



Stockholm+50 Stakeholder Consultation in China

A Summary Report





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1.Introduction

In 1972, at the United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, for the first time in history, it was recognized that the environment, poverty and sustainable development are interconnected. The conference was a watershed moment in environmental policy making, leading to the Stockholm Declaration and the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as World Environment Day. It was also important for China, marking its first participation at a major UN event, which eventually shaped the country's understanding and management of environmental challenges.

To reflect on the significance of Stockholm fifty years on and strengthen efforts to protect our planet today, the UN General Assembly ratified two resolutions to convene the international meeting “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”. This was held on June 2 and 3, during the week of World Environment Day.

The Stockholm+50 meeting centered around collaborative and multi-stakeholder exchanges organised through three leadership dialogues:

- Leadership dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all;
- Leadership dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19); and
- Leadership dialogue 3: Accelerating implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and protect the planet.

Stockholm+50 is firstly a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Declaration. However, **it is also a moment to reflect on current challenges to sustainable development**, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This calls for addressing intergenerational responsibility, focusing on opportunities to better implement the SDGs and identifying overlap between stakeholders and policy issues. Finally, **it is a timely opportunity to reinforce the 1972 principles and generate urgent actions** for a healthy planet and the prosperity of all, by:

- Speeding up implementation of commitments to a low-carbon, just and inclusive path;
- Driving action across sectors to build back better and transition to high-quality growth;
- Advancing policies and partnerships for transitioning to a net-zero, zero-pollution and nature-positive global economy;
- Promoting inclusiveness through awareness raising, to increase the reach and participation of environmental action across society; and
- Supporting the mobilisation of innovative, bold efforts and collaboration by businesses to transform economic, production and financial systems.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges we face in ensuring a healthy planet for generations to come. To successfully keep the target of global warming below 1.5°C by the end of the century, accelerated and coordinated actions are necessary. Even with the full implementation of all net-zero pledges, announcements and updated unconditional and conditional nationally determined contributions (NDCs), temperatures are estimated to rise by around 2.4°C by the end of the 21st century.¹

However, climate is not the only crisis: the decrease in biodiversity and reduction of natural habitats, environmental pollution in the air, soil and water, as well as unsustainable waste management, together with the impact of COVID-19 and rising inequalities, are all crucial, interconnected challenges.

China is a key player in light of its size, interests and role in relevant sectors, such as renewable energy and biodiversity protection. China has the scale and capacity to deliver impact on climate change and other environment-related areas at the domestic and global level. Since President Xi's announcement of the 2030-2060 targets,² climate change and biodiversity have received increased attention. Chinese authorities are formulating guidelines and identifying pathways to achieve these targets. The 1+N policy system,³ together with upcoming sectoral action plans, is noteworthy and welcome. The action plans and guidelines complement and enrich the 14th five-year plan, providing valuable details and clarifications, as well as a concrete roadmap for the 2030 and 2060 climate goals. Also noteworthy are China's efforts around COP15, to be hosted under China's presidency in Montreal at the locus of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity and the design of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

It is against this backdrop that UNDP and UNEP in China held a dialogue event as part of a series of national consultations on Stockholm +50 organized around the world in preparation for the June international meeting.

The Stakeholder Consultation in China included a high-level policy dialogue, a business roundtable and a youth consultation, which took place from 27 to 29 April. The aim was to gather insights on the nexus between climate change, biodiversity conservation and prosperity, as well as on concrete actions to accelerate implementation of environmental SDG targets. These fed into a global report presented by UNDP during the international meeting in Stockholm.

This report distills the key insights and messages from the three-day event. They offer a snapshot of the issues, opportunities, challenges and actions facing China in advancing the SDGs with a particular focus on promoting prosperity while protecting the planet. The report follows the structure designed by UNDP and given to all participating countries in the global consultation series to enhance comparability of results, with the key questions focusing on the three themes identified for the Stockholm+50's leadership dialogues.

1. UNEP, Addendum to the Emissions Gap Report 2021. <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37350/AddEGR21.pdf>

2. In September 2020, President Xi made the pledge that China would peak its carbon emissions before 2030 and that it would reach carbon neutrality before 2060.

3. The 1+N policy is a detailed system of action plans to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality before 2060. <https://www.undp.org/china/publications/issue-brief-chinas-climate-policy-documents-1n-and-updated-ndc>

Key themes and sectors discussed:

- The **nexus** between climate, biodiversity and prosperity in support of China's climate goals and SDG attainment, calling for an integrated approach to interrelated development challenges;
- **Specific sectors** with opportunities for accelerated actions, including: biodiversity protection and nature-based solutions; the circular economy; sustainable consumption and waste; as well as going beyond carbon emissions to include all greenhouse gases (GHGs), such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and methane, in climate discussions; and
- How to improve **corporate** sustainability, which is essential for net-zero carbon emissions and building a greener future.

Challenges discussed:

- **Decoupling economic and emission growth**, amid energy security considerations, economic and energy demand growth and trends, while transitioning away from coal – currently the main source of energy in China;
- Identifying practical ways to convert **environmental resources into income-generating** opportunities, to ensure that environment and prosperity goals reinforce each other;
- **Limited timing for implementation**, in light of the 2022 IPCC Report⁴, particularly for non-CO2 GHGs, due to their high global warming potential; and
- **Limited public awareness, public and private capacity and resources.**

Opportunities discussed:

- **Multilateralism and international cooperation** on global agendas (e.g., COP15) and in sectors where implementation time is tight (e.g., methane and HFCs reduction);
- **Policies and initiatives with appropriate safeguards** to protect people and nature; and
- **Coordination mechanisms for integrated decision-making** on resource management, economic development and environmental protection, with clearly defined responsibilities and strengthened cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and collaboration, leading to improved grassroots governance structures.

Solutions discussed:

- **Raise environmental awareness, education and promotion** to broaden consensus and buy-in around environmental issues and opportunities for change across society;
- **Publicize relevant, timely and disaggregated data** for evidence-based decision-making, analysis, monitoring and evaluation, as well as inclusive hearing and evaluation systems, to gather and reflect public feedback on environmental laws, plans, policies and projects;

4. IPCC (2022). Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-3/>

- **Carbon pricing** and markets for climate mitigation, as well as **planning and systematic approaches** in building a circular economy; and
- **Carbon offsetting mechanisms** to absorb and capture CO₂ by natural or industrial means, using carbon offsetting to encourage the participation of individuals, businesses and institutions.

Recommendations suggested

- **Build legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation and climate change**, as China currently lacks sufficiently detailed specific laws tackling these two areas;
- **Increase investment, support and incentives** for the private sector to finance nature;
- **Improve monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms** for environmental protection;
- **Build green, closed-loop recycling systems to promote the circular economy**, as well as enhance understanding around plastics and plastics waste; and
- **Leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and digital tools** to support actions against climate change and biodiversity conservation.

2. Stockholm+50 Stakeholder Consultation at a Glance

In China, the Stockholm+50 Stakeholder Consultation was composed of three different segments: the business roundtable, the youth consultation and the policy dialogue.

