

# China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# **China's Progress Report** on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development **(2023)**

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

2030 Agenda	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
AFI	Alliance for Financial Inclusion
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AMS	Aggregate Measurement of Support
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CIDCA	China International Development Cooperation Agency
CII	carbon intensity index
CIKD	Center for International Knowledge on Development
COP15	Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
COP27	27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CPC	Communist Party of China
CPPCC	Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference
CPTPP	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
DEPA	Digital Economy Partnership Agreement
DRC	Development Research Center of the State Council of China
DSSI	Debt Service Suspension Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDI	Global Development Initiative
GDP	gross domestic product
GDSSCF	Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
GHG	greenhouse gas
GII	Global Innovation Index
GPFI	Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion
GSI	Global Security Initiative
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEA	International Energy Agency

INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IPR	intellectual property rights
IRDR	Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
IREA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ISC	International Science Council
ISSCAD	Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development
LDCs	least developed countries
LPR	loan prime rate
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment
MHRSS	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MPIA	Multi-Party Interim Appeals Arbitration Arrangement
MSEs	micro and small enterprises
MSMEs	micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises
NDB	New Development Bank
NEVs	new energy vehicles
NPC	National People's Congress
PPP	public-private partnership
R&D	Research and Experimental Development
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDGSAT-1	Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1
S&DT	special and differential treatment
SIDS	small island developing states
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNODRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WBG	World Bank Group
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

# Summary

In September 2015, 193 Member States adopted *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (hereinafter referred to as the 2030 Agenda) at the United Nations Development Summit. The 2030 Agenda shows the beautiful vision of all countries pursuing win-win cooperation and achieving common development, and points out the direction for the development of countries and international development cooperation for the next 15 years. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is at the heart of global development.

The government of China attaches great importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, follows a people-centered development philosophy, fully and accurately pursues innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development on all fronts, works actively to create a new pattern of development, continuously promotes economic and social development at home, and contributes valuable wisdom to global implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). China issued the *Position Paper on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in April 2016, and the *National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in September of the same year. Over the past seven years, China well aligned the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with that of its medium- and long-term development strategies, such as the *13th Five-Year Plan*, the *14th Five-Year Plan* and the *Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035*, established a cross-agency coordination mechanism of 45 government agencies, and made much progress toward many of the SDGs. China has released three editions of *Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, made two national voluntary statements on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, shared its practices and experience with other countries, and provided assistance to other developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda within its capacity, to help the world achieve the SDGs at an early date.

**China has eradicated extreme poverty, and embarked on a new journey of comprehensively promoting rural revitalization.** China considers eliminating poverty, improving people's well-





being, and gradually realizing common prosperity as an important mission, and works resolutely to win the battle against poverty. By the end of 2020, China achieved the poverty alleviation target as scheduled, and lifted all 98.99 million rural people out of poverty based on the current standard, achieving the poverty reduction goal of the 2030 Agenda 10 years ahead of schedule, making a significant contribution to global poverty reduction. Moreover, the income level of the poor had increased significantly, the level of protection in such areas as education, medical care and housing had been remarkably improved, so had infrastructure in poor areas, such as roads, electricity, and the Internet. China has offered a five-year transition period starting from 2021 for the poor areas to consolidate and expand the achievements of poverty alleviation and move on to promote rural revitalization. In 2022, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in counties that had been lifted out of poverty increased by 7.5% year-on-year, and the per capita net income of population that had escaped from poverty grew by 14.3% year-on-year; employment and industrial support capacity in areas that had been lifted out of poverty continued to increase, and rural development and governance were improved. China has made a good start in promoting rural revitalization in all respects.

**The macroeconomic fundamentals have remained stable, and the Chinese economy has proved to be highly resilient.** In the face of multiple factors that went beyond anticipation at home and abroad, China has fully and accurately implemented the new development philosophy on all fronts, created a new pattern of development, and promoted high-quality economic development. **First**, China's economic strength has been significantly improved. From 2016 to 2019, China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an average annual rate of 6.6%, contributing more than 30% to global economic growth. In 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, China was the only major economy in the world that achieved positive growth. In 2022, China's GDP stood at RMB121.02 trillion, an increase of 3% over the previous year. **Second**, the economic structure has been further optimized. Agricultural modernization has been steadily advanced, and the total grain output has remained above 650 million tons for eight consecutive years. In 2022, the proportion of high-tech manufacturing in the industrial added value of enterprises above the designated size increased to 15.5%, and the added value of the emerging industries, business forms and models exceeded RMB21 trillion, or 17.36% of GDP. **Third**, the leading role of technological innovation has been effectively enhanced. In 2022, the ratio of Research and Experimental Development (R&D) expenditure to GDP increased to more than 2.5%. China rose to the 11th place in the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), making it an innovative economy. **Fourth**, financial accessibility for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) has been improved. By the end of 2022, the balance of inclusive loans to MSEs nationwide was RMB23.8 trillion, a year-on-year increase of 23.8%.

**China promotes the progress of social undertakings, and people's livelihood and well-**



**being have been continuously improved.** China always remains committed to people-centered development and works continuously to improve people's livelihood and well-being in the pursuit of development. **First**, the income level of residents has been steadily increased. The gaps in per capita disposable income between urban and rural areas and between regions have narrowed. **Second**, the quality of employment has continued to improve. From 2015 to 2022, the unemployment level remained low, and the employment structure of "inverted pyramid" gradually took shape, with the tertiary sector as the biggest employer and the primary sector the smallest. **Third**, the development of healthcare has accelerated. From 2015 to 2022, China's maternal mortality rate, under-five mortality rate, and infant mortality rate continued to decline; life expectancy increased from 76.3 years in 2015 to 78.2 years in 2021, and the main health indicators of the whole population were among the highest in upper-middle-income countries. China scored a major and decisive victory in the fight against COVID-19, protected people's lives and health to the greatest extent, and made important contribution to the world's fight against the pandemic. **Fourth**, remarkable achievements have been made in education modernization. China has built the world's largest education system, and has reached the world's medium and upper level in terms of the overall development of education modernization. **Fifth**, the urban and rural living environment has been continuously optimized. Urban and rural public services have been effectively improved, pollution control capabilities have been significantly strengthened, and green and accessible public spaces have been expanded.

**China has vigorously stepped up efforts in ecological and environmental protection, and made great strides in building a beautiful China.** China believes that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and has achieved remarkable results in ecological conservation. **First**, it continues to control pollution and has launched three campaigns against air, water and soil pollution. From 2015 to 2022, the air quality of cities at and above prefecture level continued to improve, making China the country with the fastest improvement of atmospheric environment quality in the world; the surface water quality across the country continued to improve; and notable progress was made in risk management and control of soil pollution. **Second**, China pushes ahead ecosystem protection and restoration and has improved the level of biodiversity conservation. The quality of marine and land ecosystems has been significantly improved thanks to the "Blue Bay" action, marine ecosystem conservation and restoration projects, ecological conservation and restoration projects in key areas, and pilot and demonstration projects for land greening. Forest area and stock have continued to increase, making China the country with the fastest and largest growth of forest resources in the world. China has started building the nature reserve system, and launched in situ and ex situ conservation of rare and endangered wild animals and plants, effectively conserving biodiversity. **Third**, China attaches equal importance to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and moves steadily in energy conservation and carbon reduction. According to preliminary calculations, since 2015, China has supported an average annual

economic growth of 5.7%, with an average annual energy consumption growth of 3.2%, and in 2022, the energy consumption per RMB10,000 of GDP fell by 15.5% compared with 2015, the fastest decrease in energy intensity in the world.

**China promotes global development cooperation and contributes to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** China stands firm behind the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, and promotes international cooperation for win-win results. **First**, it promotes high-quality collaborative development under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and cultivates new engines for sustainable development. In the past ten years, since it was proposed, the BRI has stimulated investments worth nearly USD one trillion, launched more than 3,000 cooperation projects, created 420,000 jobs for participating countries, and lifted nearly 40 million people out of poverty. The BRI has become a popular global public good and international cooperation platform in the world. **Second**, China actively implements the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and strengthens international development cooperation. China initiated the Group of Friends of the GDI at the United Nations, with more than 70 member countries. China has worked with all parties concerned to strengthen pragmatic cooperation in key areas of the GDI, and build cooperation platforms in areas such as poverty reduction, education, clean energy, digital economy and youth development. China has set up an open project pool and the Global Development Promotion Center, effectively expanded international consensus on development, mobilized international resources for development, and injected strong impetus into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. **Third**, China has strengthened technology cooperation and knowledge sharing to provide intellectual support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda worldwide. The Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD) and the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development (ISSCAD) were established. China has initiated the Global Knowledge Network for Development, and strengthened knowledge sharing and capacity building. China has shared the Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1 (SDGSAT-1) data products with the international community, regularly released the *Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Global Development Report*, and the *Report on Big Earth Data in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals*, and increased technical, intellectual and data support.

The 2030 Agenda bears on the shared future of humanity, and is now halfway through; the second half is particularly critical. *China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2023)*, compiled and released by CIKD, aims to comprehensively review and summarize China's progress, basic experience and best practices in implementing the 2030 Agenda over the past seven years, and inspire the international community to increase consensus and promote mutual learning, so as to gather strength for the 2030 Agenda. Looking into the future, China will, as always, attach importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, well align it with its national economic and social development plans, the Long-Range Objectives



through the Year 2035, and other national development blueprints, and make greater contribution to global prosperity and development in its new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects.

We are indebted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC) and other member institutions of China's inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for their guidance and support. Data and information contained herein, if not cited, are obtained from materials publicized by relevant ministries or other official Chinese sources.



**SDG 1**

**End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

## I. Implementation progress

China has always aimed to eliminate poverty, improve people's well-being, and gradually realize common prosperity for all. In 2020, China has won the fight against poverty as scheduled and eliminated absolute poverty for the first time in history. After that, the current supportive policies for the areas lifted out of poverty will remain in place for a five-year transition period. In this way, China consolidates the achievements of poverty alleviation and promotes rural revitalization. China has constantly improved the multi-tiered social security system and made the "safety net" for people's livelihood stronger. Meanwhile, China has actively implemented the GDI and contributed to a better global governance system and expanded international partnerships for poverty reduction.

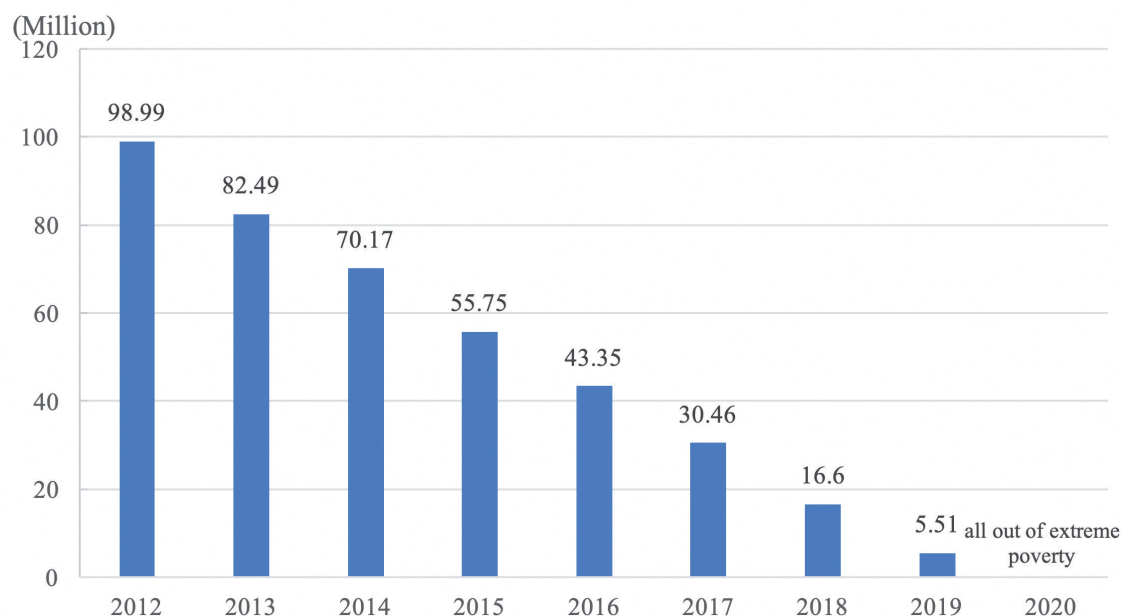
**China has won the fight against poverty and achieved poverty eradication goals**



**as scheduled.** In 2020, according to the current poverty standards, 98.99 million rural people in poverty had been lifted out of poverty (Figure 1-1) and 832 poverty-stricken counties and 128,000 poverty-stricken villages were no longer in a poverty-stricken status. China has substantially increased the income and improved the welfare for its impoverished population and delivered the Two Assurances and Three Guarantees<sup>1</sup>. The conditions of education, medical care, housing, and drinking water have been clearly improved. These improvements not only meet the basic needs of the poor, but also lay the foundation for future development.

**First,** infrastructure in poverty-stricken areas has seen significant improvement. By the end of 2020, China had constructed or upgraded 1.21 million kilometers of roads and added 35,000 kilometers of railway in rural areas. In the poor counties, over 99% of the administrative villages were accessible by paved roads and enjoy access to industrial electricity, communication services, broadband internet and radio and television.

**Second,** public services in poverty-stricken areas have been substantially enhanced. From 2013 to 2020, a total of 108,000 schools for compulsory education in poor areas had been renovated, ensuring that all school-aged children in these areas could attend kindergartens and primary schools not far from where they live. By the end of 2020, almost all villages of the 22 central and western provinces had been equipped with cultural facilities; 98% of impoverished counties had at least one secondary or higher-level hospital; and all poor counties had provided rural minimum



**Figure 1-1 Changes in Rural Poor Population (2012-2020)**

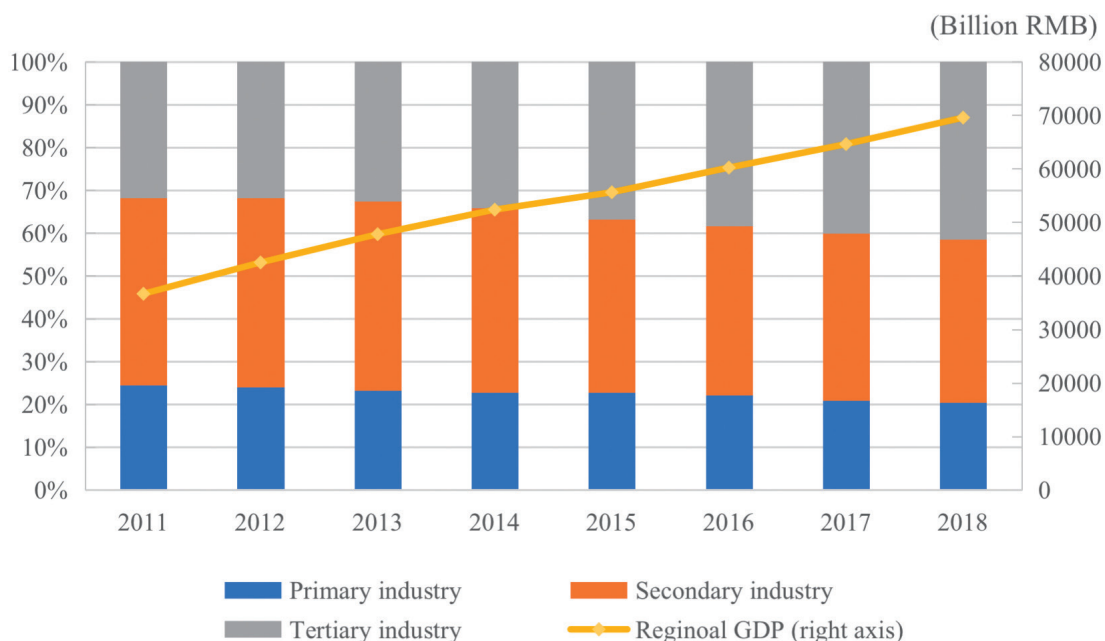
Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

1. This refers to assurances of adequate food and clothing and guarantees of access to compulsory education, basic medical services, and safe housing for impoverished rural residents.

living allowances above the national standard. A total of 60.98 million people in poverty were covered by the basic old-age insurance for urban and rural residents, and basically everyone eligible was covered.

**Third**, the momentum for economic development in impoverished areas has been continuously strengthened. New industries, such as e-commerce, photovoltaic and tourism have grown fast, contributing to an evidently better industrial structure in these areas (Figure 1-2). The annual growth of per capita public budget revenue in impoverished areas is about 7 percentage points higher than the national average during the same period. Poverty alleviation through financial services has been integrated with other alleviation efforts through industrial development, job creation, and education support. These efforts have stimulated the internal development momentum in impoverished areas and helped eradicate poverty. From 2015 to 2019, 1.36 million women had received micro-credit loans issued for poverty alleviation, with the amount of RMB63.5 billion.

**Fourth**, the living conditions for impoverished population have been fundamentally improved. Some people lived in uninhabitable areas with harsh natural conditions. It would be very hard for them to shake off poverty if they remained where they were, so the government relocated them to other areas. More than 9.6 million such people have left their poor hometowns and settled in new homes. From 2016 to 2020, 46.65 million mu<sup>2</sup>(3.11 million hectares) of farmland in poor areas had been converted to forests or grassland, and 1.102 million poor people were hired as forest rangers. 23,000 afforestation cooperatives have been established in 22 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in central and western China for poverty alleviation as well as ecological conservation.



**Figure 1-2 GDP and Industrial Structural Changes in Poverty-Stricken Areas (2011-2018)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

2. Mu is a traditional unit of area in China, and one mu approximately equals 0.0667 hectares.

## Box 1-1: Huzhou of Zhejiang Province Supports Keping County of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to Develop Hu Sheep<sup>3</sup> industry

To support the development of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China adopts an approach to pair localities up. Huzhou of Zhejiang Province is paired up with Keping County, Aksu, Xinjiang. Keping County is located on the northern edge of the Tarim Basin. The sheep meat there is famous throughout Xinjiang for its delicious taste. However, as local farmers rely mainly on free-range, sheep husbandry in Keping features small scale, poor efficiency, and low yield. Therefore, it could not be the leading industry for poverty alleviation.

In 2013, based on Keping's conditions, Huzhou has started the initiative of "Hu Sheep Entering Xinjiang", developing Hu sheep husbandry in Keping to

help local people get out of poverty. By the end of 2019, there had been 25,000 sheep in Keping, producing 7,600 lambs. Out of the 3,001 poor households, over 2,000 had raised Hu sheep and increased their income, accounting for 66.65% of the local impoverished population.

In 2018, in addition to Xinjiang, Hu sheep also entered Sichuan Province under the east-west cooperation for poverty alleviation<sup>4</sup>. In that year, 946 local households shook off poverty. In the next year, "Breeding Base of 10,000 Hu Sheep", "Special Industrial Park of Hu Sheep" and other projects were launched in Guang'an District, Guang'an City and Qingchuan County, Guangyuan City of Sichuan Province.

All these measures accelerated the effort to develop the industrial chain of Hu sheep husbandry.

This model to develop Hu sheep husbandry has helped people in poverty become active producers and operators and has forged a large-scale industrial chain with local characteristics. Supportive policies have been rolled out promptly to better integrate agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors in rural areas and achieve coordinated development. Poor people have been shifted from simple breeding to processing and services under guidance. In this way, the impoverished people have found a new path for sustained income growth.



3. Hu sheep originated from Mongolian sheep. They are distributed in the Zhejiang and Jiangsu Provinces of China and the suburbs of Shanghai. Hu sheep is a specialty of Huzhou, a municipality of Zhejiang Province.

4. Huzhou, Zhejiang is located in eastern China and Sichuan Province in western China. Therefore, the paired-up cooperation between Huzhou and localities in Sichuan Province is part of the poverty alleviation cooperation between eastern and western China.



**China has consolidated the achievements of poverty reduction and continued to promote rural revitalization.** Since 2021, China has set up a five-year transition period for previously poverty-stricken areas to continue to enjoy the main supporting policies. China has identified 160 major counties for national rural revitalization assistance, launched monitoring and supporting mechanisms to prevent them from falling back into poverty and has upheld the bottom line of preventing any largescale relapse into poverty. This has led to continuous progress in rural revitalization.

**First,** China has seen rapid growth in the income for areas and people that have just escaped from poverty. In 2022, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in counties lifted out of poverty was RMB15,111, an increase of 7.5% year-on-year, and the per capita net income for people lifted out of poverty reached RMB14,342, an increase of 14.3% year-on-year. The increases are 1.2 and 8 percentage points higher than the growth of per capita disposable income for rural residents nationwide.

**Second,** China has prioritized monitoring and assisting people at risk to prevent them from relapsing into poverty. By the end of June 2023, around 65% of these people no longer faced such risk and the others had received assistance and support. China has tackled problems in education, medical services, housing, and safe drinking water as such problems emerge.

**Third,** China has constantly boosted employment and industrial development in areas recently lifted out of poverty. In 2022, 55% of the central budgetary funds for rural revitalization were designated

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## Box 1-2: Microcredit for the Impoverished Population Paves the Way for Better Income and Wealth Creation

Microcredit for people lifted out of poverty extends and optimizes the microcredit for poverty alleviation. It provides medium and long-term small credit loans with preferential interest rates and fiscal subsidies to households escaped from poverty (including those monitored to prevent them from returning to poverty). This measure aims to support formerly impoverished households to develop production, increase income, and achieve prosperity.

The recipients of microcredit for

people lifted out of poverty are households registered as lifted out of poverty (including those monitored to prevent them from returning to poverty). The amount of loan is in principle under RMB50,000. Eligible households can receive an additional loan of up to RMB100,000. The loan term does not exceed 3 years. The interest rate does not exceed the loan prime rate (LPR). No collateral or guarantee is required, with interest subsidies provided. It is encouraged to establish risk compensation mechanisms

through risk compensation funds. The policy period is within the transition period (2021-2025). The money is borrowed, used and repaid by households, ensuring that it is used for production and business operations by borrowers.

By the end of 2022, the microcredit balance for people lifted out of poverty reached RMB182.4 billion, a year-on-year increase of 13.2%, supporting 4.333 million households lifted out of poverty and monitored to prevent them from returning to poverty.

for industrial development. By the end of June 2023, an accumulative amount of RMB216.725 billion in micro credit had been issued to those lifted out of poverty, benefiting 5.0444 million households who had shaken off poverty or been monitored to prevent them from returning to poverty. The loan balance stood at RMB189.18 billion, an increase of 8.82% year-on-year. The number of employed workers lifted out of poverty exceeded 30 million both in 2021 and 2022.

**Fourth**, China has pressed ahead with facilities construction and governance in rural areas. Over 73% of China's rural areas have been equipped with sanitary toilets; over 90% of natural villages collect and treat their domestic sewage; and 95% villages have launched campaigns for better sanitation. Infrastructure and public services at relocation sites have been improved, and the relocated residents enjoy stability, employment, and will gradually achieve prosperity.

**China has strengthened the multi-tiered social security system, making the safety net for people's lives more robust and resilient.** China has been continuously building and improving a fair, unified and sustainable multi-tiered social security system that covers all citizens and coordinates both urban and rural areas.

**First**, the coverage of the basic old-age insurance system for urban and rural residents has been steadily expanded, providing institutional guarantee for basic living needs of elderly residents in urban and rural areas. In 2021, the total number of insured urban and rural residents reached 547.97 million, accounting for 53.3% of the total number of those covered by basic old-age insurance nationwide. The number of beneficiaries reached 162.13 million in practice, an increase of 14.13 million from 2015, with a growth rate of 9.5% (Table 1-1).

**Table 1-1 Basic Information on Basic Old-age Insurance for Urban and Rural Residents (2015-2021)**

Year	Number of Participants (Million)	Number of Beneficiaries (Million)	Fund Revenue (Billion RMB)	Fund Expenditure (Billion RMB)	Cumulative Fund Balance (Billion RMB)
2015	504.72	148.00	285.5	211.7	459.2
2016	508.47	152.70	293.3	215.0	538.5
2017	512.55	155.98	330.4	237.2	631.8
2018	523.92	158.98	383.8	290.6	725.0
2019	532.66	160.32	410.7	311.4	824.9
2020	542.44	160.68	485.3	335.5	975.9
2021	547.97	162.13	533.9	371.5	1139.6

Source: Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MHRSS).



**Second**, the tripartite system including basic medical insurance, critical disease insurance and medical assistance meets the health needs of the vulnerable population. From 2018 to 2020, financial assistance was provided to help 230 million impoverished individuals participate in the medical insurance system. The reimbursement rate for hospital expenses of the impoverished population reached about 80% in practice, cumulatively easing the medical expense burden by RMB360 billion and lifted nearly 10 million households in poverty due to illness out of poverty.

**Third**, the coverage of unemployment and work injury insurances has broadened significantly. By the end of 2022, 238 million people were covered by unemployment insurance, with a statutory insurance rate exceeding 90%. Over 291 million individuals are covered by work injury insurance, of which 91.27 million are migrant workers.

**Fourth**, the social assistance system has been significantly improved. By the end of 2022, there were 40.32 million recipients of minimum living allowance nationwide. From 2015 to 2022, the average annual growths of urban and rural minimum living allowance standards were 7.6% and 11.9% respectively. Temporary assistance was provided for 84.32 million cases, with cumulative relief funds of RMB96.1 billion. By the end of 2022, 4.695 million extremely impoverished individuals<sup>5</sup> were assisted nationwide, including 777,000 in nursing homes, and 1.092 million who were unable to take care of themselves.

**China has strengthened international poverty alleviation cooperation, making significant contribution to the global effort of poverty reduction.** The very act of China eradicating absolute poverty stands as a monumental contribution to the global mission of poverty alleviation. In the same time, China has been proactively engaging in international poverty reduction collaboration. In 2021, China put forward the GDI, placing poverty alleviation at the forefront of major collaborative efforts, aligning with the international community's aspirations to eradicate poverty.

**First**, China has actively engaged in international poverty reduction exchanges. China has organized international events, such as the "Poverty Reduction and Development High-Level Forum" to share its poverty reduction experience, and establishing platforms on systematic exchange that cover Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

**Second**, China has conducted international poverty alleviation projects. Since 2015, China has carried out 100 poverty alleviation projects, collaborated with African countries on initiatives including the ten cooperation plans that encompass poverty alleviation benefits, and launched the East Asia Poverty Reduction Demonstration Cooperative Technical Assistance project in

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5.China provides help and support for the extremely impoverished, including the elderly, the disabled, and minors who are unable to work, people with no source of livelihood, and people with no persons legally obliged to support, maintain, or foster them, or if such persons are incapable of fulfilling their duties.

Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

**Third,** China has helped other developing countries enhance capacity building on poverty alleviation and development. Since 2015, China has actively promoted cooperation in capacity building for poverty reduction with developing countries and organized more than 170 international training programs on poverty reduction, offering training for over 5,000 mid-to-high level government officials and poverty alleviation professionals from developing countries, sharing China's poverty alleviation experience. Furthermore, China collaborates with international organizations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank to summarize and share its poverty alleviation experience and knowledge with the global community.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, adhere to the people-centered development philosophy.** China has always followed a people-centered approach, placed poverty reduction high on the agenda, and strived to improve the living conditions for all. In promoting poverty alleviation, China has adopted a series of extraordinary policy measures to ensure that the impoverished people has access to better income, education, health services, and living conditions, ensuring that no one is left behind on the path to overcoming poverty.

**Second, formulate poverty reduction strategies based on real conditions.** Poverty governance must be based in the country's real conditions. China has well evaluated the bottlenecks restricting poverty reduction and development, and constantly adjusted and innovated poverty reduction strategies and policy tools. From 2012 to 2020, while continuing to provide aid with development, China implemented targeted poverty alleviation strategies, effectively addressing the "last mile" issues in poverty eradication. Subsequently, China introduced a five-year transition policy for poverty alleviation areas, striving to enhance the endogenous development momentum of people in these areas and ensuring the sustainability of poverty alleviation achievements.

**Third, rally the consensus and combined efforts of the public towards poverty reduction.** Since 2015, China has established a large-scale poverty alleviation framework coordinating the force of the government, society, and market. It has built a social poverty alleviation system with diversified participants from all sectors of society, harnessing the concerted efforts and participation of the entire nation. Simultaneously, China fully respects and actively harnesses the primary role of the impoverished people, driving their inherent motivation and capability for autonomous development, enabling them not only to benefit from poverty reduction efforts but also to contribute to development.

**Fourth, build a community with a shared future for mankind.** China actively participates

in global poverty governance, continuously deepening exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction. It promotes the establishment of new international poverty reduction cooperative relationships centered on mutual respect and win-win cooperation. China supports the poverty alleviation endeavors of other developing countries, contributing to jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind that is free from poverty and pursues common development.

### III. Future Work

China has made great achievements in poverty alleviation. However, some regions that have been lifted out of poverty still face challenges, including a strong reliance on policy subsidies and unstable poverty alleviation outcomes. Influenced by uncertainties at home and abroad, there remains the risk of falling back into poverty for some people. China will prioritize the following tasks to consolidate its poverty alleviation accomplishments and make new contribution to the global cause of poverty reduction.

**First, resolutely prevent any largescale relapse into poverty.** China will strengthen dynamic monitoring to prevent relapsing into poverty. For those being monitored, if they are willing and able to work, developmental assistance measures will be implemented. The achievements of the “three guarantees” and safe drinking water provisions will be consolidated and enhanced.

**Second, bolster the intrinsic development momentum of the areas lifted out of poverty.** China will make efforts to increase the income of those lifted out of poverty, promote faster development in poverty-alleviated counties, place more emphasis on fostering ambition and intelligence, focus on industrial employment, and continuously narrow the income gap between residents and the development disparities between urban and rural areas and different regions.

**Third, stabilize and refine social assistance policies.** China will implement the policy of effectively connecting the consolidation and expansion of poverty alleviation achievements with rural revitalization. China will continue to allocate credit to areas lifted out of poverty and solidly provide micro-credit for those lifted out of poverty. China will deepen cooperation between the eastern and western parts of the country, provide steadfast support by central government organizations, and further advance the “Ten Thousand Enterprises Assisting Ten Thousand Villages” initiative.

**Fourth, improve the tiered and categorized social assistance system.** China will improve the tiered and categorized comprehensive social assistance system, including the minimum living guarantee system, the assistance and support system for extremely impoverished individuals, and the temporary assistance system. China will continuously raise the level of assistance for people facing difficulties to ensure that no one falls through the cracks.

**Fifth, enhance international poverty reduction exchanges and cooperation.** China will

actively utilize multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, improve the global poverty reduction governance system, establish a platform for global poverty reduction exchanges and cooperation, implement “small yet beautiful” projects, and assist developing countries in enhancing their poverty governance capabilities. China will effectively implement the GDI, and make greater contribution to the poverty alleviation efforts of developing countries.



SDG 2

**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

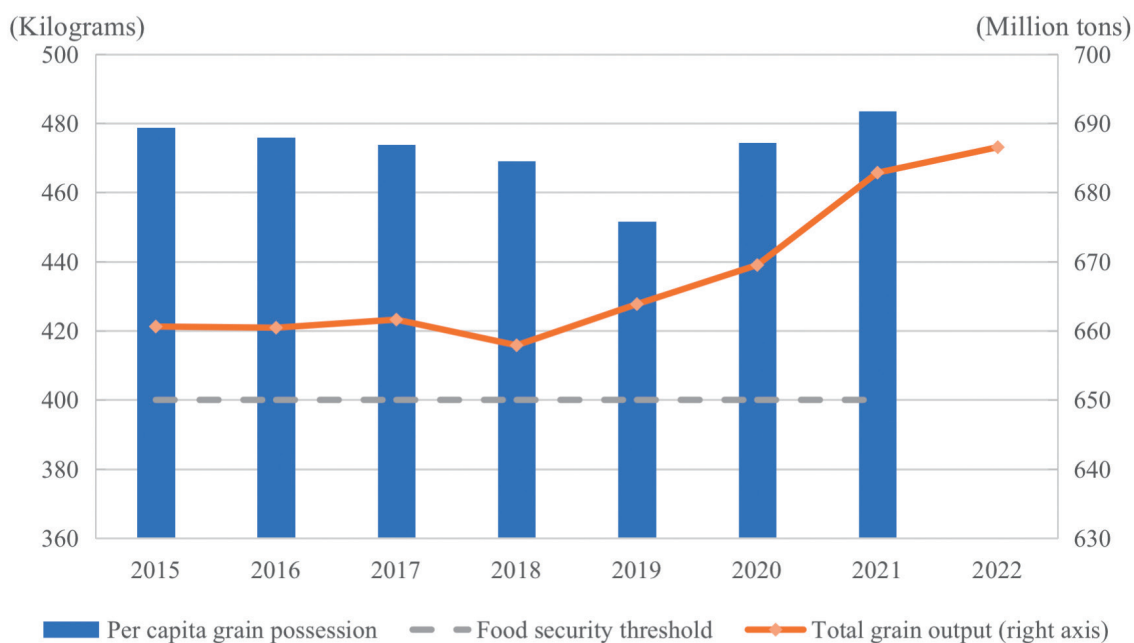
## I. Implementation progress

China has always taken feeding its 1.4 billion people as a top priority and has introduced a food security policy of “ensuring basic self-sufficiency of grain and absolute security of staple food”. The government of China has introduced a national strategy on food security featuring self-sufficiency based on domestic grain production, guaranteed food production capacity, moderate import, and technological support. Since 2015, China has seen steady increase of grain production, smooth operation of grain market and efficient grain circulation. Progress has been achieved in food- and agriculture-related SDGs.

**China has ensured a stable supply of grain and important agricultural products,**

**and improved their varieties and quality.** The grain production capacity has been steadily increased. In 2022, China's total grain output reached 686.55 million tons, achieving over 650 million tons of annual output for eight consecutive years. The per capita food output exceeded 480 kilograms, higher than the internationally recognized food security threshold of 400 kilograms (Figure 2-1). China has achieved basic self-sufficiency in grain and absolute security in staple food. The variety of agricultural products has become more diverse, with stable development in cotton, oil, sugar, and rubber. The supply of meat, eggs, dairy products, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and tea is abundant. The quality of agricultural products continues to improve. Under the Quality Food Project launched in 2017, China coordinated the 3 subsystems of post-production support, inspection and monitoring of grain quality and safety, and "Quality Grain and Oil action plan". The output of green and high-quality agricultural products reached 200 million tons and over 97% of agricultural products passed the regular inspection and monitoring for quality and safety.

**China has prioritized people's nutrition needs, and continually improved the nutrition, health and growth and development levels of children and adolescents.** The guidance of policies has been strengthened. China has continuously promoted the implementation of the *National Nutrition Plan (2017-2030)* and the *Breastfeeding Promotion Plan (2021-2025)*, guiding localities in carrying out child nutrition improvement actions and emphasizing guidance on children's nutritional feeding and physical activities. Enhanced monitoring of early-stage nutritional health is underway. China has integrated the monitoring of nutritional health of children and adolescents into the surveillance system for chronic diseases and



**Figure 2-1 China's Grain Output (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.



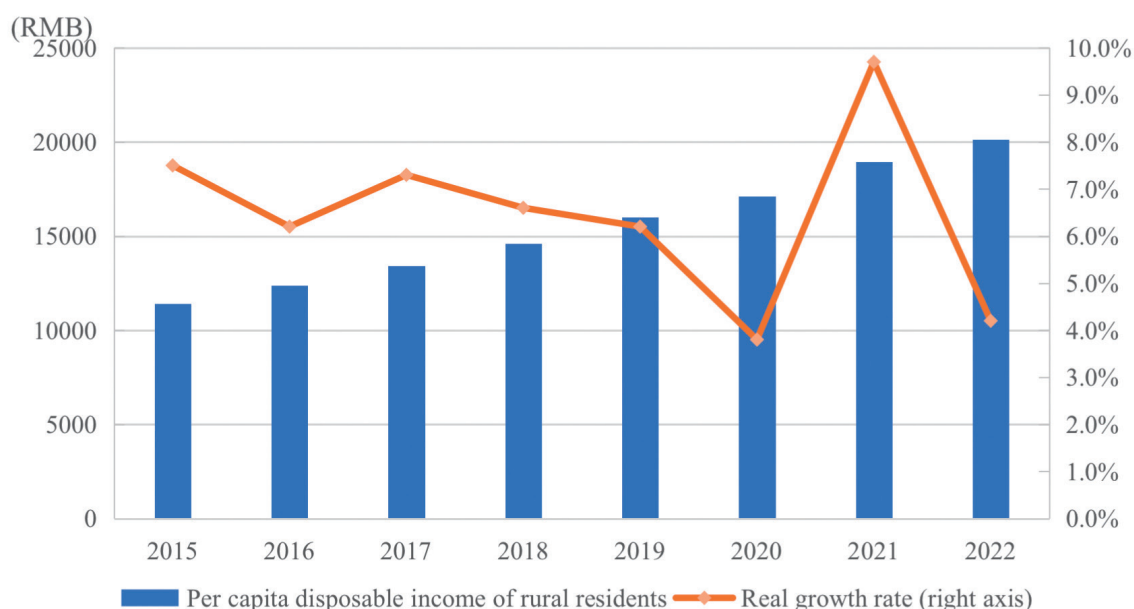
nutrition of Chinese residents. This dynamic understanding of nutritional health of children and adolescents provides support for optimizing strategies to address malnutrition. Efforts have been made to address shortcomings in less developed areas. China has advanced the implementation of nutritional improvement plans for students receiving compulsory education in rural areas and introduced nutrition enhancement projects for children in poverty-alleviation areas, thus improving the nutritional status of children in rural and poverty-alleviated areas. In 2020, less than 7% children under 6 years of age suffered from child stunting, and less than 5% suffered from underweight. In the rural areas, the proportion of children under 6 years old suffering from stunting decreased from 11.3% in 2015 to 5.8%, and for children and adolescents aged 6 to 17, the number dropped from 4.7% to 2.2%.

**China has ensured that the country's food supply remains firmly in its own hands, and promoted a modern system of grain production.** China has strengthened the protection of cultivated land and boosted related development. With the strictest farmland protection system, China closely observes the red line of 1.8 billion mu of total farmland and the limit of 1.546 billion mu of permanent basic farmland. China has continued to improve agricultural infrastructure and the quality of cultivated land and tried to achieve agricultural and rural development with science and technology as the key drivers. By the end of 2022, the farmland with effective irrigation had reached 1.037 billion mu and a total of 1 billion mu of high-standard farmland had been developed. The quality of farmland had thus been improved by 0.35 grade compared with that in 2014. The case where agriculture heavily depends on the weather has been changing at a faster rate as science and technological progress contributes over 62% to agricultural development. High-quality crop varieties have been used in grain production all across the country, and water-saving and drought-resistant wheat, super rice and other breakthroughs have been achieved. For major grain crops, the mechanization of plowing, sowing, and harvesting has exceeded 80%; for wheat, that rate has exceeded 97%, achieving full-process mechanization. Focusing on building, supplementing, and strengthening the industrial chain of grain production, China has explored extending advantages both upstream and downstream and tried to tap the potential to add value along the whole chain from the farmland to the dining table. Setting the guided price high for high-quality grain, China has formed a mechanism to align the interests of individual farmers and major enterprises. This arrangement fundamentally enhances farmers' abilities to cope with risks. As a result, farmers share more of the added value along the industrial chain, and the primary, secondary, and tertiary industries in rural areas become more integrated.

**China has ensured the accessibility of basic production factors in rural areas and the income of rural residents has increased steadily.** China has promoted the reform of basic production factors, launching pilot programs to extend land contracts for another 30 years after their expiration and to reform the rural homestead system in a steady and prudent manner. China has improved the modern agri-business system and nurtured new types of

agri-business, such as family farms and farmers' cooperatives. By the end of February 2023, there were 4.004 million family farms and 2.229 million famers' cooperatives. Financial services have become more accessible as basic financial services are available for rural areas nationwide. At the end of 2021, the balance of inclusive agricultural loans was RMB8.88 trillion, an increase of 17.48% over the beginning of the year, exceeding the average loan growth by 6.19 percentage points. Credit evaluation has been conducted for 156 million rural households. In 2022, agricultural insurance has provided RMB4.57 trillion in risk protection for 169 million rural households. In 2022, the per capita disposable income of rural residents reached RMB20,133, with an increase of 4.2% and almost doubled the figure in 2015 (Figure 2-2). The annual growth of per capita disposable income for rural residents was higher than that of urban residents from 2015 to 2022. The income of farmers continues to increase steadily, narrowing the gap with the urban residents.

**China has strived for green development of agriculture and enhanced the resilience of the agricultural and food system.** China has implemented the *National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (2015- 2030)*, which serves as the guidance for green and sustainable development of agriculture. China has taken a coordinated approach to the governance of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grasslands and deserts and implemented grazing prohibition, rotational grazing, and other arrangements to balance the needs of grasslands and livestock. China has preserved and improved the quality of farmland and supported water-efficient agriculture and dry farming. The coefficient for the effective utilization of irrigation water has reached 0.568, an increase of 0.052 over that of 10 years ago. China has conducted



**Figure 2-2 Per Capita Disposable Income for Rural Residents and Its Real Growth Rate (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

conservation programs for chernozem soil and improved saline-alkali lands by their types. China has upgraded low- and medium-yield cropland and stepped up management for polluted and degraded cropland. China has strengthened the prevention and management of non-point source pollution in agriculture. In 2021, the rates of crop straw utilization, agricultural film recycling, and of livestock and poultry manure utilization were over 88%, 80%, and 76% respectively. The utilization rates of chemical fertilizer and pesticide both exceeded 40%, and their use had decreased for years. Drawing upon green, organic, and GI (geographical indication) agricultural products, China has promoted clean production, reduced input, recycled waste and developed eco-friendly agricultural industry. China has integrated adaptation measures with agricultural technologies and promoted technologies for disaster prevention and reduction based on local conditions.

**China has strengthened protection for germplasm resources and accelerated the revitalization of the seed industry.** China has carried out a census on agricultural germplasm resources. By the end of 2022, China completed the census and collection of germplasm resources in 2,323 counties and gathered 124,000 new varieties. China has stepped up the protection for seed resources and continued to build the national bank of crop germplasm resources, resource banks for agricultural microbial germplasm and livestock gene banks. China's storage of seed resources ranks among the top around the world. China has boosted independent innovation in breeding, built the national platform for major innovation in seed industry and pushed forward joint research in breeding and accelerated the cultivation of breakthrough varieties with independent intellectual property rights (IPR). Meanwhile, China has initiated major special programs in biological breeding and stepped up the industrialization of biological breeding. By the end of 2022, the self-sufficiency rate of crop seeds had exceeded 95%.

**China has promoted international cooperation in food and agriculture and helped agricultural development in developing countries.** Under the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (GDSSCF), China has cooperated with the World Food Program (WFP) to conduct over 40 projects in over 30 countries. Since the inception of China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund, China has donated USD130 million to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and conducted 29 south-south cooperation programs. Through training, exchanges, on-site visits, dispatch of experts, among other measures, China has helped developing countries cultivate their capacity in agricultural production. Under the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund, over 300 experts have shared China's experience and technologies, benefiting 100,000 farmers directly and millions more indirectly. From 2015 to 2022, China sent 261 agricultural experts to 9 countries and held 412 trainings for over 140 developing countries with a total of 12,132 participants. China has invested overseas in agriculture. By the end of 2021, over 1,000 domestic enterprises had set up 1,700 agricultural companies in nearly 120 countries and regions. The investment flow of 2021 was USD930 million and the investment stock reached

## Box 2-1: Developing Green Food Industry and Increasing the Supply of Quality Green Agricultural Products

For more than 30 years, China has been committed to producing green food, championing green consumption, and achieving green transformation of agriculture. China has thus made substantial progress in increasing the supply of quality green agricultural products and the income of rural residents, and meeting the demand of rural and urban residents for high-quality agricultural products.

