

Joining Hands to Advance Toward an Eco-Friendly Modernization

— The Theoretical Contributions and Practical Leadership of Xi Jinping
Thought on Ecological Civilization To Global Sustainable Development

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"To build a sound ecology is vital for humanity's future. All members of the international community should work together to build a sound global eco-environment. We should respect nature, follow nature's ways, and protect nature. We should firmly pursue green, low-carbon, circular, and sustainable development. "^①

——Xi Jinping

^① *Working Together to Forge a New Partnership of Win-win Cooperation and Create a Community of Shared Future for Mankind* (September 28, 2015), *Selected Important Documents Since the 18th CPC National Congress*, Vol. 2, Central Literature Publishing House, 2016 edition, pp. 697 – 698.

Preface

In the vast cosmos, Earth is the only home on which humankind depends for survival. All the joys, sorrows, and continual existence of the human race are tied to this planet. With the rapid development of human society, the clear and present challenges of the "triple crises"—climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution—have become increasingly severe. The traditional model of modernization has fallen into an ecological predicament that is difficult to sustain.

When polar bear cubs struggle to find a piece of sea ice to rest on, when the Earth is covered with scars left by excessive mineral extraction, when hunger and poverty remain nightmares for people in some countries and regions..., where should global sustainable development be headed? And how can development and protection be balanced and coordinated? The world is awaiting answers.

China's longstanding wisdom of ecological culture is rooted in the enduring flow of Chinese civilization. Its steadfast commitment to the development of ecological civilization runs through the unrelenting exploration of modernization. Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization is a major achievement in integrating the cardinal principles of Marxism with China's practice of ecological advancement and with the country's finest traditional ecological culture. It scientifically addresses China's questions, the world's questions, the people's questions, and the questions of our times regarding the development of ecological civilization.

Since entering the new era, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, China has launched a magnificent green transformation, forging a path toward Chinese modernization characterized by the mutual reinforcement of development and protection as well as the harmonious coexistence of humankind and nature. In 2024, the proportion of good air quality days in cities at the prefecture level and above reached 87.2%; the proportion of surface water cross sections with excellent water quality rose to 90.4%, exceeding 90% for the first time...making China the country with the fastest improvement in atmospheric quality and the largest increase in green coverage in the world and having established the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system. These breakthroughs and "top rankings" vividly illustrate the historic, transformative, and comprehensive changes in the advancement of ecological civilization in the new era. Green development has become a distinctive hallmark of Chinese-style modernization.

At its Fourth Plenary Session, the 20th CPC Central Committee reviewed and adopted the Proposals of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, which incorporates "major new strides in advancing the Beautiful China Initiative" among the main economic and social development goals for the 15th Five-Year Plan period and dedicates a special chapter to "accelerate the green transition in all areas of economic and social development and build a Beautiful China", charting the course for

developing ecological civilization. The magnificent practices demonstrate the powerful force of truth of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization; the extraordinary journey is engraved in the historical coordinates of a major country's development. Guided by the dual carbon goals of carbon peak and carbon neutrality, China is synergistically moving ahead with carbon reduction, pollution control, ecological expansion, and increasing growth, thereby strengthening ecological security barriers and enhancing green development momentum. The Chinese path will become ever broader and the superiority of Chinese governance will be further manifested.

"A single flower does not make a spring make; when hundreds of flowers bloom, spring fills the garden when hundreds of flowers are in full bloom." Consistent with its longstanding commitment to the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity and its readiness to fulfill the mission of a major country and taking a responsible approach to the future of humanity, China persists in jointly pursuing a path toward global ecological civilization by promoting the establishment of an ecological system featuring respect for nature and green development, co-building a green Belt and Road, and deepening South-South cooperation on climate action. China has set a global benchmark for implementing agreements and honoring commitments, injecting significant certainty into global sustainable development and achieving a major transformation from a participant to a leader in global environmental governance. The global accolades in the ecological and environmental fields that China has continued to garner—such as the Champions of the Earth Award, World Biosphere Reserves, and International Wetland City—are living examples of the high international recognition accorded to China for its green development philosophy and practices.

"Fully respecting the development rights of developing countries", "narrowing rather than widening the North-South gap through transformation", "ensuring the free global flow of quality green products", "making green development truly benefit every corner of the world".... China's propositions and initiatives are being translated into tangible Chinese actions and solutions, providing strong momentum for advancing the construction of a fair, rational, and cooperative global environmental governance system. In the global tide of green development, Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization is destined to guide the ship of global sustainable development through fogs, forging ahead along the correct course of cleanliness, beauty, and prosperity.

Under the same blue sky, our shared future as humankind is interconnected. This report focuses on the far-reaching global significance of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, elucidates in depth how this thought draws from and transcends global sustainable development concepts, systematically reviews Chinese solutions, experiences, and initiatives that advance global sustainable development, and promotes co-construction, co-creation, co-governance, and sharing in a way that inspires countries worldwide to join hands in marching toward an eco-friendly modernization.

Chapter I

Significant Original Contributions of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization to Global Sustainable Development

At a time when human civilization stands at the crossroads of history, the inherent contradictions and unsustainability of the traditional development model are increasingly evident. Under the world's unprecedented changes spanning a century, ecological crises, development dilemmas, and political games are intricately intertwined, casting a big shadow over the sustainable development of the human race. At this critical juncture, the formation and development of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization have not only charted a blueprint for Chinese modernization that features harmonious coexistence between humankind and nature for China in the new era, but have also contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to the global sustainable development predicament. This thought represents a deep understanding of the laws of evolution of human civilization and the changing landscape of world development as well as a crystallization of profound thinkings about the way to promote global sustainable development, paints a brand-new vision about making strides toward an eco-friendly modernization, and will surely guide human society in striding confidently toward a clean, beautiful, and prosperous future.

1.1 Opening a New Horizon for Sustainable Development Theories

Global sustainable development is in urgent need of a new theory. From the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which for the first time awakened global environmental awareness, to the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development report entitled *Our Common Future* which defined, also for the first time, the concept of sustainable development; from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which elevated sustainable development to a global strategy, to the United Nations' establishment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015—the international community's exploration in connection with sustainable development has never ceased. Nonetheless, the grand narrative and vision of global sustainable development are confronted with severe, clear, and present challenges. In the span of nearly a decade, among the 17 SDGs and 169 specific targets, only 35% have progressed as scheduled, nearly half have advanced slowly, and 18% have regressed. Simultaneously, the contest over global environmental governance has intensified, the trend of politicizing environmental issues has strengthened, and a certain major country has been enthusiastically pursuing unilateralism

and protectionism, severely impacting international rules and order. How to move global sustainable development out of its predicament has become a question of our era that lies before all countries. Global sustainable development is in dire need of a theory that can fundamentally resolve the inherent unsustainability of industrial civilization.