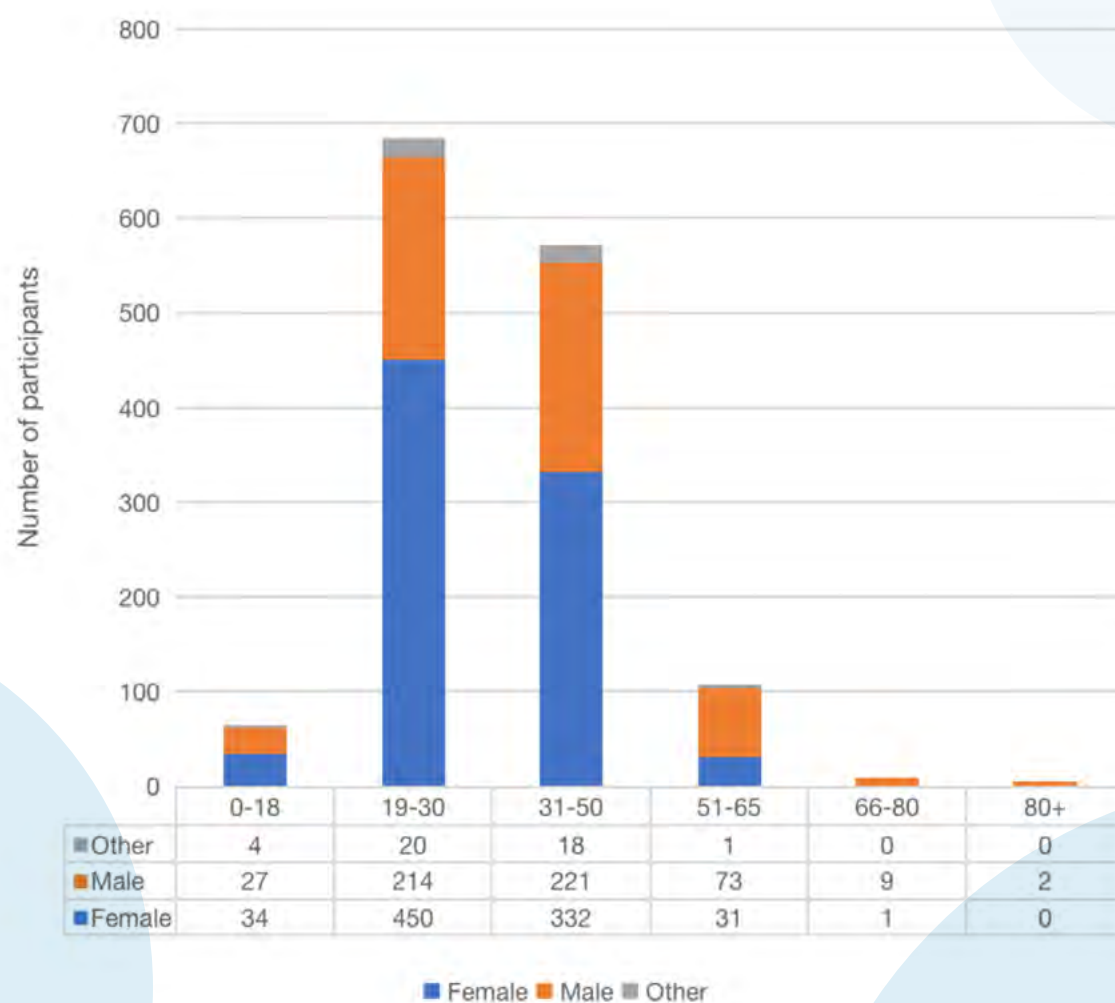
The **business roundtable** was held on 27 April in partnership with the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) with support from the Swedish Embassy, Business Sweden and PwC. It convened business leaders, policymakers and experts from academia, from inside and outside China. The 19 speakers invited shared their insights and perspectives on how enterprises in China can help advance climate action and achieve net-zero. Discussions focused on the adoption of sustainable business practices, leveraging green finance opportunities and innovative solutions for lowering carbon emissions via direct reduction and offsetting schemes.

The **youth consultation**, held on the same day and co-hosted with UNEP, convened 30 selected young climate activists from government, research institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They shared their opinions and recommendations for combating climate change and protecting the planet, gathering online for a two-hour interactive consultation workshop. Based on the discussion, “Youth Footprints” and “Youth Voices for a Green Planet” were drawn, to guide future work with youth by UNDP and other UN agencies.

The **policy dialogue** was co-hosted with UNEP and held on the 28th and 29th of April. It brought together a variety of stakeholders around the themes of human development and prosperity, climate change, biodiversity conservation and pollution. The main national stakeholder, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) represented by Minister Huang Runqiu, participated. Other attendees included Professor Qu Geping – a member of China’s 1972 Stockholm Conference delegation, who is widely regarded as the father of environmental protection in China and who served as the first head of China’s then State Environmental Protection Administration - as well as China’s current Climate Envoy, Xie Zhenhua. Ministry of Natural Resources and the State Council representatives were also present. Overall, 30 speakers attended from the government, academia, leading think tanks, foundations, civil society organizations, business representative and local authorities.

The three-day consultation attracted 1,437 online registrations. By age, the highest number of participants were between 19 and 30 years old. Just below 60 percent of registered guests were female.

Figure 1: Number of participants by age range



The Stockholm+50 events received a wide coverage in traditional and social media. 192 news reports including reposts were monitored, receiving an estimated 31 million views. Coverage of the event was also featured by China's government and academic institutions on their official social media channels, including the WeChat account of MEE and Tsinghua University. Between 21-29 April, 11 articles were published by UNDP and UNEP accounts on WeChat - one of China's main social media platforms – while a total of 26 tweets was published. Finally, a social media campaign was launched on 22 April, Earth Day, in which nine celebrities shared their low carbon lifestyle tips to raise awareness amongst the general public. Mentions and reposts about the event on Weibo, China's largest social media platform, reached 14 million viewers.

3. Stockholm+50 Stakeholder Consultation: Key Insights

Leadership Dialogue 1.

Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

1. How can we restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature? Examples of practices and pathways that Chinese stakeholders would like to see scaled up to enable a healthy planet were given.

National counterparts emphasised efforts made to improve the institutional system of “ecological civilization”⁵, the main framework through which environmental issues and policies are formulated in China. The inclusion of the “ecological civilization” concept into China’s Constitution in 2018 facilitated the integration of such vision in all ways of government and life. Actions have then been scaled up to promote fighting pollution, green development and protecting biodiversity, while promoting the concept of nature as an asset.

Speakers presented different examples of concrete pathways and actions to move towards a healthy planet:

- On the fight against pollution: continue to promote the development of effective, science and law-based pollution control systems, to improve the labelling of ecological products and support the environmental governance of developing countries.
- On climate change: focus on the 1+N policy system’s implementation. Key areas of focus mentioned by China’s present and former MEE top officials are renewable energy utilization, green and climate resilient agriculture, low-carbon sustainable cities, green and low-carbon transportation, as well as methane.)

A second pathway for a green and inclusive transition repeatedly mentioned across the three days was **awareness raising**. This was presented as a key element to be mainstreamed for the rapid, whole-of-society transformation required. Speakers presented different practices that could be scaled up to address the level of public awareness and education. For example:

- Public campaigns on biodiversity protection are carried out in public transportation (speed rail, airlines and airports, underground) to promote understanding and encourage participation in nature conservation.
- Promote the role of digital media in disseminating and promoting biodiversity conservation and climate change concepts.

