

China's Progress Report

on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2019)



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Executive Summary

In September 2015, President Xi Jinping attended the UN Sustainable Development Summit and joined other world leaders to adopt *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which opened a new era for the undertaking of global sustainable development and charted the course for national development and international development cooperation.

China attaches great importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has taken the lead in releasing *China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and a progress report. The country aligns implementation of the agenda with medium- and long-term national development strategies such as the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of China to promote balanced economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress. Upholding the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China concentrates on promoting quality development and has accelerated domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a view to achieving “early harvest” on a number of sustainable development goals.

The precise poverty alleviation strategy has produced remarkable results.

The strategy is aimed at precision in identifying the target population, arranging appropriate projects, using funds, taking measures specific to poor households, selecting and designating the right officials to help specific villages and producing the desired outcomes. From the end of 2015 to the end of 2018, the number of people living in poverty in rural areas decreased from 55.75 million to 16.6 million, poverty incidence dropped from 5.7% to 1.7% and per capita disposable income of rural residents in poverty-stricken areas increased from RMB 7,653 to RMB 10,371. With increased precision in identifying the target population, people’s livelihood has been further improved on the whole.

The macro-economic performance has been stable. The gross domestic product (GDP) reached RMB 90.03 trillion in 2018, up by 6.6% year on year. A total of 13.61 million new urban jobs were created and the surveyed unemployment rate remained at a relatively low level of around 5%. China vigorously implements the innovation-driven development strategy. In 2018, the total research and development expenditure reached 2.18% of the GDP



and major innovation results kept emerging. The economic structure has been continuously optimized, with emerging industries developing vigorously, traditional sectors experiencing accelerated transformation and upgrading, infrastructures throughout the country improved in an all-round way and headway being made in building Innovation Demonstration Zones for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All-round progress has been made in all social undertakings. China is making steady progress towards the health-related sustainable development goal and targets. From 2015 to 2018, maternal mortality rate dropped from 20.1 per 100,000 to 18.3 per 100,000 and infant mortality rate from 8.1% to 6.1%. China now appears in the mid-to-top range of world education rankings, with access to education reaching the average level of upper-middle-income countries. The environment for equal development of both genders continues improving and the proportion of women in decision-making and management continues increasing. The public legal service system has been further developed and remarkable results have been achieved in building a government under rule of law. Landslide victories have been won in the fight against corruption.

The ecological environment has been continuously improving. Adhering to the concept of green development in an all-round way, the Chinese government has promoted development of low-carbon industries and strengthened domestic actions in response to climate change. In 2018, energy intensity and carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 3.1% and 4.0% respectively over the previous year. The government has comprehensively advanced air pollution control. In 2018, 338 cities at prefecture level or above nationwide enjoyed 79.3% of days with good air quality on average, up 1.3 percentage points year on year. The strictest water resources management system has been implemented, leading to sustained improvement of the water environment throughout the country. Further progress has been made in green agricultural development, major ecological conservation and restoration projects are going on smoothly and forest coverage and forest growing stock continue increasing.

International development cooperation has been effectively advanced. China firmly upholds multilateralism and the international system with the United Nations at the center. It has been actively promoting an open world economy and a new type of international relations and deeply involved in international development cooperation. China has also been actively

advancing international cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. By the end of July 2019, the Chinese government had signed 195 cooperation documents with 136 countries and 30 international organizations, thus making important contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the relevant countries. China also actively promotes South-South cooperation and provides assistance within our capacity for other developing countries towards the Sustainable Development Goals through such platforms as the China-UN Peace and Development Fund and the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund as well as bilateral channels.

To map and assess its implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a timely manner and provide useful information for other countries in this regard, further to the first progress report in 2017, China has prepared and now releases the 2019 progress report on its implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report recalls comprehensively the progress China has made since September 2015, in particular since the issuance of the first report, puts forward the country's plan and objectives for the future and shares typical cases in its implementation with a view to speeding up the global implementation process.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda involves long-term and systematic undertaking. In the future, China will continue following the new vision on development, advancing in an all-round way the domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda and steering national development towards a greater quality, efficiency, equity and sustainability. At the same time, as the largest developing country, China will undertake due international responsibilities and actively participate in international development cooperation within the framework of the South-South cooperation with a view to making even greater contribution to global implementation of the 2030 Agenda and working together for a community of shared future for mankind.

The contributions of the 45 members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Mechanism for China's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD) are hereby acknowledged with heartfelt thanks.



Goal 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to poverty reduction and deems it an important mission to eliminate poverty, improve people's livelihood and gradually achieve common prosperity. President Xi Jinping vowed to lift all poor rural residents out of poverty by 2020. In this connection, China has vigorously implemented the basic strategy of precise poverty alleviation, developed and improved the systems of accountability, policies, investments, mobilisation, supervision and performance assessment, with positive results. At the same time, China has actively promoted South-South Cooperation in poverty reduction and made important contributions to the sustainable development goal of poverty reduction worldwide.

With implementation of the precise poverty alleviation strategy, China has achieved remarkable results in the tough battle against poverty. The Chinese Government issued in November 2015 the *Decision on Winning the Fight Against Poverty* with clearly defined overall objectives. The Decision requires precision in identifying the target population, arranging appropriate projects, using funds, taking

measures specific to poor households, selecting and designating the right officials to help specific villages and producing the desired outcomes, on the basis of which the institutional setups to tackle poverty have been constantly improved. Over 200 policy documents have been issued, underpinning the overall poverty reduction programme. More funds have been channeled to poverty alleviation, with the central, provincial and city/county governments making roughly equal contributions and steadily increasing support from the banking sector, insurance and capital market. Relatively more developed eastern provinces have joined hands with their less developed peers in western China, central government departments have been assisting targeted poverty-stricken areas and non-governmental participation in poverty reduction has been encouraged. Supervision and auditing have been strengthened, with regular supervisory inspections conducted and results of poverty reduction and development incorporated in performance assessments in 22 central and western provinces. Compared with the figures for 2015, by the end of 2018, the number of poor people in rural China had decreased to 16.6 million from 55.75 million¹, incidence of poverty had decreased to 1.7% from 5.7%, and per capita disposable income of rural residents in poverty-stricken areas had increased from RMB 7,653 to RMB 10,371. At the same time, new types of businesses have developed rapidly in poverty-stricken areas, along with a strong internal development momentum, a visibly improved ecological environment and a markedly better livelihood.

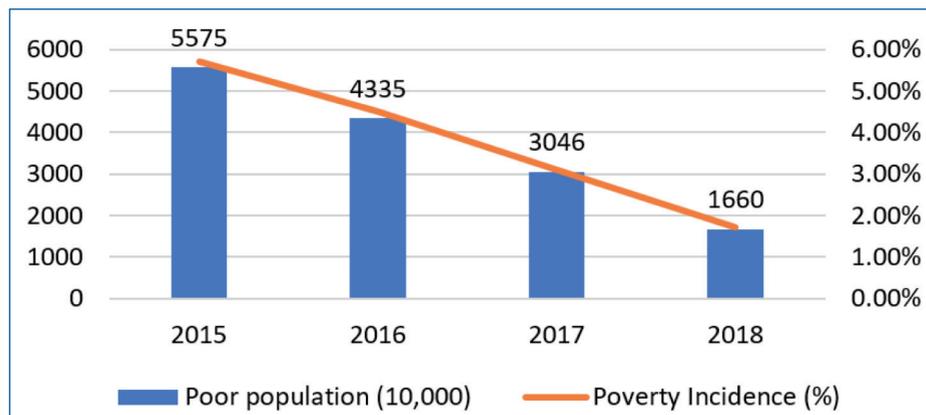


Figure 1.1 Size of the poor population and poverty incidence in rural areas

China has further improved its social security systems and thus developed an increasingly extensive and sturdier social safety net. China has improved the rules and practices of subsistence allowances, supports for the especially

¹ Calculated on the basis of the poverty line defined in 2011, i.e., per capita net annual income of farmers being RMB 2300 at constant price of 2010.

poor as well as emergency reliefs and is now better positioned to assist those in need of disaster relief, medical service, education, housing and employment. China is advancing universal social insurance coverage, merging the medical insurance schemes for rural residents and urban unemployed and encouraging the development of social insurance agencies. At the end of 2018, 45.261 million urban and rural residents were registered for subsistence allowances, 4.827 million were registered as especially poor and 11.08 million people received emergency reliefs. That year the government spent RMB 163.21 billion on subsistence allowances, RMB 33.64 billion on supports for the especially poor and RMB 13.06 billion on emergency reliefs. Meanwhile, the coverage of basic endowment insurance was extended to 942 million people, among which 524 million people were covered by basic endowment for urban and rural residents, with more than 49 million poor people directly benefiting from it. Basic medical insurance coverage was extended to 1.34 billion people, among which 76.739 million poor people were subsidised, effectively preventing impoverishment caused by injury or illness.

With comprehensive measures supporting the right to development, China has achieved remarkable results in moving special groups of people out of poverty. The resource rights of the rural poor have been secured by fully implementing protection of permanent basic farmland and enforcing the newly amended *Law on the Contracting of Rural Land*. The *Plan for Promoting Inclusive Finance Development (2016-2020)* has been made and implemented, focusing on the financial sector's poverty alleviation measures targeting the poor and vulnerable groups. Special attention has been paid to increasing support for children, women, the disabled and other special groups in impoverished areas. All children are covered by basic medical insurance and financial assistance is available to students at all stages of learning in school throughout the country. In poverty-stricken areas, efforts are made to improve children's nutrition and pilots are conducted on early childhood development. Women have been mobilised in a campaign to get themselves out of poverty and 13,800 national demonstration bases for poverty alleviation among women have been created, offering increased financial and industrial employment assistance for poor women. By the end of 2018, a total of RMB 383.8 billion of guaranteed loans had been granted in support of 6.57 million women to start their own businesses and get rich, which has in turn lead to better social security for women. Measures are taken to implement and improve the living allowance system for disabled persons experiencing financial difficulties and the long-term care subsidy system targeting severe disability. Domestic helpers and migrant workers have also been put under

the protection of the basic old-age and medical insurance systems.

China has further deepened South-South Cooperation in poverty reduction and made positive contributions to reducing poverty worldwide. We worked actively for the international community to identify poverty reduction as a priority in implementing the 2030 sustainable development agenda. Through China-UN Peace and Development Fund and South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, China and its partners have implemented nearly 100 poverty reduction projects in the relevant developing countries. Implementation of the China-Africa cooperation plan for poverty reduction and people's livelihood has been in full swing and 200 Happy Life projects have been carried out. In 2018, 39 anti-poverty capacity-building trainings were hosted for developing countries, benefiting 1,440 trainees. China has continued rolling out poverty reduction demonstration villages in the relevant countries, held high-level international conferences such as Global High Level Forum on Poverty Reduction and Development, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) poverty reduction and development conferences and China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and shared its own experiences.

II. Next Steps

Although remarkable progress has been made, China still faces many challenges in poverty reduction. First, there are still pockets of deep poverty affecting large populations and with weak infrastructure, and thus being very difficult to tackle. Second, gaps persist in the government's capacity to deliver compulsory education, basic medical care, safe drinking water and safe housing to all. Third, with a weak industrial foundation, poverty reduction results in some areas are not solid enough and must be strengthened. In order to achieve the goal of eliminating absolute poverty by 2020, the Chinese Government will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to carry out further work on precise poverty alleviation, zooming in on areas of deep poverty and especially vulnerable groups for them to have no worries about food or clothes and enjoy security in compulsory education, basic medical care and housing. In this process, attention will be given to accountability, quality and effectiveness of poverty reduction.

The second priority is to further strengthen the safety-net function. China will strive to gradually extend basic endowment coverage to all the poor

and vulnerable groups so that all the elderly will be looked after properly. The coverage of work-related insurance will be further expanded. Actions will also be taken to further improve the subsistence allowance system, enhance the medical security and assistance capacity, strengthen and improve emergency reliefs, and promote a full coverage of work-related injury insurance with better reimbursements.

The third priority is to increase international exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction, share experiences with other developing countries and deepen practical cooperation, thus making positive contributions to the global zero-poverty sustainable development goal.



Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

I. Implementation Progress

Attaching great importance to agriculture and rural development, the Chinese Government has taken various measures to further promote rural reform. The quality of agricultural development has thus been improving continuously, with stable grains output, steadily improving produces quality and safety, accelerated green development, better protection and utilisation of agro-species. Agricultural development has become better integrated with other industries and market access in agriculture has become easier. In short, positive progress has been made towards the relevant sustainable development goal.

China has further consolidated the foundation and capacity of food production and maintains a safe and stable supply of grains. It exercises the strategy of reserving and improving food production capacity by land rotation and with better technologies and has kept the total sown area stable. Actions have been taken to transform medium and low-yielding farmlands, improve permanent basic farmlands, develop water conservancy works, advance and upgrade agricultural mechanisation and roll out innovative technologies and



know-hows. China campaigns to ensure the quality and safety of agricultural produces and implements the national strategic plan for high-quality development of agriculture by improving the produces quality supervision and monitoring system, vigorously developing standardised livestock and poultry breeding and improving the standards for pesticide and veterinary drug residues. Food market information analysis is conducted to inform early warning with a view to stabilising food prices. In 2018, China had 640 million *mu*¹ of high-standard farmland and over 1 billion *mu* of farmland has effective irrigation. The overall level of mechanisation in plowing, sowing, and harvesting reached 68% for all main crops. Major grain crops such as rice, wheat and corn have basically realized full mechanisation. Since 2015, annual grain output has remained stable at more than 650 billion kilogrammes for four consecutive years, with the per capita share of grain exceeding 450 kilogrammes. In 2018, qualified major agricultural produces accounted for 97.6% in nationwide inspections.

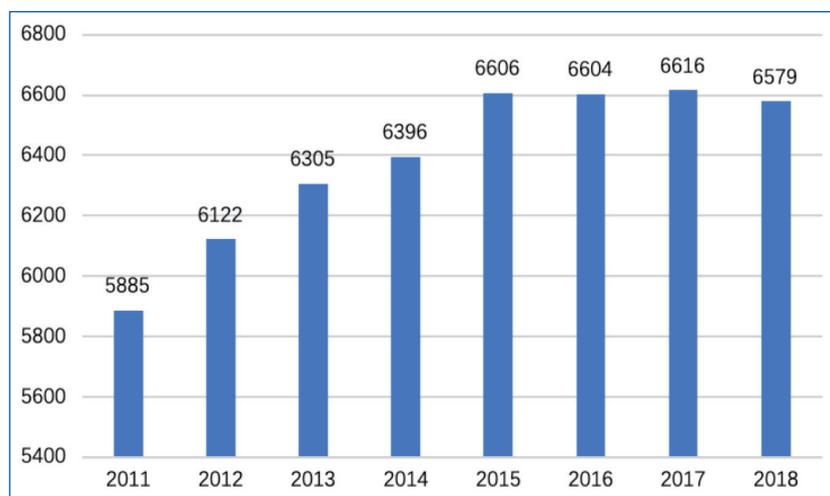


Figure 2.1 Grain Output in China (100 million kg)

China has deepened supply-side structural reforms in agriculture and effectively protected agricultural outputs and farmers' rights and interests.

The ratios between grain, cash and feed crops are adjusted rationally on the basis of changing market demands and the areas of grain crops in localities with advantages in grain production are kept stable. Actions are taken to optimise the industrial, production and operation systems for agriculture so as to improve agricultural quality and efficiency, increase jobs and income for farmers, and promote socio-economic development. Further progress has been made in reforming the rural collective property rights system, with over 150,000 villages completing the reform. The rights over 1.48 billion *mu*

of contracted land have been confirmed, registered and certificates granted to over 200 million farming households in 2,838 counties (cities, districts) and development zones, basically completely the job. To increase the level of payment of farmers and rural communities, financial investments in agriculture, rural development and farmers have been increased and direct financing channels have been broadened with targeted cuts of bank reserve ratio requirements and development of a rural credit system. By the end of 2018, national banking financial institutions had operations in 96% of all towns and townships, 97% of all administrative villages had access to basic financial services, about 91.75 million farming households had been granted credit and the balance of inclusive agricultural loans stood at RMB 5.63 trillion, an increase of 10.52% year on year. The relevant financial services have continued to improve.

China is developing an eco-friendly agriculture and has continued making progress in green agricultural development. Along with the formulation and implementation of the *National Agricultural Sustainable Development Plan (2015-2030)* and *Opinions on Innovating Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Green Agricultural Development*, the first batch of 40 national green agricultural development pioneer zones have been identified. A special campaign aimed at zero growth of chemical fertilisers and pesticides by 2020 was launched and 300 zones have been designated to demonstrate how to reduce chemical fertiliser use and increase efficiency. In 2017, China used 58.594 million tonnes of chemical fertilisers and 1.741 million tonnes of pesticides in agriculture, respectively 1.247 million and 13,100 tonnes lower than the previous year. To prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters on agricultural production, China has formulated and improved disaster response plans, rolled out disaster prevention, mitigation and escape technologies, and strengthened its disaster monitoring, prediction, early warning and prevention capabilities.

China has implemented several nutrition action plans and the nutrition and health status of its people has been continuously improved. The *Outline of Food and Nutrition Development in China (2014-2020)* and *National Nutrition Plan (2017-2030)* are implemented to secure the food and nutrition needs of children, pregnant women, the elderly and other groups in need. The country has reached ahead of schedule the 2020 targets of stunting and low weight among children under five years of age¹. Growth of obesity among

¹ According to China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, under-five stunting rate should be below 7% and low weight rate should be below 5%.

students has decreased significantly. The overall health level of women and children continues to improve, so does children's physiques. The nutrition improvement programme for rural compulsory education students has registered good progress, already benefiting 37 million students by 2018.

China has sped up the development of modern seed industry and established a national system for the management, protection and utilisation of agricultural germplasms and livestock and poultry genetic resources. To protect genetic resources, the third nationwide general survey and collection of crop germplasms were conducted. The country has created 199 national livestock and poultry genetic resources conservation farms, conservation areas and gene banks and 458 provincial conservation farms (areas) and identified 52 major hybrid rice and hybrid corn seed production counties and 100 regional breeding bases for improved varieties. The *National Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Genetic Resources (2015-2025)* was issued to strengthen the development and management of the national forest germplasm conservatory.

China has strengthened international cooperation in agriculture and helped to improve the technological level and capacity of recipient countries. It has been deeply involved in the negotiations of WTO disciplines on domestic support in an effort to tackle unfair practices in this regard with a view to improving the terms of trade in agricultural produces for developing countries and promoting agricultural development. Development of overseas agricultural cooperation demonstration zones and agricultural foreign cooperation experimental zones has been advanced. By 2018, 24 agricultural technology demonstration centres had been established in 23 developing countries in Asia and Africa and more than 330 agricultural experts and vocational teachers have been sent to train the locals. China also hosts agricultural training courses for people from Asia, Africa, Latin America and South Pacific. More than 43,000 people have been trained. Over 100 projects of technical cooperation and supporting facilities have been carried out in the least developed countries (LDCs). China set up the International Training Centre on Forest Genetic Resources in 2016 and has since held three international forest genetic resources training courses, benefiting over 300 people from more than 20 developing countries.

II. Next Steps

China has a large population, with per capita natural resources for agriculture

below world averages. Its arable land and freshwater resources per person are only two fifths and a quarter of the world averages respectively. Chinese agricultural production suffers from lack of resilience to disasters, homogeneous crop varieties and a prominent lack of diversity in livestock and poultry varieties. The country is indeed confronted with many challenges on its way to sustainable agricultural development.

China is committed to enhancing the comprehensive agricultural production capacity as a whole and the nutrition and health level of all its people. The main tasks are to ensure effective supply of food, promote balanced nutrition development and plan as a whole and coordinate production and consumption. It intends to stabilise grain output at over 600 billion kilogrammes by 2020 to ensure basic self-sufficiency in grains and absolute ration security. Efforts will be sustained to secure the total area of permanent basic farmland above or at 1.546 billion *mu*, the sown area of grains at over 1.65 billion *mu*, the area for production protection of major grains and important produces at 1.058 billion *mu*. Eight hundred million *mu* of high-standard farmland will be delimited and improved. The distribution plan and construction of 100 national seed breeding bases covering their respective local regions will be completed. The pilot reform of the rural collective property rights system will be rolled out to 80% of all counties. To this end, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first is to continue pursuing the strategy of reserving grain production capacity by land rotation and through new technologies, stabilise grain production and produce supply, implement the national strategic plan to develop high-quality agriculture and improve the quality and safety of agricultural produce. Actions will be taken to accelerate innovations in farming and technological integration and to further mechanise agriculture.

The second priority is to continue pushing forward the rural collective property rights system reform. We will improve and standardise the rules governing land transfers and develop various forms of optimum-scale agricultural operations.

The third priority is to further promote the green development of agriculture and strengthen international cooperation in agricultural development, thus contributing to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



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

I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese Government regards people's health as a strategic priority and acts to integrate health into all policies and measures for socio-economic development in line with the healthy China vision. It also takes an active part in practical global health cooperation and contributes to the health-related sustainable development goal and targets.

China has adopted five maternal and infant safety interventions¹ in full support of women and children's rights to subsistence, health and development. Actions have been taken to increase service availability and advance women and children's health service security. A referral and treatment network for critically ill patients and newborns has been developed at all levels of services, covering all provinces and prefectures. The *Plan of Action for Children's Health (2018-2020)* has been formulated and implemented to inter alia strengthen neonatal healthcare and promote early childhood development. From 2015 to 2018, maternal mortality rate in China dropped from 20.1 to 18.3 per 100,000, infant mortality rate dropped from 8.1 to 6.1 per 1,000, and under-five mortality rate dropped from 10.7 to 8.4 per 1,000. In 2018, maternal mortality

¹ The five interventions are: pregnancy risk screening and assessment, specific case-based management of high-risk pregnancies, strengthened treatment of critical patients, real-time reporting of maternal deaths, and tightened supervision of and communication with service providers.

rates were 19.9 and 15.5 per 100,000 respectively in rural and urban areas, while under-five mortality rates in eastern, central and western provinces were 4.2, 7.2 and 12.7 per 1,000 respectively. The urban-rural gap continued to narrow down.

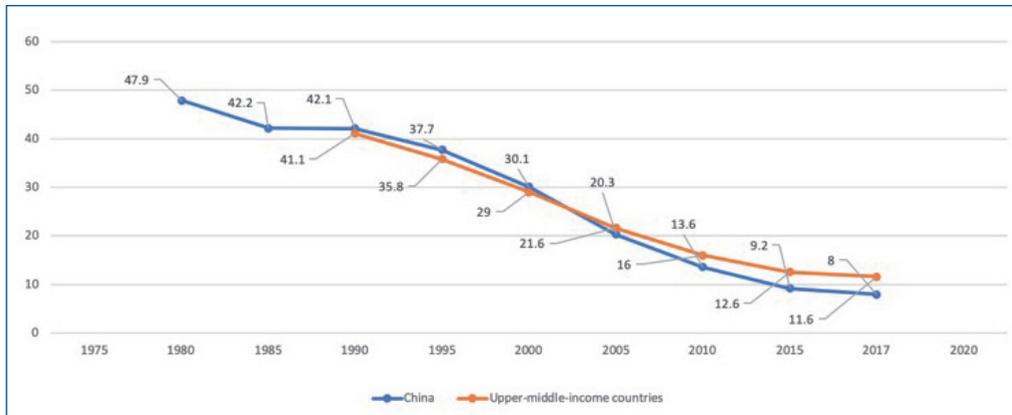


Figure 3.1 Infant Mortality from 1980 to 2017(‰)(data:http:data.worldbank.org)

China has further improved the medical and health service system and significantly enhanced its capacity to provide various health services. Reform of healthcare institutions have been deepened and a universal basic medical security system has been put in place. In 2018, over 95% Chinese were covered by medical insurance either as an employee or an urban or rural resident and had access to a wider selection of essential medicines that satisfy the clinical medication needs of the insured. The national essential medicine system has been further improved and the 2018 edition of the national essential medicines list has been released, with types of listed medicines increased from 520 to 685, visibly enhancing access to medicines. Every county now has one to two county-level public hospitals, every township has its hospital and every village its clinic. In 2018, 309,000 general practitioners were trained and qualified and the number of general practitioners per 10,000 people increased to 2.22. In the field of family planning, China has offered selected technical services for free, disseminated knowledge of contraception and birth control to reduce unwanted pregnancies, provided standardised medical services for people in need to restore fertility and improved the quality of technical services.

