Initiative on International Trade and Economic Cooperation Framework for Digital Economy and Green Development

We, as participants of this Initiative, recognize that digital and green transition represents two major trends in global economic and social transformation and important drivers of economic growth, with their coordinated development contributing to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Acknowledging that participants are at different levels of development, in different situations, and facing challenges in promoting digital economy and green development. Developing countries, in particular, are faced with varying degrees of financial and technological deficiencies in bridging the digital divide and addressing climate change. Their capacity to tap international markets, integrate into global value chains and innovation network, and participate in international rule-making needs to be strengthened. Therefore, there is a need to step up cross-regional and cross-mechanism cooperation, break through bottlenecks, leverage respective strengths, and seize new opportunities in digital, green and other emerging fields, so as to promote economic and social development.

Recognizing that trade and investment are the adhesive and important engines for promoting digital and green development, and digital economy and green development also create new

growth areas for global and regional trade and investment. The participants look forward to enhancing trade and investment cooperation to tap the potential of digital economy and green development, promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, ensure that no one is left behind, and strive to realize the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Development Goals.

To this end, we agree to develop this non-binding Initiative on a voluntary basis and ensure that relevant cooperation practices do not affect our respective international obligations, as well as domestic laws and regulations of the participants; to support the participants, in a flexible and practical manner, in cooperating in areas of interest through independent, bilateral, multilateral and collective actions; to support multiple-stakeholder engagement and encourage participants to mobilize resources via various channels for the implementation of this Initiative; to stay committed to openness and development by continuously updating the Initiative and expanding the partnership in light of the actual needs of participants as the digital and green areas evolve.

On the basis of mutual respect and in accordance with the willingness, capacity and needs of all participants, the participants of this Initiative agree to carry out cooperation in the following areas:

Part I：　Digital Trade and Economic Cooperation

Pillar 1：Create an Open and Safe Environment

1. Encourage participants to develop and cultivate open, transparent and inclusive digital economy policies. Communicate and coordinate on development strategies, policies, rules and standards on digital economy, and share practices of digital legislation and supervision. Share experiences and practices in participating in various trade agreements and multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms. Create platforms to facilitate exchanges between governments, the business community and the academia. Jointly foster an open, inclusive, just, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for the development of the digital economy. Promote equal participation in and access to the digital economy to overcome the digital divide. Welcome China's plan to convene the Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province every year to promote exchange and cooperation on digital economy.

2. Encourage participants to reduce, eliminate or prevent unnecessary trade barriers to unleash the vitality of the digital economy while emphasizing that participants shall chart their development paths based on their own development and needs.

3. Handle data security in a comprehensive, objective and evidence-based manner, strengthen communication, dialogue, and policy coordination, and maintain an open, secure and stable supply chain of global ICT products and services.

Pillar 2：Improve Trade Facilitation

4. Encourage efforts to promote paperless trade in accordance with domestic laws and regulations. Support the use of electronic bills of lading, electronic invoicing, electronic warehouse receipt and other electronic receipt and documents and relevant trade-related digital platform. Cooperate actively to carry out pilot and demonstration programs, policy exchanges and capacity building to increase the efficiency, accuracy and reliability of trade.

5. Support the development of efficient, secure and reliable cross border electronic payments in recognition that electronic commerce plays an important role in increasing trade. Support the connectivity of electronic payment infrastructure. Encourage exchanges of information on relative regulations, licensing requirements, procedures, standards, technology applications, etc.

6. Encourage the sharing of knowledge and technologies on the best practices pertaining to digital identity policies, rules and regulations, technological implementation and security standards, and user acceptance in recognition of the fact that cooperation on digital identities will enhance regional and global connectivity and advance trade facilitation.

7. Recognizing the importance of efficient cross border logistics which help lower the cost and improve the reliability of supply chains, the participants will enhance collaboration on digital technologies and promote the application of new technologies, to optimize port management, logistics, supply

chains, and other trade facilitation operations and improve custom clearance efficiency. Participants shall endeavour to share best practices and general information regarding the logistics sector, including but not limited to smart ports development, cross border transport facilitation, digital platform for seaborne trade and so on.

8. Recognizing the important role of single window in promoting trade facilitation and international connectivity, participants will strengthen cooperation on single window connectivity, jointly build a transparent, connected, intelligent, coordinated and secure single window environment. Promote the electronic exchange of trade information, cross-border logistics information and trade documents.

Pillar 3：Overcome the Digital Divide

9. Recognizing the significant role of digital infrastructure in promoting digital economy, participants will encourage investment in digital infrastructure based on respective priorities. Encourage the alignment of investment policies and the sharing of experience. Leverage the role of significant exhibitions and trade fairs, and promote city-to-city collaboration to advance digital connectivity and narrow the digital divide, so that the fruits of digital economy development can be turned into greater benefits for people.

10. Support businesses including MSMEs to actively participate in the digital, networked and smart upgrading of traditional infrastructure. Encourage the sharing of best practices

and explore communication and cooperation on mutual recognition of standards regarding improving communication network infrastructure such as broadband networks and the Internet, computing infrastructure like data centers and cloud computing, as well as smart infrastructure including artificial intelligence, 5G networks, telemedicine and smart cities. Create a platform for business model sharing, enterprise matching, and the spread of technologies to help foster a favorable investment environment.

11. Encourage businesses including MSMEs to participate in developing pilot zones for economic and trade cooperation and pilot programs for digital commercial cooperation. Support competent enterprises in creating online cooperation zones and industrial clusters that connect participating enterprises to upstream and downstream local businesses, producers, suppliers and distributors.