5. “Ecological civilization” is a term that has been promoted by President Xi and that gained national prominence in 2012 when the term was inscribed in the Party’s Constitution following the 18th National Party Congress. “It is a concept for balanced and sustainable development that features harmonious coexistence between man and nature.”

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202111/19/WS6196db04a310cdd39bc762a0.html>

- Support the retail industry's crucial role in educating consumers, promoting behavioral change and leveraging individual potential in generating positive relationships with nature. Retail companies can bring impact by shaping “consumer communities” that advocate climate action, encourage exchanges of personal experiences and create a fashion culture that promotes a low-carbon lifestyle.

*2. What are actions that your country and partners would take to scale up efforts towards a healthy planet?
What policies need to be in place for you to take such actions?*

Several actions to support changes towards a healthy planet were discussed. These could be clustered under three key words: **coordination, transformation and international collaboration.**

Coordination was raised by many as a key enabler to move from a sector perspective to a system perspective, facilitating the adoption of a holistic approach to be able to simultaneously address environmental, economic and social goals.

It was noted that in terms of protection and restoration methods, there should be more focus on ecosystems as a whole, exploring and leveraging linkages between different ecosystems. For instance, improving the natural ecosystem's resilience to climate change could lead to better quality agriculture products.

More specifically, examples of concrete actions to take forward were:

- Stronger coordination between national and local governments, enhancing support for the design and implementation of regulations and standards at the local level; and
- Stronger coordination and exchanges among different stakeholders, such as industries, international institutions and research institutions, in particular on less explored matters, such as the impact of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases.

In terms of **transformation**, speakers mentioned that a new economic structure would require society to:

- **Change production models** to foster low-carbon and circular development for a new industrial structure based on new competitive advantages and driving forces, higher energy and resources efficiency and a circularity approach;
- **Restructure the energy system**, through an orderly phase-out of coal, as well as gas and oil. In this respect, there is also a need to design a new integrated territorial spatial planning, encompassing nature conservation, carbon reduction and carbon sink enhancement. For example, support large-scale renewable energy projects in deserts and protected areas, while addressing sustainability issues across project life-cycles, boosting carbon sink capacity, improving adaptability and accelerating the adoption of nature-based solutions; and
- **Move to sustainable consumption**, strengthening policies, standards, education and public awareness to guide everyone's consumption habits and patterns.

Finally, in terms of international cooperation, speakers mentioned the need to strengthen international experience sharing on a variety of issues, including protection and restoration measures, principles and standards, nature-based solutions and international best practices. It was also suggested that China continues actively participating in international negotiations on climate change solutions and promotes implementation of the United Nations Conventions on environmental issues and the Paris Agreement.

3. How could marginalized and vulnerable groups benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature?

China has been exploring ways to balance local development needs with ecosystem protection following its ecological civilization agenda, emphasizing that “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets”.⁶ One critical challenge highlighted was identifying practical ways to convert environmental resources into income-generating opportunities, particularly for **local communities**. Ensuring that local communities benefit from ecological efforts is very important. In this respect, eco-agriculture or eco-tourism offer great potential for green job opportunities. Examples of supporting livelihood through eco-tourism and eco-agriculture were shared:

- In Sanjiangyuan National Park area (Qinghai Province), China’s NGO ShanShui Conservation Center has collaborated with rural cooperatives to provide free guide training to locals. This is allowing many herders to become tour guides and organize snow leopard observation tours, generating opportunities for higher incomes.
- In the Giant Panda Protected Area⁷, an alternative livelihood program was developed to promote ecological beekeeping in local areas. Involving local communities in environmental protection and empowering local residents is key in ensuring vulnerable groups benefit from nature protection efforts.
- At Helan Mountain, in Inner Mongolia and Ningxia provinces in China's Northwest, during the process of enhancing ecological protection and restoration, animal husbandry, tourism, culture and other related industries were developed. For example, water-saving grapes were planted in former mining sites after ecosystem restoration. Helan Mountain receives more than 800,000 tourists every year, supporting 120,000 jobs for local residents.

Market tools can help to expand such initiatives. Against these successful examples, it was noted that change at scale remains a challenge, as these examples are isolated and limited in size. To achieve widespread transformative change, a solution would be to put a “price tag” on ecosystem services. Ideally, a market mechanism should be formed where each individual is assigned an ecological footprint quota. Similar to carbon markets, individuals are allowed to trade this quota on the market, providing economic incentives for everyone to protect and limit their impact on nature.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were also mentioned as a stakeholder group at risk. It was noted

6. Introduced by President Xi Jinping in 2005, the concept has been used ever since to illustrate the interlinkages between economic development and the invaluable role of nature in the former.

7. The Giant Panda National Park is located in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989419307887#fig1>

that SMEs have a relatively weaker position compared to larger companies when it comes to climate change mitigation actions, particularly for non-CO₂ GHG emitting sectors. Yet, they are a key part of efforts to ensure GHG reductions. It was recommended that UNDP and UNEP establish a platform with the China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises to engage more international organizations, financial institutions, capital markets, and public finance to support these enterprises in effectively shifting to low carbon, sustainable business models.

Technology can play a crucial role in protecting livelihoods as well as ensuring non-CO₂ emission reductions. An example shared was the direct combustion technology for concentrations of coal mine methane in the range of 3-9%. It is the continuous promotion and application of these new technologies that will allow more methane to be fully utilized (for power generation, heating and cooling), improve safety in coal mines, benefit most coal miners or coal bed methane workers, protect their personal safety, save important amounts of energy, turn polluting methane emissions into an asset, and help protect the environment.

4. How can we safeguard the rights of people, including marginalized groups, and nature?

It was emphasised that a healthy planet is the basis of human wellbeing and development. In the long-term, protecting nature means protecting people, particularly vulnerable groups, as they are more likely to be negatively affected by nature-related risks. That said, it was also noted that a trade-off exists between protecting nature and short-term economic interests.

- **Balancing different goals calls for policies and initiatives to be augmented with appropriate safeguards** so that both people and nature can be protected. For example, one initiative in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau encouraged nomads to settle down for better public services. However, changing the lifestyle of herders, coupled with the impact of climate change, put new pressure on grasslands. An education program was therefore developed by an NGO to train herders on conserving and restoring grasslands.

In this respect, many panelists stressed the role of NGOs in achieving win-win outcomes. Working as bridges between governments, enterprises and society, they usually have good knowledge of local contexts and needs. These features imply that NGOs are generally well-positioned to engage different stakeholders. To further contribute to nature and livelihood protection, NGOs are encouraged to:

- Enhance their capacities through continued learning;
- Fully utilize new media in raising awareness;
- Expand channels and opportunities for public participation;
- Further promote the application of nature based-solutions to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss; and
- Deepen collaboration with international organizations.

5. What are the new or prioritized set of metrics and indicators needed for tracking our progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet?

Key environmental metrics to monitor and assess progress are the **five binding environmental indicators included in the 14th five-year plan**: reduction in energy consumption per unit of GDP; reduction of carbon

dioxide emissions per unit of GDP; share of days with good air quality in cities (prefecture level and up); share of surface water at or better than class III⁸; and forest coverage rate.