By stressing the importance of prevention and taking comprehensive measures, China has achieved tangible results in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and hepatitis B. The infectious disease prevention and control system has been strengthened

in an all-round way. With HIV transmission by blood transfusion basically interrupted and intravenous drug use and mother-to-child transmissions brought under effective control, overall the epidemic is kept at a low level in the country. The proportion of people living with HIV and patients eligible for treatment receiving antiretroviral therapy reached 83.4%, with a treatment success rate of above 90%. Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV decreased to 4.5%. In 2018, the total number of reported tuberculosis cases nationwide decreased by 1.4% compared with 2017 and the successful treatment rate reached 94%. No local primary malaria case was reported in 2017 and 2018. Hepatitis B vaccination coverage has remained above 90% for many years. The population infection rate and infection degree of key parasites have both dropped and the number of cases reported every epidemic season is at the single-digit level.

Bearing in mind the physical and mental health of the entire population, China implements a comprehensive chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCD) prevention and control strategy. The *Medium-to-Long Term Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Diseases (2017-2025)* has been formulated and implemented and hypertension, diabetes and old-age health management have been identified as basic public health service items throughout the country. The authorities have created 365 national demonstration areas for comprehensive NCD prevention and control and campaigned for a healthy lifestyle with reduced intakes of salt, sugar and oil and greater attention to oral health, healthy weight and healthy bones. Diagnosis and treatment guidelines have been revised to standardise the uses of narcotic and psychotropic drugs. The *Guiding Opinions on Strengthening Psychological Health Service* were published in 2016 and pilots on the development of a social psychological service system were launched earlier this year. Efforts have been taken to further tighten the drug ban and enhance drug rehabilitation. Reducing harmful use of alcohol has also been put in the relevant national policies and plans. By the end of 2018, the cancer early diagnosis and early treatment programme had accumulatively screened 3.8 million people at risk, 17 anti-cancer drugs had been included in the medical insurance reimbursement scheme and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular interventions had reached 3.34 million patients. Compared with 2015, premature mortality caused by major NCDs decreased by 2.6 percentage points.

China has taken action to tackle the social determinants of health and build a healthy production and living environment by improving road traffic safety responsibility system, strengthening prevention and treatment of air and soil pollution and comprehensively promoting implementation of

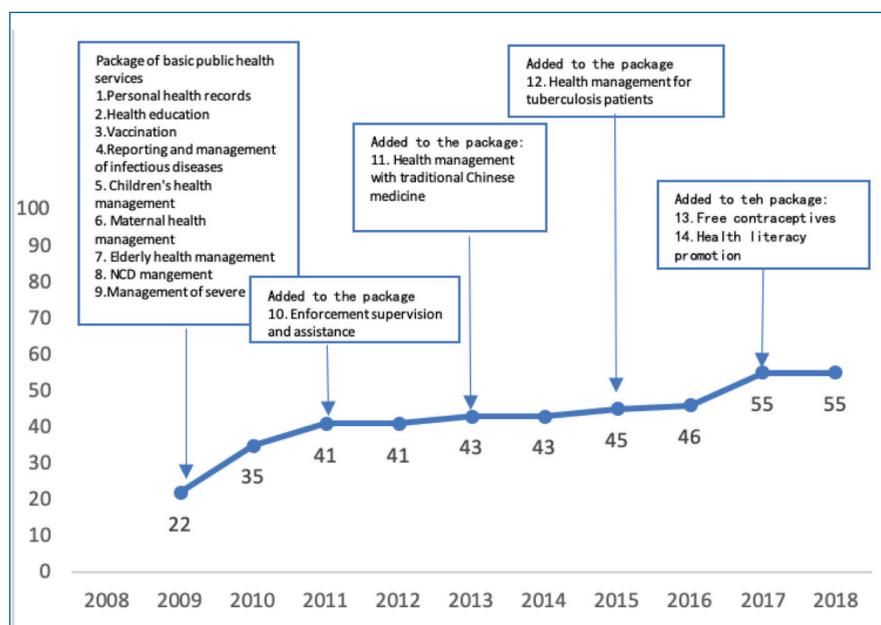


Figure 3.2 Increasing categories and items of basic public health services(2009-2018)

the *WHO Framework Agreement on Tobacco Control*. In 2018, the number of serious road traffic accidents killing more than 10 people in one case dropped to 5, a record low in history. Meanwhile, in 2018, all counties, cities and metropolitan districts and 95% of all villages and towns have drinking water quality monitoring. The impact of air pollution on people's health is monitored at 152 sites in 72 cities involving all provinces. More than 20 cities have enacted local no-tobacco laws and regulations. Smoking in indoor public places is banned in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Xi'an.

China actively promotes global health cooperation and contributes to global public health security. About 1,100 Chinese health workers are now providing free medical services for local people in 56 countries around the world. Programme "Bright Journey" brings gratuitous cataract treatment to needy people in more than 20 countries. China actively assists other countries in building medical facilities, donates medicines and devices and supports capacity-building. In recent years, China has provided emergency medical and public health assistance on over 50 occasions, assisted African countries in their fights against major disease outbreaks such as Ebola and yellow fever and supported the development of the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 70 projects have been implemented in the LDCs, covering health promotion, disease control, training of physicians and nurses and malaria prevention. The China-Comoros project on fast elimination of malaria with artemisinin-based combination therapy has helped Comoros achieve zero malaria death.

II. Next Steps

At present, China still faces a severe situation in major disease prevention and control. Grass-roots service providers suffer from weak capacities. The Health and Poverty Alleviation Programme is confronted with an arduous task. Development of the health sector is prominently imbalanced and insufficient. It will take more time and effort to consolidate the gains of deepened medical reform. China will continue deepening supply-side structural reforms in health and speed up improving the institutions that promote health for all.

The first priority is to further deepen the reform of the healthcare system by developing a hierarchical triage and referral system, modern hospital management and universal medical insurance, improving national drug policy and the national essential medicines list and strengthening comprehensive regulation. The Health and Poverty Alleviation Programme will be further strengthened and the strategy of treating major diseases and NCDs on the basis of disease classification will be fully implemented so as to ensure basic medical and health services for the poor.

The second priority is to take comprehensive measures to promote health management. Efforts will be redoubled to prevent and control major diseases, advocate a healthy and civilised lifestyle, build up a multi-tiered total-process ecological and environmental risk prevention system and gradually create a smoke-free environment.

The third priority is to promote balanced population development and healthy aging. The *Decision of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Implementing a Comprehensive Two-Child Policy and Reforming and Improving the Management of Family Planning Services* will be thoroughly implemented and development of care for infants and young kids under three will be actively promoted. A system of old-age care involving medical service institutions, communities and families will be further developed and improved.

The fourth priority is to strengthen global health cooperation and exchanges, including more activities within the frameworks of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Africa Health Action and sharing of Chinese solutions and practical experience. China will also actively promote innovation, research and development in the field of medical science and encourage transfer and transformation of scientific and technological achievements.



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

I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese Government strategically prioritises education and continuously increases fiscal expenditure on it. A full-fledged system with various types of institutions targeting different stages of education has already taken shape. Aid is available in all education institutions for students from economically disadvantaged families. Educational equity has been continuously improving. China is also actively engaged in international educational exchanges and cooperation, contributing to the global effort towards Sustainable Development Goal 4.

China has increased investments in education to facilitate a balanced and high-quality development of compulsory education. In 2018, China had 213,800 compulsory education schools plus 101,400 off-site primary school campuses, with 150 million students and 9.73 million full-time teachers; the gross enrolment rates for primary and junior middle schools were 103.2% and 100.9% respectively; 99.3% pupils and 97.1% junior middle school students completed schooling of their respective stages. To comprehensively improve the basic conditions of weak compulsory education schools in poverty-stricken areas, from 2013 to 2018, the central

government invested RMB 169.9 billion in earmarked transfers and local governments matched 372.7 billion to build and renovate 220 million square meters of school premises, effectively contributing to balanced compulsory education development.

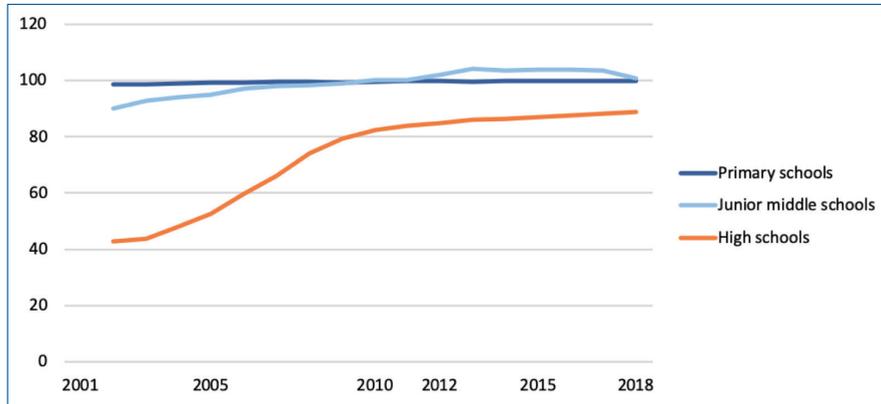


Figure 4.1 Gross/net enrollment rates for basic education (%)

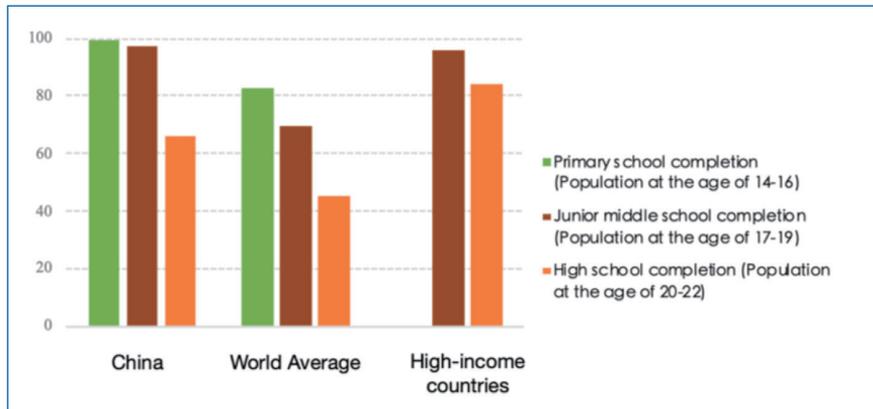


Figure 4.2 Basic education completion rate (%)

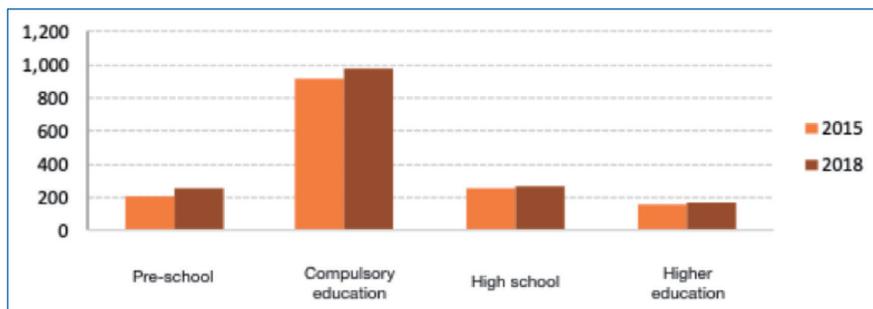


Figure 4.3 Number of full-time teachers at different stages of schooling

Believing that pre-school education should be for public good and affordable, China works to secure fair and quality pre-school education for young children. The central government invested a total of RMB 60 billion from

2015 to 2018 on major national preschool education projects, focusing on rural areas in central and western provinces. In 2018, there were 266,700 kindergartens in the country, 42,700 more than the number in 2015. The total number of children in kindergartens reached 46.5642 million, an increase of more than 3.9 million over 2015. In 2018, China had 182,900 affordable kindergartens, accounting for 68.57% of all kindergartens in the country. There were 34.0223 million children in these kindergartens, accounting for 73.07% of all children in kindergartens. China's gross pre-school enrolment rate rose from 75.0% in 2015 to 81.7% in 2018.



Figure 4.4 Gross enrollment in pre-school education (%)

China has worked hard to provide high school education for more people and improved markedly the level of higher education and vocational education. At the end of 2018, the national gross enrolment rate for high schools reached 88.8%; there were 11,800 vocational colleges, involving about 100,000 centres of specific skills; there were 26.855 million students in secondary vocational education and general junior colleges, with majors in all fields of the national economy; there were 2,379 technical colleges enrolling nearly 3.5 million students, with an employment rate of 97.7%; there were 2,663 colleges and universities with 38.33 million students enrolled and the gross enrolment rate for higher education was 48.1%.

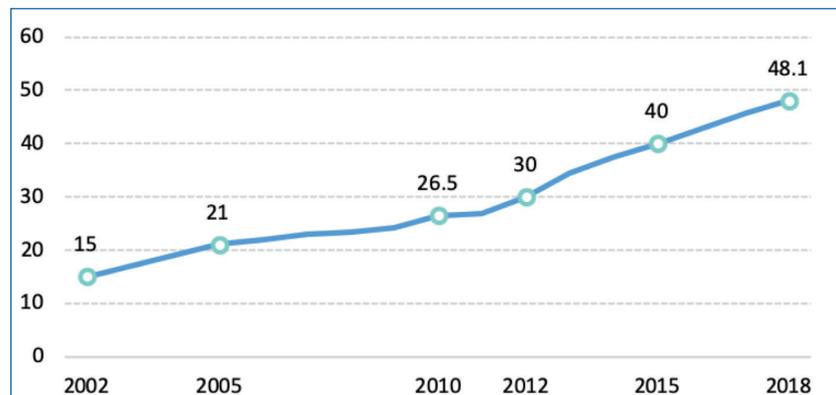


Figure 4.5 Gross enrollment in higher education(%)

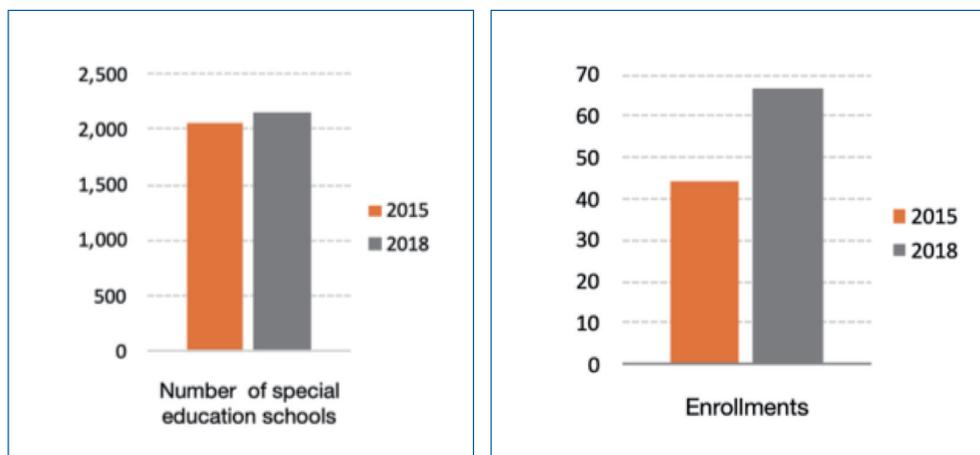


Figure 4.6 Number of special education schools and their enrollments

China uses policy and financial incentives to ensure protection of the right to education, especially for the various special groups. A special targeted enrolment plan for the rural and poverty-stricken areas has been formulated and implemented. Vocational schools are incentivised to provide various types of training for farmers, rural migrant workers, current employees, the unemployed, disabled persons, veterans and other groups. Investments have been increased to promote education in ethnic minority areas and more than 3.2 million primary and secondary school students of ethnic minorities now receive bilingual education. The disabled persons' right to education is also secured. There were 656,000 disabled students receiving compulsory education at the end of 2018, up 70.4% over 2014. There were also 2,152 special education schools, with a total enrolment 50.6% more than that of 2015. Measures have been taken to further increase access to school education by children of migrant workers and improve the system of attention and care for children left behind in rural areas by their parents working in cities. Support to family education has been redoubled.

China has been working on information infrastructure for education and facilitating deep integration of information technology with education and teaching. In March 2019, 97.6% primary and secondary schools across the country were connected to the Internet, up from 25% in 2012. The proportion of schools having multimedia classrooms increased from less than 40% to 93%. The 64,000 teaching sites nationwide all have access to digital education resources. More than 14 million primary and secondary school teachers now share their high-quality courses at the national educational resources public service platform. More than 60% of teachers and nearly 50% of students have

created their own online learning spaces.

China has strengthened international exchanges and cooperation in education and promoted development of education in other developing countries. China has educational cooperation and exchanges with 188 countries and regions and 46 important international organisations. It is the largest destination country for overseas students in Asia and the third largest in the world. Through various channels, the Chinese Government offers scholarships to students from developing countries. In 2018, more than 50,000 students from developing countries received financial support. From September 2015 to March 2019, China provided other developing countries with a total of 3,900 diploma and degree education places and trained for them about 2,000 teachers.

II. Next Steps

There are still imbalances in educational development between urban and rural areas and across regions in China. The country faces many difficulties while seeking a balanced development of compulsory education, such as insufficient quality resources, mismatches between the talents' types, capabilities and structures of their disciplinary subjects on the one hand and needs of the society on the other, and the series of challenges brought about by the new technological revolution.

China will strive to fully realise the objectives identified in the *13th Five-Year Plan* period, i.e., by 2020, compulsory education consolidation rate will reach 95%, kindergarten admission rate for the three years before primary education will reach 85%, high school enrolment rate will reach 90%, and higher education gross enrolment rate will reach 50%. For this purpose, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to further promote integrated development of compulsory education in urban and rural areas, increase support for poverty-stricken areas and ethnic minority regions, narrow down the urban-rural gap in educational development and do a good job in special education.

The second priority is to stick to developing affordable preschool education for public benefits and tackle the problems of availability and cost for the people through greater efforts to increase inputs, introduce more affordable kindergartens, create necessary mechanisms and improve quality.

The third priority is to actively carry out the *Education Modernisation 2035* and the *Implementation Plan for Accelerating Education Modernisation (2018-2020)* and other policy documents. The education sector will be opened wider to the outside world and actions will be taken to promote education collaboration within the BRI framework.



Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

China adheres to the basic national policy of equality between men and women and actively creates a social environment for it. Actions are taken to strengthen social protection, comprehensively ensure women's and girls' rights in political affairs, economy, education, health and other fields through multiple channels, cultivate women's awareness and ability to safeguard their own rights and mobilise various forces in the society to effectively protect women's rights by making full use of new technologies and industries.

I. Implementation Progress

China has created an enabling environment for the development of men and women as equals and introduced gender equality evaluation mechanisms for laws, regulations and policies. Gender perspective and gender analysis are now part of the policy-making process to protect women's legitimate rights and interests from the very beginning. By March 2019, 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities had institutionalised gender equality evaluation for laws and policies. In 2018, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and other six departments issued the *Guiding Opinions on Doing a Good Job in the Work of Village and Community Agreements*, emphasising that these autonomous agreements should incorporate the principle of equality between men and women. A harmonious family environment in which all members are equals is encouraged

for all households. Efforts have been taken to increase supervision by the mass media. The concept and basic national policy of gender equality have become part of the primary and secondary education as 15 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) include gender equality messages in curriculum. The Care for Girls campaign continues.

China protects women's political rights and their participation in decision-making and management continues increasing. China has been continuously increasing women's access to decision-making and management of state affairs. Training courses on women's leadership are available and their demands for political participation are respected with tangible actions. Women account for 24.9% and 20.4% among the 13th National People's Congress deputies and national committee members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, 1.5 and 2.6 percentage points higher than those of the previous sessions respectively. More and more women are now government officials at all levels, actively participate in grass-roots democratic administration and operate and manage businesses.

China protects women's equal economic rights and take actions to promote women's employment and entrepreneurship. Document *Several Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Prioritising Agricultural and Rural Development and Doing a Good Job in Relation to Agriculture, Rural Area and Farmers* published in 2019 made it clear for the first time that in the reform of rural property rights system the legal rights of married daughters must be protected. The *Law on the Contracting of Rural Land* revised in 2018 stipulates that all rights and interests over the contracted land shall be equally enjoyed by all family members within any specific rural household according to law. The *Notice on Further Standardising Recruitment Behavior and Promoting Women's Employment* issued in February 2019 contains specific provisions on prohibiting gender discrimination in employment during the recruitment process and supporting women's employment according to law. Campaigns have been conducted to support women's employment. Enterprises are encouraged to provide targeted training for women so that their ability to open online stores and operate e-commerce will be enhanced and they will be able to seize more income-generating opportunities. By the end of 2018, RMB 383.8 billion had been granted in secured loans to support women's entrepreneurship, helping 6.57 million women start their own businesses. About 8.3 million poor women and potential women leaders had received training and more than 4.15 million poor women were helped to increase income.

China protects women's rights to education and health and follows closely their survival and development. Maternity insurance has become part of the basic medical insurance. The *Decision on Implementing the Comprehensive Two-Child Policy and Reforming and Improving the Management of Family Planning Services* is in full implementation and actions are taken to improve the quality of reproductive technical services. In 2018, 99.9% of the new mothers delivered their babies in hospitals. Over the years, China has been campaigning to extend free screening of breast and cervical cancers and assistance to rural women. From September 2015 to March 2019, more than 40 million and 8 million rural women were screened free of charge for cervical cancer and breast cancer respectively. A hundred thousand poor women suffering breast or cervical cancer each received an assistance of about RMB 10,000 on average. The "Spring Bud Project" has made further steps forward, having financially supported 3.69 million girls, built 1,811 Spring Bud schools with donations, provided vocational education and training for 527,000 girls and developed and distributed 2.17 million sets of children's protection handbooks.

China has enhanced its ability to implement policies and taken various measures to safeguard the rights and interests of women and children. It strictly enforces the *Anti-Domestic Violence Law* and takes action to strengthen prevention and handling of domestic violence with more detailed protocols and procedures. The number of domestic violence complaints in 2018 decreased by 10.8% over the previous year. Governments at all levels now have keener awareness of their anti-trafficking responsibilities as trafficking prevention advocacy became a performance assessment indicator for comprehensive social management. Advocacy and training are conducted to prevent trafficking in women or children, the crime of abducting and trafficking is cracked down upon and abducted women and children are rescued in a timely manner with assistance and resettlement arranged for individual victims. In 2018, legal aid was provided to 361,000 women and 136,000 minors.

