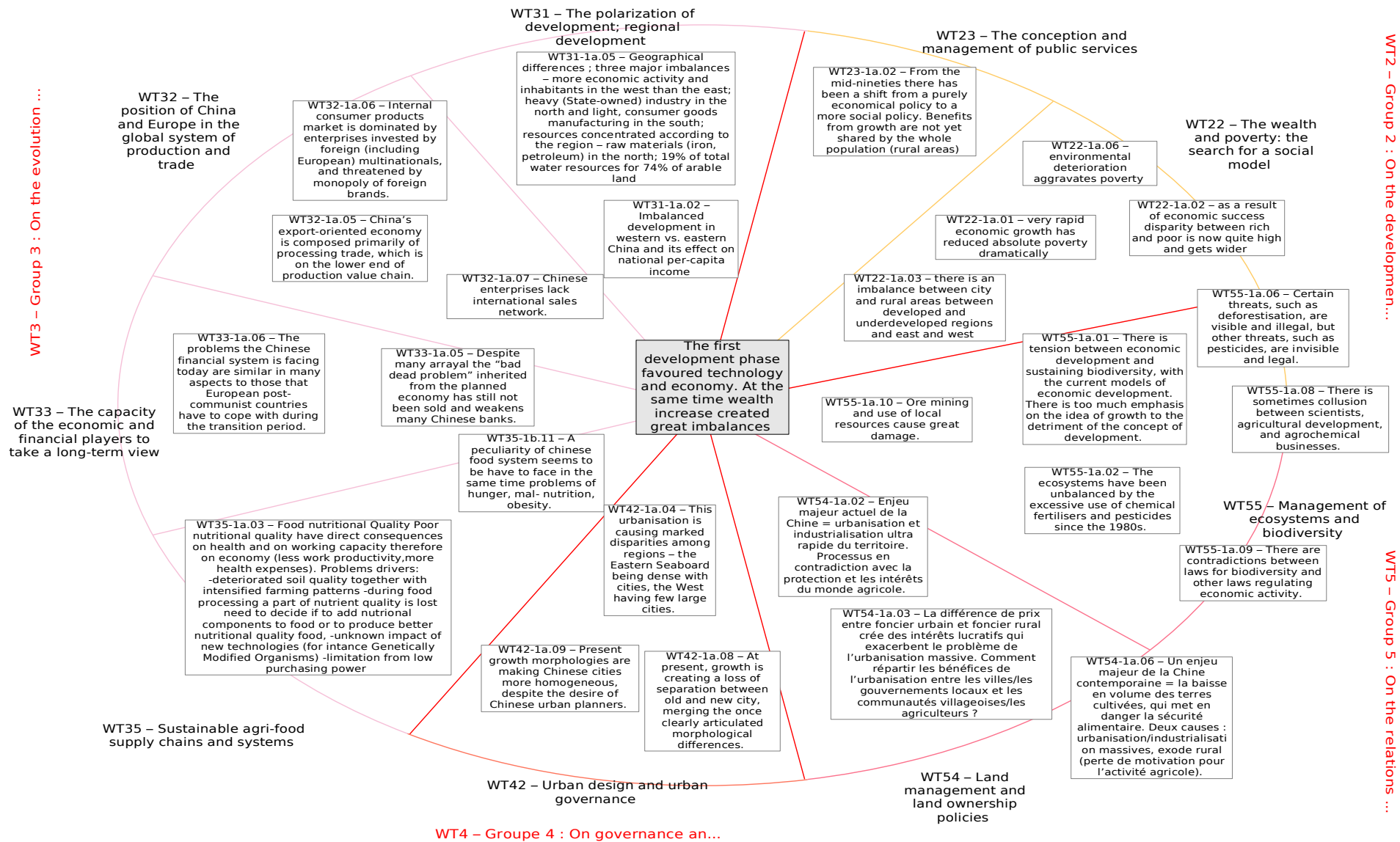
Axis F : In this new historical phase China needs to develop a new governance perception that is more global.