Furthermore, to include environmental performance in measuring the overall welfare level of society, the **Gross Ecosystem Product** (GEP), modeled after GDP, is being suggested. The GEP, is designed to measure the total economic value of all ecosystem products and services within a region. Based on estimates from China's Academy of Environmental Planning, the country's GEP has been steadily growing since 2015, up 3.1 percent on average, recording China's progress.

Another example of statistical innovation is the **waste-free index**, developed under the guidance of the MEE. The index, which includes nine indicators and 27 sub-indicators, will be piloted and used for a quantitative and dynamic evaluation of progress towards creating zero-waste cities in Zhejiang province.

Finally, it was noted that **inequality metrics** are also crucial as they measure the inclusiveness of development and directly track China's progress towards one of the national priorities, "Common Prosperity"⁹. Metrics to measure income inequality, assets inequality and inequality in access to public services exist. However, less work has gone into connecting these metrics with the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental inequalities. Variations of carbon emissions per capita can be considered a relevant indicator, however more efforts are required to focus on other environmental dimensions.

Leadership Dialogue 2.

Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

1. How do we ensure that all countries and communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition?

Different paths and solutions were discussed around ensuring that no one is left behind and that all communities and countries can benefit from the opportunities generated by a green and just transition. In particular, speakers mentioned the need to:

- **Increase the level of awareness, education and promotion** to broaden consensus and buy-in around environmental issues and opportunities, as well as sustainable concepts, such as no-waste cities, the circular economy, green lifestyle and responsible consumption. In the non-CO₂ GHGs sector, it was also stated that stakeholders need help adopt better practices (e.g., GHGs reduction technology) to re-use methane and increase energy efficiency.

8. Class III refers to the five classes of water bodies quality standards set by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.
<https://english.mee.gov.cn/SOE/soechina1997/water/standard.htm>.

9. Albeit not new, the concept of "common prosperity" received renewed attention in 2021. The aim is to ensure China's development benefits all. As per President Xi's speech, China plans to make institutional arrangements on income distribution, expand the size of the middle-income group and adjust excessive incomes to promote social fairness and justice.
<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-10-18/Explainer-China-s-common-prosperity-and-driving-forces-behind-14szYoAhU3K/index.html>

- **Increase public engagement** by establishing environmental information disclosure mechanisms; publicizing relevant information and data; strengthening consultation and evaluation systems gathering public feedback on environmental legislation, planning, policies and projects.
- **Strengthen capacity** through communication and training, including the establishment of data coordination and monitoring, for more evidence-based, informed decisions.

Furthermore, to ensure a sustainable and just transition for all, **experts suggested the below areas where the government would be the key driver of change:**

- Local governments heavily relying on polluting sectors should promote industrial upgrades and new industries to minimize the low-carbon transition's negative economic shocks. Coal-dependent provinces, such as Shanxi – where coal related industries account for nearly 60 percent of the economy, along with Inner Mongolia and Shaanxi should establish dedicated local government departments to lead and plan for the transition.
- Employment generation and social protection is needed to buffer against negative impacts at the community, household and individual level. International experiences from Germany or the European Union, for example, on the just transition, could be useful references.
- Adjust financing policies to the evolving context, promoting financial innovation and new financial instruments to meet the increasing financing needs for a smooth and just transition (e.g., SDG-linked bonds).

2. How can we create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies? Which sectors are most critical?

Speakers offered a few suggestions and indicated possible actions needed in a few sectors to increase performance of industries and supply chains in support of a sustainable development model. In particular, the following points were raised for consideration:

- **Policies for sustainable supply chains that can effectively deliver on climate change mitigation need to integrate the key role of non-CO₂ GHG emitting sectors.**
 - For HFCs, a major greenhouse gas category, the concerned sectors are air conditioners, refrigeration equipment, foam insulation and other related products, such as fire protection.
 - More than half of the products manufactured in China are exported, highlighting the critical importance of having global sustainable supply chains.
- **Promote technological innovation:** To create better-performing industries, technologies for electrification or circular economy, such as increasing raw material recycling capacity, have great transformative potential on business operations, as well as consumer behavior. Technology has the potential to significantly increase the efficiency of how natural resources are used and reduce emissions from wasted materials, especially for the car industry.

- **Encourage innovative industrial design**, to complement hard technology and reduce emissions by integrating the concept of low carbon development into the design of industrial products.
- Establish a **scientific carbon management system** to track and calculate carbon emissions while integrating it organically into companies' strategy. Digital technology should be deployed to manage carbon emissions across the supply chain.

3. What are some of the commitments and “responsible” principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions?

A good example of voluntary commitment by the industry is the creation in 2021 of the **China Oil and Gas Methane Emission Control Alliance**, covering 80 percent of China's natural gas production. The Alliance made the commitment that the average methane intensity from natural gas production in 2025 should be below 0.25 percent.¹⁰

A few speakers during the Business Roundtable also mentioned the need for two types of actions for companies and financial institutions. Firstly, **the need to enhance collaboration between them for better environmental information disclosure**, expanding the scope of disclosures, strengthening alignment with international best practices and methodologies, and fostering post-disclosure behavior change.

Secondly, to support the continuing growth of China's green financial market, a key enabler for companies' transitions, **it was noted that investors need to extend investment risk and opportunity time-horizons**. Speakers called for more “patient capital” to solve the mismatch between short-term return expectations and long-term green project implementation. Notably, medium- and long-term capital from institutional investors, such as pension funds and insurance funds, needs to step up and play a bigger role.

Leadership Dialogue 3.

Accelerating implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

1. What are the biggest challenges we are facing in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other environmental commitments?

The lack of a sense of urgency was mentioned by a few of the speakers, as time for implementing actions to keep the 1.5oC Paris target alive is limited, as outlined by the IPCC Report. Time constraints are particularly acute for climate mitigation of non-CO₂ GHGs, due to their high global warming potential. Furthermore, the timetable of climate mitigation and the technological roadmap necessary to achieve net-zero are tightly linked. To be successfully achieved, mitigation efforts must be matched with technological deployment, much of which is costly and still in early stages of development.

10. For reference, CNPC, China's major gas producer, had a gas production methane emissions' intensity that stood at 0.27% in 2017. CNPC declared its intention to go beyond the Alliance target of 0.25% and reach 0.2% by 2030.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-cnpc-carbon-idINKBN2430P7>

At the macro level, a key challenge mentioned was decoupling economic and emission growth. In particular, how to balance development and environmental targets in the Chinese context, in light of the development status, as well as the development model being heavily reliant on energy and resource intensive industries. This challenging balancing act is also reflected in the immediate need to ensure energy security while transitioning from coal – the current main source of energy – as well as expectations around future growth and energy demand. China's per capita primary energy demand is expected to continue increasing, moving closer to high-income country levels¹¹.

Considering the trade-off between energy security and environmental goals, a panelist specialized in gas exploration suggested that gas exploration and development within China should be encouraged. Gas is less CO₂-intensive and less polluting than coal and can help maintain energy security as gas consumption is expected to peak by 2040 in China. Non-conventional gases, such as shale gas or coalbed methane, are also expected to grow as China possesses favorable local natural endowments. These energy sources have been growing in importance in recent years and some call for their development to be actively encouraged and supported by policymakers, as well as accompanied by R&D measures.