Achieving the innovative development and creative reshaping of the sustainable development theory. Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, rooted in history, grounded in the present, oriented toward the globe, and focused on the future, reexamines the relationships between humankind and nature, protection and development, environment and people's livelihoods, and China and the world. It provides profound answers to the world's and the era's questions on sustainable development, having drawn on and transcended other global sustainable development theories. This thought emphasizes elevating the advancement of ecological civilization to a height parallel with "economic, political, cultural, and social construction", incorporating it into the overall national development deployment. This represents an expansion and refinement of the "three pillars" global framework for sustainable development—economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection. Not only does it enrich the meaning of sustainable development on the theoretical front, but it also demarcates the important position of advancing ecological civilization at the strategic level. This thought represents a break through the limitations of traditional sustainable development theories and elevates sustainable development from a technical issue in the environmental realm to a strategic choice that has a bearing on the future direction of human civilization. With its complete, systematic, and forward-looking nature, this thought reconstructs the theoretical system and practice path of global sustainable development. It not only serves as scientific guidance for China in achieving sustainable development, but also provides an entirely new option for countries and nations worldwide that desire accelerating development while maintaining their independence and achieving sustainable development.

A scientific ideological system guiding global sustainable development. Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization creatively proposes that a flourishing ecology leads to a flourishing civilization and that humanity and nature form a community of life, emphasizing respect for nature, adaptation to nature, and conservation of nature and the need to plan development from the perspective of harmonious coexistence between humankind and nature, thereby elevating humankind's understanding of its relationship with nature to a new height. Xi Jinping's thought sets out creatively that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, brings to light the rationale that protecting the ecological environment means protecting productive forces and improving the ecological environment means developing productive forces, thereby elevating to a new height humankind's understanding of the relationship between development and protection. This thought creatively proposes that mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, and deserts form a community of life, emphasizing the scientific application of a systemic approach in environmental governance to seek a new

governance pathway from a holistic perspective of systemic engineering, thereby elevating humankind's understanding of the methods and means to address the ecological crisis; it creatively proposes persistence in jointly pursuing global ecological advancement and jointly building a clean, beautiful, and sustainable world, thereby elevating countries' understanding of the relationship between themselves and the globe to a greater height.

1.2 Providing A New Pathway to Modernization in the New Era

The traditional model of modernization is trapped in an ecological dilemma. Modernization is a global issue. Against the backdrop of multi-polarization and economic globalization, the development trajectory of human society has seen twists and turns, and ups and downs; countries' exploration journeys for modernization are full of difficulties and hardships. Looking back, Western nations have pursued the industrialization-driven modernization since modern times, and emphasized capital accumulation and material wealth while neglecting nature's carrying capacity, creating immense material wealth but causing over-exploitation of natural resources and the escalation of environmental pollution. The deep-seated contradictions between humankind and nature have become ever more manifest and the traditional modernization models are trapped in an ecological sustainability dilemma. Traditional Western modernization theories, to some extent, simplistically equate modernization with industrialization, placing economic growth and ecological and environmental protection in opposition. The capital-centered development logic has revealed profound limitations in the course of industrial civilization. At present, the escalating geopolitical conflicts, diminishing global economic growth potential, rising operational costs, heightened fragility, and fragmented global supply chains severely constrain the capacity of countries to address ecological crises, hamper the global transition to green and low-carbon development and, in particular, pose formidable challenges for developing countries to balance the rigid demands for energy resources with ecological and environmental concerns amid their modernization endeavor.

Promoting humanity-nature harmony is an essential requirement of the Chinese approach to modernization. President Xi Jinping points out: "We cannot build a modern nation by following the path taken by the US and Europe".^① Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, which contains a deep reflection on the traditional Western model of modernization, resolutely spurns the Western path of modernization characterized by capital-centered development, materialistic expansion, and treatment after polluting. It is a creative transformation and innovative development of the Marxist idea on the humanity-nature relationship and the traditional Chinese

^① *Selected Works of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, Vol. 1, Central Literature Publishing House, 2025, p. 1.*

ecological wisdom of "following the laws of nature" and "harmony between nature and humans". It clarifies in a penetrating manner that humankind and nature are not in a binary and dichotomous state of isolation, but rather in an interdependent and interconnected community of all life. This thinking emphasizes that we should never grow the economy at the cost of resource depletion and environmental degradation, just as we should not drain a pond to get fish; nor should we sacrifice economic growth to protect the environment, which is like climbing a tree to catch fish. It points to the imperative to achieve development through protection, and protection through development. Thus, it solves the dilemma between development and protection, blazes a new path to modernization—one of harmonious coexistence between humankind and nature, shatters the misconception of "modernization equaling westernization", and helps establish the values of ecological civilization for modernization in the world. By underscoring the need for modernization not only to create greater material wealth and cultural-ethical accomplishment to meet the people's growing needs for a better life, but also to provide more high-quality ecological products to satisfy their increasing demands for a beautiful ecological environment, Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization breaks away from the traditional understanding of modernization as merely industrialization and urbanization, affording new contemporary meaning to modernization.

Green development is a defining feature of modernization in the new era. Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization emphasizes green development as a profound revolution in development philosophy and insists on green development as a full-dimensional revolutionary transformation of the means of production, ways of life, mode of thinking, and sense of values, showing a practical direction and pathway toward quality, sustainable modernization. Green development is to align development with nature, promote harmonious coexistence between humankind and nature, and maximize economic and social effects at minimal resource and environmental costs. In today's world, green has become the defining feature of China's high-quality development in the new era. In promoting green development, we must proactively follow the global trend of green development, strengthen the innovation of green and low-carbon technologies, accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, and improve the quality of socioeconomic development and the efficiency of resource and energy utilization. We must foster green transformation amid economic development and achieve greater development through green transformation so as to enable the people to enjoy more green benefits with inclusiveness and sustainability.

1.3 Contributing a New Solution to Global Environmental Governance

The "triple crises" have sounded an alarm for the survival and development of the human race. As of now, the Earth is grappling with the "triple crises" of climate

change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution. The State of the Global Climate 2024 published by the World Meteorological Organization shows that the past ten years (2015 – 2024) were the ten warmest years ever on record, with 2024 being the warmest year. In 2024 alone, there were at least 151 unprecedented extreme weather events. The Living Planet Report 2024 published by the World Wildlife Fund pointed out that over the previous 50 years (1970 – 2020), the average size of monitored wildlife populations had shrunk by 73%. Oceans also face severe threats from plastic pollution, acidification, and eutrophication. The multiplying effects of the triple crises are hindering the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and are damaging and destroying our planet. Global development has reached a defining moment.

Systemic thinking is a scientific methodology for advancing global environmental governance. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, ecological and environmental governance is a systemic project and thus requires an integrated consideration of the complexity of environmental factors, the integrity of ecosystems, the continuity of natural geographical units, and the sustainability of socioeconomic development.^① The fragmented governance system and monolithic means of governance are no longer adequate to effectively address multiple ecological and environmental challenges. It is imperative to adopt a holistic approach, implement integrated policies, and take multiple measures simultaneously. Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, consistent in applying systemic ideas and thinking, emphasizes that as ecology is a unified natural system and an organic chain of interdependence and interconnectedness, it is necessary to proceed from the totality and intrinsic interconnectedness of ecosystems to coordinate diverse natural elements such as mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, and deserts and to advance ecological conservation and restoration in accordance with the laws of nature, breaking through the inherent limitations of traditional governance concepts of "merely addressing symptoms rather than root causes" and offering a brand new line of thinking for handling complex ecological issues. Based on a deep grasp of the objective laws of ecological civilization development, this thinking stresses the coordination of parts and totality, the integration of addressing symptoms and root causes, and the combination of immediate and long-term goals. It stresses the need to coordinate readjustment of the industrial mix, pollution control, ecological conservation, and climate action; synergetic progress in carbon reduction, pollution reduction, ecological expansion, and economic growth; greater attention to integrated, systemic, and source-based governance; greater alignment of objectives, multi-pollutant control, departments, regions, and policies—all to bring about a fundamental shift in the thinking related to ecological and environmental governance.