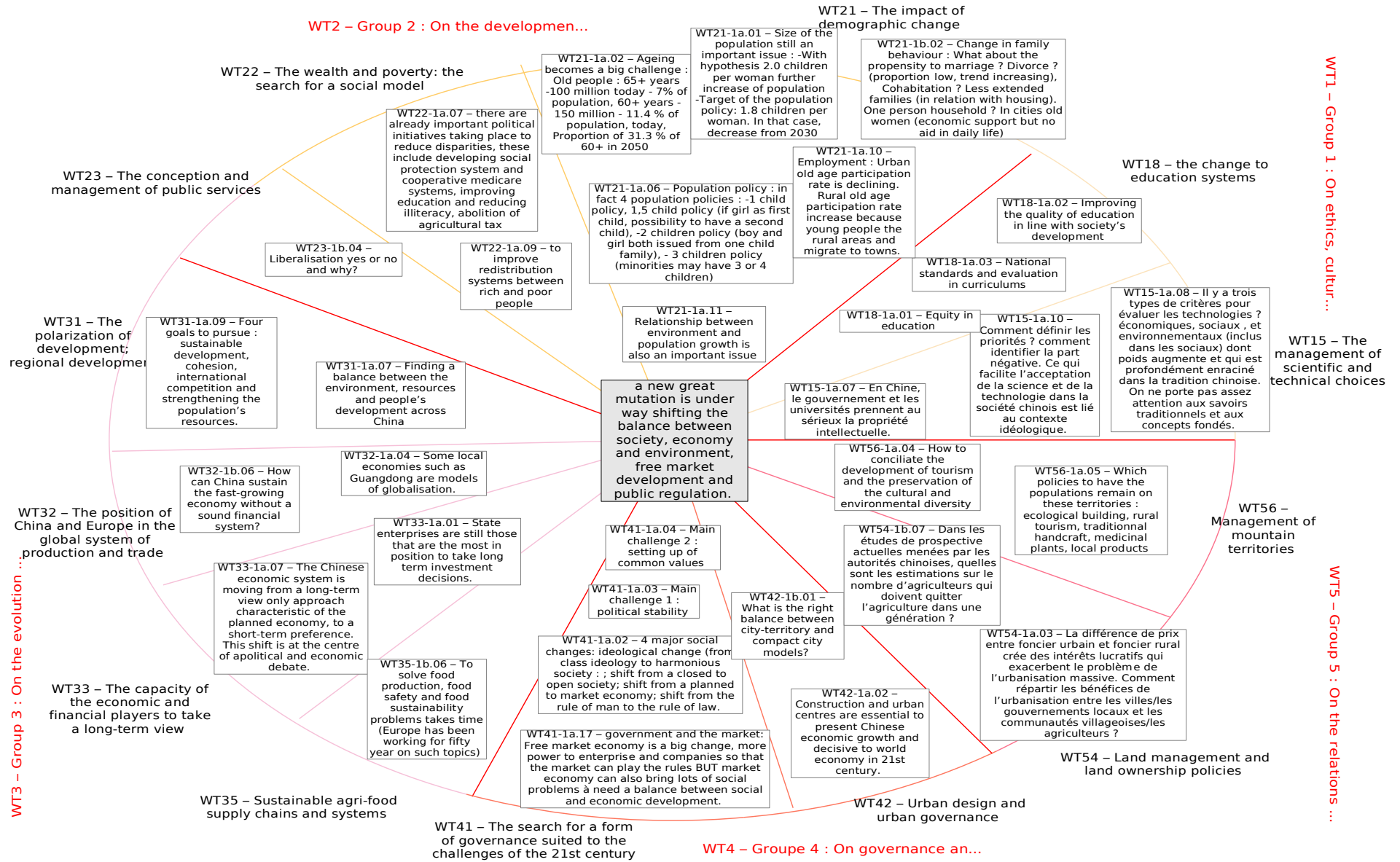
In order to manage simultaneously social, environmental and economic goals, to create sustainable food processing activities, to manage at the same time unity and diversity, to take into account environmental and biodiversity balances, to make central government orders a local reality, to achieve water and energy resource planning, to make rights an everyday reality, the search for new governances that are more adapted to tomorrow’s challenges has begun.