Other challenges to accelerate implementation of commitments towards the 2030 Agenda and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements¹² discussed during the three-day stakeholder consultations were:

- **Weak relevant laws and regulations** to protect biodiversity, which should be strengthened.
- **The challenging management of different natural endowment and economic development statuses of China's provinces and regions** to achieve an optimal spatial distribution and land utilization that allows for industrial development, biodiversity and nature protection, along with conservation. For example, low cost wind power generation potential is high in the western region, but demand is usually concentrated in eastern and coastal regions. This is also complicated by the need for large portions of land to develop wind and solar plants at scale.
- **Short term risks and challenges around the phase-out of coal:** e.g., stranded assets - as the average operation of China's coal-fired power plant is only 13 years; interlinkages across different industries - the coal industry is closely related to heavy industries such as steel and building materials; and disruptions to the socio-economic structure of already vulnerable provinces, with potential impact on businesses and employees in the sector, including their livelihoods and wellbeing.
- **Limited science and technology-based knowledge, education and awareness** among stakeholders, from producers to consumers and the general public on a variety of issues, such as GHGs and the circular economy.
- **Limited financial resources**, as private and corporate investments in nature and biodiversity protection are insufficient. Furthermore, these resources are mainly from the public sector: mobilizing private capital at scale remains a challenge.

11. For reference, China per capita primary energy demand stands at 106 million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu), versus a world average of 78 MMBtu and a US value of 293 MMBtu (<https://www.eia.gov/international/overview/country>)

12. "What are MEAs?" <https://www.fao.org/in-action/building-capacity-environmental-agreements/overview/what-are-meas/en/>

- **Lack of transparent and publicly available accurate, timely, relevant and disaggregated data**, fundamental for informed decision-making. Strengthening the data system is crucial. Specifically, the following challenges were highlighted:

- The absence of data accuracy and reliability for environmental and climate indicators provided by public and private stakeholders. For example, observations of methane emissions from the atmosphere do not match the reporting provided by various countries. For non-CO₂ GHGs, such as HFCs and methane, the construction of a monitoring, reporting and verification system is pivotal for implementation of mitigation policies.
- Reaching consensus on having open access to Digital Sequence Information (DSI)¹³ is particularly challenging. It was noted that to allow for an actionable implementation framework for the Biodiversity Convention (COP15), parties and stakeholders should demonstrate flexibility in negotiating such issues and take practical steps to increase supportive financial and technical capacity.
- Monitoring ecological conservation in protected natural areas should be improved, while supervision and investigation of ecological damage should be strengthened.

Finally, it was noted that in relation to corporations, fostering their engagement and contributions towards the net zero agenda will require **seeking a balance between companies' profit-making behavior and environmental protection targets**. A system of rewards and penalties for polluters and support to channel investment to ESG top performers would be two practical steps that could be adopted. It was noted that the starting point of the government's policymaking should be to assume that companies are profit rather than charity-oriented entities.

2. What are the good practices and pathways that you would like to see scaled up to accelerate implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action?

Examples mentioned touched on different areas, such as carbon pricing and markets, planning and systematic approaches in building a circular economy.

On carbon pricing, experts mentioned the crucial role of a carbon market, which can effectively generate price signals, as well as reflect costs and benefits of carbon reduction. Specifically, the following issues were discussed: expanding the coverage of the national Emissions Trading System (ETS) beyond the power sector; enhancing links and connectivity between the ETS, voluntary carbon markets and the energy trading system; and incorporating methane emission reduction projects into China's carbon market.

13. DSI refers to data derived from genetic resources, which is key to scientific advancement and technological breakthroughs, a cornerstone of biology and biodiversity research.

It was also noted that shadow/internal carbon pricing¹⁴ is an important tool for companies to manage climate risks, especially transition risks caused by changing environmental policies. It has not been widely used in China and should be scaled up.

Another tool mentioned by stakeholders is the use of a carbon offsets mechanism, as it provides a flexible, innovative solution for company emission reductions. At the same time, experts noted that it should not be abused as a pretext for non-action. Companies must always prioritize reducing emissions by restructuring businesses, increasing energy efficiency, and deploying green technologies. They should use carbon offsets only when all other measures for carbon reduction are exhausted. When purchasing carbon credits to offset their emissions, instead of limiting choices in credits generated from carbon reduction projects (e.g. renewable energy), companies should focus more on credits generated from carbon removal/absorbing projects (e.g. forestry management and coastal ecosystem protection).

Another related element discussed was the critical role of carbon accounting as part of an effective carbon pricing and climate mitigation strategy. Representatives of companies who presented during the Stakeholder Consultation highlighted five main challenges in carbon accounting:

- The lack of globally accepted standards, meaning different countries use different definitions and accounting methods, increasing uncertainty around results and challenges in comparison analysis;
- Lack of skills and relevant tools;
- The need to internalize low carbon policies into companies' strategies and operations;
- As the core of emission reduction lies in curbing energy consumption, there is a need to introduce new technologies to help companies increase their energy efficiency; and
- There are also limited synergies across value chains.

In terms of planning, experts highlighted successful efforts, such as the national circular economy policy framework that is evolving to become more systematic and comprehensive, covering different sectors, from agriculture to industry and more recently, the urban circular economy.

Sector-specific examples were also discussed. Firstly, the progress of legislation banning plastic. 2007 saw the first step to ban plastics in China. Since then, the legal system has continued evolving. For example, the recent law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste has been persistently improved and is now being further revised to include a focus on the treatment of plastic waste. Another example is last year's opinions by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on further strengthening plastic pollution controls. The aim is to improve standardization and introduce a systematic approach to managing all aspects of plastic – from production, to circulation, consumption and recycling. A third example includes the implementation plan for promoting green packaging in the express delivery industry and its promotion through the introduction of interim regulations between 2016 and 2018.

14. "A shadow price is a theoretical price on carbon that can help support long-term business planning and investment strategies." <https://www.c2es.org/content/internal-carbon-pricing/>

For a presentation of shadow carbon pricing, see <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2019/what-is-shadow-carbon-pricing.html>

China is moving to build a systematic management system in terms of plastic pollution prevention and control, from classification management and restriction of single-use plastics, to recycling and waste disposal. Regulations and policies cover a broad range of stakeholders, from households - to manage plastic through the domestic classification process, to industries - through plastic waste industrial recycling regulations. Through such measures, China is in the process of building a policy system covering the whole life cycle of plastic pollution prevention and control.

In this respect, it was noted that steps to build a circular economy are vital, given its great potential in mitigating climate change. It is estimated that China managed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 2.6 billion tons through the circular economy, accounting for 25 percent of China's carbon emissions reductions during the 13th five-year period. Expectations are for the circular economy's development to account for 35 percent of China's carbon emissions reduction by 2030.

For plastic in particular, it is estimated that by 2025, the amount of waste plastic recycling in China will increase to about 26 million tons. Compared with the production of synthetic plastics, recycled plastic is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 76 million tons per year. In 2030, the amount of recycled plastic should increase to about 34 million tons, cutting 99 million tons of carbon per year compared to synthetic plastics.

