



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

2022–2023 Work Plan



As changes in the international landscape and the once-in-a-century pandemic are intertwined, the world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. Challenges that include post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and marine plastic pollution have attracted wide attention in the international community. Building a shared future for all life on Earth has become a common consensus among countries. China has embarked on a new journey toward building a modern socialist country in all respects, transitioning to a stage of high-quality development, upholding the path of green development, and prioritizing ecological conservation.

The financial year 2022—2023 is critical for starting CCICED Phase VII. With “Green, Inclusive, and High-Quality Development” as its theme, Phase VII will set four task forces: Innovation in Global Environmental Governance, National Green Governance System, Sustainable Production and Consumption, and Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transition. It will continue to support China’s ecological civilization and global sustainable development for building a beautiful China and a world of green prosperity.

Under the leadership of the Executive Members, the guidance of Council Members and Special Advisors, and with the support of its partners, CCICED plans to set “***Green Empowerment and High-Quality Development***” as its annual theme, focusing on China’s implementation of new development philosophy. The Council plans to strengthen the implementation of high-quality development, conduct research, and organize related activities on issues—including post-pandemic green recovery of the global economy and building a shared community for lives on Earth—and propose policy recommendations. The capacity building of the CCICED Secretariat will be strengthened, and high-quality services will be provided to Council Members and Special Advisors. The Council also plans to expand and develop partnerships and further implement the CCICED Guidelines on Gender Equality

to encourage the active participation of youth and the private sector. The outputs will be further disseminated and shared. The main work tasks are as follows:

I. Policy Research

The core functions of the Council are carrying out policy research and providing policy recommendations to the Chinese government. Following the principles of being interdisciplinary, comprehensive, and forward-looking, and considering the policy needs and hotspot issues at home and abroad, the Council plans to launch eight Special Policy Studies (SPSs) organized under the four themes and related task forces, noted above. Moreover, in light of domestic and foreign situations, the Council proposes to organize a number of short-term, highly-focused research activities that will include policy recommendations. The eight Special Policy Studies will examine the following topics.

Task Force 1: Innovation in Global Environmental Governance

This task force is guided by systematic innovation in advancing global environmental governance and multilateral cooperation in support of UNFCCC, UN CBD, SDG and other shared goals, focuses on the study of hotspot environmental issues of common concern. It contributes solutions and wisdom to building a shared community on Earth where man and nature coexist in harmony.

1.SPS on Pathways for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and China's Role in Global Climate Governance. This SPS mainly serves for climate governance. Research and dialogues are

carried out on main global climate governance issues under the vision of carbon neutrality, so as to identify implementable low-carbon transition pathways and help build a more inclusive global climate governance system. Topics of focus include China's near-term low-carbon transition pathways; a total carbon control system and the evolving carbon pricing system; transition mechanisms and policies to advance the low-carbon transition; green financing to scale-up low-carbon opportunities; cooperation mechanisms, and shared priorities for coping with climate change within China and with other countries, and shareholders, etc.

2.SPS on Pathways and Policies of Blue Economy in Supporting Carbon-Neutrality Target. This SPS mainly serves for blue Economies. Under the target of giving play to marine ecological services and functions, as well as realizing the sustainable prosperity of the ocean, this study will evaluate the pathways of green development of the ocean economy from a comprehensive and integrated management perspective. CCICED plans to select the most promising coastal megacities and marine industrial parks and conduct case studies at home and abroad from the perspective of blue economy development pathways and policy evaluation. In the meantime, comprehensive and holistic plans concerning major issues will be proposed—for instance, including the role of nature based solu-

tions, low-carbon marine operations, tackling marine plastic pollution—so as to help develop the blue economy in the context of carbon neutrality.

Task Force 2: National Green Governance System

This task force focuses on major strategies in serving China's high-quality development; addressing systematic, mechanism, and policy challenges in a green transition; building a modern ecological governance system; and improving national green governance capacity.

3.SPS on Collaborative Mechanism for Pollution Reduction, Carbon Reduction, Green Expansion and Growth. This SPS mainly focus on the collaborative framework for sustainable growth. Under the need for an all-around green transition in economic and social development, this study explores a collaborative mechanism for pollution reduction, carbon reduction, green expansion, and growth. The mechanism includes the following parts: improving the policies and methods of multi-target collaboration for a steady, green, low-carbon transition in the economic sector and the application of nature-based solutions; making plans to mitigate transition risks for impacted sectors, including carbon intensive industrial sectors like electricity, cement, steel, chemicals and others, buildings, transportation and infrastructure; and identifying non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emission reduction paths and strategies.

4.SPS on High-Quality Development of River

Basins and Adaptation to Climate Change. This SPS mainly focus on Development of River Basins. Under the strategy of China's regional collaborative development as well as key regional strategies, through summarizing domestic and international experiences in integrated river basin governance, this study focuses on the key pathways and strategies of low-carbon resilient development and climate adaptation in important river basins and city clusters against the background of climate change risks. In order to balance regional development, it also proposes recommendations for mechanisms and policies for building a low-carbon and resilient space with the carbon-peak and carbon-neutrality goals.

Task Force 3: Sustainable Production and Consumption

Guided by the carbon-neutrality target and innovation, The task force will focus on opportunities and challenges for the green transition in key businesses and sectors and promote the green and low-carbon transition of production and ways of life.

