

(Translation)

**Resolution of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress
of China on Actively Responding to Climate Change**

Adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh
National People's Congress on 27 August 2009

The Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh National People's Congress (NPC) heard and deliberated on the *Report of the State Council on Responding to Climate Change*. The meeting fully recognized the unremitting efforts and remarkable achievements of the State Council in tackling climate change and agreed to the future work arrangements proposed in the report.

The meeting holds that human activities since the industrial revolution, particularly the economic activities of developed countries in the process of industrialization, are the main human cause for climate change. Climate change is an environmental issue, but ultimately it is a development issue. China is in the middle stage of industrialization and at a crucial juncture of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. It is imperative to follow the road of sustainable development in line with the requirements of "giving prominence to building a resource-conserving, environment-friendly society in the overall strategy of industrialization and modernization" and "enhancing the capacity to respond to climate change and making new contributions to protecting the global climate" as put forward at the Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Vigorous policy measures will be taken in light of China's basic national conditions and characteristics of the current development stage to actively respond to climate change. To this end, the meeting adopted the following resolution.

First, addressing climate change is an important opportunity and challenge facing China's national economic and social development.

To actively respond to climate change concerns the overall economic and social development of China and the immediate interests of the Chinese people. It also has a bearing on human existence and the development of all countries in the world. Over the years, China has attached great importance

to the work of addressing climate change. In June 1992, the Chinese Government signed the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* and the NPC Standing Committee formally ratified the Convention at the end of the same year. The NPC Standing Committee has successively formulated and amended a series of laws relating to climate change, including *Energy Conservation Law*, *Law on Renewable Sources of Energy*, *Circular Economy Promotion Law*, *Law on Promoting Clean Production*, *Forest Law*, and *Grassland Law*. The *Outline of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China* approved by the NPC in 2006 set the goals and tasks for China in energy conservation and pollution reduction. The Chinese Government has formulated a national climate change program, clearly outlining the basic principles, specific objectives, key areas of action, as well as policy measures and steps to tackle climate change. The working mechanism for addressing climate change has been improved and a series of actions aimed at tackling climate change implemented, contributing positively to the global endeavor to protect the climate. China, as a developing country with a large population, relatively insufficient resources and a fragile ecological environment, is in the process of industrialization and modernization. It needs to, on one hand, meet the needs of the people through development so as to protect their rights to survival and development. On the other hand, it needs to resolve the long-existing problems such as imbalanced economic structure, extensive growth pattern and low efficiency of resources utilization. To actively respond to climate change is in keeping with the trend of development of the world. It also serves China's domestic needs for realizing sustainable development and presents a historical opportunity for development. To be truly responsible for the long-term development of the Chinese nation and that of whole mankind, it is imperative to further increase awareness of the importance of addressing climate change and make proper responses to climate change based on China's own ability, so as to ensure sound and fast economic and social development of China in the context of new internal and external environment and conditions.

Second, response to climate change must be based on thorough implementation of the Scientific Outlook on Development.

The response to climate change is a complicated systematic project that involves many sectors. It is imperative to thoroughly implement the Scientific Outlook on Development and uphold the basic state policy of

conserving resources and protecting the environment. Efforts to tackle climate change must be aimed at improving capability for sustainable development, focused on ensuring economic development and supported by scientific and technological advances. It is necessary to speed up transformation of the development mode, cap green house gas emissions and increase the ability to tackle climate change in order to build a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way at a higher level. It is important to take into consideration both the domestic and the international situation, both the immediate and long-term interests, and both economic and social development and ecological soundness under the framework of sustainable development. Policies on climate change should be compatible with other related policies to ensure coordinated progress in all undertakings. Equal importance should be attached to mitigation and adaptation and efforts should be made to enhance energy conservation, increase energy efficiency and improve energy structure. It is important to adhere to the approach of building up the capacity of emissions control and adaptation through scientific and technological advances and innovation. It is important to promote energy conservation and emissions reduction through economic restructuring and industrial upgrading and to achieve sustainable development by transforming the development mode.

Third, concrete measures must be taken to actively respond to climate change.

Efforts should be made to save energy, cut emissions and cap green house gas emissions. It is imperative to promote wider use of energy-saving technologies and products, improve energy production and consumption structure, encourage and support the use of clean coal technologies, develop hydropower, wind power, solar power, bio-mass power and other sources of renewable energy in an active and scientific manner, and promote the construction of nuclear power plants. Development of the circular economy should be promoted in real earnest to phase out outdated production capacities and products and raise the overall efficiency of the use of resources. Key ecological projects should be implemented to improve carbon sinks. Continued efforts should be made to promote afforestation and develop carbon sink forestry so as to increase forest carbon sinks. Measures should be taken to promote protected farming and ecological development of pastures to increase the carbon sinks of farm land and pastures.

