



**China Council for International Cooperation on
Environment and Development (CCICED)
2025–2026 Work Plan**

2026 marks the first year of implementation for China’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) —a critical period that bridges past achievements and future goals in advancing Chinese-style modernization. During this period, China aims to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and lay a solid foundation for a steady decline in emissions after the peak by 2035, striving toward fundamental improvement in the ecological environment and the overall realization of the Beautiful China vision. Given the turbulent international situation and the domestic imperative to deliver on the 15th Five-Year Plan, there is a growing need for scientifically grounded and efficient policy support.

2026 also marks the concluding year of Phase VII of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and the start of preparations for Phase VIII. CCICED will continue to position itself as a high-level international think tank and a platform for two-way exchange. Through joint China–international research and open, inclusive dialogue, CCICED will strive to bridge gaps in concepts, trust, and cooperation among all parties. It will contribute wisdom to addressing global crises and provide a platform for enhancing mutual trust and promoting cooperation.

To this end, for 2025–2026, CCICED plans to adopt the annual theme, **Pragmatic and Innovative Cooperation, Advancing Together with Determination**. The work will be carried out under the leadership of the Executive Committee, with participation from Council Members and Special Advisors and support from partners. During this period, CCICED will conduct policy research focused on reforms and innovation in global environmental governance and on further advancing China’s

green, low-carbon transition. Priority will be given to supporting the implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan and the new round of nationally determined contribution (NDC) targets. CCICED will also organize and take part in dialogues and exchanges and submit policy recommendations. The main work tasks are outlined below.

I. Policy Research

First, CCICED plans to complete the ***China's Environment and Development Outlook*** report, providing major assessments of global environment and development trends and China's role, and offering strategic and forward-looking policy recommendations. Second, CCICED will carry out special policy studies under the four major topics identified in Phase VII, ensuring alignment with the annual theme. Third, CCICED will organize scoping studies on emerging and trending issues as appropriate.

1.1 High-Level Task Force on China's Environment and Development Outlook

Building on the 2025 High-Level Task Force (HLTF) interim report and guided by the 2035 Beautiful China goal, among other key mid-century objectives, the HLTF will put forward macro-level strategic policy recommendations on ecological environment governance and green transition development. It will also explore innovative pathways for China to participate in and lead specific processes in global environmental and climate governance in a new historical context. At the same time, the HLTF will evaluate the outcomes and impacts of CCICED's work over the past decade and propose ways to further enhance its role in providing high-quality policy recommendations for senior decision-makers. The HLTF will submit its final report to the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

1.2 Special Policy Studies

1.2.1 Task Force on Innovation in Global Environmental Governance

This task force will focus on globally salient environmental issues with a view to fostering innovation in global environmental governance and strengthening multilateral cooperation. Proposed special policy studies (SPSs) include the following:

SPS 1: Implementation pathways, priority areas, and policy measures for the new round of NDC targets. This SPS will focus on how to implement China’s new NDC targets and the climate-related goals set out in the 15th Five-Year Plan. It will examine the allocation and implementation of responsibilities under the dual-control framework on total carbon emissions and carbon intensity. It will also analyze the supporting institutional, fiscal, legal, and regulatory mechanisms needed to ensure effective delivery. In addition, the study will put forward recommendations on how China can constructively engage in advancing global climate governance and contribute to the reforms of the international financial system.

SPS 2: Promoting nature-positive policies and practice innovation. This SPS will focus on enhancing synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements in the fields of climate change, oceans, and related natural areas. It will examine concrete pathways for China to implement the “30×30 target” under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Special attention will be given to policies and practices based on China’s seasonal fishing moratorium mechanism and coral reef protection. The study will analyze the criteria for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM).

1.2.2 Task Force on National Green Governance System

This task force will focus on the policies and green transition pathways that underpin China’s ecological civilization. It will propose innovative solutions to accelerate a comprehensive green and low-carbon transformation. The following SPSs are proposed:

SPS 3: Developing a new power system aligned with the next round of wind and solar growth targets. From the perspective of expanding green demand to support the transition, this study will identify key issues constraining the green transition. It will focus on the challenges of transforming power and transportation infrastructure under scenarios with high shares of renewable energy. The study will also examine key innovative technologies—such as vehicle–grid interaction—that can enhance power system flexibility, and it will explore the development of market mechanisms to support their deployment.

SPS 4: Innovation in green financial products and services to support carbon market development. This SPS will focus on strengthening effective linkages between financial markets and carbon markets. It will propose innovative market mechanisms and green financial products that better serve industrial upgrading, support the optimization of green industries, and accelerate the transformation of traditional industries. It will also examine how the insurance sector and other financial instruments can play a stronger role in promoting the green transition.

1.2.3 Task Force on Sustainable Production and Consumption

This task force will focus on the key drivers of the planetary crisis. From the perspective of promoting shifts in production and consumption patterns, it will examine the opportunities and challenges faced by key industries and sectors in their green transition. The aim is to support progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. The following SPSs are proposed:

SPS 5: Low-carbon transition pathways for key industries in the sustainable blue economy. In line with the ocean-related targets under the KMGBF and the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), this study will focus on key ocean-based industries such as shipping and tourism. It will propose low-carbon transition pathways that are both economically viable and socially just. With reference to the BBNJ Agreement, the study will put forward fair, equitable, and practical approaches for benefit-sharing of marine biodiversity resources and ecosystem services.

