



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

2022–2023 Work Report



Note: This report is a summary and review of key progress made by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) from July 2022 to August 2023.

The year 2023 marks the beginning of the full implementation of the guiding principles from the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and a critical year for implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan. As we are more than halfway to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human society needs to gather wisdom to meet the challenges ahead. CCICED is a high-level international advisory body and a two-way exchange platform dedicated to promoting sustainable development. Under the strong leadership of the CCICED Executive Members, the Secretariat has made positive progress through strong coordination over the past year, with the active participation of Council Members and Special Advisors and the support of its partners. With the annual theme of "Green Empowerment and High-Quality Development", CCICED has conducted policy studies and exchange activities, further maintained and expanded partnerships, continued to implement the gender equality strategy, strengthened the engagement of youth and private sectors, and implemented the Work Plan approved by the Executive Members. Positive progress has been made in all aspects. The details are as follows:

I. Progress Has Been Made in Conducting In-Depth Policy Studies

According to the research framework approved by the Executive Members, eight Special Policy Studies (SPSs) have been carried out from 2022 to 2023 with a focus on the four Task Forces (TFs), including "Innovation in Global Environmental Governance", "National Green Governance System", "Sustainable Production and Consumption", and "Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transition". Three Scoping Studies have been implemented on popular issues at home and abroad.



1. Promoting Innovation in the Global Environmental Governance System

(a) SPS on Pathways for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and China's Role in Global Climate Governance. To help China achieve the goal of carbon neutrality and promote international cooperation on economic and climate issues under the bilateral and multilateral processes, this SPS analyzes the international and domestic situation of the green and low-carbon transition; summarizes the progress of China's dual-carbon policy; synergistically considers the multi-dimensional goals of economy, energy, climate, environment, etc.; puts forward pathways for China to realize a low-carbon, inclusive, and resilient transition from the perspectives of building a new energy system, finance, industrial and supply chains, and international cooperation on climate governance.

(b) SPS on Pathways and Policies for a Blue Economy in Supporting the Carbon-Neutrality Target. This SPS focuses on how to comprehensively and sustainably utilize and manage the oceans. It examines how to synergistically develop a blue economy in the context of carbon neutrality and provides in-depth research on two topics: prevention and control of plastic pollution and the sustainable transition of fisheries. The study recommends integrating a sustainable blue economy into national development strategies, establishing a sustainability-oriented statistical framework for ocean economic accounting and a blue financial framework, as well as strengthening coordination

and funding for international scientific research cooperation related to the sustainable blue economy and ocean decarbonization.

(c) Scoping Study on Innovative Technologies for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Sequestration Monitoring. Measurement methods and technologies for greenhouse gas-related sources and sinks are constantly being innovated and developed, providing greater possibilities for meeting the demand for high-quality greenhouse gas data in different sectors. Combining monitoring technology innovation and application, market demand, and policy practice, this scoping study puts forward, through analysis, corresponding recommendations for improving data quality in the carbon market (carbon emissions trading market and voluntary emission reduction trading) and aligning domestic and international climate risk disclosure rules.

2. Promoting a Modern National Green Governance System

(a) SPS on Collaborative Mechanism for Pollution Reduction, Carbon Reduction, Green Expansion-and Growth. This SPS explores the implementation of collaborative mechanisms at both the strategic framework and sector-specific levels, with a focus on four areas: (i) how emission reduction can promote economic growth, (ii) collaborative mechanisms and pathways for carbon neutrality and clean air, (iii) coal power phase-out, and (iv) heavy-duty vehicle control. In addition, it proposes targeted policy recommendations.

(b) SPS on High-Quality Development of River Basins and Adaptation to Climate Change. To enhance the resilience of the river basin to cope with climate change and improve China's comprehensive river basin management capacity, this SPS conducts case analysis and comparative research on specific problems faced by different regions within the Yangtze River Basin in the context of climate change. Research is conducted on energy security, sustainable agriculture, integrated management of land and sea, and cross-regional ecological and environmental protection cooperation. This SPS makes corresponding recommendations for institutional mechanism improvement and concrete solutions.