China has taken measures to develop the green food industry, including promoting technologies for green production, ensuring standard-based production, enforcing strict examination and supervision, ensuring high-quality of green food, expanding brand publicity, and nurturing the consumer market. All these measures have achieved substantial results. First, the production continues to expand. From 2015 to 2022, the number of producers of green food increased from 9,579 to 25,928, an average annual growth of 15.3%. The number of varieties increased from 23,386 to 55,482, an average annual

growth of 13.1%. Producers of green food cover major agricultural commodities and processed products. Second, ecological benefits continue to emerge. From 2009 to 2018, the input of nitrogen fertilizer was reduced by 14.58 million tons; pesticides were reduced by 542,000 tons; greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 55.58 million tons; and the added value of ecosystem services reached RMB3.2 trillion. Third, the brand value of green food continues to increase. In 2022, the domestic sales of green food reached RMB539.76 billion, and its export reached USD3.14 billion. The trademark of green food has been successfully registered in 11 countries, regions, and international organizations.

China has accumulated the following experience in the development of green food industry. First, standardization is integrated with branding and industrialization. China has promoted standard-based production and enhanced the mechanism to better align

the interests of farmers and enterprises. In these ways, China has improved the quality and efficiency of agricultural production and helped farmers increase their income. Second, economic benefits are combined with ecological and social benefits. China has integrated industrial development with ecological preservation. In this case, ecological environment becomes a factor of production and thus creates economic advantage and value in the market. Third, government guidance is combined with market forces and social participation. The government fully plays its role in issuing plans and guidance, offering policy support, making investments, and enforcing supervision and management. China fully leverages the decisive role of the market in allocating resources. Meanwhile, research institutions, testing and inspection agencies, social organizations and industrial experts form a synergy to offer technological support for the high-quality development of the green food industry.

USD18.82 billion. China has been deeply engaged in governance of agricultural trade, being an active participant in the WTO agricultural negotiations and contributing to the commitment to remove export subsidy for agricultural products in the *Nairobi Ministerial Declaration*. During the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, China has contributed to the conclusion of the *Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity and the Ministerial Decision on WFP Food Purchases Exemption from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions*. Along with other developing countries, China calls for reducing the Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) privileges of a few developed members.

## Box 2-2: South-South Cooperation for Uganda's Agricultural Transition

For a long time, the South-South cooperation carried out by China and the FAO has been regarded as a model in global governance of food and agriculture. Under this framework, China and Uganda jointly conducted two phases of cooperation programs in 2012-2014 and 2016-2018, which significantly upgraded Uganda's technology in agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery and helped improve the production and quality of life for impoverished people. The "China-Uganda Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park" under the cooperation programs has been recognized by China's Ministry

of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) as the first batch of overseas demonstration zones for agricultural cooperation. The industrial park has thus become a model for China-FAO South-South cooperation and has been awarded as the Best Poverty Reduction Practice for the First Call of the Best Poverty Reduction Case Studies.

In mid-November 2022, the third phase of the China-FAO-Uganda South-South cooperation programs was officially launched. 9 Chinese agricultural experts went to Uganda on a 3-year mission for agricultural

technology cooperation, which prioritizes the cooperation in rice, aquaculture, and livestock. In addition, Uganda government has decided to contribute around USD9.62 million to set up a unilateral trust fund at the FAO to support the third phase of cooperation programs. This is so far the largest donation by the host government under the framework of China-FAO South-South cooperation. It is also a model for leveraging the China-FAO South-South Cooperation Trust Fund to attract host country funding and mobilize host country participation.

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## II. Basic experience

**First, give full play to technologies driving agricultural modernization.** The way out for agriculture is modernization. China has strived to transform agricultural production and regards agricultural modernization as the key to ensure food security. China attaches great importance to innovation in agricultural technologies and its commercialization and prioritizes the promotion of agricultural technologies. Focusing on bottlenecks in agricultural technologies, China draws upon the synergy of the industry, academia and research institutions and promotes the in-depth integration of technological advances and industrial development.

**Second, enhance macro control and improve the grain market system.** Prioritizing planning and guidance, China has adopted policies, including minimum purchase prices, to protect farmers' enthusiasm for growing grain. China has identified the functions and roles of central and local grain reserves and given full play to such reserves. Meanwhile, China has developed a market where large-scale multinational grain companies and small and medium-sized ones develop in synergy. China has also built the National Electronic Grain Trading Platform and stepped up macro control on the grain trading system.

**Third, cooperate for mutual benefits and safeguarding world food security.** Committed

to building a community with a shared future for mankind, China offers concrete help to other developing countries in agricultural development and thus contributes to global food security. China pursues free trade and is an active participant in the global governance of food security. Most recently, China has put forward the Cooperation Initiative on Global Food Security.

### III. Future work

In building a modern socialist country in all respects, China still faces the most arduous tasks in rural areas. China's agriculture is large in scale but not so strong, and the production costs continue to rise. All these are the major bottlenecks during the modernization of agriculture and rural areas. China will continue to prioritize the development of agriculture and rural areas and focus on the following tasks.

**First, push forward rural revitalization and improve the rural income.** Aiming at building a strong agriculture, China will continue to prioritize agriculture and rural development as well as integrated rural-urban development. China will develop rural industries with local features, cultivate new industries and businesses in rural areas and promote steady development of rural tourism and e-commerce. China will ensure the steady growth of farmers' income and create more channels for increasing rural income.

**Second, ensure stable and secure supply of grain and other agricultural products and push for green transition of agriculture in all respects.** China will further develop high-standard farmland and strive for breakthroughs in major and core technologies of agriculture. To consolidate the foundation for food security, China will keep grain planting areas stable and continue to increase per unit output. Meanwhile, China will better prevent and manage pollution from non-point agricultural sources and strengthen the ecological governance along the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, and other major river basins.

**Third, seek open and shared development and deepen international agricultural cooperation.** China will build the new type of partnership for agricultural cooperation at a faster pace, push forward high-quality cooperation in agriculture and rural areas along the Belt and Road and expand overseas agricultural investment. China will actively launch assistance programs in grain and agriculture, fully engage in global food and agricultural governance and try to address the "deficit" in the rules of international agricultural trade.



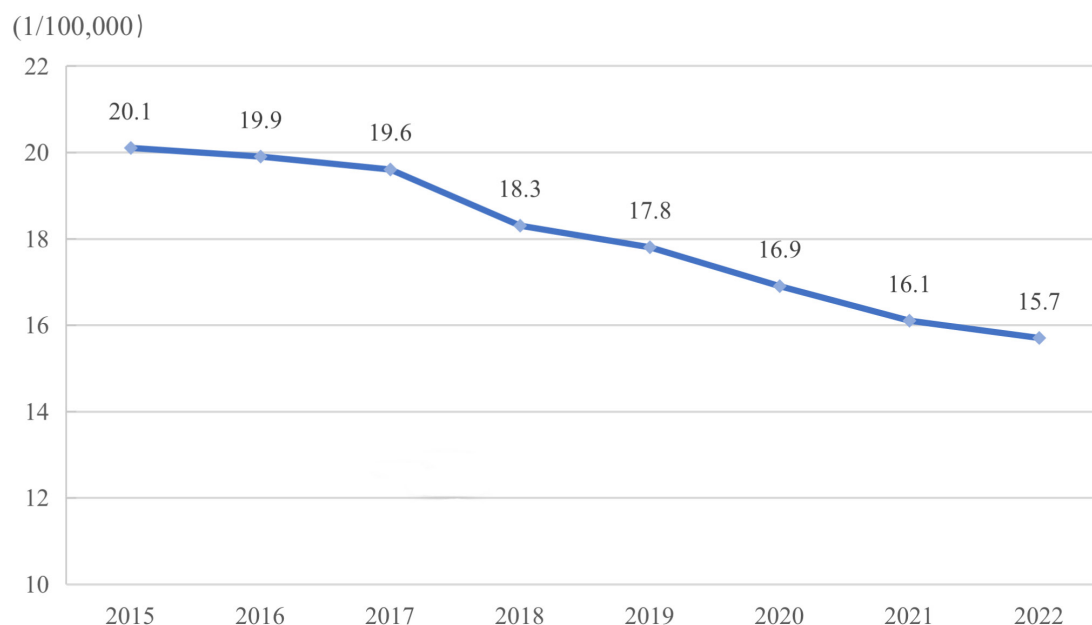
**SDG 3**  
**Ensure healthy lives and  
promote well-being for all at all  
ages**

## I. Implementation Progress

China has always put the health and well-being of the people first, comprehensively promoting the “Healthy China Initiative”, deepening reforms in the medical and health system, and propelling the development of health-related endeavors. Since 2015, the nationwide health coverage system has been progressively refined; a healthy lifestyle has steadily taken shape; there has been a significant enhancement in the health environment; and the health standards have continuously risen. At the same time, China adheres to the concept of building a global community of health for all, actively engages in international health collaborations, and provides foreign assistance, making positive contribution to the realization of global SDGs in the health sector.

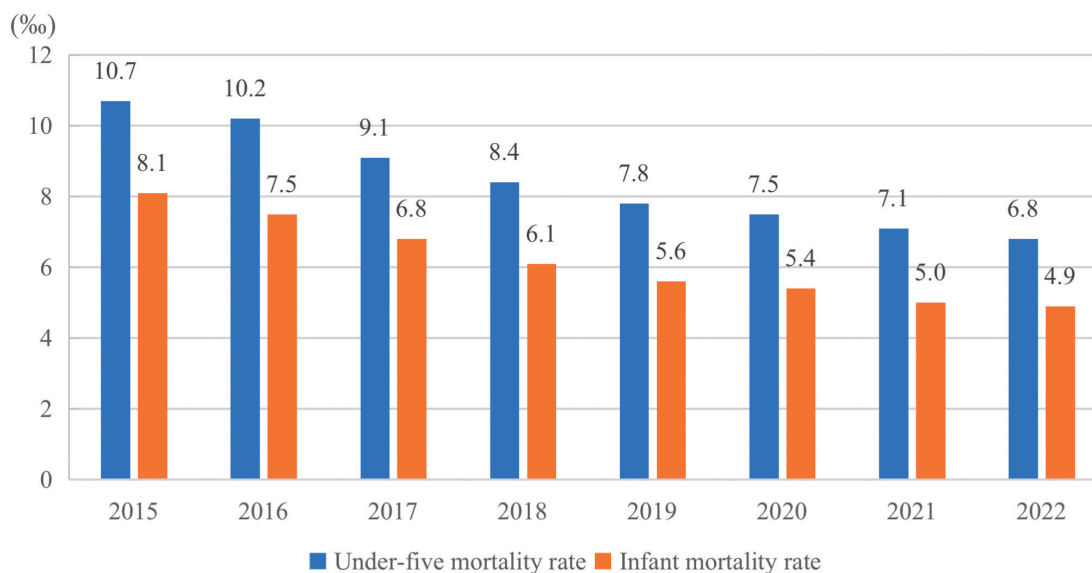
**China has achieved the maternal and child health objectives ahead of schedule, with the**

**health standards of the entire population continuously improving.** China has successively implemented the *Maternal and Infant Safety Action Plan*, the *Enhanced Maternal and Infant Safety Action Plan*, the *Child Health Action Plan*, and the *Enhanced Child Health Action Plan*. These initiatives effectively mitigate pregnancy risks, enhance the treatment capabilities for critically ill newborns, strengthen child health service capacities, and consistently elevate the standard of prenatal and postnatal care services. From 2015 to 2022, China's maternal mortality rate dropped from 20.1 per 100,000 to 15.7 per 100,000 (Figure 3-1), with an in-hospital birth rate consistently above 99%. The mortality rate for children under five years old decreased from 10.7‰ to 6.8‰, and the infant mortality rate declined from 8.1‰ to 4.9‰ (Figure 3-2). The stunting



**Figure 3-1 Maternal Mortality Rate (2015-2022)**

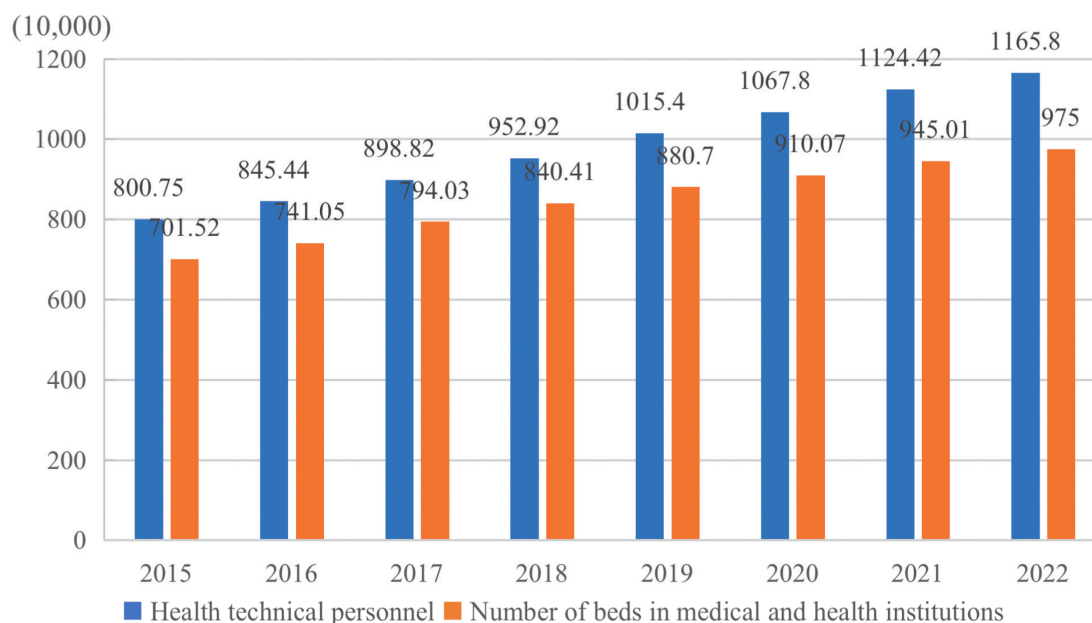
Source: "China National Health and Wellness Statistical Yearbook (2016-2021)", National Health Commission (NHC).



**Figure 3-2 Under-5 Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate (2015-2022)**

Source: "China National Health and Wellness Statistical Yearbook (2016-2021)", National Health Commission (NHC).





**Figure 3-3 Number of Health Technical Personnel and Hospital Beds (2015-2022)**

Source: China National Health Statistics Yearbook (2016-2021); National Bureau of Statistics.

rate for children below five years old has been controlled to under 5%, achieving the maternal and child health objectives of the 2030 SDGs ahead of schedule. China's average life expectancy has increased from 76.3 years in 2015 to 78.2 years in 2021, and the primary health indicators for the entire population have significantly improved, positioning China among the top-tier of upper-middle-income nations.

**China has advanced universal health coverage, and continuously enhanced the accessibility, equity, and affordability of basic medical and health services.** China has built the world's largest healthcare service system. The accessibility of medical services for urban and rural residents has significantly improved. From 2015 to 2022, the number of beds in national medical and health institutions increased from 7.0152 million to 9.75 million; the number of health technical personnel rose from 8.0075 million to 11.658 million (Figure 3-3). Notably, there's been a significant improvement in the development of primary healthcare networks and health service teams. By the end of 2021, about 90% of urban and rural households could reach the nearest medical facility within 15 minutes. Twelve categories and sixteen items of basic public health services were provided free of charge to urban and rural residents. Per capita financial subsidy standards for basic public health services have steadily increased from RMB40 in 2015 to RMB84 in 2022. China has built the world's largest basic medical security network. A multi-level medical security system has been essentially formed, primarily centered around basic medical insurance, with medical aid as a safety net, along with the development of supplementary medical insurance. Since 2015, the national basic medical insurance participation rate has remained stable at over 95%, and the ratio of individual cash expenditures in total health expenses has

continued to decrease. Health services in impoverished rural areas have seen comprehensive improvements both in conditions and standards. Through the implementation of health poverty alleviation projects, the areas without any medical and health institutions or medical personnel at the county and village levels in impoverished and remote areas - have been eliminated. This initiative has cumulatively helped nearly 10 million families, who fell into or relapsed into poverty due to illness, to successfully escape poverty. Furthermore, China has intensified its application of digital technologies to address imbalances in health and wellness development and accessibility issues.

**China has made effective efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuously strengthened the prevention system against major infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.** China has achieved a significant and decisive victory in the prevention and control of the COVID-19 outbreak. Upholding the principles of “putting people and lives first”, China has pragmatically adjusted and optimized measures for epidemic prevention and economic development according to circumstances. The COVID-19 mortality rate in China remains among the lowest globally, ensuring the

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### Box 3-1: Chengde City's Weichang County Achieves Cross-regional Sharing of Medical Resources through Smart Tiered Diagnosis and Treatment System

Chengde City's Weichang Mongolian Autonomous County has a vast territory and is the largest county in Hebei Province. It was also a national key county for poverty alleviation and development. Before being lifted out of poverty, Weichang County had a weak foundation and insufficient capacity in basic public services, especially primary healthcare. Issues like difficult and expensive access to medical treatment and poverty due to illness were prominent. To address these issues, during the development of the National Sustainable Development Innovation Demonstration Zone, Weichang County explored and

established a smart tiered diagnosis and treatment system that utilizes “Internet+” technology. This system integrates medical resources, optimizes service management, and enables regional sharing of imaging information and remote diagnosis. With the help of remote diagnosis technology, a “Smart Tiered Diagnosis and Treatment” model was established. This model has promoted the allocation of high-quality medical resources to the grass-root level, and improved the timeliness and effectiveness of medical treatment for impoverished patients at the primary level. It has alleviated the healthcare pressure on the poor, and enabled urban-rural

sharing of medical resources.

Since the implementation of the “Smart Tiered Diagnosis and Treatment” model, over 90,000 cases seeking local medical treatment were attended to, with cumulative cost savings of over RMB20 million. It has also diverted over 100,000 patients from hospitals in surrounding regions, such as Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei. The model has led to an increase in patients returning for treatment and an increase in primary diagnoses within the county. The aim of “treating minor illnesses within the township and major illnesses within the county” has essentially been realized.

utmost protection of people's lives and health. This has also made a significant contribution to the global fight against the pandemic. China has completely eradicated infectious diseases such as smallpox, polio, and malaria. The transmission of HIV/AIDS through blood transfusion has been essentially stopped, and the mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV/AIDS has decreased from 34.8% without intervention to 3%. Nationwide, the detection rates for syphilis and hepatitis B in pregnant women are both over 99%. The infection rate among major population for parasitic diseases has been successfully reduced to single-digit numbers during each epidemic season. The cure rate for tuberculosis patients has consistently remained above 90%.

**China continues to enhance its comprehensive prevention and control system for major chronic diseases, providing residents with all-encompassing, full-cycle health services.** China places great importance on the prevention and control of chronic diseases, emphasizing a preventive approach and strengthening the integration of medical care and prevention. A comprehensive strategy for the prevention and control of chronic diseases has been formulated and implemented. From 2015 to 2022, China's premature mortality rate from significant chronic diseases decreased from 18.5% to 15.2%. Medications for hypertension and diabetes outpatient treatment have been included within the scope of the residents' medical insurance, reducing the financial burden of treating chronic illnesses and benefiting 140 million residents with chronic conditions. The service capacity at urban and rural grass-roots has been significantly improved. In 2022, over 100 million people with hypertension and over 37 million people with type 2 diabetes received free health management services at primary healthcare institutions. Furthermore, over 100 million elderly individuals aged 65 and above received health management services. The expansion of cervical cancer screenings for women continues. In 2023, China issued the *Action Plan to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer (2023-2030)*, actively responding to the "Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer" of the World Health Organization (WHO). As of now, free cervical cancer screenings have been provided to 2,665 counties (cities and districts) across the country, accounting for 94% of the total.

**China has enhanced the mechanism for ensuring the supply of vaccine and pharmaceuticals, resulting in a continual reduction in the medical expenses for the public.** Special efforts have been channeled into the R&D, production, and supply of COVID-19 vaccines. As of April 27, 2023, a cumulative total of 3.49474 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered across 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. Persistent efforts have been made to promote centralized pharmaceutical procurement. Since 2018, the nation has organized eight rounds of bulk procurement involving 333 types of drugs, with an average price decrease exceeding 50%. Three groups of medical consumables have been procured at an average price reduction surpassing 80%, significantly improving the accessibility

of high-quality medications and supplies. Taking regional consortium procurement into consideration, the total cost savings amount to approximately RMB500 billion. China encourages drug research and innovation. A streamlined process has been established to expedite the market registration of pharmaceuticals. Adhering to legal and regulatory requirements, the review and approval processes have been expedited, and the efficiency of bioequivalence assessments for generic drugs has been enhanced. From 2018 to 2022, 106 innovative drugs were approved for market entry, effectively meeting the medical needs of the population.

**China has actively mobilized resources across the whole society to control factors that influence public health, aiming to improve the environment for living and production.** China has enacted and implemented the Basic Medical and Health Promotion Law, which clearly defines the primary responsibilities of governments at all levels to prioritize health. The principles of “integrating health concepts into all policies” and “establishing a health impact assessment system” have been formally codified into law. A collaborative oversight mechanism for road transportation safety has been established, continually enhancing governance efficiency and supervision standards. Compared with 2015, in 2022, the number of major accidents resulting in three or more deaths decreased by 60.9%. China has revised and implemented the Sanitary Standards for Drinking Water, integrating regulations for drinking water sanitation into legal standards. China has earnestly fulfilled the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. By 2022, party and government agencies at all levels have largely become smoke-free institutions, and the smoking rate among the population aged 15 and above shows a declining trend compared to previous surveys. China has improved the safety production management system, promoting the standardization, regulation, and institutionalization of safety production. The *National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Occupational Disease (2021-2025)* has been released and implemented, further refining the occupational health governance system.

**China has strengthened international health cooperation and foreign aid, pushing for the development of a global community of health for all.** China continues to pursue the greater good and shared interests, practising the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind in its foreign anti-epidemic assistance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, China carried out the largest global emergency humanitarian action in its history. China actively engages in international health cooperation in the prevention and control of chronic diseases, such as cancer. China has implemented initiatives, such as the “China-ASEAN Public Health Talent Training Program” and the “Health Silk Road Talent Training Program”, for capacity building. China has established the China-ASEAN Hospital Alliance platform, supporting ASEAN in improving its health services. In the 60 years of providing medical aid overseas, China dispatched 30,000 medical personnel, offered treatment to 290 million cases, and trained over 100,000 local medical personnel. As of July 2023, China established partnership relations with 46 hospitals in 41 countries, jointly built 25

key clinical specialty centers, and filled thousands of technical gaps.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, firmly protect people's rights to life and health, integrate the implementation of the Healthy China strategy into the overall national development plan.** China has incorporated the health-first philosophy and related development goals into the national plan. In 2016, China introduced a significant policy initiative, advocating for the comprehensive advancement of building a Healthy China. Subsequently, a series of implementation opinions, specialized action plans, and legislations were introduced successively. The Healthy China Action Promotion Committee was established, and in the *14th Five-Year Plan and the Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035*, a vision was proposed to “build a Healthy China” by 2035.

**Second, advance the health sector in conjunction with poverty alleviation and rural revitalization efforts, laying a solid foundation for modernization.** China views the health of the people as a crucial element in the comprehensive realization of a moderately prosperous society and the advancement of modernization with Chinese characteristics. Through the

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### Box 3-2: United in Combating COVID-19 and Building a Global Community of Health for All

During the COVID-19 pandemic, China, while effectively managing its domestic epidemic, actively extended as much assistance as possible to other countries.

In early 2020, at the critical juncture of China's fight against the epidemic, the international community provided valuable support to China in various forms. After achieving initial results in epidemic control at home, China overcame numerous difficulties to offer medical supplies for epidemic prevention to the international community and other countries. China dispatched epidemic prevention experts to provide

technical assistance, and also extended financial aid and debt relief.

Over the past three years, China has provided billions of epidemic prevention materials, such as testing reagents, protective suits, and masks to 151 countries and 13 international organizations, providing 5,246 tons of supplies in total. China has provided 2.2 billion vaccine doses to over 120 countries and international organizations. China dispatched 38 groups of expert teams to 34 countries, covering 11 Asian countries, 18 African countries, 2 American countries, and 3 European countries.

China jointly held approximately 1,500 video conferences with over 180 countries and regions and over 10 international and regional organizations to share experiences in protection, treatment, vaccine, and drug development. Multi-language short videos on preventive guidelines were provided to over 120 countries to fill the knowledge gap in epidemic prevention and control. The Chinese government has also actively engaged in international cooperation on epidemic prevention with international organizations and global regional organizations, especially in vaccine assistance, under respective frameworks.

collaborative formulation of action plans by multiple departments, and by implementing targeted policies and dynamic monitoring measures, China has effectively reduced the risk of impoverished individuals falling back into poverty due to illness. The health service guarantee and service standards in impoverished areas have been elevated, creating favorable conditions for the promotion of public health and the poverty alleviation and rural revitalization efforts to complement and reinforce each other.

**Third, progressively advance the development and reform of the healthcare system and focus on disease prevention and health promotion.** China has always focused on the needs of the people and its unique circumstances. Initially, China innovatively established a primary healthcare system characterized by “low level, broad coverage” and emphasizing “grassroots-oriented, prevention-focused” principles. Subsequently, the nation continuously expanded and improved fairness of the universal health system. China remains committed to providing basic healthcare as a public good to all citizens, persistently deepening reforms in the medical and health sectors. Efforts are made to consolidate the grassroots medical service system, integrate medical and preventive services, enhance the resilience of the health system, and promote innovation in healthcare.

**Fourth, integrate health into all policies and promote collective participation and shared**

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### Box 3-3: China's Practice in Health-Driven Poverty Reduction

In accordance with the national strategy to achieve a moderately prosperous society in all respects, during the critical period of poverty alleviation, China took “ensuring basic medical coverage” as a major indicator under poverty alleviation standards. Fifteen departments jointly issued and implemented guiding opinions on poverty alleviation projects on health. They accurately assessed the health conditions of the impoverished population and ensured medical treatment to the impoverished with major illnesses, contracted healthcare to the impoverished with chronic diseases, and guaranteed medical services for the impoverished with critical illnesses. Efforts were made to

improve medical service conditions and capabilities in impoverished areas, filling in the gaps in healthcare institutions and personnel at the township and village levels. This was done to prevent people from falling back into poverty due to illness from both supply and demand perspectives.

After the successful campaign against poverty, thirteen departments jointly issued opinions on consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation on health, ensuring effective connection with rural revitalization. They aligned work mechanisms and policy measures, established and refined a national dynamic

monitoring system to prevent people from falling back into poverty due to illness. Dynamic monitoring was conducted on population at risk of returning to poverty due to illness, and on healthcare institutions and personnel in impoverished areas, effectively preventing a large-scale return to poverty due to health issues, ensuring a complete coverage of basic medical and health services. Meanwhile, the level of rural medical and health services continued to be improved; comprehensive prevention and control of major diseases in key areas were deepened; and the overall health literacy and level of the rural population were enhanced, preventing the root cause of falling or returning to poverty due to illness.

**benefits.** China has enacted and implemented the Basic Medical and Health Promotion Law, clearly specifying the primary responsibility of governments at all levels to prioritize health in development. The principles of “integrating health into all policies” and “establishing a health impact assessment system” have been formally incorporated into the law. It stresses the shared ideas on health among the government, society, and individuals, advocating for a healthy lifestyle and consumption patterns.

### III. Future Work

**First, put people first and value life, and effectively safeguard the health and well-being of the general public.** China will further enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and scientific approach of epidemic prevention and control based on a comprehensive and scientific review of the COVID-19 prevention and control efforts. China will improve epidemic monitoring, upgrade vaccines and the research and development of new drugs, innovate medical and preventive collaboration mechanisms, and accelerate the establishment of a system for routine and emergency health response.

**Second, led by public welfare and with a focus on grassroots, China will further enhance the equity, accessibility, and affordability of health insurance and basic healthcare services.** China will adhere to the principles of “prioritizing the grassroots, being driven by reform and innovation, emphasizing prevention, giving equal importance to traditional Chinese and Western medicine, integrating health into all policies, and promoting collective participation and sharing achievements by the public”. China will encourage the coordinated development and governance of health insurance, medical care, and medicine, expand and balance high-quality medical resources, and continuously improve capabilities of primary-level healthcare. China will enhance the application of digital technology in the health sector, and modernize the healthcare governance system and its governance capabilities.

**Third, adhere to the concept of “Holistic Public Health and Wellbeing”, and continuously improve the social and environmental factors that influence health.** China will implement the Healthy China Initiative, strengthen the comprehensive prevention and control of major infectious diseases, endemic diseases, and chronic diseases. China will continuously launch patriotic health campaigns to enhance national health education. China will implement proactive strategies to address population aging, and reinforce guarantee for elderly care services. China will optimize fertility policies and develop inclusive child care services. China will continuously improve road and transportation infrastructure, strengthen environmental governance, and advance the mechanism for health impact assessment.

**Fourth, comprehensively promote international cooperation in the field of health and wellness, jointly building a global community of health for all.** China will actively fulfill international obligations and support the WHO in playing a better role in global health

governance. China will enhance international monitoring and early warning of infectious disease risks, information exchange, and technical cooperation, and innovate health assistance mechanism and cooperation models. China will further strengthen policy communication and experience sharing with other countries and international organizations.





## SDG 4

**Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

### **I. Implementation Progress**

China has consistently regarded education as a strategic priority within the overall landscape of socio-economic development. Since 2012, the proportion of national fiscal educational expenditure to GDP has consistently remained at over 4%. The level of educational attainment in China has continuously risen, broadening educational opportunities for its citizens and elevating their educational standards. At present, China has established the largest educational system in the world, and its overall educational modernization has ascended to the upper-middle tier among countries.

**China has strengthened the primary responsibility of the government, and promoted compulsory education towards high-quality and balanced growth.** The balance in the development of compulsory education has been significantly improved. By the end of 2021, all 2,895 counties in the 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps have passed the national supervisory evaluation for balanced development of compulsory education within the county, marking a shift in compulsory education from merely “granting access” to “high quality”. The availability of compulsory education in urban and rural areas remains at a high level. From 2015 to 2022, the central government allocated a total of RMB1.241 trillion for urban and rural compulsory education, supporting the establishment and consolidation of a unified urban and rural financial support mechanism, with a focus on rural areas. This funding was also used to support special teaching posts in rural compulsory education schools and student nutrition improvement plans, promoting the high-quality and balanced development of compulsory education. From 2015 to 2022, the net enrollment rate of school-aged children<sup>6</sup> in primary schools and the gross enrollment rate in junior high schools<sup>7</sup> remained at 99.9% and above 100% respectively. The compulsory education completion rate<sup>8</sup> rose from 93.0% to 95.5%. China’s availability of compulsory education reached the average level of high-income countries.

**China has adhered to the basic principles of public welfare and inclusivity, and significantly enhanced the coverage and inclusiveness of preschool education.** Since 2011, China has been continuously formulating and implementing preschool education action plans at the county level, clearly outlining the goals, tasks, and policy measures to accelerate the development of preschool education. From 2015 to 2022, the central government allocated a total of RMB139 billion to support the development of preschool education, with a focus on expanding inclusive resources in the central and western regions, improving the inclusivity guarantee mechanism, and enhancing the quality of care and education. In terms of the availability of preschool education, from 2015 to 2022, the number of children enrolled in preschools increased from 42.6483 million to 46.2755 million. The gross enrollment rate of children aged 3-5 increased

6. The net enrollment rate for school-aged children in primary schools refers to the percentage of the in-school population of school-aged children in primary education relative to the total population of the nationally prescribed age group for primary education. It is calculated separately based on the different starting ages and educational systems in various regions.

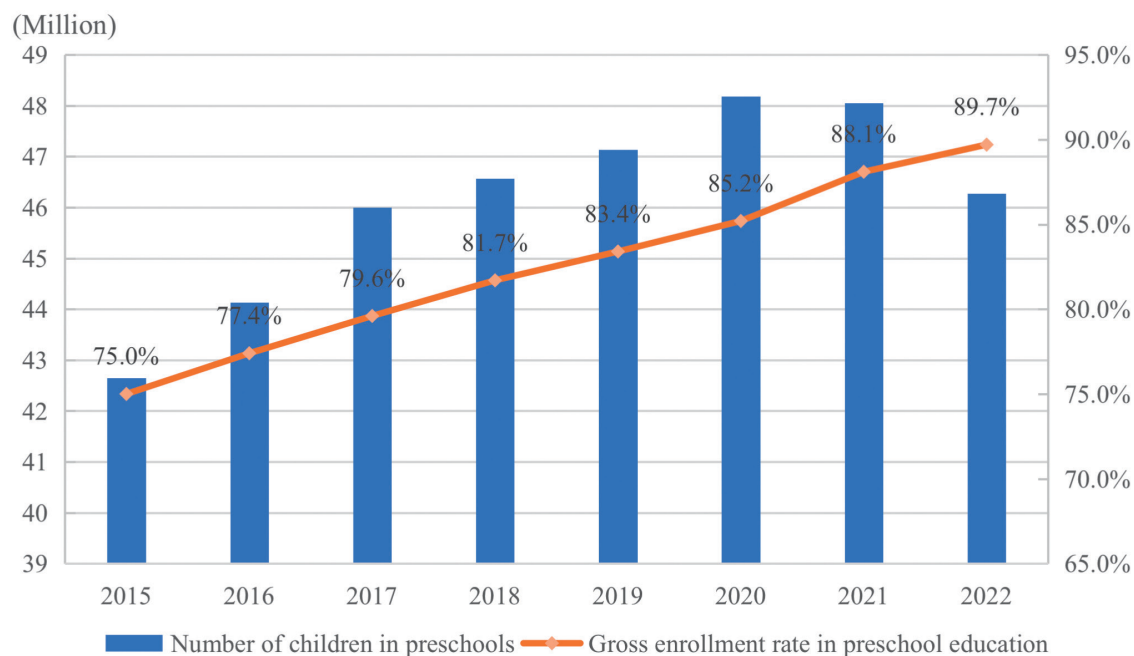
7. The gross enrollment rate refers to the total number of students at a certain level of education, regardless of age, as a percentage of the population of the age group specified by the state for that level of education. The gross enrollment ratio may exceed 100% due to the inclusion of non-formal age group (lower age or over age) students.

8. The completion rate of nine-year compulsory education refers to the percentage of students graduating from junior high school relative to the number of the same group of students who entered the first grade of primary school.

9. Inclusive kindergartens refer to those that charge for childcare and boarding fees based on government-guided prices. This includes public kindergartens run by the education department and other departments, as well as private kindergartens with an inclusive nature.

steadily from 75.0% to 89.7%, an improvement of 14.7 percentage points (Figure 4-1). China's preschool education availability has reached the average level of high-income countries worldwide. In terms of the nature of kindergartens, from 2017 to 2022, the proportion of inclusive kindergartens<sup>9</sup> among kindergartens nationwide rose from 64.5% to 84.96%, and the proportion of children in inclusive kindergartens among all enrolled children increased from 70.6% to 89.55%.

**China has achieved steady progress in education for senior high schools, vocational education, and higher education, resulting in a continual enhancement of the overall quality of the labor force.** The *Program for Promoting Senior High School Education (2017-2020)* was implemented, with a focus on expanding educational resources and improving the schooling conditions for regular high schools in counties with a weaker educational foundation. The gross enrollment rate for senior high schools<sup>10</sup> increased from 87.0% in 2015 to 91.6% in 2022. China has established the world's largest modern vocational education system. Since 2015, the employment rate (including pursuing further studies) for secondary vocational schools has remained stable at over 96%, and for higher vocational schools, it has been over 91%. In sectors like modern manufacturing, strategic emerging industries, and modern services, over 70% of the new grassroots employees are vocational college graduates. Higher education is becoming universal. From 2015 to 2022, both the overall number of students enrolled in higher education and the gross enrollment rate steadily increased, reaching 46.55 million and 59.6% respectively in 2022 (Figure 4-2). In 2022, the average years of education for the labor force aged 16 to 59 in China reached 10.93 years, and the average years of education



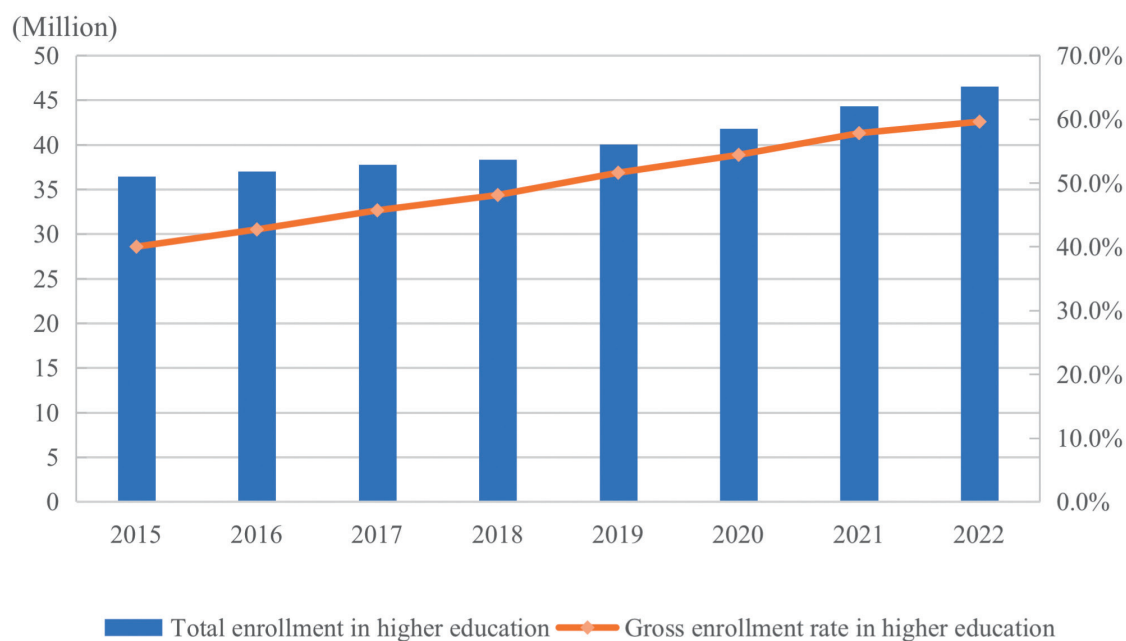
**Figure 4-1 Number of Children in Preschools and Gross Enrollment Rate (2015-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Education.

10. The senior high school education encompasses regular high schools, adult high schools, and secondary vocational schools.

for the new workforce reached 14 years. In response to the employment pressure faced by new graduates, the Chinese government has been making efforts on both supply and demand to fully promote high-quality employment for university graduates.

**China has intensified efforts to protect vulnerable groups, robustly safeguarding people's right to equal education.** Gender equality in education is continuously being promoted. Women's educational opportunities in China have significantly enhanced, the educational level of females has generally improved, and the gender gap in education has been basically eliminated. China has placed great emphasis on the development of special education. Since 2014, the Chinese government has implemented three consecutive stages of the *Special Education Enhancement Plan*. From 2016, the per capita public expenditure standard for students in special education schools and disabled students studying in regular classes during the compulsory education period has been raised to RMB6,000, 6-8 times that of regular students. The central fiscal special education subsidy increased from RMB410 million in 2016 to RMB500 million in 2022. Both special education schools and full-time teachers have enjoyed a significant increase. As of 2022, there were 920,000 special education students nationwide, and the enrollment rate for school-aged disabled children in compulsory education reached over 95%. Other education and skills training are provided for vulnerable groups. High school education, especially secondary vocational education for the disabled, has accelerated. Over 10,000 vocational schools nationwide carry out various types of training for hundreds of millions of people every year. Each year, about 300,000 discharged military personnel, unemployed people, migrant workers, new professional farmers, and other people receive vocational education. From 2013 to 2020, a total of more than 8 million students from impoverished families received vocational



**Figure 4-2 Total Enrollment and Gross Enrollment Rate in Higher Education (2015-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Education.

education, effectively preventing the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

**China has integrated sustainable development into the education system, increasing the public's awareness of sustainable development.** China integrates the knowledge and values of sustainable development with quality education, emphasizing the cultivation of sustainable habits and lifestyles. Sustainable development concepts and content are well incorporated into subjects such as physics, chemistry, geography, and biology in general high schools. China has placed proper emphasis on the guiding role of exams and evaluations, focusing on assessing students' sense of social responsibility, innovative spirit, and practical skills. Students are encouraged to participate in public welfare activities related to environmental protection and volunteer services. China has continuously optimized and adjusted the undergraduate programs in universities, refining the degree awarding system and the catalog of programs with Chinese features with the concept of sustainable development. Universities have offered undergraduate programs, such as cultural sector management, cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage protection, global health studies, resources and environmental science, and physical geography and resources environment.

**China emphasizes international cooperation in the field of education, and provides support for human capital development of other developing countries.** China supports other developing countries in talent cultivation. The Chinese government, through the establishment of country-specific scholarships, "China-Africa Friendship" special scholarships, and the Great Wall scholarships, funds outstanding youths from developing countries to study in China. From 2015 to 2022, the Chinese government scholarships funded a total of 78,475 individuals from developing countries to study in China. China assists other developing countries in teacher's training. Since 2015, under the framework of human resource development cooperation with foreign aid, China has organized over 300 themed projects in the educational field, training approximately 10,000 educational professionals for a broad range of developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). From 2019 to 2022, China, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), set up a trust fund, providing USD2 million annually to support quality teacher's education and training in African countries. In cooperation with UNESCO, China established a Teacher's Education Center in Shanghai, serving as a global service provider, standard-setter, research and resource management center in the field of teacher's education. China promotes the sharing of educational resources. Initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Science Education Cooperation project have been launched. The establishment of the China-Pakistan Science Education Alliance of 100 Schools enables the integration of over a hundred science courses into Pakistan's national curriculum system. China builds platforms for educational exchanges. China hosts events like the World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference (August 2022) and the World Digital Education Conference (February 2023) to promote the exchange of advanced practices and developmental experience in the field of education.

## Box 4-1: The World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference

Promoting the high-quality development of global vocational education and contributing to the construction of a better world in the post-pandemic era are significant tasks faced by the vocational education sector worldwide. From August 19 to 20, 2022, China successfully hosted the World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference. With the theme of “Vocational and Technical Education Development in the Post-pandemic Era: New Changes, New Methods, New Skills”, the conference was held in a hybrid

manner, attracting approximately 700 representatives from 123 countries around the globe.

The conference published the “Tianjin Initiative”, sharing experience and practices from various countries and identifying directions for the future development of vocational education. At the same time, the first World Vocational College Skills Competition and the World Vocational Education Online Expo for Industry-Education Integration were held. An initiative to establish the World Alliance for

Vocational and Technical Education was also announced, creating a new international cooperative platform and paradigm for vocational education covering “conference, alliance, competition, and exhibition”.

China successfully hosted the conference, with a global consensus on the development of vocational education. This has propelled high-quality development in global vocational education, making positive contribution to global collective growth.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, optimize top-level design to guide educational development through planning.** China has always promoted the development of education under the guidance of national, regional, and special plans, ensuring that education aligns with the requirements of national development, meets the expectations of the people, and matches the comprehensive national strength and international standing. For instance, the National Five-Year Plan, China’s Education Modernization 2035, and the Education Poverty Alleviation Plan have strategically outlined the direction, arrangements, and allocation of key elements for education development inside and beyond the sector, fully leveraging the guiding role of these plans in advancing education.

