



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

**Progress on Environmental and Development Policies in China and Impact of
CCICED's Policy Recommendations**

(2019–2020)

About the Report

As a high-level policy advisory body approved by the Chinese government, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) mainly carries out research and proposes policy recommendations on major issues of environment and development. The CCICED Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the highest form of policy consultation. Based on the CCICED special policy study results, the AGM invites CCICED members, special advisors, Chinese and foreign experts to have policy discussions on major issues of environment and development, which not only reflect urgent and long-term domestic issues, but also echo the major concerns of the international community, reach ideological consensus, and finalize the CCICED annual policy recommendations for submission to the State Council and relevant departments of the central government.

Since 2008, the CCICED Chinese and International Chief Advisors' Expert Support Group has been commissioned by the CCICED Secretariat to draft the report on *Progress on Environment and Development Policies in China and Impact of CCICED's Policy Recommendations*, which fully sets out the major environmental and development policies promulgated by China in the past year and outlines the inclusion of the main policy recommendations of CCICED in recent years, especially in the previous year, in China's relevant legislation and policies. This report is not an assessment of the impact of CCICED. The report sorts out and compares China's policy practices with the CCICED policy recommendations to show the relevance of the CCICED policy research subjects and policy recommendations to the policy progress. This report is the 13th report provided by the Chief Advisors' Expert Support Group.

Compared with previous years, the writing style of the report has remained basically unchanged. The report focuses on the progress of China's environment and development policies from AGM 2019 to the end of May 2020. Each part contains a corresponding summary of the policy recommendations of CCICED and domestic relevant policies and measures. A comparison of policy recommendations with policy progress is made at the end of the report for reference.

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Forward

2020 represents a major milestone for China's development and environment. This year, China will win three tough battles against major risks, poverty, and pollution and achieve the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. On this basis, China will enter its second century of development, opening a new stage of green development in an all-round way, and firmly moving toward the new goal of a beautiful China in 2035.

Over the past year, China has maintained its strategic momentum in building an Ecological Civilization. Taking the high-quality development of the national economy as the fundamental goal, it continued its efforts to promote the construction of various Ecological Civilization systems targeted for improvement of air quality and the ecological environment, and stayed determined to win the battle against pollution with successive innovative measures, which has produced effective results.

Over the past year, the Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization was carried forward, and the new development idea has displayed enormous vitality in practice; green low-carbon and circular development was effectively promoted; efforts have been made to explore, innovate, and improve the modern ecological environment governance system; the reform measures on Ecological Civilization were implemented and have secured good results, producing strong momentum for environmental protection and pollution control.

Over the past year, efforts to tackle pollution prevention and control have not diminished. New progress in eco-environmental protection has been made through persistent efforts, China's ecological environment has generally improved, and the ecological environment goal in the 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP) period is expected to be fully realized.

Over the past year, pollution control efforts have been heading toward a new stage. Eco-environmental protection work pays more attention to "targeted, scientific and law-based pollution control," continuously reducing the resistance facing eco-environment governance, and making eco-environment governance a boost to economic transformation. "Targeted, scientific and law-based pollution control" becomes an important step in exploring a modern eco-environment governance system.

As a policy direct channel to the Chinese government and the link, bridge, and window for China and the international community to carry out environmental and development cooperation, CCICED has been adjusting its development and positions according to domestic and international situations, fully mobilizing intellectual resources, including top experts from China and abroad, to explore new ways, new approaches, and new means for outstanding domestic issues in the environment and development field in the new era; at the same time, upholding the Going Global principle, it engages in conducting international exchanges and advisory activities, actively participates in international environmental governance, and contributes wisdom and strength to the building of Ecological Civilization in China and sustainable development across the world.

I. Environmental and Development Planning

2020 is the final year of the 13th FYP period. As indicated by an interim assessment report on the implementation of the *13th Five-Year Plan for Ecological and Environmental Protection* jointly released by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) and related ministries and commissions in April 2020, seven of the nine binding targets have been fulfilled, with substantial improvements in eco-environmental quality and great ecological progress, effectively safeguarding the goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The goal of basically building a beautiful China in 2035 leads the new development plan. Based on the good foundation that the 13th FYP targets have been basically accomplished and benchmarking beautiful China in 2035, central and local departments have carried out forward-looking research on the formulation of the 14th FYP in early 2019 and even 2018, which achieved initial results. On March 6, 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) issued the *Evaluation Index System and Implementation Plan for the Construction of a Beautiful China*. The evaluation index system has five types of indexes, such as air freshness, water cleanness, soil security, ecological health, and human settlement tidiness.

The CCICED brought forward prospective recommendations on the 14th FYP early at its 2017 AGM. Such recommendations include: China should develop a comprehensive long-term strategic plan that covers water, atmospheric, soil, and marine pollution control for the next 10 to 15 years. Under this strategic plan, China should complete the corresponding deployment by 2020 to fit with the timeline of basically realizing socialist modernization in 2035. Moreover, the strategic plan should attach importance to innovation, for example, reducing plastic litter pollution in rivers and oceans by regulating plastic production and source control. In 2019, the CCICED recommended that the 14th FYP should embody and back up the vision of a beautiful China by 2035, efforts to tackle climate change and the global vision 2050 for biodiversity conservation. These CCICED recommendations have produced a positive impact on China's national 14th FYP and the 14th FYP for Ecological and Environmental Protection that are being developed.

a. Prospects on the 14th FYP for Environment and Development

At the special meeting on the formulation of the 14th FYP on November 26, 2019, Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council pointed out that the formulation of the 14th FYP should: "be based on China's basic national conditions and development stages; give top priority to development; highlight maintaining economic operations within a reasonable range; promote high-quality development; highlight the people-centred development thinking; focus on solving development problems through reforms and innovations; seek truth from facts; follow the law; take a long-term perspective; and make overall plans."

Within the framework of the 14th FYP, basic ideas and a preliminary draft of the 14th FYP for Ecological and Environmental Protection were basically formed in December 2019. The 14th FYP for Ecological and Environmental Protection will promote high-quality economic development and high-level ecological and environmental protection in a coordinated manner, which shall not only focus on the next five years but also shall be geared to the goals by 2035 and the middle of this century. Additionally, it is necessary to make the best use of science and

technology, step up efforts to tackle hard-net problems in science and technology, provide strong support for decision making, management, and governance, mobilize enterprises' vitality in innovation, and drive the reform of the eco-environmental industry.

Relevant special plans within the framework of the 14th FYP for Ecological and Environmental Protection are being developed at full speed, such as the *National Marine Eco-environmental Protection Plan*, the *Water Eco-environmental Protection Plan for Key River Basins* and the *14th Five-Year Plan for Air Quality Improvement*. These special plans will provide top-level design for ecological and environmental protection in relevant sectors during the 14th FYP period.

b. Formulation of a Plan for Eco-environmental Protection in the Yellow River Basin

The Yellow River basin is of vital importance to China's socioeconomic development and ecological security. Originating from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the Yellow River runs for 5,464 km through nine provinces and autonomous regions, making it China's second longest river (after the Yangtze). Ecological protection and the high-quality development of the Yellow River basin, like Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei coordinated development, development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and integration of the Yangtze River Delta, is a major national strategy.

On January 4, 2020, President Xi presided over and addressed the Sixth Meeting of the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission. The meeting emphasized that great efforts should be made to protect and manage the Yellow River basin, for which the path of ecological conservation and high-quality development should be taken. Measures should be implemented to advance ecological protection and restoration of the Yellow River basin, strengthen pollution control, encourage conservation and intensive utilization of water resources, drive high-quality development of central cities and city clusters along the Yellow River, build a modern industrial system, and carry forward the Yellow River culture.

To promote ecological conservation and high-quality development of the Yellow River basin, MEE has carried out research on relevant strategy and plan formulation, drawing up major plans and policies for the river basin to coordinate the settlement of major cross-regional problems, improve cross-regional management coordination mechanisms, strengthen joint prevention and control and joint law enforcement in connection with water eco-environmental restoration. MEE will also promote the establishment of the "three lines and one list" in the nine provinces and autonomous regions along the Yellow River, perfect the eco-environmental zoning system, delineate the ecological red lines, optimize industrial distribution through environmental impact assessment (EIA) of plans, and facilitate the adjustment and optimization of the industrial structure in the river basin, thus driving high-quality development there.

c. Eco-Friendly and Green Integration of the Yangtze River Delta

The *Overall Plan for Demonstration Zones for Eco-friendly and Green Integration of the Yangtze River Delta* (the *Plan*) formally approved by the State Council on October 25, 2019, is particularly relevant to promoting the high-quality development of the Yangtze River basin by cooperating in protection and preventing excessive development.

The *Plan* states that by 2025, a number of environmental, infrastructure, technology innovation, public service, and other major projects will be completed and put into operation; evident improvements seen in eco-environmental protection and construction; innovative development of eco-friendly industries and harmony between people and nature in pilot zones; the main functional framework basically established for integration demonstration zones and ecological quality significantly improved. Innovation in the integration system will bring about replicable experience, and system integration of major reforms will produce dividends, with the role of these demonstration zones in leading higher-quality integration of the Yangtze River Delta initially exerted. By 2035, a more mature, effective system of green integrated development will be established and become the benchmark for demonstration and leading of high-quality integration of the Yangtze River Delta.

In December 2019, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the *Outline of the Integrated Regional Development of the Yangtze River Delta* (the *Outline*). The *Outline* indicates that by 2025, substantial progress will be made in the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, especially in technological innovation industries, infrastructure, ecological environment, and public services, just to name a few.

Currently, demonstration zones for eco-friendly, green integration of the Yangtze River Delta have been inaugurated and will adopt a three-level architecture of “Board of Governors + Executive Committee + Development Company.”