II. Next Steps

The gender awareness recognising equality between men and women is yet to prevail in China. Women's status in the family and the level of social recognition given to domestic work are yet to be further improved. Due to constraints in resources, information and other factors, women in impoverished rural areas are still not sufficiently protected. The Chinese

Government firmly protects women's rights and interests and promotes their all-round development:

The first priority is to strengthen the protection of women's rights and interests by further promoting the formulation of relevant plans and regulations. Research will be conducted to formulate an *Outline for the Development of Chinese Women 2021-2030*, which will identify new objectives and strategic measures on the basis of China's need to promote gender equality and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The second priority is to further strengthen public health services for women's health. China will further develop and strengthen the capacity of obstetrics departments and critically-ill maternal and neonatal treatment centres in medical institutions at all levels. Special attention will be paid to pregnancy and labour at maternally advanced age and pregnancy after cesarean section, with high-risk cases managed specifically and critically-illed newborns given more visits. Public health services for women and children will be further materialised and the capacity to serve women and children's health be further improved.

The third priority is women's all-round development by participating in and sharing socio-economic development. More support will be given to women by way of employment and entrepreneurship skills training, subsidised loans and tax reliefs. The government stands firmly to eliminate gender discrimination in employment and strengthen special labour protection for female employees. Greater efforts will be made to train women talents and select women cadres. China will enable women and children anywhere to enjoy convenient public legal service by stepping up publicity, increasing access, opening public legal service sites and improving the village/ neighbourhood legal counsel system.



Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

I. Implementation Progress

China implements the strictest water resources management system and comprehensively promotes sustainable use of water resources. With sustained development of water hygiene infrastructure, China has basically achieved water safety for urban and rural residents, significantly improved drinking water conditions for rural residents and increased by a large margin the efficiency of water use. The "three red lines"¹ have been strictly observed and both the total volume and intensity of water consumption are controlled. With innovative river taming technologies, the comprehensive water management system has been further optimised and water-related ecosystems have been recovering. Cross-border cooperation has increased, with positive contributions towards the water-related sustainable development goals.

¹ Controlling development and utilisation of water resources, water use efficiency and pollution discharge in different water function zones.

China has intensified efforts to improve urban and rural water supply capacity and ensure safety of such supply. Water resources allocation management has been strengthened. By March 2019, the total volume of water diverted from the east and middle routes of the South-to-North Water Transfer Project had exceeded 23 billion cubic metres, effectively improving the capacity of Beijing and other important provinces and cities to secure water supply. The rural drinking water safety consolidation and upgrading project benefited 173 million people from 2016 to 2018. At the end of 2018, the penetration ratios of centralised water supply and tap water in the rural areas were 86% and 81% respectively at the end of 2018, up from 82% and 76% at the end of 2015, with drinking water safety ensured for an additional 16.05 million poor people. Advances have been made in renovating and building urban water supply facilities. By strengthening research in engineering, water safety regulation has been improved and water supplied in cities meets the quality standards. At the end of 2018, the comprehensive production capacity of urban water supply and the total volume of water supplied were 9% and 9.3% respectively higher than the end of 2015. The water quality compliance rate was over 96% and that of water function zones in important rivers and lakes was 76.9%.

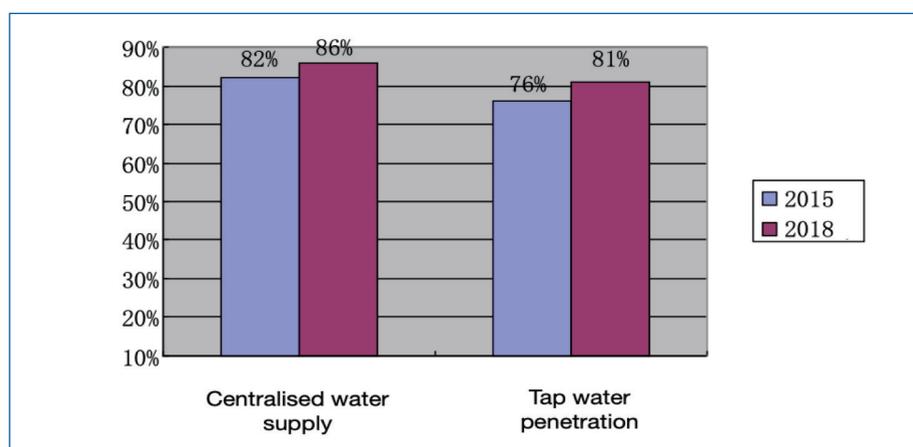


Figure 6.1 Rural water supply in 2015 and 2018

China has strengthened water pollution control and treatment and taken actions to improve sanitation. Redoubled efforts have been made to build up the capacity of cities and towns to prevent and treat sewage. By the end of 2018, 4,332 sewage treatment plants had been built in cities and towns nationwide, with a daily handling capacity of 195 million cubic metres. Solid progress has been made in the remediation of black and smelly water bodies in urban areas, eliminating or basically eliminating 95% of them in 36 key cities. Water pollution prevention and treatment in industrial parks have advanced in an orderly manner, with more than 97% of the country's

industrial clusters at the provincial and higher level having built centralised sewage treatment facilities and installed automatic online monitoring devices. In line with the *Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for the Comprehensive Improvement of the Rural Environment*, actions have been taken to protect drinking water sources for the rural areas and treat household waste and sewage. In 2018, comprehensive environmental improvement was conducted for 25,000 administrative villages across the country. Solid actions have been taken for a "toilet revolution" to further improve urban and rural environment.

China has developed and improved water-saving institutions and mechanisms and increased the efficiency of water use. The mechanisms of water price formation for agricultural use, targeted subsidy and water-saving incentives, engineering construction and maintenance and water use management have been designed and implemented in a coordinated way to facilitate the comprehensive pricing reform targeting water for agricultural use. China has been developing water-saving irrigation, strengthening the renovation and renewal of water-saving facilities, reforming the property rights system of farmland water conservancy facilities and rolling out water-saving technologies. The effective utilisation coefficient of farmland irrigation water increased from 0.536 in 2015 to over 0.55 in 2018. Compared with 2015, water consumption per RMB 10,000 GDP and per RMB 10,000 industrial added value in 2018 was 18.9% and 20.9% lower respectively.

China has further improved the comprehensive water resources management system and made efforts to promote ecological restoration of water bodies. China has fully implemented the river and lake chief system and created river and lake management and protection institutions with clearly-defined responsibilities, orderly coordination, strict supervision and strong protection. The *National Soil and Water Conservation Plan (2015-2030)* has been formulated and implemented to promote soil and water conservation. In 2018, an additional 64,000 square kilometres of land suffering soil erosion was treated and 345 ecologically clean small watersheds were identified. The *Action Plan for Comprehensive Control of Overexploitation of Groundwater in North China* has been implemented and systematic actions taken to rectify overexploitation in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei.

China has actively engaged in South-South Cooperation to help other developing countries enhance water resources management capabilities. It actively supports and collaborates with other developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in planning, technical training, joint development

of research centres and laboratories, assistance with complete sets of equipment and livelihood projects to enhance water environment management and comprehensive capacity-building in areas such as water resources planning, flood control and disaster reduction, water-saving irrigation, seawater desalination, rural drinking water projects, rainwater collection and utilisation and small hydropower development. At the same time, cooperation over cross-border rivers is actively carried out, Lancang-Mekong River Environmental Cooperation Centre was established and the regional freshwater ecosystem management capabilities have been improved.

II. Next Steps

China is still confronted with such challenges as frequent floods, shortage of water resources, serious soil erosion and deterioration of water environment. In order to achieve as scheduled the water-related sustainable development goal, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to specify the basic water security target for rural residents and make sure that all localities fully accomplish the targets and tasks identified in the *Thirteenth Five-Year Plan on Consolidating and Upgrading Drinking Water Safety in Villages*. By the end of 2020, drinking water will be secured for all registered poor population and the level of water supply security for 60 million rural people will be improved.

The second priority is to further improve the legal system to strengthen the division and fulfillment of responsibilities for water safety and law enforcement supervision. A system enabling scientific and technological innovation will be developed to accelerate the transformation and application of research results. Actions will be taken to improve quality and efficiency of urban sewage treatment, make up for insufficient sewage collection and treatment facilities at accelerated speed and promote the use of reclaimed water.

The third priority is to speed up work related to water distribution in major river basins, rationally develop and optimise the allocation of water resources and strictly control the intensity of water resources development and utilisation. Efforts will be made to control groundwater overdraft in North China and to promote water conservation, loss reduction and uses of unconventional water sources. Comprehensive prevention and control of soil erosion and supervision over soil and water conservation will be strengthened in an all-round way. The country will also strengthen water-related South-South Cooperation and cross-border river cooperation.



Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese Government has integrated the energy-related sustainable development goal and related targets in national plans. *The Energy Production and Consumption Revolution Strategy (2016-2030)*, *the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Energy Development* and *the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Renewable Energy Development* specify the medium- and long-term objectives, short-term targets and main tasks for energy development. China has basically eliminated energy poverty, sped up restructuring of the energy mix, upgraded clean energy equipment and technologies and further strengthened international cooperation and exchanges.

China has eliminated energy poverty and provided access to electricity for people previously without such access. For China, providing power supply for people in areas without electricity and eliminating energy poverty has always been an important task in its power construction effort and a necessary condition for a relatively well-off society in an all-round way. In 2015, the problem was

resolved and everyone has since then gained access to electricity. It has also been renovating and upgrading rural power grid so as to further improve the reliability and capacity of power supply by rural grids and satisfy the power needs in both urban and rural areas.

China has made vigorous efforts to develop and utilise renewable energies and its energy mix has been further optimised. China sticks to the direction of clean and low-carbon energy and actively develops renewable energy sources such as hydropower, wind and solar. Its *Energy Production and Consumption Revolution Strategy (2016-2030)* proposes to increase the proportion of non-fossil energy consumption to 15% by 2020 and 20% by 2030. By the end of 2018, the total installed capacity of renewables had reached 728 million kilowatts, up 12% year on year, accounting for 38.3% of the total installed capacity in China, up 1.7 percentage points from the year before. China has the largest scale of renewable energy development and utilisation in the world. In 2018, power generated by renewables reached 1.87 trillion kilowatt-hours, 170 billion more than the previous year, accounting for 26.7% of the total electricity generation, up 0.2 percentage points over the previous year.

China's energy development strategy prioritises conservation and efficiency. The double controls over the total volume and intensity of energy consumption have been exercised and the national targets for total energy consumption control and energy-saving have been broken down into specific requirements for different localities, major industries and key energy users. Performance of all levels of government and key users is assessed for fulfillment of their responsibilities towards the double control targets. China's energy intensity in 2018 decreased by 11.35% over that in 2015, saving about 540 million tonnes of standard coal, which is equivalent to avoiding an emission of about 1.17 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. Ten major energy-saving actions have been taken, including actions to increase efficiency and save energy in industries, buildings and transportation and by public institutions. China has encouraged major energy users to build up online energy consumption monitoring systems. Contract energy management has been rolled out and energy-saving services have been developed. To intensify research, development and spread of energy-saving technologies, China published the *National Promotional Catalogue of Key Energy-Saving and Low-Carbon Technologies (Section on Energy-Saving Technologies)*, listing 260 priority technologies in 13 industries and expressing support to integrated application of energy-saving technologies.

China has increased investments to promote continuous upgrading of clean energy equipment manufacturing technologies. The country vigorously develops these technologies and is now capable of manufacturing some core equipment such as gigawatt-level mixed flow hydropower units and 400,000-kilowatt pumped storage units. It has researched into and developed on its own LHD tidal current energy equipment to an internationally leading level. China has realised the mass production and commercial application of 1.5MW-5MW wind turbines, started production of offshore large capacity wind turbines (7.6MW) and decreased the starting wind speed of low-speed wind turbines. In photovoltaic power generation, the conversion efficiencies of monocrystalline and polycrystalline silicon batteries have already reached 21.8% and 19.2% respectively. The output of photovoltaic modules reached 85.7 million kilowatts in 2018.

China has strengthened international exchanges and cooperation in energy and provided support for other developing countries. China has been introducing advanced technologies from other countries through experience sharing, technical exchanges and specific projects, engaging in joint research and technical cooperation on ocean energy with relevant countries and promoting development of China's clean energy industry. It has actively assisted other developing countries in building energy infrastructure and providing clean energy equipment. It has also helped others to increase the penetration of modern energy and clean energy and played an important role in tackling local power shortages. The 8th Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting was held in Beijing to carry out activities within the ASEAN clean energy capacity building programme, provide capacity building training for ASEAN energy authorities, share experiences in power industry development and support relevant countries in developing sustainable modern energy services.

II. Next Steps

Renewable energies are developing rapidly in China. But the country is still challenged by low efficiency of the overall energy system, lack of integration, mutual complementarity or cascade utilisation among different functional systems such as electricity, heat and gas and salient mismatches in energy resources allocation across provinces. China will focus on the following priorities in the future:

The first priority is to continue improving energy efficiency and vigorously advocate energy conservation. The double controls over total energy

consumption and energy intensity will be further implemented with a view to reducing by 2020 energy intensity by 15% compared with 2015 and keeping total energy consumption within 5 billion tonnes of standard coal. Energy saving must be a constant theme in the whole process of socio-economic and energy development. Measures will include strengthening energy conservation in key areas, consolidating energy-saving management by key energy users, establishing and improving the system of energy conservation laws, regulations and standards, increasing research, development and promotion of energy-saving technologies and strictly containing excessive growth of energy consumption so as to support stable and healthy socio-economic development with less energy consumption.

The second priority is to increase substantially the share of renewables. Actions will be taken to actively develop hydro, wind and photovoltaic power generation plus geothermal, biomass and ocean energies as well as other renewable energy sources, strengthen overall planning of power supply and power grid, actively develop smart power grid with science-based arrangement of capacities in peak regulation, frequency modulation and energy storage and effectively tackle wind, water and light curtailments.

The third priority is to strengthen its capacity of scientific and technological innovation in energy. Measures will be taken to increase financial and policy support, promote building up the innovation capacity, facilitate research and development of key technologies and equipment, accelerate the transformation of scientific and technological results into real productive forces and reduce the cost of new energy development and use.



Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

China pursues the new vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development. While furthering the supply-side structural reform, China promotes high-quality development and pursues steady growth, reform, structural readjustment and livelihood improvement as a whole by stabilising employment, finance, foreign funds, investments and expectations. As a result, the economic operations are kept within a reasonable range, the economic structure is continuously optimised, new momentums of development emerge and grow rapidly and the economy, with its large size, still develops and progresses steadily.

I. Implementation Progress

With innovation in and improvement of macro-control, the Chinese economy has been running smoothly. As China conducts macro regulation to keep main economic indicators within an appropriate range, it has also improved targeted and well-timed regulation and carried out anticipatory adjustments and fine-tuning. The country pursues a proactive fiscal policy, focusing on cutting taxes and

fees, strengthening areas of weakness, and promoting structural adjustment. In 2018, we reduced VAT rates, expanded the coverage of tax reliefs for small and micro businesses and introduced preferential tax policies to encourage research and development and innovation. China has also improved the composition of budgetary spending, put idle budgetary funds to use and ensured spending in key areas. China maintains a prudent monetary policy and encourages financial support for the real economy. Through a combination of measures to ease funding shortages faced by private as well as small and micro businesses, initial success has been made in curbing the rising cost of financing. China has promptly responded to abnormal fluctuations in the stock and bond markets and kept the RMB exchange rate basically stable. China's foreign exchange reserves are maintained at over US\$3 trillion. In 2018, China's GDP grew by 6.6% year on year, totaling RMB 90 trillion. The economy maintains a medium-to-high growth. Its GDP firmly ranks the second in the world, contributing nearly 30% to world economic growth.

China has sped up supply-side structural reforms and expanded new development momentums. The capacity reduction, de-stocking, deleveraging, cost reduction and underdeveloped areas improvement interventions have led to remarkable results. From 2016 to 2018, the iron and steel production capacity was reduced by over 150 million tonnes and coal production capacity was reduced by over 810 million tonnes. Resolute actions have been taken to dispose of the "zombie enterprises". The implementation measures for capacity replacement in traditional highly energy-consuming industries have been published and advanced practical energy-saving and environmental-friendly processes, technologies and equipment have been rolled out. The service industry has become a main driving force of economic growth. In 2018, the service industry produced an added value of RMB 47 trillion and its contribution to economic growth was 59.7%. The growths of high-tech and equipment manufacturing sectors are obviously faster than that of general industry. To create new momentums for economic development, China has produced a series of documents, such as the *Guidelines on Deepening the Integrated Development between the Manufacturing Industry and Internet*, the *White Paper on Big Data Standardisation*, the *Three-Year Action Plan for Promoting Development of a New Generation Artificial Intelligence Industry (2018-2020)* and the *Guidelines of the State Council on Deepening "Internet+ Advanced Manufacturing Industry" to Develop the Industrial Internet*. From 2015 to 2018, 307 pilot demonstration projects of intelligent manufacturing were implemented in four batches. China has further pushed forward the reforms to streamline administration, delegate powers and improve regulation and services as well as the business system reform. It has also implemented

the *Plan for Promoting Inclusive Finance Development (2016-2020)*, thus revitalising the development of local economies and small and micro enterprises.

With a policy to prioritise employment, China has steadily promoted the employment of key groups. China upholds the guidelines under which workers keep the initiative in their own hands when choosing jobs, employment is regulated by the market, and the government promotes employment. More attention has been given to stabilising employment. In 2018, 13.61 million new entrants to the labour market got employed; registered urban unemployment rate was 3.8%, being the lowest in years; surveyed urban unemployment rate at year end was 4.9%. Comprehensive measures have been taken to promote employment for graduates of vocational schools. In 2018, the national average employment rate of secondary vocational school graduates was 96.9% and employment rate for higher vocational school graduates at six months upon graduation was above 90%. China has taken measures to strengthen employment security, support and training for the disabled. From 2015 to 2018, an additional 1.3 million people with disability got jobs and 2.12 million received training in urban and rural areas. Continuing education for migrant workers has been strengthened to improve their skills and competence. Vocational skills training bases have been built to improve the vocational skills of industrial workers. China has also enhanced vocational skills training and reintegration guidance for inmates and provided opportunities for juvenile delinquents to correct themselves through skilled labour and vocational skills training. In 2018, 5.51 million urban unemployed people found new jobs and 1.81 million people with employment difficulties were re-employed.

China has strengthened policy implementation and law enforcement to protect the legitimate rights and interests of workers. The labour contract system applies extensively and advocacy and training on the relevant laws and policies have been strengthened to raise the legal awareness of both enterprise managers and workers. Reliable measures have been taken to advance the collective contract system. By the end of 2018, 1.75 million collective contracts involving 155 million employees had been considered valid upon review by human resources and social security departments nationwide. The minimum wage system has been implemented on a pilot basis for workers to also enjoy the fruits of economic development. The government has been strengthening routine inspections and examinations, special inspections, documentation reviews and handling of complaints and reports and cracking down in accordance with the law on illegal acts of infringement upon labour

rights and interests.

China promotes international cooperation and helps other developing countries to be better integrated into multilateral trade. More than 160 trade promotion and assistance projects such as customs facilities and personnel training have been provided for other developing countries, especially some least developed ones in Africa. China actively promotes industrial connection and capacity cooperation with Africa and strongly supports Africa to improve the soft and hard conditions for internal and external trade and investment. Chinese enterprises are encouraged to expand investment in Africa. China has been increasing imports from Africa, especially products other than resources, implementing trade facilitation projects and supporting African countries in developing their economies and improving employment.

II. Next Steps

The Chinese economy now faces increasing downward pressure. Consumption growth is slowing down and growth of effective investment is sluggish. There are many difficulties in the real economy. Financing difficulties confronting private and small and micro businesses have not been effectively alleviated and the business environment is far from meeting expectations of market players. The ability of indigenous innovation is not strong enough and China lags prominently behind others with regard to some critical core technologies. Employment is under great pressure and structural contradictions are prominent. In light of these, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to innovate and improve the approaches of macro-control and maintain a stable and healthy economic development. Efforts will be made to push forward supply-side structural reforms and improve the quality and core competitiveness of the manufacturing industry. We will further implement the strategy of innovation-driven development and vigorously promote the real economy. We will also accelerate reforms in key areas and continuously stimulate growth momentum and market vitality.

The second priority is to stick to the employment-first strategy and implement a more proactive employment policy, focusing on the employment and entrepreneurship of young people such as college graduates, adopting a holistic approach to promote the employment of poor women, people with disability and other groups of people experiencing difficulties in both urban and rural areas and maintaining the overall stability of the employment

situation. At the same time, we will continue strengthening law enforcement, improving regulation over labour and employment and safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of all kinds of workers.

The third priority is to further develop and optimise an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation. China will fully implement and further improve fiscal and financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises, improve the service and financing environment for them and steer them and the private sector at large towards development through innovation and transformation. International cooperation will be deepened to assist developing countries in economic and trade development, especially the least developed ones.



Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

I. Implementation Progress

China has been expediting the development of safe, efficient, smart, green and interconnected infrastructure; strengthening the integration between industrialisation and informatisation; and making the industrial sector more inclusive and sustainable. Financial services have been enhanced to optimise the financing environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on an ongoing basis. The strategy of innovation-driven development has been vigorously implemented to boost the capacity for continuous innovation. Collaboration within the framework of the BRI has made headway, scaling up international cooperation for development and providing greater support to other developing countries in infrastructure development, industrialisation and informatisation.

China has increased investment on an ongoing basis in the comprehensive upgrading of nationwide infrastructure. The development of a modern integrated transport system has been

accelerated with breakthroughs on multiple fronts of transport infrastructure. Urban passenger transport facilities and equipment have been scaled up, matched with upgraded urban and rural passenger transport networks with wider coverage, greater penetration and higher standards of service. With the world's largest 4G network in place, new infrastructure for artificial intelligence, the industrial Internet and the Internet of Things have been further developed. Research, development and industrial application of 5G technology have made headway with accelerated development of 5G networks. Village-level access to broadband service has been enabled. As at the end of 2018, the national railway operating mileage stood at more than 131,000 kilometres, including over 29,000 kilometres of high-speed rail. Construction of the high-speed rail grid system of eight north-south lines and eight east-west lines has started on a full scale. The total mileage of rural highways amounts to 4.04 million kilometres. The percentage of hardened roads in towns/townships and administrative villages has reached 99.6% and 99.44% respectively and more than 98.6% and 97.1% of them have passenger coach services. There are 6.48 million mobile communications base stations in total, including 3.72 million 4G base stations, among which 439,000 were added in 2018 alone.

China has expedited industrial transformation and upgrading to make the industrial sector more inclusive and sustainable. Robust efforts have been made to promote smart, high-value-added, green and service-oriented transformation, rigorously contain the expansion of energy-intensive industries, promote the development of low-carbon industries such as information technology, high-end equipment manufacturing and new energy and phase out backward production capacities while addressing overcapacity. In 2018, the value added of high-technology manufacturing and equipment manufacturing industries accounted for 13.9% and 32.9% respectively of the value added of all industrial enterprises of designated size and above. The energy intensity of the enterprises of designated size and above in 2018 decreased by 13.18% over 2015, representing energy savings of approximately 400 million tonnes of standard coal and a reduction of 1 billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions. SMEs have enjoyed a better financing environment thanks to a targeted cut in the reserve requirement ratio for SMEs at the policy level and the progress made in developing a credit system for SMEs. As at the end of June 2019, the number of borrowers among small and micro businesses nationwide stood at 21.6086 million with a loan balance of RMB 35.63 trillion, including RMB 10.7 trillion under the inclusive finance scheme. By the end of 2018, credit files for a total of 2.61 million micro, small and medium-sized enterprises had been built and 544,000 of them had

obtained loans from banks, with a loan balance of RMB 11 trillion.