**Second, make continuous and proactive breakthrough to achieve comprehensive progress with key reforms.** The Chinese government, based on practical realities, focuses on the prominent bottlenecks, major shortcomings, and obstacles within the institutions and mechanism of educational development. It identifies key areas and pivotal links for reform. For instance, it resolutely advances the “double reduction” policy<sup>11</sup>, strengthens the development of a modern vocational education system, deepens the reforms of examination and enrollment systems, and promotes reforms in educational evaluation, among others. Many key areas and crucial links in

11. Double reduction refers to: 1) reducing the homework load for students in the compulsory education stage; and 2) resolutely reducing extracurricular academic tutoring.

China's educational endeavors have achieved breakthrough through reforms, thus propelling the comprehensive advancement and progress of the educational sector.

**Third, emphasize digital empowerment to promote the widespread sharing of high-quality educational resources.** The Chinese government consistently upholds innovative thinking and a developmental perspective, recognizing the significant role of digitalization in the advancement of education. Digitalization has become a vital method for China to increase the coverage, fairness, inclusiveness, and overall quality of high-quality educational resources. During the COVID-19 pandemic, China ensured “suspending classes without suspending learning” through digital education. In the post-pandemic era, China continues to build a digitally interconnected education platform system based on joint

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## Box 4-2: China's Practice in Advancing Digital Transformation in Education

In today's world, with the rapid advancement of technology, leveraging the development of information technology to promote educational reform and innovation is paramount. Building a society for learning where everyone can learn anytime, anywhere, and fostering a vast number of innovative talents, are major challenges faced by humanity. Meanwhile, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has highlighted the necessity and urgency of large-scale online teaching, further accelerating the digital transformation of education.

China considers the digitalization of education as a critical aspect of educational modernization, fully implementing the national strategy for educational digitalization. On March 28, 2022, China's “National Intelligent Education Public Service Platform” (<https://www.smartedu.cn>) was officially launched, and it becomes the world's largest educational and teaching resource

repository. In the year since its launch, the platform has received over 26 billion visits, with more than 200 million youths studying online. Even individuals from remote mountainous areas and rural regions can now access top-quality educational resources from Shanghai, Beijing, Zhejiang, and Jiangsu. The National Intelligent Education Public Service Platform provides robust support for personalized learning and lifelong learning, expanding the coverage of high-quality educational resources, and modernizing education. It was awarded the UNESCO prize for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education in 2022.

Meanwhile, China has actively promoted international exchange and cooperation in the digitalization of education. In December 2022, in collaboration with UNESCO, China hosted the 2022 International Forum on Artificial Intelligence

and Education. In February 2023, China organized the World Digital Education Conference with the theme “Digital Transformation and the Future of Education”. Delegates from over 130 countries and regions came together to discuss how the digital transformation of education can aid the recovery of education in the post-pandemic era, ensure the equitable distribution of quality educational resources, and advance the achievement of the United Nations' SDGs.

China's experience demonstrates that digitalization is a prevailing trend and is ushering in transformative changes in the realm of education. Governments worldwide must adopt a strategic and forward-looking perspective, proactively plan, attach full importance to, and increase investment to propel high-quality development in their respective education sectors. This concerted effort will collectively advance the early realization of SDG4.

construction and shared benefits, expanding the reach of high-quality educational resources.

### III. Future Work

At present, China's educational development still faces a series of challenges. On the one hand, areas such as compulsory education, preschool education, vocational education, and higher education still have shortcomings in terms of education conditions, teaching staff, and institutional mechanism. On the other hand, digital transformation brings potential uncertainties to the development of education. Going forward, China will focus on the following tasks.

**First, continue to promote high-quality and balanced development in compulsory education.** China will put emphasis on supporting schools with weaknesses to enhance their educational standards, ensuring that children and adolescents of appropriate age will have access to fair and quality compulsory education. China will continue to make efforts to consolidate and improve the mechanism for funding guarantee in urban and rural compulsory education, pushing forward both high-quality and balanced development of compulsory education and the integration of urban and rural education.

**Second, focus on enhancing the coverage and accessibility of preschool education.** Taking into full consideration demographic changes, rural revitalization, and urbanization trends, China will make efforts to optimize the distribution of inclusive preschool education resources. China will implement an investment mechanism that relies primarily on government funding while also involves reasonable family contribution and multiple funding channels. This approach aims to ensure the provision of adequate resources for inclusive preschool education, ultimately improving the standards of preschool facilities and ensuring high-quality education and care.

**Third, accelerate high-quality development in vocational education and higher education.** This includes the comprehensive implementation of reforms to advance the development of a modern vocational education system, fostering innovation in the institutional mechanism of higher education, enhancing the cultivation of talents in fundamental disciplines, and placing emphasis on nurturing top-notch innovative talents.

**Fourth, ensure the equal right to education for children with disabilities.** China will make continuous efforts to implement the *14th Five-Year Plan for the Enhancement of Special Education Development*, to consolidate and enhance the coverage of compulsory education for children and adolescents with disabilities.

**Fifth, significantly enhance education digitization.** This encompasses the comprehensive implementation of the national education digitization strategic actions, establishing a digital big data center for national education, leveraging big data to empower education and teaching, and strengthening the capacity to provide effective public educational services.





SDG 5

**Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

## I. Implementation Progress

China has written “adhere to the basic state policy of gender equality, and protect the legitimate rights and interests of women and children” into the reports of the 18th, 19th and 20th National Congress of the CPC, as well as the 13th and 14th Five-Year Plans. China has promoted the coordinated development of women and economic and social growth, and continuously improved the development of women in fields such as law, health, education, economy, decision-making and management.

**China has established and improved a legal and policy framework to ensure women’s comprehensive and equal rights and interests.** In the spheres of legislation, adjudication, law enforcement, and compliance, the protection of women’s rights and interests is emphasized. This has led to the

formation of a legal system for women's rights, including over 100 laws and regulations. The *Outline for Women's Development in China (2021-2030)* was promulgated and implemented in 2021. In October 2022, the *Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests* was revised and adopted. The *National Human Rights Action Plan (2021-2025)* has a special section highlighting the protection of women's rights and interests. Additionally, amendments were made to the *Criminal Law*, *Employment Promotion Law*, *Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care*, *Population and Family Planning Law*, and the *Legal Aid Law* was formulated, all aimed at strengthening the rule of law to "eliminate discrimination against women". All 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, 336 cities, and 99.6% of counties have formulated women's development plans tailored to local conditions. Over 1,300 gender-specific indicators directly reflecting women's development and socio-economic progress have been introduced. Since 2015, China has conducted more than 3.14 million publicity and legal rights awareness campaigns for women and girls, with participation by over 420 million women. At the national level and across all 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, mechanisms for gender equality assessment of laws and policies have been established. China has issued the *Implementation and Fulfillment of the Basic National Policy of Gender Equality*.

**China has intensified protection and relief to ensure the protection of women's personal rights and their rights in marriage and family.** China has made proactive efforts to prevent and stop domestic violence. Since the implementation of the *Anti-Domestic Violence Law* in 2016, continuous enhancement has been made to intervention methods against domestic violence, such as the mandatory reporting system, warning letters, personal safety protection orders, and anti-domestic violence shelters. The legal system against domestic violence is becoming increasingly robust, with a decrease in the proportion of women subjected to physical and psychological violence. Since 2016, over 15,000 personal safety protection orders have been issued. Legal assistance for women has been significantly reinforced. By the end of 2020, there have been 2,651 legal aid institutions and 75,000 legal aid service stations across the country. In 2020, the number of women who received legal assistance reached 341,000, an increase of 73.7% compared to 2010, and the number of women and children's complaints handled by county-level Women's Federations and above exceeded 188,000. China has made continuous efforts to implement the *China Action Plan Against Human Trafficking*, cracking down on trafficking crimes. In 2022, the number of registered cases involving the trafficking of women and children decreased by 86.1% compared to 2013. 84% of marriage registration authorities at county level or above have established marriage and family counseling rooms. In 2020, the *Guiding Opinions on Carrying out Pilot Projects on Marriage Customs Reform* were issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, identifying 32 national experimental zones for marriage customs reforms. The *Civil Code* has provisions on spousal property rights, economic compensation for housework

during divorce, and other matters, further strengthening the protection of women's legal rights and interests. Seventeen provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have introduced gender equality education courses in primary and secondary schools, and over a hundred universities have offered specialized courses in women's studies.

**China has been deeply committed to implementing health and education action plans, safeguarding women's rights to health and education.** The health of women has been significantly improved. In 2022, the average life expectancy for Chinese women exceeded 80 years. The maternal mortality rate was 15.7 per 100,000, a 21.9% decrease from 2015, placing China among the top tier of middle and high-income countries globally. Starting from 2021, China launched a new phase of the Maternal and Infant Safety Enhancement Program, with a pre-marital medical examination rate of 70.9%, an increase of 12.2 percentage points from 2015. The rate of in-hospital childbirths remains at a high level of 99.9%. In 2022, the screening rates for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B in pregnant women were all above 99%, and mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased to 3%. Screening programs for cervical and breast cancers cover over 2,600 counties and cities across the country, with county-level coverage rates exceeding 90%. Since 2015, over 217,000 impoverished and low-income rural women diagnosed with the two cancers above have received an aid of RMB10,000 per person. The right of women to equal education is effectively guaranteed. Several scholarship programs and projects have been launched to support girls in completing their compulsory education and increasing their opportunities to pursue secondary and higher education. Since 2018, the net enrollment rate for school-age girls in primary schools has consistently remained at above 99.9%. In 2021, the proportion of female students in regular high schools, adult undergraduate programs, general undergraduate programs, and postgraduate studies all exceeded that of males, reaching 50.2%, 57.7%, 53.2%, and 51.5% respectively.

**China has launched policies to support women's labor and employment, safeguarding their economic and occupational development rights and interests.** China promotes the full employment of women. In 2022, the Women's Federations across the country organized 3,083 specialized recruitment events for female university students, offering over 1.06 million job positions. They held more than 80,000 employment training sessions and collaborated with relevant departments to help over 900,000 female university students find jobs. In 2021, women took up 43.1% of the total employed population nationwide. 55% of Internet entrepreneurs were women, and women accounted for 45.8% of tech workers. China has made active efforts to eliminate gender discrimination in employment. By the end of 2021, MHRSS, Trade Unions, and Women's Federations in all 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have issued joint consultation documents or established mechanisms against gender discrimination in employment. In 2021, 73.3% of companies implemented the *Special Provisions on Labor Protection for Female Employees*. China has intensified efforts to

enhance women's professional skills. The percentage of female students in vocational technical schools increased from 28.3% in 2015 to 33.8% in 2022. From 2015 to 2022, a total of 81.99 million women participated in subsidized vocational skill training nationwide. Since 2021, Women's Federations at all levels have trained nearly 2.2 million relocated and low-income women. Rural women's land and related rights and interests are protected. The amended *Rural Land Contracting Law*, the *Trial Certificate of Land Contracting Operation Rights and Land Management Rights Registration issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources*, and the newly revised *Women's Rights and Interests Protection Law* at the end of 2022 all explicitly stipulate the land and related rights and interests of rural women. Additionally, China has carried out training programs to improve the ICT skills of all practitioners, including women.

### Box 5-1: Shanghai's Seagull Plan Empowers Female University Students in Employment and Entrepreneurship

In 2022, Shanghai had a total of 227,000 fresh college graduates, of which 119,500 were female, accounting for 52.66% of the total. Both the number and growth rate reached historic highs. To aid these female graduates in securing quality employment, Shanghai initiated the "Seagull Plan". Under this plan, "Seagull Bay" workstations were established in 22 universities, introducing various service programs such as "Seagull Lectures", "Seagull Visiting Corporations", "Seagull Reading Materials", "Seagull Mutual Assistance", and "Seagull Volunteer Services".

First, a team of 100 instructors was formed to guide female university students in career planning. These students had the opportunity to visit prominent private companies, state-owned enterprises, and foreign corporations, where they engaged in discussions and dialogues with professional women from various

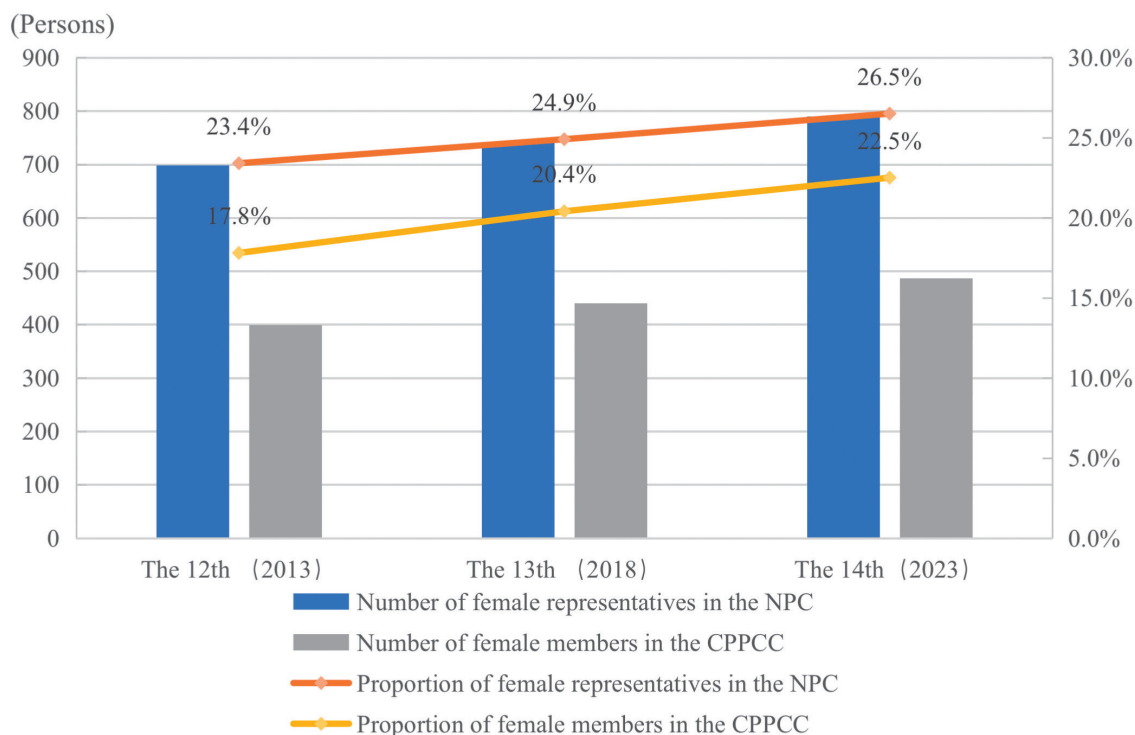
sectors. Second, there was a concerted effort to mobilize female entrepreneurs to offer job positions and conduct live-streamed on-the-job training. In collaboration with the district women's federations, the initiative launched a massive recruitment drive of "Thousands of Companies, Tens of Thousands of Positions" serving female university students. Third, over several months, virtual job fairs were organized on the professional job-hunting platform "Zhaopin", and special employment programs for female university students were broadcasted in collaboration with media outlets. Fourth, a recruitment call was made within female social organizations across the city. An online recruitment platform for these organizations was launched, exploring innovative methods of flexible employment for female students through digital technology. Fifth, female university students' entrepreneurship competitions were

held, providing a comprehensive range of services, including training, project matchmaking, mentor, and financial support. This initiative aimed to identify outstanding female entrepreneurs and regard them as role models for others.

The "Seagull Plan" adeptly leveraged policy advantages and innovated employment assistance and collaborative working mechanisms. It consolidated resources from the government, universities, corporations, experts, teachers, and the media. Utilizing digital technology and social media platforms, it provided employment guidance and entrepreneurial support, aiding female university students in enhancing their skills, accessing employment resources and platforms for job hunting and entrepreneurship. The initiative effectively assisted a significant number of female college students in achieving their employment goals.

**China has made efforts to enhance the representation of women in political, economic, and public life, ensuring women's rights to participate in decision-making and management.**

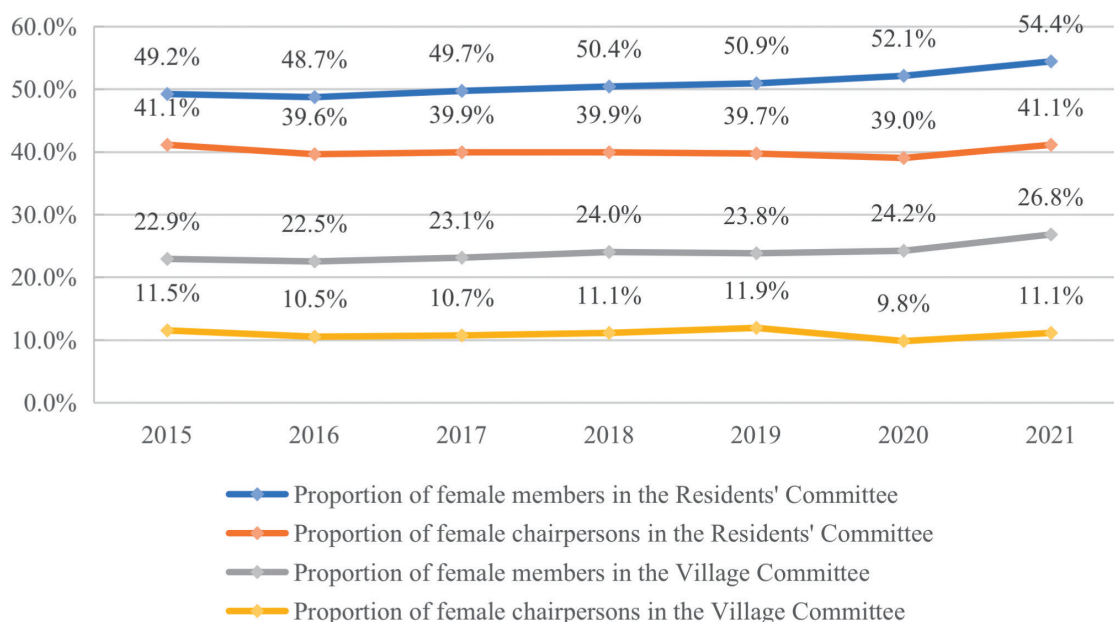
In terms of female official development, the proportion of women among the National People's Congress (NPC) deputies and members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) has steadily increased. Female representatives of the 14th NPC (2023) accounted for 26.5%, a 3.1 percentage point increase from the 12th NPC (2013), marking the highest percentage of female representatives in the history of the NPC; for the 14th CPPCC (2023), females constituted 22.5% of all national members, up 4.7 percentage points from the 12th CPPCC (2013) (Figure 5-1). In 2022, 94.6% of municipal leadership teams and 95.5% of county leadership teams had female members, marking an increase of 11.9 and 9.8 percentage points, respectively, since 2015. In the realm of corporate decision-making and management, in 2021, women made up 37.6% of employee directors and 40.5% of employee supervisors. From 2015 to 2021, the proportion of female representatives in the corporate employees' congress rose from 28.3% to 30.6%. Regarding women's participation in grassroots democratic governance, in 2021, 54.4% of members in residents' committees were women, 5.2 percentage points higher than that of 2015. In 2021, 26.8% of village committee members were women, up 3.9 percentage points from 2015 (Figure 5-2). In 2021, women accounted for 26.7% of the heads of social organizations.



**Figure 5-1 Number and Proportion of Female Representatives in the NPC and Female Members in the CPPCC**

Source: Statistical Data from the NPC and CPPCC.

**China has actively participated in international exchanges and cooperation on women, contributing to global advancement of women's development.** China has engaged in friendly exchanges with 429 women's organizations and institutions from 145 countries, as well as with relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies. By the end of 2020, China had achieved the poverty reduction target of the 2030 Agenda 10 years ahead of schedule, with women accounting for approximately half of the population lifted out of poverty, setting a global example in women's poverty alleviation. China has actively hosted international events on women. In 2020, the discussion of "The Role of Women in Eradicating Poverty in the 21st Century" was held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women and the 5th anniversary of the Global Women's Summit. In 2021, during the Sustainable Development Forum, the roundtable discussion on "Women's Leadership and Sustainable Development" was organized. Institutionalized forums like the China-ASEAN, China-Arab, and China-Central Asia Women's Development Forums were held. China has offered aid and capacity building for women in other developing nations. Groups of small-scale material assistance were provided to 30 countries, and over 100 training and skill-building sessions were organized for over 2,000 women's organization or institution members from more than 100 developing countries, including those along the Belt and Road. China has established close bilateral law enforcement relations and communication hotlines with 113 countries, and departmental cooperation mechanisms with 54 foreign law enforcement agencies. Eight border liaison offices have been set up in border areas of Guangxi and Yunnan to jointly combat transnational human trafficking crimes targeting women. China has promoted global actions to safeguard the rights and interests of disabled women. In September 2020, the China Disabled



**Figure 5-2 Proportion of Female Members and Chairpersons in Resident's (Village) Committees (2015-2021)**

Source: Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Persons' Federation, in conjunction with relevant UN agencies, jointly released the *Call to Action: Empowering Disabled Women and Girls for the Future We Want*, initiating cooperation on the sexual and reproductive health of disabled women and promoting the “Beautiful Workshop” project for disabled women globally.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, adhere to the fundamental national policy of gender equality and well plan the development goals for women and children.** China regards the protection of women's rights as a national priority, emphasizing the harmonious and coordinated development of women and children with economic and social progress. When formulating related laws, regulations, and policy systems, and in planning and organizing the work, the practical differences between genders and the unique interests of women are considered. China integrates women's development into the overall and specialized plans for national economic and social development, setting clear development goals, guiding the ongoing progress and development of women and children's affairs.

**Second, establish a comprehensive legal system to safeguard rights and interests and refine the coordination mechanism across multiple departments.** China simultaneously advances the formulation and enforcement of laws, strengthens assessments of gender equality, ensures that the legal protection of women and children's rights is in line with other related legal areas and policies, and holistically adopts “prevention, punishment, and assistance” measures. China improves the coordination mechanism where party committee leadership, governmental responsibility, coordination by the women and children's committees, collaboration across departments, and broad social participation are aligned, widely mobilizing various sectors to promote gender equality and the all-around development of women.

**Third, highlight the central role of women, and continuously reinforce and refine the work of women-related organizations.** Women's Federations meet the demands of the new era, consistently pushing for modernized governance capabilities, and elevating the quality and efficiency of public outreach and service. China emphasizes guiding and supporting women and children to act as the main players, constantly stimulating the majority of women's enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity in constructing a modern socialist nation. China attaches importance to fostering a society that champions gender equality and the protection of women and children's rights.

## III. Future Work

China has made tangible progress in promoting gender equality, but the uneven and inadequate development of the female population remains a prominent issue. Significant disparities still exist between the development of men and women, and the overall level of women's

participation in economic and social development needs to be comprehensively enhanced. China will resolutely focus on the following key tasks to ensure that gender equality is fully achieved in practice.

**First, promote the revision of laws related to women and the implementation of corresponding systems.** China will further improve regulations and policies, promote standardized construction and effective operation of institutional mechanism, intensify law enforcement inspections and oversight efforts, enhance efforts to eliminate gender discrimination in employment, create a gender-equal employment environment, protect the land rights and interests of rural women, and improve the work mechanism for “prevention, punishment, and rescue”.

**Second, strengthen the publicity and education on the basic national policy of gender equality, creating an enabling environment for the development of women and children.** China will sustain efforts to enhance the public understanding of the fundamental policy of gender equality. China will comprehensively promote China's theoretical foundation, political stance, institutional advantages, and achievements in implementing the fundamental policy of gender equality, thus further optimizing the socio-cultural environment favorable for the development of women and children.

**Third, advance participation and assist in advancing the global cause of women's development.** China will continue to fully implement the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, focus on implementing the *Outline of Women's Development (2021-2030)*, align with the 2030 Agenda, and comprehensively promote the coordinated enhancement of women's development in China with other countries, especially developing countries. China will actively participate in improving gender equality mechanism in global governance and actively contribute Chinese solutions and propositions.





SDG 

**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

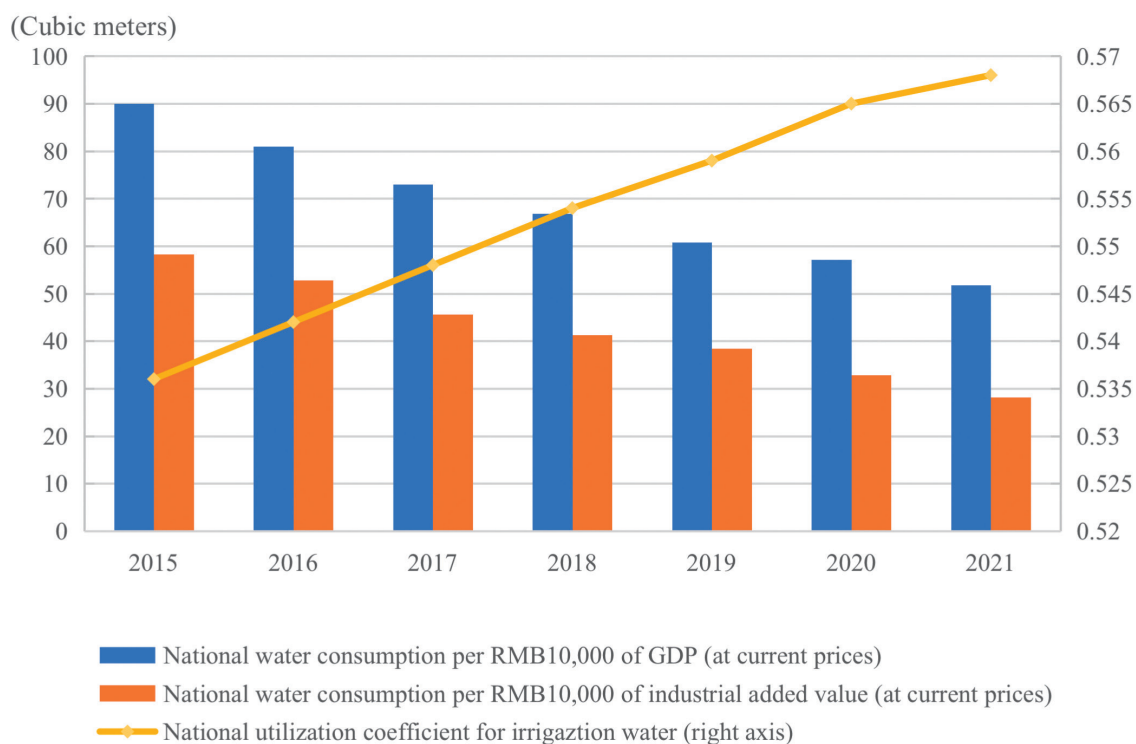
## I. Implementation Progress

China adheres to the philosophy of people-centered development, making every effort to ensure the safety of drinking water. China has actively promoted the development of a water-saving society, comprehensively enhanced the efficiency of water resource utilization, actively advanced the ecological protection and management of major rivers and lakes, and extensively engaged in international cooperation and exchange in the field of water resources. China ensures water supply for nearly 20% of the global population with only 6% of the world's freshwater resources, and has made positive progress in implementing water-related SDGs.

**China has continuously developed urban and rural water supply infrastructure, achieving steady improvements in reliable water supply.** Since 2015, China has continuously renovated urban water supply facilities and developed rural water supply

projects. By the end of 2022, the comprehensive production capacity of urban water supply reached 320 million cubic meters per day, and the length of water supply pipelines reached 1.0779 million kilometers, representing an increase of 6.9% and 51.8% respectively from those at the end of 2015. Urban water supply met the needs of 567 million people, an increase of 25.7% compared to 2015, effectively supporting urban economic and social development. In accordance with current standards, China has comprehensively provided safe drinking water in rural areas, and the reliable rural water supply has been significantly improved. From 2015 to 2022, a total investment of RMB362.5 billion was made nationwide, improving water supply for 350 million rural residents. This has provided safe drinking water for 17.1 million impoverished individuals, addressed the problem of excessive fluoride in the drinking water for 9.75 million rural residents and the problem of brackish water for 1.2 million rural residents. By the end of 2022, a total of 6.78 million rural water supply projects had been constructed, serving 870 million rural residents. By the end of 2022, the national coverage of tap water in rural areas reached 87%.

**China has actively promoted the construction of a water-saving society, significantly improving water use efficiency.** By strengthening control on total water consumption and its intensity, China's water efficiency has markedly improved. From 2015 to 2021, based on the prices of the years concerned, China's water consumption per RMB10,000 of GDP decreased from 90 cubic meters to 51.8 cubic meters; the water consumption per RMB10,000 of industrial added value dropped from 58.3 cubic meters to 28.2 cubic meters; and the utilization coefficient for irrigation water increased from 0.536 to 0.568 (Figure 6-1). From



**Figure 6-1 Changes in China's Specific Water Usage Indicators (2015-2021)**

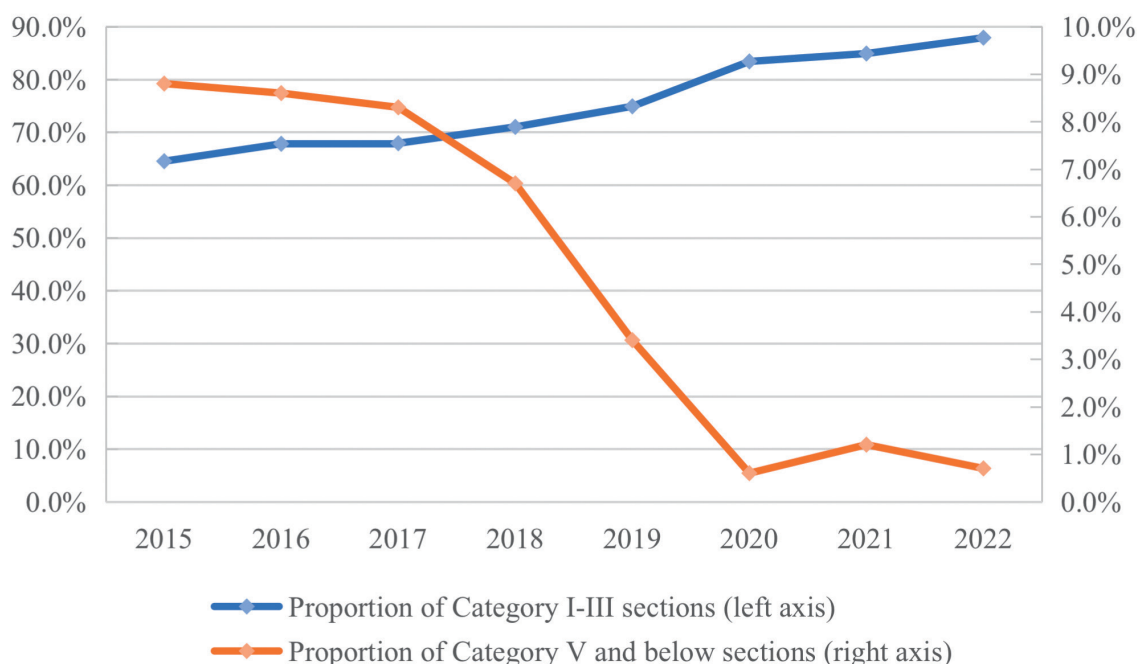
Source: Ministry of Water Resources.

2015 to 2021, China's use of non-conventional water sources grew rapidly, as its share in the nation's total water consumption rose from 1.1% to 2.3%. In 2022, China also defined the work objectives for introducing and improving water-saving policies, stipulating that by 2025 the total water consumption for economic and social purposes nationwide shall be controlled within 640 billion cubic meters, with water consumption per RMB10,000 of GDP expected to decrease by approximately 16%. Currently, China's water use efficiency is roughly on par with the global average, with its main water-saving indicators ranking around 30th out of the 60 countries with available data. Areas such as Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai have met international advanced levels.

**China has significantly improved wastewater treatment capacity, leading to continuous enhancement of water quality and environmental quality.** The construction of urban sewage treatment facilities has been noticeably advanced. Preliminary calculations indicate that by the end of 2022, the urban sewage treatment capacity reached 215 million cubic meters per day, with a total sewage treatment volume of 62.58 billion cubic meters, and the sewage treatment rate stood at 97.9%. The black and fetid water bodies virtually disappeared in prefecture-level cities or above, and 40% of such water bodies were treated in county-level cities, creating a series of waterfront leisure spaces with clear water, green banks, and beautiful scenery. The capability to treat rural domestic sewage has been consistently enhanced. Consecutively, two groups of 120 national demonstration counties (or cities and districts) for rural domestic sewage treatment were recognized, promoting mature experience and models.

**China has resolutely waged a battle for clear waters, achieving significant results in the protection of the water ecological environment.** By coordinating the management of water resources, water environment, and water ecology, China is committed to targeted pollution control, scientific methods, and lawful approaches to advance ecological protection and management of key rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. China has comprehensively implemented the “river chief” and “lake chief” system, establishing and refining the organizational structure and working mechanisms for these chiefs. This has strengthened the management and control of waterfront spaces, clarified boundaries for river and lake management, and continuously reinforced the management and protection of rivers and lakes. From 2015 to 2022, the quality of surface water across the country has been consistently improved. In 2022, the proportion of good quality (Category I-III) water bodies reached 87.9%, 23.4 percentage points higher compared to 2015. The proportion of water bodies rated as the worst quality (Category V and below) was 0.7%, a decrease of 8.1 percentage points compared to 2015 (Figure 6-2).

**China has initiated extensive international cooperation, jointly advancing the realization of water-related SDGs with all parties.** China has conducted ongoing water resource cooperation under the BRI, engaging in collaborations in areas such as water resource utilization and



**Figure 6-2 National Surface Water Quality Status (2015-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).

management, soil and water conservation, low-carbon demonstration, seawater desalination, desertification control, and environmental monitoring. Through pilot demonstrations, technical assistance, material aid, and capacity-building measures, China has provided support to developing countries to improve their water and environmental quality, thereby enhancing water resource development in these countries. China has consistently made efforts to strengthen the “soft connectivity” of technical standards on water resources and offer assistance to developing countries like Laos and Bangladesh in the formulation of comprehensive water resource planning, basin planning, and flood control. Collaboration projects in the fields of irrigation, water supply, and aquatic ecological restoration have been implemented in countries such as Cambodia, Nepal, Central Africa, Kenya, Senegal, and Argentina. China has provided overseas training for water technicians and officials from more than 100 countries, and scholarships have been provided for young water professionals to study in China. Overseas training and technology transfer centers have been established in countries like Pakistan, Serbia, Ethiopia, and Indonesia. Furthermore, initiatives such as the “China South-South Green Envoy Plan”, the “China-ASEAN Green Envoy Plan”, and the “Green Lancang-Mekong Plan” have been implemented to conduct environmental management and technical training. These efforts provide robust support to developing countries along the Belt and Road, helping them address water pollution and water security issues.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, adopt a systematic approach to address water resource issues.** Mountains, waters,

## Box 6-1: Guilin Achieves Clear Water and Green Banks of the Li River Through Three Reforms and Four Measures

The Li River originates from Mao'er Mountain in Guilin City, with a total length of 214 kilometers and a basin area of 12,159 square kilometers. It is the lifeline upon which Guilin City relies for survival and development, and it is also the foundation for Guilin to become a world-class tourist city. By the end of the 20th century, tourism along the Li River developed in a disorderly manner. Industrial and mining enterprises on both banks, as well as some residents with a weak sense of environmental protection, directly discharged domestic sewage and industrial wastewater into the Li River or its nearby tributaries, causing pollution to the river's water quality.

In recent years, especially since 2018 when Guilin was approved to develop a National Demonstration Zone for Sustainable Development, the city has launched a reform featuring “unified management, unified operation, and balancing stakeholders' interests” for the Li River. This approach aimed to fully

integrate all parties' strength and resources, systematically advancing the protection and utilization of the Li River Scenic Area. In terms of “unified management,” the CPC Guilin Li River Scenic Area Committee and the Guilin Li River Scenic Area Management Committee were established, taking the lead and playing a pivotal role in achieving centralized management of water tours and ports (docks) within the scope of the Li River Scenic Area. Regarding “unified operations,” water tour projects were standardized, establishing entry and exit mechanisms for Li River water tours, thus breaking the pattern of low-threshold, low-quality operations previously prevalent in Li River tours. In terms of “balancing stakeholders' interests”, reforms in the ticket and pricing system for Li River water tours were introduced, creating a uniform pricing and management system. A financial accounting system was established for the Li River Scenic Area, initiating a horizontal ecological protection compensation mechanism

for the upper and lower reaches of the Li River. To protect the Li River, Guilin has been committed to avoiding industrial development along the river, pushing the city to expand westwards, and resolving the imbalances between protection and development of the Li River through industrial transformation and upgrading.

With the aforementioned reforms as a driving force, Guilin further organized and implemented measures to regulate and prevent random excavations and construction along the banks, combat water pollution, address the ecological harm to water sources, and enhance the environmental governance of the Li River. The historical challenges in the Li River basin have been fundamentally resolved. Vegetation along both banks has been gradually restored. The water quality of the main stream consistently meets the National Surface Water Class II quality standards, rejuvenating the scenic ecological resources.



## Box 6-2: Full Participation in the 2023 UN Water Conference

The 2023 United Nations Water Conference (hereinafter referred to as the Water Conference) was held from March 22 to 24 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, the Water Conference was joined by over 200 countries, international organizations, civil groups, and the private sector, with about 6,000 attendees. 206 national leaders, ministers responsible for water resources, representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations spoke at the plenary session. This was the most high-profile and influential water conference convened by the United Nations in nearly 50 years. The conference thoroughly reviewed the mid-term

execution of the “2018-2028 Water for Sustainable Development” international decade of action and produced the “Water Action Agenda” consisting of over 700 voluntary commitments. Its aim was to consolidate global political consensus, address the urgent global water crisis, and accelerate the realization of water-related goals in the 2030 Agenda.

The Chinese delegation called on the international community to actively respond to and implement the GDI and the Global Security Initiative (GSI) during the conference. They provided a comprehensive overview of China's significant progress in implementing the water-related goals for sustainable development.

The delegation also put forward four proposals: ensuring drinking water safety, enhancing the conservation and efficient use of water resources, protecting the health and life of rivers, and deepening international cooperation in water management. These proposals received full attention and were widely supported and endorsed by the conference attendees. During the conference, the Chinese delegation also held the ninth annual high-level dialogue of the China-EU Water Resource Exchange Platform with European partners, actively promoting China's water management concepts and experience and encouraging multilateral and bilateral exchanges and cooperation in water conservancy.

forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, and deserts form an interdependent and closely connected community of life. Ecological governance should be considered in a holistic perspective. China has consistently adhered to this systematic thinking, implementing integrated protection and governance for mountains, waters, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, and deserts. Through comprehensive strategies and integrated measures, China promotes the sustainable development of ecological civilization, including water ecosystem.

**Second, implement the strictest water resource management system.** China has established well-defined water resource control indicators, formulated the national total water usage and water efficiency control targets during the 14th Five-Year Plan, and distributed these targets to individual provinces. China has organized and defined inter-provincial major rivers and lakes, water flow protection goals for intra-provincial rivers and lakes, formulated inter-provincial water allocation plans for river basins, and specified indicators for groundwater extraction and level of each province. Continuous reinforcement of water resource oversight measures is underway, with a deep commitment to the special rectification and periodic reviews of water extraction management. Corrections and improvements are actively made when identifying problems.

**Third, launch special initiatives to address prominent issues.** China has comprehensively implemented the river and lake chief system. Since 2018, a series of special actions have been organized, including the nationwide river and lake management initiative, clean-up of solid waste in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, clean-up of the Yangtze and Yellow River shorelines, rectification of illegal encroachments in the Yangtze River Basin, the “Preserving Clear Water of the Danjiangkou Reservoir” initiative, and addressing the significant issue of flood obstruction in river channels. According to laws and regulations, problems such as unauthorized occupation, extraction, dumping, and construction within the scope of rivers and lakes are addressed. At the same time, China pushed for the normalization and standardization of the initiatives, ensuring that many longstanding issues of river and lake encroachments and damage are effectively resolved.

### III. Future Work

While China has achieved significant accomplishments in water resource management, it still faces challenges such as water scarcity, fragile water ecosystems, and a heavy burden on the water environment. Influenced by both global climate change and human activities, there has been an increasing trend in recent years of more frequent, intense, and widespread extreme weather events, which pose new challenges to the implementation of water-related SDGs. As China's economic and social development enters a new phase, there are new demands for water resource management and protection of water ecosystems. China will prioritize the following tasks in the upcoming period.

**First, further enhance water resource management.** China will speed up the establishment of a rigid water resource constraint system and strictly implement the 14th Five-Year Plan's total water usage and intensity control targets. Under the premise of ensuring basic ecological needs for water, China will determine the arrangements, structure, and scale of economic and social development based on available water resources. China will improve water use efficiency, expand the area and scale of unconventional water utilization, increase the level of intensive conservation and utilization of water resources, strengthen water resource protection, and advocate for solutions to the issue of excessive water exploitation. China will promote the construction of an ecological civilization and high-quality economic and social development in a coordinated way.

**Second, continuously ensure rural drinking water safety.** China will adhere to a gradual and steady approach, tailor strategies to local conditions, emphasize practical results, steadily carry out all tasks related to rural water conservancy, promote the water conservancy tasks of rural revitalization, and expedite the resolution of water security issues in agriculture and rural areas.

**Third, persistently promote harmonious coexistence between human beings and water.**

China will firmly embrace and practice the philosophy that “green waters and lush mountains are as valuable as gold and silver”, and a steadfast commitment to respect, comply with, and protect nature. From the perspective of harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature, the coordinated governance of water resources, water environment, and water ecology will be pursued. This includes driving the ecological protection, management, and rejuvenation of major rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, and ensuring their health and vitality.





SDG 7

**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

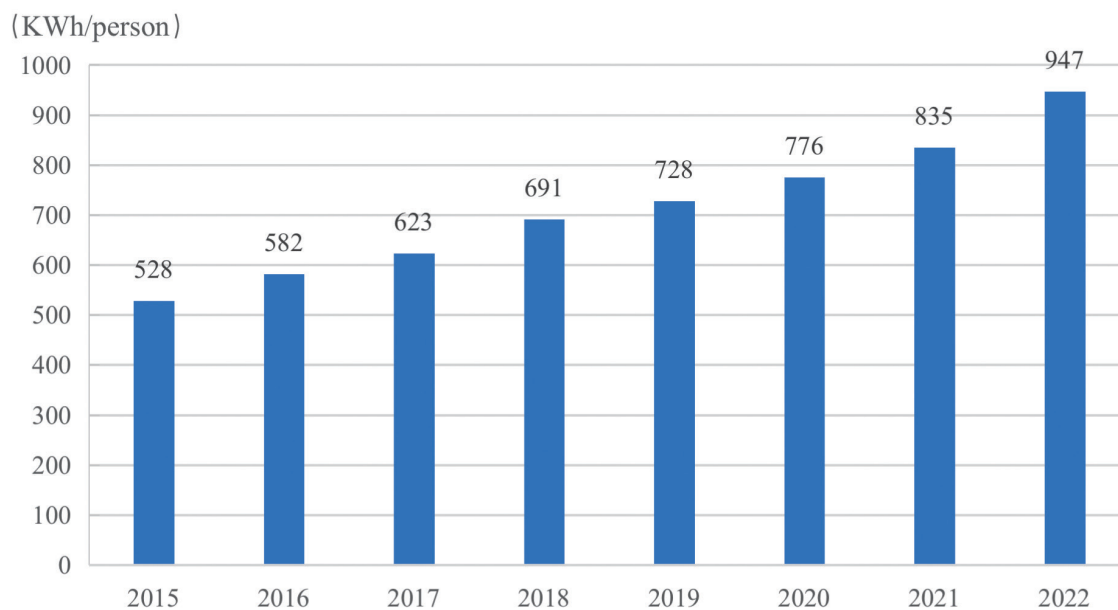
## I. Implementation Progress

Energy serves as a fundamental pillar for the advancement of human civilization. China has always been dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable modern energy. Since 2015, with the deepening of supply-side structural reforms at its core, China has been building a clean, low-carbon, secure, and efficient energy system. The structure of energy production and consumption has been continuously optimized, the efficiency of energy utilization has been significantly improved, and energy development has entered a new phase of high-quality growth. In addition, China actively engages in global energy governance and has made notable progress in fostering pragmatic international collaborations in the energy sector.

