



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED)

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 a new development philosophy. The Council plans to strengthen the implementation of high-quality development, conduct research, 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 rec-

ommendations. 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 SPSs 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 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other shared goals. It focuses on the study of hot-button environmental issues of common concern. It contributes solutions and wisdom to building a shared community on Earth where humans and nature coexist in harmony.

SPS 1: Pathways for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and China's Role in Global Climate Governance

This SPS will identify key climate governance and related low-carbon implementation challenges and opportunities. Research and dialogues are carried out on key global climate governance frameworks. Key research topics include plans to meet carbon peaking and carbon neutrality; China's near-term low-carbon transition pathways; policy coherence toward a comprehensive carbon control system; the next steps in China's evolving carbon pricing system; transition mechanisms and policies to advance the low-carbon transition in energy-intensive industrial sectors; green financing to scale up low-carbon opportunities; cooperation mechanisms; and shared priorities for coping with climate change within China and with other countries, shareholders, etc.

SPS 2: Pathways and Policies of Blue Economy in Supporting Carbon-Neutrality Target

This SPS will continue research on sustainable oceans and marine systems. 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. The SPS will 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 solutions, low-carbon marine operations, tackling marine plastic pollution, and the implementation of the marine elements of the Kunming COP 15 Global Biodiversity Framework to 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, including addressing systematic, mechanism, and policy challenges in a green transition; building a modern ecological governance system; and improving national green governance capacity.

SPS 3: Collaborative Mechanism for Pollution Reduction, Carbon Reduction, Green Expansion and Growth

This SPS mainly focuses on the collaborative framework for sustainable growth, notably the co-management of climate, ecological, and environmental policies to maximize policy synergies within the context of a comprehensive green and low-carbon transition. The study will explore concrete collaborative mechanisms 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 key economic sectors; designing and implementing high-integrity nature-based solutions; forming plans to mitigate transition risks for impacted sectors, including carbon-intensive industrial sectors like electricity, cement, steel, chemicals, buildings, transportation, and infrastructure; and identifying non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emission reduction paths and strategies.

SPS 4: High-Quality Development of River Basins and Adaptation to Climate Change

This SPS continues CCICED's work on building more climate-resilient, low-carbon, and low-pollution pathways at the wider basin level. Under the strategy of China's regional collaborative development as well as key regional strategies and 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. To balance regional development, it also proposes recommendations for mechanisms and policies for building a low-carbon and resilient space with carbon-peak and carbon-neutrality goals.

Task Force 3: Sustainable Production and Consumption

Guided by the carbon-neutrality target and inno-

vation, this 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.

SPS 5: 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 developing low-carbon and net-zero digital and data centres and the innovative use of digitization to accelerate carbon neutrality. The SPS will identify leading 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; the identification of risks in digital transition drawing from experience in digital risk governance; and the evolving role of green technologies to advance innovation.

SPS 6: 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 support key multilateral goals. Key research topics include sustainable food systems and trade; evaluating the life cycle of soft commodity chains and concrete steps to integrate sustainable sourcing; evaluating the carbon footprint of industrial and hard commodity supply chains; and

reviewing the role of green standards in international trade agreements, partnerships, and other economic and trade rules to estimate their effects on China and global supply chain management. This last research topic will enable 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.

SPS 7: Innovative Mechanism of Sustainable Investment in Environment and Climate

This SPS will focus on identifying leading case studies, standards, and market opportunities in sustainable finance and investment. Considering the need to mobilize 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 concrete and detailed information disclosure, evaluation systems, mandatory and voluntary 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.

SPS 8: Sustainable Development Innovation Mechanism Boosted by the Belt and Road Initiative

This SPS will continue CCICED's ongoing focus on the Green Belt and Road Initiative. In view of the experience and financial and technical difficulties faced by developing countries in the process of sustainable development, this SPS aims to explore concrete steps to increase clean and renewable energy financing and technology transfer; the role of financing standards

to scale up green financing to support developing countries in meeting multilateral goals; and opportunities for more effective regional/South-South cooperation. The research will focus on innovative paths and supporting mechanisms for expanding renewable energy cooperation, financial support, and international cooperation to assist developing countries in their green and low-carbon transformation to achieve their national emission reduction targets and contribute to global climate goals.

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

3. Side Events or Activities: CCICED will organize side events and activities in line with UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties, 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 research outputs from the SPSs and domestic and international hot-button 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.

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 sub-

mitting member reports or recommendations on hot issues and major problems on the topics of environment and development for high-level decision making.

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 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.