China has pushed for the implementation of the innovation-driven development strategy, leading to greater capacity for continuous innovation. The *Outline of the National Innovation-Driven Development Strategy* and the *Several Opinions on Deepening the Reform of Systems and Mechanisms and Accelerating the Implementation of Innovation-Driven Development Strategy* have been issued and implemented, with ever greater investment in science and technology. Three new entries have been added to the list of cities tasked to build pilot demonstration zones for the implementation of the 2030 agenda. Preferential policies such as tax incentives have been applied to guide enterprises to invest more in research and innovation. In 2018, total spending on research and experiments as a percentage of GDP was estimated at 2.18%. The full time equivalent of research and development workforce reached 4.19 million person-years, highest in the world and so was the number of patent applications and patents granted. There were 181,000 high-tech enterprises, more than 130,000 small and medium-sized technology companies and RMB 1.78 trillion's worth of transactions under technology contracts. The rate of contribution of scientific and technological advances to economic growth in 2018 was estimated at over 58.5%. In 2019, China's overall innovation capacity ranked the 14th in the world.

China has been promoting international cooperation within the BRI framework, contributing positively to international production capacity cooperation and infrastructural connectivity. From 2013 to 2018, Chinese enterprises invested over USD 90 billion directly in BRI participating countries, with an average annual increase of 5.2%. The contract value of newly signed overseas projects in these countries registered over USD 600 billion, representing an average annual increase of 11.9%. China has signed capacity cooperation documents with more than 40 countries and third-party market cooperation documents with many countries. Projects like the China-Laos Railway, the China-Thailand Railway, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway and the Hungary-Serbia Railway have been making progress step by solid step. The Gwadar, Hambantota, Piraeus, Halifax and other port projects have been proceeding smoothly. Marked progress has been achieved in energy cooperation projects in the fields of electricity, oil and gas, nuclear power, new energy, coal and so on and in the construction of cross-border fiber optic communications systems. As at the end of April 2019, Chinese enterprises had helped to build a number of economic cooperation and trade zones in the BRI participating countries, with a cumulative investment of close to USD

40 billion, driving the creation of nearly 300,000 jobs in the host countries. A total of 15,000 train services operated by China Railway Express had run between Chinese and European destinations.

China has intensified South-South Cooperation to help other developing countries improve their levels of industrialisation and informatisation.

More than 20 projects have been launched in LDCs, including disaster relief command centres, earthquake relief equipment, fiber optic networks, data processing and communications technologies, to help improve their infrastructure and boost their disaster resilience. China has also helped train local information and communications technology professionals for Africa, Asia and other regions to enable wider use of these technologies. A large number of infrastructure projects have been completed in African countries. The completed and ongoing projects have helped Africa expand its highway mileage by at least 30,000 kilometres, its annual port throughput by 85 million tonnes and its power generation capacity by nearly 20,000 megawatts.

II. Next Steps

China's industrialisation process is hamstrung by multiple constraints, including a weak foundation in science and technology and an innovation capacity that cries out for a boost. There remains an imbalance between urban and rural areas in infrastructure development. While the infrastructure in indigent areas is in urgent need of improvement, urban infrastructure must be scaled up to meet the mounting demand, built to higher standards and operated with a more disciplined management system. Going forward, China will be focusing on the following priorities:

The first priority is to improve the transport grid system comprising 10 north-south and 10 east-west corridors by connecting and extending the main arteries. The target is to increase the total mileage of the multimodal transport system to around 5.4 million kilometres by 2020. Sustained efforts will be made to upgrade the information and communications infrastructure on an ongoing basis and accelerate the commercial application of 5G technology. No effort will be spared to promote the development of well built, well managed, well maintained and well operated rural roads to high quality standards and provide safer, more accessible, more efficient and greener transport services. Development of the public transit-centred urban transport service system will be accelerated.

The second priority is to continue implementing the innovation-driven development strategy in greater depth, operationalise the national medium- and long-term science and technology development plan and provide greater support for research and development. Enterprises will be put in the driver's seat. A business environment more conducive to startup investment and a policy environment more conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship will be created. Policy support will be ramped up to guide financial services to better support SMEs. The catalytic role of demonstration bases for entrepreneurship and innovation will be further unleashed to bring innovation, entrepreneurship and creative initiative up a notch and steer the mass entrepreneurship and innovation campaign towards greater depth. During the current 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), around 10 pilot demonstration zones for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be created.

The third priority is to align BRI international cooperation with the 2030 Agenda. The idea is to build high-quality, sustainable, risk-proof, affordable, inclusive and accessible infrastructure and use the infrastructure so built as prime mover to drive industrial agglomeration, economic development and livelihood improvement, thus creating greater synergy.

The fourth priority is to deepen South-South Cooperation to support the industrialisation process of other developing countries and help enhance the levels of infrastructure development and informatisation in the least developed ones through, inter alia, technical assistance and capacity building.



Goal 10 Reduce inequalities within and among countries

I. Implementation Progress

Upholding the philosophy of development for shared benefit, the Chinese Government has taken a combination of measures to stabilise employment, increase incomes, secure economic fundamentals and make up for shortfalls. Sustained progress has been achieved in priority areas such as promoting mass entrepreneurship and innovation and overcoming critical challenges in poverty alleviation. Fiscal support has been steadily intensified with tailored solutions that cater to the actual needs on the ground with greater precision. Universal coverage of social security backstop has been more or less achieved. Urban and rural residents, especially low-income groups, have benefited from steady employment and income increases. The people's rights to participation and development on an equal footing have been assured to uphold social justice and fairness. At the same time, China has actively promoted the establishment of a new type of international relations characterised by mutual respect, fairness and justice and mutually beneficial cooperation and deepened international cooperation in development, thus contributing to the elimination of inequalities within and among countries.

China has been promoting stable employment and income increases for urban and rural populations, thus narrowing the income gap between them.

Efforts have been made to advance the new type of urbanisation and rural revitalisation in a coordinated way, implement the master strategy for regional development and differentiated regional policies, formulate a plan of action for income increases, deepen the reform of the income distribution system, ensure greater fairness in the income distribution process, further reform the rural land system, enhance essential capacity building for income distribution, revise the *Individual Income Tax Law* and optimise the tax rate structure. The pilot projects for increasing the incomes of urban and rural populations have been implemented in greater depth to deliver on the incentives for income increases of priority groups. The per capita disposable income nationwide in 2018 was RMB 28,228, compared to RMB 14,617 among rural residents in general and RMB 10,371 among those in poverty-stricken areas, indicating further reductions in income disparities.

China has improved institutional assurances to promote social equity.

Rule of law has been strengthened to ensure equal opportunity. The *Provisional Regulations on Residence Permits* has been enacted; the *Law on the Promotion of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises* amended; and the *Foreign Investment Law* deliberated on and passed. Applicable policies, laws and regulations have been reviewed and updated to ensure the effective access of private capital to finance, energy, railway, telecommunications and other sectors and to foster a stable, transparent and predictable level playing field. Solid progress has been made in the new-type urbanisation. Nearly 14 million people formerly engaged in agriculture have taken up residence in cities and towns with guaranteed access to urban public goods and services. A central adjustment system for basic pension insurance funds available to corporate employees has been put in place. The basic pension for retirees and urban and rural residents has been increased. The policies on, inter alia, payment of social security premiums on behalf of the poor have been put into practice to encourage the poor to join insurance schemes. Focus has been placed on some key groups, such as migrant workers, those in flexible employment and those working in new and emerging professions. For persons with disabilities, the government has been working to ensure that all eligible individuals can benefit from the living allowance for people experiencing financial hardships and nursing allowance for the severely disabled and ensure their equal and full participation in social life. The reform of immigration administration has been deepened and the National Immigration Administration has been created to further advance the reform with a view to ensuring more convenient and smooth personnel exchanges with more efficient and professional entry and

exit administration and services. At the end of 2018, expatriates resident in China were over 650,000.

China has been working to improve global economic governance and create an international environment conducive to the development of developing countries. As a staunch supporter of multilateralism, China has been actively participating in the reform of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) and the reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO); safeguarding the WTO-centred international trading system; pushing for the IMF quota and governance reforms; supporting the World Bank's voting power reform; and promoting the operations and development of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS New Development Bank; actively participating in multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as G20 and BRICS; and strengthening macro-economic policy coordination, with a view to increasing the representation, influence and voice of developing countries in global economic governance. During the period between January 2015 and March 2019, China imported RMB 51.78 billion's worth of goods and services from LDCs on a preferential basis, with RMB 5.66 billion in tax relief and RMB 5.03 billion in tariff relief. Within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China has contributed USD 15 billion in grant assistance and interest-free loans to African countries since 2015 and will provide a further USD 15 billion in grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans. China has written off the outstanding intergovernmental interest-free debts of least developed African countries due by the end of 2015 and will cancel similar debts due to mature by the end of 2018.

II. Next Steps

In China, the imbalance in development terms between urban and rural areas, across regions and among different population groups remains a prominent issue, leading to an insufficient and low-quality supply of basic public services as well as insufficient participation of the private sector in the provision of those services. Factors such as industrial restructuring, informatisation, technological upgrading and replacement of human workers with machines have further widened the income gap between low-income groups with limited skills and other groups. Going forward, the Chinese Government will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to improve the systems and mechanisms for more integrated rural and urban development. This includes efforts to speed up

new-type urbanisation and rural revitalisation, facilitate the resettlement of the former agricultural population in urban areas, develop urban clusters and metropolitan hubs, address the shortfalls in urban infrastructure and public services and enhance the integrated carrying capacity of cities on an ongoing basis. This also entails efforts to optimise the regional development landscape, encourage mutually complementary development across regions leveraging their respective advantages and narrow down development gaps across regions.

The second priority is to consistently give precedence to safeguarding and improving people's livelihood, strengthen the safety net, improve the support and assistance mechanisms and effectively guarantee the basic livelihood of those in need. This entails more support for employment and entrepreneurship, greater opportunities for labour participation and better ability of low-income groups to increase their income. A reform package aimed at improving the income distribution system will be implemented in greater depth to promote fairer and more orderly distribution of income, keep income growth of urban and rural populations largely consistent with economic growth, reduce income disparities, optimise the distribution pattern and enhance the sense of gain, sense of security and sense of happiness among low-income groups.

The third priority is to continue improving the legal system for, inter alia, the reform of the administrative examination and approval procedures and the enhancement of equal protection of property rights, while staying the course that guides the overall reform process, namely, following market dynamics, respecting law and seeking alignment with international practice, with a view to creating a level playing field for both domestic and foreign investors and attracting more foreign investment with an improved investment environment.

The fourth priority is to continue pushing forward global governance reform so that developing countries are better represented and have a bigger voice, promote BRI international cooperation, strengthen South-South Cooperation and lend impetus to socio-economic development in developing countries, especially the least developed ones, and encourage developed countries to fulfil their responsibilities so as to build a new international political and economic order that is fairer and more just.



Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese Government prioritises the protection of citizens' right of habitation as an important part of the effort to build a society of moderate prosperity in an all-round way and has pushed ahead with new-type urbanisation, urban and rural greening and the development of climate-resilient cities. As a result, the living environment has steadily improved and so has the urban transport system; significant progress has been achieved in the greening of urban and rural areas; cultural heritage sites have been effectively protected; per capita negative environmental impact has been further reduced; and both disaster resilience and urban sustainable development capacities have been further enhanced.

China has been pushing ahead with government-subsidised housing projects, leading to sustained improvements in the living conditions of urban and rural populations. Steady progress has been registered in the redevelopment of shantytowns and solid steps have been taken in public rental housing development. Affordable housing with property rights shared between the government and

residents has been developed to prescribed standards within the parameters of local conditions. Continued progress has also been made in the renovation of dilapidated buildings in rural areas. From 2015 to 2018, the Central Government allocated RMB 871.4 billion to subsidise affordable housing projects in urban areas, which enabled local governments to start working on approximately 26 million government-subsidised urban housing units. As at the end of 2018, 15.07 million units of public rental housing had been distributed nationwide to provide housing for more than 37 million people living in hardship and close to 22 million people had received rental subsidies. In 2018, redevelopment of 6.26 million units in various types of shantytowns began.

China has implemented the public transport-first development strategy, as a result of which urban facilities are now more inclusive. In order to improve the top-level design of urban public transport, the Government has expedited legislation and institutional development and promulgated the *Regulations on the Management of Urban Bus and Trolley Bus Passenger Transport*, the *National Plan for the Development of Integrated Modern Transport System 2016-2020*, the *Implementation Opinions on Further Strengthening and Improving Travel Services for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities and the Green Mobility Action Plan (2019-2020)*, to raise the bar on accessibility while creating an inclusive transport environment, improve road safety, make travelling experience more enjoyable and provide more standardised services. Progress has been achieved in the development of accessible facilities in urban, rural and home settings.

China has taken a combination of measures to promote green development of urban and rural areas, thus further enhancing urban resilience. Urbanisation has moved up a new level and achieved better quality growth. In 2018, the urbanisation rate of China's *de jure* population amounted to 59.58%, with urban population reaching 831 million. Efforts have been made to expand ecological rehabilitation and urban restoration, promote climate-resilient urban development, increase urban greenways and parkland and set higher energy efficiency standards for buildings and higher energy-saving rates for residential buildings in different categories of regions. As at the end of 2018, nearly 100% of all new buildings in urban areas nationwide were compliant with the mandatory energy efficiency ratings; the total floor area of green buildings in urban areas nationwide stood at 3.2 billion square metres; and more than 50% of new urban residential buildings were green buildings. In Northern China, the development of clean heating cities and sponge cities on a trial basis has been under way. As at the end of 2018, 538 cities

had drawn up special plans for sponge city development; over 4,900 pilot projects had been completed in 30 sponge cities; a total of 56,000 kilometres of greenways had been completed nationwide; and the urban residential environment had markedly improved. Moreover, laws and regulations on anti-seismic measures, disaster prevention and post-disaster response have been refined. In 2018, fatalities and missing persons, collapsed properties and direct economic losses caused by natural disasters decreased by 59%, 78% and 34% respectively compared to the most recent five-year averages.

China has strengthened the governance capacity of cities and further reduced the per capita negative environmental impact. Progress has been achieved in the sorting and treatment of urban and rural sewage and garbage. In 2018, the total amount of sewage treated at urban sewage treatment plants reached 60.6 billion cubic metres and the hazard-free disposal rate of urban household garbage reached 98.1%. In 2019, all cities at and above the prefectural level have begun household waste sorting on a full scale and more than 80% of administrative villages nationwide have seen their household waste properly disposed of. Comprehensive progress has been achieved in air pollution control with the launch in 2018 of the *Three-Year Action Plan for Protecting the Blue Sky*. In the same year, the average annual concentrations of fine particulate matters (PM_{2.5}) and inhalable particulate matters (PM₁₀) across 338 cities at and above the prefectural level nationwide decreased by 22% and 18.4% respectively compared to 2015, with significant decreases in other air pollutants. At the same time, measures have been taken to promote the selection of national-level scenic spots and the filing of world cultural heritage nominations to strengthen the continuity and protection of natural and cultural heritage. As at the end of July 2019, China's world heritage sites totalled a world-beating 55, of which 40 are on the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

China has scaled up South-South Cooperation to support other developing countries in achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals. China has implemented disaster prevention and reduction and post-disaster reconstruction projects in the countries concerned to shore up their disaster resilience in urban and rural areas by, inter alia, providing project-based package assistance or in-kind support and conducting technical cooperation. From September 2015 to March 2019, more than 120 hospitals, schools and office buildings have been built for some of the LDCs and dams and other infrastructure have been built for Senegal, Mauritius and other countries to provide water supply in urban and rural areas.

II. Next Steps

China's urban governance competence and disaster resilience remain to be strengthened. There is still room for improvement in its housing security system. Issues such as urban waterlogging, traffic congestion and safety hazards of old, small and dilapidated complexes remain prominent. Chinese cities are still lacking in experience and capacity in terms of climate resilience. In order to achieve inclusive, safe and sustainable development of cities, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to continue advancing the transformation of shantytowns step by step, actively implement the subsidy policy for public rental housing so that such housing can provide more security and actively push ahead with the redevelopment of dilapidated housing in rural areas.

The second priority is to improve urban and rural planning, strengthen urban governance capacity and push ahead with the all-round development of green cities, climate-resilient cities, sponge cities, accessible cities and public transit demonstration cities, so that a fully accessible transit service system can take shape by 2020. Efforts will be intensified to build various types of parkland, greenways and green corridors and launch research on green building legislation, so as to truly protect the blue sky.

The third priority is to further advance the people-centred new-type urbanisation and improve soft governance and refined service delivery to make cities more livable, inclusive and caring.



Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

I. Implementation Progress

The Chinese Government is fully committed to the principle of green development, places itself squarely behind circular economy and has built the notions of environmental protection and sustainable use of resources and energy into the processes of new-type industrialisation, informatisation, urbanisation and agricultural modernisation. It has introduced the double-control system, namely, controlling both the volume and intensity of energy consumption and water consumption as prescribed in the *13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development*. It has continued to conserve food use and reduce food spoilage, better manage chemicals and waste, promote green public procurement and raise public awareness of green development and environmental protection in a bid to foster sustainable consumption and production patterns in an incremental manner.

China has stepped up the implementation of relevant policies and a low-carbon industry mix has gradually materialised. Measures have been taken to implement the *National Plan for the Development of Energy Efficient and Environment-Friendly Industries 2016-2020*, the *Plan of Action for Nationwide Energy Conservation 2016-2020* and the Energy Production and Consumption Revolution Strategy

to promote energy conservation and emissions reduction and improve energy efficiency. Actions have been taken to strengthen manufacturing, improve the standardisation of green manufacturing, support major projects to develop green factories and green industrial parks and promote wider application of advanced energy-saving technologies and equipment. Scientific and technological innovation has provided greater technical support for the green development of agriculture; comprehensive research and development for reduced and more efficient use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides has been conducted; and technological demonstration and wider application of research findings have been accelerated. As a result, the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers in agricultural production has been substantially reduced. Rigorous measures have been taken to control the expansion of energy-intensive industries, promote the development of low-carbon industries such as new energy sources and phase out backward production capacities. From 2015 to 2018, the production of new-energy vehicles by industrial enterprises above designated size increased from 328,000 to 1.15 million; the installed capacity of wind power reached 22 GW; and CO₂ emissions per RMB 10,000 of GDP was down by 14.6%.

China has facilitated measures to encourage food conservation and reduce food spoilage, resulting in significant reductions in spoilage and waste throughout the cycles of food production and consumption. Specialised post-harvest service centres have been established to offer paid services to farmers covering the entire food cycle to reduce grain spoilage and waste, promote new mechanisation technologies for combined harvesting of grain crops, reduce grain spoilage in harvest, extend low-temperature drying technology and reduce putrefactive spoilage. As at the end of 2018, around 1,400 post-harvest service centres and over 60,000 granaries using scientific storage methodology had been established and made available to farmers. A series of campaigns and events to spread scientific knowledge about grain conservation and spoilage prevention had been conducted, thus further enhancing public awareness of the importance to cherish grain and avoid waste.

China has taken a combination of measures to promote all-round saving and efficient use of resources. The *Action To Spearhead Circular Development* has been issued to galvanise the development of circular economy on all fronts by strengthening institutional supply, injecting new impetus to circular development and launching major special campaigns. The *Guiding Opinions on Promoting the Construction of Resource Recycling Bases and the Interim Measures for the Evaluation and Management of Comprehensive Utilization of Industrial Solid Waste Resources* have been issued to promote centralised and standardised treatment and recycling of industrial and municipal wastes

such as tailings, metallurgical slags, scrap steel, non-ferrous scrap metals, used tyres, construction waste and kitchen waste. The solid waste reduction and disposal capacity has been further improved. The total capacity of authorised use and disposal of hazardous waste by licensed entities has reached 81.781 million tonnes per year and the hazard-free disposal capacity for urban household waste has reached 766,000 tonnes per day. Pilot projects for sustainable forest management have been carried out and a variety of forest management models developed on a trial basis to improve the overall quality of forest resources. The *National Plan of Action on Water Conservation* has been issued and a number of advanced and appropriate water-saving technologies, processes and equipment have been selected and released, with intensified efforts to promote water-saving technological upgrades and conduct publicity and education campaigns to comprehensively improve water efficiency. The *Law on the Administration of the Use of Sea Areas* has been implemented, which prioritises the integrated and efficient use of the resources available within a given sea area, minimum impact on marine ecology and greater protection of natural coastlines as primary considerations in the examination and approval of applications for the use of sea areas. As from July 2016, the resource tax reform was fully launched. The environmental protection tax was introduced effective from January 2018, whereby the green taxation system was further improved.

The government has led by example to foster a sustainable consumption pattern. It has formulated the *Guiding Opinions on Promoting Green Consumption* to encourage green consumption. The green procurement policy has been improved with a better implementation mechanism. The scope of government procurement of energy-efficient and environment-friendly products has been broadened and furniture, printing and other goods and services are required to use low-volatility raw and auxiliary materials. As at the end of 2018, energy-efficient and environment-friendly products accounted for more than 90% of all products procured by the government in the same categories. A range of regimes have been put in place, such as those for the certification of energy-saving products, energy efficiency labelling, the designation of energy efficiency “leaders” and statistical survey of the sales of energy-efficient and energy-saving household appliances. The *Measures for the Administration of Energy Efficiency Labels* has been revised, under which energy efficiency labels are applied to over 1.6 million product models in 37 categories. Energy-saving standards have been formulated or revised and events conducted to showcase energy-saving standards. At the same time, the Government has stepped up awareness campaigns, including the 5 June World Environment Day publicity campaign, and launched a three-year field

campaign under the theme "Activism for a Beautiful China". The *Citizens' Eco-Friendly Code of Conduct (For Trial Implementation)* was formulated, to motivate members of the public to pitch in for ecological conservation and encourage the public and all communities to develop green consumption habits.

II. Next Steps

China's green consumption market is yet to be fully developed, while production remains dominated by the extensive approach. Resource utilisation in the manufacturing sector is still far below world-class efficiency levels. With respect to key industrial products, our green design capabilities and manufacturing processes are relatively weak and the equipment used is not sufficiently sophisticated. The reutilisation rate of scrapped industrial products is on the low side. Laws, regulations and standards for green manufacturing are underdeveloped. Going forward, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to speed up the development of a circular economy and make sustained effort to promote efficient and high value-added uses of resources. The *Action to Spearhead Circular Development* will be implemented with efforts to promote various demonstrations and pilots, support the construction of bases for resource recycling and integrated use of bulk solid waste and conduct pilot projects for circular economy in agriculture to promote clean production in agriculture. Water resources management will be enhanced to conserve water and reduce loss.

The second priority is to continue conserving food use and reducing food spoilage. There will be strict guidance for the implementation of projects such as post-production service systems. Scientific and technological innovation will be intensified in the production of grain and oil-bearing crops to improve the quantity and quality of grains and reduce waste.

The third priority is to continue refining and implementing a body of laws and regulations on green economy, implementing the relevant international conventions and promoting the reuse of hazardous waste. The procurement of green products will be intensified; a demand management system for the government's green procurement will be phased in; supply chain management and life cycle management will be strengthened; and environmental awareness campaigns will continue to better inform the public of sustainable development and green living.



Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

I. Implementation Progress

Climate change is a common challenge confronting humankind. The Chinese Government has all along attached great importance to combating climate change and has actively and constructively championed the establishment of a fair, just, cooperative and mutually beneficial global climate governance system. Furthermore, it has adopted practical and effective policy measures to strengthen climate change response at the domestic level, demonstrating its firm commitment to sustainable development and transformation to a low-carbon green economy.