**China has continuously enhanced urban and rural electricity accessibility,**

**ensuring “electricity for all” is fully guaranteed.** China achieved the goal of 100% electricity accessibility nationwide by 2015, accomplishing the relevant SDG targets 15 years ahead of schedule. From 2015 to 2022, China’s per capita electricity consumption for residential use steadily increased (Figure 7-1). The reliability and safety of the power grid have been continuously enhanced. Efforts have been accelerated for constructing and renovating urban distribution networks, promoting the renovation and upgrading of power grids in small towns and rural areas, and addressing prominent issues such as weak rural grids, unreasonable structures, rural power grid “bottlenecks” and insufficient capacity of transformer substations. Within the coverage of the large power grid, 100% of impoverished villages have access to power, and the overall reliability of the rural power supply reaches 99.8%. Furthermore, photovoltaic power stations for poverty alleviation with an installed capacity of 26.36 million kilowatts have been built, significantly elevating the service of electricity accessibility.

**China has actively promoted the clean energy industry, accelerating the adjustment of the energy mix.** Energy science and technology are progressing rapidly with self-reliance. China has established a globally leading clean energy industrial system, with wind power, photovoltaic power, and large-scale hydropower technologies leading the world. On nuclear power, China has developed its own brand of third-generation advanced pressurized water reactor technology. The retrofitting of fossil energy for cleaner use and the engineering technology in ultra-high voltage transmission also take the global lead. There are continuous breakthroughs in the research and application of cutting-edge areas, such as new energy storage and hydrogen energy. The transformation of rural energy has made positive progress. Efforts have been intensified to utilize agricultural waste for energy, strengthen clean



**Figure 7-1 Per Capita Domestic Electricity Consumption (2015-2022)**

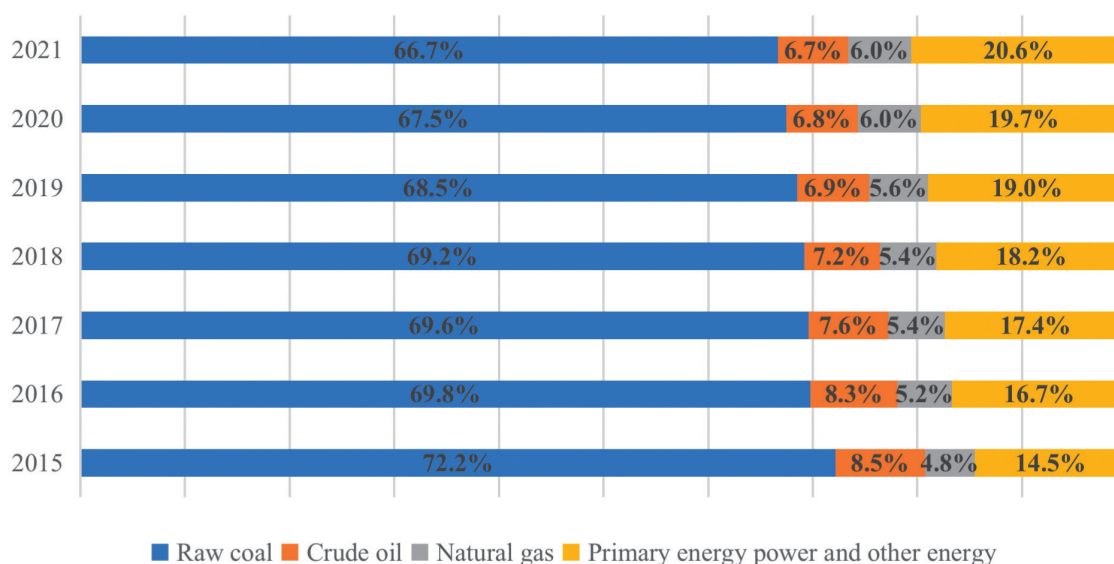
Source: China Electricity Council.

heating support in rural areas, promote rural photovoltaic and agricultural complementarity, “photovoltaic+ facility agriculture” and other multi-energy complementarity models, and advance the sustainable development of renewable energy in rural areas. The new energy vehicles (NEV) industry has expanded. Through policy guidance, market-based development, and technology leadership, China has established the most comprehensive NEV industrial chain in the world. In 2022, the sales of NEVs reached 6.887 million. The adjustment of the energy mix has been stepped up. Preliminary calculations show that from 2015 to 2021, the proportion of non-fossil energy in the energy production mix increased from 14.5% to 20.6%, while the proportion of raw coal dropped from 72.2% to 66.7% (Figure 7-2). From the perspective of energy consumption mix, the proportion of non-fossil energy increased from 12% to 16.7%, while the proportion of coal dropped from 63.8% to 55.9% (Figure 7-3). In 2022, China’s installed capacity of wind and photovoltaic power exceeded 120 million kilowatts, and the national installed capacity of renewable energy surpassed 1.2 billion kilowatts, topping the world. The proportion of installed capacity for renewable energy reached 47.3%. It is expected that by 2030, the proportion of non-fossil energy consumption will reach about 25%.

**China has continuously advanced efficient energy utilization, so that both the energy consumption and carbon intensity have continued to decrease.** China has been actively promoting energy-saving through technologies, management, and structural changes, pushing for a continuous increase in energy utilization efficiency. Through technological innovation that drives the transformation and upgrading of coal-fired power, China has conducted independent research and manufacturing of high-parameter, large-capacity ultra-supercritical coal-fired units. Its secondary reheat technology and large-scale circulating fluidized bed power generation technologies lead the world. By the end of 2022, the capacity of coal-fired units in China that meet ultra-low emission limits amounted to approximately 1.06 billion kilowatts, accounting for 94% of the country’s total coal power installed capacity, making it the largest clean coal power supply system in the world. Steel production capacity that has undergone whole-process ultra-low emission modifications stands at about 140 million tons, accounting for 13% of the country’s total steel capacity. Efforts have been made to implement energy-saving and carbon-reducing modifications in key industries and products, strengthening the energy-saving management of energy users. Preliminary calculations indicate that since 2015, China has supported an average annual economic growth of 5.7% with an annual energy consumption growth of 3.2%. By 2022, the energy consumption per RMB10,000 of GDP decreased by 15.5% compared to 2015, making China one of the countries with the fastest decline in global energy intensity.

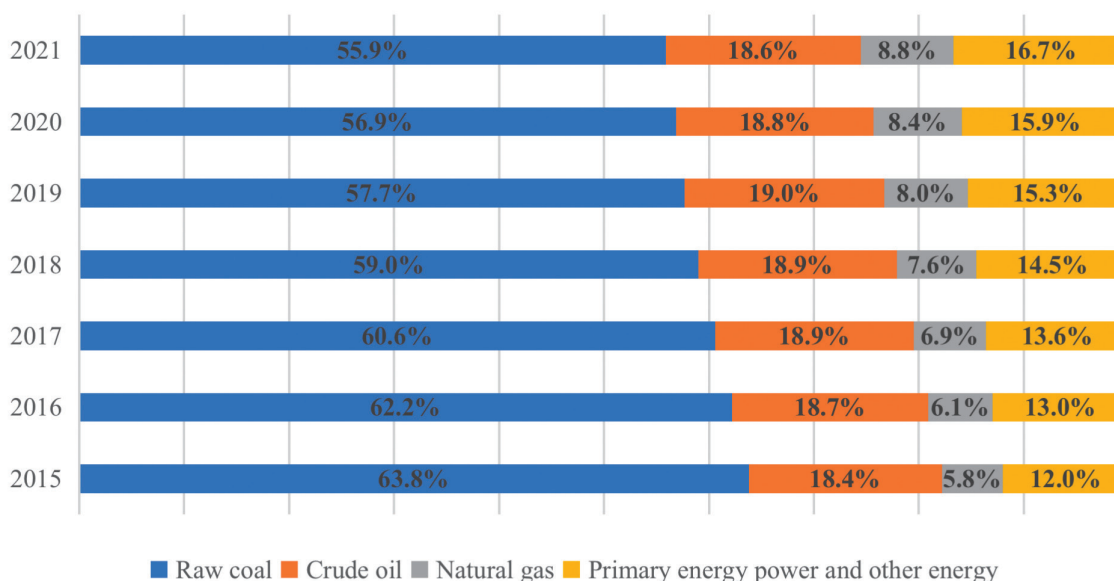
**China actively engages in global energy governance, continually advancing pragmatic energy cooperation.** China has consistently deepened policy communication with Belt and Road countries, gathering more consensus on energy development. Efforts have been intensified to advance infrastructure construction to safeguard global energy security and

stability. China continues to push for the upgrade of clean energy industries, fostering the transformation of global energy. Under the GDI, China proposed advancing a clean energy partnership. In September 2023, China hosted the International Forum on Energy Transformation, establishing a platform for global energy transition. Exploratory steps were taken to establish the International Alliance for Energy Transformation, jointly advancing energy transition. China launched the Belt and Road Energy Partnership, which currently comprises 33 member countries. Two Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Meetings and two Partnership Forums have been convened. Key outcomes released include the *Qingdao*



**Figure 7-2 Energy Production Mix (2015-2021)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.



**Figure 7-3 Energy Consumption Mix (2015-2021)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

## Box 7-1: Deep Integration of Photovoltaic Power Generation and Photovoltaic-Powered Sheep Farming in Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai

The Talatan area in the Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province stands at an altitude of nearly 3,000 meters. With a desertification rate once reaching as high as 98.5%, it is one of the most severely-affected areas by sandstorms in the upper reaches of the Yellow River. In addition, Talatan enjoys prolonged sunlight and strong light intensity, offering superior natural resources for the development of the photovoltaic industry.

To improve the utilization efficiency of semi-desertified land, Hainan Prefecture has taken the lead in constructing a National Demonstration Zone for the Sustainable Development, vigorously promoting the photovoltaic industry. By the end of 2022, Hainan Prefecture had completed the installation of 19.84 million kilowatts of clean energy capacity, with another 13 million kilowatts under construction, accounting for 69% of the entire Qinghai Province's capacity. After the completion of the photovoltaic parks, under the “shelter” of the photovoltaic panels, the average wind speed within the photovoltaic sub-arrays decreased by 41.2%, the daily average air humidity increased by 2.8%, soil humidity at a depth of 20 centimeters increased by 32%, and the grasslands gradually began to recover.

Currently, the vegetation coverage in Talatan has recovered to 80%. However, the random growth of forage grass obstructs the photovoltaic panels, leading to issues such as decreasing power efficiency of the panels and potential fire hazards in the winter. To address this, Talatan integrated solar power generation with sheep farming beneath the panels, seamlessly combining photovoltaic desertification control with economic development and improvement of people's livelihood. This approach not only protected and enhanced

the ecological environment but also increased the income of the surrounding communities, realizing win-win results between sheep farming and the photovoltaic economy. Up to now, the area of photovoltaic pastures has reached 51,800 acres, benefiting 3,056 farming and herding households. It offers seasonal grazing for over 15,000 Tibetan sheep, generating revenues of RMB12.53 million, forming a sustainable development model where the solar energy industry, ecological environment protection, and ecological livestock farming complement each other.



*Initiative on Green Energy Cooperation under the Belt and Road, the Charter of the Belt and Road Energy Partnership, and the Best Practices in International Energy Cooperation.* In 2022, China's photovoltaic product exports exceeded USD51.2 billion, and photovoltaic module exports surpassed 153 GW, effectively bolstering both domestic and international growth in photovoltaic market and global demand for new energy. In 2022, wind and photovoltaic products exported by China contributed to a CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction of about 573 million tons in other countries, with a cumulative reduction of 2.83 billion tons. This

## Box 7-2: South-South Cooperation Boosts Green and Low-Carbon Energy Development in Multiple Countries

To achieve the SDGs and promote South-South cooperation in renewable technologies among Belt and Road countries under the UN framework, China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and UNDP jointly organized and implemented the China-Ghana/Zambia Renewable Energy Technology Transfer Project (hereinafter referred to as the "China-Ghana/Zambia Project") and the China-Ethiopia/Sri Lanka Tripartite Renewable Energy Cooperation Project (hereinafter referred to as the "China-Ethiopia/Sri Lanka Project"). Both projects have been selected as "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in LDCs".

The China-Ghana/Zambia Project was successfully concluded at the end of 2019. The technology transfer cooperation on renewable energy between China and Ghana/Zambia enhanced China's South-South cooperation capabilities, advanced the development of renewable energy in China, improved power supply in Ghana/Zambia, and increased their capacity to utilize renewable energy technologies. This project established a comprehensive

cooperation model emphasizing thorough preliminary research, sustained mid-term communication, post-project experience sharing, policy alignment, and a keen focus on the application of outcomes. It has become a paradigm for a new triangular model of South-South cooperation under the United Nations framework, driven by demand. As a representation of Chinese wisdom and solutions in promoting sustainable development, this project was showcased at the second high-level United Nations South-South Cooperation Conference in the "China and UN: the 40th Anniversary of South-South Cooperation" exhibition and was selected as an "Outstanding Practice in South-South and Triangular Cooperation" by the United Nations.

The China-Ethiopia/Sri Lanka Project established learning platforms between China and Ethiopia and China and Sri Lanka, facilitating the transfer of renewable energy technologies through international collaboration, assisting greenhouse gas reduction, and optimizing the energy structure of

the technology-receiving countries through demonstrative projects. In Sri Lanka, by demonstrating the potential applications of biogas and solar energy, the project supported the country in achieving its national goals for greenhouse gas reductions. In Ethiopia, by establishing a South-South cooperation framework and collaborative mechanism between the governments of both countries and UNDP, the project addressed challenges Ethiopia faced in sustainable development, enhanced opportunities for the country to access clean energy, improved energy services, and showcased integrated agricultural practices with a strong focus on sustainability. This project has been included in the list of deliverables for the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and was also selected as an "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in LDCs". It stands as another successful endeavor in triangular cooperation, supporting countries in their pursuit of green and low-carbon energy development.

## Box 7-3: Bank of China Supports the World's Largest Operational Offshore Wind Project

The Hornsea 2 offshore wind project is located approximately 89 kilometers off the coast of Yorkshire in the North Sea, UK, with an installed capacity of 1.3 gigawatts. It comprises 165 Siemens Gamesa 8-megawatt offshore wind turbines, capable of providing clean energy to over 1.4 million British households. This is the largest operational offshore wind farm globally, developed, built, and operated by Orsted. After the project was completed and construction risks

mitigated, Orsted sold a 50% stake for equity appreciation.

The syndicate for Hornsea 2 was eagerly sought after in the market, with a total of 30 international and regional banks jointly providing a syndicated loan of GBP2.1 billion. This is the largest offshore wind acquisition project in terms of funding worldwide to date. At the end of September 2022, the Bank of China's London branch started to involve in this project, securing

the largest share of the syndicate and earning the honored position of the lead bank. The project was recognized by PFI (Project Finance International) as the best M&A deal worldwide in 2022.

To date, the Bank of China's London branch has successively financed more than ten offshore wind projects, securing a good reputation in the European and African financing market and among green energy clients.

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accounted for approximately 41% of the global carbon reduction converted from renewable energy during the same period. Additionally, China has actively participated in the formulation of international, national, industry, and business standards for new energy, further refining the construction of the new energy standard system.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, center on serving the people, and continuously strengthen energy supply security.** China prioritizes ensuring and improving energy for livelihood and for its impoverished population as primary goals in energy development. There is a fast-paced effort to enhance infrastructure related to people's livelihood and public service energy capacities, focusing on improving universal services of energy. The needs of socio-economic development and daily life are effectively secured. As energy needs shift from "accessibility" to "quality services", China continues to promote an energy consumption revolution to curb unreasonable energy use, propels an energy supply revolution to establish a diversified supply system, drives an energy technology revolution leading to industrial upgrades, and furthers an energy system revolution to pave the fast track for new energy development.

**Second, persist in deepening comprehensive reforms, and promote a diversified and clean energy supply system.** Through multiple rounds of reforms in the electricity, coal, and oil & gas sectors, China has fundamentally established an energy market structure and

system with effective competition. The mechanism where the market determines energy prices is continuously refined, effectively enhancing its energy governance capacity. Under the guidance of prioritizing ecosystem protection and green development, China deepens structural reforms on the energy supply side. There is a preference for developing non-fossil energy while advancing the clean and efficient development and utilization of fossil energies.

**Third, adhere to innovation-driven development, and continuously enhance the technological innovation capabilities in the energy sector.** With the advantages of its vast domestic market, China is dedicated to addressing core technical challenges that constrain energy development. It has formulated a highly effective strategy, which hinges on leveraging energy projects in propelling significant autonomous innovation in energy technology and equipment. This has led to the establishment of an energy technology innovation system that integrates technological R&D, equipment research and development, demonstration projects, and innovation platforms. Consequently, China's energy technological innovation has shifted from primarily following and staying parallel to others, to an accelerated transformation towards "innovation and leadership". Chinese enterprises play a pivotal role in technological innovation, fostering deeper integration of industrial, academia, and research communities. Emphasis is continuously placed on basic research in the energy sector, along with innovations in generic technology and disruptive technology. China vigorously promotes the integrated innovation of digitalization, big data, artificial intelligence with clean and technologies on efficient energy development and utilization .

**Fourth, expand openness in all aspects, and advance in-depth and tangible international energy cooperation.** China is fully engaged in international energy cooperation, actively participates in global energy governance, and has embarked on a new path driven by practical cooperation in both green energy and transformative global energy governance. China extensively fosters energy exchanges and collaboration with countries worldwide, establishing five international oil and gas cooperation zones. Four major oil and gas import channels are operating in a stable manner. China has established intergovernmental energy cooperation mechanisms with over 90 countries and regions, advocating for the establishment of a "Belt and Road" energy cooperation partnership. It has achieved close collaboration with international organizations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA), successfully hosting a series of international events, making substantive contribution to international energy cooperation.

### III. Future Work

China has made significant progress in the energy sector. Nevertheless, ensuring energy security, promoting energy transformation, and addressing global climate change remain challenging tasks. China will continue to focus on advancing a green and low-carbon energy transition, building a modern energy system, and will prioritize the following initiatives.

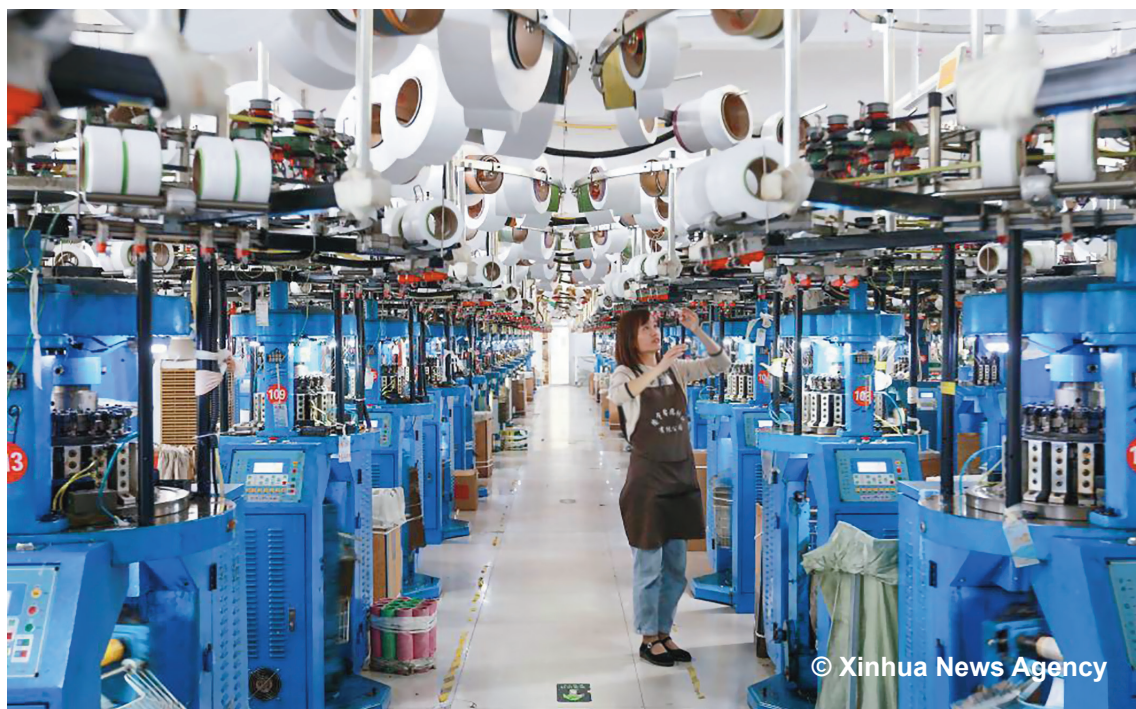


**First, build a new power system.** China aims to evolve its power system to accommodate renewable energies with a large scale and high proportion. By integrating a high proportion of renewable energy with the stable operation of electricity, China will step up the digital upgrade and iteration of the power system. China will intensify the efforts to plan and establish a new energy supply and consumption system, based on large-scale wind and solar power bases, supported by clean, efficient, advanced, and energy-saving coal power in the neighborhood, and relying on safe, stable, and reliable ultra-high voltage transmission lines. China will work to build an intelligent and efficient distribution system, explore joint distribution mechanisms for electricity, heat, and natural gas, promoting coordinated operations.

**Second, vigorously develop non-fossil energies.** Comprehensive progress is being made in large-scale development and high-quality advancement of wind and solar power generation. Priority will be given to local development and utilization. Progress is accelerated for distributed wind power and photovoltaic development in load centers and surrounding areas, promoting the application of wind power technology with low wind speed. Depending on local conditions, China will develop hydropower, proactively advance coastal nuclear power projects in an orderly manner, and develop other renewable energies including biomass, geothermal, and marine energy.

**Third, strengthen energy conservation and carbon reduction with greater intensity.** China will refine the “dual control” system of energy consumption with carbon emission control. The construction of the national carbon emission trading market is stepped up, promoting the transformation of the “dual control” of energy consumption to the “dual control” of carbon emissions in both total amount and intensity. China will strictly and reasonably control the growth of coal consumption and vigorously promote the clean and efficient use of coal. Energy-saving and carbon-reducing actions are being implemented in key sectors, improving the level of end-use energy electrification and decarbonization. Green and low-carbon actions are being promoted among the general public, advocating energy-saving and enhancing public awareness of conservation, environmental protection, and ecology.

**Fourth, build a new pattern of open and mutually beneficial international energy cooperation.** China will actively participate in global energy governance, strengthen joint research, and expand training and exchanges through relevant energy cooperation platforms and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sustainable Energy Center. China will intensify collaboration with international energy-related organizations and mechanisms, actively participate in and guiding energy cooperation under multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations, G20, APEC, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Clean Energy Ministerial, Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, and the Asia-Pacific Global Change Research Network. China will reinforce international cooperation in climate change response, actively promote South-South cooperation on energy with regards to climate change, further enhance green energy development cooperation with other developing countries, support developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda, and improve capabilities in the energy sector to tackle climate change.



## SDG 8

**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

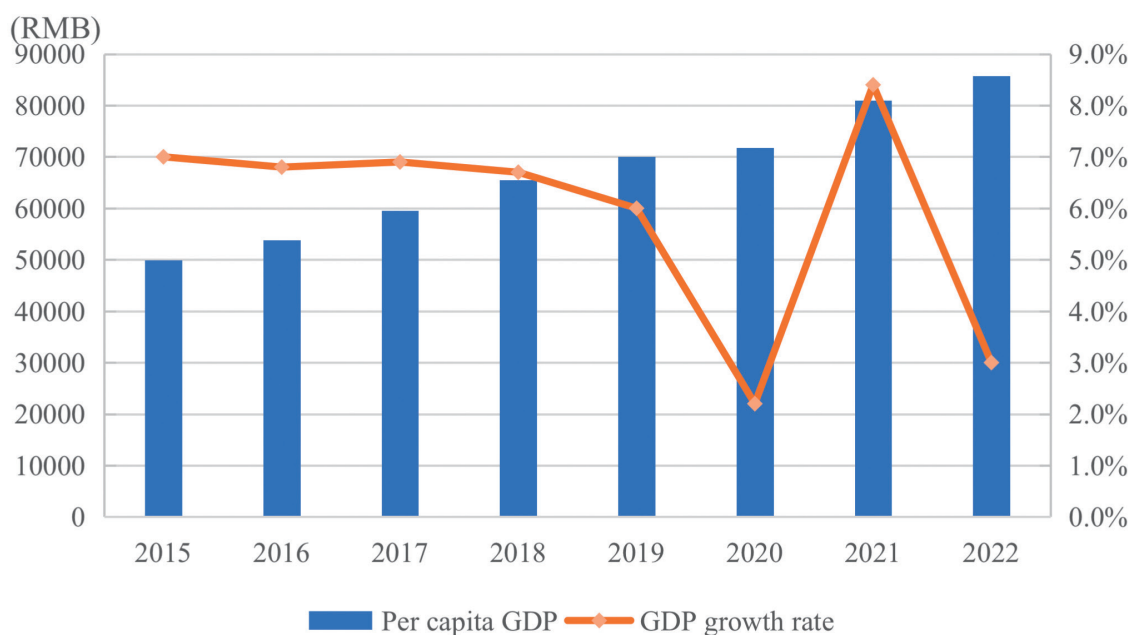
### I. Implementation Progress

Since 2015, adhering to the overall guiding principle of pursuing progress while maintaining stability, China has fully, accurately, and comprehensively implemented the new development philosophy, proactively created a new pattern of development, and vigorously promoted high-quality development. By intensifying macroeconomic regulation and addressing factors that went beyond our anticipation, China has achieved stable economic growth with continuously improved development quality.

**The macroeconomic landscape remains stable, and the quality of economic development has been effectively enhanced.** China has effectively

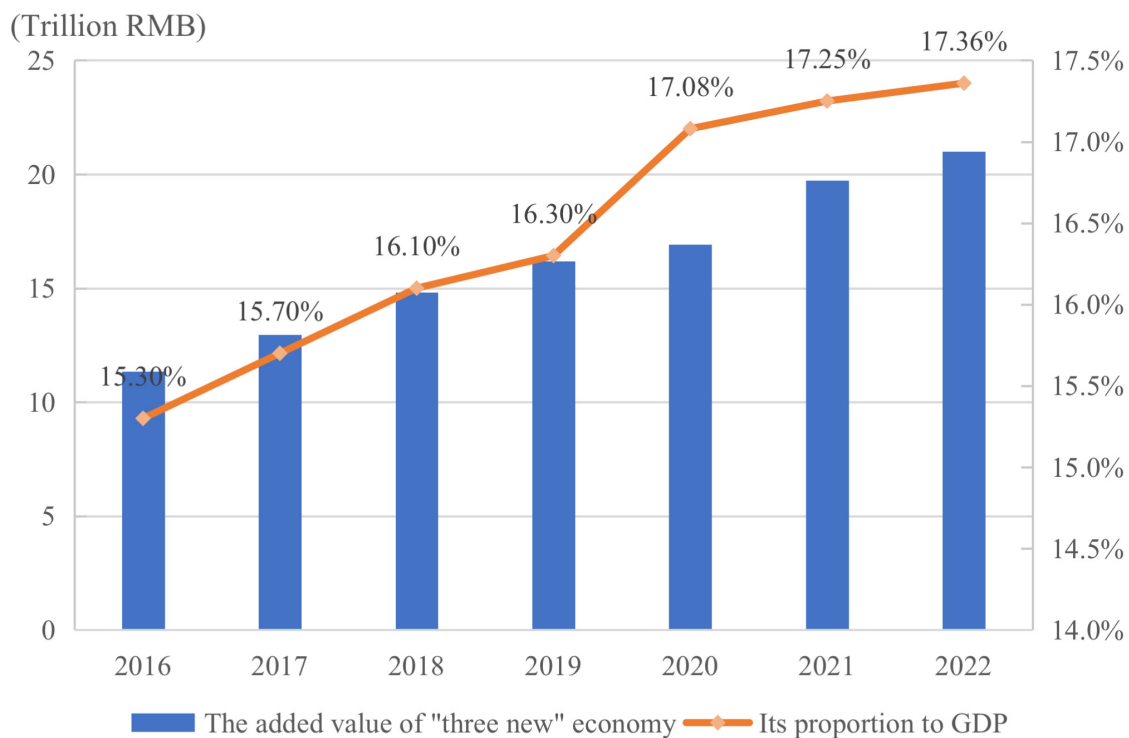
implemented macro regulation in a targeted manner, strengthened the coordination and preparatory research of macroeconomic policies, and continued to pursue a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy. There has been a significant leap in economic strength. From 2016 to 2019, China's average annual growth rate reached 6.6%, and its contribution to global economic growth remained above 30%. In 2020, amid the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China was the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth. In 2021, China's share of the global economy reached 18.4%. In 2022, China's GDP amounted to RMB121.02 trillion, a growth of 3.0% over the previous year; the per capita GDP reached RMB85,698 (Figure 8-1). In addition, the development momentum of the "three new" economic aspects – new industries, new business forms, and new business models – has been strong and has become an essential indicator of improved development quality. In 2022, the added value of China's "three new" economy exceeded RMB21 trillion, a growth of 6.5% compared to the previous year, accounting for 17.36% of the GDP, which is an increase of about 2 percentage points compared to 2016 (Figure 8-2). In 2022, China's labor productivity was RMB153,000 per person, an increase of 4.2% from the previous year.

**China has fully implemented the innovation-driven development strategy, and the financial accessibility for MSEs has been continuously improved.** China continues to focus on improving the quality and effects of economic development, and vigorously pushes for transformation in quality, efficiency, and momentum. China's economic growth model has shifted from primarily relying on input of factors of production and expansion of scale to a growth predominantly driven by technological advancement,



**Figure 8-1 Per Capita GDP and GDP Growth Rate (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.



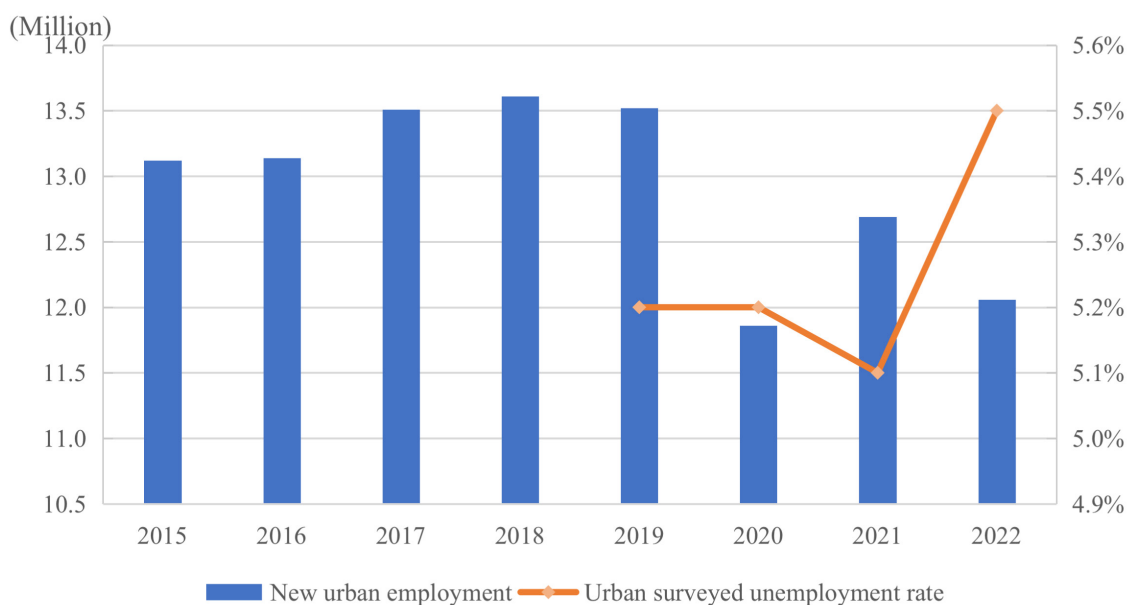
**Figure 8-2 The Added Value of "Three New" Economy and Its Proportion to GDP (2016-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

enhancement of workforce quality, and managerial innovation. China has stepped up establishing a modern economic system, emphasizing the transformation of the economic growth model to one that mainly relies on technological advancement, enhancement of worker quality, and managerial innovation. **First**, China vigorously promotes technological innovation, continuously enhancing the capacity of innovation to support development. By 2022, the research and experimental development expenditure for the whole society has risen to over 2.5% of GDP. **Second**, emphasis has been placed on strengthening the primary role of technology-intensive enterprises in driving innovation, thereby promoting industrial transformation and upgrading. By the end of 2022, the total number of technology start-up incubators nationwide exceeded 15,000, a growth of 29.18% compared to 2018. By the end of 2021, the annual profit of China's specialized, unique, and innovative enterprises exceeded RMB380 billion, with a profit margin on sales exceeding 10%, which is about 4 percentage points higher than the medium and small-sized industrial enterprises above the designated size. **Third**, China vigorously promotes policies on innovation and entrepreneurship. This involves deepening reforms in commercial systems, minimizing the scope of government approvals, and intensifying policy support in areas like entrepreneurial loan guarantees, business subsidies, and tax cuts. **Fourth**, China promotes the development of inclusive finance, enhancing financing accessibility for MSEs. China has provided monetary and fiscal incentives to improve the financing volume, scope, and cost for MSEs. By the end of 2022, the outstanding balance of inclusive micro and small loans nationwide reached RMB23.8

trillion, a year-on-year increase of 23.8%. The number of credit recipients for inclusive micro and small businesses stood at 56.52 million, up by 26.8% year-on-year. The average loan interest rate was 4.9%, down by 1.4 percentage points compared to January 2018.

**China has prioritized employment, and the quality of employment has been continuously raised.** China has fully implemented the employment-first strategy, prioritizing job promotion in its socio-economic development and advocating for the dignity and comprehensive development of the workforce. **First**, the scale of employment has been continuously expanding, while the unemployment remains at a low level. From 2015 to 2022, about 13 million new jobs were created in urban areas annually (Figure 8-3). In 2022, the total number of employed people nationwide was 733.51 million. As of December 2022, the surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.5%. **Second**, the structure of employment has been consistently optimized, with a “inverted pyramid” employment structure for the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors gradually taking shape. From 2013, the proportion of employed people in urban areas surpassed that of rural areas for the first time. By 2022, this proportion had reached 62.6%. Moreover, in 2022, the percentage of those employed in the tertiary sector was 47.1%, an increase of 4.8 percentage points from 2015. **Third**, the quality of employment has been continuously improved, and the employment of key groups has remained stable. Measures such as the plan for college graduate employment and entrepreneurship promotion and grassroots growth plans ensure that young people, especially college graduates, are fully employed, with the year-end employment rate of college graduates consistently maintained



**Figure 8-3 Increase in Urban Employment and Surveyed Unemployment Rate (2015-2022)**

Note: The increase in urban employment refers to the annual total, while the urban surveyed unemployment rate is based on year-end figures.

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

at above 90%. China has implemented the strategy of both orderly migration and local employment for rural labor, and strongly supported the entrepreneurial endeavors of migrant workers returning home. The total number of migrant workers increased from 277.47 million in 2015 to 295.62 million in 2022, growing by 6.54%. Mechanisms have been established and improved for market supervision, admonishment, and judicial remedies to promote equal employment for women. Leveraging the “Real-name Management System on National Disabled Persons’ Employment and Vocational Training”, vocational training and employment services have been provided for persons with disabilities. This system refines targeted reward policies, thus creating a virtuous cycle at the enterprise level where employment for the disabled increases while company costs decrease. In addition, the system for work permits for foreigners coming to China has been improved and standardized.

**China has continuously improved the employment skills of young people, and effectively safeguarded the rights of workers.** By developing multi-player and multi-

## Box 8-1: China Proactively Responds to the Pandemic to Keep Employment Stable

In 2020, faced with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government introduced six major tasks: ensuring residents’ employment, safeguarding basic livelihood, protecting market players, securing food and energy safety, keeping industrial and supply chains stable, and maintaining grass-root operations. Among these, ensuring employment for residents was given the highest priority. A series of measures were taken to keep employment stable, laying a solid foundation for social and economic development. The key measures include: Firstly, policy countermeasures were strengthened. The “Implementing Opinions on Enhancing Measures Keeping Employment Stable in Response to the Impact of COVID-19” was issued, and 28 breakthrough policies

were innovatively implemented. Secondly, a workforce distribution mechanism was established for key enterprises. By facilitating returns to work, labor adjustment, organized internships, and cross-regional labor coordination, workforce needs for more than 10,000 key enterprises were met, employing over 1 million people. Thirdly, a “one-stop” service channel for work resumption was streamlined. This involved enhancing coordination between localities of labor supply and demand, and facilitating the orderly return to work for more than 6.6 million migrant workers through “point-to-point” transportation. Fourthly, a “reduction, exemption, refund, and subsidy” policy was implemented. Contribution to the three social insurance programs—pension, unemployment, and work injury—

were reduced by RMB154 million for businesses, effectively relieving their financial burden and keeping employment stable. Fifthly, online services were promoted. Measures such as the online “Spring Breeze Initiative” and a 100-day online recruitment campaign targeting 10 million jobs were carried out. Remote recruitment, video interviews, and online training were widely adopted, with over 10 million positions published. Sixthly, employment assistance was specifically provided for Hubei. One-time job-seeking and entrepreneurship subsidies were distributed to graduates from Hubei. Special labor cooperation support for Hubei was launched, and over 2.5 million individuals received help for an orderly return to work.

level vocational education, efforts have been made to establish a diversified vocational education structure managed by the government, actively supported by industries and businesses, and fully participated by the public. China also implements a digital strategy for vocational education, enhancing vocational skills and long-term development capabilities of young workers. China has over 200 million skilled workers, among which more than 60 million are highly skilled, accounting for 30%. **First**, child labor is prohibited. Provisions in the Labor Law and the Law on the Protection of Minors explicitly prohibit child labor, with clear punitive measures. **Second**, labor protection supervision has been improved. Efforts have been intensified to conduct labor inspection and enforcement, establish a public notification system for significant labor protection violations, and manage a list of people who default on wages owed to migrant workers and receive joint punitive measures. **Third**, fair employment is promoted. Relevant legal provisions clearly stipulate equal pay for men and women performing the same job and protect the equal employment rights of disabled persons. **Fourth**, production safety is ensured. Revisions were made to the *Law on Safety in Production*. Starting from 2017, provincial governments have undergone safe production evaluations for six consecutive years. Any province, where a particularly significant production safety accident occurred, would face veto measures. A three-year special rectification campaign on production safety was launched in nine key industries. Regular updates on obsolete technology and process catalogs in high-risk industries have been made, consistently promoting technological transformations like “replacing human with machinery” and “reducing human with automation”, and improving labor safety conditions in high-risk sectors. Since 2016, both the number of production safety accidents and related fatalities have been continuously decreasing (Figure 8-4).

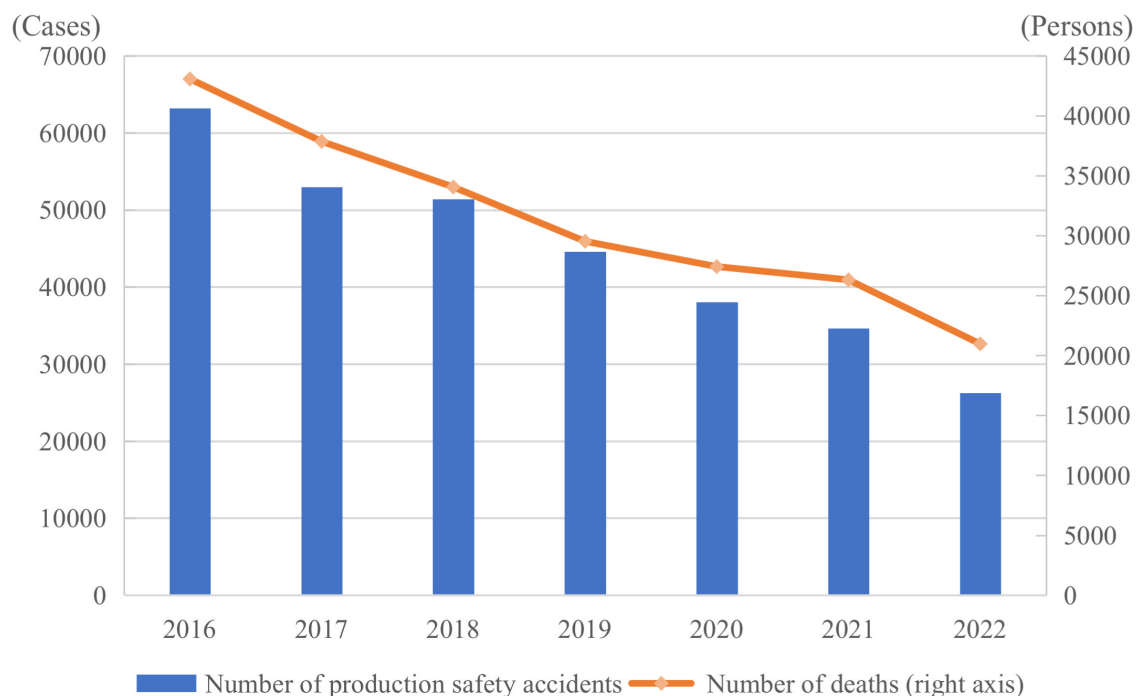
**China has strengthened international cooperation on safe production and actively participated in the international governance of inclusive finance.** **First**, international exchanges and dialogues have been enhanced. The 12th China-EU Safety Production Dialogue was held, during which experience was shared and mutual learning facilitated on topics such as safe production policies and measures, as well as the digitized and intelligent applications in chemical safety. **Second**, China has actively responded to the “Aid for Trade Initiative” launched by WTO members, assisting developing countries in improving their capacity to export goods and services. **Third**, efforts have been made to advance the international governance of inclusive finance. China has fully participated in the formulation of international rules related to inclusive finance within the framework of the G20’s Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPMI), World Bank Group (WBG), Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), International Financial Consumer Protection Organization (FinCoNet), and other international organizations and multilateral mechanisms, leading to the launch of multiple outcomes like the *G20 High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion and the G20 Action Plan on SME Financing Implementation Framework* during the G20 Hangzhou Summit. China has also

collaborated with other countries in various forms and at multiple levels on inclusive finance.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, strike the right balance between the roles of government and market to drive high-quality economic growth.** China upholds the decisive role of the market in resource allocation and strives to better harness the role of the government. China is committed to improving macroeconomic governance, innovating the approaches and methods of macro regulation, enhancing the autonomy of macro policies, implementing proactive fiscal policies, and maintaining prudent monetary policies. China persists in streamlining administration, combining deregulation with oversight, and enhancing social services. China also emphasizes strengthening market supervision and anti-monopoly measures, preventing the disorderly expansion of capital, safeguarding market order, and invigorating all types of business entities, especially the vitality of SMEs.