(c) Scoping Study on Integrated Land Use. Today, about 75% of the terrestrial environment and 66% of the marine environment have been severely altered by humankind. Land degradation has further increased net greenhouse gas emissions, destroyed natural ecosystems, reduced biodiversity, and augmented the vulnerability of marginalized populations. This scoping study identifies key topics in this area from a multi-objective synergistic perspective of land use practices and biodiversity, "dual carbon", and water and food security.

3. Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption

(a) SPS on Promoting Digitalization and Green Technologies for Sustainable Development. This SPS provides a theoretical and applied analysis of green and low-carbon

aspects of the digital industry and digital technologies for sustainable development. It finds that digital technology is a general technology that needs sustainable development policies as guidance to better serve the green and low-carbon transition. This SPS puts forward corresponding policy recommendations in terms of the greening of digital industries, digital applications in urban development and climate adaptation, digital empowerment of government officials, and multi-participation in bridging the digital divide.

(b) SPS on Trade and Sustainable Supply Chains. Sustainable, resilient, and green supply chains are crucial for China to achieve high-quality development. This SPS analyzes the green transition of supply chains in the context of trade policy developments, with soft and hard commodities as the two main threads. According to this SPS, globalization has been deeply embedded in industrial chains and supply chains, and producing and consuming countries should make concerted efforts to promote the building of green supply chains to strengthen the construction of transparency, traceability mechanisms, and green trade certification systems. Under the regional cooperation mechanism for trade, measures to promote the facilitation of trade in green products and services should be actively explored.

(c) Scoping Study on Youth and Green Consumption. Greening consumption behaviors require systematic guidance, support, and incentives. This scoping study uses the green



consumption of youth groups in the clothing and textile industry as an example to examine how to better promote green consumption. The study suggests that green consumption promotion policies should be consistent with the strategy of expanding domestic demand and incorporated into the "1+N" dual-carbon policy system. In that context, system construction should be optimized, such as establishing green standards and green information transmission mechanisms. In addition, business models should be innovated to facilitate green consumption, and the social culture of green consumption should be created through government procurement, publicity, and education.

4. Contributing to a Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transition

(a) SPS on Innovative Mechanism of Sustainable Investment in Environment and Climate. To mobilize more financial flows to sustainable investment in environment

and climate, this SPS focuses on sovereign asset owners, especially sovereign wealth funds and public pensions, to compile and compare domestic and international sustainable investment practices. In addition, it offers ways to help regulators develop and adopt more effective incentives and constraint mechanisms.

(b) SPS on Sustainable Development Innovation Mechanism Boosted by the Belt and Road Initiative. To promote the green and low-carbon transition of partners in the Belt and Road Initiative, this SPS examines three perspectives: the development of renewable energy, green investment and financing, and international cooperation. It studies how to match China's good practices with the development needs of partners and puts forward policy recommendations on the innovation of cooperation mechanisms for green development and the innovation of investment and financing mechanisms for renewable energy.



II. Initiatives have been Undertaken to Give Full Play to the Role of CCICED as a Two-Way Exchange Platform to Strengthen Multifaceted Communication and Exchanges

With the strong support of partners and the active participation of Council Members and Special Advisers, the CCICED Secretariat successfully organized the CCICED 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and CCICED 30th Anniversary Celebration, as well as roundtables and thematic seminars on annual hot topics, with the outcomes of the meetings and policy recommendations serving the Chinese government and relevant international processes.

1. Promoting International Dialogue and Exchanges Through the Two-Way Exchange Platform

CCICED 2022 AGM and CCICED 30th Anniversary Celebration were organized from June 13 to 16, 2022. The CCICED 2022 AGM and CCICED 30th Anniversary Celebration were held online and offline, with the theme of "Building an Inclusive, Green and Low-Carbon Economy". Mr. Han Zheng, then-Vice Premier of the State Council and CCICED Chairperson, attended the meeting and fully recognized the contributions of the Council Members and experts, stating that the Chinese government would continuously provide unwavering support to the development of CCICED. He expressed his hope for CCICED to strengthen innovative contributions across all sectors in the green transition of China's economic and social development, and the building of a clean and beautiful world.