II. EUROPEANS QUESTIONS

These questions often have a particular resonance with Chinese concerns, and sometimes are a little sceptical on the concrete implementation of stated great principles :

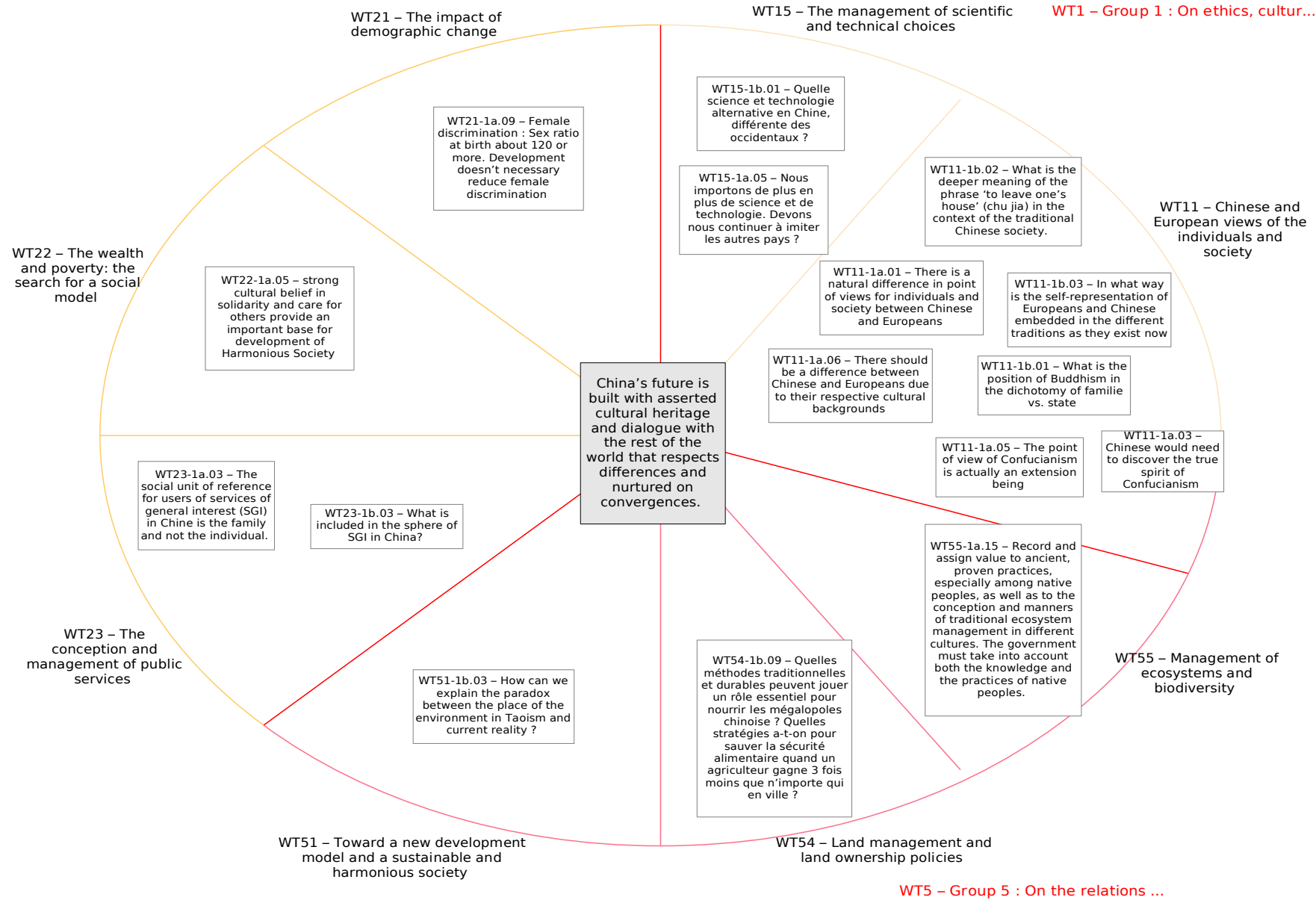
- Is Chinese reference to culture that relevant and how to explain damages to the environment that are so opposed with traditional Chinese philosophy?
- Is China really willing to play by the international rules?
- In reality, how are the conflicts between NGOs and local governments dealt with, and do the first ones have a real influence on policies?
- Is China really willing to adhere to universally considered principles?