**Second, identify and address core challenges, and harmonize the relationship between the “quality” and “quantity” of economic growth.** China has accurately grasped the evolution of the primary social problems in this new era, base actions on the new phase of development, implemented the new development philosophy, and created a new pattern of development. China strives to coordinate the effective enhancement



**Figure 8-4 Number of Industrial Accidents and Fatalities (2016-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Emergency Management.



of economic growth quality with reasonable quantitative growth, facilitating a transformation in the economic growth model. By improving the quality of development, China aims to sustain reasonable economic growth over the long term.

**Third, always uphold a people-centered approach and promote high-quality employment.** Employment is a timeless problem, affecting the lives of countless families. It demands unwavering attention at all times and should always be prioritized. China regards employment as a long-term strategic task of paramount importance in economic and social development. The government has worked through multiple channels to boost employment, genuinely safeguarding the rights of the vast majority of the people to live and develop.

### III. Future Work

China's economy has gradually recovered from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but still faces several challenges, including insufficient domestic demand, weak market confidence, risks in key sectors, and a complex and grave external environment. China will adhere to the general principle of seeking progress while maintaining stability and will prioritize the following tasks:

**First, implement targeted and robust macro regulation and actively expand domestic demand.** China will continue to pursue proactive fiscal policies and prudent monetary policies, give play to the role of monetary policy on both aggregate and structural fronts, and strongly support the development of technological innovation, the real economy, and MSMEs. Recognizing the foundational role of consumption in driving economic growth, China will promote consumption by increasing residents' income and optimizing the income distribution structure. This strategy to expand domestic demand will be well integrated with deepening supply-side structural reforms.

**Second, focus on preventing and mitigating risks in key sectors, regarding employment stability as a comprehensive strategic priority.** Effective measures will be taken to prevent and resolve risks in the real estate sector and local government debt. China will deepen financial supply-side structural reforms, promoting the integrated development of inclusive finance, green finance, and fintech. With the goal of achieving high-quality and sufficient employment, China will prioritize employment-first policies, expand employment capacity, enhance job quality, and make every effort to advance high-quality development in the field of employment.

**Third, deepen reforms and opening-up, vigorously advancing the development of a modern industrial system.** China will enhance the core competitiveness of state-owned enterprises and optimize the development environment for private enterprises. Enterprises

will be encouraged to be bold, to invest, to take risks, and to actively create markets. China will accelerate the cultivation and growth of strategic emerging industries, promote the deep integration of the digital economy with advanced manufacturing and modern services, and ensure the safe development of artificial intelligence.



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SDG 9

**Build resilient infrastructure,  
promote inclusive and sustainable  
industrialization and foster  
innovation**

## I. Implementation Progress

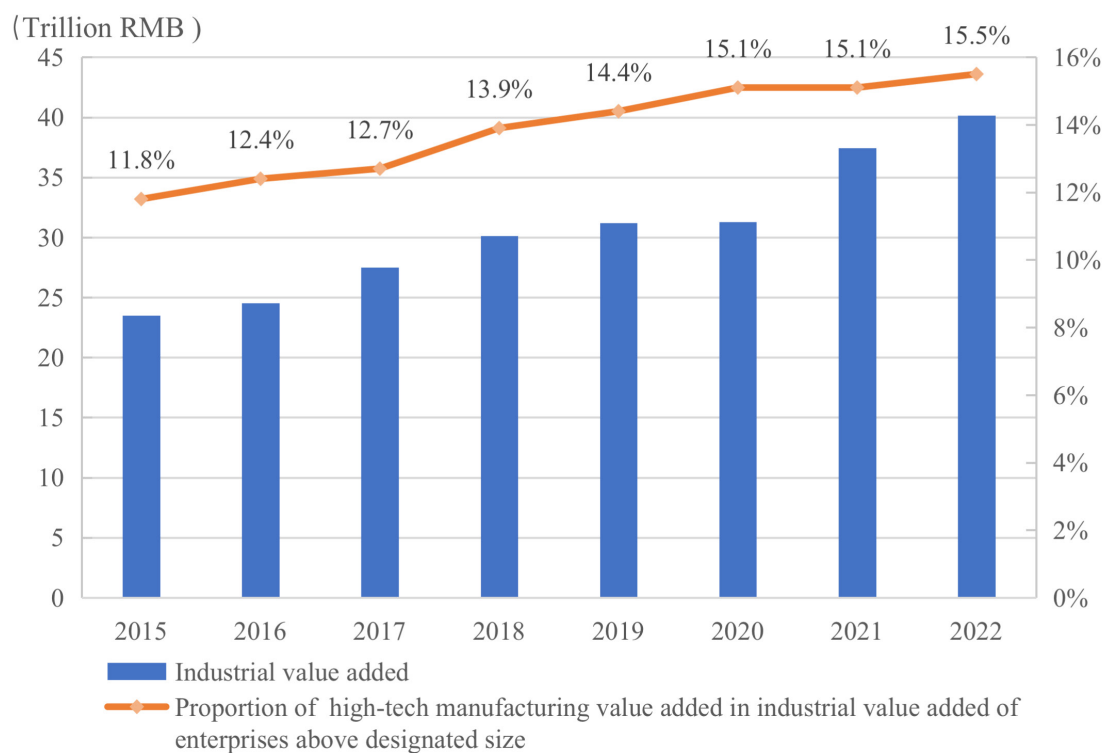
Infrastructure, industrialization and innovation are essential for achieving modernization. Since 2015, China has sped up building safe, efficient, smart, green and interconnected infrastructure; continuously promoted industrial transformation and upgrading to make industrialization more inclusive and sustainable; continued to implement the innovation-driven development strategy and effectively enhance the capacity of innovation and sustainable development; and continued to improve the financing environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and enhance the availability of financial services and credit. In addition, China has continued to strengthen international development cooperation, providing support to other developing countries for infrastructure construction, industrialization and innovation.

**China has increased investment and the accessibility, reliability and efficiency of infrastructure.**

China is building a modern integrated transportation system at a faster pace. By the end of 2022, the mileage of operational railways reached 155,000 kilometers, including 42,000 kilometers of high-speed railways; the mileage of highways totaled 5.355 million kilometers, including 177,000 kilometers of expressways; the mileage of navigable inland waterways reached 128,000 kilometers, including 15,000 kilometers of waterways of Class III and above. China is also steadily pushing forward the construction of network communication infrastructure, continuously expanding the coverage of 5G and Gigabit optical networks, and consolidating the basic network capacity. By the end of 2022, China had 2.312 million 5G base stations in operation, 561 million 5G users, and its Gigabit optical network had the capacity to cover more than 500 million households. Between 2015 and 2022, the mobile phone penetration rate increased from 95.5 to 119.2 phones per 100 people, and the Internet penetration rate from 50.3% to 75.6%. China vigorously promotes the innovation, R & D of 5G energy-saving technologies, and supports basic telecom enterprises to adopt energy-saving technologies. By the end of 2022, the energy consumption per 5G base station in China was over 20% lower than that in 2019, when 5G was first put into commercial use.

**China is working to promote industrial transformation and upgrading and make industrialization more inclusive and sustainable.**

China vigorously develops industries such as information technology, high-end equipment and new energy, and works to make manufacturing more intelligent, high-end and service-oriented. From 2015 to 2022, the industrial added value increased from RMB23.4969 trillion to RMB40.1644 trillion, and the proportion of high-tech manufacturing in the industrial added value of enterprises above a designated scale increased from 11.8% to 15.5% (Figure 9-1). In its effort to build a



**Figure 9-1 Industrial Value Added and Proportion of High-tech Manufacturing Value Added in Industrial Value Added of Enterprises above Designated Size (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

## Box 9-1: China Three Gorges Corporation Promotes Green Transformation and Upgrade of the Water Transportation Industry

As the number of ships and the volume of freight continue to grow, the problem of air and water pollution in inland river basins is becoming more and more serious. By the end of 2021, the mileage of China's navigable inland waterways reached 128,000 kilometers, including 65,000 kilometers of the Yangtze River. There were 114,000 vessels running on inland waterways, including 54,000 cargo vessels on the main stream of Yangtze River, including 47,000 dry bulk carriers. Nearly all of them are traditional oil-fired mechanical-powered ships, which have become the main mobile sources of air and water pollution in inland river basins.

To ensure the sustainable development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, China Three Gorges Corporation, as a key player in promoting electrification and the use of hydrogen in the Yangtze River, works closely with regulators,

enterprises and scientific research institutions, to promote the green and coordinated development of ports, shipbuilding, electromechanical equipment, shipping and other links of the industrial chain, and accelerate the overall green transformation and upgrading of the industrial chain of inland waterway shipping.

China Three Gorges Corporation and Hubei Three Gorges Tourism Group jointly invested in and built the "Three Gorges 1," the most advanced and intelligent pure electric ship with the largest power battery capacity in the world so far. The "Three Gorges 1" is powered by lithium iron phosphate-based battery, and has four advantages over conventional power ships: zero pollution and emission, low noise and vibration levels, easy to maintain, intelligent and advanced. The "Three Gorges 1" purely electric ship made its first voyage in March 2022, and received more than 130,000 passengers in

its first year, consuming more than 900,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, equivalent to the reduction of over 700 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

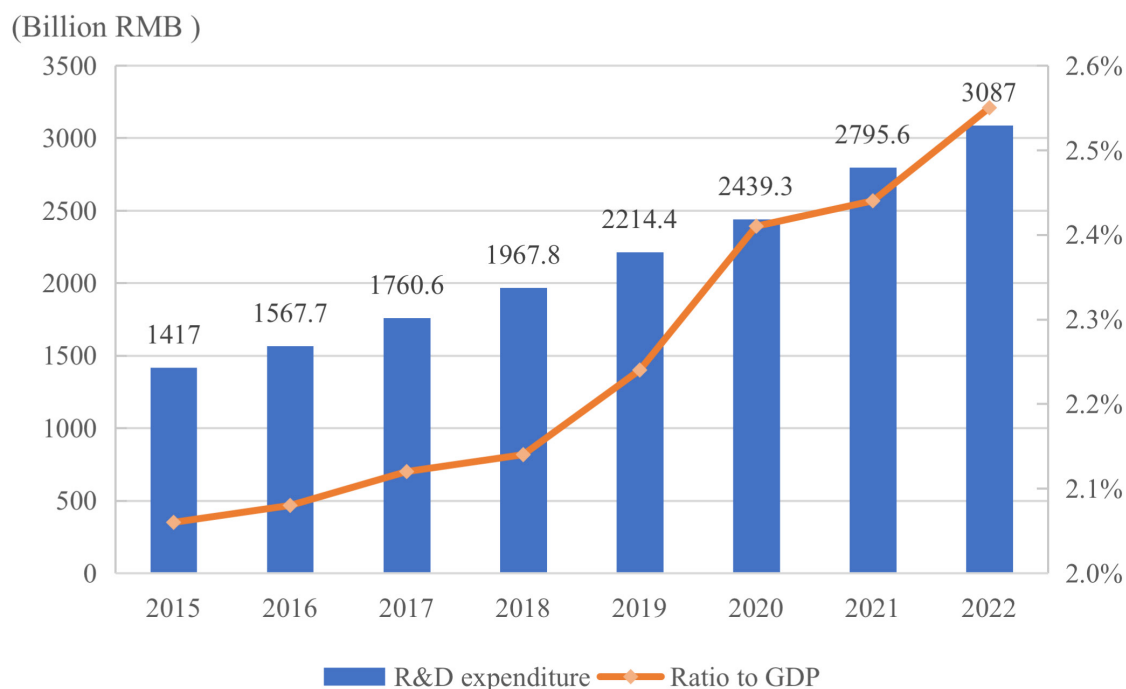
China Three Gorges Corporation and China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited also jointly invested in and built the "Three Gorges Hydrogen Boat 1" hydrogen fuel cell ship, the first hydrogen-powered ship on the Yangtze River. This is a ship powered by hydrogen fuel cells using hydrogen as a raw material. At present, "Three Gorges Hydrogen Boat 1" has arrived in Yichang. It will set a great model in exploring the application of hydrogen energy technology in inland ships, and is a good practice for promoting green development and the green transformation of regional transportation, including shipping, and turning Yichang into a model city for Yangtze River conservation.



green manufacturing system, China promotes the application of advanced technologies and equipment, and improves industrial energy efficiency and comprehensive utilization of resources. From 2012 to 2022, the energy consumption per unit added value of industries above the designated size dropped by more than 36%; in 2022, the comprehensive utilization rate of bulk industrial solid waste exceeded 52%, 10 percentage points higher than that of 2012. China's energy efficiency of product per unit, such as steel, raw aluminum and cement clinker, also reached the world advanced level, with an ever-increasing energy and resource utilization efficiency.

**China continues to optimize the financing environment for SMEs, and has seen ever-growing availability of financial services and credit.** China supports the expansion of financing guarantee business for MSEs in the real economy and made targeted reserve requirement ratio cuts for MSMEs. Efforts were made to increase the loan balance and the number of inclusive MSE loans with a single credit line of RMB10 million or below, and guide banks to offer their credit resources to scattered MSEs in need of small loans and whose financing needs are yet to be satisfied. Monetary policy tools were introduced to directly reach market players, including the tool for extending inclusive MSE loans and the unsecured inclusive MSE loan support program. By the end of 2022, the balance of loans granted by Chinese banking institutions to MSEs (including loans to MSEs, loans to self-employed businesses and loans to MSE owners) reached RMB59.7 trillion. Financial support is increased for innovative tech enterprises. A RMB400 billion re-financing fund for technology innovation was established, providing low-cost funds with an interest rate of 1.75% to financial institutions to guide them to finance specialized and sophisticated SMEs and high-tech enterprises. By the end of 2022, the balance of loans to technology SMEs nationwide stood at RMB1.6 trillion, with the business loan approval rate reaching 44.6% and the average interest rate of loans, 4.68%.

**China continues to pursue innovation-driven development, while its capability of innovation and sustainable development continuously improves.** China has continuously increased its investment in science and technology and implemented the *Outline of the National Strategy of Innovation-Driven Development*. From 2015 to 2022, the annual R&D expenditure jumped from RMB1,417 billion to RMB3,087 billion, and its ratio to GDP rose from 2.06% to 2.55% (Figure 9-2). The full-time equivalent of R&D personnel increased from 3.76 million to over 6 million persons per year. Innovations in key generic technologies, cutting-edge technologies, modern engineering technologies and disruptive technologies are highlighted. Innovations have emerged in the fields of manned spaceflight, exploration of the moon and the Mars, deep-sea and deep-earth exploration, supercomputers, satellite navigation, quantum information, nuclear power technology, aircraft manufacturing, artificial intelligence and biomedicine. From 2015 to 2022, China rose from 29th to 11th in the GII ranking released by the WIPO, making it an innovative economy. By enacting and revising relevant laws and regulations, China has created an enabling environment for innovation. *The Patent Law* was amended to strengthen the protection of the lawful rights and interests of patent holders, promote the use of patents, and improve the patent examination and authorization system. China



**Figure 9-2 Research & Experimental Development Expenditure and Its Ratio to GDP (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

has strengthened the protection of genetic resources and traditional intellectual property rights, and is deliberating on rules for the protection of data IPR. China has been working to build national innovation demonstration zones for sustainable development, and explored systematic solutions to sustainable development issues by relying on the comprehensive innovation with technological innovation at its core. By 2022, 11 cities including Taiyuan, Guilin, Shenzhen and Chenzhou had been selected to build such innovation demonstration zones, covering key areas of sustainable development, such as transformation of resource-rich regions, mega-city governance, and green development of key ecological function areas. They have explored and produced a series of replicable experience and models and significantly improved their sustainable development capabilities .

**China strengthens international cooperation on development and supports other developing countries in terms of infrastructure, industrialization and information-based development.**

China promotes international capacity cooperation and infrastructure connectivity under the BRI. By the end of 2022, Chinese enterprises had accumulatively invested more than USD57 billion in the overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in BRI partner countries, and created more than 420,000 jobs there. China launched the “Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages” project and the Pakistan Digital Television Transmission Demonstration Project. China provided distance education equipment to Azerbaijan, and communication equipment to Syria. China also implemented the Communication Network Modernization Project in Bangladesh and the Engineering Project on Air Traffic Control System in South Sudan. All these have helped

developing countries upgrade their information and communication capacity. In cooperation with WTO, China has helped 13 countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia and Madagascar, develop their own database on trade value added in global value chains to enhance their participation in global value chains. In 2021, China hosted the Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference and put forward a five-point proposal to promote global transport cooperation. In the following year, China initiated the Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center to contribute to global transport development.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, reform the investment and financing systems and mechanisms and advance infrastructure construction.** On the basis of construction by levels and types, China continues to increase fiscal input, gives full play to the role of policy- and development-oriented financial instruments, regulates and develops the public-private partnership (PPP) model, and continues the reform of turning assets into capital, equity and securities, to provide sustained and strong funding support for infrastructure construction.

**Second, let effective markets and capable governments work together to promote industrial development.** China works to stimulate market vitality, optimize allocation and rational flow of production factors, and promote the common development of enterprises of all types of ownership. In the current stage of industrialization, China has formulated and

### Box 9-2: Integrated Research on Disaster Risks Provides Technical Support for International Cooperation in Disaster Reduction

At present, the ability to cope with disasters vary greatly among countries, and developing countries in particular lack the scientific research capacity needed to do so. The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), jointly initiated by International Science Council (ISC), the International Social Science Council (merged into the ISC in 2018) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNODRR), aims to bring together natural science, socio-economic, health and engineering experts from various countries to build disaster

reduction capacity, conduct case studies and jointly address the challenges of global natural and man-made disasters. In 2010, the IRDR Office was opened in China.

Since 2015, to implement the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the international scientific community represented by the IRDR has carried out a significant amount of scientific research, policy dialogue and practice. For example, the IRDR Centre of Excellence in Seismological Research conducted

a joint study with the International Center for Collaborative Research on Disaster Risk Reduction (ICCR-DRR) of Beijing Normal University to provide technical support for post-earthquake reconstruction in Gorkha, Nepal. The Disaster Data Working Group of the IRDR Scientific Committee conducted a study on data assessment and measurement systems on losses caused by disasters, and made active explorations in building multi-hazard early warning systems in Pacific small-island countries and some countries in Southeast Asia.



implemented industrial policies that reflect local conditions when appropriate, so as to create a good business environment for industrial development and promote technological upgrading and green transformation.

**Third, actively open up and cooperate with other countries while working hard to achieve greater strength and self-reliance for innovation.** China actively integrates into global industrial and supply chains, attracts foreign capital for technology cooperation, draws on advanced technology and managerial practices, and contributes to the world's scientific and technological advances and application of new technologies. China also focuses on fostering its own capacity for independent innovation, strengthens R&D of key core technologies, and works to achieve greater strength and self-reliance in science and technology and build a more resilient industrial system.

### III. Future Work

Amid the ongoing global scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, China faces new opportunities and challenges in infrastructure construction, industrialization and innovation. China will continue to regard innovation as the primary driver of development, and take the following measures to advance infrastructure construction, innovation, industrialization and international cooperation.

**First, accelerate the pace to build a complete, efficient, practical, intelligent, green, safe and reliable modern infrastructure system.** China will build a modern and integrated transportation system, promote the integrated development of various transportation modes, and improve network effects and operational efficiency. China will promote a new type of infrastructure that is digital, intelligent and integrated with innovations. China will promote the energy revolution, build a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system, and improve the energy supply capacity. Efforts will also be made to strengthen the governance and conservation of river systems that spans two or more administrative regions and to advance key engineering projects, with the aim to strengthen the coordination between micro, small, medium and large water conservancy facilities, and enhance the ability to optimize the allocation of water resources and withstand floods and droughts.

**Second, continue to put innovation at the center of the modernization drive, and regard strength and self-reliance in science and technology as the strategic support for national development.** China will improve the market-oriented mechanism for technological innovation, stress the role of enterprises as main innovators, and encourage all kinds of innovation-enabling factors to gather in enterprises, so as to form a market-oriented technological innovation system with enterprises as the main players and featuring in-depth integration of businesses, universities, research institutes and users. China will continue the institutional reform for talent development and give full play to the role of talent as the primary resource. It will also continue

the institutional reform in science and technology, improve the national science and technology governance system and the national plans and operating mechanisms in the science and technology sector, and promote the integrated allocation of projects, bases, talent and funds in key areas. National Innovation Demonstration Zones for Sustainable Development will be given a bigger role in promoting innovation and sustainable development.

**Third, accelerate the development of a modern industrial system and build sophisticated foundational industrial infrastructure and modern industrial chains.** China will promote the in-depth integration of advanced manufacturing and modern service sectors and build a modern industrial system featuring coordinated development of the real economy, technological innovation, modern finance and human resources. The intelligent and green manufacturing projects will be fully implemented, and new models of service-oriented manufacturing will be developed, to promote high-end, intelligent and green manufacturing. Projects will be launched to upgrade foundational industrial infrastructure and make up the weaknesses in such areas as basic spare parts, software and materials as soon as possible. China will design supply chain strategies and implement targeted policies by industry to form industrial and supply chains that are more innovative, secure and reliable, and with higher added value.

**Fourth, further international development cooperation and promote high-quality development under the BRI.** Through technical assistance and capacity-building, China will support the industrialization of other developing countries and help LDCs upgrade their infrastructure and information technology. China will promote the connectivity between land, sea, space and cyberspace, and build an infrastructure connectivity network represented by economic corridors such as the New Eurasian Land Bridge, with the China-Europe Railway Express, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and other major corridors and information highways as the backbone, in addition to railways, ports and pipeline networks. China will strengthen pragmatic cooperation in economic, trade and investment, and build a win-win cooperation system for industrial and supply chains.



## SDG 10

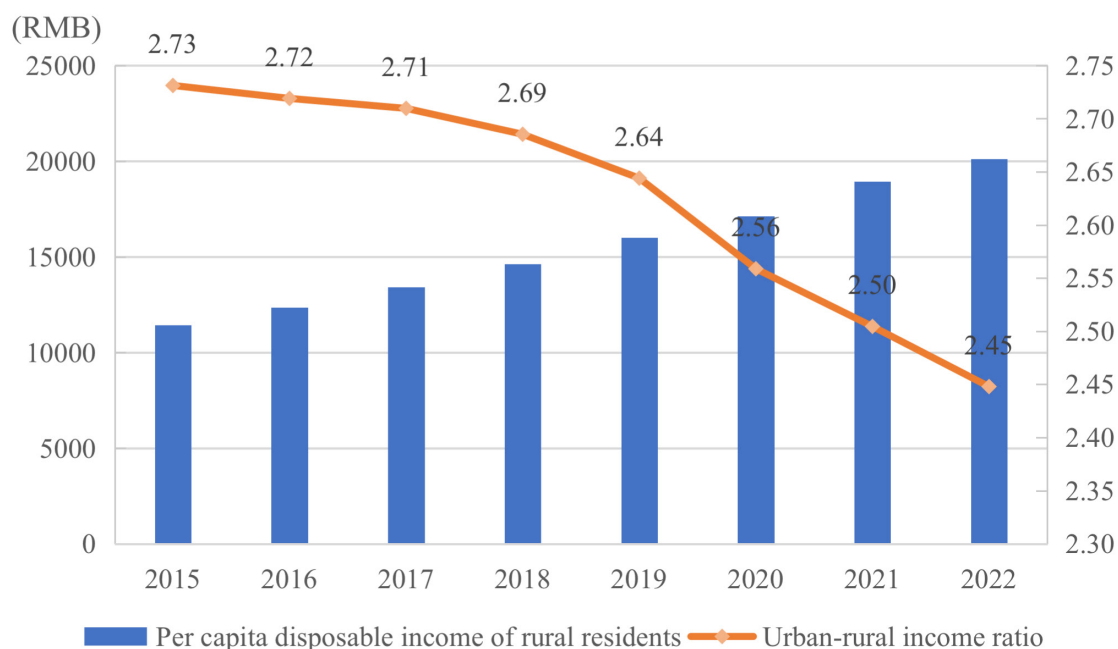
### Reduce inequality within and among countries

## I. Implementation Progress

Pursuing people-centered development, China promotes common prosperity in the course of pursuing high-quality development, and takes effective measures to narrow the income gap, regional gap and urban-rural gap, and promotes social equity and justice and the all-round development of people. Since 2015, China has gradually narrowed the urban-rural and regional income gaps, continuously improved the multi-level social security system, and achieved remarkable outcomes in equal access to basic public services. Meanwhile, China has worked to optimize the international economic and financial order, narrowing the gap among countries.

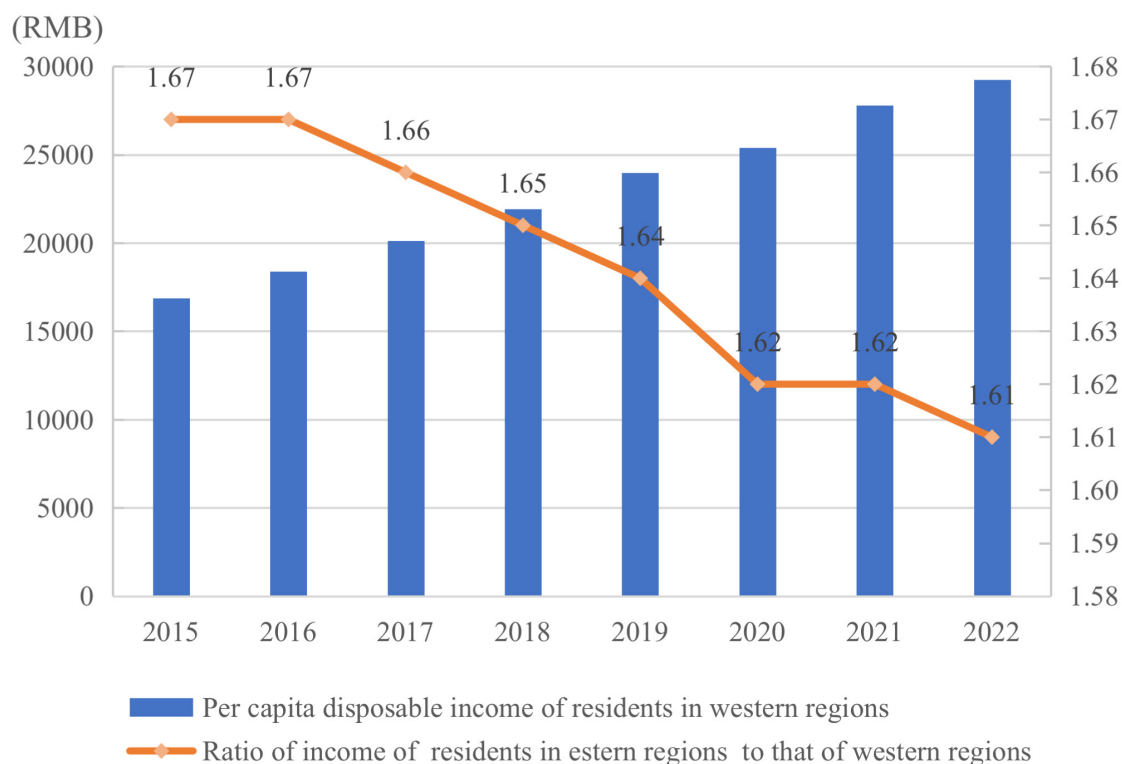
**China has improved the pattern of income distribution and regulated its order.** The pattern of urban-rural income distribution continues to improve. In

2022, the per capita disposable income of rural residents exceeded RMB20,000, with a year-on-year growth rate 2.3 percentage points higher than that of urban residents. From 2015 to 2022, the ratio of per capita disposable income of urban residents to that of rural residents continued to decline from 2.73 to 2.45 (Figure 10-1). After extreme poverty was eradicated in China by the end of 2020, the per capita net income of the population that recently emerged from poverty outgrew the per capita disposable income of rural residents. Regional disparities are also narrowing. In 2022, the per capita disposable income of residents in the western region was RMB29,267.4, and that in the central region RMB31,433.7, with their growth rates 0.73 and 1.47 percentage points higher than that in the eastern region respectively. From 2015 to 2022, the ratio of per capita disposable income of residents in the eastern regions to that of western regions declined from 1.67 to 1.61 (Figure 10-2). The order of income distribution has also been gradually improved. China improved the mechanism for assessing minimum wage standards, rationally adjusted regional minimum wage standards, and worked to extend the minimum wage and payment security system to include workers in new forms of employment. Effective measures were taken to safeguard the rights to remuneration of migrant workers, and workers in new forms of employment and other groups. The mechanisms were improved so that knowledge, technology and skills are assessed by the market and remuneration is determined according to contribution. The consultation and coordination mechanism involving the government, trade unions and enterprises was also improved, to fully unleash the development and cooperation potential of various



**Figure 10-1 Per Capita Disposable Income of Rural Residents and the Urban-Rural Income Ratio (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.



**Figure 10-2 Per Capita Disposable Income of Residents in Western Regions and Ratio of Income of Residents in Eastern to that of Western Regions (2015-2022)**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

factors of production, and ensure equal participation and development opportunities for workers.

**China actively helps rural migrants to register as permanent urban residents and works to make the social security system more equitable and sustainable.** Cities with a permanent population of less than 3 million have virtually lifted their restrictions on household registration, and more than 100 million migrants from rural to urban areas have registered as urban residents. The social security system continues to improve. China has entered a fast track to improve its social security system, with institutions in place with full protection of people against such risks as old age, disease, unemployment, work-related injury, disability and poverty, regardless of whether they are in urban or rural areas, and their locality, sex and occupation. The coverage of the social security system has expanded significantly. By the end of 2022, China had 1.05 billion people covered by basic old-age insurance, more than 1.3 billion by basic medical insurance, 238 million by unemployment insurance and 291 million by work-related injury insurance. The social security system has become significantly fairer. China has aligned pension schemes for staff of government offices and public institutions with those for enterprise employees, promoted national coordination of basic old-age insurance for enterprise employees and developed private pension schemes. China has consolidated the basic medical insurance systems for urban and rural residents, fully implemented the critical illness insurance for urban and rural residents

and set up the National Healthcare Security Administration. The policy would focus more on low-income vulnerable populations. For recipients of subsistence allowances, people living in extreme poverty, people returned to poverty or fallen below the poverty line, the minimum out-of-pocket threshold for critical illness insurance is reduced by 50%, the payment ratio increased by 5 percentage points, and the ceiling cancelled.

**China promotes the balanced development of basic public services, and the urban and rural infrastructure is more integrated.** A set of basic public service standards has gradually taken shape, effectively promoting equal access to public services. In terms of education, the focus is shifting from ensuring access to education to improving its quality. Starting from the spring semester of 2020, the benchmark quota of public funds per student receiving compulsory education in the central and western regions was raised to the same level as the eastern region. China had achieved basic balance in compulsory education across counties by 2021. From 2013 to 2020, the overall difference between primary and secondary schools in China decreased by about 40%. In 2022, 95.2% of migrant workers' children receiving compulsory education were studying in public schools, or at private schools through a government-funded scheme, up 4.3 percentage points from 2021. Key universities continue to expand their enrollment programs targeting students from rural and poverty-stricken areas. From 2012 to 2021, 5.1405 million registered poor students received higher education, showing a growth trend. In terms of healthcare services, China continues to improve the healthcare service system, and brings more high-quality healthcare resources to lower-tier cities and towns. Health institutions are now available to all sub-districts, towns and villages. Each county that has recently emerged from poverty has at least one public hospital, and 98% of all counties that have recently emerged from poverty each have at least one second-tier or higher hospital, with the quality of diagnosis and treatment not far from the national average. In terms of housing, the housing security system, consisting of public rental housing, subsidized rental housing and shared-ownership housing programs, has been continuously improved, and China has built the largest housing security system in the world. More than 90 million sets of urban affordable housing units and other housing units in run-down urban areas have been built, improving the housing conditions of more than 200 million people in need. By the end of 2022, over 38 million people with financial difficulties had moved in public rental housing, and more than 27 million people with financial difficulties had received rental subsidies. In terms of infrastructure, urban and rural infrastructure has become more integrated. By the end of 2022, all qualified townships and administrative villages already built hardened roads, and more than 98% were connected by optical fiber and 4G networks. In addition, China promotes equal access to educational opportunities for persons with disabilities, works actively to upgrade their employment skills, supports their employment and provides an accessible environment.

**China promotes common development and more equitable and balanced global development.** China actively participates in international economic and financial governance. China promotes the implementation of international standards at home and enhances the

transparency of its financial system. China participated in the formulation of international financial regulatory rules and helped steer the international economic and financial order to become fairer and more equal and conducive to win-win cooperation. Within the framework of South-South cooperation, China provided assistance to other developing countries, especially the LDCs to the best of its ability, and increased assistance in areas such as livelihood, infrastructure construction and human resources development. In 2022, China upgraded its South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to the GDSSCF, and added USD1 billion to the original USD3 billion to help other developing countries. China actively promoted the implementation and improved special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions in the WTO. In particular, China addressed the S&DT issue in a pragmatic manner and actively assumed international responsibilities in the negotiations on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, and voluntarily gave up the relevant flexibility. China continued to offer preferential tariff treatment for LDCs. From 2015 to 2022, preferential imports from LDCs amounted to RMB226.05 billion, and tariff reductions RMB20.21 billion, covering 44 LDCs.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, stay oriented toward the established goal, seek truth from facts and advance common prosperity step by step.** China adheres to the people-centered development concept, and insists that development is for the people, by the people, with benefits shared by the people. China has set the long-range goal of achieving common prosperity for all people based on its national reality. China stresses that promoting common prosperity is a long-term process, and makes steady progress toward this goal.

**Second, launch pilot programs before rolling out experience and gradually advance institutional reforms.** Piloting a policy at selected localities before making it a national strategy is a key to China's reform, development and governance. In the process of reducing inequality and promoting common prosperity, China has chosen the places where conditions permit to try and find out what works, before summarizing and promoting good practices to the rest of the country. For example, the central government supports Zhejiang in promoting high-quality development and building a demonstration area for common prosperity. For another example, Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Hainan, Chongqing and Sichuan have piloted measures to protect workers in new forms of employment from occupational injury.

**Third, adhere to the principle of inclusive development and take practical actions to promote common development.** At present, developed countries are outpacing developing countries in their recovery from the pandemic, and sustained economic downturn will exacerbate global poverty and inequality. In response, China has put forward the GDI. While considering long-term development and practical needs globally, the GDI aims at building an international consensus on development, cultivates new drivers of global development, and promotes common development and progress of all countries around the world. Within the framework

of the GDI, China has launched practical cooperation and actions with partners to provide necessary assistance to other developing countries and help solve the problem of unbalanced and inadequate global development, so that no country and no one is left behind in the pursuit of common global development.

## Box 10-1: Supporting Zhejiang in Developing with High Quality and Building a Demonstration Area for Common Prosperity

In 2021, China issued the *Guidelines on Supporting Zhejiang in Developing with High Quality and Build a Demonstration Zones for Common Prosperity*, stating that promoting common prosperity for all people is a long-term and arduous task, and it is necessary to select pilot areas as pioneers for demonstration.

The goal for Zhejiang Province to develop with high quality and build a demonstration area of common prosperity is to make substantial progress by 2025 in the following aspects. First, the quality and efficiency of economic development will be significantly improved, the per capita GDP will reach the level of moderately developed economies, and equitable access to basic public services will be ensured. Second, the urban-rural gap in development and in income and living standards will continue to narrow, and the income-generating capacity and social welfare enjoyed by low-income groups will be significantly improved. An olive-shaped social structure dominated by middle-income groups will basically take shape, and the quality of life of residents across the province

will reach a new height. Third, the well-rounded development of peoples and public civility will be significantly enhanced, and new achievements will be made in building a beautiful Zhejiang. The governance capacity will be significantly improved, and people will enjoy a better life. Fourth, institutional arrangements and policy frameworks for promoting common prosperity will be basically established, with a number of good practices that can be replicated and promoted elsewhere.

By 2035, common prosperity will be basically achieved. Zhejiang will strive to reach the level of developed economies in terms of per capita regional GDP and urban and rural income, achieve a higher level of coordinated development between urban and rural areas, and optimize the distribution of income and wealth. The rule of law and the building of a peaceful Zhejiang will reach a higher level, and the governance system and capacity will be markedly modernized. New progress will be made in material, political, cultural-ethical, social, and ecological terms. The institutions for common prosperity

will be improved.

Specific measures are listed as follows. First, improve the quality and efficiency of development and consolidate the material foundation for common prosperity by enhancing the capacity for independent innovation, building new competitive advantages in industries, improving the efficiency of economic circulation and revitalizing various market players. Second, increase the income of urban and rural residents through multiple channels by achieving fuller and higher-quality employment, and improving the reform of the redistribution system. Third, narrow the urban-rural development gap and provide high-quality public services for all by taking the lead in ensuring equitable access to basic public services and the integrated development of urban and rural areas. Fourth, build a cultural pacesetter of the new era and enrich people's spiritual and cultural life. Fifth, practice the concept that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and create a beautiful and livable environment. Sixth, build a comfortable and reassuring social environment.



## Box 10-2: Developing Rural Collective Economy and Promoting Common Prosperity: A Case Study of Huzhou, Zhejiang Province

In its effort to increase the income of rural residents, Huzhou of Zhejiang Province has formed the village-strengthening company model. Under this model, the rural collective economic organizations invest and set up a corporate legal person, whose main goal is to develop and strengthen the collective economy. Compared with the conventional “company + rural households” model and specialized cooperatives, the village-strengthening company stands out by bringing the collective economy into the interest sharing mechanism so that it has the drive to protect the collective assets, redistribute income to the vulnerable groups and expand local employment.

Five villages in Tianhuangping Town, Anji County cluster jointly invested RMB10 million to set up the company of Wuzi Lianxing

to provide cleaning and small-scale maintenance services in the five villages. The Company took over the property management services of each village, and charged RMB600,000-700,000 for their services, depending on the population and area of each village. By combining the property management and cleaning projects of the five villages, the company is able to operate on a large scale. Since most of the sanitation workers are local villagers, they work with all their heart and effort to improve the service quality without increasing the management cost of each village.

In 2021, Wuzi Lianxing had an operating income of RMB7 million and employed 30 employees on long-term contracts, including three with disabilities. Its profit was RMB1.2 million, and the dividend for each village was

RMB200,000, with a yield of 10% in 2021. Each village determines the distribution plan according to its own conditions. For example, Yu Village distributes the dividends equally to the villagers, about RMB180 each. The Party committee and the villagers' committee of Nanxun District and Digang Village of Fu Town decided to spend the dividends on improving the living standards of the elders aged over 70, since they had a large number of old farmers who had transferred their right to land use and were not able to work in cities.

According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Zhejiang Province, there are over 1,000 village-strengthening companies in Zhejiang, with an average annual profit of over RMB2 million and an annual return rate of 14.4%.

### III. Future Work

The development in China remains imbalanced and inadequate, and there is a wide gap between urban and rural areas in terms of development and income distribution. At the same time, the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation have brought about huge impacts on employment and income distribution, which calls for advance planning and effective response. China will continue to well promote common prosperity and development for all, with priority given to the following tasks.

**First, guarantee and improve people's living standards in the pursuit of development.**

China will move faster to improve the socialist market economy and promote more balanced, coordinated, inclusive and sustainable development. At the same time, China will promote common prosperity in the pursuit of high-quality development, properly handle the relationship between efficiency and fairness, and establish basic institutional arrangements for coordinating primary distribution, redistribution, and tertiary distribution.

**Second, optimize the pattern of income distribution.** China will expand the middle-income groups, increase the income of low-income groups, well regulate high income, and ban illegal income, so as to form an olive-shaped distribution structure. China will implement major regional strategies and coordinated regional development strategies, improve the transfer payment system, narrow regional per capita fiscal expenditure disparities, and increase support for underdeveloped regions. China will accelerate the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, and promote a new type of urbanization and the integrated development of urban and rural public services. China will improve the social security system, especially the old-age and medical security systems, the social relief system, and the housing supply and security systems.

**Third, push forward the GDI with more concrete results.** China will actively push ahead the implementation of the GDI, effectively mobilize and allocate resources, meet the needs of other developing countries and pool the greatest synergy possible for development. China will actively participate in the reform of the global governance system and safeguard and improve multilateral economic governance mechanisms. China will strengthen economic and trade cooperation with other developing countries and provide them, especially the LDCs, with assistance to the best of its ability, and actively make contribution that matches its development level and economic strength.



## SDG 11

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

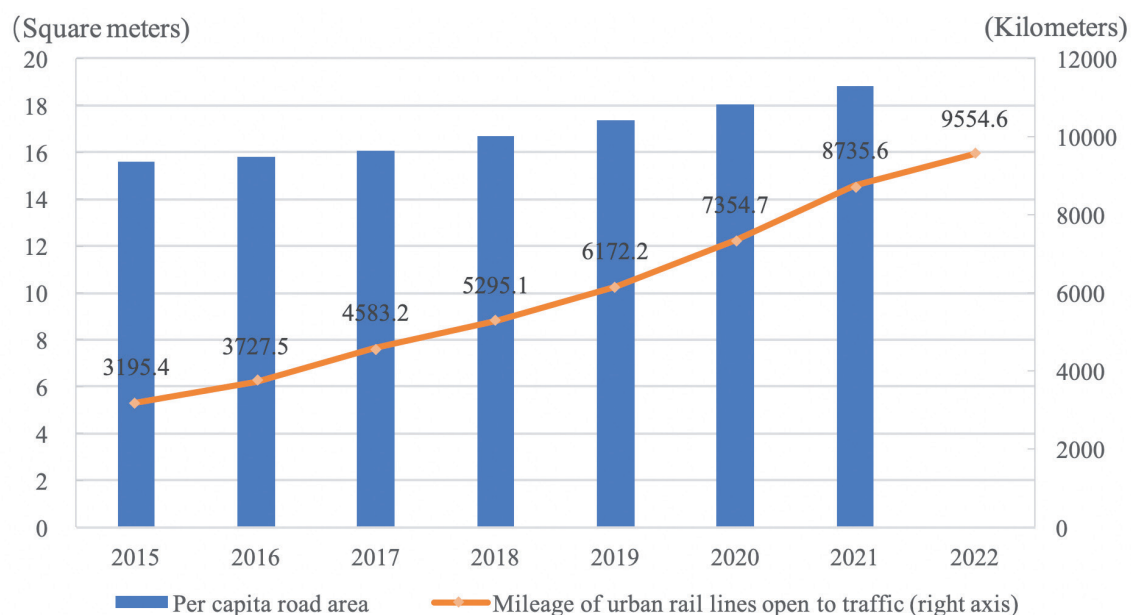
### I. Implementation Progress

China stays committed to a new type of urbanization that is people-centered, and has made historic achievements in housing and urban-rural development. Since 2015, China's housing security has been continuously enhanced, public services significantly improved, urban environment and human settlements continuously optimized, and ability to withstand natural disasters and protect cultural heritage strengthened. China has also provided assistance to other developing countries in disaster response and post-disaster capacity-building to the best of its capacity.