II. Environmental Protection and the Fight Against COVID-19

In early 2020, the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) unexpectedly triggered global economic and social systematic risks which have had enormous financial and health impacts around the world. At the same time, it has brought global attention to sustainable development, driving post-pandemic green recovery to be a major concern of the international community under the new normal.

a. COVID-19 Prevention and Control vs. Economic and Social Development

COVID-19 has obvious short-term effects on China’s economic and social development. The impact on the economy in the first quarter of 2020 was greater than that of the 2008 financial crisis, when negative economic growth was observed. In the second quarter, the economy is expected to register positive growth, but this remains to be seen. According to Zhu Min, Chairman of the National Institute of Financial Research at Tsinghua University and the former Vice President of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), even if the government introduces an adequate hedging macro policy, the country’s growth rate will stay at only 5% throughout 2020.¹

With international financial integration, China’s economy is exposed to the vicissitudes of the global economy. The global outbreak of COVID-19 took place about one month after China’s.

¹ Impact of the COVID-19 on Global Economy and Finance: Analysis and Prospect. A special issue of State-owned Capital Operation Research Institute on the fight against COVID-19; March 13, 2020.

As it has spread further and the world economy has been greatly impacted, there will be a negative influence on the development of China's economy in the next stage, slowing down its economic recovery after the resumption of work and production and posing a greater challenge to the attainment of the economic production targets.

However, there is a positive side of the different timings of the COVID-19 outbreak in China and worldwide. China was the first country to bring the virus under control, and it has become the "home front" for the global fight against COVID-19, which can provide other countries with a steady flow of medical and other material support in containing the outbreak and make new contributions to COVID-19 control all over the world. The global outbreak occurred roughly one month later than the outbreak in China, when the trend of further spread had come into being, giving the world economy a heavy blow. China will further show its irreplaceability in the world when many countries find it difficult to resume work and production but still have some rigid demand. Moreover, at the time of gradually lifting social isolation and economic recovery as the outbreak is controlled in some countries, the demand for e-bikes—an independent means of transportation in the post-pandemic era—surges, injecting strong impetus into the rapid recovery of relevant industries in China.

b. Supporting Resumption of Work and Production and Promoting Green Consumption

MEE released the *Guiding Opinions on Effectively Coordinating COVID-19 Prevention and Control, Economic and Social Development, and Ecological and Environmental Protection* (the *Opinions*) on March 3, 2020. The *Opinions* document suggests that China should spare no effort to maintain environmental protection in connection with the prevention and control of the pandemic toward the main goal of 100% environmental monitoring and services for all medical institutions and facilities throughout the country and timely and effective collection, transfer, and disposal of 100% of medical waste and wastewater.

To help enterprises resume operation and production, the *Opinions* proposes the establishment and implementing of positive lists of EIA and approval, supervision, and law enforcement; increasing working efficiency; as well as giving strong support to the resumption of operation and production by enterprises in relevant sectors. China should adopt differentiated eco-environmental regulations and dynamic adjustment on these regulations on the grounds of the status of the prevention and control and relevant requirements of region-specific and risk-based accurate resumption of work and production, thus supporting and guaranteeing pandemic prevention and control and socioeconomic development in a coordinated manner.

The key to resumption of work and production lies in the stimulation of consumer demand. The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations indicated that the government should give full play to the role of existing policy measures in promoting sustainable production and consumption. China should develop and implement categorized targeted strategies for different sectors during the 14th FYP period. How to improve people's well-being and health and constantly reduce ecological footprint should be taken into account; homes, schools, and workplaces should be more pleasant; new green jobs should be created; and greater importance should be attached to the important role of households in promoting sustainable consumption.

In March 2020, NDRC and other 22 ministries and commissions jointly released the *Implementation Opinions on Promoting Consumption Scale Expansion and Quality Improvement and Accelerating the Establishment of a Strong Domestic Market*, which proposes to “encourage use of green smart products, promoting green consumption by focusing on supply of green products, construction of green public transport facilities, energy-saving and environmentally-friendly buildings and relevant technology innovation, and build green shopping malls.”

Since March 2020, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Beijing, and Hubei have successively begun to stimulate household consumption by issuing “consumption vouchers” on various digital platforms such as Alipay and WeChat, which has an apparent “multiplier effect” on spurring economic recovery. CCICED SPS on Green Consumption suggests “green”-related elements be integrated into various “e-vouchers” so as to promote green, low-carbon, and sustainable development while stimulating economic recovery. Meanwhile, the government can support the introduction of “green consumption vouchers” and relevant supporting measures by formulating general standards for the identification of green businesses and consumer behaviours and further expanding the functions of digital living platforms, thus creating new hotspots of online green consumption and facilitating sustainable economic development in all aspects after the pandemic.

c. Strengthening Wildlife Protection

At the critical moment of the global fight against COVID-19, protecting wildlife has drawn much attention. The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to strengthen research on the breeding, cultivation, and sustainable use of wild biological resources, promote technological upgrading, reduce consumption of natural and biological resources, etc., and take legal action against illegal wildlife sales and smuggling.

In response to COVID-19, President Xi Jinping emphasized: “We must incorporate biosafety into the national security system from the perspective of protecting people’s health, safeguarding national security, and safeguarding the country's enduring peace and stability, systematically plan the construction of a national biosecurity risk prevention and control and governance system and comprehensively improve China's capacity in biosecurity governance.”

The National People’s Congress (NPC) has launched the revision of the Law on the Protection of Wildlife and plans to incorporate the revision work into the 2020 legislation plan of its Standing Committee and expedite the revision of the Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention and other related laws. The Law on the Protection of Wildlife was systematically revised in 2016, with the principle of protection first, normalized utilization and strict management established, strict provisions on hunting, trading, utilization, transportation of wild animals and consumption of the meat thereof incorporated and, in particular, scientific and rational systems established for problems including indiscriminate wild animal meat consumption. However, the COVID-19 outbreak has exposed loopholes in the administration of breeding and smuggling of wild animals.

Furthermore, the NPC voted to adopt the *Decision on a Complete Ban of Illegal Wildlife Trade*

and the Elimination of the Unhealthy Habit of Indiscriminate Wild Animal Meat Consumption for the Protection of Human Life and Health on February 24, 2020, which sets forth specific provisions on an all-out ban of illegal wild animal trade and relevant penalties. In charge of “coordinating the protection of biodiversity” and “supervising wildlife protection,” MEE has, upon deliberation, included the enforcement of laws and regulations on wild animal protection in the scope of central supervision of ecological and environmental protection. Qinghai, Beijing, Guangdong, and Shanghai have all strengthened the management of wildlife protection in the form of local legislation.

III. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation

a. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15)

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed the building of high-level political momentum through green diplomacy by learning from the successful experience in climate change negotiations in Paris, enlist businesses, the academic community, NGOs, and the public to contribute to the post-2020 biodiversity framework and its implementation, publicize the Action Agenda for Nature and People, raise public awareness, and catalyze cooperative initiatives.

The CBD COP15 to be held in China will deliberate the “post-2020 global biodiversity framework” and define new global biodiversity targets for 2030. The CBD COP 15 will develop a new vision, strategic plan, and goal for the next decade and point out the direction for global diversity conservation.

China, as one of the world’s most biologically diverse countries and one of the earliest members of the CBD, has made numerous efforts in biodiversity conservation and achieved notable results, leading the world in the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation. It has put forward the concepts of respecting, conforming to, and protecting nature, as well as “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.” As a result, obvious progress has been made in ecosystem protection and restoration, ecosystem services improved as a whole, and remarkable results achieved in wildlife protection. For example, populations of endangered species such as giant panda, Tibetan antelope, crested ibis, and snow leopard have increased significantly, with the quality of their habitats improved and endangered categories lowered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessment.

b. Continuous Advancement of the “Green Shield 2019” Special Action

2020 is the third year of the “Green Shield” special action on natural reserve supervision. Based on 474 national natural reserves, the “Green Shield 2019” mission has been extended to some natural reserves within a 5 km radius of trunk streams, main tributaries, and the five lake areas in the 11 provinces on the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

In July 2019, MEE, Ministry of Water Resources (MWR), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MOA), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), and China Coast Guard of the Chinese People’s Armed Police Force

jointly launched the “Green Shield 2019” mission to strengthen natural reserve supervision, and carried out on-site inspections of new problems and clues identified by remote sensors of human activities in national and provincial natural reserves in different provinces.

c. New Progress in Ecological Red Line Delineation and Ecological Protection

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed the strengthening of construction of the natural reserve management system dominated by national parks and delineating ecological red lines; formulating and implementing a complete set of laws, regulations, and market incentive policy measures, and ensuring the effectiveness of such implementation; strengthening crosscutting collaboration and removing subsidies that might have adverse impacts on the ecological environment.

Under the *Several Opinions on Delineating and Strictly Observing Ecological Red Lines* promulgated by the State Council in 2017, by the end of 2020, the delineation and demarcation of ecological red lines will be completed nationwide, an ecological red line system basically established, ecological space of China’s territory optimized and effectively protected, ecological functions stabilized, and the national ecological security pattern perfected.

On August 30, 2019, the General Office of MEE and the General Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) issued the *Technical Procedures for Demarcation of Ecological Red Lines*, aiming at guiding the demarcation of ecological red lines nationwide and promoting the implementation and strict management of ecological red lines.

In June 2019, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council released the *Guiding Opinions on Establishing a System of Natural Reserves with National Parks as the Main Body* (the *Opinions*). The *Opinions* document proposes that, by 2020, China should come up with an overall layout and development plan for national parks and various nature reserves, complete the pilot program for a national park system, set up a number of national parks, complete the demarcation of natural reserves and the linkup with ecological red lines, work out a negative list of access for construction projects within natural reserves and establish a unified natural reserve management system by category and level. By 2025, China should establish a sound national park system; complete the consolidation and optimization of natural reserves; improve the laws, regulations, and management and supervision systems regarding the natural reserve system; increase the bearing capacity of natural ecosystems; and preliminarily build the system of natural reserves with national parks as the main body. By 2035, China should significantly improve the natural reserve management efficiency and the ability of nature reserves to supply ecological products, raise the scale and management of nature reserves to the world advanced level and have in place a natural reserve system with Chinese characteristics.