Promoting the joint establishment of a fair and rational system of global environmental governance featuring win-win cooperation. Faced with the global

^① *Selected Works of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, Vol. 1, Central Literature Publishing House, 2025, p. 280.*

sustainable development dilemma, human society is in urgent need to supplement, rectify, and elevate current global governance concepts and rules to provide new solutions to the global governance conundrum. With a global vision and sound judgment of the times and situation, President Xi Jinping emphasizes common values as the foundation, maintains a vision of global governance featuring shared growth through consultation and collaboration, and promotes the joint construction of a fair and rational system of global environmental governance for win-win cooperation. It solves the problem of fragmented global governance by charting a course for global environmental governance and injecting strong momentum into reshaping the global ecological and environmental governance landscape.

1.4 Creating a New Form of Human Civilization

Ecological civilization represents a historical trend of human civilization development. Viewed from the evolutionary progress of human civilization, the human race has successively gone through three major stages: primitive civilization, agricultural civilization, and industrial civilization. Each distinct civilization played or is playing an irreplaceable role in advancing social productivity, enriching human thinking, and exploring modernization paths. Ecological civilization is a historical necessity that emerges at a certain stage of industrial development and is an essential part of human civilization in a new form. It both clearly shows our readiness to part with outdated industrial civilization and signifies our overall transcendence of it. President Xi Jinping points out: "The rise or fall of a civilization is closely tied to its relationship with nature".^① Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization organically integrates ecology with civilization and emphasizes the need to conduct human activities within the carrying capacity of the ecological environment so as to build a solid ecological foundation for the sustainable development of human civilization. The thinking has fundamentally resolved the inherent unsustainability of industrial civilization based on an accurate grasp of the historical patterns and trends of human civilization development. It provides an in-depth response to the demand of the era for a leap in the form of civilization and charts a new course for the sustainable development of human civilization.

Building together a clean, beautiful, and sustainable world. We are not alone on the Great Way as the whole world is one family. Building a global ecological civilization and fostering green, low-carbon, and sustainable development requires the concerted efforts of all countries. From a height of responsibility for human civilization, President Xi Jinping innovatively proposed concepts such as a Community with a Shared Future for Humanity Mankind^② and a Community of All Life on Earth^③, which

^① *Selected Works of Xi Jinping on Ecological Civilization*, Vol. 1, Central Literature Publishing House, 2025, p. 192.

^② *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, Vol. 5, Foreign Languages Press, 2025, p. 283.

^③ *Selected Works of Xi Jinping on Ecological Civilization*, Vol. 1, Central Literature Publishing House, 2025, p. 243.

display Chinese characteristics, strategic vision, and global values, enrich and advance human understandings of the laws governing human civilization, nature, and socioeconomic development, and mark a major theoretical innovation and thinking transformation in the history of human civilization. The development of ecological civilization bears on the common interests of all countries and the future development of the human race. The international community needs to work hand in hand, uphold the concept of the Community of All Life on Earth, continue to deepen international communication and cooperation in ecological and environmental protection, and address global environmental challenge. As China's international influence continues to grow, Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization is reshaping the global ecological and environmental governance landscape, offering theoretical and practical guidance from the East. This Chinese path belongs not only to China, but also to the world. As Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization benefits China, its glory is bound to enlighten the globe and guide human society toward a more sustainable future.

Chapter II

China's Practice Injects Strong Momentum into Global Sustainable Development

Under the scientific guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, China remains steadfast in pursuing the Chinese path to modernization characterized by the harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature while taking up the responsibility as a major country to remain an important participant, contributor, and leader in global ecological civilization building, injecting great certainty into global sustainable development.

2.1 Strengthening Practical Actions to Consolidate the Green Foundation for High-Quality Development

By properly managing its own affairs, China is making the greatest contribution to human society. By coordinating high-level environmental protection with high-quality development, it strives to build a green and low-carbon pattern of production and lifestyle, continuously shapes new drivers and advantages for development, and sustains the enhancement of its growth potential and stamina.

— Ever More Splendid National Landscape

The scale, complexity, and breadth of China's ecological and environmental governance are rarely seen in the world. Since the new era began, China has promoted ecological and environmental protection with unprecedented intensity and achieved remarkable accomplishments that attract world attention.

China has advanced in depth the battle of pollution prevention and control, turning the sky bluer, the mountains greener, the waters clearer, and the environment more beautiful across the vast Chinese land. China is the first developing country in the world to have comprehensively addressed PM_{2.5} pollution and the country with the fastest progress in air pollution control. As of the end of 2024, the average PM_{2.5} concentration in China had dropped to 29.3 micrograms/m³, nearly 56% lower than the figure of a decade earlier. Black and malodorous water bodies in cities at the prefectural level and above have been practically eliminated. In 2024, the proportion of surface water sections with excellent quality reached 90.4%, approaching the level of developed countries. Soil environmental risks have been brought under effective control and significant results have been achieved in rural environmental improvement and rectification. From the perspective of global environmental governance, as the world's largest developing country, China has markedly improved its ecological and environmental quality, and has provided the world with ecologically sound public goods.

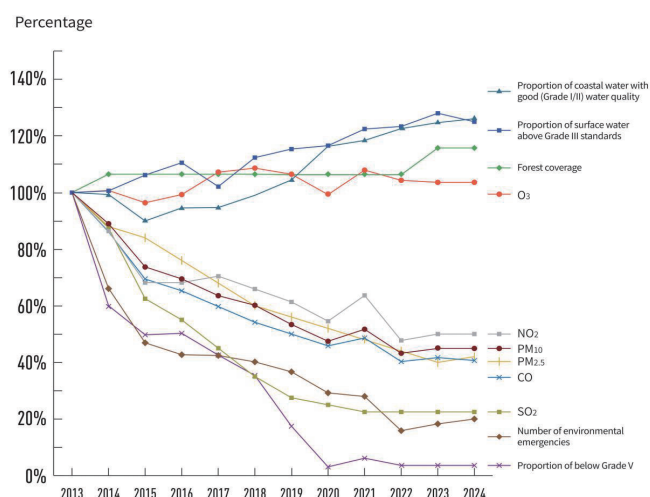


Figure 2- I Changes in China's Major Eco- Environmental Indicators since the Advent of the New Era (Compared with 2013)^①

Since China entered the new era, the country's barren mountains have been cloaked in green splendor and its deserts turned into oases. The Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program has been advancing steadily as a pioneer of large-scale sandstorm control and ecological improvement in the world. As of the end of 2024, under the Three-North Program, 480 million mu (32 million hectares) of afforested land had been completed and maintained cumulatively, 500 million mu (33.3 million hectares) of desertified land had been treated, and 1.28 billion mu (85.3 million hectares) of degraded grassland rehabilitated. Aiming to build the world's largest national park system, China has established its first five national parks and integrated and optimized over 9,000 natural reserves. Today, China leads the world in forest resource growth, with over 25% of forest coverage, contributing to one quarter of the world's new green area. It is the first country in the world to have achieved "zero net growth" in land degradation and "dual reductions" in both desertified and sandy land, successfully forging a path of sand prevention and control with Chinese characteristics. All this makes China the largest contributor to global greening and an international model in desertification control.