China has ramped up efforts in disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, making the country increasingly resilient to climate change. The Government has issued a number of documents on this matter, including the *Opinions on Promoting the Reform of Systems and Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention, Reduction and Relief*, the *Comprehensive National Plan on Disaster Prevention and Reduction (2016-2020)* and the *Plan of Action for Urban Adaptation to Climate Change*, to build up its comprehensive disaster reduction capacity and map out plans and programmes for climate change adaptation. To enhance capacity building in climate change response, regular national workshops have been organised, training materials revised

and improved and international cooperation and exchange strengthened. A number of projects on climate disaster response have been implemented, such as flood control in seven major river basins across the country, flash flood prevention and control, construction of storage facilities for natural disaster relief supplies and construction of a comprehensive assessment platform for natural disasters. The efforts to develop natural disaster monitoring and early warning systems have made headway. Through the flash flood monitoring and early warning platform, over 21.79 million early warning messages have been texted to approximately 2.27 million persons in charge of flood control and the early warning broadcast system has been activated more than 310,000 times. As regards forest fire prevention, interagency consultations have been conducted on fire hazards during the most disaster-prone periods. A total of 498 forecasts for fire danger weather ratings and seven red or orange alerts have been issued.

China has persevered with low-carbon development, scoring positive results in controlling greenhouse gas emissions. The *Programme of Work for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control 2016-2020*, the *National Climate Change Plan (2014-2020)*, the *National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation* and other major policy documents have been operationalised. Carbon intensity reduction targets have been assigned to local levels as binding indicators for measuring economic and social development, to be delivered through such policy measures as industry mix adjustment, energy mix optimisation and improved energy efficiency for energy conservation, to drive low-carbon development across the board. In 2018, China's carbon intensity dropped by approximately 45.8% compared to 2005, beating the 40-45% reduction target by 2020. A national carbon emissions trading market has been established, with a view to combating climate change using market mechanisms. In December 2017, the *National Carbon Emissions Trading Market (ETM) Construction Plan (Power Generation)* was issued, marking the official launch of the national emissions trading system.

China has intensified awareness and advocacy campaigns on climate change and low-carbon development, resulting in an uptick in society-wide engagement in climate change response. The Government has provided more guidance and given full play to the media's role in information dissemination to raise public awareness and encourage businesses and individual citizens to act positively, thus building up a momentum of low-carbon green development involving all walks of life. The third day of the National Energy Conservation Week has been designated as the National Low Carbon Day. A wide variety of advocacy events have been held each year to bring low-

carbon awareness raising programmes into schools and communities to spread the concept of low carbon development and advocate for low-carbon green living. The business sector has also actively explored new technologies for transformation to low-carbon practices in fulfilment of their corporate social responsibilities. Awareness of and engagement in climate change response across society have been steadily improving.

As an active player in global climate governance, China has helped promote and strengthen international climate cooperation and put forward the China solutions as its contribution to the global climate change response. China participated constructively in the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* negotiations on the main forum, took an active part in the follow-up negotiations of the Paris Agreement and advocated for the establishment of a fair, just, cooperative and mutually beneficial global climate governance system. It has also participated constructively in the preparations for the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit. As one of the co-leading countries promoting “nature-based solutions”, China has been active in pushing for a positive outcome of the Summit in support of the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*. China has conducted fruitful cooperation with developed countries in such areas as carbon market, low-carbon cities and climate change adaptation. It has also actively promoted South-South climate cooperation and assisted other developing countries in capacity building for climate change response by implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, donating energy-saving and low-carbon supplies as well as monitoring and early warning equipment and organising training workshops on South-South climate cooperation. More than 80 developing countries have received technical assistance, in-kind assistance, cash transfers and other forms of assistance from China, covering, *inter alia*, clean energy, low-carbon demonstration, drought-resistant agricultural technology, water resource utilisation and management, grain farming, smart grid, green ports, soil and water conservation and emergency disaster relief.

II. Next Steps

China is at the stage of rapid economic and social development. Its energy consumption structure is yet to be rationalised; awareness raising as regards climate change response needs to be enhanced; and there is still room for improvement in institutional development and essential capacity building. China will resort to a combination of measures to address climate-related

challenges with a focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to promote low-carbon development in key areas such as industry, energy, construction and transport. Low-carbon pilot projects in various categories will proceed further to showcase model projects for near-zero carbon emission zones. Institutions and mechanisms will be perfected to support climate change response with stronger financial, legal and human resources assurances and a body of laws and regulations that cater to the needs of climate change response will be developed.

The second priority is to proactively adapt to climate change, give full consideration to climate change-related factors in urban and rural planning, infrastructure construction, productivity distribution and other economic and social activities, improve the forecast and early warning systems, develop and adjust technical norms and standards in a timely manner and enhance the capacity to respond to extreme weather and climate events.

The third priority is to conduct international cooperation extensively, enhance further cooperation with international organisations and global climate and environment funding agencies, participate actively in multilateral negotiations on climate change and advocate for the establishment of a fair, just, cooperative and win-win global climate governance system. The role of the South-South Climate Cooperation Fund will be brought into full play to support other developing countries with capacity building for climate change response.



Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

I. Implementation Progress

China has been implementing integrated ecosystem-based management of the seas across the board, introduced a marine ecological red-line protection system and continuously improved its ability and competence in developing and utilising marine resources and protecting the marine ecological environment. It has actively conducted international cooperation and made positive contributions to the implementation of the relevant sustainable development goals and targets at the global level.

China has established and improved laws, regulations and management regimes to actively promote sustainable management of oceans and seas. The *Marine Environmental Protection Law* has been revised; the revision of supporting regulations for the management of offshore oil exploration and exploitation has begun; and the *Law on the Administration of the Use of Sea Areas* has entered into force. New projects must comply with red-line protection parameters for planning zones and marine

ecosystems in various categories. Approval has been withheld for all new reclamation projects and a long-term mechanism for reclamation control has been established to promote the standardised development of national marine protected areas and strengthen the protection of marine ecosystems. A mechanism for controlling the development and utilisation of sea areas and uninhabited islands has been established and subsequently improved. As at the end of March 2019, close to 30% of coastal waters and 37% of mainland coastlines had been placed under red-line control for ecological protection; and there were over 270 marine protected areas in 11 coastal provinces, with a combined area of approximately 59,000 square kilometres.

China has strengthened the protection and restoration of the marine environment and the sustainable development and utilisation of resources, achieving positive results in the conservation and management of marine and coastal ecosystems. The central financial authorities have disbursed RMB 5.69 billion to support the “Blue Bay” remediation campaign in 18 coastal cities to repair and restore ecologically damaged coastal wetlands, shorelines and islands. In total, 3,600 ha of coastal wetlands and 150 kilometres of shorelines have been remediated and restored. The Government has developed a *Plan of Action for Overcoming Critical Challenges in the Integrated Management of the Bohai Sea* for the purpose of raising the percentage of good quality water in the coastal waters to approximately 70% by 2020, preserving at least 35% of natural shorelines nationwide (exclusive of island shorelines) and remediating and restoring a minimum of 6,900 ha of coastal wetlands and an additional 70 kilometres of shorelines in coastal cities. The Government has established a marine environmental monitoring network at



Marine Protected Areas: Between September 2015 and March 2019, China created 16 marine protected areas in different categories at different levels.

the national, provincial, municipal and county levels; continued the “Blue Sea” special enforcement and other operations; conducted pilot studies in marine microplastics monitoring and evaluation; set up a Marine Waste and Microplastics Research Centre; and intensified international cooperation in the related fields.

China has been promoting green development of aquaculture, thus further strengthening the conservation of aquatic biological resources. The *Opinions on Speeding up the Development of Aquaculture* have been issued and implemented. Positive progress has been achieved in the elaboration of a national plan for the development of tidal flats in aquaculture waters. Positive headway has been made in the research, development and application of large-scale deep-sea and pelagic aquaculture platforms. Some healthy aquaculture models, such as increasing and breeding ecological resources in large bodies of water, have been applied more extensively. China has promulgated the newly revised *Measures on the Administration of Fishing Permits*, fulling implementing the system for the volume-based management of marine fishery resources. As at the end of 2018, the total fishing vessel count had been cut by over 17,000 and engine power reduced by over 1 million kilowatts. The revised regulation contains adjustments and improvements to the moratorium on fishing in the summer season, provides for standardised management of specially licensed fishing activities while the summer fishing ban is in force, and extends the fishing moratorium to all the seven major river basins. Marine ranching has been developed and there were 233 marine ranches nationwide as at the end of April 2019. The serial law enforcement operations codenamed "Shining Sword of Chinese Fisheries Administration" have been conducted to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing with a firm hand.

China has been engaged in cooperation on blue economy to support the sustainable development of marine industries in the LDCs and small island developing states (SIDS). High-level dialogues on maritime issues have been held with, inter alia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. Aquaculture facilities have been built and aquaculture technology demonstration and extension conducted in a number of countries. In addition, within the framework of South-South Cooperation, China has been involved in capacity building cooperation with other developing countries, including SIDS and LDCs, on special marine economic zone planning, marine disaster prevention and reduction, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, desalination and so on. China has actively pushed for cooperation and joint research on international marine standards and advocated for the establishment of a standardisation system, calibration system and quality assurance system for marine observation in the

Asia-Pacific region to promote the development of marine technologies in the region.

II. Next Steps

The overall quality of China's marine environment has stabilised and is steadily improving. Some regional ecosystems have been remediated and restored. But China is still in the phase of high emissions, high environmental risks and frequent occurrence of disasters compounded by ecological degradation. Going forward, China will be focusing on the following priorities:

The first priority is to continue strengthening the sustainable management of oceans and seas and promote the construction of marine ecological civilisation. This entails assessment of the current plans for core function areas and other function areas and for the protection of islands; study and formulation of measures to regulate the use of maritime spaces; and exploration of the possibility to establish a long-term monitoring and early warning mechanism to track changes in the carrying capacity of marine resources and environment. The system for controlling the total amount of pollutants discharged will be established first in the Bohai and other important sea areas. In addition, the offshore water quality appraisal system will be put in place and a national plan of action for the prevention and control of marine debris (microplastics) developed and implemented. The distribution of marine protected areas will be optimised; a number of new marine protected areas will be designated; and the compensation scheme and technical standards for marine ecological protection will be formulated.

The second priority is to continue marine ecological remediation and restoration. Tackling critical challenges in the integrated improvement of the Bohai Sea, the "Blue Bay" remediation and restoration campaign and other similar efforts will take precedence. Coastal areas will be mobilised to remediate and restore marine ecosystems, coastal zones of designated sea areas, and islands by focusing on coastal wetlands and coastal shorelines and beaches. Special action plans will be developed and implemented for mangrove afforestation and restoration.

The third priority is to promote high-quality green development of fishery. China will continue implementing the fishery resources conservation system and the system for the planning of tidal flats in aquaculture waters. A new

round of policy adjustments to fishery subsidies will be introduced in 2020 to incentivise the uptake of more efficient aquaculture methodology. Marine ranching will continue and upgrading of marine fisheries will be encouraged to drive quality and efficiency improvements. Fishing moratorium and ban will be enforced and efforts made to organise the multiplication and release of fishery resources. Such regimes as minimum fishable standard and catch quota will be improved. All these will serve to better protect fishery resources.

The fourth priority is to actively promote global governance of oceans and seas and strengthen international cooperation, especially South-South Cooperation, in the protection and sustainable management of oceans and seas, to assist other developing countries with capacity building in the protection and sustainable management of oceans and seas.



Goal 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 has been adhering to the approach that puts protection first and gives priority to natural recovery combined with human interventions in its implementation of the wetland protection plan. The conversion of farmland to forests and grasslands has been scaled up in the new round and the national network of nature reserves has been improved to build greater capacity for the development and management of nature reserves. Endangered species have been better protected to effectively maintain biodiversity. Projects such as integrated control of water loss, soil erosion and rocky desertification have been expedited. In close collaboration with international partners, China has done its part for the implementation of relevant sustainable development goals and targets.

China has increased its investment on an ongoing basis, yielding positive results in the conservation of wetlands, woodlands, grasslands and freshwater bodies. The promulgation in 2017 of the *National Implementation Plan for the Conservation of Wetlands 2016-2020* marked the transition from "rescue-and-protect" to a new stage of "comprehensive conservation". In 2019, twelve projects on wetland conservation and restoration were proposed with a total investment of RMB 300 million with the central government budget. An additional wetland allowance of RMB 1.7 billion was also provided in the budget to restore 20,000 ha of farmland to wetland and compensate wetland ecological benefits on 30 sites. From 2016 to 2018, 44,000 ha of degraded wetland was restored and 53,300 ha of farmland was converted back to wetlands. Pilot projects of ecological flow studies have been launched for the Yellow River and the Huai River and pilot projects for the development of 105 hydro-ecological cities have been more or less completed. Efforts have been under way to actively implement the *UN Forest Instrument*, continue with the conversion of farmland to forests and grasslands and the installation of shelter-belt systems, promote land greening with sustained nationwide afforestation campaigns, implement major ecological remediation and restoration projects, conduct nationwide tree-planting campaigns and create an investment facility with diverse sources of funding for afforestation and greening. From 2015 to 2018, the central financial authorities disbursed an aggregate total of RMB 52.41 billion for the new round of conversion of farmland to forests and grasslands covering a total area of 49.787 million mu. In total, 16.08 million ha of land was afforested, 3.97 million ha of degraded forests were remediated and 33.7 million ha of forests were tended.

China has persevered with the prevention and control of desertification and further developed nature reserves. It has actively participated in the pilot projects for setting voluntary national targets related to land degradation neutrality under the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*. All the planning work in line with the long-term and short-term targets set respectively in the *Decision of the State Council on Further Strengthening Desertification Control* and the *National Desertification Control Plan (2011-2020)* has been completed. In 2018, desertification control was accomplished for 2.49 million ha of land. Progress has been made in the pilot projects for the national park system with the publication of the *Master Plan for the Establishment of the National Park System*. The national network of nature reserves has been further improved with comprehensively enhanced management capabilities. As at the end of 2018, China had set up 2,750 nature reserves with a total area of 1.47 million square kilometres. So far in 2019, China has launched a large number of national park pilot projects

involving 12 provinces and covering more than 200,000 square kilometres.

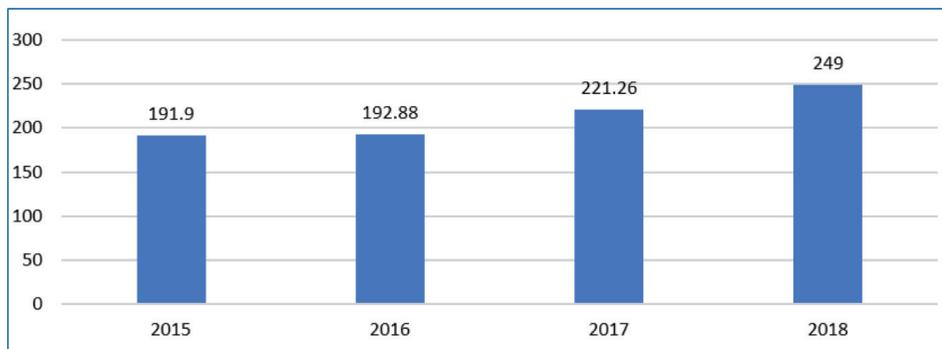


Figure 15.1 Area of desertification control (10,000 ha)

To ensure effective biodiversity protection, China has intensified risk control against harmful biological invasions. More measures have been taken to protect endangered wildlife; basic investigation and assessment of endangered wild vegetation and biodiversity have been carried out; and monitoring networks and databases have been developed. Work has started to establish a national conservation bank for forest germplasm resources and facilities (main bank); pilot projects have been carried out for the conservation of genetic resources and benefit-sharing; there have been continued efforts to improve the system for the conservation of genetic resources of livestock and poultry. So far, 187 national conservation farms, reserves and gene banks have been established and more than 200 botanical gardens have been built with over 23,000 plant species successfully conserved. The *Wildlife Protection Law* has been amended; law enforcement, supervision and management have been strengthened; and indiscriminate hunting, poaching and illicit trade have met with stern crackdown. On 31 December 2017, China imposed a comprehensive ban on the processing and selling of ivory and ivory products, being the first country in the world to stop ivory import and export and shut down its domestic ivory market. China has stepped up support for the research, prevention and control of invasive alien species. Since 2015, such control measures have been applied to over 800 million mu of land. The hazard rate of the main forest pests has been kept below 4.5 per mille and the pollution-free control rate has reached over 80%.

China has been actively participating in bilateral and multilateral cooperation to enhance international exchange on treaty implementation. It has provided financial support to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the implementation of the *United Nations Forest Instrument* and assisted other

developing countries in building greater capacity for forest and ecological conservation through, inter alia, the APFNet Demonstration Projects, the integrated management programme for the forest ecosystem in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin, the wetland protection and management cooperation in the Lancang-Mekong River Basin and the sustainable forestry programme of Pacific Island States. In addition, China has been actively preparing for the 15th Conference of the Parties to the *United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity* and the 14th Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the *Convention on Wetlands* to lend impetus to global biodiversity conservation. China has also hosted the Kubuqi International Desert Forum to facilitate international exchange and cooperation on global desertification control.

II. Next Steps

The quality of ecosystems in China is still rather low and the exigencies of ecosystem protection are clearly in conflict with economic development imperatives. Ecological supply continues to fall far short of social demand. The general trend of diminishing biodiversity has yet to be effectively contained. Going forward, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to continue scaling up the conversion of farmland to forests and grasslands, improving farmland fallowing modalities, focusing on key areas to speed up the development of a green farming system, promoting large-scale land greening and strengthening sustainable forest management.

The second priority is to press ahead with the comprehensive control of desertification, rocky desertification, water loss and soil erosion; strengthen the conservation and restoration of wetlands; deliver on the target of remediating 10 million ha of desertified land by 2020; put in place a framework of monitoring, early warning, quarantine, disaster prevention and mitigation against forest pests to keep the hazard rate of major forest pests below 4 per mille; conserve a minimum of 53.33 million ha of wetlands; maintain a wetland conservation rate of at least 50%; restore 140,000 ha of degraded wetlands; create an additional 200,000 ha of wetlands (including those converted from farmlands). The target is to treat approximately 67% of treatable desertified land by 2030.

The third priority is to increase the conservation of typical ecosystems, species, genes and landscape diversity; establish a nature reserve system

predominantly in the form of national parks; and rescue endangered wildlife to conserve biodiversity.

The fourth priority is to continue promoting international cooperation; work more closely with the relevant countries to strengthen ecological conservation and maintain biodiversity; and provide support, in kind and through capacity building, to other developing countries in ecological conservation within the framework of South-South Cooperation, with a view to maintaining biodiversity.



Goal 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 the development of the “Peaceful China” institutional system and has firmly defended national security and social stability. It has conducted the special campaign against human trafficking in greater depth to effectively safeguard the rights and interests of women and children. It has actively pursued the effort to build a rule-of-law government and improve the conduct of the CPC and government integrity at a more profound level on an ongoing basis. A sweeping victory has been declared in the fight against corruption. It has strengthened cross-border judicial and law enforcement cooperation to combat transnational crime with greater intensity, thus contributing to the realisation of relevant sustainable development goals and targets.

China has meted out stern punishments against all forms of crime in accordance with law to ensure effective protection of people’s lives and their property. The public security organs have conducted a series of special operations, including seizure of guns

and explosives, crackdown on theft, robbery and fraud, Operation Cyber Sword (Internet IPR enforcement) and Operation Clean Cyberspace. Crimes that undermine national security and violent terrorist crimes have been sternly punished. Special campaigns have been conducted against organised crimes and local mafia to root out mafia gangs, their associates and those in positions of power that shield the gangsters. There has been more intense crackdown on homicide, robbery, abduction, crimes involving the use of guns and explosives, drug manufacturing and drug trafficking and other crimes that seriously endanger the lives and property of the public as well as law and order. Telecom scams, violations of privacy, theft of trade secrets over the Internet, Internet-based pyramid schemes and other crimes have also met with stern punishment.

China has worked to put an end to all forms of violence against women and children as well as abduction of and trafficking in women and children, thus effectively protecting their rights and interests. Prevention of and response to domestic violence have been intensified. Since the *Law Against Domestic Violence* entered into force in 2016, the courts around the country have issued a total of 3,718 personal safety protection orders. In 2018, the number of domestic violence complaints was down by 10.8% compared to the previous year. Awareness raising campaigns, training programmes and advocacy services against trafficking in persons have been actively conducted. Implementation of the *National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons (2013-2020)* is under way to continue the stern crackdown on trafficking in persons, rescue the abducted women and children in a timely manner and strengthen service delivery for and research on the victims. As at the end of March 2019, the “Tuanyuan” (Reunion) project, a missing children emergency alert system under the Ministry of Public Security, had released information about 3,846 missing children. Of them, 3,777 children, or 98.2%, were found.

China has strengthened legal aid service and a public legal service network covering both urban and rural areas has taken shape. Vigorous efforts have been made to promote the development of the public legal service system: Legal service resources have been integrated at a faster pace; the system of on-call legal aid lawyers has been established; rule-of-law awareness raising and education have been conducted; the public legal service system has been steadily improving; and institutional and individual providers of public legal service have been growing in size and strength. Across the country, more than 2,900 county-level public legal service centres and more than 39,000 township or neighbourhood-level public legal service workstations have been

set up, with 99.97% and 96.79% coverage respectively. A total of 650,000 villages or communities have resident legal advisors.

China has kept up its effort to improve Party conduct and government integrity in greater depth and has won a sweeping victory in the fight against corruption. The reform of the national supervision system has been comprehensively advanced, extending supervision to all public servants exercising the public power. In a bid to improve Party conduct and government integrity on an ongoing basis in greater depth, the discipline inspection and supervision departments have imposed severe punishment on embezzlement, bribery and other crimes of corruption by, inter alia, improving access for complaints and whistleblowing, publicising typical cases and conducting special visits by inspectors and ombudsmen. There have been intensified efforts to hunt down fugitives, recover stolen assets and illicit proceeds and urge fugitives abroad who have committed work-related crimes to turn themselves in. In applying the forfeiture proceedings against illicit proceeds in accordance with law, courts have issued rulings on the forfeiture of illicit proceeds, thus creating a strong deterrent to those contemplating acts of corruption. As a result, there has been a marked reduction in the legacy cases of corruption and the number of new cases has been effectively curtailed.

China has pushed ahead with law-based administration on all fronts, achieving significant results in building a rule-of-law government. The Government has issued a series of important instruments, reform measures and initiatives to make administrative decision-making processes more scientific, democratic and rooted in rule of law. These include the *Outline Programme of Implementation for Building a Rule-of-Law Government (2015-2020)*, the *Provisional Regulations on Major Administrative Decision-Making Procedures* and the *Programme of Work for the Trial Implementation of the Administrative Enforcement Disclosure System, the System for Recording Enforcement Operations in Their Entirety and the Legal Examination System for Major Enforcement Decisions*. As at the end of 2017, the State Council had referred to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress requests for the enactment or revision of 95 laws and 195 sets of administrative regulations. The number of matters subject to administrative examination and approval by the State Council was down by 44%; the category of matters outside the scope of administrative licensing but traditionally subject to administrative examination and approval was removed once and for all; the number of enterprise-invested projects authorised at the Central Government level was down by 90%; and the number of matters

requiring intermediary services prior to administrative examination and approval was down by 74%.