**China enhances its housing security, and the housing conditions of residents have been significantly improved.** The Chinese government has continuously improved the housing security system, which features public rental housing, subsidized rental

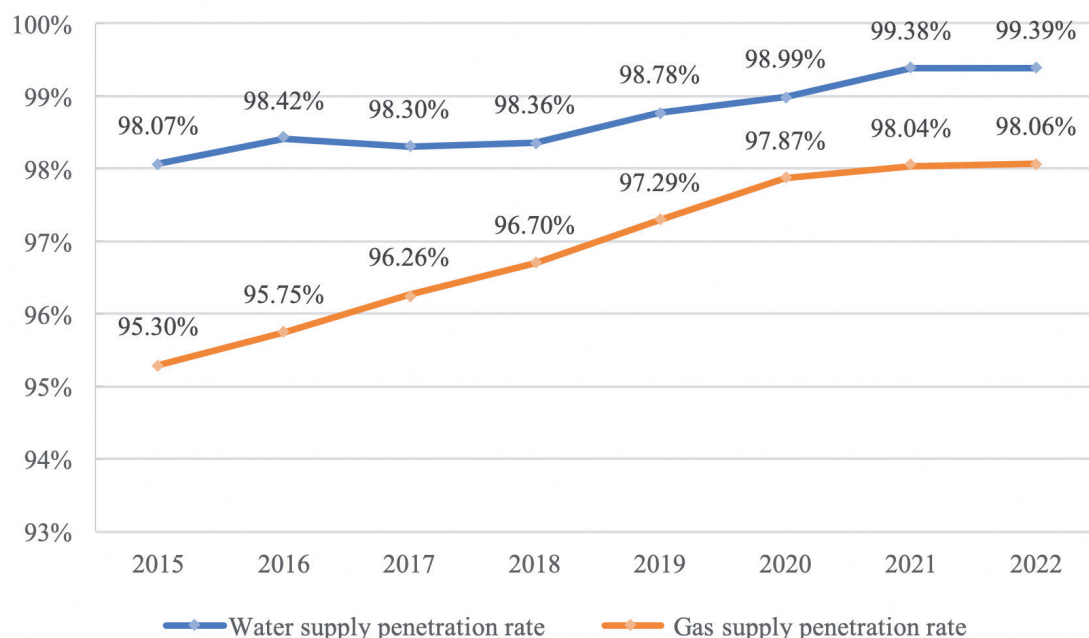
housing and shared-ownership housing projects, as its housing security capacity continues to rise. So far, China has built more than 90 million sets of urban affordable housing units and other housing units in run-down urban areas, improving the housing conditions of more than 200 million people in need, forming the world's largest housing security system. The development of public rental housing projects is regulated. By the end of 2022, more than 38 million people with financial difficulties were living in public rental housing units, and 27 million people with financial difficulties received subsidies to rent houses on their own in the market. China has stepped up subsidized rental housing. In 2021 and 2022, China built about 3.6 million units of subsidized rental housing, meeting the housing needs of over 10 million new urban residents and young people. The reconstruction of run-down urban areas is progressing steadily. By 2022, a total of more than 53 million housing units had started construction for the relocation of residents in run-down areas, and 130 million of such residents had moved into new homes. Shared-ownership housing projects are developed based on local conditions. By the end of 2022, about 280,000 housing units with shared ownership had been built in 18 cities. In addition, China has sped up the cultivation and development of the housing rental market, and vigorously reconstructed rural dilapidated houses, to meet the housing needs of all.

**China improves urban functions, with marked improvements in public services delivered such as urban transportation, water supply and gas supply.** Priority is given to the development of urban public transport to meet the diverse mobility needs of the people. By 2022, 53 cities had their own rail transit system, 28 more than in 2015, and the length of rail transit lines open to traffic reached 9,554.6 kilometers, 2.99 times that of 2015. By 2021, the urban per capita road area reached 18.84 square meters, an increase of 20.77% over 2015 (Figure 11-1). New business forms and models, such as ride hailing by phone or Internet and bike-



**Figure 11-1 Urban Public Transport (2015-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and Ministry of Transport.

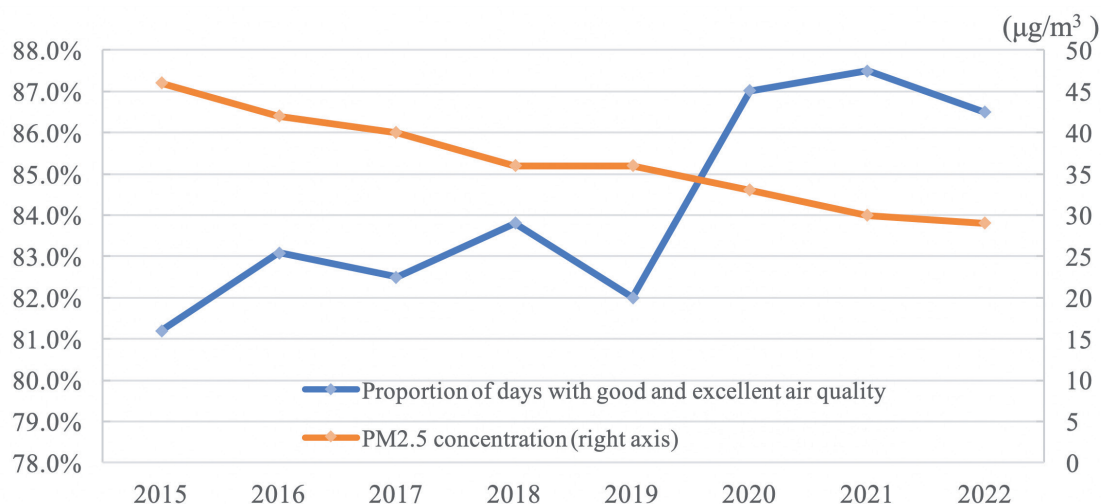


**Figure 11-2 Urban Basic Public Services (2015-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

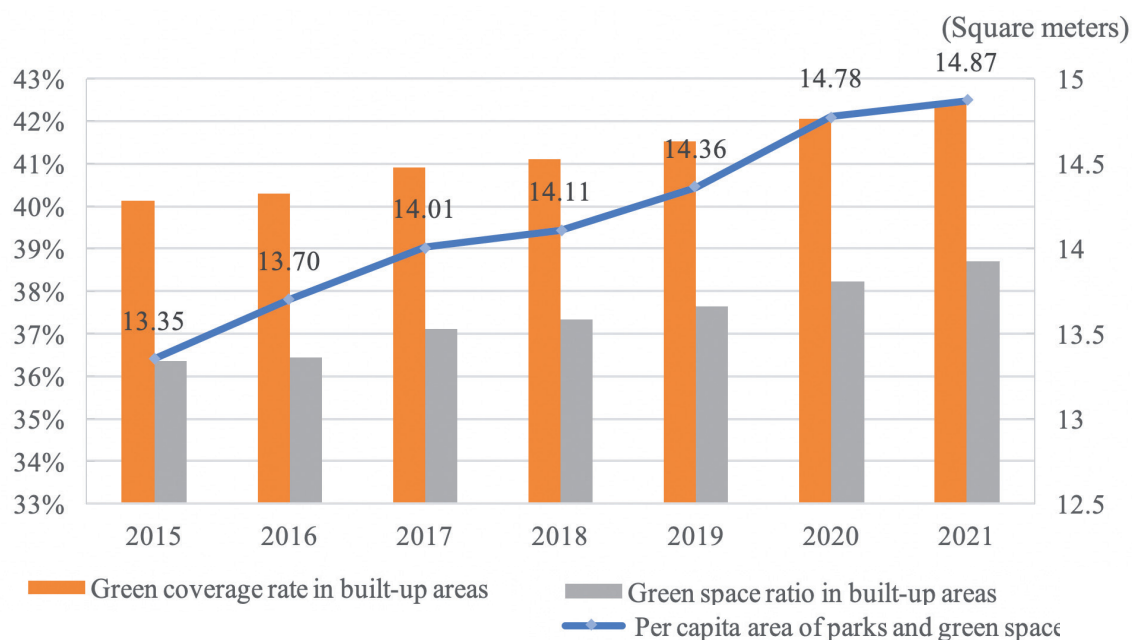
sharing, are flourishing. So far, taxi-hailing hotlines have been opened in more than 130 cities at prefecture level or above. China continues to improve its municipal public infrastructure, and its water supply and gas penetration rate have basically reached the level of developed countries. From 2015 to 2022, the urban water supply and gas penetration rates increased to 99.39% and 98.06% respectively (Figure 11-2); the number of public toilets per 10,000 people increased from 2.75 in 2015 to 3.29 in 2021. The reconstruction of run-down urban neighborhoods is being advanced. From 2019 to 2022, the central government allocated more than RMB332 billion in subsidies to support the reconstruction of 167,000 urban neighborhoods across the country, benefiting more than 29 million households.

**China has strengthened comprehensive urban governance so that cities could switch to the green, low-carbon and sustainable development model.** Urban air quality has improved significantly. In 2022, cities at prefecture level and above reported good or excellent air quality in 86.5% of the days, up 5.3 percentage points compared with 2015; the average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> was 29 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, down 37% compared with 2015, and fell below 30 ug/m<sup>3</sup> for the first time, making China the fastest country in improving the quality of the atmospheric environment (Figure 11-3). Between 2015 and 2022, the average concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> in air fell by 61%, and the number of days of heavy pollution fell by 66%. A campaign is launched to build water-efficient cities, with a total of 145 cities rated as national water-efficient cities so far, driving cities to promote water conservation. To promote the development of green buildings, China has piloted projects to use the central government fund to support clean heating in winter in northern China, green finance to support green building development, and government procurement of green building materials to improve building quality.



**Figure 11-3 Urban Air Quality Indicators (2015-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment.



**Figure 11-4 The Trend of Urban Greening (2015-2021)**

Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

**The urban human settlement environment is improved, and the green and accessible public space in society is continuously expanded.** China has promoted the construction of the national system of garden cities and urban parks. Since 2015, 19 cities have been rated national ecological garden cities, and 120 cities national garden cities. From 2015 to 2021, the per capita green area of urban parks in China increased from 13.35 square meters to 14.87 square meters, the green coverage rate of built-up areas from 40.12% to 42.42%, and the green area rate of built-up areas from 36.36% to 38.7%<sup>12</sup> (Figure 11-4). The quality of accessible facilities in cities

12. The green space rate and the green coverage rate are two economic and technical indicators to measure the green condition of residential areas. The green space rate is a planning index, and describes the ratio of the sum of all kinds of green spaces within the residential area to the residential area, while the green coverage rate is the percentage of the sum of the green vertical projection area to the occupied area.

## Box 11-1: Harmonious Co-existence of Man and Nature: A Case Study of the Habitat Gardens in Changning District of Shanghai

As modern cities continue to grow, it is more and more important to respect nature, return to nature, bring urban residents closer to nature, and enhance their understanding of urban biodiversity and its ecological service value. The Urban Habitat Garden Project, launched in 2017, is dedicated to creating multi-functional community gardens and green spaces.

Changning District has renovated old residential neighborhoods by meticulously transforming dead corners and building local

biological habitats, so as to create urban habitat gardens that organically combine urban biodiversity conservation and urban renewal and boasts such diverse functions as “a green carbon sink, capable of biodiversity conservation, rainwater harvesting, health preservation and nature education.” At present, the district has built 3,559 square meters of habitat gardens, with more than 40 shelters providing food and water for urban wildlife, added 400 species of shrubs and flowers, and offered 88 recreational spaces and facilities for residents.

Through the Habitat Garden Demonstration Project, Changning has explored ways to integrate nature into lifestyles and create multi-functional green spaces in combination with urban micro-renewal and neighborhood reconstruction. It satisfies the residents’ longing for close contacts with nature and the pursuit of an eco-friendlier community, brings people closer to each other, enables the residents to enjoy the ecological benefits brought by the green spaces, and enhances their sense of happiness and pride.

continues to improve. For three consecutive years from 2021 to 2023, China has taken concrete actions to make the mobility of the elderly easier; launched a campaign to build national demonstration cities (counties) for accessibility, with focus on the needs of key groups such as persons with disabilities, built accessible facilities such as highways, public transport facilities, public service facilities and green squares, or renovated existing ones to make them accessible, thus to help vulnerable groups integrate into social life. From 2021 to the end of June 2023, China completed accessible remodeling of 64,283 homes for persons with severe disabilities, improving their quality of life.

**The disaster management system is optimized and the capacities of cities for withstanding natural disasters are continuously improved.** China has advanced the institutional reform for disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, improved the ability to identify, monitor and warn against potential disaster risks, promoted disaster reduction capacity building in cities and neighborhoods, and sped up capacity building for emergency rescue. From 2015 to 2022, human casualties and economic losses caused by natural disasters dropped significantly (Table 11-1). From 2016 to 2022, natural disasters resulted in 138 million victims, 892 missing persons and 172,000 collapsed houses every year on average, with direct economic losses accounting for 0.34% of GDP, down 55%, 42%, 75% and 47%, respectively, compared to the 2011-2015 period. Since 2015, the sponge city project has been piloted in 30 cities, and 60 cities have

**Table 11-1 Natural Disaster-Induced Losses (2015-2022)**

Year	Number of people affected (Million)	Number of persons lost due to disasters	Number of collapsed houses	Direct economic losses due to disasters (Billion RMB)
2015	186.203	967	248,000	270.41
2016	189.117	1,706	521,000	503.29
2017	144.480	979	153,000	301.87
2018	135.539	635	97,000	264.46
2019	137.590	909	126,000	327.09
2020	138.297	591	100,000	370.15
2021	107.300	867	162,000	334.02
2022	112.678	554	47,000	238.65

Source: Ministry of Emergency Management.

been selected to promote the construction of sponge cities. As a result, the urban ecological environment has obviously improved, the green space and waterfront space are expanded, and the disaster prevention and mitigation capability effectively strengthened.

**China has made progress in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage.** China has been active in applying for the status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Global Geoparks. Since 2015, China has completed 5 applications for the status of World Heritage Sites, bringing the total of World Heritage Sites in its territory to 56, including 38 cultural heritage sites, 14 natural heritage sites and 4 cultural and natural heritage sites, the most in the world. From 2015 to 2020, China added 10 Global Geoparks. At present, China has 41 UNESCO Global Geoparks, and has topped the world in terms of the number and the growth for many consecutive years. The third round of regular reports on cultural heritage sites were completed as scheduled, a sound monitoring and early warning system for cultural heritage sites is in place, and a heritage impact assessment system is promoted comprehensively. As a result, China's ability of world cultural heritage conservation and management is significantly improved. The conservation of rural cultural heritage sites has also been effectively advanced. The list of traditional Chinese villages now includes 8,155 villages with important value for conservation, forming the largest cluster of farming cultural heritage under conservation with the richest contents and value in the world.

**China actively engages in international cooperation in disaster prevention and reduction**





**and provides disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction assistance to other developing countries.** China promotes the development of the “Belt and Road” international cooperation mechanism for natural disaster prevention and emergency management, and held the Belt and Road Ministerial Forum for International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management. China has been actively implementing the 2030 Agenda and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. It has established cooperative relations with more than 30 international and regional organizations and the emergency management authorities of more than 90 countries and regions, including Russia, Japan, France and the European Union. China also promotes cooperation and exchanges in disaster risk reduction among BRICS countries, SCO, the East Asia Summit and APEC. China continues to enhance its international rescue capacity in case of disasters. In humanitarian disasters such as cyclone in Myanmar, volcanic eruption in Tonga, Hurricanes in Vanuatu, wildfires in Kenya, floods in the Democratic Republic of Congo, floods in Madagascar, and earthquake in Turkey and Syria, China offered timely assistance in kind and in cash, dispatched international rescue teams, and provided support to the recipient countries in post-disaster reconstruction and capacity-building for disaster risk reduction.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, stay problem- and goal-oriented and enhance housing security.** The Chinese government has always put people first. Considering the housing demand, purchasing capacity and difficulties for different groups, it has stepped up establishing a housing system featuring multi-source supply, multi-channel guarantee, and both housing rental and sales. China promotes the steady and healthy development of the real estate market, increases the supply of affordable housing, and renovates dilapidated houses in rural areas, in an effort to solve the housing problems facing disadvantaged groups, such as new urban residents, young people, low-income urban population and rural population, thus helping meet the housing needs of all.

**Second, adhere to the systematic and holistic thinking and improve the quality of life for the people.** Adhering to the principle that cities should be developed by the people and for the people, the Chinese government adopts the systematic and holistic approach and constantly improves city planning, development and governance. It has stepped up infrastructure construction and increased the supply of basic public services. It also highlights the conservation of historical and cultural heritage, ethnic cultural and traditional styles in the process of urban renewal, and strives to build livable, resilient and intelligent cities.

**Third, stay firm in sustainable, green and low-carbon development.** The Chinese government has integrated the concept of sustainable development into its urban and rural development, and defined the urban and rural development targets and major tasks for peaking carbon emissions by 2030. It promotes the transformation and upgrading of the construction industry, and urges new residential and public buildings to reduce energy consumption and

## Box 11-2: Evaluation of Urban Development: Treating “Urban Diseases” in China

With the rapid rise of urbanization level in China, urban development has shifted from incremental expansion to high-quality development. How to identify and address “urban diseases” in urban development as early as possible has received more and more attention, for its effect bears directly on people’s quality of life.

In 2018, China began to assess its cities, using perceivable, quantifiable and evaluable indicators to measure the degree of urban health. The index system of city assessment includes eight aspects: livability, health and comfort, safety and resilience, convenient transportation, distinctive features, tidiness and

order, diversity and inclusiveness, and innovation and vitality. Self-evaluations, third-party evaluations, and public satisfaction survey and other multi-dimensional evaluations were organized. In 2019, 11 sample cities were selected for pilot implementation. From 2021 to 2022, the number of sample cities was increased to 59, covering all municipalities directly under the central government, cities specifically designated in the state plan, provincial capitals and some cities with districts.

The assessment results are conducive to guiding localities to identify their “urban diseases”, comprehensively evaluate urban development,

formulate targeted measures, solve problems and make up for shortcomings. It has made urban development more systematic and holistic, and helped build a modern urban governance system and capacity. In practice, localities regard urban assessment as an important step in urban planning, development and governance, incorporated the evaluation tasks into the government agenda and relevant plans, and established a sound working mechanism for them. By “sharing evaluation tasks, data, and results”, the government coordinates the efforts of all parties involved and jointly promotes the high-quality development of cities.

carbon emissions.

### III. Future Work

China still faces a series of challenges in housing and urban-rural development, including inadequate housing security, the lingering “urban diseases”, and the need to improve the equity and accessibility of urban public services. In the next step, China will prioritize the following tasks to build livable, resilient and intelligent cities.

**First, focus on the development of subsidized rental housing and further improve the housing security system.** China will vigorously increase the construction and supply of subsidized housing, effectively strengthen the operation and management of public rental housing, solidly promote the renovation of “villages” in cities and dilapidated housing, and promote the development of the housing rental market, so as to meet the basic housing needs of people with housing difficulties via various channels.

**Second, start with urban renewal actions and strive to build livable, resilient and smart**

**cities.** In cities with districts, China will comprehensively evaluate their urban development, accelerate the renewal and renovation of urban roads, transportation facilities, public buildings, and green spaces, intensify efforts in building accessible cities, and create a better living environment for residents.

**Third, promote green and low-carbon development in urban and rural areas through coordinated efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pollution and expand green areas.**

China will accelerate the development of energy-efficient buildings and green buildings, strive to eliminate black and fetid water bodies in county-level cities, solidly promote waste sorting, strengthen urban landscaping and greening, vigorously promote the opening and sharing of parks and green spaces, and create a new group of national ecological garden cities.

**Fourth, improve modern living conditions and build livable and business-friendly beautiful villages and towns.**

China will carry out projects to improve the quality and safety of rural housing, continue to renovate dilapidated rural housing and make rural housing more earthquake-resistant, promote the construction of modern and livable rural housing, step up to make the rural environment more accessible, and improve infrastructure and public service facilities.

**Fifth, improve the international exchange and cooperation mechanism for disaster risk reduction and provide assistance to disaster-stricken countries within our capacity.**

China will faithfully implement bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements on disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, fully participate in the formulation of global and regional documents and international rules on disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, and actively participate in international humanitarian relief operations.



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## SDG 12

**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

### I. Implementation Progress

China unswervingly follows the path of putting ecological conservation and green development first, accelerates the adjustment and optimization of its industrial structure, energy mix and transport structure, implements a comprehensive conservation strategy, and advocates green consumption. China has taken solid steps in promoting green, circular and low-carbon development, and the sustainable ways of production and life are emerging at a faster pace. Since 2015, China has made much progress in energy conservation, grain loss reduction, pollution control and green procurement.

**China makes steady progress in energy conservation and consumption reduction, and the degree of sustainable management and utilization of natural resources has been significantly enhanced.** The intensity and total amount of energy

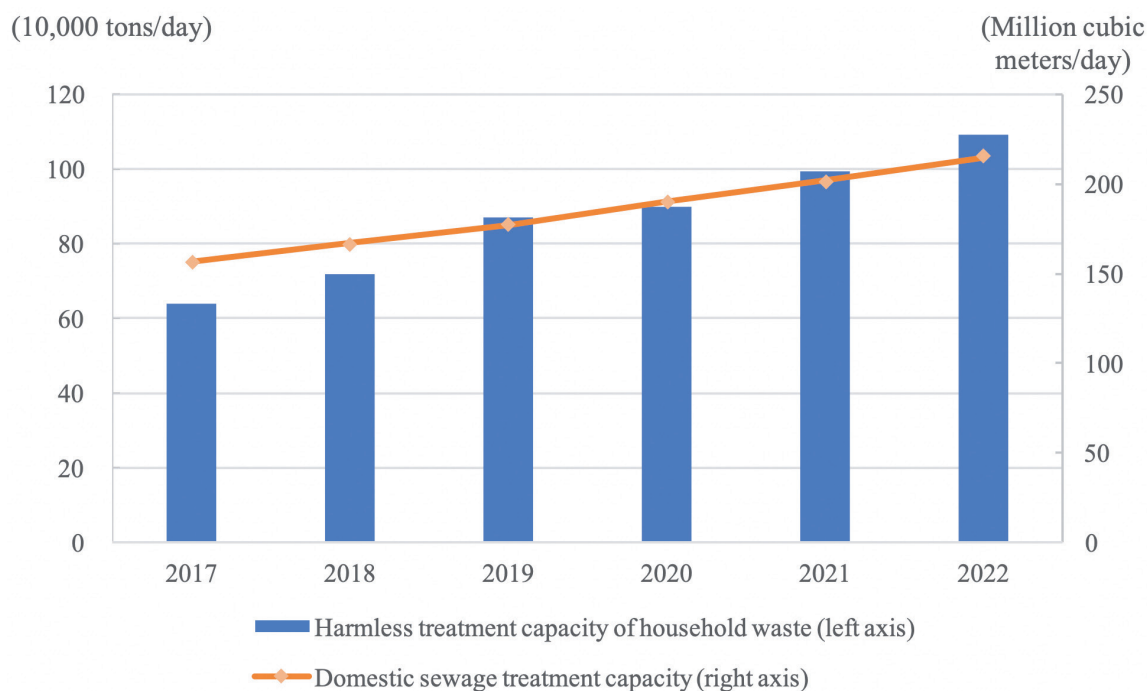
consumption have been effectively controlled. According to preliminary calculations, since 2015, China has supported an average annual economic growth of 5.7% with an average annual energy consumption growth of 3.2%, and in 2022, the energy consumption per RMB10,000 of GDP fell by 15.5% compared with 2015, the fastest drop in energy intensity in the world. Industrial water use efficiency has been improved. Water efficiency leaders in key industries were selected and recognized, including enterprises and parks in steel, petrochemical and other major industries. China launched pilot projects to recycle industrial waste water and continue to improve the water recycling level. As per the comparable price of 2015, in 2021, China's water consumption per RMB10,000 of GDP decreased by 32.1% from 2015 to 60.2 cubic meters, and water consumption per RMB10,000 of industrial added value fell by 43.9% from 2015 to 31.9 cubic meters.

**China works to reduce grain loss in all respects across the whole chain, strengthens technological innovation and steps up the use of technological achievements.** China coordinated the prevention and control of heavy metal pollution, such as cadmium, in agricultural land at source, and the safe use of contaminated cultivated land, strengthened the management of soil pollution risks in polluted plots, set up 20,000 long-term monitoring points for soil environmental quality, and established a national soil environmental monitoring network. The safe utilization rate of polluted cultivated land nationwide has exceeded 90%. China increased investment in agricultural infrastructure, built high-standard farmland on a large scale and improved water conservancy facilities on small-scale farmland. So far there is more than 1 billion *mu* of high-standard farmland. The High-Quality Grain Project was implemented. From 2017 to 2020, more than 5,500 specialized grain service centers were built in 26 provinces to cut grain loss after harvest. To promote technological innovation for grain loss reduction, the state-owned grain reserves are all equipped with the latest technologies of mechanical ventilation, grain cooling, circumfluence fumigation, and grain monitoring. Other technologies, such as low-oxygen grain storage, and internal circumfluence temperature control are being phased in. The application of low-temperature and quasi-low-temperature storage technologies for raw grains has been gradually expanded, and breakthroughs and innovations have been made in grain storage, preservation and quality assurance, mold and pest control, loss and consumption reduction, and transportation. China also has used information technology to upgrade the meteorological disaster and pest monitoring network, strengthen monitoring and early warning, comprehensive prevention and control and post-disaster recovery, enhance disaster prevention and response capacity, and minimize disaster losses. China have stepped up public communications against food waste, and raised public awareness of grain loss and conservation by holding a series of thematic activities to mark the World Food Day and the National Food Security Week, and by launching national food security education bases.

**China strengthens control of harmful substances at source and enhances the environmentally-friendly management of chemicals and waste.** China has continued to strengthen the control of heavy metal pollutant emissions in key industries, established a heavy-metal environmental

management system with focus on key industries and regions, and achieved clear results in the control of heavy metal pollution. In 2020, China exceeded the target of reducing the emissions of major heavy metals by 10% in key industries, and the frequent occurrence of environmental incidents involving heavy metals was effectively curbed. China promotes the recycling of renewable resources and has implemented standard-based management policies for the comprehensive utilization of such renewable resources as waste iron and steel, waste paper, waste plastics, waste/used tires, and used power batteries for new energy vehicles. In 2020, China recycled 380 million tons of 10 kinds of renewable resources. The capacity of hazardous waste disposal is improved. By the end of 2021, China's capacity for centralized utilization and disposal of hazardous waste reached about 170 million tons per year, with an increase of 2.1 and 2.8 times respectively compared with 2015. China has issued the "List of Key Controlled New Pollutants (2023)", implementing life-cycle environmental risk control measures such as prohibition, restriction, and emission restriction on 14 types of toxic and harmful chemical substances with high environmental risks.

**The domestic waste and sewage treatment capacity is further improved, and the domestic waste sorting system is basically established.** The capacity of urban domestic waste and sewage treatment has been significantly improved (Figure 12-1). By the end of 2022, the harmless treatment capacity of urban domestic waste increased to 1.092 million tons per day. Virtually all domestic waste received harmless treatment across prefecture-level cities; the proportion of domestic waste incinerated exceeded 68%, topping the world in terms of incineration capacity, and reaching the world-advanced level in terms of quality; the urban sewage treatment capacity reached 215 million cubic meters/day, a 53.4% increase from 2015,

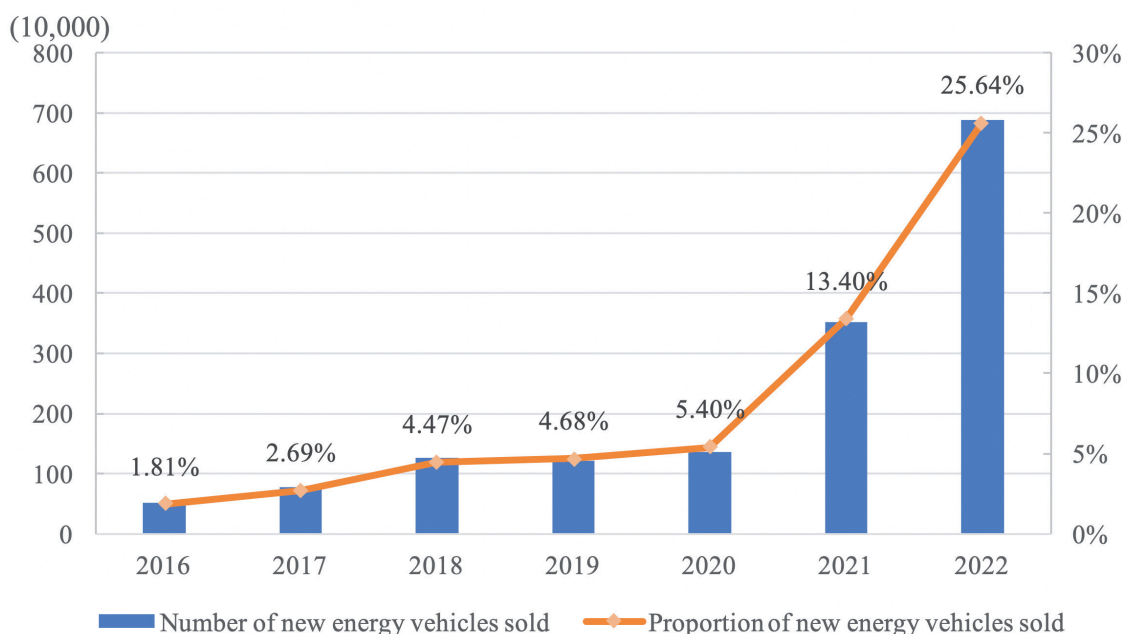


**Figure 12-1 Harmless Treatment Capacity of Urban Domestic Waste and Sewage in China (2017-2022)**  
Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

making China rank top in the world in terms of the sewage treatment capacity. China has made up for the weaknesses in facilities for waste treatment and reuse and promoted mature practices. The black and fetid water bodies virtually disappeared in prefecture-level cities or above, and 40% of such water bodies were treated in county-level cities. The domestic sewage treatment rate in rural China has exceeded 31%. Two groups of 120 national demonstration counties (cities and districts) for rural domestic sewage treatment were recognized. More than 2,200 rural black and fetid water bodies under state regulation have been improved, completing more than half of the goals set for the 14th Five-Year Plan period. China has moved faster to construct the domestic waste sorting system and promote the development of “waste-free cities”. It has selected 113 cities at prefecture-level or above and 8 special areas to become “waste-free”, and many localities have come up with such good practices as the “waste-free index” and “cells of waste-free cities”. Nineteen provincial governments have completed the revision of local regulations on the sorting of domestic waste, and 46 key cities have all introduced relevant legislation. The waste sorting practice has covered 81.3% of residential neighborhoods in 297 cities above the prefecture level.

**China has improved the government procurement functions and policies to support resource conservation, the development of SMEs and rural revitalization.** China continues to expand the scale and scope of green government procurement and has issued standards regarding relevant green needs. In 2021, RMB61.21 billion and RMB89.98 billion were spent on mandatory and prioritized procurement of energy- and water-efficient products and eco-friendly products nationwide, accounting for 86.9% and 85.2% of the procurement of similar products respectively. SMEs are encouraged to participate in government procurement activities by means of reserving shares, price review discounts and introduction of credit guarantee, so as to ensure their contract shares. Between 2018 and 2021, about 75% of total government procurement by contract value was awarded to SMEs. China also promotes government procurement of agricultural and sideline products from areas that have recently escaped from poverty to support rural revitalization. Since its launch in 2020, the online sales platform for agricultural and sideline products in poverty-stricken areas (fupin832.com) has achieved a cumulative sale of over RMB30 billion, increasing the income of nearly 3 million rural households in poverty-stricken areas.

**China continues to raise people's awareness of conservation and environmental protection, and encourage the public to work together to promote green development.** The Ministry of Ecology and Environment holds regular press conferences to publicize the construction and operation of urban sewage treatment facilities nationwide, and release authoritative ecological and environmental information to the public on its social media platform. The *Code of Conduct for Citizens' Ecological Environment (Trial)* and the “*A Beautiful China, I Am an Actor*” *Action Plan to Raise Citizens' Ecological Civilization Awareness (2021-2025)* were issued to promote public communication and education in a systematic manner. China has conducted extensive activities to develop energy saving government departments and green schools, launched energy-



**Figure 12-2 Sales of New Energy Vehicles in China (2016-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

saving weeks, and actively promoted the use of energy-saving and low-carbon products such as NEVs and energy-efficient household appliances, to guide the public in living a green life. 70% of the Party and government departments at county level and above have started energy conservation, and nearly 100 universities have started intelligent monitoring of their water and energy consumption. The annual sales of NEVs soared from 13,000 in 2012 to 6,887,000 in 2022, topping the world for seven consecutive years since 2015 (Figure 12-2).

**China develops rural tourism based on green and ecological resources, and promotes rural revitalization in all respects.** China has introduced innovative training programs for rural tourism professionals at multiple levels and through various channels. A monitoring system for rural tourism is established and improved, covering indicators of rural sustainable development, such as residents' income, employment rate, domestic waste and sewage treatment facilities, investment environment, and quality of public services. Key villages and towns are designated for the development of rural tourism. Four groups of 1,399 key rural tourism villages and two groups of 198 key rural tourism towns (townships) have been identified, and 304 rural tourism monitoring stations established. According to the monitoring data, rural tourism in China hires about 10 million employees, contributing nearly 40% to the employment of local farmers and 50% for key villages.

**China takes the initiative to assume international responsibilities and contributes to global sustainable consumption and production.** China has been strictly fulfilling the obligations of *The Stockholm Convention*, *The Minamata Convention*, *The United Nations Forest Instrument* and *The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests*, as well as the responsibilities of a member



country of Montreal Process. China submitted *Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests and the Assessment Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Management of the Forestry Sector*. An international communication platform was built, the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste convened, and the *Jinan Initiative of the International Food Loss Conference* issued, calling on the international community to take joint actions on food loss. China has been actively sharing its practices. The Sanbei (north, northeast and northwest China) Shelter Forest Program was awarded as one of the best practices by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) for the *United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030*. In 2019, Saihanba Forest Farm of Hebei Province was regarded as one of the best practices in the *Global Forest Goals Report 2021* by the United Nations Forum on Forests.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, coordinate efforts to promote ecological progress and economic and social development.** China has made resource conservation and environmental protection a basic national policy and sustainable development a national strategy. The efforts to promote green and low-carbon development are combined with the full implementation of the Outline of the National Economic and Social Development Plan and development and reforms. High-quality economic and social development and high-level environmental protection are promoted in a coordinated manner.

**Second, continuously improve governance efficiency in the pursuit of green development.** China upholds the rule of law in promoting ecological progress, and has basically established a legal and regulatory system governing ecological conservation covering all major areas, all types of resources and all environmental factors. China advances the evaluation and assessment system for green development, makes resource and environment-related indicators binding in national economic and social development, and gives full play to the guiding role of review and evaluation.

**Third, gradually establish complete systems and mechanisms featuring strong government leadership, active participation of enterprises, and effective market regulation.** China has reformed and improved price formation mechanisms in key areas such as water and energy conservation, sewage and garbage treatment, and air pollution control, and implemented preferential policies on tax and fee, to guide optimal allocation of resources, and support the promotion of resource conservation and efficient use and the development of green industries.

## III. Future Work

As China continues to promote industrialization and urbanization, key areas and industries are still facing serious pollution, and the structural pressure on ecological and environmental

protection remains huge. In order to realize modernization based on harmonious coexistence between man and nature, China will continue to give priority to conservation, protection and natural recovery, and coordinate efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, expand green development, and pursue economic growth, prioritizing the following tasks.

**First, accelerate the green transformation of development paradigms.** China will implement the comprehensive conservation strategy, promote the economical and intensive use of various resources, step up the establishment of a waste recycling system, develop green and low-carbon industries, and improve the market-oriented allocation system for resources and environmental

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## Box 12-1: Chinese Business Practices Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the world's food system account for about one third of total man-made GHG emissions, and the dairy industry is one of the biggest emitters in the food system (accounting for about 11% and the figure keeps growing fast). As an intermediate step between production and consumption, enterprises are main actors in promoting sustainable consumption and production.

As early as in 2007, Yili Group was the first to put forward the concept of "Green Leadership" and upgraded it to the Green Industry Chain Strategy in 2009. Yili has carried out carbon review for 13 consecutive years, and was the first food company to release its carbon peaking and neutrality goals and road map in 2022, proposing to achieve carbon neutrality across the entire industrial chain by 2050. Yili takes targeted emission reduction measures with respect to the GHG emission sources at each step of production.

First, it exercised control over animal diet and excrement, improved fertilization techniques and developed sustainable agriculture in the breeding sector. Second, it took actions to protect wetlands, turn degraded land into green land and restore the vitality of wetlands, and worked to build "zero-carbon pastures" through the nutrition assessment system of dairy cow and the integrated planting and breeding model, thus reducing emissions and increasing carbon sink in the breeding process. Third, during production, processing, logistics and distribution, the company repurposed coal-fired boilers, launched special energy-conservation measures, purchased green power, developed photovoltaic power projects, used sustainable packaging materials, and developed smart green logistics. Yili is committed to creating a "green factory", "zero-carbon factory" and "waste-free factory" to conserve energy and cut emissions in production and logistics. Fourth, in consumption and recycling, Yili

launched "zero-carbon products" and public-welfare activities on environment to provide consumers with eco-friendly and low-carbon green and healthy products and help consumers shape green and low-carbon consumption patterns and concepts.

The Earth has limited resources and carrying capacity. At present, mankind has reached the critical point where it is necessary to transform the patterns of consumption and production. Enterprises need to incorporate the concept and objective of "sustainability" into their overall development strategies, consolidate the data base, and formulate science-based and reasonable emissions reduction paths. Through technological innovation, institutional innovation, talent cooperation, knowledge sharing and other measures, enterprises can play an important role in facilitating the realization of environment-related SDGs.

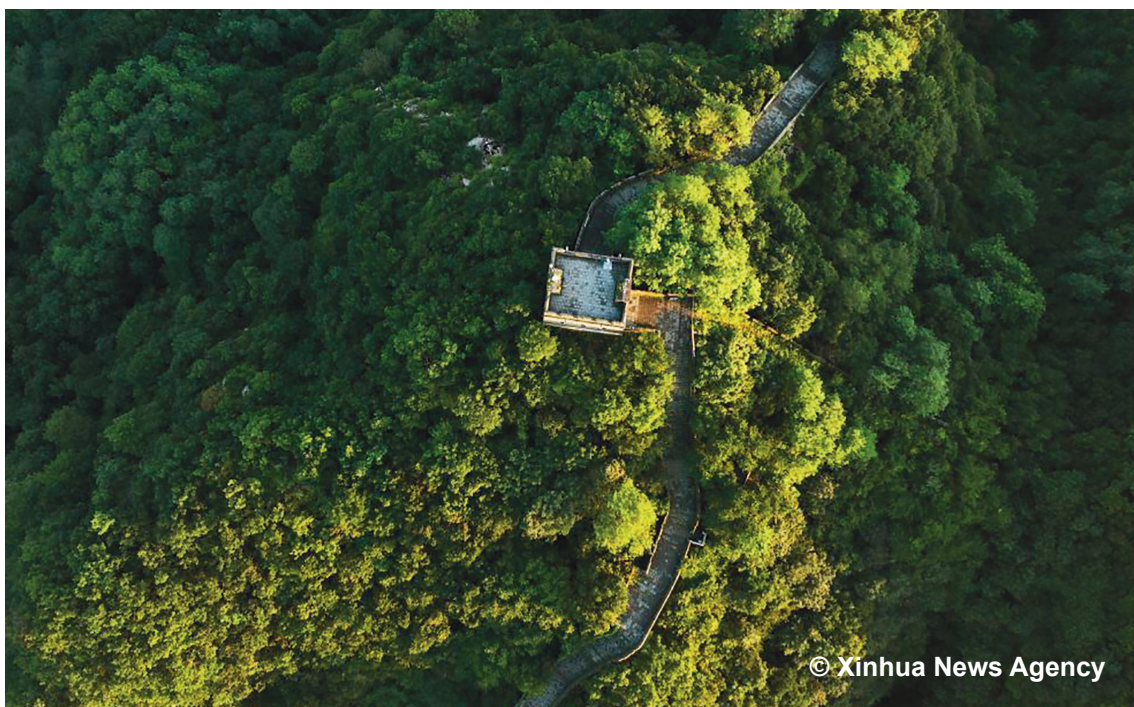
factors. China will also speed up the research, development and application of advanced technologies for energy conservation and carbon reduction, and promote energy saving, and carbon and pollution reduction in key areas.

**Second, improve the management and utilization of natural resources.** China takes a holistic and systematic approach to conserving and improving mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland, and desert ecosystems, and promotes land afforestation, ecological protection and restoration with a scientific approach. China will move faster to establish a rigid constraint system for water resources, strictly implement the Objectives of Controlling the Total Amount and Intensity of Water Use during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, raise the level of intensive, economical use of water resources, strengthen water resources protection, and help solve the problem of excess exploitation and utilization of water resources.

**Third, systematically reduce food loss and waste.** China will promote the whole-process mechanization of grain production and standardized mechanical harvesting operations. China will strengthen the storage and logistics systems, upgrade old grain silos, support the construction of green and low-temperature storage facilities, and improve the rural logistics network. China will establish a set of standards for moderate grain processing, optimize processing technology, equipment and processes, and increase the output rate of grain products and the overall utilization rate of by-products. China will train professional R&D teams for technological innovation, launch specific scientific research projects, build review platforms, and establish a post-harvest grain evaluation system.

**Fourth, continue to enhance the prevention and control of environmental pollution.** China will treat pollution in a targeted, science-based and legal manner, strengthen coordinated control of pollutants, and enhance prevention and control of soil pollution at source. China will step up filling in the gaps in sewage collection and treatment facilities and promote the utilization of reclaimed water. China will continue to promote urban domestic waste sorting, and establish a system for the disposal, collection, transportation and treatment of domestic waste by type in cities at prefecture-level or above according to local conditions.

**Fifth, advocate green and low-carbon ways of production and life.** China will continue to carry out thematic activities, enhance information disclosure and the dissemination of knowledge about sustainable development, and carry out actions to promote green factories, green industrial parks/zones, green supply chains, green institutions, green households, green communities and green travel, so as to raise the people's awareness of conservation. China will also advocate simple, moderate, green and low-carbon lifestyles, and promote a civilized and healthy life.



