

China Development Forum 2024

The Continuous Development of China

Thematic Seminar on Carbon Neutrality and Global Climate Governance (Keynote Speech II)

The China Development Forum (CDF) 2024, hosted by the Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC) and organized by the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF), was held at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing from March 24 to 25. On the afternoon of March 24, the Symposium on Carbon Neutrality and Global Climate Governance was held, presided over by Gao Shiji, Director-General of the Institute for Resources and Environmental Policy, DRC. The guest speaker in the “Keynote Speech II” session was Liu Zhenmin, China’s Special Envoy for Climate Change Affairs.

With regard to climate change, Liu Zhenmin put forward the following four views.

First, green and low-carbon transformation is a well-defined pathway to achieving global carbon neutrality and net zero emission. Although some countries' fossil energy consumption and carbon emissions have increased and their energy policies have fluctuated due to geopolitical conflicts and sluggish economic recovery in recent years, yet

their medium-and long-term goals to mitigate climate change stay unaffected. It is believed that all parties will forge ahead more firmly in the direction of transitioning away from fossil fuels and improving energy security. As different countries in the world vary in their natural resources and energy endowments, their basis, methods and difficulties of energy transformation are different. China's coal-based resource endowment predicates the important role of coal-fired power in China's power security. For many developing countries with an energy structure similar to China's, the large-scale deployment and application of renewable energy are challenged, and they cannot break away from the flexible adjustment and support of traditional fossil energy for some time to come. The outcome document of the first global inventory completed by COP28 defines the general direction of "transitioning away from fossil fuels" globally. This process should be carried out in a just, orderly and fair manner, and it will not happen overnight. All parties should do their best and work together to achieve the goal steadily on the basis of ensuring the energy security of all countries.

Second, scientific and technological innovation is an important driver for the global response to climate change. Scientific and technological innovation is critical to global decarbonization and improving the ability of countries to adapt to climate change. Especially in the process of energy transformation, scientific and technological innovation is indispensable to the large-scale application of renewable energy, clean and efficient utilization of fossil fuels, carbon capture and storage, and the flexibility and stability of smart grids. According to the report of the International Renewable Energy Agency, over the past decade, the average kilowatt-hour cost of global wind power and

photovoltaic power generation projects has decreased by more than 60% and 80% respectively, which can be largely attributed to Chinese innovation, manufacturing and projects. China has been making great efforts to contribute significantly to global energy security and low-carbon energy transformation and innovation, in the hope that we can uphold the concept of innovation, coordination, green development, openness and sharing, seize the development opportunities of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, promote the R&D and application of advanced technologies for energy conservation and carbon reduction, promote the construction of a global green and low-carbon industrial supply chain, improve the level of green services and trade cooperation, promote the intelligent and green transformation and upgrading of economy, energy and industrial structure, and provide new drivers for the global response to climate change through the development of new productive forces.

Third, pragmatic actions are key to global climate governance. China has been implementing a national strategy to actively mitigate climate change. By 2022, China's carbon emission intensity had decreased by more than 51% compared with 2005. As at the end of December 2023, China's total installed capacity of renewable energy power generation accounted for nearly 40% of the world; China's wind power and photovoltaic products were exported to more than 200 countries and regions around the world; China contributed 25% of the new landscaped space in the world; China had also established the world's largest carbon market covering greenhouse gas emissions; and China promulgated the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 and the Action Plan for Methane Emission Control; China

mobilized all the people of the country to participate in national green and low-carbon development and advocate the formation of a new pathway of green and low-carbon life. Meanwhile, we keep providing assistance to other developing countries within our capacity through the green "Belt and Road" and South-South cooperation platform to address climate change. By far, from a global perspective, all state parties' present commitments can control the global temperature rise within the target range of the Paris Agreement, but the most urgent thing is to meet the commitments. The goals and visions of all parties should be realistic, feasible and continuous, with full consideration to the means of implementation and the different starting points and capacity of developing countries. All parties should work hard to implement the obligations and commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and turn the vision into a reality through pragmatic actions.

Fourth, win-win cooperation is the due intention of global climate governance. In recent years, some countries, trapped in the mindset of utilitarianism and "zero-sum gaming", have adopted protectionism and unilateral measures in the name of mitigating climate change or "derisking", posing great obstacles to the global green and low-carbon transformation and undermining the mutual trust and efforts of countries to cooperate in mitigating climate change. A recent report by Wood Mackenzie International Consulting indicates that the complete decoupling from clean technology products made in China will lead to an additional cost of \$6 trillion for global energy transformation, which means that the cost of global green transformation will increase by 20% from the original bill. Therefore, all countries in the world should firmly

uphold multilateralism, adhere to the principle of fair and just climate governance, respect market rules and trade freedom, maintain the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement as the basic rules for the international community to cooperate in mitigating climate change, coordinate their own interests with those of all mankind, unite as one, help each other, and work together in response to global climate change.

(Written by Du Qianqian and reviewed by Cui Keliang, China Development Press)

--Background Information--

Under the mandate 'Engaging with the world for common prosperity', China Development Forum (CDF) serves as an important platform for Chinese government to carry out candid exchanges and discussions with leaders of global businesses and international organizations as well as foreign and Chinese scholars. Initiated in 2000, CDF has made remarkable contributions for the policy exchange and international collaborations between China and the world.

--Media Contact--

CDRF

Guo Silu 18666028168/64255855-8014

Shi Yafan 13810361966/64255855-8223

Xia Tian 18801375838/64255855-8086

Shi Wanjing 18801090391/64255855-8090

Qiu Kaixian 18301078627/64255855-8103



中国发展研究基金会
China Development Research
Foundation

中国北京东城区安定门外大街138号
皇城国际中心A座15层

Floor15, Tower a, Imperial International Center, No.138
Andingmen Wai Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing, 100011, China

邮编: 100011
电话: 86-10-64255855
传真: 86-10-64255855-8100
网址: www.cdrf.org.cn
电邮: cdrf@cdrf.org.cn

Tel: 86-10-64255855
Fax: 86-10-64255855-8100
Website: www.cdrf.org.cn
E-mail: cdrf@cdrf.org.cn