Since May 2019, NFGA has launched an assessment of the pilot program for the national park system. So far, China has built 11,800 various natural reserves at all levels, accounting for 18% of its land area and 4.6% of its sea area. These natural reserves include 10 pilot national parks, 474 national natural reserves, and 244 national scenic spots. China has 14 World Natural Heritage sites, four World Natural and Cultural Heritage sites and 39 world geoparks, all

leading the world by quantity.

On November 15, 2019, NDRC released the *Pilot Program for Comprehensive Ecological Compensation*, under which 50 counties (cities and districts) will be selected in national Ecological Civilization pilot zones, Tibet and other Tibetan areas, and Anhui Province for pilot comprehensive ecological compensation. The pilot program covers four parts, namely innovating the forest ecological benefit compensation system, promoting the establishment of an ecological compensation system for upper and lower reaches in a river basin, developing characteristic industries with ecological advantages, and advancing the establishment of an ecological protection compensation system. The goal is, by 2020, to make phased progress in a pilot compensation ecological compensation, effectively increase the efficiency of capital, enhance the ability of ecological protected areas to promote economic growth, significantly raise the engagement of conservationists and basically establish an ecological protection compensation mechanism matching local economic development.

IV. Energy and Climate

a. Clean, Low-Carbon Energy Transition Helps Improve the Environment

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed stepping up coal control to win the blue-sky battle with determination; elaborating a national long-term zero-emission strategy toward the eventual phase-out of coal; increasing the subsidy and financial support for renewable energy; and gradually removing the subsidy for fossil fuels.

As of the end of 2019, China's installed renewable energy power capacity registered 794 million kW, representing a year-on-year increase of 9%. Installed wind and PV power capacity both exceeded 200 million kW for the first time. Installed renewable power capacity accounted for roughly 39.5% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 1.1%. Renewable energy generated 2.04 trillion kWh of electric power, increasing by approximately 176.1 billion kWh year on year; the share of renewable energy power in the total was 27.9%, a year-on-year growth of 1.2%.²

On April 10, 2020, the National Energy Administration (NEA) released the *Energy Law of the People's Republic of China (Exposure Draft)*. The draft explicitly states that energy exploitation and utilization should be adapted to the Ecological Civilization; carry out the new development concept; implement a conservation-first, domestic demand-oriented, green, low-carbon, and innovation-driven energy development strategy; and establish a clean, low-carbon, safe, and efficient energy system. For fossil energy, the draft allows market participants that meet access requirements to engage in oil and gas exploration and exploitation while taking protective measures. For non-fossil energy, the draft makes it clear that China has listed renewable energy as a priority area of energy development and developed mid- to long-term total amount targets for renewable energy exploitation and utilization nationwide, the target share of renewable energy in primary energy consumption and binding targets that are included in the plan for

² www.sinoergy.com. National Energy Administration: In 2019, China's installed renewable energy power capacity registered 794 million KW, representing a year-on-year increase of 9%.
<http://www.hxny.com/nd-44650-0-46.html>

national economic and social development and annual plans.

In terms of promotion of renewable energy, on December 4, 2019, NDRC, NEA, and eight other ministries jointly released the *Guiding Opinions on Promoting the Industrialization of Bio-Natural Gas*, which requires the formation of a bio-natural gas market of a certain size and a green, low-carbon, and clean renewable gas industry by 2025, with an annual bio-natural gas output of more than 10 billion m³, and steady development of bio-natural gas by 2030. The size of the bio-natural gas will then be world-leading, and the annual output will exceed 20 billion m³, which will account for a certain proportion of the total gas output at home.

China has energetically advanced a clean and low-carbon energy transition. On August 19, 2019, NDRC, MOF, MNR, MEE, NEA, and the National Coal Mine Safety Administration (NCMSA) jointly released the *Work Plan for Classification and Disposal of Coal Mines with a Capacity Below 300,000 tons/year*, with the purpose of striving, through three years of efforts, to reduce the number of coal mines with a capacity below 300,000 tons/year across the country to fewer than 800, basically eliminate such coal mines in North and Northwest China (excluding South Xinjiang) and cut the number of such coal mines in other areas by more than 50% in principle compared with the level at the end of 2018. On September 6, 2019, the *Notice of the National Energy Administration on Issuing the Target and Task of the Elimination of Backward Production Capacity in the Coal Power Sector in 2019* was released, which makes clear that 8,664,000 kW of backward production capacity in the coal power sector should be eliminated in 2019.

b. Strengthening Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction

China has witnessed a roughly 13.7% decline in national energy intensity during the first four years of the 13th FYP period. In 2019, in response to the task of atmospheric pollution prevention and control, local governments actively promoted "coal-to-gas" and "coal-to-electricity," and stepped up efforts to solve key problems in energy-saving technologies, with new results achieved in this regard.

On June 13, 2019, NDRC, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and five other ministries jointly released the *Action Plan on Green and Efficient Refrigeration*, which sets forth a main goal that by 2022 the energy efficiency of refrigeration products such as household air conditioners and variable refrigerant volume (VRV) split air conditioning systems in the market will increase by over 30% and the market share of green and efficient refrigeration products 20%, with 100 billion kWh of electricity saved a year. By 2030, the refrigeration energy efficiency in large public buildings will increase by 30%, the overall refrigeration energy efficiency more than 25%, and the market share of green and efficient refrigeration products more than 40%, with 400 billion kWh of electricity saved a year.

On July 26, 2019, the Ministry of Transport (MOT) released the *Catalogue of Key Energy-Efficient and Low-Carbon Technologies to be Promoted in the Transportation Sector (2019)*, covering 30 technologies in five fields such as road transportation, highways, ship transportation, channels, and ports.

On August 28, 2019, NDRC released the cleaner production evaluation index systems for five

sectors: coal mining and processing, zinc sulfate, zinc smelting, sewage treatment and recycling and fertilizer (phosphate fertilizer) manufacturing.

On October 29, 2019, NDRC released the *Overall Plan for the Green Life Initiative*, which requires, through the construction of conservation-oriented government organs, green households, schools, and communities; green commuting; green shopping malls green buildings; extensively publicizing and promoting simple and moderate, green, and low-carbon civilization, and healthy concepts of life and lifestyles; establishing sound policies and management systems concerning green life; promoting green consumption; and pushing for green development.

On March 11, 2020, NDRC and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) released the *Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment of a System of Regulations and Policies for Green Production and Consumption*, which stipulates that by 2025, regulations, standards, and policies pertaining to green production and consumption should be further improved, an institutional framework where incentives and restraints are in place basically established, green ways of production and consumption fully practised in key fields, sectors, and links, and the level of green development generally raised in China.

c. Co-control of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and Atmospheric Pollutants

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed that promoting air quality improvements and GHG emission reduction in a coordinated manner was a necessary approach to high-quality development in China.

Both the “Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution” and the “Three-Year Action Plan for Keeping Skies Blue” adopt measures such as controlling new production capacity in energy-intensive and heavily polluting industries, promoting cleaner production, accelerating the adjustment of the energy structure and strengthening constraints for energy conservation and environmental protection. By implementing the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution, China has seen a significant improvement in its air quality and obvious results in GHG emission reduction.

On June 26, 2019, MEE released the *Plan for Comprehensive Control of Volatile Organic Compounds in Key Sectors*, which states that by 2020, a sound system for prevention and control of pollution caused by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) will be established, and continuous improvements in ambient air quality promoted in coordination with the control of GHG emissions. On July 1, MEE, NDRC, MIIT, and MOF jointly issued the *Plan for Comprehensive Control of Atmospheric Pollution Caused by Industrial Furnaces* to guide local authorities to strengthen comprehensive control of atmospheric pollution caused by industrial furnaces, control GHG emissions in a coordinated manner, and promote high-quality development of industries.

d. Steady Pushing Forward the Construction of National Carbon Market

Over the past year, China has steadily pushed construction of the national carbon emission trading system in line with the tasks and requirements set forth in the *National Carbon Emission*

Trading Market Construction Plan, and achieved positive results.

First, in terms of institutional system construction, China has drafted and perfected the *Provisional Regulations on the Administration of Carbon Credit Trading*, an important document laying out a legal foundation for carbon trading. Additionally, China has advanced the formulation of an array of institutional documents such as measures for the administration of GHG emission reporting by key emitting units, measures for the administration of GHG emission auditing, and measures for the supervision and administration of the trading market, so as to safeguard the operation of the national carbon emission trading market.

Second, in terms of constructing a technical specification system, China has improved the technical solution to allocation of allowances in the power generation sector and organized provincial and municipal authorities to submit lists of key emitting units in the power generation sector, promoting the construction of the national carbon market from a technical perspective.

Third, in terms of infrastructure construction, China has optimized the assessment of—and further revised the construction plans for—the national carbon market registration system and trading system, and carried out the construction of the two systems.

Fourth, in terms of capacity building, China has carried out carbon trading training for local ecology and environment departments, with a view to providing support for the construction of the national carbon market.

In December 2019, MOF released the *Interim Regulations on Accounting Treatment in Carbon Credit Trading*, which contains explicit provisions on accounting treatment in carbon emission permit trading—accounting treatment for purchase, sales, and voluntary cancellation of carbon allowances by key emitting enterprises, asset attributes of carbon emission allowances and Chinese Certified Emission Reductions (CCERs), and the disclosure of information on asset ownership and change.

In January 2020, the Hubei Branch of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) released the *Interim Measures for the Administration of Foreign Exchange for Overseas Investors' Participation in Carbon Credit Trading in Hubei*, which allows overseas investors (including institutions and individuals) to open Non-Resident Accounts (NRAs) at domestic banks and participate in carbon emission permit trading through domestic depository banks with accounts dedicated to capital projects. Under the regulation, funds in the NRAs opened by overseas investors for participation in carbon emission permit trading will not use any balance of short-term foreign debts of opening banks, but should be subject to foreign debt registration as required.