China's green development philosophy and practice are highly recognized by the international community. Practical cases abound, such as the Saihanba Forest Farm in Hebei Province, Chongming District of Shanghai Municipality, and Zhejiang's "Blue Circle" marine plastic waste management model, which have been honored with the title of International Wetland City, the Land for Life Award, the United Nations Champions of the Earth award.... During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has received a string of global accolades in fields such as desertification control, wetland

^① Data from Report on the State of the Ecology and Environment in China

conservation, and biodiversity protection.

Box 2– 1: Shenzhen International Mangrove Center Promotes Global Wetland Joint Conservation

At the opening ceremony of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in November 2022, President Xi Jinping proposed the establishment of an International Mangrove Center in Shenzhen to promote global concerted action for mangrove conservation and continuously enhance the quality and stability of mangrove ecosystems. On November 6, 2024, representatives from the first 18 member states jointly signed the agreement and unveiled the plaque of the International Mangrove Centre in Shenzhen, marking the official launch of the world's first intergovernmental international organization dedicated to mangrove conservation and restoration.

In 2025, serving as an important platform and window for joint conservation and rational use of mangroves and for exchange and international cooperation on mangroves, the International Mangrove Centre successively held two international training workshops with the participation of government officials from six countries including China, Cambodia, and Madagascar, contributing actively to deepening exchanges and cooperation with various parties and promoting global concerted action for mangrove conservation. At the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in July 2025, the Guangdong Neilingding Futian National Nature Reserve was given the global Star Wetland Centre Award and the Shenzhen Bay Park Nature Education Center was among the second group to be honored with the world's second batch of Wetland Education Centre Star Award.

—Activating Development Momentum Through Green Transition

Taking resolute strides in the green transition of the energy structure. Guided by the carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals, China has built the world's largest clean power supply system. In 2024, China's installed capacity of wind and solar power exceeded 1.4 billion kilowatts, enabling the country to achieve the 2030 target ahead of schedule; renewable energy accounted for 86% of the country's new installed power generation capacity, representing over half of the global total. China has established the world's largest carbon emission rights trading market, which has been operating steadily. Additionally, it has launched a national voluntary greenhouse gas emission reduction trading market. In March 2025, the steel, cement, and aluminum smelting industries were incorporated into carbon market management. The expanded carbon market now covers over 60% of the country's carbon emissions. In 2024, China's energy consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP fell by 3.8% compared with that of the previous year and carbon dioxide emissions per 10,000 yuan of GDP dropped by 3.4% year-on-year.... Hans-Josef

Fell, President of the German think tank Energy Watch Group, believes that the global green and low-carbon transition has become an irreversible trend of the times and that China is undoubtedly a key leader in this process.

Box 2– 2: Huzhou Advances High– Level Development of International Cooperation Demonstration Zone for Ecological Civilization

In December 2022, during the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Montreal, Canada, Huzhou City of Zhejiang Province, China, was officially recognized as an International Cooperation Demonstration Zone for Ecological Civilization at the “Biodiversity Conservation: Local Action in Focus” China–Quebec Cooperation Forum. This made it the first city in the world to receive this title. In recent years, Huzhou has seized this opportunity by systematically carrying out multi–level and wide–ranging international exchanges. It has established liaison mechanisms with several international organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization. The city has also established friendly relations with 41 cities worldwide and successfully attracted several globally influential institutional platforms to settle there, including the first UN Secretariat agency directly under its authority in China—the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, and the China–Europe Comprehensive Monitoring, Research and Demonstration Base for Climate and Biodiversity. Concurrently, Huzhou has successfully organized 31 trainings for other countries in workshops such as those under the Sharing Development Experience to Advance the Global Development Initiative, attracting over 1,000 trainees from many countries. It also hosted 63 government officials from 22 countries along the Belt and Road for field research in Huzhou. These efforts have successfully transformed local achievements in ecological progress into public goods of global significance, contributing a city–level example for China’s participation in global environmental governance.

Industrial Development "Shifting Toward Innovation and Green Growth". In 2024, the value-added of China's primary, secondary, and tertiary industries accounted for 6.8%, 36.5%, and 56.7% of its GDP respectively. China has built the world's largest clean steel production system. By promoting new technologies such as clean energy substitution and short-process electric furnace steel-making, the energy consumption and pollutant emissions of the steel industry have been drastically reduced. By the end of 2024, China had cumulatively established 451 green design enterprises, developed and promoted over 40,000 green products, and cultivated 6,430 national green factories and 491 green industrial parks. The output value of the national green factories exceeded 20% of the national total. China has established the world's largest

and most complete new energy industrial chain. Green and low-carbon industries such as new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic and wind power have developed rapidly, with their market scales continuing to maintain global leading positions. A research report by the international organization Carbon Brief points out that the role of clean technology in China's economy is ever-growing, particularly the clean energy sector represented by new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, photovoltaic products and wind energy, whose contribution to GDP growth has kept increasing. The green industry has steadily become a main driver of China's economic growth.

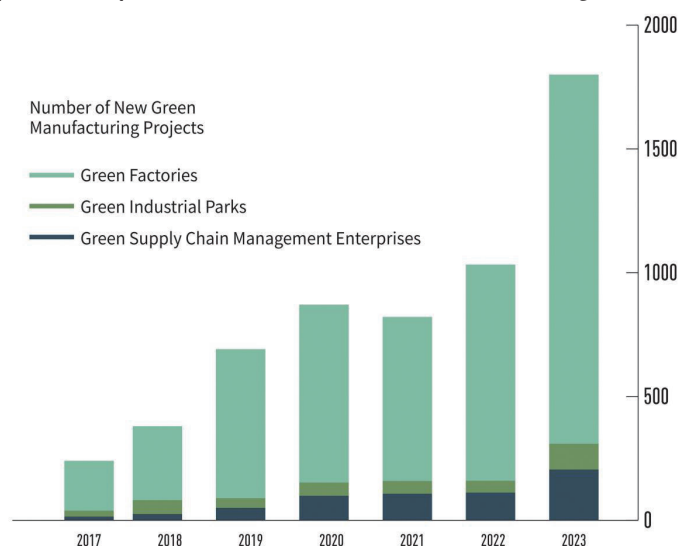


Figure 2- 2 Number of Newly Added Green Manufacturing Projects in China (2017-2023)^①

Clean transportation has developed in depth. China has actively pushed ahead with readjustment of its transportation structure for optimization, with notable results achieved in shifting bulk cargo transport from road to rail and waterways. By 2024, China's rail and waterway freight volumes had increased by 5.28 billion tons over those of 2016, with their combined share rising by 3.8 percentage points. This marked the eighth consecutive year of simultaneous growth in rail and waterway freight. In the first half of 2025, the proportion of clean transportation in major air pollution prevention and control regions reached 78%. China has intensified efforts to tackle diesel truck pollution by implementing the National VI emission standard for motor vehicles and gasoline/diesel nationwide. The emission control levels of new fuel-powered vehicles and fuel quality have significantly improved, reaching world-leading standards. China vigorously promotes the "phasing out the old and incentivizing the new" initiative for

^① Data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)

motor vehicles, having cumulatively phased out nearly 50 million high-emission vehicles. As of the end of 2024, the proportion of vehicles in stock meeting the National V emission standard or higher had increased to 65%; the stock of new energy vehicles had grown nearly 6.5 times compared with the number at the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period, with production and sales ranking first globally for years in a row. Among these, the stock of new energy heavy-duty trucks exceeded 140,000 units, maintaining a commanding lead worldwide.