China has intensified international cooperation in law enforcement and security in a relentless fight against transnational crime and new and emerging crimes. The *Law of the People's Republic of China on International Judicial Assistance in Criminal Cases* has been enacted to advance international cooperation on judicial assistance in criminal cases and law enforcement; fight transnational organised crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, infringements of intellectual property rights, telecom scams and so on with a firm hand; improve the mechanism of cooperation for the transfer of sentenced persons; and help sentenced persons reintegrate into society in a show of humanitarian care. A multinational joint campaign against trafficking in persons has been conducted. In addition, China has actively conducted productive counter-terrorism cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, with the countries concerned. China has been supporting African countries in strengthening capacity building in such areas as national defence, counter-terrorism, riot control, customs control and immigration control.

II. Next Steps

China will strive to create a peaceful, inclusive and just social environment and is committed to building a government based on rule of law in all essential areas by 2020. To this end, China will focus on the following priorities:

The first priority is to transform China into a rule-of-law country and the Chinese Government into a rule-of-law government at a faster pace. China will advance law-based administration in greater depth; promote justice for all; push ahead with law-based governance at all levels and in all domains; make social governance more firmly grounded in the rule of law; and improve the judicial assistance system. The mandates of on-call lawyers and the way they work will be further standardised and the joint legal aid workstation model will be explored with a view to establishing such workstations.

The second priority is to continue intensifying the effort to fight corruption and advocate honesty and integrity in performing official duties; ramp up the special campaigns that address corruption and conduct-related problems in the area of poverty relief; take special measures to address livelihood-related

issues; and tackle issues that undermine the rights and interests of the public concerning, inter alia, education, healthcare, environmental protection and food and drug safety.

The third priority is to strengthen international law enforcement and security cooperation. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms will be leveraged to broaden the space for cooperation, strengthen international judicial assistance in criminal cases and jointly respond to and combat terrorism and all forms of transnational organised crimes.



第二届“一带一路”国际合作高峰论坛

THE SECOND BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2019年4月25-27日 中国·北京

25-27 APRIL 2019 BEIJING, CHINA



Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

I. Implementation Progress

Alongside earnest efforts to implement Goal 17 at the national level, China has been actively promoting South-South Cooperation to help other developing countries build greater self-reliant development capacity, working for common development and narrowing the disparities between Global South and Global North. China is committed to full alignment between Belt and Road Cooperation and global, regional and country-specific development strategies, including the 2030 Agenda, lending a fresh impetus to the endeavour of developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda.

China has pushed ahead with international cooperation within the BRI framework to help drive sustainable development in participating countries. Jointly building the Belt and Road is now considered an important way to revitalise global partnership for development and implement the 2030 Agenda. As at the end of July 2019, the Chinese Government had signed 195 cooperation documents with 136 countries and 30 international organisations. The BRI joint contribution process has extended to such regions as

Africa, Latin America and the South Pacific and has become a widely agreed approach to international cooperation. The plan of action for scientific and technological innovation under BRI has been operationalised, providing training for youth leaders in the scientific and technological community. As at the end of 2018, 452 young scientists had been invited to China to participate in research projects in agriculture, chemistry and chemical industry, life science and other fields. China has organised technical training programmes for developing countries to enhance their self-reliant development capacity. As at the end of March 2019, 290 training courses had been conducted, providing training for 5,487 participants from 133 developing countries and territories. A capacity-building centre has been built together with the International Monetary Fund to provide training for countries participating in the BRI to improve macro-economic and financial policy framework. The BRI tax cooperation mechanism has been created to provide developing countries with technical assistance and taxation capacity building support. The *Guidelines on BRI Financing* and the *BRI Debt Sustainability Analysis Framework* were issued to improve the policies and standards system related to BRI financing and debt sustainability. The *BRI Green Investment Principles* have been signed and the *International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road* has been established. In April 2019, China successfully hosted the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. With over 6,000 foreign participants from 150 countries and 92 international organisations present at the Forum, the Leaders' Roundtable was attended by 38 heads of state and government, heads of two important international organisations and other leaders. The Forum reached broad consensus on jointly promoting Belt and Road Cooperation to higher quality standards and proposed that a global partnership of connectivity be fostered, with substantial practical outcomes achieved. The Forum also created a new interface between local governments and the business community and improved the Belt and Road cooperation architecture, injecting new vitality into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

China has championed the development of an open world economy and the optimisation of the international development environment. It has staunchly defended the open, transparent, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system; actively maintained the authority and effectiveness of the WTO; and engaged constructively in consultations on agreements related to, inter alia, trade facilitation, agricultural export competition and tax cuts for IT products, to help liberalise and facilitate global trade and investment. The China International Import Expo and Hongqiao International Economic Forum have been successful. Actively

responding to the Aid for Trade initiative, China has provided assistance for 200 projects in Asian and African developing countries, including building border checkpoints and inspection and quarantine centres, providing equipment and supplies for customs and commodity inspection, conducting technical training and establishing e-commerce platforms. Zero tariff has been applied to 97% of taxable items from 37 LDCs that have diplomatic relations with China and have completed the exchange of notes, which has helped improve the trading environment of the recipient countries. China has also actively pushed for China-Africa trade and investment cooperation. In 2018, trade between China and Africa reached USD 204.2 billion, of which USD 99.3 billion was imports from Africa, up 41% over 2015, and China's non-financial direct investment in Africa totalled USD 3.16 billion.

China has established broad development partnerships to create synergy for sustainable development. China has hosted some important international events, including G20 Hangzhou Summit, the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, and the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, all of which discussed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as an important topic. Trilateral cooperation has been conducted with such international organisations as the United Nations and some developed countries to facilitate synergy on the ground. China has embarked on the creation of national pilot demonstration zones for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Shenzhen, Taiyuan, Guilin, Chenzhou, Lincang and Chengde to provide templates that can inspire the rest of China and other countries in their implementation of the Agenda. China has stepped up social mobilisation to implement the 2030 Agenda. The public-private partnership (PPP) model has been actively promoted. A national PPP project information monitoring service platform and a national comprehensive PPP information platform have been set up; four batches of pilot projects have been launched; and the China PPP Fund, worth RMB 180 billion, was created. China has strengthened cooperation with the World Bank for PPPs to play a positive role in developing infrastructural connectivity. China has actively participated in global tax collection and management capacity development and established a multilateral tax centre in collaboration with OECD. It has strengthened knowledge and experience sharing with other countries and helped develop the *BRICS Good Practices on Public-Private Partnership*.

China has intensified South-South Cooperation to support sustainable development of other developing countries. China has set up a national agency for international development cooperation and actively promoted innovation in the way aid is delivered and managed to make aid more

productive on all fronts. Through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, China has conducted development cooperation projects in partnership with more than 10 international organisations on food aid, disaster relief, refugees, health and women and children, benefiting approximately 20 million people in more than 30 developing countries. Through such fora as the CIKD and the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development (ISSCAD), China has been sharing its own experience in South-South Cooperation and development. Further steps have been taken to enhance cooperation with African countries and the pledged USD 60 billion in financial support to African countries has been disbursed. In 2018, President Xi Jinping proposed "eight major actions" within the framework of China-Africa cooperation and pledged a further USD 60 billion in the form of government aid, financing by financial institutions and investment by businesses. China has honoured its commitment to write off mature debts owed by heavily-indebted poor countries and LDCs that have diplomatic relations with China, helped relevant countries with capacity building for debt risk management and optimised financing options to improve the sustainability of medium and long-term debts. Since 2015, 25 international training programmes on statistics have been organised in support of developing countries' capacity building for statistical work.

II. Next Steps

The drive to revitalise global partnership for development and implement the 2030 Agenda is faced with both rare opportunities and major challenges. China will remain committed to promoting international development cooperation to build a community of shared future for mankind.

The first priority is to make sure that collaboration within the BRI framework keep moving forward in the direction that does not compromise on quality so as to provide a strong push for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Based on the principles of open and market-based operations, we will fully leverage special loans for Belt and Road Cooperation, the Silk Road Fund and various other special investment funds; encourage multilateral and national financial institutions to participate in investment and financing for BRI collaboration; and encourage cooperation with third-party markets. We will improve policies and standards related to debt sustainability within the BRI framework. We will also negotiate and sign high-standard free trade agreements with more countries and scale up cooperation in such sectors as customs, taxation, auditing and regulation.

The second priority is to increase assistance to developing countries, especially LDCs, and to narrow the development gap between Global South and Global North. Platforms such as the China-UN Peace and Development Fund, the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and the South-South Climate Cooperation Fund will be fully leveraged to conduct project-based cooperation in, inter alia, poverty reduction, infrastructure, agriculture, education, health and climate change. Research and exchange platforms such as CIKD and ISSCAD will also be fully utilised to strengthen exchanges in development experience and practice. China will also increase training for capacity-building and develop policy consultation and cooperation so as to improve the level of governance in developing countries.

The third priority is to deepen global partnership for development and continue encouraging multilateral mechanisms, such as the United Nations, G20 and BRICS, to place development at the heart of global macro policy coordination. We shall continue to develop national pilot demonstration zones for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; share our experience in pursuing sustainable development through scientific and technological innovations; and contribute what is known as the “China solution” in such areas as precise poverty alleviation, health, energy and protection of ecosystems and the environment. We shall continue to extend the PPP model in a standardised and orderly way so that the PPP model can work more productively in improving the quality and efficiency of public services and provide the world with more Chinese templates for the sustainable development of high-quality infrastructure.

**Typical Cases in Implementation
of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development**

Precise Poverty Alleviation

Since the 1980s, the Chinese government has been carrying out in a coordinated and organized manner poverty alleviation efforts focused on the rural areas for 40 consecutive years, with great achievements. As the incidence of poverty decreases, the remaining poor are more scattered geographically and with greater depth of poverty. It is therefore more difficult to lift them out of poverty. To make poverty alleviation and development more targeted, find out the base number and improve the efficiency of fund use, President Xi Jinping put forward the basic strategy of precise poverty alleviation in 2013. The transition from policy-driven flooding of interventions and funds to precise drip irrigation targeting specific villages and households has produced great results and offers a piece of Chinese wisdom to the cause of poverty alleviation and inclusive development in the world.

Overview

Central to the precise poverty alleviation strategy is precision in identifying the target population, arranging appropriate projects, using funds, taking measures specific to poor households, selecting and designating the right officials to help specific villages and producing the desired outcomes. It clarifies the target population, the designated supporters, the approaches and the exit of support. Three critical links involve accurate identification, targeted interventions and appropriate exit.

Accurate identification. Through standardised procedures such as community discussion, household survey, announcement for public information and comments, spot check, and information transcription, the poor are identified. Then the relevant records and base figures are established.

Targeted interventions. Basic poverty alleviation approaches include industrial development, relocation, ecological compensation, educational development and social security. Specific measures are designed and implemented on the basis of the precise needs of the relevant villages, households and individuals.

Appropriate exit. The exit criteria and procedures for impoverished households, villages and counties are clearly defined. A household is no longer considered impoverished when its per capita net income is steadily over the pre-set poverty line and it has no worries about food or clothes and enjoys security in compulsory education, basic medical care and housing.

The judgement on whether an impoverished village is out of poverty is based on the incidence of poverty and informed by additional information about its infrastructure, basic public services, industrial development and collective economic income.

Best Practice

The responsibility in poverty reduction is specified at all levels of government. The central government has introduced a responsibility system and strengthened its management with clearly defined division of labour between the central (overall planning), provincial (overall responsibility) and city/country (implementation) governments. Principal leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and government of the 22 provinces in central and western regions that have poverty alleviation tasks signed letters of responsibility pledges. The cities, counties, townships and villages involved understand clearly their parts of the responsibility. As a result, the chiefs at all levels are in charge of poverty alleviation directly and the whole party is mobilized to fight the tough battle. A resident working team is designated to each impoverished village and a specific official is designated to support each poor household.

The working system for the precise poverty alleviation policy has been constantly improved, leading to markedly higher efficiency in poverty alleviation. The central government has issued the *Decision on Winning the Fight Against Poverty*, the *Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for the Tough Battle of Poverty Alleviation* and the *Three-Year Action Guideline on Winning the Battle against Poverty*. Ministries and commissions of the central government have released nearly 200 policy documents or implementation plans. All localities have also issued and improved their "1+N" series of documents, which cover efforts to reduce poverty through industrial development, relocation, labor export, transportation improvement, water conservancy works, education, health, finance, reconstruction of dilapidated buildings in rural areas and assets income, leading to major poverty reductions.

The government plays a primary and leading role in poverty reduction and continuously increases its investments in this regard. From 2013 to 2018, earmarked transfers from the central government increased from RMB 39.4 to 106.1 billion. Funds from the provincial and lower levels of government also increased significantly. Local government debts and special construction funds have also been used to improve the production and living conditions in poor areas and support relocation of people living in inaccessible impoverished

areas. Policies supportive of micro-credit, special loans for relocation and poverty alleviation re-loans have been formulated and implemented to steer the financial sector and private funds towards fighting poverty.

China mobilizes all forces in the society to join the fight against poverty in a triad of poverty alleviation through specific programmes, industrial development and non-governmental support. Eastern and western provinces collaborate with each other in poverty alleviation through twinned partnerships in which relatively more developed provinces offer help to their less developed peers. All 30 national autonomous prefectures enjoy such support. Two hundred and sixty-seven relatively more developed counties (cities and districts) in eastern China have twinned partnerships with 434 impoverished counties in western provinces in their pursuit for a moderately well-off society. Interventions for targeted poor areas have been strengthened, with 320 central government departments and institutions twinning with and helping 592 poor counties and the military and armed police forces joining hands with more than 3500 poor villages. Central enterprises have been mobilized to set up industrial investment funds for poor areas. A special campaign targeting 100 counties and 10,000 villages has been launched. Over 26,000 private enterprises have been mobilized to help a lot of villages.

Special attention is paid to inspire a hardworking spirit and raise the level of educational attainment so as to empower and enable the poor people to get themselves out of poverty. Through publicity, advocacy and leadership by examples, the poor people are steered to rely on their own hard-working hands to get rid of poverty and become rich. We will continue prioritizing impoverished areas, basic education and vocational education in public finance, helping poverty-stricken areas to improve conditions for running schools and striving to ensure every child a good education, thus interrupting the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Experience of Shibadong Village in Poverty Alleviation

Shibadong Village is located in the west of Hunan province. In 2013, President Xi Jinping put forward the strategy of precise poverty alleviation for the first time here. By February 2017, 136 households (533 poor people) in the village had all moved out of poverty. Per capita net income increased from RMB 1,668 in 2013 to RMB 12,128 at the end of 2018. Collective economic organizations grew from scratch to generating an income of RMB 536,800.

Party building creates strong leadership. Team building was given priority and efforts were made to elect into the leading team able persons with political awareness, relatively better education and stronger ability to get rich and lead other people towards common wealth. Three business operation leaders and one college graduate serving as a village official have become primary cadres of the village and nine able persons have become assistants to the primary cadres. At the same time, a capable first secretary and resident team has been selected to support development of grass-roots organizations. The leadership role has been given an effective play.

Changed way of thinking supports greater ambition. Active efforts were made to explore ways to enlighten the villagers, hold encouraging lectures and organize a series of cultural activities designed to change the behaviors of a small number of people who had been impoverished because of laziness and grown dependent on poverty alleviation interventions. As a result, the people concerned have made up their own minds to get rid of poverty and become important actors in the fight against poverty.

Industries and businesses are developed on the basis of local conditions. Industrial development is regarded as the core measure to pump 'blood' into poverty reduction. On the basis of local reality and resource endowment, six major industries including planting, breeding, Miao embroidery, labour service, rural tourism and mountain spring water were selected for special support provided in different models such as direct assistance, entrusted assistance and joint stock cooperation. Businesses in these industries have generated revenue for local people.

Frugality and practicality remain central to the development of villages featuring minority or folk customs. The principle has always been to take concrete actions beneficial to the people at affordable costs. In the village renovation process, attention was paid to construct practical and beautiful buildings while leaving a hint of nostalgia by combining local conditions with cultural traditions. Villages featuring minority or folk customs have been renovated under unified planning to demonstrate their original appearance in harmonious beauty with a frugal spending and for practical uses. Bearing this principle in mind, we have improved rural households' access to water, electricity, roads, housing, communications and environmental management and renovated the dilapidated buildings, kitchens, toilets, bathrooms and pens.

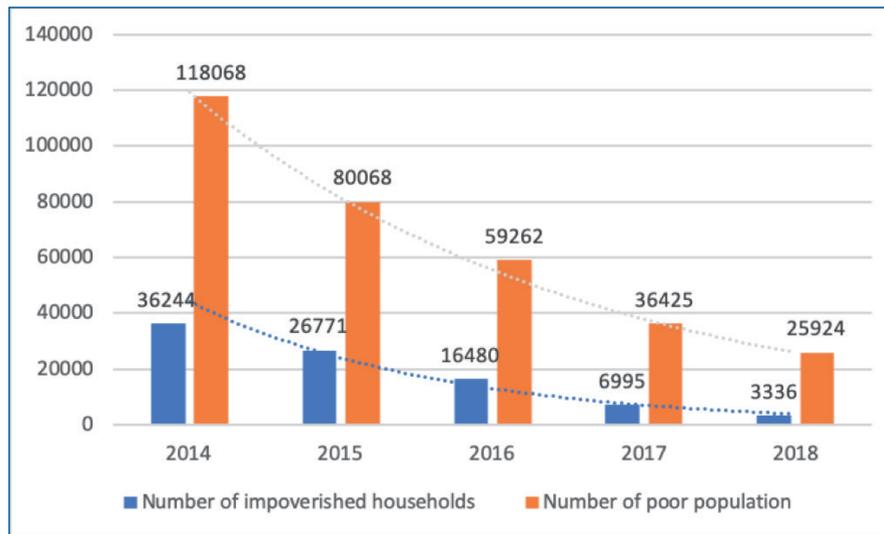
Experience of Daming County in Winning the Tough Battle against Poverty

Daming county is located in southeast Hebei Province, with an area of 1053 square kilometres. There are 1.22 million *mu* of arable land and 946,000 people. Given the transportation, location and resources restraints, Daming County has a weak economic foundation and lags behind in development. At present, the incidence of poverty is 0.77%, down 16.33 percentage points from 2014. The number of impoverished people has also been reduced by 112,271.

Accurate identification has been the focus. Since 2017, large-scale accurate identification of the poor population has been carried out for three times, mapping clearly the poverty situation and base figures and clarifying the target population, the designated supporters and the approaches of support.

Policies have been combined to address poverty in various ways. **Industrial development.** A four-tiered system for poverty alleviation through industrial development has been created, providing a total investment of RMB 382 million in the implementation of 1,762 industrial projects. Through interventions targeting groups of people, impoverished households have become part of industrial development. These households all participate in income-generating businesses and all poor people at working age are employed. **Infrastructural construction.** An accumulative total investment of RMB 615 million has been made to improve for all access to infrastructure such as transportation, drinking water, renovation of dilapidated buildings and living environment. **Medical security.** Given the reality of high rate of impoverishment by illness, financial support was provided in 2018 for 57,404 registered poor to participate in medical insurance. The model of diagnosis and treatment before payment for in-patients and one-stop payment service have been rolled out in the county, benefiting 24,947 poor patients. **Education aid.** Exemptions of tuitions, textbook fees and stationery costs as well as subsidies for students from households experiencing financial hardships have been fully materialized so that no student should drop out of school due to poverty. **Social safety net.** In 2018, the minimum subsistence standard for rural residents was adjusted to RMB 4,100 per person per year and category A compensation was raised to RMB 341 per person per month, with all eligible persons covered.

Supervision and assessment are critical. Rectification of problems is an important measure to improve the quality of poverty alleviation. Problems identified in the process of supervision and self-examination at all levels are put together in a list, matched with lists of responsibility assignments, rectification measures and expected results. The criteria and timeframes of rectification are also clearly defined to ensure delivery.



From 2014 to 2018, 155 villages, 32,908 households and 92,144 persons moved out of poverty in Daming County.

Digital Platforms Facilitate Poverty Alleviation: Alibaba's Experience

Alibaba, China's online commerce giant, is committed to developing the inclusive function of the Internet and has explored an "Internet+ poverty alleviation" model on platforms such as Taobao and Alipay.

E-commerce. In light of the varying situations in poverty-stricken areas, Alibaba helps poor areas to cultivate and develop industries with their comparative advantages by providing e-commerce platforms, promoting one specialty product for every county and facilitating live streaming marketing. In 2018, national-level poverty-stricken counties reached a sales volume of more than RMB 63 billion on Alibaba's online platforms. Over 100 poor counties had a sales volume of RMB 100 million or more.

Table 1. Alibaba supports poverty alleviation (at the end of 2018)

Main Indicators	Achievements
Number of rural e-dealers	More than 1 million
Annual turnover	RMB 161.175 billion
Number of Taobao villages	3202
Number of villages engaged in the rural Taobao project	30,000 villages in over 1000 counties
Number of Taobao helpers for rural population	More than 60,000
Number of agricultural brands	160

Ecology. Through the Ant Forest platform, Alibaba has been working to protect the ecological environment in poverty-stricken areas while creating jobs and developing brands for local eco-friendly agricultural produces and environment-friendly industries, thus promoting a virtuous circle of ecological protection and economic growth. By the end of 2018, Ant Forest had created more than 180,000 green jobs and the labourers had earned more than RMB 27 million.

Health. In 2017, Alibaba and the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation launched a project to support insurance for bread-earners in the family with a view to tackling impoverishment caused by illness and its related costs. The project brings together health and poverty alleviation through charity insurance. Internet platforms are used to raise funds from the public and an exclusive charity insurance policy with a maximum coverage of RMB 100,000 is provided for identified and registered poor people aged between 18 to 60.

Education. Through the rural education programme, Alibaba works to power the development of rural and poverty-stricken areas by giving financial incentives and supporting capacity building. Since its implementation, 623 poor counties have filed project proposals. More than 2,000 schools, 80,000 teachers and 1 million students have benefited from the programme.

Table 2. Results of the bread-earner health project

Main indicators	Results
Number of individuals and business firms that have made donations	360 million individuals and 1.12 million business firms
Funds raised	RMB 136 million
Scope of implementation	66 poverty-stricken counties in 12 provinces and autonomous regions/prefectures
Funds used in the public welfare undertaking	RMB 120 million
Number of beneficiaries/person times	3,635,399/4,253,775

Eco-Friendly Poverty Alleviation in Kezuohou Banner

Kezuohou Banner in Tongliao City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, is located in the hinterland of Horqin sandy land. The ecological environment is fragile and the regional ecological system is seriously imbalanced. The local people live a difficult life and local socio-economic development lags behind. Through eco-friendly poverty alleviation, Kezuohou Banner has found a way to improve the ecological improvement and reduce poverty in parallel.

The ecological environment has been improved to support income increase. In recent years, 4.1 million *mu* of Horqin sandy land has been treated through a comprehensive sand control project. Now the banner has 5.9 million *mu* of forest land and its forest coverage rate is over 21%. Forestation has helped to reduce the impact of natural disasters such as drought, waterlogging, sandstorm, saline and alkali on agriculture, thus providing further protection to grain production and income increase for farmers and herdsmen. Since 2014, farmers and herdsmen have joined comprehensive sand control, village greening, road greening and efficient water conservation projects, earning an extra income of RMB 51.36 million, including RMB 4.45 million for poor farmers and herdsmen.