V. Pollution Prevention and Control and Marine Governance

a. Atmospheric Pollution Prevention and Control

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed stepping up coal control to win the blue-sky battle with determination; elaborating a national long-term zero-emission strategy toward the eventual phase-out of coal; increasing the subsidy and financial support for renewable energy and gradually removing subsidies for fossil fuels; accelerating the phase-out

of bulk coal use by around 2020 in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei and Fenhe–Weihe River Plain regions; and giving priority to non-fossil fuel energy grid connection.

In September 2019, 10 ministries, including MEE and NDRC, together with Beijing and Tianjin Municipal People’s Governments, released the *Action Plan for Comprehensive Control of Atmospheric Pollution in the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei Region and Surrounding Areas in Autumn and Winter during 2019–2020*. The *Action Plan* proposed sticking to the principle of using electricity, gas, coal, or thermal power where applicable; promoting photo-thermal utilization of solar energy and centralized biomass utilization; increasing support for pricing policies; accelerating the coal-to-electricity program; emphasizing the wide application of achievements in digital technologies to improve the capability and efficiency of law enforcement; and making full use of efficient monitoring and surveillance methods such as law enforcement APP, automatic monitoring, satellite remote sensing, UAVs, and electricity data.

Through the joint efforts of all regions, the comprehensive treatment of air pollution in autumn and winter has achieved remarkable results, and the degree of heavy pollution has been significantly reduced. In autumn and winter 2019–2020 (as of February 15, 2020, the same below), PM_{2.5} concentrations in 74 cities averaged 50 ug/m³, 44% lower than the level in autumn and winter during 2013–2014; each city saw four heavy pollution days on average, a decrease of 15 days compared with the level in autumn and winter in 2013. In the “2+26” cities, PM_{2.5} concentrations in autumn and winter during 2019–2020 averaged 77 ug/m³, a 40% decrease compared with the level in 2013; each city experienced 14 heavy pollution days on average, a decrease of 28 days compared with the 2013 level. In Beijing, PM_{2.5} concentrations in autumn and winter dropped with fluctuations, with the level in autumn and winter during 2019–2020 being 44% lower than that in 2013; the city witnessed eight heavy pollution days, a decrease of 12 days compared with the 2013 level, indicating a marked improvement in air quality³.

Currently, the Blue Sky Protection Campaign has entered the decisive phase, when some new problems have appeared. On the one hand, the pollution of particulate matter remains high in key regions and is rising rather than declining in some cities. On the other hand, ozone pollution exhibits an obvious growing trend and, in some cities, ozone has even overtaken PM_{2.5} as the primary pollutant.

b. Water Pollution Prevention and Control

In 2019, critical headway was made in the prevention and control of water pollution. In 2019, the proportion of sections with excellent or good surface water quality (Grade I-III) nationwide rose by 3.9% year on year, and the proportion of sections with water quality inferior to Class V dropped by 3.3%. In particular, the proportion of sections with water quality better than Grade III in the Yangtze River basin rose by 4.2% year on year and that of sections with water quality

³ National Center for Joint Air Pollution Prevention and Control. Blue Sky Protection Campaign Experts: Regional air quality has improved significantly, but air pollution prevention and control still has a long way to go. http://sthjt.jl.gov.cn/zwx/qghb/202003/t20200309_6879783.html

inferior to Class V declined by 1.2%. The numbers of state-controlled sections with water quality inferior to Class V in the Yangtze River basin and rivers emptying into the Bohai Sea fell from 12 and 10 to 3 and 2 respectively. Water quality in offshore areas was in general steadily improved. The proportion of the area with excellent or good water quality (Class I and II) in the offshore area of the Bohai Sea rose by 12.5% year on year, and that of the area with water quality inferior to Class IV fell by 3.7%. On March 28, 2019, MEE, MNR, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD), MWR, and MOA jointly released the *Implementation Plan for Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution*, which explicitly proposes to “control pollution in a systematic and comprehensive way and from the source, with the protection and improvement of groundwater environmental quality at the core, and ensure sustainable utilization of groundwater resources.”

On July 8, 2019, Central Rural Work Leading Group Office, MOA, and MNR jointly released *Guiding Opinions on Promoting Rural Domestic Sewage Treatment*, and MEE, together with MWR and MOA, released the *Guiding Opinions on Promoting the Treatment of Black and Odorous Water Bodies in Rural Areas*, which provide top-level design for improving rural domestic sewage treatment.

On January 19, 2020, MEE and MWR jointly released the *Guiding Opinions on Establishing a Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism for Water Pollution Incidents in the Upper and Lower Reaches of Cross-Provincial River Basins*, which brings forward eight measures, including establishing a collaboration system, strengthening judgment and early warning, preventing and controlling pollution scientifically, enhancing information disclosure, implementing joint monitoring, coordinating pollution disposal, carrying out dispute mediation, and putting into action basic security.

c. Soil Pollution Prevention and Control

In June 2019, MOF released the revised *Measures for the Administration of the Funds Earmarked for Soil Pollution Prevention and Control*. 30 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) nationwide have preliminarily established an access management mechanism for contaminated sites. For example, Shanghai stipulates that plots that are contaminated or of which remediation fails to meet relevant environmental requirements shall not be assigned or transferred. Henan states that for construction land whose soil environment quality does not meet land use conditions in relevant planning, no building permits involving such construction land shall be issued.

In July 2019, MEE released the *Implementation Opinions on Enforcing the Soil Pollution Prevention and Control Law and Promoting the Settlement of Acute Soil Pollution Problems* in partnership with MOA and MNR, which proposes implementing “one-permit” management by including the responsibilities of key industries and enterprises for soil pollution prevention and control in the pollutant permit system, and stepping up the formulation of the technical specifications for independent monitoring and risk identification by key enterprises subject to regulation.

On January 17, 2020, MOF, MEE, and four other ministries jointly released the *Measures for*

the Administration of the Funds for Soil Pollution Prevention and Control. These funds should be run in a market-oriented manner and arranged through finance at the level of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and cities specifically designated in the state plan through budgets, established separately or jointly with social capital to exert a guiding, driving, and leveraging effect by market-oriented means, e.g., equity investment, guiding social capital to invest in soil pollution prevention and control, and support the development of the soil remediation and treatment industry. These funds are mainly used for soil pollution prevention and control on agricultural land, soil pollution risk control and remediation where soil polluters or owners of land use rights cannot be identified, and other matters stipulated by the government.

d. Solid Waste Pollution Prevention and Control

The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to “reduce the use of plastic products, completely eliminate disposable plastic products, reduce the use of plastics in the upstream packaging industry, implement garbage sorting, and realize the recycling of plastic waste.” It also proposed to “revise the government procurement law.” Government procurement should give priority to encouraging green transportation, green buildings, reduction of waste and deforestation and other nature-based products and services.”

On May 8, 2019, MEE released the *Guidelines for the Formulation of the Implementation Plan for Pilot Construction of “Zero-Waste Cities”* and the *Index System for the Construction of “Zero-Waste Cities” (for Trial Implementation)*.

On September 9, 2019, the Comprehensively Deepening Reform Commission of the CPC Central Committee deliberated and adopted the *Opinions on Further Enhancing Plastic Pollution Control*. On January 19, 2020, NDRC and MEE published the *Opinions on Further Enhancing Plastic Pollution Control (the Opinions)*. The *Opinions* explicitly states that by the end of 2020, China will ban or limit the production, sale, and use of some plastic products first in some regions and in some sectors, with consumption of disposable plastic products significantly reduced and substitute products promoted by the end of 2022. In 2019, MEE, together with relevant departments, fully implemented the *Plan for Prohibiting the Entry of Foreign Garbage and Advancing the Reform of the Solid Waste Import Administration System*. On the basis of two consecutive years of remarkable achievements in 2017 and 2018, significant progress toward the goal of reform in 2019 has been successfully achieved. In 2019, the total import volume of solid waste in China was 13.478 million tons, a decrease of 40.4% year-on-year.⁴

e. Marine Environmental Governance

The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed strengthening legal protection for marine and coastal ecosystems; formulating a national action plan for the prevention and control of marine litter pollution; and strengthening research on global emerging marine

⁴ Ministry of Ecology and Environment. MEE regular press conference in January 2020. http://www.mee.gov.cn/xxgk/xxgk15/202001/t20200117_760049.html

environmental issues such as ocean acidification, marine plastics, and microplastics. The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations put forward the following: China should strengthen comprehensive ocean governance, actively participate in global ocean governance, and enhance marine ecological protection and governance capacity.

In terms of land-based pollution control, in February 2019, MEE released the *Work Plan for Investigation and Rectification of Sewage Outlets Into the Bohai Sea*, laying a foundation for effectively managing and controlling land-based pollution sources and improving the ecological and environmental quality of the Bohai Sea. In June 2019, MEE released the *Work Plan for the Campaign on Rectification of State-Controlled Sections With Water Quality Inferior to Class V in Rivers Emptying Into the Bohai Sea*, which lists eliminating state-controlled sections with water quality inferior to Class V in rivers emptying into the sea as a marked achievement of the Bohai Sea battle.

In terms of marine pollution control, MOA, MOT, and MOHURD have worked together to control mariculture pollution, control ship and port pollution and prevent and control marine litter pollution, respectively.

In terms of ecological protection and restoration, MNR, NFGA, MOA, and MEE have taken protective and restorative measures simultaneously. In terms of environmental risk prevention, MEE has strengthened oil spill risk control in offshore oil exploration and development activities, studied and established a linkage mechanism for collaboration support and emergency response to oil spills in partnership with oil-related enterprises like China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC); MOT has strengthened capacity building for emergency response to ship pollution incidents; Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) has perfected the Beijing–Tianjin–Hebei collaborative accident and disaster response mechanism, with ecological and environmental security of the Bohai Sea further improved.