Green and Low-Carbon Products Have Become a New Driver of Foreign Trade. In recent years, China's exports of green and low-carbon products have performed remarkably as it has supplied approximately 60% of the world's wind power equipment and 70% of its PV module equipment. In the first three quarters of 2025, the growth rate of wind turbine generator sets and components exceeded 30%; the photovoltaic product export exceeded 200 billion yuan for four years in a row; in 2024, the number of exported new energy vehicles surpassed the 2 million mark for the first time.... During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's exported wind and solar power products have cumulatively helped other countries reduce carbon emissions by approximately 4.1 billion tons. By expanding green trade and enriching the global supply of green and low-carbon products and services, China strives to fill the "green gap" by injecting more "green positive energy" into global environmental and climate governance. An article carried on the New York Times website notes that China's "various green energy technologies are rising along a startling exponential curve" and "China has completely rewritten the global green transition story". In the view of Nasser Bouchiba, President of the Africa-China Cooperation Association for Development in Morocco, what China brings to the world is not only advanced technology, but the hope for global sustainable development as well.

2.2 Practicing Multilateralism and Promoting the Improvement of the Global Environmental Governance System

Multilateralism is the fundamental route of global governance. China firmly upholds multilateralism and the international system with the United Nations at its core. It has taken concrete actions to promote the establishment of a fair, reasonable, and cooperative global environmental governance architecture for win-win results.

—Honoring Commitments: Setting a Benchmark for Implementing International Agreements on the Environment

China is a country of pragmatic action in implementing international environmental conventions. Having ratified and/or signed over 50 multilateral environmental conventions and/or protocols, China has been active in advancing the processes related to international conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) —demonstrating increasingly significant leadership in promoting the global sustainable development process.

In its active participation in global climate action, China has made undeniable contributions to addressing global climate change, as is the role of the Chinese people. China fully and effectively implements the UNFCCC and has actively participated in the conclusion, signing, entry into force, and implementation of the Paris Agreement, and is striving to achieve carbon peaking before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060. At a critical juncture when global climate governance faced headwinds, President Xi Jinping declared to the world that no matter how the international situation may change, China's actions in actively responding to climate change will not slow down, its efforts to promote international cooperation will not diminish, and its practice of building a community with a shared future for humanitykind will not cease. This demonstrated China's strong resolve to actively address climate change and dispelled the gloom that overshadows the global climate governance process. In important multilateral settings such as the UN climate change conferences, China worked with the parties to facilitate monumental outcomes such as the UAE Consensus and the Baku Climate Unity (BaCU) Pact, boosting confidence and resolve for global climate governance. In September 2025, President Xi Jinping delivered a recorded video speech at the UN Climate Summit, announcing China's new nationally determined contribution (NDCs) to the world. This target, formulated in alignment with the requirements of the Paris Agreement and representing China's lofty aspiration, further demonstrates China's sense of responsibility as a major country in active response to climate change.

Drawing a New Blueprint for Global Biodiversity Governance. China was among the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is the largest contributor to the core budget of CBD and its protocols, providing strong support for the Convention's operation and implementation. China has conscientiously implemented the Aichi Targets, with the overall implementation of its biodiversity conservation targets exceeding the global average. As the Presidency of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) and thanks to the strong support and joint efforts of the international community, China successfully facilitated the adoption of the historic, ambitious, and pragmatically balanced Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. China took the lead by contributing 1.5 billion RMB to establish the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (abbreviated as "the Kunming-Montreal Framework" or GBF) specifically dedicated to supporting conservation actions in developing countries. China also facilitated setting the goal to effectively conserve at least 30% of the world's terrestrial and marine areas by 2030, steering global biodiversity onto a path of recovery for the benefit of humankind and its future generations. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, former Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat, urged countries to "follow and emulate this good example". China spearheaded the implementation initiative for the Kunming-Montreal Framework which had enthusiastic responses from all parties. This initiative was designed to establish a

platform for exchange and cooperation with financing input by all parties and further consolidate the political will of all stakeholders to implement KMF in a joint push for effective, inclusive, and sustainable global biodiversity conservation actions.

Box 2– 3: China Collaborates with Neighboring Countries to Build Trans-boundary Natural Reserves and Ecological Corridors

Along the China– Russia border, a multitude of wildlife, including wild Siberian tigers, roam and forage freely across the two countries daily. Real-time footage from the “space – air – ground integrated monitoring system” built in Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park reveals that these animals show a distinct preference for “cross–border movements” . Their habitats have been merged to form a single, complete ecological region. In the China– Laos transboundary biodiversity joint reserve, this 200,000–hectare ecological haven provides effective protection for rare and endangered species like the Asian elephant and their habitats. Furthermore, by jointly advancing projects with ASEAN countries, such as the Cooperation Plan for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation and the Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), China has achieved substantial outcomes in transboundary biodiversity conservation.

Beyond this, Chinese wisdom, Chinese approaches, and Chinese strength are playing an increasingly important role on multilateral platforms for global environmental and climate governance. China firmly fulfills its obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, deeply engages in global ozone layer protection initiatives, and continuously advances the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). It has achieved multiple "firsts": implementing the first national implementation plan for compliance with the Montreal Protocol among developing countries, which has been translated into the other five official UN languages besides Chinese; formulating the world's first sectoral plan and establishing a comprehensive sector-wide phase-out mechanism; and becoming the first developing country to phase out the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons ahead of the schedule set by the Montreal Protocol. To date, China has phased out approximately 628,000 metric tons of ozone-depleting substances, accounting for over half of the total phase-out in developing countries. This effort has cumulatively avoided 2.6 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions, delivering immense benefits for climate change mitigation. Meanwhile, China has advanced high-level environmental protection and high-quality development in tandem, supporting the industry's green and low-carbon transition while encouraging independent innovation. The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics pioneered the use of clean, low-carbon transcritical CO₂ direct cooling ice-making technology, setting a global precedent for achieving a carbon-neutral Winter Games. China firmly supports the UN's cause in combating

desertification, having achieved ahead of schedule the "land degradation neutrality" target under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It successfully hosted the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to UNCCD, yielding fruitful outcomes. The UNCCD Secretariat has twice awarded China the Outstanding Contribution Award for Combating Desertification, praising it with the words: "The world looks to China for desertification control." In negotiations on issues like addressing global plastic pollution, China is committed to building bridges and narrowing differences by actively proposing constructive solutions and promoting the development of international rules that accommodate the concerns of all parties.