In other sectors, such as non-CO₂ GHG, experts called for enhanced strategic planning with a clear national control strategy for key industries, strengthening R&D, promotion and application of technologies for HFCs and methane.

3. How to transform governance and legal systems that maintain long-term economic stability, as well as ecological and social wellbeing for all?

The following actions were discussed:

- **Strong policy signals** around climate change mitigation are particularly important in the Chinese context. In this respect, the Circular by MEE in September 2021 that prohibits direct emissions of trifluoromethane (HFC-23)¹⁵ – a particularly potent greenhouse gas, was a welcome and crucial step. Speakers noted that it was also key to broadly leverage such signals in promoting and constructing zero-waste cities. Given their contribution to emission reductions and efficient use of energy and resources, zero-waste cities are now seen as a promising solution within the decarbonization plan.
- **Legal frameworks for biodiversity conservation and climate change should also be built**, as China currently still lacks specific laws tackling these two areas.
- **China's top-down approach should be strengthened with broader targets**, accelerating a system-wide transition to control carbon emissions and carbon intensity, promoting standards

15. "Circular on Controlling the Emissions of HFC-23 By-products" by MEE, https://www.mee.gov.cn/xxgk/2018/xxgk/xxgk06/202109/t20210915_943345.html

in line with international ones and a comprehensive carbon pricing mechanism.

- **Coordination mechanisms** for decision-making on resource management, economic development and environmental protection should be established, with clearly defined responsibilities for all relevant departments. Strengthen cross-sectoral, as well as cross-regional coordination and collaboration, would also lead to improvements in grassroots governance structures. A multi-department coordination mechanism was mentioned as a key step in developing zero-waste cities, with clear leadership and distribution of duties, based on an integrated development model linking environmental, economic and social development goals and evidence-based analysis.
- **Pilots should be promoted**, including for waste-free cities, which have developed a large amount of resources and data around their feasibility in different local contexts. An important aspect behind their success was their ability to attract investment. More than 120 billion yuan (18 billion USD) has been raised to build waste-free cities and such projects have generally been economically viable.
- **China's eco-environmental zoning management system** - providing the basis for implementing spatially differentiated environmental policies catering to different local contexts – should be enhanced, to improve China's environmental management and planning.
- **Monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms should be strengthened, including:**
 - For environmental protection, by incentivizing local efforts through integrating environmental performance into local officials' evaluations, while institutionalizing, standardizing and streamlining the environmental inspection system further;
 - For ecological protection, strengthen supervision and investigation of ecological damage in protected nature areas;
 - For implementation of mitigation policies in non-CO₂ greenhouse gas sectors; and
 - For hazardous waste, including strengthening supervision and monitoring capacities for hazardous waste recycling and disposal to reduce environmental risks.

4. What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities?

A few measures to align public and private finance and to accelerate allocation of resources towards SDG-aligned activities were mentioned during the business roundtable and technical panels of the two-day dialogue. Recommendations covered a broad range of stakeholders and called for:

- **Financial regulators** to enhance regulations, in terms of green finance standardization, mandatory environmental information disclosure, monetary incentives and dis-incentives, as well as guidelines for financial instruments innovation;
- **Financial institutions and their clients** to increase their capacity in managing climate and environmental risks by enhancing information disclosure and systematic stress testing; and
- **More private equity and venture capital** in incubating cutting-edge green technologies, by

providing first-loss capital (incurring the first losses in an environmental investment, to enable other investors) and business operation consultations.

It was also suggested that financial or tax support should be provided, to foster investments in innovation, particularly for non-CO₂ GHG reduction technologies.

5. What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind?

Panelists emphasized the need for multilateralism, deepening international environmental cooperation, strengthening implementation of international conventions, promoting green development overseas and providing greater contributions to global environmental governance, as it is the common responsibility of all countries to protect the environment. They also proposed that areas where implementation time is tight should be the focus, such as reducing methane and HFCs.

It was noted that “in the last fifty years, since the Stockholm Conference and the development of human environmental protection, China has changed from a passive recipient to an active participant and green energy leader. China cannot do without the world, and the world cannot do without China.”¹⁶

Specifically, the following were discussed as possible steps forward:

- **Build a new type of international environmental diplomacy and cooperation,** continuing to strengthen cooperation with international institutions;
- **Promote North-South and South-South cooperation** relying on past successes, such as the Montreal Protocol;
- **Strengthen multi-level international exchanges and dialogues** to enhance understanding and mutual trust, maintaining smooth communication channels and improving communication skills and methods;
- **Promote extensive and pragmatic cooperation,** based on mutual learning, complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses, including collaboration on low-carbon policy tools: data information sharing platforms, scientific evaluations, model tools; exchanges around the impact of policy and tools such as ETS, the carbon border adjustment mechanism, carbon tax and carbon pricing mechanisms;
- **Strengthen low-carbon technology research and development cooperation** to reduce costs and share risks around technologies of common interest (e.g., coal reduction and removal, oil and gas removal, renewable energy, new power systems, methane and HFCs reduction). R&D cooperation should also be stepped up in low-carbon and negative-carbon technologies (e.g., carbon capture, utilisation and storage or CCUS, next-generation nuclear energy), as well as digital intelligence and the commercial applicability of new technologies, with their application, promotion and use at scale;

16. Unofficial translation of quote from Professor Qu Geping

- **Build sustainable trade and investment cooperation and coordinate international and domestic sustainable development policies.** Specifically:
 - Formulate multilateral environmental trade rules and sustainable investment and financing mechanisms under the Paris Agreement and WTO frameworks;
 - Promote cooperation in building green supply, industrial and value chains, improving stakeholder participation and governance structure, including producing countries, consuming countries and multinational corporations;
 - Explore bilateral agreements on sustainable trade in bulk agricultural products including with key Belt and Road developing countries;
 - Encourage relevant countries to carry out third-party green supply chain cooperation.

6. What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature, including digital technologies?

Raising financing capacity was mentioned. As an example of steps taken by China to promote and financially support technology integration, speakers highlighted the establishment of the China Green Technology Bank (GTB) and the National Green Development Fund to boost green technologies and finance to meet the SDGs and the Paris Agreement targets, scaling up low-carbon solutions and promoting technological transfers to developing countries.

A more recent example is the announcement, during part one of COP15 in October 2021, of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund with an initial investment of RMB 1.5 billion (approximately 230 million USD). It was noted that China is engaged in close consultation with the international community and relevant parties to carry out follow-up implementation work and deliver results as soon as possible.

As for the type of technological innovations required to achieve China's environmental national targets and international commitments while advancing the SDGs, the following were suggested:

- **Green closed-loop recycling systems should be built to promote the circular economy**, such as promoting technology on waste textiles recycling while integrating the use of waste plastics and promoting sustainable production in the fashion industry.
- **Scientific analysis and understanding around plastics and plastic waste** should be developed further, to increase scientific and technological support for tackle plastic. There is a need for increased investment in science and technology to promote the understanding of plastic pollution control and adopt methods aligning international best practices and local conditions.
- **For zero-waste cities**, new technology is key to reducing the intensity of solid waste generation and increasing the utilization of solid waste in recycling and the capacity to fill gaps in regional disposal facilities.
- **Non-CO₂ GHGs reduction and negative emission technologies** (carbon sinks, CCUS) should be expanded, including scaling-up technology for blue carbon sinks, carried by mechanisms such as the microbial carbon pump, as they have greater potential than forest sinks in carbon removal.