Efforts should be made to enhance the ability of adapting to climate

change. It is important to scale up monitoring, early warning and forecast of extreme weather and climate events and scientifically guard against and respond to the damage of these events and secondary disasters they cause. Efforts should be made to promote infrastructure building of farm land and agricultural restructuring to raise overall agricultural productivity. It is imperative to step up management of water resources and promote the research, development and application of integrated water-saving technologies. Efforts should be redoubled to monitor and protect the ecological system of the sea and coastal belts and enhance the ability of coastal areas to resist maritime disasters.

The supportive and guiding role of science and technology should be given full play. Macro-management, policy guidance, coordination and input should be stepped up to strengthen basic research on climate change and enhance the ability of scientific judgment. Efforts should be made to accelerate the research, development and application of major technologies concerning climate change, particularly those on energy conservation, energy efficiency, clean coal, renewable energy, nuclear energy and low carbon technologies, and to develop carbon capture, storage and utilization technologies. Emphasis should be given to import, assimilation, application and innovation of advanced technologies in related fields.

Efforts should be made to develop a green economy and low-carbon economy in light of national conditions. This is required by China's endeavor to promote energy conservation and emissions reduction and solve the problems relating to resources, energy and the environment. It is also an important step aimed at actively responding to climate change and creating new advantageous conditions for China's future development. It is imperative to consider and formulate policy measures to develop a green economy and low-carbon economy, increase green input, encourage green consumption and promote green growth. As the whole world is paying greater attention to the development of a low-carbon economy, it is important to develop low-carbon utilization of carbon-intensive energy and boost the low-carbon industries at a faster pace, institute low-carbon industrial, construction and transportation systems, vigorously promote clean energy vehicles and rail transport, and create new economic growth points featuring low carbon emissions. It is important to transform the mode of economic development to one of high efficiency, low energy consumption and low emissions so as to provide a new and inexhaustible source that drives China's sustainable economic and social development.

Efforts to address climate change should be included in China's national plan for economic and social development as a long-term task for achieving sustainable development, and specific goals, tasks and requirements should be clearly identified. A package of economic, scientific, technological, legal and administrative tools should be adopted to enhance the capacity to tackle climate change. Governments at all levels should make corresponding budgetary arrangements to scale up support in this regard. The industry policies, fiscal and taxation policies, financial policies and investment policies should be further improved and an ecological compensation mechanism set up and strengthened in order to put in place a range of policy targets and institutions conducive to tackling climate change.

Fourth, the legal framework for addressing climate change must be strengthened.

Efforts to strengthen climate change-related legislation should be incorporated into the legislative agenda for establishing and improving the socialist legal framework with Chinese features. The relevant laws for tackling climate change and protecting the environment should be revised and improved in due time and supportive regulations should be adopted in a timely fashion, and additional laws and regulations based on actual conditions should be introduced to provide stronger legal guarantee for addressing climate change. *Energy Conservation Law, Law on Renewable Sources of Energy, Circular Economy Promotion Law, Law on Promoting Clean Production, Forest Law, Grassland Law* and other relevant laws and regulations should be strictly enforced in light of the general requirements of actively tackling climate change to enhance efforts in this regard in accordance with law. Efforts to tackle climate change must be made a major priority of NPC supervision, and supervision and inspection of the implementation of relevant laws must be strengthened to ensure effective enforcement of laws and regulations related to climate change.

Fifth, the awareness and capability of the general public in coping with climate change must be increased.

More efforts should be made to promote and popularize the scientific knowledge and laws and regulations on preserving resources and the environment and addressing climate change, and to showcase the measures China has taken to cope with climate change and the effects they have

produced. It is necessary to better educate the public, the youth in particular, about the importance of coping with climate change in order to raise the scientific knowledge of the general public on the issue of climate change and boost awareness in businesses and the general public of the importance of resource conservation. It is imperative to pursue frugality and conservation, to promote a green, low-carbon, healthy and civilized way of life and way of spending, and to encourage all social communities to participate in the campaign on tackling climate change. This will serve to foster a sound social atmosphere for actively addressing climate change and a sound development strategy nationwide to promote production, improve people's lives and better protect the environment.

Sixth, China will continue to actively participate in international cooperation on tackling climate change.

Climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. It requires a joint response from the international community. The basic framework laid down by the *UNFCCC* and its *Kyoto Protocol*, the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", and the principle of pursuing sustainable development should be adhered to in the endeavor to tackle climate change. Developed countries should face up to their historical responsibility and their current high per capita emissions, take the lead to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and honor their commitment of making technology transfer and providing financial support to developing countries. Developing countries should take active actions under the framework of sustainable development to tackle climate change. It is important to actively carry out international cooperation at various levels and in various forms, including cooperation between governments and parliaments, and strengthen multilateral exchanges and consultation to increase mutual trust and expand common ground. China will firmly uphold the development right it enjoys as a developing country and resolutely oppose all forms of trade protectionism practiced under the excuse of climate change. China will continue to play a constructive part in international conferences and negotiations on climate change. It will continue to promote the comprehensive, effective and sustained implementation of the *UNFCCC* and its *Protocol* and make further contribution to the global endeavor to protect the climate.