—Win-Win Cooperation: Promoting Regional Cooperation Across the Board

Guided by head-of-state diplomacy and cooperation through intergovernmental mechanisms, supported by pragmatic cooperation at regional and local levels, and facilitated by cooperation among think tanks, enterprises, and other entities, China has been advancing international cooperation in ecological and environmental governance toward higher levels, deeper dimensions, and broader fields. China has established comprehensive cooperation models with regions such as Africa, Central Asia, and Europe, creating multi-level, multi-platform, and multi-actor channels for green development exchanges.

China has actively engaged in discussions on green development on major international occasions such as the G20, BRICS, APEC, and UN conferences and meetings, where it has proactively shared its practices and solutions. For instance, the green development agenda was incorporated into the Ten Major Cooperation Plans, Eight Major Initiatives, and Nine Programs of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC); the outcome list of the 2025 China-Central Asia Summit reflects all parties' support for establishing a China-Central Asia energy development partnership and founding the China-Central Asia Cooperation Center for Desertification Prevention and Control; in 2021, the China-EU Environmental Policy Research Center was established to build a broader platform for international think-tank cooperation and exchange; a trilateral policy dialogue mechanism on biodiversity was created with Japan and the Republic of Korea. Additionally, China's "Initiative on International Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework for Digital Economy and Green Development" has received positive responses from more than 50 economies, becoming a widely welcomed public good.

2.3 Upholding Fairness and Inclusiveness to Promote Global Sharing of Green Development Achievements

"With people joining forces, nothing is too heavy to be lifted." China is convinced that the future of green development is one with shared benefits for all. While advancing its own ecological civilization, guided by the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity, China, always having at heart the needs of other developing

countries, offers an inclusive and accessible pathway and solutions for the Global South to move toward eco-friendly modernization.

China offers the Global South feasible and accessible governance solutions. It has partnered with Thailand on the "Bangkok Clean Air" project and with Mongolia on the "Upgrading Ger Districts in Ulaanbaatar Through Solar Photovoltaic System Implementation" project, improving the quality of life and the ecological well-being of residents. Experts from countries around Africa's Lake Victoria Basin, having studied China's method for Poyang Lake governance, have introduced high-value-added agro-technologies to East Africa and enhanced green development through the experience of ecological industrialization. The successful practice and experience of China's "Three-North Shelterbelt Forest" Program have been applied to the construction of Africa's "Great Green Wall" along the southern edge of the Sahara Desert, leading to the establishment of a key demonstration project in Mauritania—the China-Africa Green Technology Park. China's experience, after localized adaptation, has been successfully implemented in fragile regions globally. Mauritania's Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Messouda Baham Mohamed Laghdaf stated that China's success "has strengthened our confidence in pursuing a green development path".

Box 2-4: China's "African Light Belt" Aid Project Helps 50,000 African Households with Access to Electricity

The "African Light Belt", a China-Africa climate action cooperation project announced by China at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in September 2023, serves as a core measure for implementing the Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation on Combating Climate Change. Centering on Africa's needs for cooperation in photovoltaic (PV) resources and clean energy development, the project is designed to build a China-Africa demonstration belt for the use of solar resources in Central Africa to support African countries in climate action and green, low-carbon development through cooperation in developing climate-friendly "PV+" initiatives, promotion of exchanges and dialogue on climate and PV development, strategic planning and enabling-policy studies on PV, implementation-oriented capacity-building, and other initiatives. Through distributive PV solutions, the project has provided lighting to 50,000 previously off-grid households, enabling residents in remote areas to access stable and clean electricity for the first time. Since its announcement, the initiative has facilitated project consultations with 10 countries, including Chad, Mali, and Burundi. It has also supported capacity-building for related people in African countries with "African Light Belt" training courses under South-South cooperation on climate change. As people in Kenya said in praise, "It is our Chinese friends who have brought light and hope to our land." This sentiment is a high recognition of China as an "empowering major country" in the field of green development.

Deepening pragmatic South-South cooperation and uniting the Global South in synergy for green development. China is actively implementing the "10-100-1000" project for South-South cooperation on climate action and stepping up support, to the best of its ability, for countries that are severely and adversely impacted by climate change, including the least developed countries, small island developing states, and African countries. From the Sherek Wind Power Project in Kazakhstan to the Redstone Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant in South Africa, from climate remote sensing satellites for Africa and energy-saving lamps for small island countries to low-carbon demonstration zones in Southeast Asia.... As of October 2025, China had signed 55 South-South Cooperation Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on climate change response with 43 other developing countries, providing and mobilizing 177 billion yuan in project funding to support other developing countries in their climate change responses. China has also set up a Special Fund for China-Africa Green Industrial Chain, which has completed approval procedures for seven projects involving an investment of 6.2 billion yuan. UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell specifically emphasized that China demonstrated "the responsibility of a major country" through the development of new-quality productive forces and South-South cooperation, describing its achievements in renewable energy investment as "eye-catching". These pragmatic collaborations have not only enhanced the climate resilience of the Global South, but also provided effective guarantees for improving people's livelihoods.

Box 2-5: Transformation of Bor, Serbia, into a Green Mining City

The City of Bor was born of mining, but nearly died prematurely because of it. In recent years, along with the advancement of the BRI, Chinese enterprise investment has ushered its mining and operations in the era and, consequently, breathed new life into the city. In 2018, China's Zijin Mining Group signed an agreement with the Serbian government to acquire 63% of the shares of the Bor Copper Complex for \$350 million to drive forward its green transformation. Within just six months after taking over, the Chinese enterprise succeeded in turning losses into profits. Committed to building a "garden mine", Zijin Bor Copper Complex has vigorously made greening and land reclamation efforts. By now, it has completed the greening of all tailings storage facilities, open-pit slopes, and sections of abandoned waste rock dumps. As of 2024, the project's output value accounted for nearly 3.5% of Serbia's GDP. Furthermore, the company invested \$300 million to upgrade the old smelter. With the new desulfurization and flue gas treatment systems now in operation, sulfur dioxide emissions have fallen by over 90% and the concentration of particulate emissions meets both EU and Serbian environmental standards. The flue gas pollution that long plagued the City of Bor has thus definitely become a thing of the past.

The green BRI is advancing steadily with far-reaching impact through an ever-expanding cooperation network. China has proposed a series of green action initiatives, making green development a defining feature of the joint pursuit of the BRI. In partnership with 31 countries, China launched the "Belt and Road" green development partnership initiative and established the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) which has now 51 institutional members while the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations (ANSO), also designed for BRI has 78 members. China has organized over 300 capacity-building training sessions in the climate field for more than 120 developing countries, with cumulative participation exceeding 10,000 person-times. From the "PV sea" stretching across the Omani desert to the ultra-high voltage transmission lines traversing the Brazilian tropical rainforest, China's green energy project cooperation with countries participating in BRI is turning green energy from a luxury good into a daily necessity.

