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

2026–2027 Work Plan



2027 marks the launch of CCICED Phase VIII (2027–2031). Phase VIII closely overlaps with China's 15th Five-Year Plan period and the sustainable development process toward 2030. Its foremost task is to bring together experience and expertise from all parties to support China in comprehensively advancing the Beautiful China initiative and actively and prudently achieving its carbon-peaking goal during the 15th Five-Year Plan period, while contributing to progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world is entering a new period of turbulence and transformation, with a weak economic recovery and slow progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. China's ecological civilization development remains at a critical stage marked by mounting pressures and significant challenges, requiring greater support for coordinated efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pollution, expand green development, and promote economic growth. At the same time, a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is accelerating. Innovation in artificial intelligence is becoming deeply intertwined with the green transition, creating new opportunities and challenges.

Against this backdrop, in 2026–2027 CCICED will adopt the annual theme **"Accelerating Innovation and Strengthening New Green Growth Drivers."** CCICED will work to advance the establishment of Phase VIII, including the selection of Council Members and Special Advisors and the expansion and deepening of partnerships; continue to organize policy research on major environment and development issues and formulate policy recommendations; and strengthen exchanges and discussions through a range of meetings and activities to further enhance the quality of policy research and CCICED's influence in China and internationally, in support of ecological, environmental, and climate governance.

I. Complete the Establishment of CCICED Phase VIII

Phase VIII will be established according to the principle of "overall continuity with appropriate adjustments." CCICED will maintain its positioning as a high-level international think tank and a platform for two-way exchange, while keeping its organizational structure and operating mechanisms broadly unchanged. At the same time, it will further broaden multi-stakeholder participation, including representatives of youth, the private sector and civil society organizations, and strengthen external communications and knowledge sharing.

In terms of organizational structure, CCICED will continue to uphold the principles of diversity, inclusiveness, and sharing, inviting prominent Chinese and international figures in the environment and development field to serve as Council Members and Special Advisors. In terms of operating mechanisms, CCICED will continue to convene its Annual General Meeting and Roundtables to share research findings. For policy research, it will retain the "Task Force + Special Policy Study" structure. Grounded in scientific evidence and focused on the close relationship between green innovation and economic development, CCICED will take **"Accelerating the Comprehensive Green Transformation of Economic and Social Development"** as its overarching research theme and establish four Task Forces: Climate Change Response; Resilient and Healthy Nature; Green Production and Consumption; and Innovation in Governance Mechanisms.

II. 2026–2027 Policy Research Plan

2.1 Special Policy Studies (SPSs)

2.1.1 Task Force on Climate Change Response

In response to the needs of the global green and low-carbon transition and China's active and prudent efforts to advance carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals, this Task Force will focus on major strategic and policy issues related to the green and low-carbon transition and conduct research in two areas: climate mitigation and climate adaptation.



SPS 1: Rigid Target Allocation and Flexible Market Mechanisms to Support Implementation of the Dual-Control System for Carbon Emissions

Building on implementation of the Measures for the Comprehensive Assessment and Evaluation of Carbon Dioxide Peaking and Carbon Neutrality and a series of climate-related special plans under the 15th Five-Year Plan, this study will identify systemic challenges that may arise during the initial implementation of the assessment measures. From the perspectives of carbon market reform and innovation, climate investment and finance, and coordination among

market mechanisms, it will develop incentive mechanisms to transform assessment pressure into endogenous drivers of local green transition.

SPS 2: Enhancing Climate Adaptation Capacity and Renewing and Upgrading Infrastructure

Drawing on the Global Goal on Adaptation framework, this study will develop targeted methodologies for assessing the benefits of climate adaptation actions. It will integrate climate adaptation considerations into the renewal and upgrading of urban and rural spaces and infrastructure and, taking regional differences into account, propose policy toolkits, lists of key technologies, and recommendations for pilot projects that can be scaled up and replicated.

2.1.2 Task Force on Resilient and Healthy Nature

From the perspective of promoting harmony between humanity and nature, this Task Force will focus on ecosystem conservation and restoration, secure and sustainable agrifood systems, pollution prevention and control, and ocean governance.

SPS 3: Synergies between Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Response

Following the compass of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with nature-climate nexus as a priority area, this study will examine spatial trends in biodiversity under different climate scenarios and identify gaps in biodiversity conservation networks. It will integrate biodiversity conservation needs into national socioeconomic development scenarios, ensuring that climate resilience and biodiversity are jointly considered in major initiatives related to energy deployment, transport infrastructure, and ecological restoration. It will also explore how to advance biodiversity finance.

SPS 4: Institutional Mechanisms to Support High-Quality Development of the Marine Economy

This study will review progress in developing new types of marine infrastructure and examine future-oriented marine infrastructure systems; explore mechanisms for realizing the value of marine ecological products and services; promote coordinated transformation across technology, industries, financial systems, and governance mechanisms; strengthen the integration of technological innovation and industrial development; identify new growth drivers for the future marine economy; and strengthen synergies across multilateral environmental agreements to advance global ocean governance.

2.1.3 Task Force on Green Production and Consumption

Against the backdrop of profound economic, social, and technological transformation, particularly the development and application of artificial intelligence, this Task Force will examine changes in production methods and consumption patterns, with a focus on green and low-carbon production and supply chains, the circular economy, and green consumption.