SPS 6: Advancing high-quality development through artificial intelligence and the circular economy. This study will focus on circular economy practices that draw on artificial intelligence (AI). Examples include the design of digital product passports (DPP) in key industries, as well as case studies in the construction sector and in plastic pollution control. It will identify implementation pathways for integrating AI with the circular economy. The study will also examine in depth the revision processes of circular economy legislation in selected countries and assess their relevance for China. Finally, it will propose policy recommendations for market mechanism reforms to promote urban and large-scale solid waste recycling and utilization, tailored to China's national conditions.

1.2.4 Task Force on Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transition

This task force will focus on key issues of just and inclusive low-carbon transition. The following SPSs are proposed:

SPS 7: Green and Just Transitions Pathways for Traditional Energy Regions. This study will focus on zero-carbon factories, industrial parks, and clusters. It will deepen research on technological and business model innovations and summarize experiences that can be scaled up. Based on field research, it will select representative cities in the coal-triangle region and analyze transition practices in light of the transformation needs of coal-based industries, steel, and other sectors and enterprises. The study will summarize typical cases and propose transition pathways that are both replicable and scalable. It will also advance the application of just transition principles in China's dual-carbon policy framework. Finally, it will propose a comprehensive policy system to leverage China's strengths and accelerate the transition in traditional energy regions, including fiscal and tax measures, financial instruments, public procurement, green industrial policies, social security, and market mechanism reforms.

SPS 8: Pathways to Advance Global Cooperation on Green Development. This SPS will identify the core drivers of international cooperation on green development—policy coordination, technology transfer, and capital flows—and the necessary institutional support systems, with a focus on strengthening green finance capacity and top-level design. It will also study how to tailor approaches to strengthen China's green industry cooperation with key regions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Latin America to better support developing countries in establishing and growing green industries.

1.3 Scoping Studies

CCICED will carry out scoping studies such as *Building a Climate-Adaptive Society* and *Carbon Market Expansion and Innovation*. In response to pressing environmental and developmental issues, and upon the recommendations of Chinese and international Chief Advisors and approval of the CCICED Secretary-General, other scoping studies can be conducted as appropriate.

II. Major Activities

2.1 Convene the CCICED 2026 AGM. The AGM is planned for the last week of September 2026, featuring policy dialogues and open forums around the annual theme, key research areas, and hot topics. Policy research findings will be presented and discussed to refine the annual policy recommendations.

2.2 Plan for CCICED Phase VIII. For the preparations of Phase VIII, CCICED will organize a series of meetings, seminars, and exchange activities; extensively solicit opinions from all parties; develop a preparation plan for Phase VIII; preliminarily determine key matters such as CCICED's work positioning for Phase VIII, organizational structure, and research directions; and secure the financial arrangements required for CCICED's operations.

2.3 Through CCICED round tables and other multilateral activities, CCICED will further leverage its international influence and role as a platform for cooperation. On the one hand, it will continue to co-host round tables with Chinese local governments to disseminate research findings and support local efforts in sustainable development and green transition. On the other hand, CCICED will, as appropriate, organize meetings and seminars on major bilateral and multilateral occasions, such as the Conferences of the Parties to multilateral environmental agreements, to share its research outcomes with the international community.

2.4 Thematic exchanges and seminars. CCICED will invite Chinese and international Council Members, Special Advisors, and partner representatives to conduct discussions and exchanges on emergent, hot, and key issues. In addition, Council Members and Special Advisors are welcome to submit special reports or recommendations in response to emerging and priority environmental and developmental issues.

III. Operations and Management

3.1 Provide high-quality services to Council Members and Special Advisors. Through publications such as the CCICED newsletter and the *CCICED Annual Report*, Council Members and Special Advisors will remain informed of CCICED's

work. CCICED will summarize and release Council Members' opinion reports to inform decision making and assist Council Members and Special Advisors in *participating* in CCICED policy research as well as important meetings and activities.

3.2 Timely release of research results to expand influence. CCICED will continue to draft and publish the *CCICED Annual Policy Recommendations* report and compile selected SPS reports for publication. It will continue to produce the *Report on Successful Experiences and Typical Cases of Green Transition* based on ongoing research. The CCICED website, WeChat official account, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and other media platforms will be used to release CCICED research results and work updates in a timely manner, expanding outreach and influence.

3.3 Strengthen and expand the partner network. CCICED will regularly organize joint working meetings of Chief advisors and the Secretariat, invite partners and donors to participate, inform them of CCICED work progress, and listen to opinions from all parties. It will focus on expanding the partner network, strengthening communication and contact, jointly organizing activities, achieving complementary advantages, and sharing results. Finally, it will uphold the principles of diversity, inclusiveness, and sharing, as well as continue to promote gender equality and actively enrich forms of youth participation.

3.4 Strengthen the capacity building of the Secretariat and enhance support for Chief Advisors. CCICED will regularly hold working meetings with the Secretariat International Support Office to improve international collaboration; strengthen the Secretariat's capacity through training and staff exchanges; and strive to enhance the Secretariat's capabilities in policy research, project management, communications, and support for Chief Advisors.