Box 2-6: China Undertakes Construction of Kenya's Thwake Dam Project

The confluence of Kenya's Athi River and Tsavo River, located in a semi-arid area, is home to local residents who mainly rely on three methods for water access: drawing water from the rivers, collecting rainwater in water tanks during the rainy season, and purchasing water from mobile water trucks operated by water companies. These methods are time-consuming, labor-intensive, and expensive, making the shortage of water for both daily life and irrigation a major obstacle to local socio-economic development. The Thwake Dam project is Kenya's largest single integrated water conservancy hub complex under construction, designed for water supply, irrigation, and power generation. It is a flagship project under Kenya's Vision 2030 development program and its "Big Four" Agenda. The project, undertaken by China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), will have a water storage capacity of 688 million cubic meters. Once completed, it will significantly alleviate the water and irrigation problems for over 1.3 million people in Konza Technopolis and the counties of Makueni, Kitui, and Machakos. It will not only ensure a stable water supply for residents downstream, but also provide a reliable source of water for agricultural irrigation, help improve soil cultivation conditions, and mitigate food shortages.

Chapter III

China's Wisdom Inspiring the Future of Global Sustainable Development

As the ecological crisis emerges as a formidable challenge that threatens human survival and development, the task of building a clean, beautiful, and sustainable home has become all the more urgent. Through solid green actions, China has demonstrated its sense of responsibility and vision of a major country; through continuous innovation and exploration, it has formed valuable experience for jointly building a global ecological civilization; through open international cooperation, it strives to narrow the global ecological governance deficit; through initiatives proposed with sincerity, it guides global sustainable development onto a new journey. Standing at a new historical starting point, China will continue to uphold the principles of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation. With pragmatic actions, it will continue to advance global sustainable development and join hands with all other countries to achieve eco-friendly modernization.

3.1 Contributing China's Experience to Global Sustainable Development

Since the advent of the new era, guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization, China's green development has been driven by national will, secured by institutional reform, powered by scientific and technological innovation, and oriented toward win-win cooperation. Together, these efforts have formed a systematic, complete, science-based, and effective set of Chinese experience for others to draw on.

—Integrating the Concept of Ecological Civilization into Macro-Socioeconomic Development Strategies Through National Will

Facing the basic national conditions of a large population with limited resources and environmental carrying capacity, China has leveraged its strong national will to deeply integrate the concept of ecological civilization into its national development strategy and firmly embedded it into the DNA of Chinese modernization. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has written the concept of ecological civilization into the Party's Constitution and the country's Constitution. This move elevated the concept to a program of action for the entire Party and the whole country and helped achieve a high degree of unity among the political propositions of the Communist Party of China, the will of the state, and the aspirations of the Chinese people. Harnessing the guiding role of its medium- and long-term planning system in economic and social development, China has integrated ecological progress into the overall framework of its Five-Year Plans. Through effective goal-setting, task breakdown, and dynamic evaluation, it ensures the concrete implementation of its sustainable development

strategy. Identifying "Beautiful China" as a key objective for building a modern socialist country in all respects, China has constructed a multi-layered promotion system guided by national strategy, explored through local practices, and supported by broad public participation. This system promotes the deep integration of the ecological civilization concept into all stages and aspects of economic and social development. The creative introduction of this series of macro-strategies has left a distinct ecological foundation for Chinese modernization, bringing about a green shift in the top-level logic of China's economic and social development.

—Fortifying the Institutional Foundation and Guarantee for Sustainable Development Through Governance-System Reform

China's historic achievements in building an ecological civilization are inseparable from its institutional reform and innovation. Since the beginning of the new era, China's reform of the ecological civilization system has transitioned from groundwork and framework laying to comprehensive advancement and momentum building, and onward to systematic integration and coordinated efficiency. The environmental governance system has been continuously expanded and refined in step with the real demands of sustainable development. It has progressed from establishing a foundational institutional framework featuring "strict prevention at the source of pollution, strict regulation over operations, compensation for environmental damage, and accountability for those responsible", to constructing an ecological civilization system characterized by "clear property rights, diverse participants, equal emphasis on incentives and constraints, and systemic completeness", and further to building a modern environmental governance system with "government leadership, corporate responsibility, and joint participation from social organizations and the public". The creative design of a series of rules and regulations—such as the central environmental protection inspection system, the ecological conservation redlines, and performance evaluations for leading officials on ecological civilization advancement—has given a further push to the policy planning for sustainable development all the way to on-the-ground execution. The development of China's ecological and environmental governance system has demonstrated clear characteristics of expanding from specific points to broad coverage, from superficial to deep levels, and from decentralized to centralized approaches. With its foundational institutional framework largely in place and significant headway made in key regulations, this system has effectively propelled the in-depth advancement of the fight for pollution prevention and control, with solid strides made toward green, low-carbon, and high-quality development, becoming a solid guarantee for the steady and far-reaching progress of China's sustainable development. It also offers valuable experience and a frame of reference for other countries in advancing their sustainable development.

—Enhancing the Endogenous Momentum for Sustainable Development Through Scientific and Technological Innovation

To overcome development bottlenecks and address deep-seated problems, innovation

remains the ultimate path forward while science and technology provide the key. This is particularly so in sustainable development. Since China entered the new era, scientific and technological innovation, as a key driver of green, low-carbon, and high-quality development, has been playing an increasingly important role as a strategic pillar underpinning China's sustainable development. China has carried out a series of scientific and technological innovations in major areas such as air, water, soil, ecology, climate change, and emerging pollutants, establishing an integrated innovation framework that covers the entire chain from basic research and technological breakthroughs to demonstration and extensive application. These efforts provide a strong technological backing for addressing the "triple crises".

With the support of big data, artificial intelligence, and remote sensing technologies, China's ecological and environmental governance has transitioned from experience-based management to science-based decision-making, leading to a marked improvement in governance effectiveness. Driven by scientific and technological innovation, Chinese industries have achieved a structural quantum leap to greater innovation and sustainability. China's practice shows that it is essential to unswervingly empower the comprehensive green transformation of the economy and society through innovation, accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, and continue to foster a new landscape of coordinated progress in economic growth, resource conservation, and environmental protection. Through green development, China seeks to realize harmony between humankind and nature; through scientific and technological innovation, it finds the endogenous momentum needed to sustain growth.

—Pooling Global Strength for Sustainable Development with a Shared Vision for Humanity

China's participation in global sustainable development has borne out a simple truth: when the world prospers, China thrives; when China fares well, the world becomes a better place. All countries have an indispensable role in advancing global sustainable development. China is committed to jointly building a global path toward ecological civilization—a commitment that reflects both the inherent need to advance its own sustainable development and China's assumed responsibility as a major country and its vision for a shared future for humanity. Since the beginning of the new era, President Xi Jinping has successively put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, which together articulate in a systematic manner China's vision for building a clean and beautiful world, clearly reflect China's profound love for the world, and contribute to forging a broad consensus on building a community with a shared future for humanity.

China's practice shows that win-win cooperation is not only the path toward global sustainable development but, more importantly, the right choice for all countries to achieve their own sustainability. On the journey toward eco-friendly modernization, only by persisting in consultation and joint governance, remaining action-oriented, and

working in synergy to form a new multilateral governance order characterized by fairness, shared responsibility, and inclusiveness can countries ensure that they benefit from global cooperation, share in the dividends brought by the global flows of green and innovative elements, and inject lasting vitality into their pursuit of sustainability.