During the AGM, the CCICED 30th Anniversary Forum on the theme of "Towards a Green and Prosperous Future", seven Open Forums, and the Policy Studies Dialogue were also held. Over

2,500 guests participated in the activities of the AGM, including CCICED Council Members, Special Advisors, and representatives from 23 countries, 38 international organizations, relevant departments of the Chinese government, universities, research institutes, enterprises, and social organizations. Chinese and international guests commemorated CCICED for its role as a platform for multilateral exchanges and looked forward to further expanding its global impact and contributing expertise and innovative initiatives for the sustainable development of China and the world.

Efforts have been made to actively engage in global environmental governance and organize more than 30 important online and offline meetings and activities. With the support of CCICEDs' partners and by leveraging its extensive international resources, CCICED has organized a series of events in New York, Beijing, and Montreal, including the workshop on "Building a Balanced, Inclusive, and Green Path to Global Development"; the roundtable on "The Road Leading to the Success of CBD COP 15: Building a Shared Future for All Life



on Earth"; side-event at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 on "China's Role in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development"; and the colloquium on "Boosting the Post-2020 Biodiversity Conservation." Through these events, CCICED listened to the views of stakeholders, bridged differences and forged consensus, and played a pivotal role in helping to reach the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* and advancing global biodiversity governance.

2. Innovating Means of Communication to Expand the Impact of the CCICED

The report and the promotional video on the 30th Anniversary of CCICED utilized the policy recommendations' outcomes as a framework to review China's significant journey in ecological environmental protection. This journey has undergone historic, transformative, and comprehensive changes. Nearly 50 Chinese and international platforms and media outlets reported on the CCICED 2022 AGM and CCICED 30th Anniversary Celebration, with more than 1 million audience watching the live broadcast. The English-language commentary on the 30th Anniversary of CCICED—*Think Tank Continues to Help Drive Nation's Green Agenda* published by *China Daily*—was reprinted by nearly 400 overseas media outlets, including the Associated Press and Yahoo Finance, reaching a global audience of more than 220 million people.

Leveraging the expertise of China Daily and the International Institute for Sustainable

Development (IISD), CCICED has established an innovative media communication strategy that integrates "website + WeChat official account + overseas social media". This strategy aims to promptly disseminate updates on both domestic and global trends and advancements, including CCICED's ongoing work, to Council Members and collaborative partners. In the past year, CCICED's official WeChat account published more than 100 articles; 57 issues of the *CCICED Newsletter* (English version) were published with an opening rate averaging 40%, which exceeded the average metric of comparable newsletters by approximately 25 percentage point; CCICED's Facebook account published roughly 180 posts, with approximately 240,000 followers, registering an annual net increase of approximately 135,000 people—a growth rate of over 50%. The Twitter (X) account had published nearly 180 tweets with approximately 22,000 followers, registering a net increase of approximately 9,000 people annually, or a 64% growth.

3. Further Promoting Gender Mainstreaming and Expanding Youth Participation

Implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: achieving gender equality and promoting gender mainstreaming in all aspects and processes of CCICED's research. In this context, gender perspectives have been incorporated into SPSs, the role of female experts has been fully utilized, and the proportion of female participation in research has increased. Throughout the past year, 76

female experts participated in SPSs, accounting for 32.3% of the total experts, an increase of 5.3 percentage point from the previous year. Furthermore, 13 of the SPS Coordinators were women, constituting 65% of the overall SPS Coordinators. SPS teams were also mandated to establish gender focal points, and Gender Experts were engaged to deliver customized training to these teams. CCICED Gender Experts also offered counsel and recommendations on advancing gender mainstreaming throughout the research proceedings.

Based on the suggestions of Council Members and Special Advisors, engagement and interaction with youth cohorts have been

strengthened as well. On September 29, 2022, the inaugural session of CCICED Youth Salon on Green was successfully held, with the theme of "How to Reverse the Loss of Global Biodiversity – Outlook of Major Issues in the Second Phase of the COP15". Young professionals specializing in biodiversity were invited to engage in comprehensive dialogues and conversations centered around the critical topic of reversing the trajectory of global biodiversity loss. This initiative also aimed to motivate young professionals to elevate their contributions to the field of environment and development.

