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Date of establishment: 2016

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Organisation Introduction:

Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development (GHub) is an independent environmental think tank with a global outlook, registered with the Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau. GHub advances the policy development and dialogues in cutting-edge areas of sustainable development, seeks innovative solutions to quality growth, climate resilience and carbon neutrality in China and the world, contributing to a net-zero and nature-positive future.

With a long-term focus on global cutting-edge environmental issues such as climate and energy, marine and biodiversity conservation, green finance and responsible overseas investment, GHub brings the perspective and thinking of Chinese civil society to global environmental governance. Through in-depth research, seminars and innovative communications, we've been providing latest information and technical support to industry experts and partner organisations, and promote the formulation and implementation of climate and environment-friendly policies.

UPR Report Submitted by Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development to the OHCHR on Climate Change Actions in China

1. Climate change is a global challenge faced by humanity. The latest science shows that the observed climate change and the associated extreme weather events and slow onset events are already having an unprecedented impact on natural and human systems, exacerbating the challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially in developing countries. The right to a healthy environment, health and development are fundamental human rights. Addressing climate change contributes to safeguarding these rights of all people, especially vulnerable groups. Countries need to urgently enhance their climate action, increase adaptation capacity and climate resilience, and reduce climate risks. As a local environmental think tank tracking global climate governance and climate action, we have noticed that China has made solid efforts and achieved remarkable outcomes in addressing climate change, implementing the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and promoting South-South climate cooperation. However, some gaps and challenges remain to be further addressed.

2. We've noted that in response to climate change, China has introduced a series of climate action targets and top-level policies to promote economy-wide energy transition, emission reduction and

climate adaptation. China recently updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that aims to have CO₂ emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. This landmark statement demonstrates China's commitment to pursuing a sustainable development pathway, despite the multiple global challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, ecological degradation, economic downturn and strained multilateralism. This commitment injects new political momentum into the global climate governance and sustainable development agenda, and sends a clear long-term policy signal to the whole society for a green, zero-carbon economic transition.

3. We've noted that China has intensified its climate adaptation efforts and issued the *National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (the Strategy) 2035* in June 2022. The new *Strategy* outlines the primary adaptation objectives for the coming decade, including sector-specific priorities, regional goals and supporting measures. Based on the climate risks in different sectors and regions, the *Strategy* adopts a proactive, scientific, systematic and holistic approach, with a focus on precautionary adaptation.

4. We appreciate China's efforts to enhance its actions to implement the goals of Paris Agreement and its national climate targets. We appreciate that China has overachieved its 2020 climate targets. Since announcing its carbon peaking and carbon neutrality

goals, China has gradually developed a “1+N” policy system, which includes a top-level guiding policy and implementation plans for key sectors. In this background, according to the National Energy Administration, in 2022, China’s newly added installed capacity of wind power and photovoltaic power reached 125 MW, and the added installed capacity of renewable energy reached 152 MW, accounting for 76.2% of the country’s total added installed capacity. According to IRENA, over half of the world’s total installed capacity of renewable energy in 2022 comes from new installations in Asia, approximately 80% of which come from China.

5. We’ve noted that China has been improving its green finance policies and established a climate finance policy framework with an action plan for pilots. As of the end of 2022, the balance of green loans of China’s domestic and foreign currencies reached 22.03 trillion yuan, 66.7% of which have direct and indirect carbon emission reduction benefits. By the end of 2022, China’s stock of green bonds reached 1.54 trillion yuan, placing it among the top in the world. Green finance is now in a new stage, which takes carbon emission reduction as the key strategy. We welcome China’s release of the “*Guiding Opinions on Promoting Investment and Financing to Address Climate Change*” in 2020, and the launch of 23 pilots for climate investment and financing in 2022, which encourages local governments to innovate climate financing practices in a bottom-up approach, to implement national climate goals.

6. We've also noted China's efforts in aligning its outbound investments and South-South Cooperation with climate goals. We welcome the release of China's *Guidelines for Green Development of Outbound Investment and Cooperation*. We also appreciate China's move to launch the Global Development Initiative at the 76th UN General Assembly, which prioritizes development, and the multilateral approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and harmony between man and nature. China's pledge to increase support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy and stop building new coal-fired power projects abroad sends a clear signal for the low-carbon transformation of overseas energy investment. In terms of South-South climate cooperation, China has taken the lead by organizing four training sessions for South Pacific Island countries to enhance their capacity to combat climate change. In April 2022, the Cooperation Center for China-Pacific Island Countries Climate Change was officially launched, and in September, the China-Pacific Island Countries meeting on tackling climate change was held.

7. In recent years, China has fulfilled its commitments in tackling climate change, enhancing climate adaptation, improving climate investment and financing and engaging in international cooperation. As a responsible developing country, China has also supported other developing countries in their low-carbon

development. To implement its dual-carbon and long-term goals under the Paris Agreement, China needs to further enhance its climate actions, rapidly scale up climate financing, and strengthen its South-South climate cooperation. In this context, we propose the following recommendations.

a) Continue to strengthen climate actions, to achieve carbon peaking earlier than 2030 at a lower peak level to lay a solid foundation for achieving carbon neutrality. Building on the achievement of overachieving the 2020 climate target ahead of schedule, China could aim to peak its CO₂ emissions before 2030 while striving to keep the peak at a lower level. This could help reduce the overall mitigation cost of the deep decarbonization, required to achieve its long-term goal of carbon neutrality by 2060.

b) Further enhance the climate resilience of urban and rural areas, with special focus on the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups, such as outdoor workers like delivery drivers, couriers and farmers, disadvantaged groups like the elderly and the disabled people. Based on the *National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035*, conduct climate risk assessments, develop climate adaptation plans at region and sector level, establish effective early warning systems, and improve the emergency response capacity in both urban and rural areas. The early warning systems as well as the

response mechanisms should take into consideration of the special needs of vulnerable groups.

c) Improve the climate investment and finance policy system. China needs to establish clear standards for climate investment and finance, offering diverse effective incentives, and put in place mandatory climate-related information disclosure requirement to better mobilize finance towards low-carbon and climate-resilient areas.

d) Continue to promote a just transition. Under the dual-carbon targets, the employment in resource-intensive regions and carbon-intensive industries will be affected. China needs to engage with multiple stakeholders and continue to strengthen the compensation mechanisms and training programs for affected populations, in order to ensure an inclusive, just, and orderly low-carbon transition.

e) Continue to promote the mechanism innovation of South-South climate cooperation. To meet the actual demands of developing countries, knowledge sharing, capacity building and technical assistance could be provided in areas such as climate risk assessment, climate adaptation planning, climate investment and financing policy systems and carbon neutral policy planning. These actions will help developing countries cultivate human talents, develop climate-related

technologies, and accelerate climate actions. Furthermore, it is important to establish a performance evaluation mechanism for South-South climate cooperation. This could not only evaluate the progress, but also provide a reference for future South-South climate cooperation.

f) Strengthen the synergy between nature conservation and combating climate change. China has incorporated the concept of “harmony between man and nature” into national development strategy. As the dual-carbon goals are implemented, it is important to consider the co-benefits between climate action and biodiversity conservation goals, while avoiding or minimizing the negative impacts that some mitigation activities may have on nature, promoting a win-win situation between tackling climate change and nature conservation. Furthermore, in outbound investment and trading, promotes nature-based solutions, climate- and nature-friendly investment and financing activities.