3.2 China's Initiatives for Building a Clean, Beautiful, and Sustainable World

At a time when global cooperation on sustainable development is mired in difficulties, China keeps a global vision, bearing in mind the larger picture, shouldering responsibilities for the greater good, and advancing the right and just cause. With this commitment, it has put forward the Chinese initiatives for building a clean, beautiful, and sustainable world, seeking to build global consensus, promote collective action, and strengthen international cooperation.

—Upholding Sovereign Equality and Increasing the Representation and Voice of Developing Countries

All countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, must have their sovereignty and dignity respected and their internal affairs free from interference. Each and every country has the right to choose its own social system and development path and is entitled to equal participation, decision-making, and benefit-sharing in the global sustainable development process.

Today, unilateralism and protectionism are running rampant while the countercurrents of hegemonism and power politics are resurging. Although emerging markets and developing countries are rising collectively, they lack representation and voice in the global governance system. It is difficult to have their interests and concerns fully reflected and embodied in the current architecture of global environmental governance.

Only by promoting equality in rights, opportunities, and rules among all countries can we strengthen the fairness and legitimacy of global ecological governance, build consensus, and pool synergy for global governance for win-win cooperation and common development. Countries need to move beyond the constraints of traditional interests and limited perspectives, and work together to build a fair, equitable, and win-win system of global environmental governance aimed at creating a community of life on Earth.

—Advocating People First and Responding to the Need for the Ecological Well-Being of All Peoples

At the heart of promoting global sustainable development lies not only the question of how the world is governed but, more importantly, for whom it is governed. A sound ecological environment is the fairest public good. The ultimate goal of global environmental governance is not to serve the interests of any single country or group, but to meet the shared aspiration of the entire human race for a beautiful state of

ecological well-being.

Amid the global waves of green and low- carbon transition, some developed countries, relying on their long- established technological lead, have imposed technological blockades and barriers on developing countries. Such practices have widened the global divide in green development, making it very difficult for countries and regions with extremely fragile ecosystems and in greater need of financial and technological support to obtain the due support and assistance.

All countries should act with a sense of responsibility toward future generations and embrace an inclusive vision of global sustainable development. They should build more bridges for cooperation instead of erecting "small yards with high fences", dismantle all sorts of barriers to green development, and increase alignment with green development strategies. Efforts should be made to promote the free flow of high- quality green technologies and products so that new technologies, industries, and business models can empower developing countries to achieve sustainable development. Countries should integrate themselves into the global trend of green development, better meet people's ecological needs, and safeguard their ecological rights and interests.

—Complying with International Rule of Law and Upholding Multilateralism Based on Consultation, Contribution, and Shared Benefits

International law and international rules are the common yardsticks for global governance; promoting good governance through sound laws is a shared responsibility of humankind as a whole. The purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter are universally recognized as the fundamental guidelines for international relations and must be safeguarded unswervingly.

As of now, some developed countries have yet to honor their climate- finance commitments to developing nations. An individual developed country has rolled back its climate policies and reneged on its pledges, drastically cutting budget allocations and research programs related to climate and the environment. Such abnormal practices have caused deep concerns in the international community over the perceived "ineffectiveness" of the United Nations, the "failure" of international law, and the "dysfunctioning" of multilateralism.

In a world marked by intertwined changes and turbulence, all countries need to firmly safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order based on international law. They should uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, keep the approach of consultation, contribution, and shared benefits, and promote a more inclusive model of global governance, more effective multilateral cooperation mechanisms, and more proactive regional cooperative actions so as to build a fair, just, equitable, and science- based system of global environmental governance.

—Focusing on Action to Turn Ambitious Goals into Effective Outcomes

The vitality of global governance comes from practice—the key rests on action and the ultimate measure is found in results. All countries should do their utmost and, on

the basis of coordinating economic development, social well-being, and a just energy transition, stay strategically focused, plan systematically, and push for the effective global implementation of the SDGs.

At this moment, the global system of environmental governance and cooperation mechanisms is highly fragmented. There is a huge ambition deficit between the collective commitments of countries and the requirements of science-based governance, and an implementation gap due to the failure of many NDCs to be effectively delivered.... Global environmental governance faces numerous difficulties and challenges, such as ineffectiveness, inadequate coordination, and often weak constraints.

It is better to rise to act than to talk while seated. All countries should adopt coherent policy frameworks and pragmatic measures to turn work goals into visible and tangible outcomes. Developed countries are duty-bound to demonstrate greater ambition and take stronger action by providing developing countries with support in finance, technology, capacity building, etc., thereby helping them enhance their capacity and resilience in environmental governance. Developing countries should strive for self-reliance and self-improvement and contribute the best they can to global sustainable development.

3.3 Joining Hands Toward Eco-Friendly Modernization

As the hands of the history clock point to a pivotal moment in the transformation of human civilization, China, with science-based ideas and pragmatic initiatives, has written vivid footnotes to global sustainable development. Faced with the challenges posed by the global ecological crisis, no country can remain aloof singlehandedly. Only by breaking down barriers, opening the door to cooperation, and working in concert can we jointly safeguard the beautiful home of humankind.

At present, global sustainable development is still confronted with multiple challenges, including the weakening of consensus, a lack of coordination, and a widening gap between the North and the South. China's green and low-carbon transition in economic and social development is also under considerable pressure. Yet, China remains unchanged in its determination to advance its ecological civilization, in its strategy to promote green and low-carbon transition, and in its efforts to move win-win cooperation forward.

Perseverance leads to success for those with the will. The 15th Five-Year Plan period will be a crucial five-year phase that bridges the past and future in essentially achieving the goal of building a Beautiful China. Guided by the carbon emissions peaking and carbon neutrality goals, China will promote coordinated progress in reducing carbon emissions, cutting pollution, expanding green capacity, and fostering growth. It will strengthen the ecological security barrier, enhance the driving force for green development, and make new and significant strides in building a Beautiful China. We will continue to further the pollution prevention and control efforts and optimize

ecosystems, and persist in the integrated protection and systematic management of mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, and deserts. We will coordinate the advancement of major projects for the protection and restoration of key ecosystems. We will accelerate the development of a new energy system, focus on building a new power system, and build an energy powerhouse. We will actively and prudently advance and achieve carbon peaking, and accelerate the formation of green production patterns and lifestyles. On the new journey toward modernization featuring harmony between humans and nature, China's continuous exploration and practice in building an ecological civilization will surely provide both stability and momentum for global sustainable development and the world's path toward modernization.

The going may be tough when one walks alone, but it gets easier when people march together. When "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" becomes a common value denominator that transcends languages, systems, and civilizations, when more developing countries no longer have to choose between feeding their people and protecting the environment, when green finance, digital technology, and eco-industries take root and flourish across the Global South, humankind will, with the brush of green development, paint a new scroll of eco-friendly modernization. By then, a clean, beautiful, and sustainable world will no longer be a distant fine vision, but the daily life reality we bequeath our future generations. By then, the story of China and the story of humankind will converge under the same blue sky into a long ode to forever sustainable development, resonating across the seas and stars, illuminating the shared journey of the human race.

Writers' Note

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