



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

2023-2024 Work Plan



The world today faces multiple risks and challenges, and the changes in geopolitical patterns, technology, global markets, and environmental conditions are accelerating. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has already past the halfway point. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and escalating global crises, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are significantly falling behind and deviating from the necessary progress. China's 14th Five-Year Plan has already undergone a mid-term assessment, with the economy showing signs of recovery and green energy gaining momentum, gradually demonstrating a trend towards high-quality development.

From 2023 to 2024, CCICED Phase VII will continue to advance in-depth analysis. Under the leadership of the Executive Members, with the participation and guidance of Council Members and Special Advisors, and with the support of partners, CCICED plans to adopt the annual theme of "Adhering to Green and Open Cooperation to Advance Modernization". To better support China's formulation of 15th Five-Year Plan, CCICED aims to provide innovative solutions for China's ecological civilization in general, with decarbonization as a key strategic direction coupled with promoting a comprehensive green transition of economic and social development. CCICED also seeks to uphold openness and collaboration, contributing to the joint response to global crises and a more just and equitable global governance system.

CCICED's main tasks are as follows:

I. Policy Research

Undertaking policy research and providing policy recommendations to the Chinese government are the core foundations of CCICED's work. Following the principles of interdisciplinary, comprehensive, robust, data-based and foresight-oriented research,

CCICED research will focus on both domestic and international hot topics and policy implementation. CCICED Phase VII plans to initiate nine Special Policy Studies (SPS) within the four major Task Forces (TF) framework. Additionally, considering the domestic and international situations, several short-term scoping studies will be organized to propose policy recommendations. The specific details are as follows:

TF 1: Innovation in Global Environmental Governance

This Task Force aims to conduct research on global, cross-border issues with global or regional externalities, including but not limited to climate change, oceans, biodiversity, plastic pollution prevention, etc.

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

The study will focus on the synergies between global climate change goals and policies, which includes tracking and assessing climate change policies and emission reduction targets of major economies. Revolving around the UNFCCC Global Stocktake and the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the research aims to assess how to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, which seek to limit the global average temperature increase to within 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and strives to confine the temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius. It will study the gradual transition pathways from energy consumption

control to carbon emission control, supported by coordinated measures including market-based approaches, green incentives, regulations, climate finance and energy efficiency. The SPS will examine synergies and alignment with other environmental governance processes such as those related to oceans, biodiversity, plastic pollution, and nature-based solutions.

SPS 2: Sustainable Oceans Management under the Vision of Carbon Neutrality

The study will focus on carbon emissions accounting and value realization in the marine industry. It will examine China's objectives, policies, and governance system for marine biodiversity conservation in the context of achieving the global "30x30" conservation target. Additionally, the research will investigate the impacts of climate change on marine fisheries and food security, along with adaptation strategies. It will also study climate adaptation issues in coastal cities and regions.

SPS 3: Biodiversity Conservation and Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

The study will focus on how China can achieve the "30x30" target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and help support developing countries through south-south cooperation in achieving their goals. The SPS will examine implementation pathways including innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation. It will explore the linkages and collaborative solutions among topics such as agriculture, food security, oceans,

and climate. The research will delve into the sustainable mechanisms for value realization of ecological products.

TF 2: National Green Governance System

This Task Force aims to conduct research on China's strategy for high-quality development, addressing institutional, systematic, and policy challenges in green transition, promoting a modern green governance system, and enhancing the country's green governance capacity.

SPS 4: Collaborative Mechanism for Carbon Reduction, Pollution Reduction, Green Expansion and Growth

The study will focus on establishing a coordinated mechanism for the gradual and scientific phase-out of coal-based electricity and ensuring a stable supply of renewable energy. It aims at achieving energy security, significantly reducing CO₂ emissions, and promoting high-quality economic development. The study will also explore the green transition of key sectors such as electricity, transportation, and manufacturing. It will evaluate the global emission reduction effects and controls of non-CO₂ emissions. Furthermore, the research will examine the legal safeguards for climate change measures.

SPS 5: Green Development and Climate Adaptation for Urban and Rural Areas

The study will focus on climate adaptation issues in downstream areas of river basins and densely populated major cities and regions

under extreme climate conditions. The study will explore the adaptive capacity of agricultural fields to climate change. It will focus on the integrated climate adaptation planning at the river basin level. Additionally, the research will delve into integrated land use studies that strike a balance between addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, food security, and ecological development.

TF3: Sustainable Production and Consumption

This Task Force aims to promote technologies and policies that facilitate sustainable production and consumption, enabling both the government and the market to empower businesses in achieving green growth and to encourage the public to pursue a greener lifestyle.

SPS 6: Digitalization and Green Technologies for Sustainable Development

The study will focus on how the innovation processes of digitization and greening contribute to the issuance and trading of green certificates for renewable energy, specifically examining their connection and coordination with the national carbon emission trading scheme and voluntary greenhouse gas emission reduction trading mechanism. The study will also investigate international standards related to the issuance, measurement, and trading of green certificates. Additionally, the research will explore the potential of digital capabilities in driving sustainable development and Industry 4.0 initiatives. Furthermore, collaborative research efforts will be undertaken with other Special

Policy Study teams to explore the green and low-carbon transition of key industries such as power generation and petrochemicals.