Examples of Best Practices Presented during the Stakeholder Consultation

Standards, clear policy control requirements and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) tools for non-CO₂ GHGs are crucial to achieve environment and compliance goals. For example, for coal mine gas, a large source of methane, China introduced six sets of standards to reduce methane emissions, but also to prevent leakages during transportation and enhance the safety of workers. One of these standards, the Guideline on Coalbed Methane Extraction, was published last year and will take effect on July 1st, 2022. Its general principle is that coalbed methane should be extracted before coal in coal mines. The aim is to help guarantee that methane does not leak in the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas, through stricter safeguards on extraction, promoting higher coordination among the coal and gas extraction processes.

Ecological restoration, combined with biodiversity improvements, is also key. For example, Guangyang Island (Chongqing) established a demonstration site for ecological restoration of hilltop homes and flower fields, as well as constructing protection areas, such as fishing grounds, bird farms and pastures. This significantly improved biodiversity, while restoring the environment.

Organic agricultural strategies can play an important role. In Oujiang, Zhejiang province, people adopted an organic agriculture strategy combining fish breeding with rice growing, to help farmers restore the environment and also improve the quality of farm products.

Improving connectivity among carbon markets is also vital. Sichuan Environmental Exchange (SCEEX) is working on enhancing transparency and connectivity across carbon markets, cooperating with other carbon trading institutions. It is also working to connect the voluntary emission reduction markets across regions and with provincial government departments to establish provincial emission reduction systems, with a focus on forestry and grass carbon sinks.

The tech sector leads innovation by switching to green electricity. In order to achieve carbon neutrality, Tencent is focusing on improving energy efficiency, which has the potential to simultaneously reduce carbon emissions and costs. The company is also participating in market-based trading of green electricity to achieve 100 percent green electricity consumption. Furthermore, Tencent and Xiamen University have conducted a pilot on the conservation of seaweed beds.

Stakeholders' Expectations around the Stockholm+50 International Meeting

National counterparts believe that Stockholm+50 provides **a great opportunity to revisit the spirit and original intention of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment**. They expressed that “China will be dedicated to fighting climate change and continue to work with the international community to promote green, low-carbon and sustainable development, despite the evolving international context”.¹⁷

Stockholm+50 serves as **a platform for stakeholders to reflect on successful international environmental cooperation** in areas such as sharing technology to reduce chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) in the cooling industry (Montreal Protocol). Participants expect the platform to resume such cooperation and accelerate green technology transfers between China and the rest of the world, including sharing Chinese technologies with partner countries.

The consultations emphasized a strong sense of urgency to move forward in non-CO₂ GHG sectors (methane and HFC), as they will be key to mitigating climate change in the near-term. International cooperation and technology transfers in these key areas to decrease emissions will be crucial. A discussion platform with international organizations, such as UNDP and UNEP, along with financial support for industries working in these areas, was also recommended.

17. Unofficial English translation of Minister Xie Zhenhua's quote

4. Annex

Annex 1: Agenda of Stockholm+50 Stakeholder Consultation in China

High-level Policy Dialogue and On-Line Lunch Event. 28 April 2022

- 9:30** **Welcome remarks (co-facilitated by Ms. Beate Trankmann, UNDP China Resident Representative and Dr. Tu Ruihe, Head of UNEP China Office)**
Ms. Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific
Ms. Dechen Tsering, Regional Director, UN Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia-Pacific
Minister Huang Runqiu, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
- Keynote interventions**
Prof. Qu Geping, Former Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the National People's Congress and Former Administrator of the National Environmental Protection Agency
China's achievements in past 50 years and vision for future (Written message read by Mr. Xu Guang, President of the China Environmental Protection Foundation, Prof. Qu's secretary onsite)
Minister Xie Zhenhua, China's Special Envoy for Climate Change
Global Climate Governance Progress and China's Contribution
- Keynote speeches**
Prof. Wang Jinnan, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and President of China's Academy of Environmental Planning
A review of China's environmental planning and policy in past 50 years and future outlook
Mr. Wang Yi, Vice Chair, National Expert Panel on Climate Change; Vice President, Institutes of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASISD)
China's policy and action in tackling climate change and international cooperation
- 11:00** **Panel I - A healthy planet and prosperity for all: Exploring the nexus between climate, biodiversity and common prosperity in the Chinese context.**
Moderated by Mr. James George, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in China
Dr. Li Jianwei, Director of Social Development Department, Development Research Center of The State Council
Dr. Li Shi, Dean of Institute for Common Prosperity and Development, Zhejiang University
Prof. Lv Zhi, School of Life Science, Peking University, Founder of Shan Shui Conservation Center
Dr. Yang Fuqiang, Specially Appointed Researcher, Institute of Energy, Peking University
- 12:45-13:30** **On-line Lunch Event: Reflections on the 1972 UN Conference from a joint Chinese and Swedish perspective, highlighted by the presentation of the co-authored book "Ocean Currents Are Still Protecting Us".**
Moderated by Yutsie Linnea Wang, Embassy of Sweden
Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China
Ms. Helena Sångeland, Her Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden in China,
Mr. Måns Lönnroth, Co-author of the book "ocean currents are still protecting us"
Ms. Li Lailai, Associate of the Stockholm Environment Institute, co-author of the book "Ocean Currents Are Still Protecting Us"
- 13:30-13:35** **Video screening of Stockholm+50**
<https://youtu.be/9zOSRqa-h3Q>

Policy Dialogue - Day 2, 29 April 2022 (Panels II, III and IV)