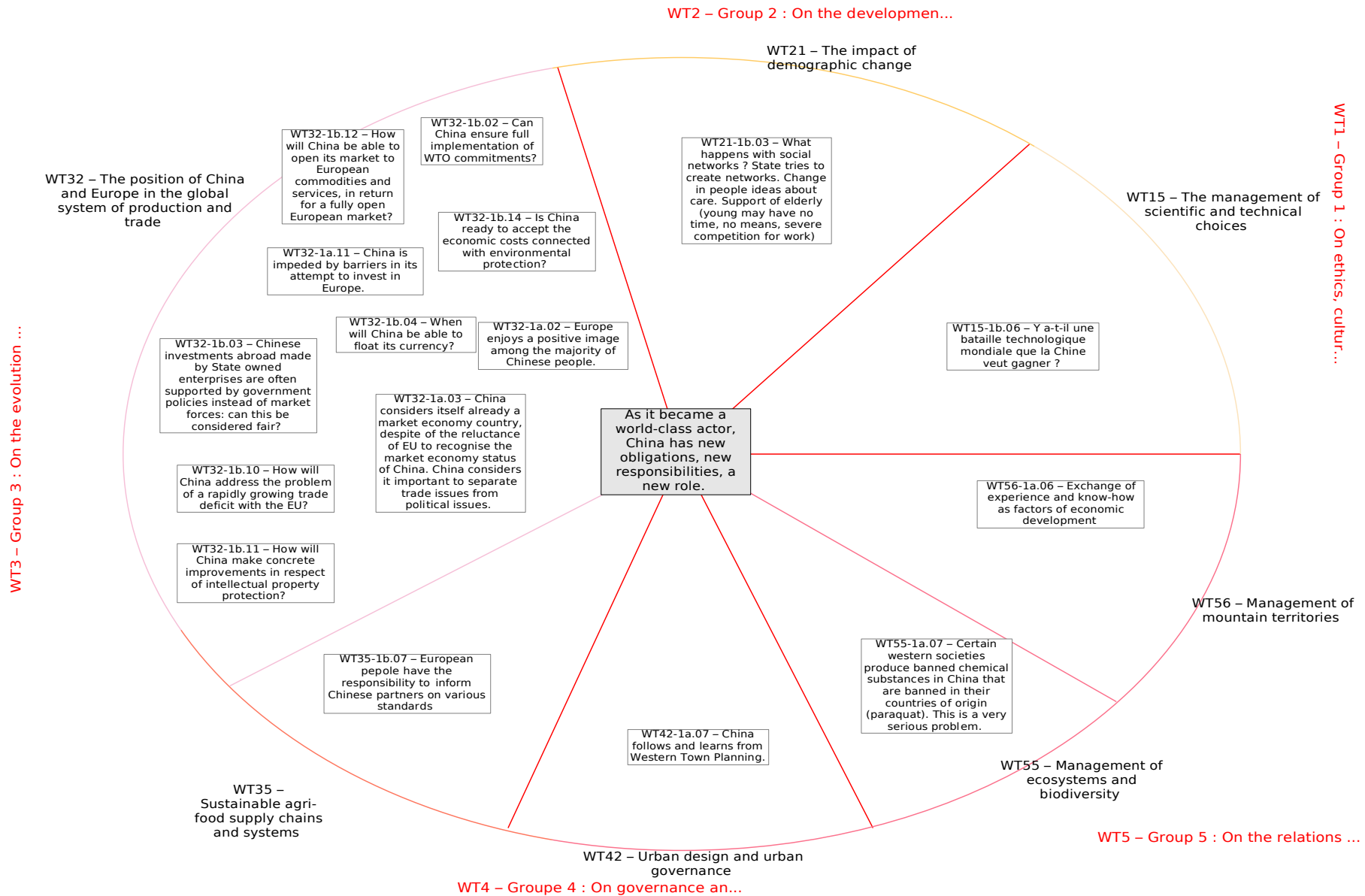


WT2 – Group 2 : On the development...

WT1 – Group 1 : On ethics, cultur...



WT5 – Group 5 : On the relations ...