III. Executive Members and Council Members Have Attached Great Importance to and Actively Participated in All Work to Enhance the Influence of CCICED and Ensure Forward-Looking Nature of Research Work

In the past year, CCICED's Executive Members participated in the Plenary session of the AGM, 30th Anniversary Celebration, and Open Forums; participated in the discussion of policy recommendations; and reported to then-Vice Premier Han Zheng, which has amplified the influence and impact of CCICED's activities and its policy studies with more forward-looking perspectives. Selected Members and Special Advisors have also undertaken research tasks for CCICED and actively contributed to China's high-quality development.

1. Executive Members Play a Leading Role Through Active Participation

Mr. Huang Runqiu, CCICED Chinese Executive Vice Chairperson and Minister of Ecology and Environment of China; Mr. Steven Guilbeault, CCICED International Executive Vice Chairperson and Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada; and Ms. Inger

Andersen, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, participated in CCICED's COP15 events and engaged in discussions with invited Members, Special Advisors, and partners.



Mr. Xie Zhenhua, CCICED Vice Chairperson and China's Special Envoy on Climate Change, and Ms. Kristin Halvorsen, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Norway, and Director of the CICERO Center for International Climate Research, have served as the Co-Leads of the task force on "Innovation in Global Environmental Governance", providing strategic guidance for relevant policy studies.

Mr. Zhao Yingmin, CCICED Secretary General and Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, has been responsible for the day-to-day operation, oversight, and management of CCICED. He participated in important

CCICED events, held in-depth exchanges with partners, and garnered favorable feedback from international partners.

2. CCICED Council Members and Special Advisors Actively Participate in Developing High-Quality Research Outcomes and Policy Recommendations

Over the past year, CCICED added five new Council Members and two new Special Advisors. Twenty-two CCICED Council Members and Special Advisors contributed their expertise through participation in the SPSs through diverse means, laying the foundations for formulating high-quality policy recommendations for

CCICED. Twelve CCICED Council Members and Special Advisors provided feedback for refining the *2022 Policy Recommendations of CCICED (Draft)* and proposed suggestions for the implementation of China's high-quality development. In addition, Council Members, Special Advisors, experts, and scholars from Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and other countries actively participated in the CCICED's Scoping Studies under the guidance of Chief Advisors, laying a solid foundation for next year's policy studies.