SPS 5: Institutional Design and Innovative Pathways for Building a New-Type Power System

This study will track and identify innovative practices across the full chain of power generation, grids, loads, storage, and end use that support the development of a new-type power system; convene cross-sectoral, multi-level, multi-stakeholder dialogues; identify key challenges constraining the integration of high shares of renewable energy and the development of clean electrification; examine measures to further expand demand for green and low-carbon technologies and products; and propose recommendations to improve relevant policy mechanisms and optimize the market environment.

SPS 6: Digital Governance Innovation for Urban Circular Resource Systems

This study will explore systemic transition pathways for cities as core units of resource consumption, waste generation, and secondary resource supply. Building on the "Zero-Waste City" initiative, it will examine priority industries, solid-waste categories, or key materials in representative urban settings, such as bulk industrial solid waste, construction, and textiles. It will explore urban resource-flow management, secondary-material market development, international standards, secondary-resource traceability and supply chains, other application scenarios for artificial intelligence and their coordination mechanisms, as well as synergies between the circular economy and the dual-carbon strategy. It will identify institutional gaps and capacity constraints and propose policy recommendations to advance the circular economy.

2.1.4 Task Force on Innovation in Governance Mechanisms

From the perspective of China's interaction with the world, this Task Force will conduct research on innovation in mechanisms across areas including green investment and finance, just transition, and international cooperation on green development, as well as on enhancing synergies among multilateral governance processes and multilateral conventions in relevant fields.

SPS 7: Synergy Pathways between the 15th Five-Year Plan and Global Sustainable Development Processes

This study will review relevant Chinese special plans under the 15th Five-Year Plan and benchmark and align them with the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of major multilateral processes. It will analyze the two-way interaction and pathways for synergy between China's green transition and global sustainable development processes and identify pathways and practical levers through which China can better contribute to the global green and low-carbon transition.

SPS 8: Cooperation Pathways and Practices for Green Industrial Innovation in Selected Countries and Regions

This study will review cooperation practices among selected countries and regions in areas

such as green products and technologies, low-carbon industrial parks, and green shipping, and summarize useful experience and challenges. It will assess the synergistic effects of measures under regional cooperation mechanisms to enhance connectivity and facilitate the flow of green products and services, and examine supporting policies, financial instruments, and institutional arrangements to further unlock the potential for cooperation.

2.2 Scoping Studies and Other Research

In response to emerging and priority issues in environment and development, and upon the recommendation of the Chinese and International Chief Advisors and approval by the CCICED Secretary-General, CCICED will organize relevant Scoping Studies on topics such as enhancing synergies among multilateral governance processes and multilateral conventions as appropriate. In addition, under the guidance of the Chinese and International Chief Advisors, CCICED will explore Youth Research projects through approaches such as open calls and targeted invitations.

III. Major Activities

3.1 Convene the CCICED 2027 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The CCICED 2027 AGM is planned for late November 2027, marking the formal launch of CCICED Phase VIII. Centered on the annual theme, key research areas, and emerging policy priorities, the AGM will convene policy dialogues and thematic forums, hear presentations on policy research findings, and discuss and formulate the Council's annual policy recommendations.

3.2 Leverage CCICED Roundtables and Other Multilateral Activities to Strengthen the Platform's Role and Enhance Its Influence in China and Internationally

CCICED will continue to co-host Roundtables with Chinese local governments, sharing CCICED research findings in response to local sustainable development and green transition needs and supporting local green transition. As appropriate, CCICED will also organize meetings and seminars alongside major bilateral and multilateral occasions, including the United Nations Environment Assembly and Conferences of the Parties to multilateral environmental agreements.

3.3 Thematic Exchanges and Seminars

CCICED will invite Chinese and international Council Members, Special Advisors, and partner representatives to conduct thematic exchanges and discussions on urgent, emerging, and priority issues and submit special reports.



IV. Operations and Management

4.1 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 be kept informed of CCICED's work and developments. CCICED will summarize and publish reports on Members' views for decision-making reference and facilitate the participation of Council Members and Special Advisors in CCICED policy research and major meetings and activities.

4.2 Disseminate Research Findings in a Timely Manner and Expand CCICED's Influence

CCICED will continue to edit and publish the CCICED Annual Policy Report and selected outputs from Special Policy Studies. It will also continue to prepare the Report on Successful Experiences and Typical Cases of Green Transition based on its research. Research findings and updates on CCICED activities will be disseminated in a timely manner through the CCICED website, WeChat Official Account, Facebook, X, and other media platforms to broaden outreach.

4.3 Consolidate and Expand the Partner Network

CCICED will regularly convene joint working meetings of the Chief Advisors and the Secretariat, inviting partners and donors to participate, provide updates on CCICED's work, and solicit feedback. It will continue to advance gender equality and broaden forms of youth participation. CCICED will make concerted efforts to expand its partner network, strengthen communication and coordination, jointly organize activities, leverage complementary strengths, share results, and mobilize additional support to provide a solid foundation and safeguards for CCICED's sustained development.

4.4 Strengthen Secretariat Capacity and Enhance Support for the Chief Advisors

CCICED will regularly convene working meetings with the Secretariat International Support Office (SISO) to strengthen coordination and improve the efficiency of collaboration. Through training, staff exchanges, and other means, it will continuously strengthen the Secretariat's capacity in policy research, project management, communications, and support for the Chief Advisors.