Ecological industries have been developed to drive income increase. The grazing ban on and enclosure of desertified grassland have been tightened. The grazing ban is valid throughout the year for priority areas. Container seedlings of *Pinus sylvestris* var. *mongolica* and annual *Acer* monoes have been planted in stretches of sparse forests, experiencing difficulty in natural

regeneration or with large glades in the enclosed areas. Targeted measures have been taken to gradually restore grassland ecological environment. At the same time, efforts have been made to develop tourism products with ecological and ethnic features and create jobs for poor households within tourist attractions. The banner received 1.45 million visitors and realized a comprehensive income of RMB 1.28 billion from tourism in 2018. Actions have also been taken to develop and promote the industries of forests and fruits, planting of traditional Mongolian and Chinese medical herbs, seedlings and flowers as well as photovoltaic power generation so as to turn the ecological benefits into economic returns and livelihood improvements for the people.

National ecological policies have been implemented to protect income increase. Favourable consideration is given to the poor when forest rangers are hired. The banner has employed 410 forest rangers, all from registered poor households. To give direct benefits to those protectors, each ranger is paid RMB 10,000 every year as the salary. Performance assessment and supervision are conducted to ensure the quality of protection by the poor. From 2014 to 2018, a total of RMB 620 million were appropriated in ecological subsidies. Poor households have been guided to use the subsidies to develop ecological industries, thus further consolidating the results of deepened ecological protection.



Innovation-Driven Development

Since beginning of the 21st century, scientific and technological innovations have become more frequent and active than ever before and the role of science and technology in promoting economic development has become increasingly apparent. The Chinese economy has been growing steadily at a fairly rapid speed and remarkable results have been achieved in innovation-driven development. Against this backdrop, the 5th plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee in October 2015 proposed the concept of innovative development in the conference communique.

Overview

The concept of innovative development affirms that innovation is the first driving force for development and offers a systematic explanation. Innovative development **centres on scientific and technological innovation in all social, economic, cultural, ecological, educational, political and other fields and involves innovation in theories, technologies, systems, institutions and management.**

The innovative development concept is part of the scientific development outlook. It is based on a correct judgment on China's development stage and trends in world economic, scientific and technological development and a deep understanding of the new opportunities, challenges and questions China faces. Innovation is the key to overall socio-economic development and must be held tightly. Through innovation, we foster new impetus for development. The focus on innovation will drive development and the planning for it will bring about a better future.

Best Practice

China has increased fiscal expenditures in scientific and technological innovation and the efficiency of fund use. Public financial support for research and development continues increasing. Since 2013, R&D investment intensity was over 2% for four consecutive years, reaching the level of moderately developed countries. The portion of central government expenditure devoted to science and technology rose from RMB 531.4 billion in 2014 to RMB 726.7 billion in 2017, an increase of nearly 40%. Fund use efficiency has also gradually improved. Documents such as the *Scheme for Deepening the Management Reform of Science and Technology Plans (Special Projects, Funds, etc.) Funded in Central Government Budget* have been

issued to strengthen the top-level design, optimize the management system and improve the efficiency of fund use.

Science and technology are more closely linked to the economy. Since introduction of the innovative development concept, the Chinese central government has issued nearly 20 policy documents related to innovation. The close link between science and technology policies on the one hand and economic policies on the other jointly creates a sound policy environment for innovation-driven development. For example, documents such as the *National Innovation-Driven Development Strategy Outline and Several Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Deepening Institutional Reform and Accelerating Implementation of the Innovation-Driven Development Strategy* all link science and technology with industry. The combination of policies targeting different fields offers an important pathway to tackling the mismatch between economic development and scientific and technological research. Therefore, it will play an important role in fully releasing the creativity of researchers, increasing conversion of research results to products and steering the whole society towards innovative development.

Institutional setups for innovation and entrepreneurship have been further improved. Since the innovative development concept was put forward, the Chinese government has been committed to improving the environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and various policies have been adopted for that purpose. A series of policy documents now provide strong support in terms of institutions and mechanisms, fiscal and taxation policies, venture capital investments and service platforms, such as the *Opinions of the State Council on Strengthening Implementation of the Innovation-Driven Development Strategy to Carry Further the Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation Campaign*, *Opinions of the State Council on Promoting the High-Quality Development of Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Upgrade the Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation Campaign*, and *Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Building Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation Demonstration Bases*.

National Innovation Demonstration Zones for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In December 2016, the State Council issued the *Plan of China on Building Innovation Demonstration Zones for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and proposed to build about 10 national innovation

demonstration zones for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in line with the principle of applying innovative ideas to tackle existing problems with the involvement of diversified players in an open and sharing environment. The purpose is to create a number of reproducible and realistic sustainable development models that are exemplary in China in its pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and generate experiences that can be shared with the other places in China and even other countries. Up to now, the State Council has approved six cities to launch the development of such innovation demonstration zones, including Shenzhen, Taiyuan and Guilin approved in February 2018 and Chenzhou, Lincang and Chengde approved in May 2019.

Shenzhen aims to develop itself into a model modern city. It vigorously implements four major projects targeting efficient use of resources, ecological and environmental protection and improvement, healthy Shenzhen development and modernization of social governance. Actions are taken to improve systematically innovative services and diversified talents so as to support a development model involving many innovators using extensive data on multiple platforms. As a result, the city's economic strength and development quality have been significantly improved, its scientific and technological capacity to support sustainable development has been further enhanced and the ecological environment is now visibly better than before. Futian District uses big data to deeply integrate government decision-making, social governance and public services with modern science and technology, with outstanding effects.

Taiyuan focuses on tackling the bottleneck of water and air pollution. In a model featuring actions mainly taken by enterprises under government guidance, the government has set up an ad hoc organization to coordinate regional development and guide the ecological management of Xishan Mountain. It has also formulated ecological management policies and relevant plans to encourage active participation by enterprises and players in the society. Bottlenecks that restricted local sustainable development have therefore been effectively addressed and environmental pollution has been significantly reduced.

Guilin is exploring a sustainable development path that allows economic and ecological development in parallel and conduces to harmony between man and the environment. It actively explores a scientific and efficient Lijiang River Scenic Area management and protection model, including gridding of regulatory responsibilities, coordinated and synergistic enforcement actions, application of ICT in enforcement and regulation and institutionalized

protection. The government has also increased investments to continuously promote comprehensive management and ecological protection of the river and actively facilitate sustainable use of its landscape resources. Agreements have been signed for a large number of major projects, which will bring new momentum to local sustainable economic development.

Chenzhou plans to focus on bottlenecks such as inefficient uses of water resources and heavy metal pollution. It intends to apply a combination of key generic technologies to control sources of water pollution and remediate soil with heavy metal pollution in a series of major projects targeting heavy metal pollution control in key watersheds, Dongjiang Lake water body protection, mine (tailing pond) remediation, comprehensive pollution prevention and control in industrial parks and high-quality development of characteristic resource-based industries. The objective is to build a coordinated system of water environmental protection and green development of ecological industries.

Lincang's bottleneck is the lack of capacity to transform characteristic resources into marketable products. It plans to use technologies related to green energy, green and efficient agricultural production and modern information in the implementation of 17 major projects including Lancang River basin protection and development, construction of border economic cooperation zone, customs clearance facilitation, ethnic minority cultural inheritance, agricultural bases with plateau features and a healthy living destination so as to demonstrate how innovation-driven development will be realized in an underdeveloped multi-ethnic region at the border.

The two bottlenecks for Chengde are its unstable water conservation function and difficulty in realizing precise and steady poverty alleviation. Technologies chosen by Chengde include drought-resistant and water-saving afforestation, management of degenerated grassland, standardized production and processing of green agricultural produces, and Internet+ smart tourism. Sixteen major projects will be implemented to improve water ecology in the relevant river basins, develop cultural tourism and medical and health care industries, reduce poverty through industrial development and build up platforms for innovation. The city will also explore systematic solutions to improve water conservation function and people's well-being.

Growing the New Economy: Seeking New Momentums for City Development

Bearing in mind the innovation-driven development strategy, Chengdu regards the development of new economy as an important path to deepening supply-side structural reform, optimizing urban economic structure, switching to new engines of economic growth and reshaping its competitive advantages. It took the lead to create a new economy development commission and strives to build a city most suitable for the development of new economy in China. The city has given birth to six local unicorn enterprises. On average more than 110 new economic enterprises appear in Chengdu every day.

Cultivating an industrial eco-system for the new economy. Bearing in mind the six major formats of digital economy, intelligent economy, green economy, creative economy, data traffic economy and sharing economy, Chengdu is making effort to build an open modern industrial system with high technological content and added value, encompassing artificial intelligence +, big data+, 5G+, clean energy+ and supply chain+.

Increasing the supply of production factors for the new economy. Chengdu implements a strategic action plan that prioritizes talents development and a project of subsidized housing for talented people. Nearly 300,000 talents with a bachelor's or higher degree have been attracted to the city since July 2017. Reform has been conducted towards mixed ownership of scientific and technological achievements in schools of higher learning and research institutes with a view to promoting the transformation of various scientific and technological achievements and intellectual property rights into marketable products in Chengdu. In 2018, investment in R&D increased by about 12% and the number of effective invention patents per 10,000 people increased by 15.8%.

Building up application scenarios for the new economy. Scenario planning for smart applications in urban transportation, community development and other important areas has been developed. Pilots have been conducted in sharing parking resources and utilizing medical data. Chengdu was the first city to release a list of opportunities, with 1214 pieces of supply and demand information in 12 categories provided on two occasions to reliably inform global investors, enterprises and talents.

Improving the governance system for the new economy. The government

has improved its way of providing services. A negative list of industries in the new economy has been published, changing the reliance on prior approval to strengthened on-the-spot and after-the-event supervision. The dynamic, inclusive and prudent regulatory approach has been further optimized and conditions for the registration of new economic enterprises have been relaxed. The government has set up a new economic enterprises club and created platforms for in-depth government-business dialogue and exchanges among enterprises, providing them with services covering all procedures throughout their lifecycles.



Business Model Innovation: the Sharing Economy

The sharing economy has played an important role in China's economic development. In 2018, it generated a total transaction of RMB 2.9 trillion, with about 760 million people involved. At the end of 2018, among the 83 Chinese unicorn enterprises out of 305 in the world, 34 had typical attributes of the sharing economy.

The sharing economy is moving fast in integration with traditional industries, with accelerated penetration into production and manufacturing, fast expansion of capacity sharing and steady growth in life services. New business formats and modes, such as online ride-hailing, shared accommodation, online takeaway ordering, shared medical care and shared logistics, are driving structural optimization, rapid growth and consumption pattern transformation of the service industry while changing the lifestyle of urban residents. The infrastructure for capacity sharing is improving day by day. Capacity sharing for makers has become an important direction for a group of large enterprises to innovate themselves and to drive and assist innovation and entrepreneurship. Service-oriented capacity sharing

is increasingly becoming a new mode of productive service. Capacity sharing brokered by intermediaries may well lead to a model of factoryless manufacturing.

The sharing economy and artificial intelligence technologies have been promoting each other's development, with the former offering rich scenes for innovative AI applications and the latter providing important support for business model innovation in the sharing economy. On the one hand, sharing economy platforms integrate massive resources to accurately match supply with demand and efficiently use resources with the support of AI technology, thus driving new product development and service innovation. On the other hand, the sharing economy has in turn driven the development of cutting-edge technologies such as deep learning, autonomous driving and delivery drones. The extensive use of AI technology in the field of sharing economy has effectively improved platform algorithms to better capture user needs and interests, enhance user experience and release the huge potential value of massive data on those platforms, thus further promoting the emergence and development of new business formats and models in economic and social activities.



Ecological Civilisation

Since the 18th Session of the CPC Central Committee, China has been reforming its ecological civilisation system in greater depth and developing its ecological civilisation at a faster pace, placing ecological civilisation on the agenda of its five-in-one national modernisation process (the other four dimensions being economic, political, cultural and social development). The concept of ecological civilisation serves as a guide for China's fast-track endeavour to tackle the challenges facing its environment and ecosystems, respond to the public's aspirations for a pleasant and eco-friendly living environment and promote sustainable development in a balanced manner. It lends an ideological impetus to China's active involvement in global ecological and environmental governance to become an important player, contributor and leader in the global endeavour to develop ecological civilisation in the new era.

Overview

Xi Jinping's notion of ecological civilisation is at the heart of the theory on the development of ecological civilisation, which provides conclusive answers to some important theoretical and practical questions, including why, what and how. This theory is pillared on eight principles:

Principle One: Civilisation cannot thrive without healthy ecosystems. Ecological civilisation is essential to the sustainable development of the Chinese nation in perpetuity. What we do today will benefit future generations. The welfare of our people and the future of our nation hinge on what we do now on the ecological front.

Principle Two: Humankind and nature must coexist in harmony. It is imperative to respect nature, bow to the laws of nature, protect nature and create a new pattern of modernisation characterised by balanced and harmonious development of both humankind and nature.

Principle Three: Clear waters and lush mountains are the real treasure troves. The concept of green development should be put into practice to address the relationship between development and conservation in a balanced and appropriate manner and let this concept prevail in both our development model and our way of life.

Principle Four: A good ecological environment is the most inclusive



livelihood solution. Efforts should be focused on tackling major environmental issues that jeopardise public health and responding to the public's ever-growing demand for a pleasant and eco-friendly environment.

Principle Five: Mountains, rivers, lakes, farmland, forests and vegetation are a community of life. The ecological environment is an organic “unibody”. Protection of the ecological environment must be holistic, covering all dimensions, all domains and all processes and guided by the logic of systems engineering.

Principle Six: The ecological environment is to be protected with the most rigorous institutions and most disciplined rule of law. A complete and systematic establishment of ecological civilisation should be put in place that has clearly defined rights and powers, benefits from broad-based participation and enforces restrictions tempered with incentives.

Principle Seven: The nationwide “Beautiful China” campaign is a long-term commitment. It is necessary to step up education and awareness raising on ecological civilisation, instil the ecological civilisation-related values and code of conduct in the hearts and minds of the people and translate the call to action into a real, conscious action of all the people.

Principle Eight: Ecological civilisation is a global endeavour. One must be cognisant that developing ecological civilisation is an integral part of the effort to build a community of shared future for humankind. This understanding underpins the global governance of ecological environment to build a cleaner and more beautiful world.

Best Practice

It is necessary to uphold the leadership by the CPC and make officials in positions of leadership assume more responsibility for the development of ecological civilisation. The 18th CPC National Congress decided to write into the Party Constitution the following words: "The Communist Party of China shall lead the people in building socialist ecological civilisation". It was the world's first programme of action of a ruling party that contains a reference to ecological civilisation. The central authorities were directly involved in planning the reform of the system of ecological civilisation and brought the development of ecological civilisation into an institutionalised legal framework. Important systems of ecological civilisation with Chinese characteristics were introduced in a trailblazing effort, including the natural

resources and assets audit system for officials in positions of leadership upon their departure from office, the lifelong accountability system for damage caused to the ecological environment on the watch of officials in positions of leadership and the central environmental protection ombudsman system.

It is necessary to strengthen top-level design to ensure that ecological civilisation is developed systematically with a holistic approach. China currently is under the cumulative stress of ecological and environmental issues of various types at various levels from various spheres and the current status of pollution, the size of the challenge and the capacity to tackle pollution vary significantly from region to region. In view of this situation, the central authorities have taken unprecedented high-level planning and coordination measures for the reform of the ecological civilisation system. A master plan for the reform of the ecological civilisation system was drawn up to strengthen unified central guidance on the reform of the ecological civilisation system in different sectors and regions, to secure a consensus on this reform across the Party and the nation. A series of reform actions have been taken to establish a complete and systematic regime of ecological civilisation characterised by rigorous prevention at the source, strict control of processes and stern punishment and accountability for any damage done.

Full-scale rollout should be tempered with pilot projects to ensure that the ecological civilisation system is effectively operationalised. The master plan for the reform of the ecological civilisation system covers 47 subsystems in eight areas and in each subsystem are subsumed a range of supporting regimes. Two approaches, by and large, have been applied. The first approach is to skip the trial phase and go straight into full-scale rollout. That means local authorities go ahead and implement the central plan “as is”. This applies, for example, to the rollout of the ecological and environmental monitoring network. Under the second approach, full-scale rollout is preceded by pilot projects. This is suitable for those mechanisms for which the conditions of implementation are not ready or the results to date are not sufficiently conclusive. One of the examples is the interregional ecological compensation mechanism. In cases like this, the central authorities encourage regional authorities to conduct trials in the context of their local realities while keeping to the overarching direction of the reform, to explore possibilities, test the waters and find the right path for the full-scale reform.

It is necessary to engage think tanks in the development of the reform plan, to bring the development of ecological civilisation in line with higher professional standards. Research institutions such as the Development

Research Centre of the State Council, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences informed the central authorities' decision-making in the course of formulating and publishing the reform plan for the ecological civilisation system by providing, inter alia, basic research reports and expert advice. Some think tanks participated in the third-party evaluation of the reform plan for the ecological civilisation system.

The “China solution” must be integrated with international cooperation and China should take an active part in global environmental governance. Over the past 40 years since the reform and opening up began, China has been actively learning from international experience in the development of its ecological and environmental protection system. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has risen as an important contributor to global ecological civilisation. China's concept of ecological civilisation and some important systems that it has introduced in this respect are gaining traction and acceptance in the international community. China's engagement with the international community has, in turn, contributed to the implementation and improvement of those systems. As an active player in international cooperation on climate change and biodiversity, China was among the first countries to sign the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, China has been honouring its emissions reduction commitment in good faith. Its carbon emissions trading system and system for promoting the development of low-carbon energy have been improving on an ongoing basis.

“Clear waters and lush mountains are the real treasure troves” — The Success Story of Anji County

It was in Anji County, Zhejiang Province, that President Xi Jinping first presented the momentous “treasure trove” analogy. Back in the 1990s, Anji County hosted a large number of highly polluting businesses in such sectors as mining, cement production, paper making and bamboo wire drawing. At one point, Anji was on the priority control list as a major polluter of the Taihu Lake. Today, Anji is sitting pretty in the embrace of verdant mountains on three sides, sporting a picturesque landscape, and the local population's perspective on development represents a clear paradigm shift.

In August 2005, during his tour of Anji, Xi Jinping, then Secretary of the Party Committee of Zhejiang Province, put forward for the first time the science-based notion that “clear waters and lush mountains are the real treasure troves”. His loving, heartfelt words were: “From now on, ‘eco-health’ shall be a byword for your county, and you shall pursue this heart and soul

in a down-to-earth manner. Since eco-health is your goal, you must know what to do and what not to do.” Guided by the important “treasure trove” analogy, Anji shut down a large number of polluting businesses and gradually phased out mining operations, followed by reconversion of mining areas into arable and vegetation-covered areas, whereupon the county embarked on the path of eco-friendly economic development. This rejuvenation process cut the number of mines in Anji from 274 to 17. As part of the effort to beautify Tianhuangping Town, the village of Yu redeveloped the mining area that used to accommodate its three lime kilns and turned it into an “Old Mine Park”.

Anji's green development case is a real-life example of Xi Jinping's construct of ecological civilisation operationalised on the ground. By protecting the ecological environment, we protect productive forces; by improving the ecological environment, we promote the development of productive forces. Clear waters and lush mountains may at times be at odds with the exigencies of building “treasure troves”, but it does not mean that this pair of antitheses cannot be synthesised, not least because eco-health and wealth creation are by no means mutually exclusive imperatives. What matters are the people and their mindset. When ecological advantages translate into economic advantages manifested through eco-agriculture, eco-industry, eco-tourism and so on, then clear waters and lush mountains are literally nothing short of treasure troves.



The Anji of old, plagued by ecological and environmental ills



Anji rebooted, the picture of clear waters and lush mountains

The Germplasm Bank of Wild Species, Southwest China

To address the serious loss of biodiversity and the extinction of critical species in China, the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) took the lead in establishing the Germplasm Resource Bank of Wild Species in Southwest China. It is instrumental in China's implementation of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

It is a world-class wildlife germplasm bank. Based in Yunnan, it is a five-in-one preservation system for wildlife germplasm resources, covering predominantly plant species and, to a lesser extent, animal and microbial species and made up of (1) a seed bank, (2) an *in vitro* plant germplasm bank, (3) a DNA bank, (4) an animal germplasm bank and (5) a microbial germplasm bank. Seventy-two sets of technical standards and specifications for preservation have been developed. China's strategically important germplasm resources have thus been brought under effective protection.

As part of the rescue effort, a multitude of important wildlife germplasm resources in China have been collected and preserved. Here are some figures of what had been collected and preserved as at the end of 2017: 225,522 accessions of germplasm for 21,666 species in the form of plant seeds, *in vitro* plant tissue, plant DNA, animal cell lines, microbial strains, etc., including: 74,738 accessions of wild plant seeds for 9,837 species, 1,990 genera, 229 families; 20,810 accessions for 1,850 species of plant materials for *in vitro* culture; 49,815 accessions for the DNA molecular materials of 5,642 species of plants; 1,985 accessions for the cell lines of 292 animal species; 56,274 accessions for the DNA molecular materials of 1,825 animal species; and 2,200 accessions for 222 microbial species. This wealth of germplasm resources collected and preserved is a major contribution to the security of China's strategic biological resources.

Resource and information sharing with the public has been fully realised. Physical materials, data, equipment and facilities, technology and other resources held in the bank have been placed in the public domain and shared through a tiered system. As at the end of 2017, more than 76,000 pieces of data on the plants collected, together with matching pictures of the plants, had been released online; 11,716 packets of 443,515 seeds had been distributed; more than 10 peer organisations had received support in building their own biological resource banks and advice on operating such banks; sophisticated seed processing equipment, cold storage installations and test platforms had been provided to major special national projects; and 12 national training

courses on seed collection and management knowhow and one international training course on seed preservation technology had been successfully held. All these efforts lent a strong impetus to China's endeavour to preserve and study biodiversity.

Park City—Urban Experience in Building Ecological Civilisation: From Concept to Practice

The “Park City” concept was first proposed by President Xi Jinping during his February 2018 visit to the Tianfu (Heavenly Home) New District in Chengdu, Sichuan. It is part of the “China solution” that informs the sustainable development of cities at the global level. Chengdu, being the birthplace of the “Park City” concept, came up with the innovative planning philosophy that a city should be landscaped into a cluster of scenic areas accessible to the public and open to public engagement. It committed itself to the development model that places the government in the driver's seat, leverages market dynamics and follows commercial logic; and explored a new urban development approach characterised by greening more spaces for the benefit of the residents, managing the city in a way that boosts its magnetism, building its scenic value to a critical mass and attracting businesses and investment. Thereupon, Chengdu embarked on a fast track of transformation, to become a charming Park City that is a joy to live in.

Engineering a new template for attractive Chinese cities. Chengdu effected urban space readjustments guided by large-scale ecological corridors, transforming the city layout from “an urban centre sandwiched between two mountains” into “a continuum of twin cities separated by a mountain” with the plan to build a new town east of the Longquan (Dragon Spring) Mountain. The 1,275-square-kilometre Mount Dragon Spring Forest Park, complete with a 16,900-kilometre-long Tianfu Greenway System, being the longest in the world, will be built to high quality standards. The forest park will accommodate 109 individual parks each with distinctive features. Together, they form a park culture identification system and a full range of park attractions. The purpose is to develop a desirable urban morphology of greater harmony and cohesion among the people, the city, the landscape and the businesses.

Introducing diverse ecological values. By implementing, in greater depth, the philosophy that “clear waters and lush mountains are the real treasure troves”, Chengdu has brought new trades and professions into the open green spaces, fostered new business scenarios and launched new models of innovation. It

plans to build 100 towns with distinctive features and 1,000 rural “Live in Nature” settlements unique to Western Sichuan, as well as 68 “Park City” tourist brands, such as Jinjiang River Night Cruise and the River Beach Park. The purpose is to bring agriculture, commerce, culture, tourism and sports together to maximise the co-benefits of ecological resources.

Building a homey environment blessed with blue skies and clear waters.