- 9:30** **Policy dialogue part 2: Implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs.**
Master of ceremony: Ms. Violante di Canossa, Head of Research and Policy Team, UNDP China
- Welcome remarks**
Ms. Beate Trankmann, UNDP Resident Representative
Mr. Tu Ruihe, Head of UNEP China Office
- 10:00** **Panel II - Strengthen actions for nature to achieve SDGs and ecological civilization**
Facilitated by Ms. Wang Qian, Programme Management Officer, UNEP China Office
Dr. Liu Ning, Deputy Director General Level Officer of the Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Deputy Executive Director of the Office of the Executive Committee for CBD COP15. (COP15- progress and next steps)
Mr. Yu Hai, Deputy Director of Research Center on Xi Jinping Ecological Civilization Theory (Guided by Xi Jinping thought on ecological civilization, building a community with a shared future for man and nature to live in harmony)
Mr. Wang Lei, Deputy Director General of Department of Ecological Restoration, Ministry of Natural Resources of China (Sharing on good practice of ecological restoration planning implementation in China)
Mr. Fang Zhi, Deputy Secretary General of China Environmental Protection Foundation (Actions and practices of Chinese environmental NGOs in support of nature and biodiversity conservation)
Mr. Wang Yue, Deputy Director of Chongqing Guang Yang Island Yangtze River Economic Belt Green Development Demonstration Construction Leading Group Office (Ecosystem restoration case study of Chongqing Guangyang Island)
- 11:00** **Panel III - Circular economy: moving from a sector perspective to a system perspective. The relevance of plastics and waste management**
Facilitated by Ms. Zheng Lixia, SCP Policy Advocacy and Capacity Development Consultant, SWITCH-Asia RPAC, UNEP China Office
Prof. Du Huanzheng, Director of the Circular Economy Research Institute, Tongji University
Mr. Zhao Kai, Vice President of China Association of Circular Economy
Mr. Li Jinhui, Executive Director of Basel Convention Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific, and Professor in School of Environment of Tsinghua University (China's policy framework and local practice in tackling plastic pollution)
Ms. Chen Ying, Director of Solid Waste Management Technology Department, Technical Center for Chemicals and Solid Waste Management, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Experience on Zero Waste Cities)
Mr. Chen Qi, Vice President of Zhejiang Eco-Environmental Science and Planning Research Institute (Experience on Zero Waste Cities in Zhejiang)
- 12:30** **Lunch break**
- 13:30** **Panel IV - Beyond CO₂: opportunities and challenges for the mitigation of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases**
Facilitated by Ms. Zhang Wei, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in China
Ms. Guo Xiaolin, Deputy Director of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
Prof. Hu Jianxin, College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Peking University
Mr. Li Xingchun, Chief Technology Expert, CNPC Research Institute of Safety and Environmental Technology (CNPC RISE) / Secretary office, China Oil and Gas Methane Alliance
Mr. Ye Jianping, Former Director of the Unconventional Oil and Gas Exploration Management Division, Exploration Department of China National Offshore Oil Corporation
Mr. Wang Jun, Executive Director of China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
- 14:50-15:00** **Concluding remarks** by Ms. Beate Trankmann, UNDP Resident Representative in China

Business Roundtable - Wednesday, 27 April 2022

- 9:30** **Welcome remarks (15 min)**
Master of ceremony: Ms. Zhang Wei, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in China
Beate Trankmann, UNDP Resident Representative in China
Sun Xiao, Secretary-General, China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC)
Joakim Abeleen, Trade & Invest Commissioner and Market Area Director Greater China, Business Sweden
- 9:45** **Call for Contributions: Kicking off the 2022 SDG Survey Report SDGs Practices of Enterprises in China 2022 – Low-Carbon Transition: Climate Governance and Strategy**
- 10:00** **Panel Discussion 1 - Innovative solutions to mitigate emissions and achieve net-zero**
Moderator: Ms. Zhang Wei, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in China
- Keynote speeches:**
Mr. Wang Shi, Founder of China Vanke Group, Chairman of Vanke Foundation, Co-founder of China Corporate Climate Action
- Panellist:**
Mr. David Xin, Vice President, SGS China
Ms. Mira Wang, Chief Sustainability Officer, Chi Forest
Mr. Zhu Xufeng, Executive Dean, School of Public Policy and Management (SPPM), Tsinghua University
Mr. Wang Yanping, Hillhouse Investment
Mr. David Sweet, Volvo Car APAC, Head of Strategy & Product
- Coffee Break**
- 11:30** **Panel Discussion 2 - Leveraging carbon offset mechanisms for a green transition**
Moderator: Ms. Wu Qian, Climate & Sustainability Partner of PwC China
- Panellists:**
Ms. Zhao Xiaolu, Director of Global Climate Change, Environmental Defense Fund
Mr. He Jinfeng, Chairman of Sichuan Environmental Exchange (SCEEX) and Carbon Market
Mr. Xu Hao, Vice President, Sustainable Social Value Division of Tencent
Mr. Alex Sun, GM of Carbon Management Business, Vice President, Envision
- 12:45** **Lunch Break**
- 13.30** **Panel Discussion 3 – Accelerating climate action with green finance tools**
Moderator: Ms. Luo Nan, Head of UNPRI China
- Keynote speeches:**
Ms. Wang Yao, President of International Research Institute of Green Finance, Central University of Finance and Economics, Deputy Secretary-General of Green Finance Committee of China Finance Society
- Panellists:**
Mr. Rick Sun, Vice President of Investment & Financing of Jinko Power
Mr. Peter Ling-Vannerus, Head of Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, SEB Beijing
Ms. Han Xiaoyan, Head of ESG Research Department, Harvest Fund
Mr. Li Yan, Deputy General Manager of Board of Directors Office of China Construction Bank
Mr. Yin Gefei, Secretary-General of ISO 26000 SGN
- 14.30** **Closing remarks**

Youth Consultation Workshop (27 April): The World We Want

PRE-WORKSHOP

Discussion on Sparkblue: As a young people, what are the actions that you (your group) would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet?

Pre-event: Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action (April 6-7)

AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

Structure	Activity	Duration
PART 1 Icebreaking	Ice-breaking	10 min
PART 2 Introduction	What is Stockholm+50? Objectives of the Workshop	5 min
	Climate Change: Basic Facts	15 min
PART 3 Group Discussion I	Youth Footprint for Climate Action: As young generation, how do you advocate for the environment and climate? What challenges do you face? What are the actions that you (your group) would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet?	15 min
	Group Sharing (4 min for each group)	25 min
PART 4 Group Discussion II	UNDP's Role in Empowering Youth for Climate Action Introduction of UNDP efforts on Climate Action. At UNDP, how youth were empowered for Climate Action? Case Study: How to build Green Jobs?	5 min
	Youth Voice on Climate Action Based on your current identity, how UNDP could help you in taking climate actions?	15 min
	Group Sharing (4 min for each group)	20 min
Wrap up & Next Steps	What kind of follow-up activities would you like to see from Stockholm+50? What are your takeaways from today's session?	10 min

POST-WORKSHOP

WeChat group: YECAP activities

Annex 2: Online registrations statistics

Total number of participants	1,437 (as registered on zoom)
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Number of participants by age range

0-18	65	19-30	684	31-50	571	51-65	105	66-80	10	80+	2
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Number of participants from each stakeholder group

Government – National	37	Science, Academia	361
Government - Local	27	Foundation, philanthropy	18
United Nations	91	Women and Women Groups	546
International Financial Institution	23	Youth	30
Bilateral / Foreign Governments	30	Local Community	N/A
NGO – International	60	Faith-based groups	N/A
NGO / CSO – national	90	Indigenous Peoples (“ethnic minorities” in the Chinese version)	9
Private sector (large)	79	People with disabilities	13
Small and Medium Business	148	Other	441
Consumer Group	N/A		

Number of participants from each sector

Agriculture & Food	24	Forestry	13	Media	87
Cities	43	Government	44	Tourism	9
Education	179	Green energy	65	Traditional Energy	9
Environment	277	ICT	37	Trade & Commerce	54
Extractives	9	Industry	40	Transport	12
Finance & Investment	72	Infrastructure	5	Utilities	72
Fisheries & Aquaculture	2	Health	23	Other	361

Government participation

Office of President / Prime Minister	0	Ministry of Planning / Economy / Finance	3
Parliament	N/A	Ministry of Environ-t / Nature Resources	17
Cabinet of Ministers	1	Ministry of Energy	0
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	0	Ministry of Agriculture & Food	1
Local Governments	27	Line Ministries (other)	16