## SDG 13

### Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

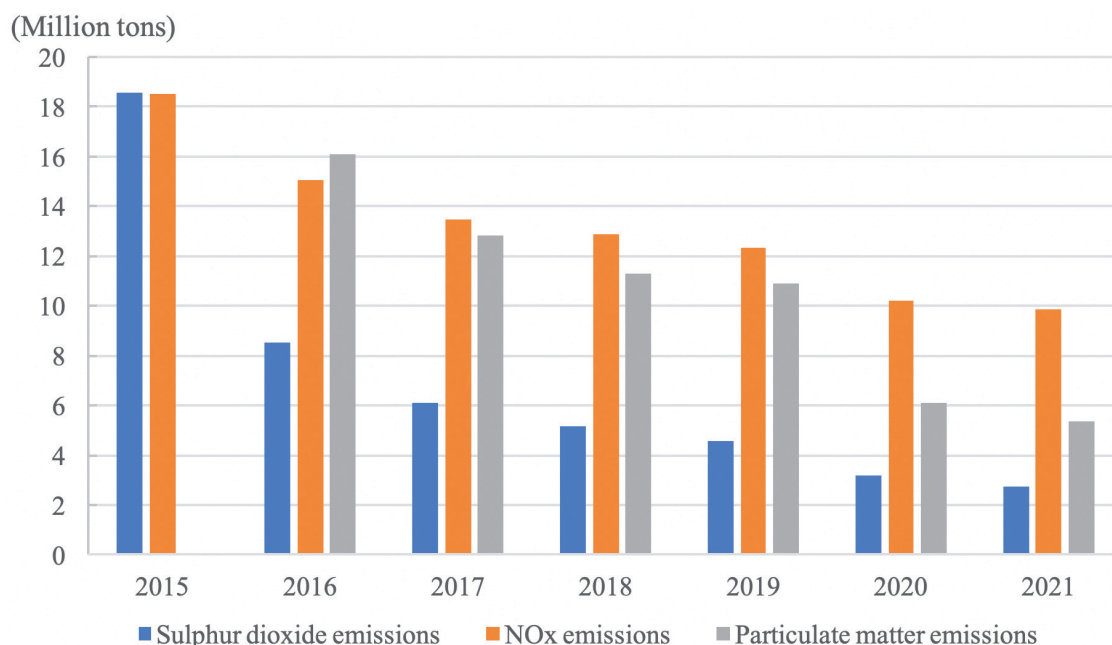
## I. Implementation Progress

China always attaches great importance to the response to climate change. Since 2015, China has been actively implementing the national strategy to respond to climate change, integrating the goals of peaking carbon emissions and carbon neutrality into the overall plans for ecological conservation and economic and social development. China promotes the green transformation of economic and social development by synergizing the reduction of pollution and carbon emissions, achieving new progress in response to climate change.

**China has improved the top-level institutional and policy design, and effectively pushed forward priority work in an orderly manner.** Climate change-related contents are included in *The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through*

*the Year 2035, the Plan for Ecological and Environmental Protection during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period and other relevant plans. “Reducing carbon dioxide emissions per unit GDP by 18% by 2025 compared to 2020” has become a binding target. With the green transformation guided by the goals of peaking carbon emissions and carbon neutrality, China has established the “1+N” policy framework, and set up leading groups for peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality at the central and provincial levels. Thus a coordinated and orderly working mechanism has been put in place. China formulated and put into effect the *Implementation Plan for Synergizing the Reduction of Pollution and Carbon Emissions, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035*, and issued *China's Achievements, New Goals and New Measures for Nationally Determined Contributions, China's Mid-Century Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy, Guidelines for Provincial Action Plans for Climate Change Adaptation* and the *Action Plan for Cities to Adapt to Climate Change*, and formulated special plans and policies, such as the *Guidelines on Promoting Climate Investment and Financing* and the *Guidelines on Coordinating and Strengthening the Work Related to Responding to Climate Change and Protecting the Ecological Environment*. In 2022, carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP dropped by more than 35% compared with 2012.*

**China promotes clean, low-carbon and efficient use of energy, and has scored new achievements in the clean and low-carbon transformation in industry, construction, transport and other sectors.** The efficiency of energy and resource utilization in industrial sectors continues to improve. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, the energy consumption of industries above the designated size fell by about 16%, the water consumption per unit of industrial added value decreased by about 40%, and the comprehensive energy consumption and water consumption per ton of steel and the comprehensive AC power consumption of primary aluminum in key medium-sized and large enterprises reached the global advanced level. The Plan for Green Industrial Development during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period was issued and implemented to propel the green and low-carbon transformation of industries. China has encouraged the construction of eco-friendly buildings. By the end of 2021, 8.591 billion square meters of eco-friendly building areas had been completed nationwide, and about 25,000 projects had been recognized as eco-friendly buildings. In 2021, eco-friendly buildings accounted for 84.22% of the new construction area. China has optimized the transport structure, and promoted the “highway-to-railway” and “highway-to-waterway” transfer of medium- and long-distance container transport in key industries, such as iron & steel, coal mines, and coking, in addition to logistics parks, industrial and mining enterprises and ports. China has stepped up building more freight railways, promoted multi-modal transport, expanded the scope of Emission Control Areas for shipping and imposed stricter control requirements. In 2020, the total annual emissions of sulphur oxides and particulate matters from ships in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta plummeted by 80% and 75% respectively compared to 2015. From 2015 to 2021, the emissions of main pollutants in waste gas showed a steady downward trend (Figure 13-1).



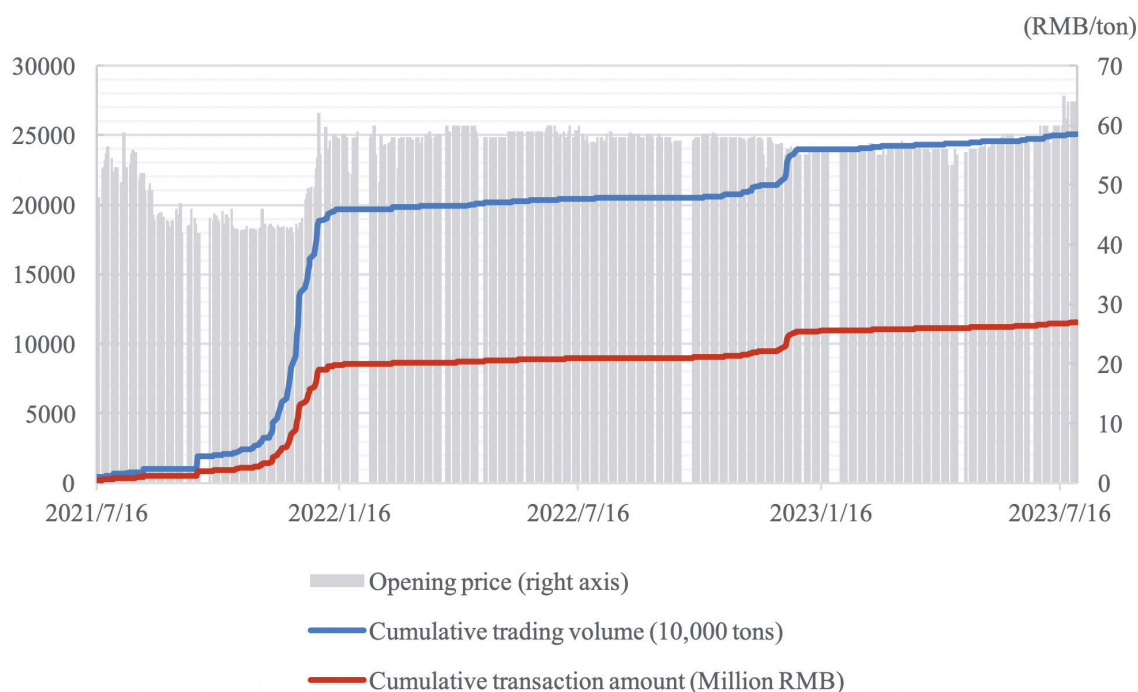
**Figure 13-1 Emissions of Main Pollutants in Waste Gas (2015-2021)**

Note: The data of particulate matter emissions in 2015 is not available, and the smoke and dust emission is 15.38 million tons.

Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

**China coordinates efforts in disaster prevention, mitigation and rescue, and its capabilities of climate change monitoring, early warning and risk management have been significantly enhanced.** A new disaster response mechanism integrating disaster prevention, mitigation and rescue is in place, and high-efficiency coordination among different levels is achieved in case of major disasters. By the end of 2021, a five-level disaster information officer system covering the provincial, municipal, county, township and village levels had been established, involving a total of nearly 1 million people. Technological means are used to strengthen the monitoring of unpredictable natural disasters, and meteorological, water conservancy, natural resources and other relevant departments are organized to consult on a rolling basis to accurately issue early warning. China speeds up efforts to fill in the gaps in the disaster prevention and mitigation engineering system and improves disaster risk reduction in key areas. By the end of 2021, 12 central warehouses on fire-fighting supplies for forest and grassland, 46 central warehouses on flood-control and drought-relief supplies and 55 central disaster-relief warehouses of life necessities had been built. China promotes the development of a set of emergency response plans and strengthens its capacity to comprehensively prevent and mitigate disasters and adapt to climate change. China has six regional emergency rescue centers across the country and puts aviation emergency teams in key areas, so that nearby emergency forces could quickly be deployed. The post-disaster relief and rescue was conducted in a timely and efficient manner. Since 2018, the central government has allocated RMB44.98 billion for natural disaster relief, and guided the recovery, reconstruction and repair of 1.597 million homes damaged by disasters. China launched the pilot project of building new-type cities. So far 28 cities are working steadily to make themselves climate-adaptive, and 60 cities are working to build sponge cities.

**China works to build a national carbon emissions trading market in an orderly manner, and speeds up to establish a GHG emissions statistical and accounting system.** The Measures for the Administration of Carbon Emissions Rights Trading (Trial) has entered into effect and the management systems for the registration, trading and settlement of carbon emissions rights and the supporting systems of corporate GHG emissions accounting, reporting and verification are established and improved. China has formulated the Measures for the Administration of the Trading of Voluntary GHG Emissions Reduction (Trial) and related technical specifications. The national carbon market was officially launched for trading on July 16, 2021, covering over 4.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, making it the largest carbon market in the world. By July 28, 2023, the cumulative turnover of carbon emission quotas in the national carbon market was 251 million tons, with a turnover of RMB11.518 billion (Figure 13-2). The pilot carbon market in seven provinces or municipalities, namely, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangdong, Hubei, and Shenzhen, covers nearly 3,000 key emitters in more than 20 industries, including power, steel, and cement. China steadily carries out statistical monitoring of energy conservation and emissions reduction, and the online monitoring systems for energy consumption of key energy users are developed and put into good use. By the end of 2021, more than 12,500 enterprises in 31 provinces had been connected to the online monitoring system for energy consumption. China promotes training on carbon market capacity-building. China has compiled a series of training materials and recorded teaching videos on global carbon market, and conducted more than 60 national carbon market capacity-building training sessions for provincial ecological and environmental departments, relevant agencies, and key emitters, attracting 6,000 participants.



**Figure 13-2 Trading Volume and Price of Emission Quota in National Carbon Market (July 16, 2021 to July 28, 2023)**

Source: Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange.

**A system of financial standards was formulated and improved, and financial supporting services are steadily promoted.** The *Green Bond Endorsed Projects Catalogue (2021 Edition)* was issued, in a bid to unify domestic standards for green bonds and align domestic standards with international ones. China has innovated green financial products and market system, promoted the steady development of green credit, encouraged financial institutions to introduce new green credit products, and launched pilot projects on climate investment and financing. The reform for a law-based environmental information disclosure system is deepened. Eligible listed companies and bond-issuing enterprises are guided in disclosing environmental information in accordance with law, and strengthening information sharing. By the end of 2021, the balance of green credit in local and foreign currencies in China exceeded RMB15.9 trillion, and that of green bonds in China exceeded RMB1.1 trillion, both among the world's largest. By the end of 2022, the balance of green loans reached RMB22 trillion, up 38.5% year on year; with the help of support tools on carbon emissions reduction, financial institutions had cumulatively issued RMB692.5 billion of carbon emissions reduction loans, which contributed to the reduction of carbon emissions by more than 100 million tons.

**China encourages all stakeholders to take actions and participate in green and low-**

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### **Box 13-1: COSCO Shipping Empowers Green and Low-carbon Development of the Shipping Industry with Digital and Intelligent Technologies**

COSCO Shipping Technology Co., Ltd. has identified the path to realize the goals of peaking carbon emissions and carbon neutrality by means of digital operation. It promotes the digital, green, low-carbon and intelligent transformation of the shipping industry through the use of technology and data, and actively contributes to the industry's emissions reduction.

“Di Tan Bao,” a digitalized product independently developed by COSCO Shipping Technology, integrates various artificial intelligence algorithms such as statistics, machine learning and

neural network. It has established models to estimate the ship speed, fuel consumption and carbon emissions under different states for the ship and meteorological conditions. It can calculate the carbon intensity index (CII) of nearly 30,000 major merchant ships (including containers, dry bulk cargo and liquid bulk cargo ships) in the world. With the multi-dimensional carbon emissions intensity assessment system and the intelligent monitoring platform for fuel consumption and carbon emissions, it can adjust the sailing speed and estimate the fuel consumption and carbon emissions, and thereby enhance the CII rating

and make rational transportation arrangements.

Di Tan Bao can save at least 1% of the ship's oil consumption, and reduce the emissions by tens of millions of tons per year. Its combination with the cable management system for shore power of ships, also independently developed by COSCO Shipping Technology, will help shipping enterprises with energy consumption management, intelligent carbon emissions management, maximize their benefits, and effectively reduce the emissions of atmospheric pollutants and carbon dioxide during the operation and berthing of ships.



**carbon development nationwide.** Activities are organized to mark such occasions as the National Energy Efficiency Promotion Week, the National Low-Carbon Day and the June 5th World Environment Day. The first National Ecology Day was celebrated in 2023. On the World Meteorological Day, the International Biodiversity Day and the National Science Popularization Day, training and public education on climate change activities are held via multiple channels. Central state-owned enterprises are encouraged to formulate tailored action plans for peaking carbon emissions, conduct basic research on how to peak carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality, and actively introduce new practices. China has been exploring the innovative voluntary emissions reduction mechanism called Carbon Inclusion, encouraging citizens to embrace green and low-carbon behaviors, and explore the establishment of a diversified public participation mechanism. China has included the development of an ecological civilization into the national education system, organized science and technology forums and science popularization activities on peaking carbon emissions and carbon neutrality, strengthened environmental education among primary and secondary school students, and guided people in adopting energy-saving and low-carbon lifestyles.

**China actively participates in global climate governance and intensifies practical cooperation in response to climate change.** Upholding multilateralism, China has worked with all parties to promote the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* to reach a relatively balanced package of outcomes, including the *Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan*, urged developed countries to continue to fulfill their existing funding obligations under the UNFCCC and the *Paris Agreement*, to meet as soon as possible the target of mobilizing USD100 billion per year in climate finance commitments by 2020 and extending them to 2025, and set the New Collective Quantified Goal on this basis. During COP27, China submitted *Progress on the Implementation of China's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)* to the UNFCCC Secretariat, demonstrating China's determination and actions to address climate change. China has promoted the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in fully and effectively implementing the political consensus of the UNFCCC and the *Paris Agreement*, actively participated in the governance of the GCF, and facilitated the update of the second strategic plan of the GCF and consultation over the second replenishment, among others, so that the GCF can provide more effective support for developing countries in responding to climate change. With active support of the Chinese government, the first phase of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the *Convention on Biological Diversity* was convened in Kunming, Yunnan Province, in October 2021. The *Kunming Declaration* was issued and the Kunming Biodiversity Fund established. In December 2022, as the President, China facilitated the convening of the second phase of COP15 in Montreal, Canada, where the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund were established. As the largest donor among developing countries, China contributed USD31.9 million to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), helping GEF-8 realize the largest ever capital increase of USD5.33 billion. As of July 2023, China had accumulatively contributed over RMB1.2 billion for South-

South cooperation on climate change, signed 46 South-South cooperation documents on climate change with 39 other developing countries, and carried out more than 70 climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. It had accumulatively hosted 52 South-South cooperation training workshops on climate change, and trained about 2,300 officials and technicians in the field of climate change from more than 120 developing countries. China carried out nearly 30 assistance projects in the field of climate change for other developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, launched the China-Africa three-year action plan to address climate change, and launched the China-Pacific Island Countries Climate Change Cooperation Center. In addition, China collected nearly 1,000 items of advanced and applicable technology for BRI partner countries, and released a collection of advanced and applicable technologies for Africa in 2023.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, adhere to systematic thinking, coordinate efforts and adopt a package of strong policies and measures.** China makes the response to climate change a national strategy, integrates it into the big picture of ecological progress and economic and social development, and strengthens top-level design and coordination. It has built a policy framework for peaking carbon emissions and carbon neutrality with clear objectives, reasonable division of labor, effective measures and orderly connection, with sound coordination among all stakeholders.

**Second, strengthen the support of technological innovation, personnel training and capacity building.** China pushes forward R&D in the basic science of climate change, the adaptation technologies for water resources and ecology, and major low-carbon, zero-carbon and negative-carbon technologies in energy, industry, construction, transportation and other fields. China has stepped up the R&D of key technologies for monitoring, assessing and predicting GHG emissions and carbon neutrality. China has also strengthened the development and arrangement of disciplines and specialties related to addressing climate change, and training of government officials at all levels and enterprises in all sectors on response to climate change.

**Third, use market mechanisms to control and reduce GHG emissions and encourage investment and innovation to actively respond to climate change.** The national carbon market has played an effective role in restructuring the energy mix, conserving energy, improving energy efficiency, and promoting ecological protection and compensation. It incentivizes the advanced player and eliminates the backward. It supports local governments and enterprises in fully safeguarding people's livelihood while promoting emissions reduction, properly handles the relationship between development and emissions reduction, and follows the principle that "carbon emissions have cost and carbon reduction can generate profit". The incentive and constraint mechanism of the carbon market has achieved initial results.

## III. Future Work

As the largest developing country in the world, China still faces serious problems of unbalanced and inadequate development and many bottlenecks to its high-quality development, including weak technological innovation capacity, high consumption of resources and factors, and green ways of production and life to be fully formed. China still faces many difficulties in tackling climate change. In order to achieve the goal of steady decline in carbon emissions after peaking by 2035 and continue to make China's contribution to addressing the global challenge of climate change, China will prioritize the following tasks.

**First, work actively and prudently to peak carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality.**

Based on its energy resources and endowments, China will i achieve carbon peaking in a planned and step-by-step manner. China will improve the regulation of total energy consumption and intensity, and gradually shift to the “dual control” of both total carbon emissions and intensity.

**Second, promote clean and low-carbon transformation in key areas such as industry, construction and transport.**

China will implement the *Plan for Green Industrial Development during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period*, improve energy efficiency, and build a clean, efficient and low-carbon industrial energy consumption pattern. China will follow the *Implementation Plan for Carbon Peaking in Urban and Rural Construction*, revise the evaluation standards for eco-friendly buildings, strengthen the requirements for green and low-carbon performance, continuously evaluate the eco-friendly buildings with star-ratings, and urge new urban buildings to adopt eco-friendly building standards. China will push forward the construction of green highways, green ports and green waterways, improve the energy efficiency of integrated transport, and build a public transport system with urban rail transit and express bus transit as the backbone and conventional buses as the primary means of transport according to local conditions. China will move faster to promote the use of new and clean energy transportation equipment and push forward the thorough treatment of traffic pollution.

**Third, vigorously promote adaptation to climate change.**

China will fully implement the *National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035*, strengthen guidance and cross-departmental communication and coordination, advance pilot projects to build climate-resilient cities, and strengthen research on the impact and risks of climate change. China will encourage all sectors and localities to step up adaptation to climate change and enhance their adaptation capacity.

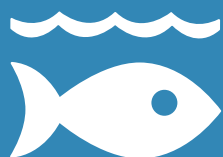
**Fourth, enhance the ability to respond to unpredictable disasters.**

China will strengthen control over disaster risks at source, make up for weaknesses in disaster prevention and mitigation infrastructure in urban and rural areas, establish and improve a centralized, authoritative and efficient comprehensive coordination mechanism for natural disaster prevention and control, and strengthen early warning against and response to impending disasters. China will improve the channels for the fast release of early warning information, the connected mechanism for meteorological disaster warning and emergency response, and the

science popularization system for disaster prevention and reduction.

**Fifth, improve the market trading system for carbon emission rights.** The *Interim Regulation on the Administration of Carbon Emission Trading* will be issued, and data quality management will be continuously strengthened. China will advance the work of the second implementation cycle, work earnestly on the allocation and collection of quotas for 2021 and 2022, and enhance the assessment of verification bodies and information transparency. China will strengthen market functions and gradually expand industry coverage on the basis of stable operation of the carbon market. China will improve the trading mechanism for voluntary GHG emissions reduction, and formulate relevant administrative measures and supporting rules for transactions.

**Sixth, actively promote South-South cooperation in responding to climate change.** China will earnestly implement South-South cooperation on climate change by setting up 10 low-carbon demonstration zones, launching 100 mitigation and adaption programs, and providing 1,000 opportunities under climate-change training programs. China will advance the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change. Taking into account the real needs of developing countries, China will increase, within the best of its capacity, support to other developing countries, including African countries, small island countries and LDCs, in responding to climate change. China will design innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, promote the development of low-carbon demonstration zones, enrich the forms and contents of capacity-building training, and continue to provide assistance to relevant developing countries in addressing climate change.



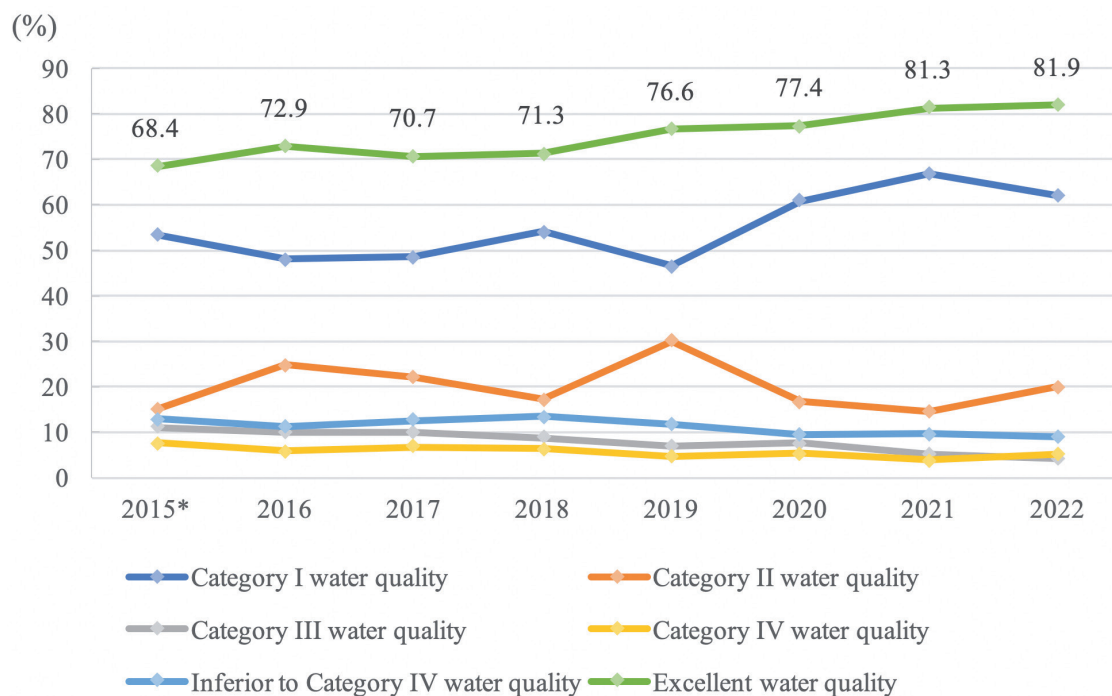
## SDG 14

**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

### **I. Implementation Progress**

The ocean is closely related to the earth system, and the management of marine resources bears on global sustainable development. Since 2015, China has continuously modernized its marine governance system and capacity, made breakthroughs in promoting marine ecological progress, and continuously improved the quality of the marine ecosystem. The ecological functions of the local sea areas have been steadily improved.

**China keeps improving the framework of relevant laws, regulations and policies, and has achieved remarkable results in the comprehensive management of**



**Figure 14-1 Proportion of Areas with All Types of Sea Water Quality in National Inshore Waters (2015-2022)**

Note: The water quality assessment results of inshore sea areas in 2015 are calculated based on the assessment results of seawater quality in summer (using the monitoring data of the State Oceanic Administration in summer) in the *Bulletin of Marine Ecology and Environment Status of China* in 2015.

Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

**marine pollution.** The *Marine Environment Protection Law* was amended and plans such as the *Action Plan for Comprehensive Management of Key Sea Areas* and the *Plan for the Protection of Marine Ecological Environment during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period* were formulated and implemented. The milestone objectives and tasks of the comprehensive pollution control of the Bohai Sea have been accomplished, and the integrated land-sea pollution control in coastal waters has been continuously advanced. From 2015 to 2022, the ecological environment in coastal waters of China was generally improved. In 2022, the proportion of excellent water quality (Category I and II) in the coastal waters reached 81.9% (Figure 14-1); the water quality of the sea-entry sections of the state-controlled rivers was improved on the whole, with the proportion of sections under Category I-III reaching 80%, and the substandard section of Category V basically gone. China has mapped the distribution of plastic waste and microplastics in typical sea areas to support the prevention, control and treatment of plastic waste.

**China continues the protection and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems, and has gradually improved their quality.** China has drawn red lines for identified protected areas that stretch for about 150,000 square kilometers. The “Blue Bay” environmental campaign, Bohai ecosystem restoration project, coastal line protection and restoration project, mangrove protection and restoration project, and other marine ecological conservation and restoration projects have been implemented, which have effectively protected a number of typical marine

ecosystems, including mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds and coral reefs. Nearly 30% of China's coastal waters and 37% of the mainland coastline have been included in the scope of red line for ecological protection, and marine biodiversity has improved significantly. Since 2016, a total of 1,500 kilometers coastal line and 30,000 hectares of coastal wetlands have been restored. And the area of mangrove forests has reached 438,000 mu, an increase of about 108,000 mu over the beginning of this century, making China one of the few countries with a net increase in the area of mangrove forests. Top-level design is strengthened for the early warning and monitoring of marine risks. China has arranged for the distribution of targets, major tasks and systems on marine ecological early warning and monitoring, demarcated China's offshore ecological zones, revised the emergency response plan for red tides, and started to construct the hypoxia and acidification early warning and monitoring system for the Yangtze Estuary. China has launched pilot projects to investigate and assess carbon stocks in the blue carbon ecosystems of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds, and developed technical standards for these investigation and assessment and for monitoring carbon sink. China is also monitoring the sea-air flux of carbon dioxide, to help find out the carbon storage baseline and carbon sequestration potential of blue carbon ecosystems, and give full play to the ocean's role in sequestering carbon dioxide.

**A modern marine industrial system is gradually taking shape, and the level of sustainable utilization of marine resources has been effectively enhanced.** The comprehensive strength of China's marine economy has been continuously strengthened, and its emerging marine industries keep expanding. In 2022, China's marine output stood at RMB9,462.8 billion, up 1.9% over the previous year. Emerging marine industries, such as marine power generation, marine drugs and biological products, and seawater desalination maintained rapid growth, with an increase of 7.9% over the previous year. China's independently-developed marine drugs accounted for nearly 30% of the global products in market, and its R&D of marine carbohydrate drugs reached a world-advanced level. China has built the largest marine microorganism resource treasure house in the world. The amount of desalinated seawater in China exceeds 2.3 million tons/day; the first megawatt-scale tidal energy unit was connected to the grid for power generation, and two 500-kilowatt wave energy converters were built; and a number of incubation clusters for emerging marine industries were established. The capacity for sustainable management and development of marine fishery is improved. China amended the Regulations on Administration of Fishing Licenses and adjusted the marine summer fishing moratorium system. China attaches importance to ecosystem-based fisheries management and has strengthened the application of ecologically- and environmentally-friendly fishing, and implemented an autonomous moratorium on fishing on the high seas. China strictly controls deep-sea fisheries, and has established administrative policies and measures, such as deep-sea fisheries licensing, and effectively fulfilled its obligations to regional fisheries administrative organizations or agreements to which it is a party. Strict measures are taken to combat illegal fishing activities.

**China strengthens knowledge sharing and technology cooperation, and fully participates**

## Box 14-1: The Public-Welfare Project of Blue Ocean Action Contributes to Coastal Wetland Protection and Restoration

Coastal wetland ecosystem conservation and restoration is an important part of the marine ecological conservation and response to climate change. The coastal wetland ecosystem conservation and restoration projects mainly depend on the financial input of the central and local governments, with only a small proportion of social charitable funds. The implementation of some projects is hindered by insufficient funding, lack of scientific guidance and follow-up management, among other problems. In recent years, the importance of coastal wetlands has been widely recognized by the public, and the public enthusiasm for participating in the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands has gradually increased. In this context, how to enhance the participation of social charitable forces in an orderly manner and implement the ecological protection and restoration projects in a science-based way have become a big challenge facing social charitable funds when participating in coastal wetland protection and restoration.

In 2022, the Third Institute of Oceanography of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) and other charities jointly launched the Blue Ocean Action project. It aims to build

a platform for social welfare funds to participate in coastal wetland protection and restoration, raises social welfare funds for marine ecological protection and restoration, and encourages and supports public-welfare organizations to participate in coastal wetland protection and restoration in a scientific and orderly manner. At present, the Blue Ocean Action has supported the ecological restoration of seagrass beds in Weihai, Shandong Province and ecological restoration of mangroves in Luoyuan, Fuding and Zhangzhou of Fujian Province. Among them, the seagrass bed restoration centered on large-scale nursery culture and high-efficiency seagrass transplantation and restoration technology was carried out in Dongchu Island, Rongcheng, Weihai, Shandong Province. From 2022 to 2024, it is planned to restore 1,000 *mu* of mangroves in Fuding City, Fujian Province. Xiamen University and Luoyuan County of Fuzhou City, on the basis of controlling the invasive alien plant *Spartina alterniflora*, have artificially restored 100 *mu* of mangroves, and guided community residents in carrying out mariculture in the outer tidal flats of mangroves, in order to explore a new way of mangrove restoration and utilization. The Zhanjiang National Mangrove Natural Reserve Administration in Guangdong closely tracks and

works to improve the effectiveness of mangrove protection, and promotes joint management by communities, engaging more environmental organizations and community residents in the protection of mangrove ecosystem.

The Blue Ocean Action is the first public-welfare project jointly supported by government departments, scientific research institutions, enterprises, public welfare platforms and agencies for execution, and launched in accordance with national policies and guidelines encouraging private investment in ecological protection and restoration, to raise charitable funds for the protection and restoration of marine ecology. It supports environmental projects through fund-raising, and motivates and calls on more people to participate in environmental protection and lead a low-carbon life. It also supports scientific research projects in extending beyond laboratories, and conducts scientific research, and policy publicity and awareness-raising events to attract public attention to and support for the protection of the shallow sea environment and the restoration of seagrass beds, contributing to the implementation of the SDGs.



**in global marine governance.** Within the framework of the United Nations, China continues to implement the *London Convention* and its 1996 Protocol and actively fulfils its responsibilities as its signatory. China participates in the periodic assessment of the state of the global marine environment. The Chinese government attended the Intergovernmental Conference on the *Draft Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction*, and contributed to the negotiations, which led to the adoption of the agreement. China participated in the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly, and contributed to the adoption of the resolution *End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument*. China has been active in relevant work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). It founded the Chinese Committee for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). It helped other developing countries improve their ability of ocean governance by hosting training sessions within the IOC-UNESCO framework. It actively participates in regional marine ecological restoration and environment affairs through multilateral, bilateral and regional mechanisms, such as the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), Northwest Pacific Action Plan, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia and G20. It facilitated the adoption of the WTO Agreement on Fishery Subsidies, completed the domestic ratification procedure of the Agreement and submitted the ratification documents to the WTO, becoming one of the first major WTO members to do so. It was also active in the second-phase WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies and supports developing member economies in obtaining appropriate and effective special and differential treatment in accordance with their mandate. China has participated in the meetings of the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group of APEC, held six sessions of the APEC Blue Economy Forum, carried out the APEC Blue Economy Model Program Initiative, and released the *APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report on a regular basis*. It has held 10 APEC training workshops on marine spatial planning, construction and management of marine protected areas, among other topics, benefiting more than 400 participants from APEC economies and BRI countries, especially developing ones. China has signed cooperation framework agreements with Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Canada, carried out project cooperation with Germany, Norway, and Malaysia, and promoted extensive exchanges and cooperation in basic research and technology development, exchange and training of technical personnel, and marine conservation demonstration.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, coordinate economic growth and environmental protection, and strive to achieve modernization based on harmonious coexistence between man and nature.** As one of the countries with the richest marine biodiversity in the world, China has continued to improve its marine environment, enhanced its capacity to govern marine ecological environment, and coordinated efforts to promote high-quality economic development and high-level protection of ecological environment in coastal areas. China has continued to uphold a holistic and systematic

## Box 14-2: The “Blue Partnership” Promotes the Building of a Maritime Community with a Shared Future

Over the past decade, China has actively participated in global ocean governance, constantly expanded the circle of blue friends and promoted the building of a maritime community with a shared future. In June 2017, China issued the Vision for Maritime Cooperation under BRI, which specified the need to jointly develop the “Blue Partnership” for the benefit of the people of BRI countries. By 2022, China had established maritime cooperation relations with more than 50 countries and international organizations.

The China-EU Blue Partnership continues to consolidate. In 2018, China and the EU jointly signed the *Declaration on the Establishment of a Blue Partnership for the Oceans: Towards Better Ocean Governance, Sustainable Fisheries and a Thriving Marine Economy*. So far, the two sides have held five high-level dialogues on integrated marine management. In 2022, the China-EU Marine Data Network Partnership Project was launched, enabling marine data interoperability between regions and platforms. The China-EU cooperation mechanism for marine data has since been in steady operations.

The China-ASEAN Blue Partnership is gaining speed for development. The bilateral cooperation has achieved good results. Specifically, progress is

made in the development of the China-Thailand Joint Laboratory for Climate and Marine Ecosystem and the China-Malaysia Joint Center for Marine Science and Technology, and in the preparation for the reopening of the China-Indonesia Center for Ocean and Climate. Effort is made to build data centers for marine cooperation and prepare for the construction of integrated ocean stations. China initiated and organized activities such as the China-Southeast Asian Countries Marine Cooperation Forum, the East Asia Marine Cooperation Platform Qingdao Forum, the World Ocean Week in Xiamen and the China Marine Economy Expo, laying a solid foundation for the development of the China-ASEAN Blue Partnership in all respects.

The China-Africa Blue Partnership continues to expand in scope. China attaches great importance to cooperation with African countries in the marine field, and has carried out a number of pragmatic cooperation projects with them in the areas of blue economy, ocean observation and monitoring, continental shelf research, and capacity building. China has signed marine cooperation agreements and established the Blue Partnership with five African countries, including Seychelles and Mozambique; conducted marine scientific surveys with

Nigeria, Mozambique, Seychelles and Madagascar, enhancing the understanding of the ocean; jointly prepared a plan for a special maritime economic zone on the island of Sao Vicente with Cape Verde, contributing to the development of local blue economy.

China actively participates in global ocean governance led and promoted by the United Nations. In June 2022, China released the Blue Partnership Principles at the side event of “Promoting Blue Partnership for a Sustainable Future” held during the UN Ocean Conference, and initiated the Sustainable Blue Partnership Cooperation Network and the Blue Partnership Fund, showing China as an open, inclusive and responsible major country in ocean affairs. The “Blue Partnership” mechanism has become more mature, richer in content and more dynamic in cooperation.

Global ocean governance requires the cooperation of all parties. The Blue Partnership is an important mechanism for improving global ocean governance and an important means for promoting a sound order of global ocean governance. It will serve as an important platform for promoting marine people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation, and will contribute to the building of a maritime community with a shared future.

approach to conserving and improving mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland, and desert ecosystems, to build a protection and governance pattern ranging from the mountain top to the ocean. China has been active in expanding development space and promoting the high-quality development of marine economy. China attaches equal importance to protection and development, and strives to generate both economic and ecological benefits.

**Second, pursue coordinated land and marine development, and continuously promote marine ecological progress.** China attaches great importance to marine ecological conservation, strengthens the prevention and control of marine pollution, protects marine biodiversity, and achieves the orderly development and utilization of marine resources. China has continued to enhance the coordinated control of land and marine pollution and integrated ecological and environmental protection, built and improved a coordinated and integrated governance system for coastal areas, river basins and sea areas, and formed a new pattern of coordinated land and marine development, cross-level coordination, and joint governance. In response to the prominent environmental problems in the coastal waters, China has launched the Beautiful Bay Initiative, stepped up the combat of land-source pollution, and formulated and implemented “one policy for one bay” according to local conditions, to continuously improve the ecological environment of the bays, and build beautiful bays featuring “clear water, clean beaches, abundance of fish and sea birds, and harmony between man and sea”.

**Third, value opening up and cooperation and promote the building of a maritime community with a shared future.** China fully participates in the governance of global marine environment and upholds the vision of a maritime community with a shared future. China has stepped up sharing its practices and knowledge in areas such as addressing global climate change, marine biodiversity conservation and marine plastic pollution control. China has been actively developing the Blue Partnership, established maritime cooperation with more than 50 countries and international organizations, and continued to provide tsunami warning and other public goods and services to the countries surrounding the South China Sea.

### III. Future Work

China has made breakthrough in marine ecological conservation. It has a generally sound policy framework for the development and protection of marine resources, and keeps intensifying effort to combat marine pollution. The marine environment has been markedly improved. However, under the pressure brought by frequent human activities and climate change, China still has a long way to go in developing its marine economy and conserving its marine environment. In the next step, China will focus on the following tasks.

**First, promote high-quality development of the marine economy.** China will step up efforts to make steady progress, focus on tackling the prominent ecological and environmental problems in some sea areas, and strive to resolve the deep-seated contradictions and problems

that restrict the sustainable and stable improvement of the marine environment. China will move faster to build world-class marine ports, a complete set of modern marine industries, a green and sustainable marine environment, and promote the high-quality development of the marine economy through high-level marine conservation.

**Second, enhance capability and self-reliance in marine science and technology.** China will work harder to improve the basic capabilities of marine-related technological innovation, strengthen original and leading scientific research, accelerate the pace to fill in the gaps in basic and key capabilities, and improve our marine ecosystem governance capability with technological innovation. China will strive to break the technological bottlenecks to the development of the marine industry, raise the level of marine development and utilization, and form a strong driving force for building China into a strong marine country.

**Third, actively participate in and promote pragmatic cooperation in global marine affairs.** China will continue to promote the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and jointly build the Blue Economic Partnership, and actively build platforms for maritime cooperation to inject more vitality into global economic recovery. China will work to effectively address various threats to maritime security and work together to build a lasting and universally secure maritime order. China will promote maritime connectivity and pragmatic cooperation in various fields, bolster the development of the blue economy, facilitate the integration of marine culture and jointly enhance marine welfare.



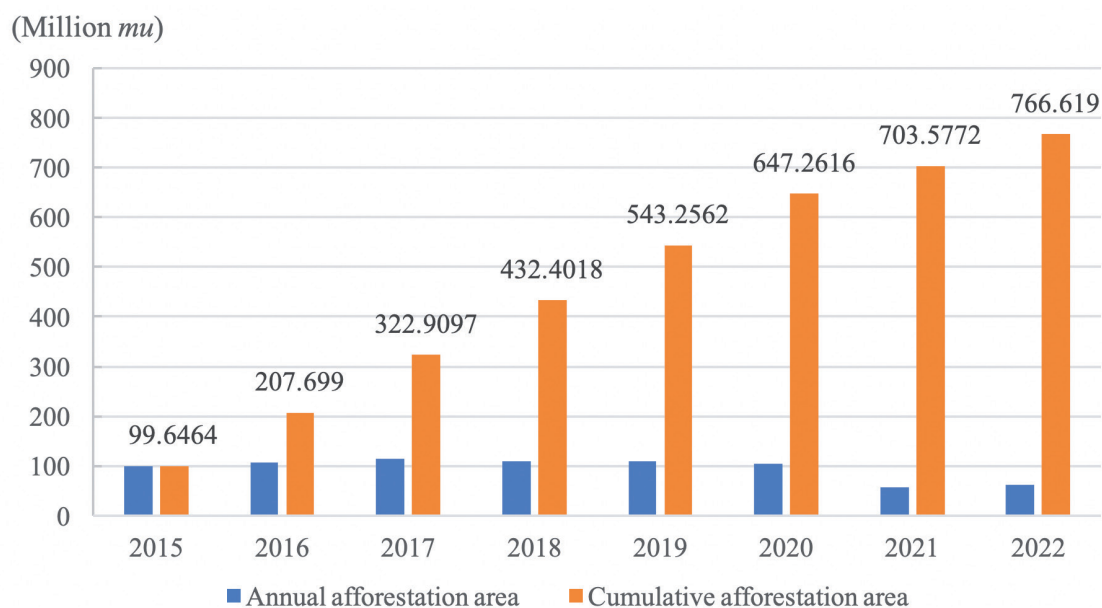
## SDG 15

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

### **I. Implementation Progress**

China always attaches great importance to ecological conservation. Since 2015, China has remained firmly committed to the belief that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, unswervingly followed the path of prioritizing ecological conservation and promoting green development, protected ecosystems and maintained biodiversity, in a bid to achieve modernization based on the harmonious coexistence of man and nature. Progress has been made in enhancing ecosystem diversity, stability and sustainability.

**China has implemented restoration projects in key ecological areas, and achieved remarkable results in ecosystem conservation and restoration.** China has advanced ecological protection and restoration in an integrated manner. The *Master Plan on Major Projects for the Conservation and Restoration of National Key Ecosystems (2021-2035)* and nine special development plans were issued and implemented. Focusing on the Three Eco-zones and Four Shelterbelts<sup>13</sup> of national eco-security shields, China has arranged nine major projects and 47 key tasks. Since 2015, a cumulative total of 767 million mu of afforestation has been completed (Figure 15-1). Efforts were made to improve the quality of grassland ecosystems. In the past decade, 40 million hectares of degraded grasslands were rehabilitated and improved through grass planting, grassland improvement and fencing, and grazing bans have been imposed on 80 million hectares of grasslands. The area of land that well balances grass and livestock reached 173 million hectares, and the overloading rate of livestock on key natural grasslands dropped from 23% to 10.09%. Ecological degradation, disorderly development and overuse of grassland have been curbed in general, and the grassland's ecological service functions and production capacity have been significantly enhanced. China has continued to protect and restore wetlands. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, 51 major wetland protection and restoration projects were carried out, restoring 7.011 million mu of degraded wetlands; there were 15 new internationally important wetlands and 6 new international wetland cities. There are 903 national wetland parks, totaling 3.6 million hectares. The total wetland areas reached about 56.35 million hectares, ranking fourth in the world.



**Figure 15-1 China's Afforestation Area (2015-2022)**

Source: National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

13. Consisting of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Eco-zone, Yellow River Eco-zone (the Loess Plateau Eco-zone included), Yangtze River Eco-zone (Sichuan-Yunnan Eco-zone included), Northeast Shelterbelt, North Shelterbelt, South Shelterbelt, and Coastal Shelterbelt.

**China has improved its administrative systems and institutions for forest and grassland resources, and its sustainable forest administration has been steadily enhanced.** The forest chief system has been established across the country. The organizational, accountability, institutional and incentive systems have been improved to conserve and better manage forest and grassland resources. By June 2022, 1.2 million forest chiefs at various levels had been appointed. By 2021, China's forest area reached 231 million hectares, with a forest coverage rate of 24.02%. Both forest area and stock continued to grow, making China the country with the fastest growth in forest resources in the world, contributing a quarter of the world's new forest area. The stock of timber forest per hectare is 95.02 cubic meters. The forest and grassland wet ecosystem can hold 803.853 billion cubic meters of water sources, release 934 million tons of oxygen and fixate 11.72 billion tons of soil annually. The newly revised Forest Law has been put into effect and the *Guidelines for Strengthening Forest Management Operations* and the *National Implementation Plan for Piloting Sustainable Forest Management Operations (2023-2025)* were issued to guide localities in strengthening forest operations in all respects, make overall arrangements for sustainable forest operations and strive to improve forest quality.

