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Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of China

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Climate change governance of China

1. Since the Human Rights Council conducted Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of China in 2018, the China-ASEAN Legal Research Center (CALC) of Southwest University of Political Science and Law (SWUPL) has noticed that Chinese government has adopted a series of measures to further promote climate change governance. It has performed well in public participation in climate change, adherence to multilateralism and leadership in climate conferences and negotiations, and the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*. China's outstanding achievements in environmental protection and control of greenhouse gas emissions.

2. the CALC commends the Chinese government's efforts to promote broad public participation in addressing climate change. China has effectively implemented Recommendation 28.143[i] in the 2018 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council. For example, in terms of public participation, in 2021, China has launched a campaign themed “Being a Contributor to a Beautiful China” to encourage the whole society to participate in developing ecological civilization to foster a positive atmosphere of everyone having a stake in, supporting and participating in eco-environmental conservation and protection. Incorporated developing ecological civilization into the national education system to strengthen education in ecological civilization at primary and secondary schools. Launched a green life campaign to promote energy-efficient fittings to build conservation-oriented public institutions, green families, green schools, green communities, green travel cities, green buildings and shopping malls. A series of forums and science population events on carbon dioxide peaking and carbon neutrality were held to raise social awareness on green development and guide the public to practice green and low-carbon lifestyles.

3. In response to Recommendation 28.141[ii], China will continue to defend multilateralism in climate change governance and play a leading role in climate change governance conferences and negotiations. For example, China successfully held the first segment of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in Kunming, Yunnan Province in October 2021. The conference resulted in some important outcomes and commitments to harness ecosystem-based adaptation: The Kunming Declaration was adopted, the Ecological Civilization Forum was held, and the initiative of “protecting biodiversity and building a global ecological civilization” was announced.

Another example is that China actively participates in international negotiations under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other channels and in the formulation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports. It has played a constructive role in urging the international community to place equal emphasis on mitigation and adaptation and reinforce global climate change adaptation actions. China has made it clear that it will further strengthen multilateralism, including working with all partners of the "Group of 77 and China", with a view to establishing a climate solidarity model that is collective, opposes unilateralism and green trade barriers, and is firmly based on the values of solidarity and cooperation of the international community .

4. In accordance with Recommendation 28.142[iii], China has made new achievements in the fields of environmental protection and control of greenhouse gas emissions. Based on preliminary calculations, in 2021, China's carbon intensity dropped by 3.8 percent and 50.8 percent from the level respectively in 2020 and 2005. Energy consumption per unit of value added of industrial enterprises above the designated level was significantly reduced a decade ago, with the overall energy consumption per unit product of crude steel, aluminum, and ethylene reduction by 9.0 percent, 4.7 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively. China has made consistent efforts to eliminate excess production capacity. In 2021, about 300 million tons of iron and steel capacity, nearly 400 million tons of cement capacity and 150 million weight cases of plate glass capacity had been eliminated. Outdated production capacity in the electrolytic aluminum and cement industries has basically been withdrawn. The level of cleaner production has been significantly improved. The iron and steel industry has undergone the retrofit of high-quality ultra-low emission. In 2021, a total of 23 iron and steel companies completed the renovation for about 145 million tons of crude steel production capacity, and the work is in progress for another 540 million tons of capacity. The emission intensity of main pollutants in key industries was reduced by more than 20 percent during the 13th Five-year Plan period. China actively promotes clean coal centralized utilization. About 1.03 billion kW of coal-fired power units achieved ultra-low emissions retrofits, accounting for 93 percent of the country's total installed coal power capacity, and became the world's largest clean coal power system. China has made constant efforts to promote the campaign of carbon reduction retrofits, flexibility retrofits and heating transformations in a well-ordered way, and stops building any coal power plants overseas. In 2021, 110 GW of coal power units were retrofitted to save energy and reduce carbon emissions, 63.8 GW for greater flexibility transformation and 68.3 GW for heating transformation. The average net coal consumption of thermal power was reduced to 302.5 g standard coal/kWh, down 6.9 percent from 2012.

5. The CALC appreciated China's vigorous development of green and low-carbon industries. China has steadily developed emerging industrial clusters in new energy, new-energy vehicles and green, eco-friendly sectors, supported the green, low-carbon and high-quality development of industries and built up a pro-environmental manufacturing system. In 2021, the high-tech manufacturing sector saw its added value rise 18.2 percent year on year, accounting for 15.1 percent of the total for industries above the designated size, its output of newenergy vehicles come in at 3.677 million units, up 152.5 percent from the previous year, China saw the operating revenue of its strategic emerging service enterprises rise by 16.0 percent

and the investment of its high-tech industries rise by 17.1 percent from the previous year. By the end of 2021, there are 49,000 effective invention patents in China's energy-saving and environmental protection industry, and 60,000 effective invention patents in the new energy industry; From 2011 to 2020, China's environmental technology invention patent applications accounted for nearly 60% of the world's total, making it the most active country in the global layout of environmental technology innovation; generated the pro-environmental output value of more than CNY 8.06 trillion.

