

China Development Forum 2024
The Continuous Development of China

Symposium on Carbon Neutrality and Global Climate Governance
(Keynote Speech I)

Hosted by the Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC) and organized by the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF), the China Development Forum (CDF) 2024 was held at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing from 24th to 25th March. The Symposium on Carbon Neutrality and Global Climate Governance was held on the afternoon of March 24. It was chaired by Gao Shiji, Director-General of the Institute of Resources and Environment Policies, DRC. The speaker for “Keynote Speech I” was Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China.

Zhao said that China's economic and social development has entered a phase of high-quality growth characterized by accelerated greening and low carbonization. **Firstly, new industries and new business forms provide new driving forces for green development.** China's NEV production and sales of account for more than 60% of the global total, leading the world for nine years running. There was nearly a 30%

increase in exports of the “new trio,” namely, electric vehicles, lithiumion batteries, and photovoltaic products. **Secondly, significant improvements have been made in the quality of the environment.** In 2023, the average PM2.5 concentration of cities at or above the prefecture level was 30 micrograms per cubic meter, down by 16.7% from the pre-pandemic year of 2019, and the proportion of excellent and good quality surface water reached 89.4%. **Thirdly, the green and low-carbon market mechanism continues to improve.** The second compliance cycle of the national market for trading carbon emission rights has been successfully concluded, with 2,257 key enterprises in the power generation industry being included. It covers annual carbon dioxide emissions of over 5 billion tons, with a compliance completion rate exceeding 99%. **Fourthly, China is deeply involved in global environmental and climate governance, and contributes to the positive results of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai.** China has offered support within its capacity to other developing countries and made the greatest contribution to global climate governance as well as green and low-carbon transition with Chinese wisdom and actions through such channels as the green Belt and Road, South-South cooperation on climate change, and China-Africa cooperation on climate change.

Zhao said that climate response requires for global ambition and, more importantly, the practical means to realize that ambition. In the future, China will thoroughly apply Xi Jinping’s Economic Thought and

Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization to persist in implementing the national strategy for actively responding to climate change and steadfastly achieve the “30·60” decarbonization goal, namely reaching peak carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

The first is to strengthen the internal drivers of green and low-carbon development. China will fully advance the development of building a beautiful China and deepen the pilot projects for coordinated efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions. China will explore effective models and technical pathways for green and low-carbon transformation of regions, cities, and industrial parks, strengthen the guidance of emission standards for greenhouse gases, boilers, and vehicles, promote the elimination of backward capacity and the upgrading of equipment, make effective use of environmental protection taxes as incentive tools, and provide tax incentives to enterprises with good environmental performance and low pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. China will advance pilot projects for development models guided by ecological and environmental considerations, promote demonstration of green financial innovation, improve the system for market-based allocation of resources and environmental factors, perfect the compensation system for ecological conservation, and encourage the development of mechanisms to realize the market value of ecosystem goods.

The second is to take active and prudent steps toward the goal of

carbon dioxide peaking and carbon neutrality. China will accelerate the improvement of the national carbon emission statistical accounting system, enhance the national market for trading carbon emission rights, gradually expand the coverage of the national carbon market to more sectors, and explore policy implementation paths such as the paid allocation of carbon emission quotas. China will increase the supply of market projects for the voluntary greenhouse gas emission reduction trading and accelerate the construction of a national unified voluntary emission reduction trading market that is efficient, standardized, fair, transparent, and aligned with international standards. China will deepen the construction of low-carbon and climate-resilient cities and establish a climate investment and financing project database. China will enhance international cooperation in the field of ecological environment, actively engage in dialogue and cooperation with key countries and international organizations in the field of ecological environment and climate change, and promote green development along the Belt and Road.

The third is to intensify pollution prevention and control. China will continue upgrading in the steel industry to achieve ultra-low emission and launch ultra-low emission transformation in two key industries, namely cement and coking. China will make concerted efforts to protect water resources, improve aquatic environment, and restore aquatic ecosystems. China will promote the safe use of agricultural land and risk control of construction land, strictly control environmental impact assessment access, and resolutely curb the blind development of

projects that are high in energy consumption, high in pollution, and low in technology. China will accelerate the development of a new energy system and reduce the use of low quality coal in the northern regions. China will plan and implement a number of major projects in the field of ecological environment that are trans-regional and trans-river, coordinated in land and marine development, and concerted in multiple factors.

The fourth is to accelerate innovation in green science and technology and wider application of advanced green technology. China will drive the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries and enhance their performance through the application of innovations in green technology. China will support the growth of emerging industries focused on pollution reduction and carbon reduction and strive to create a green and low-carbon supply chain. China will strengthen the construction of ecological and environmental science and technology platforms, improve the reserve and breakthrough of cutting-edge frontier technologies like new energy, and conduct coordinated demonstrations of technological achievements in the efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions. China will accelerate the development of a green, intelligent digital ecological civilization, and solidify the talent and technological foundation to promote green and low-carbon development.

The fifth is to get actively involved in global governance in response to climate change. China calls upon all parties to uphold

multilateralism, comply with the objectives and principles laid out in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, earnestly fulfill the promise to the international community, strengthen political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, and work together to build a fair and reasonable global climate governance system for win-win cooperation.

(China Development Press Author: Du Qianqian; Reviewer: Cui Keliang)

--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.

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