VI. Environmental Governance and Rule of Law

a. Law Formulation/Revision

The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations put forward that it is necessary to accelerate legislation for the protection of the Yangtze River, and the legislation should reflect the systematic comprehensiveness, heterogeneity, and special pertinence of protecting the Yangtze River basin.

On December 23, 2019, the *Yangtze River Protection Law of the People's Republic of China (Draft)* was submitted for the first time to the 15th Meeting of the 13th NPC Standing Committee for deliberation. The Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of the NPC explained the draft law. The draft defines the geographical scope to which it applies to relevant county-level administrative areas in the entire Yangtze River basin based on the scope of the relevant 19 administrative areas through which the river flows and in the light of the physical geographical conditions in the basin. With respect to specific areas and problems, the draft law sets out detailed systems and measures on management of national land space, ecological and environmental remediation, protection and utilization of water resources, promotion of green development, and law enforcement and supervision.

On December 28, 2019, the 15th Meeting of the 13th NPC Standing Committee voted to adopt the revised *Forest Law*, which took effect July 1, 2020. The revised Forest Law proposes making forest ownership clear; strengthening the protection of forest ownership and mobilizing public enthusiasm for afforestation; pursuing forest classification and management; highlighting the functions of non-commercial and commercial forests; and fostering stable, healthy, high-quality and efficient forest ecosystems; strengthening the guiding role of planning; combining development planning with special planning; and determining the scientific structure and layout of forest conservation and utilization; strengthening forest conservation; reasonably defining the responsibilities of the government, the sector and forest managers; and protecting forests, woods, and forestlands with the strictest legal system; reforming the forest felling management system; combining the reforms to streamline administration and delegate power; improving regulation and upgrading services to enhance the development vitality of forestry; increasing support; perfecting the forest ecological benefit compensation system; and guaranteeing investment in forest ecosystem protection and restoration; defining target-oriented responsibilities; intensifying supervision and inspection; and implementing the responsibility and assessment systems for fulfilling forest conservation and development targets.

On April 29, 2020, the 17th Meeting of the 13th NPC Standing Committee deliberated and adopted the revised *Law on Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste*, which took effect from September 1, 2020. The revised *Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste* proposes establishing a sound household waste sorting system, strengthening the responsibility of producers of industrial solid waste and further tightening the punishments on environmental polluters, and reiterating the ban on imported waste. For waste electric and electronic products, it encourages producers to conduct ecological design and establish recycling systems, thus promoting the recycling of resources. It raises fines on a number of offences to RMB 1 million and adds corresponding penalties to some acts on which no specific penalties were imposed.

b. Advancement of Reforms to Streamline Administration and Delegate Power, Improve Regulation and Upgrade Services

In order to effectively complete the aforementioned reforms in the ecological and environmental sector, MEE has successively released three documents. In 2018, it released the *Guiding Opinions on Further Deepening Reforms to Streamline Administration and Delegate Power, Improve Regulation and Upgrade Services in the Ecological and Environmental Sector and Promoting High-Quality Economic Development*, which put forward 15 measures, including accelerating the reform of the examination and approval system, strengthening environmental supervision and law enforcement, enhancing the ability of high-quality service development, promoting the development of the environmental protection industry, and improving the ecological environment economic policies. In January 2019, MEE released the *Opinions on Supporting and Serving Green Development of Private Enterprises* in partnership with the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), which comes up with 18 measures to support the green development of private enterprises. The *Opinions on Further Deepening Ecological and Environmental Regulatory Services and Promoting High-Quality Economic Development* enacted in September 2019 attaches more importance to serving

“stability on six fronts” (employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations). These measures, oriented toward greater vitality, fairness, and convenience, focus on optimizing the business environment, actively serving the green development of enterprises, and working together to promote high-quality economic development and high-level protection of the ecological environment, to achieve positive results in environmental, economic, and social dimensions.

c. Further Development of Ecological and Environmental Protection Supervision

Marked by the *Regulations on Central Supervision of Ecological and Environmental Protection* released by the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council, supervision of ecological and environmental protection has been formally established as an important part of the institutional construction and normal mechanism arrangement of the modern ecological governance system. Supervision of ecological and environmental protection includes routine, special, and “look-back” supervision, which will become effective means whereby the central government directly supervises local governments to drive ecological progress, rectify ecological and environmental deficiencies, address problems left over by history, and realize high-quality economic development.

In June 2019, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council released the *Regulations on Central Supervision of Ecological and Environmental Protection* (the *Regulations*), which explicitly provide for the supervision work, ranging from top-level design to specific operations. The *Regulations* make clear the promotion of the leading group for supervision. Supervision of environmental protection was in the charge of the Leading Group for the Supervision of Ecological and Environmental Protection under the State Council, with specific organization and coordination led by the former Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). The office of the Leading Group was at the MEP, named the National Supervision Office of Environmental Protection. The *Regulations* make it clear that the supervision work will be coordinated and pushed forward by the Central Leading Group for the Supervision of Ecological and Environmental Protection, of which the head and deputy head will be determined by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council upon deliberation. The Central Leading Group is composed of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee, the General Office of the State Council, MOJ, MEE, National Audit Office (CNAO) and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate.

The central environmental supervision system, essentially a specific measure of including ecological progress in the five-sphere integrated plan, reflects the fact that ecological and environmental issues have been elevated to have political significance. The establishment and further development of the system have displayed the unbreakable will and steadfast determination of the Chinese government to promote ecological progress and strengthen ecological and environmental protection, which plays an important role in promoting the in-depth development of supervision of ecological and environmental protection in accordance with the law.

d. Promoting the Development of a Modern Environmental Governance System

In March 2020, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council officially released the *Guiding Opinions on Building a Modern Environmental Governance System* (the *Guiding Opinions*). As an important part of China's efforts to build a modern governance system, this document is not only a perfect summary of decades of exploration experience in ecology and environment, but also a milestone guiding future efforts to build a beautiful China.

The *Guiding Opinions* explicitly proposes maintaining benign interactions among government governance, social regulation, and enterprise autonomy, improving relevant systems and mechanisms, strengthening governance from the source, and making concerted efforts by upholding the centralized and unified leadership of the Party, enhancing the leading role of the government, deepening the principal role of enterprises, and better mobilizing social organizations and the public to participate, thus providing a strong system guarantee for promoting fundamental ecological and environmental improvements, driving ecological progress and building a beautiful China.

The *Guiding Opinions* propose establishing a sound leadership responsibility system, enterprise responsibility system, universal action system, regulatory system, market system, credit system and system of laws, regulations, and policies, ensuring that the responsibilities of all types of entities will be fulfilled, increasing the enthusiasm of market players and the public for participation and establishing an environmental governance system featuring clear orientation, scientific decision making, effective execution, efficient incentives, multi-stakeholder participation, and benign interactions by 2025.

VII. Regional and International Engagement

a. New Advances in Greening the “Belt and Road Initiative”

The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations stated that with its strong emphasis on infrastructure, the BRI requires careful consideration of climate impacts and long-term ecological changes. The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed effectively aligning biodiversity protection with the BRI; strengthening the development of Green BRI to promote biodiversity protection; building relevant platforms to share best practices in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainability impact assessment; attaching importance to nature-based solutions; carrying out natural capital assessment; and setting related indicators. These policy recommendations have been adopted by relevant government departments and enterprises in practice and achieved good results.

Over the six years since the BRI was presented, China has begun cooperation on ecological and environmental protection with BRI-related countries and regions, and achieved positive results in a number of areas. First, cooperation mechanisms continue to be improved. Currently, MEE has concluded bilateral documents on ecological and environmental cooperation with 33 BRI countries. Second, participants in the cooperation platform have increased. The Coalition has labeled more than 130 organizations as partners. Third, government communication continues to be deepened. The Thematic Forum on Green Silk Road of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for

International Cooperation, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum and other thematic exchange activities have boosted cooperation and exchanges among relevant countries and regions. Fourth, this cooperation has constantly yielded fruitful results. Exchanges and communication with relevant countries and regions in environmental policies, standards, regulations, and technologies have promoted information sharing, knowledge sharing, and meeting sharing in connection with building a green “Belt and Road,” thus informing decision making concerning green development of the “Belt and Road.”

b. International Cooperation on Climate Change

The Chinese government continues to participate constructively in global climate governance in a highly responsible manner. It has played a positive, constructive role in global negotiations on climate change, firmly upheld multilateralism, and enhanced dialogues and exchanges on climate change with other countries; promoted global climate governance in partnership with other parties in accordance with the principles of equity, “common but differentiated responsibilities” and respective capabilities as defined by the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC); facilitated positive results in the negotiations on the implementation rules of the Paris Agreement, and contributed Chinese initiatives and proposals to the United Nations Climate Action Summit.

On November 6, 2019, China and France released the *Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change*. On November 23, the environment ministers of China and Japan had exchanges on issues such as climate change and COP15.

In the video speech of the 11th Petersburg Climate Dialogue on April 27–28, 2020, Mr. Huang Runqiu, the new Minister of the MEE, stated that China will unswervingly uphold multilateralism and, together with all other countries, promote the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement in a comprehensive, balanced, and effective way. China will also implement a proactive national strategy on addressing climate change and make its due contributions to the global fight against climate change.

China has been promoting South–South cooperation on climate change and doing its best to provide assistance for other developing countries. As of September 2019, China had signed over 30 MOUs on South–South cooperation on climate change with other developing countries, under which they would work together to build low-carbon demonstration zones, launch climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, and organize training sessions on South–South cooperation on climate change.

c. Active Participation in Global Ocean Governance

The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed mobilizing partnerships for action on plastic pollution. The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations stated that China should enhance comprehensive ocean governance, actively participate in global ocean governance, and improve governance capabilities for marine ecological protection. The Chinese government has taken a series of actions to enhance comprehensive ocean governance.