5.SPS on Promoting Digitalization and Green Technologies for Sustainable Development. Digitalization is used as an accelerator of green development, leading to profound changes in production, lifestyle, and governance. Key research topics include a green transition in the production end using digital technology based on case studies at home and abroad, including the low-carbon development of a digital department and innovative green upgrade of traditional departments; the general impact of digitalization

on society, the economy, and the environment from the angle of digital innovation and breakthroughs; and identification of risks in digital transition drawing from experience in digital risk governance; and the evolving role of green technologies to advance innovation.

6.SPS on Trade and Sustainable Supply Chains. From the perspective of trade, the supply chain transition will be promoted in a green, ecologically sustainable, and fair manner, which will further the reconstruction of a global governance system. Key research topics include: sustainable food systems and trade; evaluating the life cycle of soft, industrial, and hard commodity supply chains and identifying major shareholders; reviewing the green standards in international trade agreements, partnerships, and other economic and trade rules to estimate their effects on China and global supply chain management, while proposing policy recommendations on the green development of China's international trade supply chain.

Task Force 4: Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transition

This task force focuses on studies of tools, methods, and mechanisms for a more effective, equal, orderly, and inclusive low-carbon transition.

7.SPS on Innovative Mechanism of Sustainable Investment in Environment and Climate. This SPS mainly serves for Innovative Finance and Investment. Considering the need to mobi-

lize more financial resources to address ecological and environmental challenges, this study explores roadmaps for stimulating the private sector to increase climate and nature financing. The environmental, social, and governance (ESG) system will be systematically studied from the perspectives of information disclosure, evaluation systems, business standards, product system innovation, public private partnerships, and transparency and accountability. Based on case reviews, the study will evaluate the synergistic mechanism of market-led ESG and government-led green financing to encourage financial system innovation and promote the integrated development of the economy, the environment, and society under the carbon-peak and carbon-neutrality targets.

8.SPS on Sustainable Development Innovation Mechanism Boosted by the Belt and Road Initiative. This SPS mainly serves for Green Belt and Road. In view of insufficient experience, financial strain, and technical difficulties in developing countries' sustainable development processes, the study explores a more effective regional/South-South cooperation mechanism, emphasizing innovative pathways and relevant mechanisms to scale up clean and renewable energy cooperation, financial support, and international cooperation, in order to help realize the low-carbon transition in meeting developing country NDC and other targets, and contributing to a global climate goal.

II. Key Events

1. CCICED 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM): The AGM is tentatively scheduled for the second quarter of 2023. Open forums will be organized around the annual theme, and emerging issues on the environment, development, and policy research outputs will be reviewed. The annual Policy Recommendations will also be formulated at the AGM.

2. CCICED Roundtable Meeting: CCICED will organize a roundtable meeting to share research outputs, learn from sectors and departments, and exchange experiences and best practices on green development to serve China's high-quality development.

III. Operation and Management

1. Provide High-Quality Service to Council Members and Special Advisors: CCICED will inform Council Members and Special Advisors of the Council's work through regular publications, including the CCICED Newsletter and the CCICED Annual Report. CCICED will assist Council Members and Special Advisors in engaging in policy research work; participating in major conferences and events; and promptly summarizing, refining, and issuing reports on Council Members' inputs. It will also assist Council Members and Special Advisors in submitting member reports or recommendations on hot issues and major problems in the environment and development for high-level decision making.

3. Side Events or Activities: CCICED will organize side events and activities in line with UNFCCC COP, the UN 2023 Water Conference, and other major events to share CCICED research outputs with the international community and to advance global environmental governance.

4. Policy Seminars or Forums: In line with the research outputs from the SPSs and domestic and international hotspot issues, CCICED will organize policy seminars and forums with Chinese and foreign partners to encourage exchanges among research teams and to propose more strategic and forward-looking policy recommendations.

2. Enhancing Partnerships: Regular joint working meetings between Chief Advisors and the Secretariat will be organized, as well as meetings with partners and donors to inform them of the progress of CCICED's work and gather inputs from stakeholders. CCICED aims to expand and develop partnerships by strengthening communication and cooperation, including carrying out joint events to leverage complementary advantages and to share research outcomes. In accordance with the principles of diversity, inclusiveness, and shared benefits, CCICED focuses on gender equality in all processes of research and actively explores youth participation.

3. Strengthening Capacity Building for the Secretariat, Increasing Support for the Chief Advisors: CCICED plans to comprehensively strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat by coordinating and collaborating with the Secretariat International Support Office through regular

working meetings. The Council will also improve the capacity of the Secretariat on policy research and management through training and staff exchanges to provide well-rounded support to the Chief Advisors.

IV. Communications and Sharing

1. Promptly Publishing Research Outputs to Strengthen Policy Impacts: CCICED plans to strengthen communication, cooperation, and discussion with all partners through major events, including the CCICED AGM and roundtable meetings. CCICED will continue to compile and publish the CCICED Annual Policy Report (in English and Chinese) and a series of books on the outcomes of selected SPSs. CCICED will channel its research outputs to support high-level decision making and enhance CCICED impacts in a timely manner.

2. Innovating Communication Methods to Enhance Recognition: CCICED aims to deepen cooperation with institutions such as China Daily and International Institute for Sustainable Development to manage platforms such as the CCICED's website, the WeChat official account, Facebook, Twitter, and other media platforms to publish CCICED's research outputs and work progress in multiple formats and perspectives in a timely manner to expand coverage and publicity.