6. The CALC noticed China's outstanding performance in green energy development. The total installed capacity of renewable energy exceeded 1,000 GW, the installed capacity of wind power and solar power generation exceeded 300 GW, with offshore wind power capacity jumping to the first position in the world. By the end of 2021, China's renewable power capacity reached 1,063 GW, accounting for 44.8 percent of the installed power capacity. In 2021, 2,480 TWh of renewable electricity was generated, making up 29.8 percent of total electricity consumption. Of this total, wind supplied 655.6 TWh of electricity, 325.9 TWh of electricity from PV, and 163.7 TWh of electricity from biomass, a year-on-year increase of 40.5 percent, 24.8 percent and 23.5 percent, respectively. hydropower, wind power, solar power and biomass power accounted for 16.1%, 7.9%, 3.9% and 2% of the total electricity consumption. In 2021, China installed 134 GW of renewable power generation capacity, which accounted for 76.1 percent of the national increase in installed capacity. Compared with the same period of the previous year, the hydropower utilization rate in main river basins nationwide stood at around 97.9 percent, up 1.5 percentage; the average utilization rate of wind electricity was 96.9 percent, increased by 0.4 percentage; average utilization rate of PV electricity was on a par of 98 percent. In 2021, clean energy consumption in China was raised to 25.5 percent of total energy consumption, while the portion of coal consumption was dropped to 56.0 percent with surging electricity demand among end users.

7. The CALC affirmed the outstanding contribution of the Chinese government in the process of implementing the *Paris Agreement*. According to recommendations 28.140[iv] and 28.144[v], China updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets in 2020 as per the requirement to "reflect its highest possible ambition" under the terms of the Paris Agreement; subsequently submitted its updated NDC targets to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in October 2021. In 2020, China announced the updated NDC, namely strive to carbon dioxide peaking before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by over 65 percent from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent by 2030, increase the forest stock by 6 billion m3 from the 2005 level and its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kW by 2030. all provinces have also incorporated green and low-carbon development into their 14th Five-Year Plans, outlining their specific targets and tasks. Dealing with climate change, promoting green and low-carbon development, and achieving carbon dioxide peaking and carbon neutrality form important contents of major national and regional strategies.

At the same time, China has issued the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation 2035, which puts forward the main targets of its climate change

adaptation work in the new era. Based on the level of exposure and vulnerability of different sectors and regions to the adverse effects and risks of climate change, the plan specifies the key sectors and regions of the adaptation work with corresponding preventative measures, providing important guidance to reduce the harmful effects of climate changes and striving for climate resilient. In October 2021, China officially unveiled China's Achievements, New Goals and New Measures for Nationally Determined Contributions and China's MidCentury Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy, respectively specifying the new targets and new measures for implementing its NDC and the fundamental policy and strategic vision of its GHG emission development in the long run. The two documents represent China's specific moves to fulfill the Paris Agreement and embody its commitments and efforts to promote green and low carbon development and actively respond to global climate change.

8. The CALC believes that China has made great efforts and outstanding achievements in climate change governance, but China's climate change governance development still faces some challenges.

9. The CALC hopes that the international community should receive the key political signal released by the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially in accordance with the best available science and based on fairness, The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities considers the needs of developing countries for implementation means in the era of implementing the *Paris Agreement* in different national conditions.

10. The CALC hopes that developing countries need predictable and sufficient support from developed countries, including access to climate finance, technology and market access at a necessary and proportionate scope, scale and speed, to ensure achieve sustainable development. Considering that making a just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in developing countries will cost trillions of dollars Developed countries should fulfill their annual climate funding commitment of US$100 billion, and make their new collective quantitative target commitments far higher than US$100 billion per year, and propose a clear roadmap for doubling adaptation funds.

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[i] A/HRC/40/6, 28.143, Continue to take into account the vulnerabilities, needs and views of women, children and persons with disabilities in developing policies, projects or programmes on issues related to climate change, environmental protection and disaster risk management (Fiji).

[ii] A/HRC/40/6, 28.141, Continue defending multilateralism and in particular its role in providing the leadership on climate change that is sorely needed (South Africa).

[iii] A/HRC/40/6, 28.142, Strengthen measures to combat pollution and climate change (Côte d'Ivoire).

[iv] A/HRC/40/6, 28.140, Continue to intensify measures to implement the Paris Agreement in view of the undeniable impact of climate change on the enjoyment of fundamental human rights (Seychelles).

[v] A/HRC/40/6, 28.144, Continue to fully implement the Paris Agreement (Fiji).