The Fourth Session of the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA-4) in 2019 brought forward

the initiative of launching innovative waste management, e.g., “zero waste,” in some countries and regions. More importantly, it adopted resolutions concerning global plastic pollution, such as *Addressing Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution* and *Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics*, and those promoting sustainable production and consumption, including *Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production* and *Promoting Sustainable Practices and Innovative Solutions for Curbing Food Loss and Waste*, stressed dealing with severe plastic pollution and food waste problems by transforming consumption and production habits, and establishing a sound waste management system.

China attaches great importance to marine litter and plastic pollution control, and has vigorously participated in international processes in response to marine litter and plastic pollution, joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme, carefully observed the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal*, facilitated the introduction of documents such as the *East Asia Leaders’ Statement on Combatting Marine Plastic Debris* and the *Implementation Framework of the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter*, with the aim of working together to promote global marine litter and plastic pollution prevention and control. Meanwhile, China has engaged in bilateral cooperation and established a cooperation mechanism for marine litter prevention and control with Japan, Canada, and the United States.

VIII. Conclusions

At present, the international economic and social development environment is undergoing profound and complex changes. China is facing more complex and severe external environment challenges, and unstable and uncertain factors are increasing. In particular, COVID-19, the global public health security incident, has severely damaged the world's economic development, and China's economic and social development has also been deeply affected.

As a major country with outstanding ecological and environmental problems in the world, China is faced with such challenges as thoroughly solving historical debt problems and effectively dealing with emerging ecological and environmental problems. At the same time, the economic downturn, trade sluggishness, logistics obstruction, and difficulty in resuming work caused by the COVID-19 have made the eco-environmental governance increasingly complex. How to properly handle the relationship between the intensity, depth, and effectiveness of governance and move toward a high-quality development path is a great challenge facing China in the future.

The international community calls for a clean, green, and just transition, so as to create new job opportunities, accelerate the post-epidemic "green recovery" of the economy, and push the world to embark on a more sustainable and inclusive road. "Green recovery" will provide new opportunities for China's eco-environment governance and tackling climate change in the post-epidemic era. Under the epidemic, the proposition of the idea of constructing “new infrastructure” offers strong technological supports for the high-quality development, which, together with initiatives like the Green Development of the Belt and Road Initiative and the China International Import Expo, forms a new pattern of high-quality development in a new

era.

Over the past year, the forward-looking recommendations of the CCICED in the areas of wildlife resource protection, ecological redline delineation, coal use, plastic pollution control, green consumption, etc. have been highly valued by the Chinese government, providing important insights for the future construction of the Ecological Civilization. China cannot achieve high-quality development and an Ecological Civilization without international cooperation. In addition to cooperation with established powers, China has been redoubling efforts to strengthen cooperation with countries on ecological and environment protection and with African countries to intensify environmental protection and promote South–South Cooperation. China has also seen new progress in marine ecosystem conservation, climate change tackling, biodiversity protection, and other issues of global concern.

2020 will be a year of milestone significance for China, as the country is set to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, but severe environmental problems may undermine its efforts to accomplish this great mission. 2020 is also the last year that will mark the successful conclusion of the 13th FYP and will see the launch of the 14th FYP. China has not yet reached the turning point to see fundamental improvements in environmental quality, and will still face very arduous tasks in the coming period. Since the founding of CCICED, 28 years have passed. All stakeholders have great expectations for CCICED to deliver “innovative” and “inspiring” policy research findings. CCICED is required to attach great importance to the following three aspects: first, better grasp its own new positioning in the new era; second, have its finger on the pulse of major issues and the development tendencies of environmental protection and economic development at home and abroad in a more accurate manner, in order to offer appropriate solutions; and third, give better play to the “two-way communication” platform.

Appendix: Overview on the Relevance of China’s Environmental and Development Policies and CCICED Policy Recommendations during 2019-2020

Field	Time of Release of Policy	Policy Progress (2019-2020)	Content
Planning for Environment and Development	November 2019	At the special meeting on the formulation of the 14th FYP on November 26, 2019, Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council listened to the NDRC report on the formulation of the 14th FYP and proposed the general requirements for plan formulation in next steps. Premier Li pointed out that we should take a long-term perspective and a holistic approach.....A number of critical projects should be launched to improve weak links, push ahead industry upgrading, enhance sustainability and improve people’s lives, with emphasis placed on exerting the role of social forces to upgrade infrastructure, enhance industry innovation and competitiveness, promote the improvement of ecological environment and ensure a better life for people.	The 2017 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed that China should formulate a long-term comprehensive strategic plan with coverage of water, air and ocean pollution for the next 10 or 15 years. It was pointed out that the plan should be fully implemented before 2020, tailored to the agenda for basic realizing socialist modernization of Chinese society. In addition, the plan is also suggested to place focus on innovation, and reduce plastic litter pollution in rivers and oceans by regulating plastic production and source control. The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed that the 14 th FYP should echo and support the vision of Beautiful China 2035, and the global vision of climate action and biodiversity protection. The national 14 th FYP and the plan for environmental protection during the 14 th FYP period that are currently under drafting and review process have made full reference to these suggestions.
	April 2019	A workshop on the national 14 th FYP for Ecological and Environmental Protection was held by MEE to probe into how to maintain and implement the concept of “ecology first and green development” based on the strategic positioning of ecological and environmental protection in national economic and social development during the 14 th FYP period; by 2035, ecological and environmental quality should be fundamentally improved and the “Beautiful China” strategic goal should be basically attained; efforts should be made to actively plan strategic tasks reflecting environmental quality improvement.	
	December 2019	Under the framework of the master plan of the 14 th FYP, the outlines of the 14 th FYP for Ecological and Environmental Protection began to be drafted in December 2019. The Plan will emphasize coordinated actions to advance high-quality economic development and high-level environment protection; give full play to the role of science	

Planning for Environment and Development		and technology and tackle key problems in science and technology to provide strong support for decision making, management and governance, and motivate business innovation to bring about revolution of the ecological environment. The Plan is committed to improving environmental quality and addressing prominent environmental problems, with focus on setting scientific, targeted, feasible and effective objectives and planning.	
	October 2019	The State Council approved the <i>Overall Plan for Demonstration Zones for Eco-friendly and Green Integration of the Yangtze River Delta</i> (the <i>Plan</i>). The <i>Plan</i> sets the goals that by 2025, a number of environmental, infrastructure, technology innovation, public service and other major projects will be completed and put into operation, evident improvements seen in eco-environmental protection and construction, innovative development of eco-friendly industries and harmony between man and nature in pilot zones, the main functional framework basically established for integration demonstration zones and ecological quality significantly improved. Innovation in the integration system will bring about replicable experience and system integration of major reforms will unleash the dividend, with the role of these demonstration zones in leading higher-quality integration of the Yangtze River Delta initially exerted. By 2035, a more mature, effective system of green integrated development will be established and become the benchmark for demonstration and leading of high-quality integration of the Yangtze River Delta.	
	December 2019	The CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the <i>Outline of the Integrated Regional Development of the Yangtze River Delta</i> (the <i>Outline</i>). The <i>Outline</i> indicates that by 2025, substantial progress will be made in the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta, especially in technology innovation industries, infrastructure, ecological environment and public services, just to name a few.	
Environmental	February 24,	The NPC adopted by vote the <i>Decision on a Complete Ban of Illegal Wildlife Trade and</i>	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed

protection and the COVID-19 epidemic	2020	<i>the Elimination of the Unhealthy Habit of Indiscriminate Wild Animal Meat Consumption for the Protection of Human Life and Health</i> on February 24, 2020, which sets forth specific provisions on an all-out ban of illegal wild animal trade and relevant penalties. In charge of “coordinating the protection of biodiversity” and “supervising wildlife protection”, MEE has, upon deliberation, included the enforcement of laws and regulations on wild animal protection in the scope of central supervision of ecological and environmental protection.	to strengthen research on the breeding, cultivation and sustainable use of wild biological resources, promote technological upgrading, reduce consumption of natural and biological resources..., and take legal action against illegal wildlife sales and smuggling.
	February 2020	The National People's Congress launched the revision of the <i>Law of The People's Republic of China on Protection of Wildlife</i> , proposing to include it into the legislative work plan of the NPC standing committee and accelerating the progress of revising Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention.	
Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation	October 2020	The CBD COP15, under the theme of “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”, is scheduled to be held in Kunming, China in 2021, which will deliberate the “post-2020 global biodiversity framework” and define global biodiversity conservation targets for 2030.	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to draw on the success of Paris climate negotiation to gather high-level political wills through green diplomacy, calling for joint participation of business communities, academic circles, social organizations and the general public in making and implementing biodiversity protection framework for the post-2020 period, in an effort to advertise the Human and Nature Action Agenda, raise public awareness and advance concerted action. The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to actively promote the implementation of CBD, and play a leading role in the development of post-2020 global biodiversity conservation targets.
	July 2019	MEE, MWR, MOA, CAS, NFGA and China Coast Guard of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force jointly launched the “Green Shield 2019” mission to strengthen natural reserve supervision. The mission mainly involves on-site inspection of new problems and clue identified by remote sensors of human activities in national and provincial natural reserves in different provinces, especially problems such as quarrying and sand mining, industrial and mining land, tourist facilities and utilities in core areas in those reserves.	
	June 2019	The General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council released the <i>Guiding Opinions on Establishing a System of Natural Reserves</i>	
			The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to strengthen the construction of Natural Reserve

Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation		<i>with National Parks as the Main Body (the Opinions)</i> . The <i>Opinions</i> proposes to establish a system of natural reserves with national parks as the main body and with Chinese characteristics, promote scientific setup of various natural reserves, create new systems, mechanisms and models for natural ecosystem protection and construct healthy, stable and efficient natural ecosystems, thus laying a solid foundation for maintaining national ecological security and realizing sustainable economic and social development, and an ecological foundation for building a great modern socialist country that is wealthy, democratic, civilized, harmonious and beautiful.	Management System targeted on national parks, and set up red lines for ecological protection. Besides, it also suggested to develop and implement an all-round legal system and market incentive measures, while ensuring the effectiveness of implementation, and to enhance cross-department concerted action and cancel subsidies that may have harmful influences on the ecological environment.
	November 2019	Governmentally, MEE, together with departments concerned and local authorities, has pushed forward the assessment and demarcation for the delineation of ecological red lines. By scientifically assessing the delineation of local ecological red lines and making reasonable adjustments in an orderly manner, MEE can ensure that these red lines are authoritative, scientific and executable, thus laying a foundation for the establishment of an ecological red line system by the end of 2020. Locally, Shenyang began the construction of its ecological red line supervision platform in August 2018, which was accepted in November 2019 and has been put into trial operation recently. It is China's first city-level ecological red line supervision platform. At the same time, Shenyang has become the first pilot city for the construction and interconnection of ecological red line supervision platforms.	The 2014 CCICED Policy Recommendations suggested that the State Council accelerate the formulation of the Administrative Measures of Ecological Protection Red Lines and clarify the definition, significance, standard-making methods and regulation system of the red lines.
Energy and Climate	December 2019	The presidents of China and Russia had a video meeting, witnessing the formal operation of the east-route natural gas pipeline. The China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline, once completed, enables stable supply of 38 million m ³ of clean and high-quality gas resources to Northeast China, the Bohai Rim and the Yangtze River Delta every year, equivalent to roughly 13.6% of China's gas consumption in 2018. This will benefit more than 400 million people in the nine provinces and municipalities along the pipeline and effectively alleviate and improve atmospheric pollution there.	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to step up coal control to win the blue-sky battle with determination; elaborate a national long-term zero-emission strategy toward the eventual phase-out of coal; increase the subsidy and financial support for renewable energy and gradually remove the subsidy for fossil fuels.
	April 10,	NEA released the <i>Energy Law of the People's Republic of China (Exposure Draft)</i> ,	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed

Energy and Climate	2020	arousing wide attention and a heated discussion from home and abroad. The draft explicitly states that energy exploitation and utilization should be adapted to Ecological Civilization, carry out the new development concept, implement a conservation-first, domestic demand-oriented, green and low-carbon, and innovation-driven energy development strategy, and establish a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system. It repeatedly emphasizes energy structure optimization and clearly proposes to give priority to renewable energy development, maintain safe and efficient development of nuclear power, increase the share of non-fossil energy and promote clean, efficient utilization and low-carbon development of fossil energy; encourages efficient and clean exploitation and utilization of energy resources, supports prior exploitation of renewable energy, rational exploitation of fossil energy resources, development of distributed energy according to local conditions, advances the substitution of fossil energy with non-fossil one and of high-carbon energy with low-carbon one and supports the development and application of new fuels and industrial raw materials that can replace petroleum and gas.	to step up coal control to win the blue-sky battle with determination; elaborate a national long-term zero-emission strategy toward the eventual phase-out of coal; increase the subsidy and financial support for renewable energy and gradually remove the subsidy for fossil fuels. The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations highlighted the necessity of tightening control on coal use and expanding the growth of energy efficiency.
	2019	In 2019, China has deeply promoted the reduction of structural coal overcapacity, organized the classification and disposal of coal mines with an annual capacity below 300,000 tons, and shut down more than 450 outdated coal mines. Coal-fired power generation units with a combined capacity of 20 million kW were eliminated and shut down, outperforming the specified target.	The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations highlighted the necessity of tightening control on coal use and expanding the growth of energy efficiency.
	2017-2021	As a backbone power station of the “West-East Electricity Transmission Project” during the 13 th FYP period, the Baihetan Project that is still under construction is the second largest hydro-power station in China only next to the Three Gorges Hydro Project, and is the world’s largest hydro-power station; its installed capacity is 16 million kWh; after completion, it is expected to form a Yangtze River Clean Energy Passage with the Yangtze River Three Gorges Station and the Gezhouba Station. The Baihetan hydro-station can reduce consumption of standard coal by 20 million tons per year and cut	

Energy and Climate		carbon emissions by around 40 million tons.	
	2019-2020	In the second half of 2019, problems in the gas source guarantee for the “coal-to-gas” project in northern China were tackled. Clean heating in winter in the north has been expedited, with an increased clean heating area of roughly 1.5 billion m ² and a clean heating rate of 55%. Approximately 100 million tons of bulk coal was replaced and the clean heating rate in the “2+26” key cities reached 75%, outperforming the mid-term target. China has also strengthened electric energy substitution in different sectors, which is expected to increase by roughly 200 billion kWh; gasoline and diesel for vehicles that meet China VI emission standards have been fully supplied. The demand for natural gases in the north is growing as a result of the “Coal-to-Gas” project. To tackle that, the PetroChina has been making every attempt to ensure sufficient supplies, and has tried its best to support the “coal-to-gas” project in the “2+26” Cities and Fenhe-Weihe River Plain, with full delivery of the volume as agreed in the contract to ensure a warm winter for the people.	
	January 2020	The MIIT released the <i>Notice on the Issuance of Key Work Plan of Industrial Energy-saving Monitoring</i> (the Notice). The Notice was pointed out that special energy-saving monitoring shall be conducted for key industries of intensive energy consumption. To be specific, special monitoring will be carried out for the implementation of compulsory energy consumption limit per product for enterprises with heavy energy consumption in sub-industries, such as those in the petrochemical industry specializing oil refinement, p-xylene, soda ash, polyvinyl chloride, sulfuric acid, tire, methanol, those in the non-ferrous metal industry specializing in gold smelting, rare earth smelting & processing, aluminum alloy, copper and copper alloy processing, and those in the construction material industry specializing in calcined gypsum, sintered wall materials, asphalt-based waterproof roll materials, rock wool, slag wool and their products, and those in light industries specializing in sugar and beers.	The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations highlighted the necessity of tightening control on coal use and expanding the growth of energy efficiency.
	March 2020	NDRC and other 22 ministries and commissions jointly released the <i>Implementation</i>	The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations pointed

Energy and Climate		<i>Opinions on Promoting Consumption Scale Expansion and Quality Improvement and Accelerating the Establishment of a Strong Domestic Market</i> , which proposes to “encourage use of green smart products, promoting green consumption by focusing on supply of green products, construction of green public transport facilities, energy-saving and environmentally-friendly buildings and relevant technology innovation, and build green shopping malls”.	out that the government shall give full play to existing policies and measures in promoting sustainable production and consumption, and develop and implement targeted industry-specific strategies for the 14 th FYP period. In addition, it was also suggested that governments fully consider how to improve the well-being and healthy lives of the public while reducing carbon footprints, make homes, schools and workplaces more comfortable and easy, create more green job opportunities, and place more attention to the families’ role in promoting sustainable consumption.
	March 2020	On March 17, 2020, NDRC and MOJ released the <i>Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment of a System of Regulations and Policies for Green Production and Consumption</i> , which stipulates multiple tasks such as promoting green design, enhancing clean industrial production, developing recycling industrial economy, strengthening control of industrial pollution, advancing the development of clean energies, facilitating the green development the agricultural and service industry, boosting consumption of green products and advocating green lifestyles.	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations stated that the green consumption is one of the key measures to construct Ecological Civilization, and should be included into the state’s 14 th FYP as a key task of Ecological Civilization construction.
	October 2019	<i>The Manual on Green Lifestyle</i> , which is the first of its kind in China, was released. The Manual centers around green lifestyle and provides guidance for promoting green lifestyle across the country from various aspects, like green production and green consumption.	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to launch the Green Lives Campaign, spurring demands for green products and fully unleashing the exemplary role of prominent public figures in leading green consumption into a social trend, with a focus on promoting green consumption as a life style to bring benefits to public health and the environment.
	2019	In terms of local practice, Shenzhen City has made positive headway in promoting coordinated control of GHG emissions and atmospheric pollutants. “Homology”	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed that promoting air quality improvement and GHG

<p>Energy and Climate</p>		<p>analysis indicates that of road traffic emissions, carbon accounts for 49% and PM_{2.5} 41%; of non-road traffic emissions, carbon accounts for 12% and PM_{2.5} 11%; of emissions from electric and thermal power sectors, carbon accounts for 23% and PM_{2.5} 8%; of emissions from non-energy industries, carbon accounts for 3% and PM_{2.5} 15%.</p>	<p>emission reduction in a coordinated manner was an inevitable approach to high-quality development in China.</p> <p>The 2014 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to intensify control on multiple source pollution and multiple pollutants in a synergistic manner. To be specific, efforts should be redoubled to control such pollutants as SO₂, NO_x, PM_{2.5}, VOC and NH₃ from industrial sources, civil and rural non-point sources, motor vehicle and non-road machinery.</p>
<p>Pollution Prevention and Control</p>	<p>December 2018</p>	<p>Air pollution prevention and control. In view of the current situation and tasks of protecting the blue sky, efforts will be made to further adjust, optimize, and enhance the monitoring of supports for designated areas; focus will remain on the 39 cities of the key areas, which are Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region and its surrounding areas, and the Fenhe-Weihe Plain, with more focus to non-key areas like Jiangsu, Anhui, Shandong and Henan provinces; the key factor PM_{2.5} will be closely followed, with attention to other factors like Ozone etc.; efforts will be continued to ensure the emergency response to and joint prevention and control of severe pollution in autumns and winters, and to carry out the “Treat the Winter Issues in Summers” and ozone control; close watch will be kept not only on key industries like steel and thermal power generation, but also on special industries that cause ozone pollution like the petrochemical industry.</p>	<p>The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to step up coal control to win the blue-sky battle with determination; elaborate a national long-term zero-emission strategy toward the eventual phase-out of coal; increase the subsidy and financial support for renewable energy and gradually remove the subsidy for fossil fuels; accelerate the phase-out of bulk coal use by around 2020 in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and Fenhe-Weihe River Plain; and give priority to non-fossil fuel energy grid connection.</p>
	<p>February 2020</p>	<p>Tianjin’s headquarter on the battle against pollution has recently issued the <i>2020 Work Plan of Tianjin Municipality for Winning the Battle against Pollution</i>. The Work Plan makes it clear that in 2020, the core target of the battle to protect blue skies is to control the annual average PM_{2.5} concentration at around 48ug/m³ and the proportion of days with excellent or good air quality at 71% or above. Tianjin will further emphasize “three</p>	<p>The 2014 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to intensify control on multiple source pollution and multiple pollutants in a synergistic manner. To be specific, efforts should be redoubled to control such pollutants as SO₂, NO_x, PM_{2.5}, VOC and NH₃ from</p>