Pillar 4：Enhance Consumer Trust

12. Strengthen cooperation on online consumer protection and explore ways to resolve cross-border disputes so that consumers have multiple options that could accommodate certain characteristics of e-commerce in accordance with each participant's national framework of laws and regulations and international obligations.

13. Enhance personal information protection for e-commerce and digital trade users by developing and improving laws and regulatory frameworks. Encourage the

exchange of best practices and good experiences on regulatory frameworks, and improve the compatibility and mutual recognition of personal information protection mechanisms.

Part II：Green Development Cooperation

Pillar 5: Create a Good Policy Environment for Promoting Green Development

14. Respect the national conditions as well as laws and regulatory policies of each participant, give full play to the role of relevant global and regional cooperation mechanisms and platforms, strengthen the alignment of green development strategies and policies communication, and draw upon each other's beneficial experience and good practices. Support participants in communicating and sharing practices on international rules and mechanisms regarding green, low-carbon trade to jointly promote green development.

15. Encourage local governments, industrial organizations, financial institutions and enterprises to strengthen coordination, tap the potential of green development cooperation, and jointly create future cooperation momentum.

16. Encourage all participants to strengthen communication and maintain dialogue, coordinate trade and investment policies and measures, promote trade and investment facilitation, and create a favorable business environment, especially in the areas of improving the transparency of policies, facilitating clean technology transfer, and streamlining administrative procedures,

so as to create favorable conditions for green development.

17. Jointly promote multilateral solutions and approaches to protect the environment and support green and sustainable trade and investment.

Pillar 6: Strengthen Trade Cooperation to Promote Green and Sustainable Development

18. Encourage all participants to strengthen communication and coordination on trade policies, fully exchange information and good practices, and conduct dialogue and cooperation on mutual recognition of green standards.

19. Explore policies to encourage the sharing and/or trading of low-carbon technology and biotechnology, enhance communication and sharing, and accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon economy, sustainable consumption and production patterns.

20. Strengthen the exchange and cooperation on innovative business models for trade to improve sustainable consumption and production patterns. Support interested participants in exploring cooperation in establishing low-carbon trade pilot sites, and encourage the adoption of more resource-efficient economic models.

Pillar 7: Encourage Green Technology and Service Exchange and Investment Cooperation

21. Encourage investment cooperation in such areas as clean energy, new energy vehicles, green finance and green infrastructure construction. Commit to strengthening industrial

cooperation and investment cooperation in the field of green development.

22. Strengthen cooperation on technology, equipment, and services in energy conservation and environmental protection, clean energy and comprehensive utilization of resources, etc. Explore cooperation in the field of remanufactured goods. Promote exchanges on related industries and trade and investment policies, expand the scale of trade and investment cooperation, and enhance innovative development of green technology.

23. Encourage enterprises to actively fulfill their environmental protection responsibilities, conserve and sustainably use biological diversity, adopt green design, green procurement, green construction, green production and green operation, and boost the coordinated development of local economy, society and ecological environment .

24. Encourage enterprises to accelerate green transition, increase green investment, and jointly promote green technology innovation. Explore high-level joint research through establishing technology innovation platforms such as research and development centers, innovation centers, laboratories, and business incubators.

25. Encourage enterprises to accelerate the innovation, development and application of digital and green integration technology. Promote the application of digital carbon reduction technology, help upstream and downstream enterprises to

improve carbon reduction capacity, foster industrial ecosystems, and enhance the level of digital empowerment.

26. Encourage enterprises to strengthen communication and exchanges with the government, media, the public, and environmental organizations, fulfill their environmental social responsibilities, and create a good social atmosphere. Encourage industry organizations to improve the green development level of enterprise investment cooperation through such means as establishing norms, providing consulting services, and industry self-discipline.

Part III: Capacity Building

27. Enhance economic and technical cooperation and skills training in digital and green areas, so as to promote technology dissemination and upskilling, and encourage enterprises to carry out independent training schemes in relevant fields.

28. Strengthen policy and rule exchange and experience sharing, and encourage closer cooperation among enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, by organizing events such as best practice collection and international exchange activities, with a view to promoting the application and dissemination of emerging technologies.

29. Foster cooperation among research institutions to enhance exchanges on scientific research achievements, in a bid to provide intellectual and technical support for joint research and international cooperation on digital economy and green

development.

30. Encourage participants to exchange information and experience on capacity-building projects. Enhance communication and cooperation, and explore coordinated use of resources from various parties to provide more support for capacity-building projects.

Part IV：Implementation and Way Forward

31. With the aim of building consensus on cooperation in the fields of digital economy and green development, all participants will keep improving the cooperation portfolio and discuss follow-up action plans. Explore ways to cooperate in a flexible manner, such as through the establishment of an open project pool.

32. The Initiative will invite relevant international organizations and stakeholders to support and collaborate for promoting cooperation in related fields. The support may include but not limited to: conducting technical cooperation projects, drafting relevant analysis reports, compiling best practices in digital and green domains, providing policy advice and training, enhancing communication and cooperation on trade and investment through existing cooperation networks, and carrying out related activities to empower vulnerable groups such as women and children.

33. By exploring the establishment of relevant cooperation networks, local governments, enterprises and research

institutions are welcome to participate in cooperation in key areas of the Initiative, to share the development dividends brought by digital and green technologies.

34. Without prejudice to the positions of all participants in relevant mechanisms, the Initiative encourages all participants to deepen practical cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, and strengthen communication and dialogue at multilateral and regional fora, such as the United Nations, the Group of 20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the World Trade Organization. The Initiative will also coordinate with and support the implementation of other initiatives such as the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 to seek synergies and foster complementarities among various mechanisms and initiatives.

35. In the future, more participants are welcomed to join the Initiative to enrich the dimensions of cooperation and share the development opportunities together.