Thanks to the city’s efforts to address smog with iron discipline, tackle water pollution with aggressive measures, decongest urban traffic with scientific solutions and expand green coverage to the whole city, the year 2018 saw clear skies on 251 days or 70.3% of all the days in the year; bodies of black, putrid water in built-up areas were more or less eliminated; and 19 million square metres of eco-compliant green areas were added to the total. The environment palpably changed for the better, which was directly experienced by the general public and applauded by the local communities.

Improving the Park City institutional system. Chengdu created a Park City Development and Management Agency and a Tianfu Park City Research Academy; drew up the *Chengdu City Plan for Transforming Into a Charming, Residents-Friendly City*; hosted the First Global Park City Forum, with the outcome document Chengdu Consensus on Park Cities 2019; and preliminarily elaborated a theoretical framework, planning regime and development structure for park cities.



Ecological Civilisation as a Corporate Way of Life: How Yili Goes About Conserving Biodiversity

For Yili, biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecological development are part and parcel of its business operations and development strategy. As the first Chinese business to sign the United Nations *Business and Biodiversity Pledge*, the Group is keen to inspire other stakeholders to pitch in. Yili's work in protecting biodiversity made it to UNESCO's compilation of sustainable development cases and was cited as an example from China for global advocacy and benchmarking.

Timely Disclosure: the world's very first *Annual Report on Biodiversity Protection*. In 2018, Yili issued its Annual Report on Biodiversity Protection, which explains its biodiversity conservation measures. Furthermore, Yili worked in close partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to launch the "Northeast China Wetland Conservation Project". A total of 39 water bird observatories were set up and sustainable corn cultivation technology and water-efficient conservation technology for wetlands were extended, covering 33,000 *mu* and 54,000 *mu* respectively.

Internally, an efficient management model drives tailored practice. Yili operates under a system whereby its Sustainable Development Committee acts as the lead coordinator, with division of labour across all departments and centralised management of critical biodiversity projects. Soil desertification has been brought under effective control. In Shaogen Town, Alukorqin Banner, Inner Mongolia, 37,200 *mu* of desertified land has been converted to grow alfalfa. Aiming for sustainable use of resources, Yili has achieved effective utilisation of livestock manure to avoid polluting river sand, improve the microbial flora in soil and create a new modality of agricultural ecological cycle by introducing, through technological innovation, the model of "recycling pasture manure as a resource". Yili attaches great importance to protecting the diversity of species. In partnership with nonprofits from New Zealand, Yili launched a wild salmon protection programme to improve the habitat environment for wild salmon in the Waitangi region. As a proactive measure to address climate change, Yili has been conducting carbon screening for eight consecutive years. Through 101 energy-saving and emissions reduction projects, the company's energy consumption per tonne of products has been reduced by 8.22%.

Externally, awareness raising campaigns promote biodiversity conservation literacy. Yili's "biodiversity conservation literacy" campaign has produced

good results. In September 2018, Yili's Jindian Organic Milk Division and the WWF launched Operation Safe Wetland, a joint effort to protect wetland fauna. To date, public service events conducted have helped preserve 260,000 square kilometres of wetlands. The Yili Group founded a nature education school focusing on wetlands in the northeast wetland region. The school offers a wetland conservation course to 350 students in seven classes and educates primary and secondary school pupils and the general public about biodiversity.

Revitalising Rural China

China is in the final stage of the drive to build a society of moderate prosperity. But that does not mean it has overcome the issue of underdevelopment in rural areas where the living environment leaves something to be desired, the essential conditions for agricultural development are inadequate and poverty stress is high. In response to these challenges, the Chinese Government surveyed the realities in the country, especially in rural areas, for an accurate mapping of the issues to be addressed and gained insight into the changing dynamics between urban and rural China. In 2017, by respecting the logic and proven pathway of modernisation, China launched a rural revitalisation strategy aimed at accelerating both rural and agricultural development to keep up with the modernisation of the country as a whole and achieving the goal of balanced development of both urban and rural areas.

Overview

Rural revitalisation is about revitalising rural areas on all fronts: industries, human resources, culture, ecosystems and institutions. The overarching goal of the Rural Revitalisation Strategy (“the Strategy”) is rural and agricultural modernisation; its overarching principle is the development of rural areas and agriculture as a priority; and its overarching requirement is to have a thriving sector of industries, an eco-friendly and pleasant living environment, civilised local ethos, effective governance and affluence. The institutional foundation for the Strategy is to establish and develop urban-rural integrated development regimes, mechanisms and policies. The Strategy has five core items on its agenda:

First, to develop and expand rural industries. This entails efforts to facilitate greater integration of primary, secondary and tertiary industries; incentivise the development of a mix of industries led and run by local farmers with strong local characteristics that can make the most of the local natural endowments; encourage technology and capital to gravitate towards rural areas; and foster new forms of agriculture and rural industries, so as to promote the sustained, rapid development of rural industries.

Second, to effectively narrow the gap between urban and rural areas. This entails efforts to promote free flow and equal exchange of production factors between urban and rural areas; build a new type of urban-rural relationship that is mutually complementary and delivers common prosperity; and steadily

reduce the disparities between urban and rural populations in disposable income, consumption levels and public services. The goal is to let rural people live a life that is “different from but not inferior to” urban life.

Third, to eradicate rural poverty as a whole. This entails efforts to combine poverty eradication and rural revitalisation in a coherent and mutually reinforcing manner to ensure that the rural population below the current poverty line be lifted out of poverty by 2020 so that entire regions are free from poverty. There will be sustained efforts to improve the living and development conditions of the rural poor and introduce long-acting mechanisms to consolidate the gains of poverty eradication and prevent relapses.

Fourth, to improve rural people's livelihood comprehensively. This entails efforts to invest more in rural infrastructure, being a priority in the national infrastructure development plan, to fill any gaps in this regard. By the same token, rural areas also take precedence in the distribution of public education, healthcare and social security resources as they claim primacy in the national social service development plan, with a view to better public service delivery in rural areas.

Fifth, to make significant improvements to rural ecosystems. This entails efforts to promote the green rural development approach; further improve the living environment in rural areas; focus on tackling salient issues in the agricultural environment; implement projects to conserve and remediate rural ecosystems; and move rural development forward in a way that is conducive to the harmonious symbiosis of humanity and nature.

Best Practice

Commitment to prioritise agricultural and rural development. In the processes of modernisation, industrialisation and urbanisation, because of the decline in both Engel's coefficient and comparative advantages of agriculture, as well as diseconomies of scale, the enormous recessional pressure in rural areas will continue to challenge China's medium- to long-term development. Conscious of how a rural recession might transpire, the Chinese Government has set up an institutional system and policy framework whereby agricultural and rural development takes precedence, giving greater support to agriculture and rural areas to offset the agricultural and rural recessional pressure.

Commitment to drive new-type urbanisation and rural revitalisation side by side. Rural revitalisation and urbanisation are not incompatible or

mutually exclusive. In fact, they complement and reinforce each other. Rural revitalisation tends to be more successful with more distinct characteristics in areas with good urbanisation outcomes. Combining urbanisation with rural revitalisation, the Chinese Government has been actively promoting a new type of urbanisation and providing a wider range of market demand, more abundant capital and stronger technical support for rural revitalisation.

Commitment to fill the gaps in rural public services. Not having adequate rural public services is one of the main manifestations of the fact that rural areas lag behind urban areas. It is also an important area in which the Government can play its role. The Chinese Government has taken active steps to ensure equal access to basic public services in both urban and rural areas and has ramped up investment in rural infrastructure, education, healthcare and other sectors to meet the rural population's aspirations for higher quality of life. Within a short period of time, facilities and services for, inter alia, rural household waste disposal and domestic sewage treatment have been put in place and public services in rural areas are no longer defined by backwardness.

Commitment to promote innovation-driven development of rural industries. Rural development is not possible without the development of rural industries. The Chinese Government actively supports the development of new industries in rural areas. Such industries as recreational agriculture, sharing economy, creative agriculture, old-age care and convalescence and wellness business have been growing at phenomenal speed. Meanwhile, China also attaches great importance to what new technologies such as digital technology and the Internet can do. New configurations and models of business in rural areas have emerged with the improvement of rural logistics and digital facilities. They are strong drivers for rural development and farmers' quest for prosperity.

Rural Revitalisation in Zhanqi Village—The Three Transformations

In February 2018, during his visit to Zhanqi (Battle Flag) Village of Chengdu City, President Xi Jinping spoke highly of the village as a “spirited standard-bearer living up to its name”. He urged the village to keep up its good work and “take the lead and set a good example” in the implementation of the Rural Revitalisation Strategy. By striving for ecological excellence, prioritising reform and revitalising industries, Zhanqi Village blazed a green and sustainable path of rural revitalisation. It has been honoured with titles like “National Model Village for Rural Revitalisation” and “China's Beautiful Leisure Village”.

Transforming the village into a tourist destination by capitalising on its ecological endowments. Since 2017, Zhanqi Village has been building itself into a tourist attraction by closing nine polluting businesses, relocating four large livestock farms, building a 5.3-km-long riverside greenway, restoring forest gardens with local characteristics and developing landscape-oriented agriculture on more than 1,000 mu (66.67 ha) of land. It is now an AAAA-grade tourist destination. The village also created a district showcasing 18 local crafts, home to more than 80 intangible heritage demonstration and rural e-commerce projects/businesses, contributing to the integration of agriculture, commerce, culture, tourism and sports. In 2018, Zhanqi Village received 850,000 tourists and chalked up a tourism revenue of RMB65 million.

Transforming resources into capital through land reform. In 2015, Zhanqi Village was the firstcomer in Sichuan Province to put collective-owned construction-purpose land on the market. It put up 13.5 *mu* of idle land for sale, which fetched over RMB70 million. It founded Sichuan Zhanqi Rural Revitalisation Training Institute through stock buying, partnering and leasing with its collective-owned construction-purpose land. It also brought in a number of projects to develop modern complexes that combine farming with landscape, creating over 800 jobs and achieving intensive use of land resources and the development of industries in clusters.

Transforming villagers into shareholders by strengthening collective economy. On the basis of the joint-stock land cooperative established in the early years, the village set up some market entities, including Zhanqi Asset Management Company. Villagers were mobilised to pool their funds and contribute their own designs. Unused properties were converted into B&B guesthouses/homestays, teahouses and other establishments, thus diversifying the sources of income growth. In 2018, the village's collective assets were worth more than RMB 60 million, with a collective revenue of RMB 5.2 million and per capita disposable income of RMB 28,000. They are making great strides towards shared prosperity.



Province-Wide Rural Revitalisation—The Case of Zhejiang

President Xi Jinping urged Zhejiang “to never stop pursuing practical work with tangible results, explore new grounds while leading the way and embrace the surging tide with courage and commitment”. He also told Zhejiang what he expected of the next phase of the province’s “Thousand Model Villages and Ten Thousand Revitalised Villages” project. Guided by President Xi’s instructions, Zhejiang gave top priority to the implementation of the rural revitalisation strategy and has spared no effort to become a model province for rural revitalisation.

The province introduced a leadership accountability system for implementing the rural revitalisation strategy and a working mechanism under which the provincial leadership takes the primary responsibility while city and county-level authorities are in charge of implementation. They issued high-level action plans and strategies and drew up roadmaps, worksheets and timetables for rural revitalisation from a high starting point.

They introduced a systematic indicator matrix, a pragmatic working system, a practical policy system and an effective evaluation system, forming a province-wide structure with all its components operating in lockstep on the same wavelength and moving in the same direction.

The province embarked on the “Five Myriad Programme”, namely, upgrading 10,000 new-type agricultural actors, developing 10,000 tourist villages, building 10,000 cultural halls, demonstrating good governance in 10,000 model villages and increasing the per-capita income among farmers by RMB10,000. Five major campaigns went under way, to elevate the quality of rural industries, build beautiful countryside in the new era, enrich and benefit local communities, inject dynamism into rural culture and promote the rural governance model known as “Three Types of Governance”, i.e. self-governance, law-based governance and ethical governance.

A number of major reforms have been carried out in parallel, including reform of the rural land system, reform of the rural collective property right system and reform of the "three-in-one" rural cooperative structure (of cooperation by trade, supply and marketing cooperation and credit cooperation), giving rise to new dynamics in the urban-rural integrated development system, including identifying and filling gaps, expanding the scope of integration and distributing dividends.

The province has been facilitating the access of technology and capital to rural areas and the return of youth and elite to their villages. A diversified portfolio of investments has been significantly strengthened with the prioritised backing of the government budget, preferential support from financial institutions and active participation of private capital.

The implementation of the rural revitalisation strategy began over a year ago. Since then, Zhejiang's rural industries have been growing in both quality and efficiency; Project Beautiful Countryside has been upgraded; the welfare of local farmers has been steadily improving; rural culture has been developing in an integrated manner; and the rural governance model has been perfected through innovation. The per-capita disposable income among the rural population province-wide stands at RMB27,302. The momentum of steady agricultural and rural development has been reinforced.

Digital Economy Drives Rural Revitalisation

Since 2015, inspired by the development philosophy that “clear waters and lush mountains are the real treasure troves”, Gengche Town has seized the opportunity presented by the Internet Plus initiative and created what is known as the "Gengche New Model" for digital economy that drives rural revitalisation.

A better ecosystem. In 2016, in the spirit of the new development philosophy, Gengche began putting its house in order by placing its recycling and reprocessing business under control and banning its 30-year-old traditional waste reuse industry. It built a circular economy-oriented industrial park centring on the downstream processing, finishing and smart manufacturing of plastic products. It now has a West End Residential District, a White Deer Lake eco-friendly high-end residential area and an Agricultural Demonstration Park occupying 2,000 mu of land. In just three years, Gengche has transformed itself from a garbage tip to an idyllic rural Eden through a metamorphosis that has delivered blue skies, lush vegetation and limpid waters. Gengche has thus embarked on a new path of transformative and green development.

Stronger e-commerce. Gengche has developed a nascent model of e-commerce development that focuses on the production and online marketing of basic furniture, succulents and finished plastic products. It has an e-commerce industrial park, an e-commerce logistics park and an online business

incubation centre. Its 2,759 online shops selling furniture and home goods, plastic products and succulents have created approximately 50,000 jobs. In 2018, Gengche's e-commerce turnover reached RMB 5 billion, contributing 20% of the local population's total income. Nearly 6,000 people received help to catch the "express train" for e-commerce entrepreneurship.

More young returnees to start their own businesses. The desirable ecological environment and enabling environment for startups have attracted a growing number of local young people to come back and set up Internet-based businesses in furniture making, logistics, live vlogging and photography. They are the dominant force that drives rural revitalisation. Gengche's reputation is such that many non-local young people have also come over to take advantage of the opportunity it offers. In 2018, 286 new online businesses were added to the tally, of which 122 are owned by those born in the 1980s and 97 by those born in the 1990s, which means close to 80% of the owners are young people. They are the engine behind the rural revitalisation process.



The contrast between past and present of Gengche

Belt and Road Cooperation

Opening-up is a basic policy of China. Mutual benefit and win-win development are the basic principles governing the opening-up. While opening wider to the outside world and promoting its own development, China is also actively promoting economic globalisation towards openness, inclusiveness, universal benefits, balance and win-win. Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia in September and October 2013 respectively to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, namely the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Overview

The BRI originated in China and belongs to the world. It is rooted in history and oriented toward the future. It focuses on the Asian, European and African continents and is open to all partners.

The Belt and Road cooperation is carried out in the spirit of promoting peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, and is based on extensive consultation, joint efforts and shared benefits.

The Belt and Road cooperation is enhancing connectivity by promoting policy synergy, infrastructural development, unimpeded trade, financial cooperation and people-to-people bond and is aimed at building a road of peace, prosperity, opening up, innovation, connected civilisations, green development and clean government with a view to facilitating a community of shared future for mankind.

The Belt and Road cooperation is open, green and clean, pursues high standards, people-centered and sustainable development, and keeps moving forward towards high-quality development.

Best Practice

The progress achieved in a short span of time has been the result of multi-party cooperation. China has played a major role as the initiator and promoter of the BRI. The best practice can be summarized as follows:

An accurate assessment of international and domestic situations. The initiative was made with the development needs at home and abroad

in mind. After the international financial crisis in 2008, growth of the developed economies slowed down, with shrinking market growth space, while developing economies, with their huge potential, high growth, large population and huge market capacity, have become important growth points in the global economy. The driving force of industrial development in China matches the desire of developing countries to fix the gap in infrastructure, speed up the process of industrialization, take advantage of China's fast development and focus on economic growth. The BRI has received positive responses from many countries as it provides a comprehensive platform for open, inclusive and all-round cooperation.

The sense of responsibility as a major country. Belt and Road cooperation partners differ widely in the level of development and many have long suffered from various constraints and not achieved development. China has actively promoted the alignment of development strategies with the relevant countries, set up forums for multilateral consultation, provided stable, transparent and high-quality financial support and advanced the implementation of a large number of major infrastructural cooperation projects. It has also increased assistance to cooperation partners and provided a large number of training and learning opportunities for both government officials and overseas students with a view to enhancing the capacity for sustainable development of the vast number of developing countries with both hard and soft measures.

A more balanced approach to upholding principles and pursuing interests. In the Belt and Road cooperation, we pursue the principle of open cooperation for mutual benefit and win-win results, giving due consideration to both the righteous principles and interests while putting the principles first. Upholding principles first is the foundation of a solid and reliable partnership. Due consideration to the interests of market participants is conducive to stimulating their enthusiasm and creativity and allowing the Belt and Road cooperation to better pool resources, accumulate capital and achieve sustainable growth.

A scientific approach. The vision of Belt and Road cooperation systematically covers cooperation in the economic and trade, infrastructure and cultural fields, providing a framework for comprehensive cooperation. At the same time, it is also selected and focused. For example, infrastructure development has been identified as a priority, involving six major economic corridors and focusing on cooperation with neighboring countries. The principle of extensive consultation, joint efforts and shared benefits has become the

golden rule in Belt and Road cooperation. It is stressed that the BRI is not a matter for any one country alone, but a common cause for all countries. It is necessary to accommodate the concerns of all parties and pool their wisdom and strengths.

Mombasa-Nairobi Railway: Towards High Standard and People-centered Development

The Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway connects Mombasa, the largest port city in East Africa, with Nairobi, capital of Kenya. Its main line is 472 kilometres long, with designed speeds of 120 kilometres per hour for passenger trains and 80 kilometres per hour for freight trains and an annual freight capacity of 25 million tonnes. The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR was built by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) to China's Class 1 railway standards. The substantive part of construction began in January 2015 and the railway was completed and inaugurated on 31 May 2017. By the end of January 2019, it had carried 2.986 million passengers, with an average occupancy rate of over 97.3%. A daily average of 6.75 pairs of freight trains run between the two cities and have to date transported 3.422 million tonnes of freight in total. Cost savings in logistics are close to 40%. Locals account for more than 70% of the workforce.

The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR is Kenya's largest infrastructure project since its independence. It is also the first line in the planned East African railway network, marking the dawn of the SGR era in East Africa. After considering the local realities and construction cost, it was decided that the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR use diesel locomotives with room reserved for technical upgrade to electrification in the future. The railway project contributed 1.5 percentage points to Kenya's GDP growth while it was being built. It created 46,000 local jobs, \$880 million worth local procurement and has a 40% localisation rate. The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR is instrumental in promoting Kenya's economic and social development, enhancing connectivity in East Africa, accelerating Africa's industrialisation process and bringing the BRI into the hinterland of Africa. Prior to the completion of this railway, merely 5% of the Port of Mombasa's throughput was transshipped by railway. It is expected that by 2030, the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR will carry 70% of the port's freight by volume. Along the railway line, there are 14 corridors, 61 bridges and 600 culverts to facilitate the migration of large wild animals. Giraffes, for example, can pass through without having to duck their heads or bend over. The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR received a Global Best Projects 2018 Award of

Merit from Engineering News-Record (ENR).

China Railway Express to Europe Drives the Development in the Interior of Eurasia

As the BRI moves forward, China's economic cooperation and trade with Europe and other countries along the Belt and Road have been developing apace, with rising demand for logistics. Since its inauguration in 2011, China Railway Express (CRE) to Europe has become a new logistics superhighway between Asia and Europe.

A sophisticated ground access network. Three logistics corridors are in place to serve four major ports, providing 68 routes connecting 62 Chinese cities with 53 cities in 16 European countries. A growing number of domestic and overseas hubs, border crossings and overseas rehandling locations have been built, further expanding the "circle of friends" for China's import and export business.

An efficient, user-friendly and economical service system. The total travelling time is one third shorter and customs clearance takes 50% less time. The IT-enabled one-stop platform has been further strengthened. The variety of freight transported has been expanding and so have value-added services such as cold chain transport, cross-border e-commerce, insurance and other financial services.

A better international and domestic coordination mechanism. The railway systems of the seven countries along the CRE routes have worked more closely together in such areas as three-to-two consolidation of units for the broad gauge section, planning negotiation, information collaboration, full running chart and channel construction capacity. Their domestic coordination committees have made important progress in unified branding, price bargaining, safety control and the optimisation of transport organisation.

An improved interface between inland areas and the open world economy. Taking advantage of the development of CRE, cities like Chongqing, Chengdu, Zhengzhou, Xi'an and Wuhan have accelerated the implementation of open access vantage projects in inland China. For example, the Chengdu-Europe Railway, boasting more dispatched train services than any other Chinese city for many years in a row, now goes to 25 foreign cities. With a 26.4% growth in foreign trade in 2018, it has become an important railway

hub connecting Europe and Asia.

A greater impetus of growth for developing economies along the routes.

As of the end of March 2019, CRE counted 53 cities in 16 European countries among its foreign destinations. According to official data from Germany, CRE has created more than 6,000 local jobs, driving local economic and social development. It has enhanced connectivity among these countries and created greater impetus for their development.



COPHC Works for Better Livelihood and Environment in Gwadar

Supporting healthcare. In May 2017, the China-Pakistan Bo'ai Emergency Medical Centre in Gwadar, an aid project from China, was completed. It sits on a site of more than 3,000 square metres provided by China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and Gwadar Port Authority. COPHC also undertook, at no cost to the host community, the construction of the centre's structures. So far, the centre has received approximately 5,000 visits from Chinese and Pakistani patients and distributed 4,280 bottles of vitamins.

Supporting education. In 2013, COPHC donated three school buses to primary schools in Gwadar. In 2014, the COPHC Scholarship was established to sponsor local students' education and training in China. The Faqeer primary and middle schools built with donations from China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) enjoy a good teaching environment with a catchment of several square kilometres. The original plan was to enroll 150 pupils but the number has now increased to 503. In November 2017, the Chinese embassy donated funds to Faqeer Middle School to help disadvantaged pupils and also created the Chinese Embassy Scholarship. As of August 2019, the scholarship had been disbursed to 52 recipients. To satisfy the increasing local demand for education, the second phase expansion project for Faqeer Middle School will be launched in September 2019 with the support of CFPD.

Supporting water supply. COPHC signed a water supply agreement with the local government to supply 300,000 gallons of desalinated water to Gwadar residents daily. Furthermore, in the construction process, COPHC also invested in a sewage treatment plant to recycle the sewage in the area into reclaimed water. Drip irrigation technology was introduced to water garden plants and trees and to improve the highly saline and alkaline desert soil. A greening project of over 100,000 square metres has become the local people's go-to park.

Supporting environmental protection. In October 2018, COPHC launched a greening project named "One Million Trees in Gwadar", to give Gwadar a green facelift. In April 2019, COPHC established the Gwadar Seed Cultivation Centre to provide technical support for the ambitious greening project.