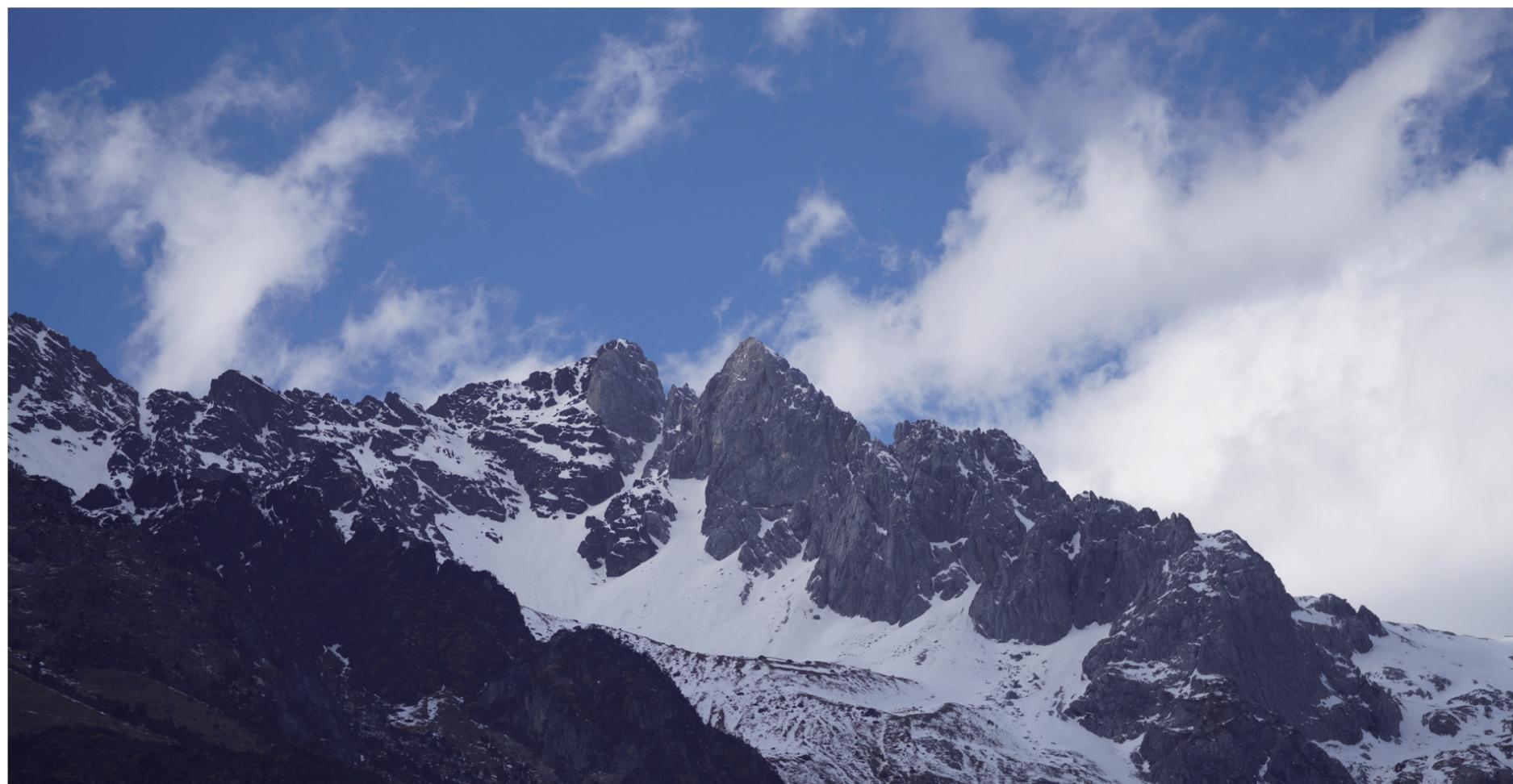
CCICED Council Members and Special Advisors from China, Norway, World Wild

Fund for Nature (WWF), IISD, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and other organizations submitted special policy reports on trending topics and issues such as the implementation of the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*, dual-carbon implementation, digitalization, and green trade.

3. The Secretariat and the Secretariat International Support Office (SISO) Coordinate Closely to Strengthen Support for the Members and Special Advisors in CCICED's Work

Partners, including Norway, Canada, IISD, Energy Foundation (EF), and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), supported the Secretariat in carrying out relevant capacity-building training to further strengthen the Secretariat's capacity in research, planning, fundraising, communications, event planning, operational support, and to continuously improve the secretariate capacity and work quality.

The Secretariat and the Secretariat International Support Office (SISO) have efficiently established a mechanism for collaborative working meetings. The objective is to strengthen meeting organization, activity planning, and communications, continuously improve the capacity for organization, coordination, and service provision. These efforts will facilitate a strong groundwork for the conscientious implementation of Executive Members' decisions, supporting the work of the Chief Advisors, and diligently serving the Council Members and Special Advisors.





IV. Efforts Have Been Made to Actively Expand and Deepen Cooperative Partnerships to Build Momentum for the Sustainable and Stable Development of CCICED in the Future

Over the past year, CCICED's efforts have once again garnered significant attention and strong support from its collaborative partners. Governmental organizations in Canada, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden, as well as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, CIFF, Sequoia Climate Foundation, EF, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, and WWF, have provided strong financial support for CCICED. Regional and international organizations, including United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, IISD, Climate Imperative Foundation, EDF, World Resources Institute, ClientEarth, World Economic Forum, Stockholm Environment Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University, Peking University, Xiamen University, Nankai University, Liaoning University, CICC Global Institute, and BRI Green Development Institute, have also provided financial and intellectual support for the CCICED by participating in research projects, jointly organizing activities, and carrying out capacity building training.

CCICED actively engaged with its partners and jointly held a total of 36 bilateral meetings. The international Chief Advisor has maintained close communication with partners via online and offline channels, and visited Members and partners in Europe and the United States to introduce CCICED's work and gather their feedback. The Secretariat visited France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to conduct exchanges and dialogues on strengthening all-round cooperation with international partners.

