



**China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development
2017 AGM**

**Open Forum on Environment and Development
10 December 2017
Beijing, China**

Clean Energy Strategy and Climate Change

FORUM OBJECTIVE

This forum will focus on two key themes: (1) new drivers for green and low carbon economic growth; and (2) synergies between addressing climate change and achieving social-economic development goals and policies. The aim is to: (1) provide a discussion platform for international and Chinese government officials, experts, private sector representatives, investors, and other stakeholders on how to strengthen clean energy transitions via climate change policies, (2) discuss how China might make more positive contributions to international climate change efforts; and (3) share knowledge, experiences and best practices from China and internationally to promote a clean energy transition.

VALUE OF THE FORUM

CCICED Phase VI research will be organized under four overarching research themes, one of which is **Global Governance and Ecological Civilization**. This Open Forum can provide information for identifying future climate change topics under this theme. As well, discussions in this forum may contribute to this year's recommendations of CCICED to the State Council. The Forum will take place very soon after the COP 23 Meeting in Bonn so it will be an opportune time to discuss China's role on global governance related to climate change, and the latest trends on co-benefits between clean energy and climate change action nationally and globally.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. **How to combine China's clean energy and climate change efforts with China's green growth and economic structural reform? And how to fully achieve such synergies through policy integration?**
2. **How can China further strengthen climate change international cooperation through global environmental governance mechanisms.**
3. **Suggestions to the Chinese government on what are the most important issues and policies on clean energy and climate change that the government needs to prioritize? What can be the future role of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)? How important is green finance, especially for China's efforts with other developing countries?**
4. **Research project suggestions to CCICED on clean energy and climate change.**

BACKGROUND

Climate change is a global challenge humankind must face together. The next five years is a critical period to show actual implementation of policies to start fulfilling national pledges under the Paris agreement—and to take stock, develop and submit the country level “mid-century strategy” (MCS) and hence consider renewing and strengthening the national targets.

Promoting clean energy, protecting the environment and coping with climate change are also key components of United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs). Countries around the world, including China, are taking strong measures to achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, both the G20 Hangzhou Summit and the Hamburg Summit stressed the importance of addressing climate change and developed follow-up action plans.

Promoting clean energy and addressing climate change has been consistently a priority for the Chinese government. Especially after the CPC 18th Congress, China promotes the goal of an Ecological Civilization as a key pillar. This point was reinforced during the CPC 19th Congress. In the context of international cooperation to address climate change, China has been taking a driving seat.

The 19th Party Congress held in October 2017 called for a continued energy production and consumption revolution, and pointed out the need to develop a clean, low carbon, safe, and efficient energy system. The Congress also emphasized the importance of actively participating in the global environmental governance system and to fulfill the emissions reductions commitments.

The promotion of clean energy and addressing the climate change challenge are very much in line with China’s efforts to promote economic restructuring and modernization. The hope is that green development and a low carbon economy transition will provide new drivers for China’s economic development.

In addition, China is also taking unprecedented measures to fight pollution and to improve the environmental quality, and this effort could provide co-benefits in addressing climate change through good coordination with the clean energy strategy.