**China strengthened the guidance of plans, institutional development, technological innovation and performance assessment, and made progress in combating soil erosion and desertification.** Efforts are redoubled for the prevention and control of sandification and desertification. According to the results of the sixth national survey on sandification and desertification released in 2022, the area of desertified and sandified land in China had continued to decrease since 2000, with a net decrease of 10.03 million hectares over the past 20 years. The area of sandified land shrunk by 5.53 million hectares in the past two decades. Major management and restoration projects are implemented effectively. China has successively implemented the second phase of the Beijing-Tianjin sandstorm source project, the comprehensive treatment of rocky desertification, the national project for the protection and restoration of important ecosystems, and the national demonstration areas for the prevention and control of desertification, and national pilot projects to subsidize the closed and protected areas in desertified land. The water and soil resources are continuously improved. Since 2015, an additional 490,000 square kilometers have been put under soil erosion control, and the area of soil erosion nationwide had been reduced to 2.65 million square kilometers by 2022, raising the national rate of soil and water conservation to 72.26%. The area and intensity of soil erosion across the country have further declined.

**China has strengthened top-level design, increased resource input and accelerated the pace of biodiversity conservation.** China has made biodiversity conservation a national strategy and incorporated it into its medium- and long-term plans. The National Biodiversity Conservation Committee was established, *Guidelines on Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation* issued, and the *China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2030)* put into practice, to effectively conserve biodiversity. China also continues to build a system of protected areas. Since 2015, China has piloted institutional reform in 10 national parks successively. In

## Box 15-1: Babusha Forest Farm's Ecological Improvement Efforts

Babusha Forest Farm is located at the edge of a desert, covering an area of about 75,000 *mu*. It used to be desolate, with wind and sandstorm raging, seriously affecting the production and life of more than 30,000 people around. Since 1981, six local villagers have jointly signed the contract to set up a collective forest farm and established a new ecological governance model. The measures taken include the following.

First, promote large-scale desertification control. Relying on key ecological projects and combining engineering and biological methods for desertification

control, large-scale afforestation activities for sand control were carried out in the sand front and key sand inlets. Second, attach equal importance to afforestation and management. Under the governance model of "artificial promotion + natural regeneration", they enclosed areas suitable for afforestation and manually sowed grass seeds suitable for growth in sandy areas. Third, public participation. They explored and promoted the Internet-based desertification prevention and control model, built a voluntary tree planting website, and implemented public welfare projects such as the "Ant Forest". Fourth, strengthen technological support. They

strengthened cooperation and exchanges with scientific research institutes to provide technical support for the prevention and control of desertification.

Over the past 40 years, the three generations have completed a total of 287,000 *mu* of sand control and afforestation, put 376,000 *mu* of area under control for afforestation and grass cultivation, and protected about 100,000 *mu* of farmland in the surrounding areas. In the southern edge of the Tengger Desert, a sand-fixing green shield as a windbreak is established, stretching 10 kilometers long from north to south, and 8 kilometers wide from east to west.

2021, the first group of national parks was officially established, with a combined protected area of 230,000 square kilometers, covering nearly 30% of the wildlife species in the land area under key state protection. At the end of 2022, the *Spatial Distribution Plan of National Parks* identified 49 national park candidates, with a total area of about 1.1 million square kilometers. By the end of 2021, nearly 10,000 nature reserves of various types at all levels had been established, accounting for more than 17% of the country's land territory, and effectively protecting 90% of the types of terrestrial natural ecosystems. China has been vigorously promoting the protection of wild animal and plant species. It coordinates efforts in in-situ and ex-situ conservation of rare and endangered wild animals and plants. By the end of 2021, 74% of the species of terrestrial wild animals and plants as priorities under state protection had been effectively protected. There were artificially bred populations of more than 300 species of rare and endangered terrestrial wild animals, and more than 200 endangered wild plants had been returned to the wild. China continuously strengthens the regulation of genetic resources. Efforts have been stepped up to manage and supervise the protection, access, utilization and benefit-sharing of genetic resources to ensure the safety of genetic resources. Over the past 10 years, about 200 new species of plants have been discovered annually in China, accounting for one-tenth of the annual increment in plant species in the world. China has been strict in prevention and control on the invasion of alien species. An inter-ministerial coordination mechanism is in place for the prevention and control of invasive alien species, four groups of the *List of Invasive*



*Alien Species in China's Natural Ecosystem and the Administrative Measures for Invasive Alien Species have been issued and the List of Invasive Alien Species under Key Management* formulated. China has been resolute in cracking down on illegal trade of wild animals and plants. An inter-ministerial joint conference of the State Council on combating illegal trade in wild animals and plants has been established, comprising 27 departments and organizations, to crack down on illegal and criminal acts of destroying wild animal and plant resources, with remarkable results achieved.

**China has actively implemented international conventions, carried out South-South cooperation, and continued to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation in the conservation of the ecological environment and biodiversity.** China has been proactively fulfilling international obligations, including its responsibilities and obligations as a member of the Montreal Process. China has intensified efforts to implement the *United Nations Forest Instrument* and the *United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030* and continued to develop model organizations for the implementation of the *United Nations Forest Instrument*; as of April 2023, 17 such model organizations were recognized. China has also stepped up efforts to fulfill its obligations as stipulated in the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*, the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*. China has provided substantial financial support for relevant projects. From 2015 to 2022, China made cumulative voluntary contributions of USD2.28 million to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund to

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## Box 15-2: China Three Gorges Corporation Supports Biodiversity Conservation in Brazil

Brazil is the world's richest country in water resources, with rich and diverse biological resources in its territory. However, it faces the challenge posed by invasive species such as the golden mussel, a kind of Asian freshwater clam with strong reproductive capacity. Its large-scale reproduction has caused great damage to the water quality, ecological balance and hydropower projects of the major rivers in Brazil.

Since 2017, CTG Brasil, a

subsidiary of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), has actively fulfilled its social responsibilities and worked with the Bio Bureau Technology Center to officially launch the Golden Mussel Control Project, which uses gene technology to control golden mussels, and has achieved good results and effectively conserved local biodiversity. As of December 2022, the project involved a number of partners, with a total investment of about BRL11 million (about RMB13.12 million), including

BRL7.5 million (about RMB 8.95 million) from CTG Brasil.

In addition, CTG Brasil has actively carried out a number of ecological and environmental protection projects in the region, including monitoring fish, birds, soil erosion and water quality in the reservoir area. In 2020, CTG Brasil achieved 100% carbon neutrality for the second consecutive year, which has become a best practice for Chinese enterprises to contribute to the SDGs overseas.

## Box 15-3: Big Data-enabled Online Tool for Building the Great Green Wall in Africa

The Great Green Wall (GGW) project was launched in 2007 under the leadership of the African Union and the Pan-African Agency of the GGW to restore Africa's degraded landscape and improve livelihoods in poor areas. China's practices and experience in land degradation monitoring and control have important value as a reference for the GGW project in Africa.

The Big Data Online Tools Supporting the Great Green Wall Project in Africa developed by the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development provides important support for the GGW. Based on this tool, the Center launched the Global SDG Partnership with the Pan-African Agency of the GGW. Zero growth in degraded land reporting and interventions in the five pilot countries of Burkina Faso,

Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, were carried out in 2023.

Chinese scientists give full play to their strengths and provide practical tools to support the progress toward the goal of zero growth in land degradation in other developing countries with insufficient capacity. It is a good practice embodying the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind.

support the development of the Forum and accelerate the development of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network. China has actively participated in and organized international exchange activities. China has strengthened exchanges with FAO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Pan-European Process on the development and improvement of the concept of sustainable forest management and its criteria and indicators. China held the 13th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Kubuqi International Desert Forum and other major events, and launched the *"Belt and Road" Joint Action Initiative for Combating Desertification*. China has also offered support to other developing countries. For example, it organized regular training on desertification and land degradation control and provided relevant technologies to other developing countries, established an international knowledge management center for desertification control, implemented the Environmental Protection Planning Project in Laos, and provided material support to Zimbabwe and other countries to enhance their forest protection capacity.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, firmly establish the scientific concept.** Respect for the law of nature is a basic principle of action for China's ecosystem conservation. The *Guidelines on Scientific Greening* guides localities in firmly establishing the concept of scientific greening, respecting the inherent law of the ecosystem, and growing timber trees, shrubs or grass depending on local conditions, especially with native tree species and grass seeds. Land and water use is well arranged; artificial afforestation, afforestation by aerial seeding and forest closures are combined; and mixed forests are actively promoted. Afforestation design and construction are well regulated, and forest and grass vegetation scientifically restored.

**Second, optimize the top-level institutional design.** China has incorporated ecosystem conservation into its plans for national economic and social development, and formulated special outlines and policies to guide relevant departments in taking real actions. Under the guidance of various top-level policy designs, China has coordinated the efforts of relevant government departments to jointly push forward the ecosystem conservation work in an orderly manner.

**Third, effectively push local governments to fulfill their responsibilities.** China has incorporated ecosystem conservation into its supervision and assessment system, and encourages local governments at all levels to carry out related work. For example, the provincial-level governments are strictly assessed for their performance in meeting the desertification control targets, and mid-term inspections and comprehensive assessments at the end of the term are conducted, to urge local governments at all levels to meet the targets and fulfill their responsibilities in combating desertification. The Forest Chief System is established across the country, and relevant performance assessment measures, incentive policies, local regulations and performance standards are introduced to promote forest and grassland conservation by local governments at all levels.

**Fourth, continuously strengthen technological support.** China considers technological innovation as an important means to continuously improve the effectiveness of ecosystem governance measures. For example, basic research on the relationship between forests and water bodies is conducted, major R&D projects launched, and R&D effort stepped up. For the purpose of desertification control, a “space-sky-surface” integrated monitoring system for desertification, sandification and rocky desertification has been established, with macro-investigation as the main task, supplemented by annual, thematic and location monitoring.

### III. Future Work

China has made remarkable achievements in protecting its ecological environment and biodiversity. Yet it still faces severe challenges such as a lack of forest resources, desertification and loss of biodiversity. China will continue to uphold the vision of a community of life for man and nature, and strengthen the conservation of the ecological environment and biodiversity. Priority will be given to the following tasks.

**First, continue with the coordinated approach to the governance of mountains, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes, grasslands and deserts.** China will move faster to advance major conservation and restoration projects for major ecosystems, carry out large-scale land greening in a scientific manner, work earnestly and actively advance pilot projects for sustainable forest management. The aim is to increase the forest stock by 6 billion cubic meters by 2030 from 2005. China will work to ensure the success of the restoration of mangroves and other wetlands and continue to work harder to improve acidified farmland.

**Second, continue to formulate policies and plans for desertification control.** China will organize the implementation of the *National Plan for Combating Desertification (2021-2030)* and other relevant plans, and the projects on comprehensive demonstration areas for combating desertification. China will revise, improve and implement policies and plans for the closure and conservation of desertified land. China will strengthen research on the basic science and applied technology of desertification control and improve its set of standards. China will guide sandy and rocky desertification areas in developing featured industries as appropriate and enhance the well-being of the people.

**Third, continue to improve the biodiversity conservation system.** China will formulate national biodiversity conservation strategies and action plans for the new era and work out implementation plans for major biodiversity conservation projects. China will continue to protect and rescue critically endangered wild animals and extremely small populations of wild plants, and breed endangered species and return them to nature in a science-based way. China will conduct surveys and register genetic resources and their related traditional knowledge, and develop a sound catalogue of genetic resources. China will improve the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of invasive alien species and coordinate efforts to solve major problems in the prevention and control of invasive alien species. China will also survey and monitor invasive alien species and take integrated measures to control them.

**Fourth, continue to actively implement conventions and strengthen international cooperation.** China will give full play to its role as the Chair of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands, actively implement the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification* and other conventions, and actively and steadily promote the establishment of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network Office in China. China will promote law enforcement and crack down on illegal trade in wildlife across the whole chain involving countries of origin, transit and destination.



## SDG 16

**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

### I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese government is committed to building a peaceful China and the rule of law at a higher level, cracking down on all kinds of crimes, resolutely safeguarding the lawful rights and interests of women and children, and constantly improving the public legal service system. The results of the anti-corruption campaign have been fully consolidated, and the interests of the people, national security and social stability have been well safeguarded. At the same time, China has carried out in-

depth international cooperation in law enforcement and justice and worked with international community to reduce illegal and criminal activities.

**China has resolutely punished all kinds of illegal and criminal activities and protected the lives and property of the people.** Crimes endangering the security of state power, institutions and ideology, such as infiltration, subversion and sabotage, violence and terror, espionage and theft of secrets, ethnic separatism and religious extremism, are severely punished according to law. China maintains a high-pressure stance against crimes that seriously endanger public order, such as weapons and ammunition smuggling, gangs, theft, robbery, fraud, prostitution, gambling, and drug trafficking. Effort is intensified to punish crimes that are huge concerns of the public, such as crimes endangering food, drug and workplace safety, throwing objects from high altitude, stealing manhole covers, telecom and cyber fraud, and infringing on citizens' personal information. Overall, the number of criminal cases and serious violent crimes in China has been declining. From 2015 to 2022, the number of registered cases of homicide per 100,000 people in China dropped continuously from 0.99 to 0.42, and China has long been ranked

## Box 16-1: Cracking Down on Telecom and Internet Fraud Crimes and Protecting People's Property

With the popularization of the Internet, the crime of telecom and Internet fraud is on the rise, which seriously threatens the security of people's property. With a people-centered approach, the Chinese government has stepped up efforts in thematic research, team building, special-case investigation and the development of special equipment, and in shaping internal and external synergy. The number of cases solved and suspects arrested in the fight against telecom and Internet fraud have increased significantly, and the high incidence of cases has been effectively curbed, recovering large amount of property loss for the victims.

First, the Law on Combating Telecom and Online Fraud and other laws and regulations were formulated

and issued to improve the anti-fraud legal system and provide a strong legal support for the fight against fraud. Second, team building was strengthened. A national anti-fraud center and eight national sub-centers were established, and localities were urged to establish their own anti-fraud centers. Third, the investigation of specific cases was strengthened and actions were launched, including the Special Action of National Public Security Departments to Combat Telecom and Internet Fraud Crimes and the "Yunjian (Cloud Sword)" Campaign. Fourth, the application of intelligent technologies was promoted to empower public security departments, giving full play to the advantages of technical support in solving criminal cases, and comprehensively enhancing the

research, judgment and evidence collection capacity regarding fund flow, information flow and network flow. The 96110 hotline and the 12381 SMS platform were launched, and China worked hard to improve the effectiveness of early warning and dissuasion. China has developed and launched the App of the National Anti-Fraud Center, and built an anti-fraud protection network, which have protected a large number of people from fraud. Fifth, anti-fraud awareness activities were carried out for the general public, including 13,000 thematic awareness activities, over 3,000 press conferences, distribution of 690 million copies of publicity materials, and 3.07 billion short messages, strengthening public awareness of anti-fraud.

among the countries with the lowest case-filing rate in the world. In 2022, the number of persons prosecuted for serious violent crimes hit the bottom in the past 20 years with a proportion of 3.9%, and the index on people's sense of security increased from 95.36% in 2016 to 98.6% in 2021. China has become one of the countries with the world's lowest crime rate and highest levels of security.

**China has improved relevant laws and regulations and made every effort to protect the lives and lawful rights and interests of vulnerable groups such as women and children.**

Laws and regulations related to the protection of women and children were improved. Since 2016, the *Anti-Domestic Violence Law*, the *Law on the Protection of Minors*, the *Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women*, and the *Family Education Promotion Law* have been enacted or amended, and the *Outline for Women's Development in China* and the *Outline for Children's Development in China* have been strictly implemented. The government has been active in preventing and stopping domestic violence. It has continued to improve the 110 hotline for receiving and handling cases of domestic violence, and handled cases of domestic violence in strict accordance with the law. Efforts were made to crack down on the criminal activities of abducting and trafficking in women and children. In March 2022, the Ministry of Public Security launched a campaign to crack down on the crime of abducting and trafficking in women and children. The quick-search mechanism would be activated immediately once a woman is suspected of being abducted or harmed or a minor is suspected of missing. For abduction cases that are confirmed, the chief of public security departments above the county level in the crime location will be assigned to head the investigation team, and take responsibility for solving the case, saving the abducted women and children, and comforting their families, and strive to solve all existing cases and all cases of stealing and abducting children. In August 2022, the Ministry of Public Security released information on more than 5,000 free blood collection stations across the country to help families, whose children had been abducted, reunite with their missing children at an early date. Efforts were also made to prevent and reduce the occurrence of accidents that cause injury to minors. China effectively conducts the work of police in urban and rural communities, made special arrangements for the implementation of the "Safe Campus" project, promoted the implementation of the peak-hour duty and "Student Protection Post" mechanism, and investigated, identified and eliminated potential risks on and around the campus.

**China builds a modern public legal service system and enhances the people's legal awareness and access to legal services.**

The scope of legal aid was expanded. *The Law on Legal Aid* was promulgated to expand the scope of recipients of legal aid, increase the number of matters requiring assistance and focus on groups in difficulty. The effective coverage of bricks-and-mortar public legal service platforms was expanded, and public legal service hotlines and Internet platforms upgraded. From 2015 to 2022, legal aid institutions nationwide handled 11.53 million legal aid cases, benefiting 13.71 million people and providing legal advice to 87.69 million people. Legal assistance was strengthened in criminal cases. Judicial administrative

departments and legal aid agencies at all levels provide legal aid services on criminal defense to criminal suspects and defendants who have not commissioned defenders in accordance with law. So far, defense lawyers have been assigned to all cases that requires so in accordance with law. Measures were taken to make it easier for the general public to access legal service. China has set up 70,000 legal aid work stations, and 260,000 legal aid contact points via villagers' (community residents') committees. Efforts were stepped up to strengthen law popularization at the community level. The National Office of Law Popularization had designated 113 national bases for the promotion and education of the rule of law in four groups, covering 95.7% of the administrative villages (neighborhoods) across the country. It has also vigorously trained rural "legal professionals". The total number of trainees reached 3.839 million by the end of February 2023, with three in each administrative village of the 25 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

**China consolidated the gains in the fight against corruption and established a cleaner, more efficient and accountable government.** China continued with the institutional reform of discipline inspection and supervision, and gradually formed a supervisory pattern that covers discipline, supervision, dispatched officials, and inspection. China also acts unswervingly to "take out tigers," "swat flies," "hunt down foxes," and has formed an effective closed loop of combating corruption. China has been resolute in curbing more corruption and addressing the existing corruption, effectively reduced the spread of corruption, won an overwhelming victory in the anti-corruption campaign, consolidated the fight in all respects, and started a stage of regular crackdown, so that wherever a corruption is identified, investigation and punishment will follow. China resolutely cracks down on corruption reported by the general public and have launched special campaigns to combat corruption and improve the work conduct in the field of poverty alleviation. The "Tianwang" (Skynet) Action has continued. From 2014 to 2022, a lot of fugitives have been brought back from more than 120 countries and regions, and an astronomical amount of illicit funds recovered, and 62 on the list of 100 most-wanted fugitives have been arrested.

**China builds a law-based government and comprehensively improves administration in accordance with law.** China strengthened top-level design and promoted the rule of law in a coordinated manner. Important documents such as the *Plan to Build Rule of Law in China (2020-2025)*, the *Implementation Outline on Building the Government under Rule of Law (2015-2020)* and the *Regulations on Supervision of the Construction and Responsibility Implementation of a Rule of Law Government* were issued. Intensive campaigns were organized to sort out administrative regulations and rules, and to promote the coordination of the formulation, amendment and abolition of laws and regulations. From 2016 to 2022, 46 laws and 212 administrative regulations were abolished or revised in such areas as institutional reforms, reforms to streamline administration and delegate power, improve regulation and upgrade services, reforms on a more enabling business environment, and reforms to separate licenses from certificates required for starting a business. Administrative review cases are strictly



handled, and administrative departments are supervised in their administration in accordance with law. From 2016 to 2022, administrative review agencies at all levels handled about 1.613 million cases, playing an important role in safeguarding the lawful rights and interests of the people, promoting social harmony and stability, and accelerating the building of a rule of law government. The work of administrative mediation is intensified. China has strengthened administrative mediation in accordance with law in areas such as consumer protection, traffic damage compensation, public security management, environmental pollution, social security, housing and land expropriation, and intellectual property rights, to promptly and properly resolve conflicts and disputes. As of 2022, there were 693,000 people's mediation committees and 3.176 million people's mediators nationwide. In 2022 alone, people's mediation organizations nationwide mediated 8.923 million cases of various conflicts and disputes.

**China conducts international cooperation in law enforcement and justice in accordance with law and conventions to jointly crack down on cross-border criminal activities.** The system of international judicial assistance in criminal matters is improved. In 2018, China officially promulgated and implemented the *Law on International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters*, which filled the legal gap in the field of international cooperation in criminal legal assistance. China has organized and participated in international operations against crime. China has actively participated in various UN activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including congresses, meetings and inter-sessional meetings on crime prevention and criminal justice, and shared proposals on preventing and combating various conventional and emerging crimes. The international law enforcement and judicial cooperation network has been continuously improved. So far, China has signed extradition treaties with 60 countries, judicial assistance treaties in criminal matters with 46 countries and judicial assistance treaties in civil, commercial and criminal matters with 40 countries. Since 2016, China has cumulatively received and handled over 2,000 requests for foreign judicial assistance in criminal matters. China also plays an active role in international counter-terrorism cooperation. China continues to expand its counter-terrorism cooperation with foreign countries and actively participates in multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation platforms organized by the United Nations, the SCO, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), BRICS and international counter-terrorism forums. In 2022, China, as the chair of the BRICS, organized a 12-day counter-terrorism training program for 16 participants from BRICS countries.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, uphold the CPC leadership in advancing the rule of law in China.** The CPC leadership is the greatest advantage of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and the most important key to the miracle of China's long-term social stability. Adhering to the leadership of the CPC is the political prerequisite and fundamental guarantee for building a peaceful China and advancing the rule of law at a higher level.

**Second, adhere to the people-centered approach.** The Chinese government ensures that in everything it does, it works for the people and relies on the people. In building a peaceful China and advancing the rule of law at a higher level, the Chinese government regards its ultimate purpose as serving and benefiting the people, and make sure that what it does fully embodies the will of the people, safeguards their interests and stimulates their creativity.

**Third, fully consider basic national conditions.** The socialist path of rule of law with Chinese characteristics is the most suitable for and in line with China's national conditions and reality. China always safeguards and promotes social fairness and justice, pursues coordinated progress in law-based governance, exercise of state power, and government administration, and integrates the rule of law for the country, the government, and society. China also comprehensively promotes sound lawmaking, strict law enforcement, impartial administration of justice, and the observance of law by all, and advances the rule of law in all aspects of its work.

### III. Future Work

China will continue to build a peaceful China and advance the rule of law at a higher level, strive to create a peaceful, inclusive and just social environment, and resolutely safeguard the interests of the people, national security and social stability.

**First, firmly safeguard national security and social stability.** China will adhere to the holistic approach to national security, ensure the bottom line of security, and embed the requirements of safeguarding national security in all work of the Party and the country. China will take protecting people's security as its mission and safeguarding political security as a fundamental task. On the basis of economic security, with the guarantee of military, scientific, technological, cultural and social security, and by promoting international security, China will create a stronger security environment for its reform and development.

**Second, improve the socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics.** China will move faster to make legislations that are urgently needed for national governance and for improving people's life. China will use the rule of law to ensure the modernization of state governance and enhance people's sense of well-being and security. China will speed up legislation on emerging technologies, industries, and business forms and models, and ensure the healthy development of emerging sectors with good laws and good governance. In order to adapt to the new circumstances and tasks of international legal cooperation, China will strengthen foreign-related legislation and speed up to improve the foreign-related legal and regulatory system.

**Third, ensure strict and impartial administration of justice.** China will exercise justice for the people, improve the conduct of judicial work, effectively address difficulties for the people in seeking legal redress, well grasp people's new demands for fairness and justice, and better meet their demand on a larger scale. China upholds the approach of handling cases based on

legal grounds, reasoning and with emotions, to try to align the justice of individual cases with overall justice, legal justice with social justice. China will improve its ability of law enforcement and case handling.

**Fourth, resolutely crack down on all forms of corruption.** Focusing on areas such as employment and entrepreneurship, education and medical care, pension and social security, and rural revitalization, China will resolutely crack down on corrupted “flies” and “ants” (low-tier officials). China will continue to combat corruption in the financial sector, state-owned enterprises, political and legal affairs, and grain purchase and sales. China will harshly crack down on hedonism, extravagance, pointless formalities and bureaucratism. China will apply the “four forms” of scrutiny and discipline enforcement in a targeted manner, and persist with learning from past mistakes to avoid future ones and curing the sickness to save the patient. China will strengthen international cooperation in the fight against corruption, continue with the “Tianwang” Campaign, and build an integrated mechanism to pursue fugitives, prevent the escape of fugitives and recover illicit gains.

**Fifth, strengthen international cooperation in law enforcement and justice.** China will improve the working mechanism for foreign-related law enforcement and justice, establish a cross-agency working mechanism at the national level, and improve the mechanism for resolving international commercial disputes in a diversified manner. China will improve standards and procedures for foreign-related law enforcement and justice, specify foreign-related judicial explanations, regulate the legal procedures, improve the system guiding foreign-related judicial cases, and establish uniform standards for the application of law. China will strengthen the training of personnel for foreign-related law enforcement and justice, and skills training on foreign languages, foreign laws, finance and trade, and improve the mechanism for talent utilization and reserve.



## SDG 17

**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

### **I. Implementation Progress**

China has always been a contributor to global development, a provider of public goods, and a practitioner of partnerships for sustainable development. Since 2015, while steadily advancing efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, China has promoted high-quality cooperation under the BRI, advancing the building of an open world economy. China put forward the GDI and has worked with partners on its implementation, stepping up international cooperation for development. China has actively participated in the reform and development of the global governance system, and made important contribution to addressing multiple crises and challenges, bridging the development deficit, and pushing ahead the global implementation of the SDGs.

**China has promoted the high-quality development of the BRI and worked with partner countries to foster endogenous drivers for sustainable development.** Jointly building the BRI adheres to the principles of consultation, collaboration and shared benefits, upholds and practices true multilateralism, builds a community with a shared future for mankind, thus injecting a strong impetus into the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development. By June 2023, China had signed BRI cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations. China's investment in and trade with BRI partner countries have been on the rise. Between 2016 and 2022, China's non-financial direct investment in these countries increased from USD14.53 billion to USD20.97 billion, rising from 8.5% to 17.9% of the total outward investment flows (Figure 17-1). Total import and export of goods from and to such countries doubled over the past seven years from RMB6.25 trillion in 2016 to RMB13.8 trillion in 2022, and the share of import rose from 38.7% to 43.0% (Figure 17-2). China has furthered international cooperation in tax administration. By initiating the BRI Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism, and establishing the OECD-State Taxation Administration Multilateral Tax Center, China has helped other developing countries improve their tax collection and administration capacity through training as foreign assistance, joint educational programs, seminars and exchanges, and information sharing. China continues to leverage the BRI International Green Development Coalition for policy dialogue, joint

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## Box 17-1: The BRI Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism

In order to strengthen international cooperation in taxation administration and help the developing world improve their tax administration capacity, in April 2019, China proposed to establish the BRI Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (BRITACOM). Under the mechanism, the BRI Tax Administration Capacity Enhancement Group (BRITACEG) was established.

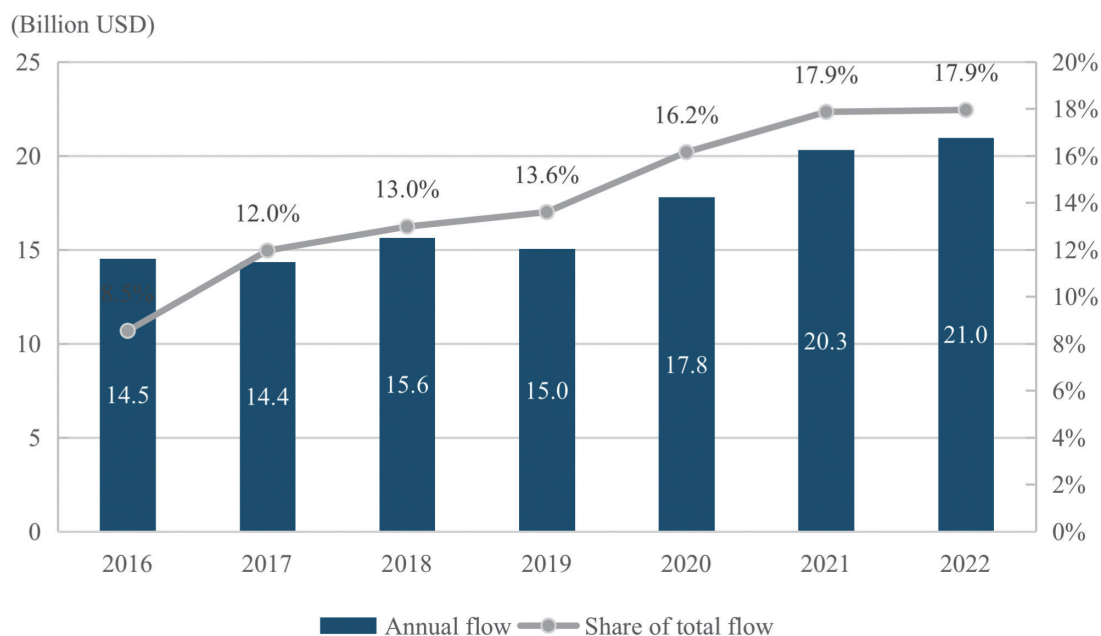
So far, BRITACOM has 36 Council members and 30 observers, and has held three BRI tax administration cooperation forums, six high-level online meetings and more than 30 working-level meetings, and

produced milestone documents such as *the Joint Declaration, the Wuzhen Action Plan (2019-2021)* and the *Nur-Sultan Action Plan (2022-2024)*. It actively responds to the needs of developing countries, and works with parties concerned to modernize tax governance systems and capacities in developing countries.

With the help of multiple platforms and support, the BRITACEG has established three training modes: "self-organized, jointly-organized and co-organized activities". Up to now, it has cumulatively conducted more than 60 online and on-site training sessions for more than 3,500 tax officials from more than 120 countries or regions, effectively

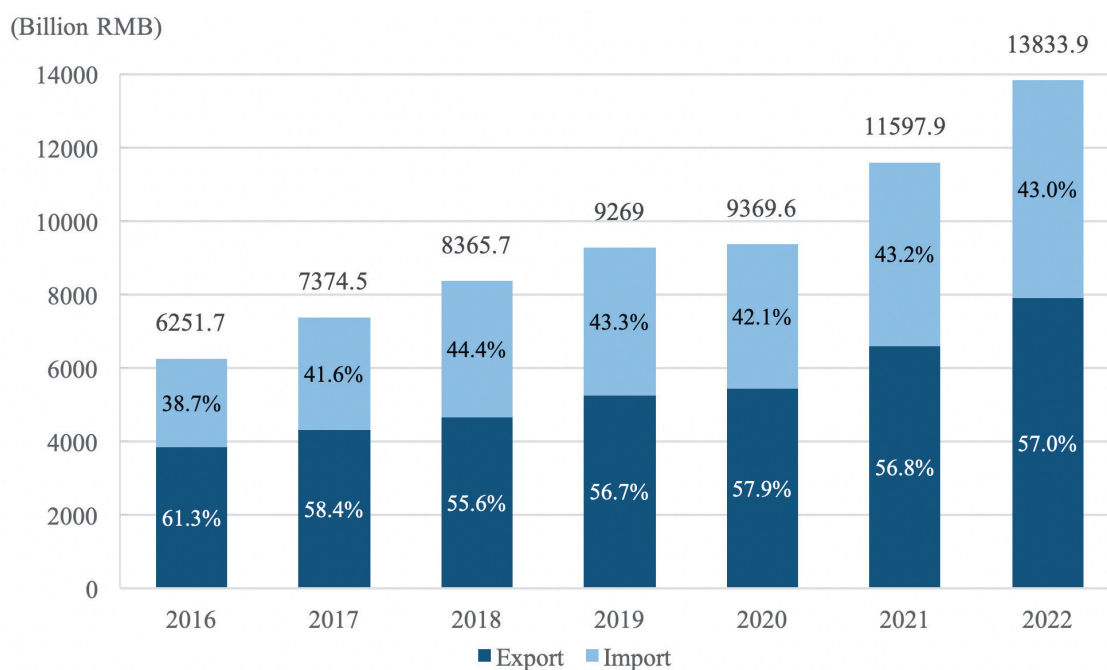
helping developing countries enhance their tax administration capacity. The BRITACEG has established five BRI Tax Institutes in Yangzhou, China; Beijing, China; Macao, China; Astana, Kazakhstan; and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and a network of multilingual training institutions covering English, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic areas. It has launched the *Belt and Road Initiative Tax Journal (in English)*, and developed the official website of BRITACOM, on which relevant information and latest knowledge products are published in real time, international tax policies explained, and mutual learning of tax practices and knowledge promoted.

research, knowledge sharing and capacity building, aiming to build an institutionalized and internationalized multilateral cooperation platform for promoting national green and low-carbon transformation and building a community of life for man and nature. Under the Green Silk Road Envoys Program, China has offered 3,000 training opportunities to environmental management personnel, experts and scholars from more than 120 countries.



**Figure 17-1 China's Non-financial Outward FDI Flows to Belt and Road Countries (2016-2022)**

Source: Ministry of Commerce.



**Figure 17-2 Total Amount and Share of China's Import and Export of Goods to and from Belt and Road Countries (2016-2022)**

Source: General Administration of Customs.

**China promotes the building of an open world economy and creates new opportunities for global sustainable development.** China adheres to the right course of economic globalization, promotes trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and works with other countries to foster new drivers of global development. The China International Import Expo, held five times in a row, has turned the huge Chinese market into huge opportunities for the world. By the end of June 2023, China had signed 20 free trade agreements with 27 countries or regions. China is working actively toward accession to the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)* and the *Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)*. China actively helps other developing countries, especially the LDCs, to raise their level of trade, and continues to offer special preferential tariff to the LDCs. As of July 2023, China had granted zero-tariff treatment to 98% of tariff lines of 29 countries including Afghanistan, 97% of tariff lines of 13 countries including Angola, and 95% of tariff lines of East Timor and Myanmar.

**China has improved cooperation frameworks and mechanisms and pushed global development cooperation to go deeper and produce substantial outcomes.** Since 2015, the government has issued white papers such as *China and the World in the New Era*, *China and Africa in the New Era: A Partnership of Equals*, and *China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era*. China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) was set up to enhance the comprehensive effect of China's foreign aid; CIKD and ISSCAD, among other institutions, were established to help developing countries enhance their capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. Since the launch of the GDI in September 2021, China has continuously improved its implementation mechanism and increased the input of international development resources, including the establishment of the Global Development Promotion Center of CIDCA and setting up the GDI project pool. China has been building platforms for cooperation in eight key areas, facilitating GDI cooperation to achieve a series of early harvests. The number of recipients of China's assistance has increased from more than 110 to more than 160. The total amount of aid has increased and the forms of aid diversified. Since 2015, China has trained more than 200,000 people from other developing countries in areas such as public administration, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, public health, education, science and technology, trade, economy and investment, and poverty reduction. China attaches great importance to the sovereign debt problems of other developing countries and does its best to help them improve their debt sustainability. Important assistance initiatives have been announced on several major diplomatic occasions, including the exemption from debt incurred in the form of interest-free Chinese government loans due to mature for some of LDCs. China has fully implemented the *G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)*, ranking first among all member countries with the amount of debt suspension. China approved the G-20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, and conducted multilateral debt treatment coordination for relevant countries on a case-by-case basis. China participated in the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable to promote the effective, systematic and comprehensive resolution of debt issues by all types of creditors in accordance with the principle of "collective action and fair burden-sharing".

## Box 17-2: China-ASEAN Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Cooperation Information Website

The China-ASEAN SPS Cooperation Information Website aims to implement the guiding principles of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Cooperation*, and is an important platform for China to share information on laws, standards and measures with the 10 ASEAN countries.

As the scale of China-ASEAN

agricultural trade continues to expand, China Customs has taken the lead in continuously upgrading the website with intelligent technologies. In September 2021, the upgraded version of the website was officially launched, attracting more than 10,000 visits on that day. As of 2022, the website had included more than 10,000 entries of SPS regulations, standards, procedures and access information. Thanks to information transparency, the number of SPS notifications by ASEAN countries decreased by 6.03% in 2022, although the total

number of technical trade measures notified by ASEAN countries has increased rapidly and has reached several record highs in the past three years.

The website has strengthened multilateral and bilateral cooperation consensus, jointly built information infrastructure, and shared efficient functions, so as to meet industrial needs and reduce agricultural trade frictions. It is an important measure to implement the GDI and the cooperation initiative for “smart customs, smart border, and smart connectivity.”

**China has strengthened international cooperation in science, technology and innovation to help other developing countries enhance capacity for sustainable development.** China supported international organizations in establishing institutions in China, including the United Nations Global Geographic Information Knowledge and Innovation Center, to draw on China's strengths in geographic information data, space technology and disaster reduction technology, and to support the international community in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. China worked with international partners to build a South-South cooperation center for technology transfer and a joint center for industrial biotechnology, established the Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (Shenzhen), and advanced international cooperation in water conservancy. Through these efforts, China has helped other developing countries, especially the LDCs, develop renewable energy technologies, biotechnology, green and low-carbon technologies, water conservancy and hydropower technologies, etc. China has promoted South-South cooperation and shared with other developing countries such technologies as *juncao* cultivation, biogas technology and information and communication technology. China has employed big data to serve the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including launching the SDGSAT-1, establishing the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development, and sharing data products with the international community. China has also launched the Belt and Road Big Data Service Platform on Ecological and Environmental Protection to provide ecological and environmental risk prevention and green development solutions for high-quality cooperation under the BRI.



China has strengthened knowledge exchange and sharing on sustainable development. *China's Progress Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2017, 2019 and 2021), *China's Voluntary National Review Report on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *Global Development Report* were published successively. China stepped up mobilizing society for the implementation of the Agenda and actively promoted the use of the PPP model. The national PPP project information monitoring and service platform and the national PPP integrated information platform were established. The PPP market has grown steadily in size. As of November 2022, a total of 10,363 projects involving an investment of RMB16.8 trillion had been registered on the national PPP integrated information platform. China has promoted multilateral development agencies in supporting development finance in developing countries, through increasing contributions to the International Development Association of the WBG, the China-WBG Partnership Facility, the Pandemic Fund, the GEF, and the Asian Development Fund, and promoting the IMF in issuing additional Special Drawing Rights.

**China has strengthened the monitoring of sustainable development data and assisted other developing countries in improving their statistical capacity.** Since 2015, China has conducted the third national agricultural census, the fourth and fifth national economic censuses, the seventh national population census, the national poverty alleviation census, input-output surveys and other major statistical surveys, providing huge data support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The birth and death registration system has achieved 100% birth registration and more than 80% death registration. China also actively supports other developing countries in strengthening statistical capacity-building. China jointly implemented the Trust Fund Project on Statistical Capacity Development in China and Other Developing Countries with UNDESA, and have donated USD7 million (equivalent to RMB45.7505 million) since 2015, actively contributing to the statistical capacity building in Asia-Pacific and other developing countries. China jointly organized three international training workshops on statistical monitoring of the progress toward the SDGs with the United Nations Statistics Division, benefiting hundreds of participants from national statistical offices, international organizations and relevant domestic agencies, improving the statistical monitoring capacity of other developing countries, and pushing relevant domestic agencies to attach greater importance to statistical monitoring.

**China continues to push ahead the reform and development of the global governance system to provide institutional guarantee for the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.** China firmly upholds the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and was fully involved in negotiations over WTO reform. In the *China's Position Paper on WTO Reform*, China puts forward three basic principles and five propositions. In the *China's Proposal on WTO Reform*, *China proposes the areas for action in the WTO reform*, pushing forward the reform in the right direction. China, the EU and other WTO members submitted a proposal on issues regarding the appointment of appellate body members, and facilitated the establishment of the Multi-Party Interim Appeals Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA). China actively promotes bilateral,

regional and multilateral cooperation, and the coordination of international macroeconomic policies, and works with other countries to create an enabling international environment for development. Since 2016, China has held seven “1+6” Roundtables and given full play to the role of the G20, BRICS, “10+3” and other multilateral cooperation mechanisms. China has made use of the China-US dialogue mechanisms in economic area and the bilateral financial and economic dialogue mechanisms with the UK, France, and Germany to promote bilateral economic cooperation and joint efforts in addressing global challenges. China initiated such multilateral financial institutions as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB), and advocated the establishment of and contributed to the AIIB Project Preparation Special Fund and the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance, both as a useful complement to the global governance system and the global development finance mechanism. China has participated in the formulation of international regulatory rules and advanced the reform of international financial regulation. It fully participated in the work of international organizations such as the Financial Stability Board, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the Executives’ Meeting of East Asia-Pacific Central Banks and the Network for Greening the Financial System. China has also actively participated in the formulation and revision of regulatory rules relating to Basel III, regulation of systemically important financial institutions, establishment of resolution mechanisms, regulation of non-banking financial intermediaries, and reform of the derivatives market.

## II. Basic Experience

**First, continue to open up for win-win results and pursue common prosperity.** China always adheres to the right course of economic globalization, and has deeply integrated into the global economic system. China has continued to create opportunities for the world with its own development. Through high-quality cooperation under the BRI and by building an open world economy, China is working with the rest of the world to foster the endogenous driving force for sustainable development.

**Second, stick to the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, commit to the greater good and shared interests, develop and expand the global partnership based on equality, openness and cooperation.** In light of the global development landscape, China aims to meet the development needs of developing countries and implement the 2030 Agenda. China continues to improve global development cooperation strategies and mechanisms, and has introduced new forms of international development cooperation, and increased the input of resources for development and provided assistance and support to other developing countries to the best of its capacity.

**Third, follow the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration in global governance and uphold true multilateralism.** China firmly upholds the international system with the United Nations at its core, pushes ahead the institutional reform

of existing multilateral mechanisms so that they can better play their roles, actively participates in international rule-making, and works to make global governance more just and equitable.

### III. Future Work

Currently, progress on most of the SDGs has been insufficient or even regressed. Stakeholders should stay ready and proactive to reinvigorate the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development in order to achieve the SDGs on schedule. China will continue to adhere to the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind and the principles of pursuing the greater good and shared interests, step up its actions and make due contribution to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**First, continue to promote the high-quality development of the BRI and promote the development of an open global economy.** China will work harder to better align the high-quality BRI cooperation with the development strategies of participating countries and regional cooperation initiatives, and promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. With opening up of a higher standard, China will promote building an open, diverse and stable world economic order so that more countries and people will enjoy greater development opportunities and benefits.

**Second, work with stakeholders to implement the GDI and build a global community of development.** China will continue to work with international partners to expand consensus on putting development first and conduct international cooperation on development by focusing on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. China will make good use of funding platforms, such as the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and the China-United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, to provide financial support for the development of developing countries. China will promote developed countries, multilateral institutions, and the private sector to increase investment in development, form greater synergy to promote sustainable development, and work with others to build a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global partnership for development.

**Third, reform and improve the global governance system and shape a more just and equitable international order.** China will uphold true multilateralism and the common values of mankind and resolutely safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core. China will lead the reform of the global governance system with the values of fairness and justice, promote equal rights, equal opportunities and fair rules for all, and build a more just and equitable global governance system and institutional environment for the common prosperity and development of all countries.