Pollution Prevention and Control		time nodes”, namely before summer, in autumn and winter and before heating, continue to adjust “four structures”, including industrial, layout, energy and transportation structures, and unremittingly advance “control of five types of projects”, such as coal-fired, industrial, motor vehicle, fugitive dust and new projects.	industrial sources, civil and rural non-point sources, motor vehicle and non-road machinery.
	March 2019	Water pollution prevention and control. The Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resource jointly issued the <i>Notice on Issuance of the Implementation Plan for the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution</i> . It was pointed out that as of 2020, the typical source of underground water pollution has been preliminarily monitored, and the aggravation trend of underground water pollution has been preliminarily brought under control. Besides, it is expected that by 2025, the typical source of underground water pollution is effectively monitored, and the aggravation trend of underground water pollution is effectively controlled; it is expected that as of 2035, with hard efforts, the overall underground water quality across the country can be improved, and the ecosystem can basically restore its function.	
	2019	Water pollution prevention and control. In 2019, the proportion of sections with excellent or good surface water quality (Class I-III) nationwide rose by 3.9% year on year, and the proportion of sections with water quality inferior to Class V dropped by 3.3%. To be specific, the proportion of sections with water quality better than Class III in the Yangtze River basin rose by 4.2% year on year and that of sections with water quality inferior to Class V declined by 1.2%. The numbers of state-controlled sections with water quality inferior to Class V in the Yangtze River basin and rivers emptying into the Bohai Sea fell from 12 and 10 to 3 and 2 respectively. Water quality in offshore areas was in general steadily improved. The proportion of the area with excellent or good water quality (Class I and II) in the offshore area of the Bohai Sea rose by 12.5% year on year, and that of the area with water quality inferior to Class IV fell by 3.7%.	
	2019		2019 marked the year that China’s <i>Soil Pollution Prevention and Control Law</i> entered into effect. In July 2019, MEE released the <i>Implementation Opinions on Enforcing the</i>

Pollution Prevention and Control		<i>Soil Pollution Prevention and Control Law and Promoting the Settlement of Acute Soil Pollution Problems</i> in partnership with MOA and MNR, which contains detailed tasks, measures and division of labor by focusing on acute problems affecting “food and housing” safety of the public, and promotes the prevention and control of soil pollution according to law. 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) and Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps have published the lists of totally 5,927 key enterprises subject to soil environmental monitoring.	safeguard public health and ecological security, and to develop a special law for preventing soil pollution and protecting the soil environment.
	2019	Under the revised <i>Measures for the Administration of the Funds Earmarked for Soil Pollution Prevention and Control</i> released by MOF in June 2019, central earmarked funds will give appropriate support for the establishment of provincial soil pollution prevention and control funds.	
	September 2019	Marine environmental protection. On September 9, 2019, the Comprehensively Deepening Reform Commission of the CPC Central Committee deliberated and adopted the <i>Opinions on Further Enhancing Plastic Pollution Control</i> .	The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to strengthen legal protection for marine and coastal ecosystems; formulate a national action plan for the prevention and control of marine litter pollution; strengthen research on global emerging marine environmental issues such as ocean acidification, marine plastics and microplastics.
	January 2020	On January 19, 2020, NDRC and MEE published the <i>Opinions on Further Enhancing Plastic Pollution Control</i> . The <i>Opinions</i> explicitly states that by the end of 2020, China will ban or limit the production, sales and use of some plastic products first in some regions and in some sectors, with consumption of disposable plastic products significantly reduced and substitute products promoted by the end of 2022.	The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to “reduce the use of plastic products, completely eliminate disposable plastic products, reduce the use of plastics in the upstream packaging industry, implement garbage sorting and realize the recycling of plastic waste”. It also proposed to “revise the government procurement law. Government procurement should give priority to encouraging green transportation, green

<p>Pollution Prevention and Control</p>			<p>buildings, reduction of waste and deforestation and other nature-based products and services."</p>
<p>Environmental Governance and Rule of Law</p>	<p>December 2019</p>	<p>The NPC Standing Committee deliberated the <i>Yangtze River Protection Law of the People's Republic of China (draft)</i> for the first time.</p>	<p>The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations put forward: it is necessary to accelerate the legislation for the protection of the Yangtze River, and the legislation should reflect the systematic comprehensiveness, heterogeneity and special pertinence of the protection of the Yangtze River Basin.</p>
	<p>April 2020</p>	<p>The 17th Meeting of the 13th NPC Standing Committee deliberated and adopted the</p>	<p>The 2014 CCICED Policy Recommendations</p>

Environmental Governance and Rule of Law		revised <i>Law on Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste</i> , which took effect from September 1, 2020.	highlighted the necessity of accelerating the building of the Ecological Civilization system and the progress in ecological protection system reform, so as to improve the country's environmental governance capacities.
	September 2019	The <i>Opinions on Further Deepening Ecological and Environmental Regulatory Services and Promoting High-Quality Economic Development</i> enacted in September 2019 sets forth 20 measures for increased vitality, fairness, convenience and precision.	
	June 2019	The General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council released the <i>Regulations on Central Supervision of Ecological and Environmental Protection</i> (the <i>Regulations</i>), which, in the form of a statute for the first time, explicitly provides for the supervision work, ranging from the top-level design to specific operations.	
	July 2019	The second round of the central supervision of ecological and environmental protection was fully launched, in which eight central supervision groups for ecological and environmental protection were set up and dispatched to six provinces (municipalities) such as Shanghai, Fujian, Hainan, Chongqing, Gansu and Qinghai, and two central enterprises, namely China Minmetals Corporation (Minmetals) and China National Chemical Corporation Ltd. (ChemChina), respectively for supervision.	
	March 2020	The General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council officially released the <i>Guiding Opinions on Building a Modern Environmental Governance System</i> (the <i>Guiding Opinions</i>). The <i>Guiding Opinions</i> propose to establish sound leadership responsibility system, enterprise responsibility system, universal action system, regulatory system, market system, credit system and system of laws, regulations and policies, ensuring that the responsibilities of all types of entities will be fulfilled, increasing the enthusiasm of market players and the public for participation and establishing an environmental governance system featuring clear orientation, scientific decision-making, effective execution, efficient incentives, multi-stakeholder participation and benign interactions by 2025.	
Regional and	March 2020	As indicated by the practice of BRI projects, green and environmental protection has	The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations stated

<p>International Engagement</p>		<p>become symbols of these projects. For example, Hasyan Clean Coal Fired Power Station, built by Harbin Electric Corporation (HE) and funded by the Silk Road Fund, is the first clean coal-fired power station in the Middle East.</p> <p>HE employed advanced combustion, denitration, dedusting and desulfurization technologies to ensure that the dust, sulfide and nitride indicators emitted during the operation of the power station were better than similar generator units in the world, so as to reduce atmospheric pollutant emissions. Apart from environmental protection, biodiversity conservation is also an integral part of the project. To guarantee normal reproduction of hawksbill turtles, an endangered species, during the construction, Chinese builders controlled construction lighting in the nighttime to avoid disturbing the spawning, transferred their eggs to safe hatcheries</p>	<p>that with its strong emphasis on infrastructure, the BRI requires careful consideration of climate impacts and long-term ecological changes.</p> <p>The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to effectively align biodiversity protection with the BRI, strengthen the development of Green BRI to promote biodiversity protection, build relevant platforms to share best practices in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainability impact assessment, attach importance to nature-based solutions, carry out natural capital assessment and set related indicators. These policy recommendations have been adopted by relevant government departments and enterprises in practice and produced positive results.</p>
<p>Regional and International Engagement</p>	<p>September 2019</p>	<p>China has been promoting South-South cooperation on climate change and doing its best to provide assistance for other developing countries. As of September 2019, China had signed over 30 MOUs on South-South cooperation on climate change with other developing countries, under which they would work together to build low-carbon demonstration zones, launch climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, and organize training sessions on South-South cooperation on climate change. Since 2019, China has actively promoted the consultation and implementation of the cooperation on low-carbon demonstration zones with Cambodia, Laos, Kenya, Ghana and Seychelles, the implementation of the donation projects for climate change mitigation and</p>	

Regional and International Engagement		adaptation with over 10 countries including Ethiopia, Egypt and Guinea, and the consultation on new projects with Botswana, Uruguay and the Philippines, and held nine training sessions on South-South cooperation on climate change.	
	2019	China vigorously participated in international processes in response to marine litter and plastic pollution, joined the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, carefully observed the <i>Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal</i> , facilitated the introduction of documents such as the <i>East Asia Leaders' Statement on Combatting Marine Plastic Debris</i> and the <i>Implementation Framework of the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter</i> , with the aim of working together to promote global marine litter and plastic pollution prevention and control. Meanwhile, China has propelled bilateral cooperation. For example, China has established a cooperation mechanism for marine litter prevention and control with Japan, Canada and the United States.	The 2018 CCICED Policy Recommendations proposed to mobilize partnerships for action on plastic pollution. The 2019 CCICED Policy Recommendations stated that China should enhance comprehensive ocean governance, actively participate in global ocean governance and improve governance capabilities for marine ecological protection. The Chinese government has taken a series of actions to enhance comprehensive ocean governance.