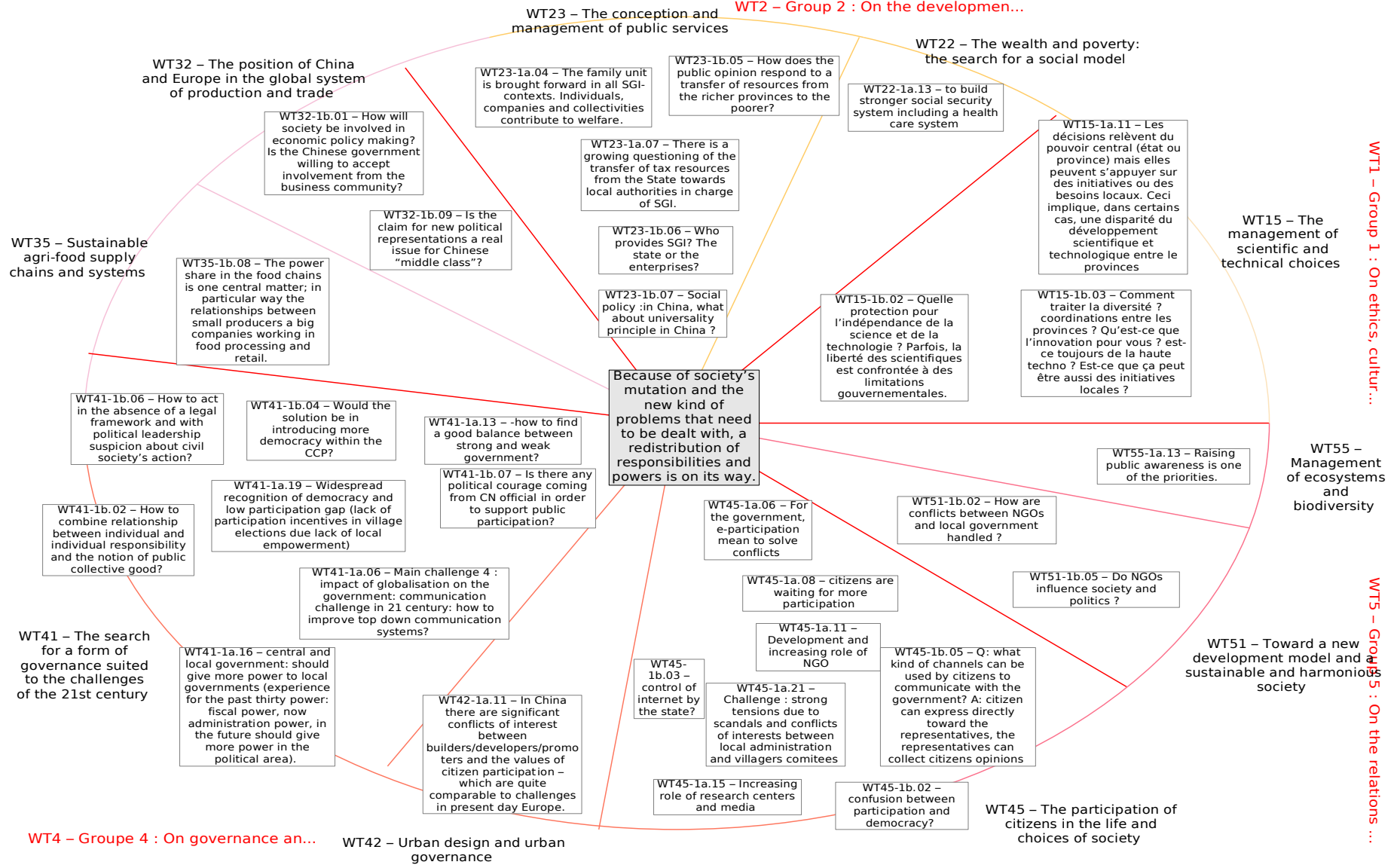


WT3 – Group 3 : On the evolution ...

WT2 – Group 2 : On the developmen...

WT1 – Group 1 : On ethics, cultur...

WT5 – Group 5 : On the relations ...



WT4 – Groupe 4 : On governance an...

WT3 – Group 3 : On the evolution ...