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

The study will focus on analyzing changes in the proportion of green investment and green output in the national economy, along with their prospects. This includes examining the sectoral distribution of green investment and its contribution to the GDP. The study will systematically investigate the existing practices and potential areas of improvement among stakeholders, including policymakers, market regulatory authorities, sovereign asset owners, asset managers, pension funds and other industry sectors.

TF4: Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transformation

This Task Force aims to study how to implement the concepts of innovation, coordination, green development, openness, and shared growth. It emphasizes South-South cooperation and the establishment of a global green supply chain to promote inclusive low-carbon transition.

SPS 8: Sustainable Trade and Supply Chains

The study will investigate the nexus between climate change policies adopted by major economies and global trade policies and patterns. This includes examining the trade implications of expanding trade in low-carbon technologies and services. The study will

examine the liberalization of trade in green and low-carbon products, technologies, and services, as well as the options to scale-up technology transfer to developing countries. Additionally, the study will explore the impact of global trade in critical minerals on the global political and trade systems.

SPS 9: Green Opening-up and South-South Cooperation

The study will focus on establishing and promoting the global renewable energy industry chain. It will involve studying the challenges faced by countries in the Global South in addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation. The research aims to facilitate China's overseas cooperation and investment, particularly in bilateral and regional cooperation, including China-Brazil green development cooperation. This effort will enable Chinese green technologies and green-linked capital to go abroad and contribute to the implementation of the Global Development Initiative and green Belt and Road Initiative.

Scoping Studies

Considering the hot topics and key issues of environment and development, and with the approval of the Secretary General of CCICED, several short-term scoping studies such as "Technology Innovation for Green and Low-Carbon Transition" and "Low-Carbon Transition of Traditional Energy Regions of China" will be carried out.

II. Main Activities

1. CCICED 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM): The AGM is tentatively scheduled to take place from November 18 to 20, 2024. It will revolve around the annual theme and address key environmental and developmental issues through thematic forums. During the meeting, policy research outcomes will be presented, and discussions will lead to the formulation of annual policy recommendations.

2. CCICED Roundtables: The roundtable meetings will serve as a platform to share CCICED research outcomes, gather insights from various sectors and departments, exchange experiences and good practices in innovative and green development, and contribute to China's high-quality development.

3. Side Events and Activities: In collaboration with international partners, CCICED plans to organize side events and activities in conjunction

with major international events, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings. These events will be opportunities to share CCICED's policy research perspectives and outcomes with the international community, advancing global environmental governance efforts.

4. Thematic Seminars and Forums: Based on the progress of SPS projects and in alignment with domestic and international hotspots and trends, CCICED, along with international partners, will hold interdisciplinary seminars or forums periodically. These gatherings will facilitate exchange among different SPS groups and foster the development of strategic and forward-looking policy recommendations.

III. Operation and Management

1. Providing High-Quality Services to Council Members and Special Advisors: CCICED will keep Council Members and Special Advisors informed of its work through publications such as the CCICED Newsletter and the Annual Report. It will assist Council Members and Special Advisors in participating in policy research work, major meetings, and activities. Additionally, it will promptly summarize and release Council Members' opinion reports and support them in submitting reports and/

or recommendations on environmental and developmental hotspots and key issues for reference in decision-making.

2. Strengthening and Consolidating Partnerships: CCICED will regularly organize the Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting, as well as meetings with partners and donors, to share updates on CCICED's work progress and gather feedback from all stakeholders. CCICED will expand its network of partners, enhance communication

and coordination, jointly host events, and strive for complementary strengths and shared achievements. Upholding principles of diversity, inclusivity, and sharing, it will actively promote gender equality throughout the entire research process and explore channels and methods for youth participation.

3.Strengthening Secretariat Capacity Building and Supporting Chief Advisors:

The Secretariat will undergo comprehensive capacity building in close collaboration with the Secretariat International Support Office (SISO). It will conduct regular work meetings, organize training sessions, and facilitate personnel exchanges to enhance the Secretariat's policy research and management capabilities. This will provide comprehensive support to the Chief Advisors' work.

IV.Communication and Sharing

Reporting Work Progress in a Timely Manner, Enhancing Policy Impact: CCICED will strengthen communication, exchange, and cooperation with all stakeholders through major events such as the CCICED AGM and roundtables. CCICED will continue to publish the CCICED Annual Policy Report in both Chinese and English. Selected outcomes from SPS reports will be compiled into a series of publications. By promptly sharing research results, CCICED aims to support high-level decision-making and continuously enhance its impact.

Innovating Communication Methods, Enhancing Brand Awareness: CCICED will deepen cooperation with institutions such as China Daily and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). It will utilize multiple media platforms, including the CCICED website, CCICED Newsletter, WeChat official account, Facebook, Twitter, and others, to promptly share important information. By adopting diverse formats and perspectives, CCICED aims to ensure the timely dissemination of its research achievements and work progress, with the goal of broadening the scope of its publicity efforts.

