

**Discussion remarks on “How to improve the conversation
between science and policy: scope and methodology of a
global sustainable development report” at High-level
Political Forum**

10:00am-11:15am, 1 July 2014

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It is my honor to attend today’s meeting. Global sustainable development report is of great significance for scientific response to the challenges facing global sustainable development. In the last December, we worked with the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development to successfully hold the “Expert Group Meeting for the Global Sustainable Development Report - Engaging National Assessments” in Beijing. More than 80 representatives of relevant international organizations, member states and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting, at which the scope and methodology of a GSDR as well as the experience in evaluating sustainable development at the national level were fully discussed. Following I would like to share with you my points of

view on preparing a GSDR based on the outcome of the meeting and my understandings.

Firstly, focus on three pillars to evaluate progress of global SDGs implementation. Sustainable development involves economic, social and environmental dimensions. GSDR shall reflect the balance and coordination among them and highlight the core status of development. The setting of key fields shall be consistent with the SDGs to be reached by the international community, making the GSDR an important carrier to evaluate the progress in SDGs implementation at the global level.

Secondly, develop a comprehensive evaluation index system for sustainable development, which shall be “limited in number, easy for quantification and universally applicable”. Over the past two decades, the international community has carried out a lot of work on the evaluation of sustainable development, proposed a variety of evaluation index systems. But generally speaking, still no any evaluation index system on sustainable development is widely recognized by the international community. Therefore, I would like to suggest that a set of comprehensive index system shall be identified from the perspective of economic, social and

environmental balance and coordination based on GDP, human development index, ecological footprint and other evaluation methods.

Thirdly, pay attention to integration and interaction among different elements of sustainable development. Close relationship exists between population growing, energy issues, water resources and food security, land degradation and even poverty. When analyzing and evaluating the above issues, we shall attach great importance to the internal relations and interaction among different elements, evaluate from an integral and comprehensive perspective.

Fourthly, set up an intergovernmental committee of experts on GSDR. To promote the combination of science and decision-making, it is suggested that, with the leadership of the UN Economic and Social Council and the full participation and support of all member states, an intergovernmental committee of experts, including experts from a variety of fields especially the scientists from developing countries, shall be established. Meanwhile, an effective working mechanism, including establishment of national Focal Points, shall be developed.

Fifthly, encourage all countries to prepare national sustainable development reports according to their national conditions. The GSDR shall focus on global issues. Considering that countries around the world are at different stages of development and face different sustainable development priorities, it is suggested that each country prepares a national sustainable development report according to its own national conditions. Such report at the national level shall be based on the progress of the nation's SDGs implementation, and focus on the priority issues at a national or regional level.

Sixthly, GSDR should be authorized by the high-level political forum. Sustainable development reports at a global or national level are suggested to be prepared every four years, consistent with the time cycle of the high-level political forum. The GSDR shall be considered as an important basis for leaders of all countries to review the progress of the global SDGs implementation and discuss strategic countermeasures against new problems and challenges, while national sustainable development reports shall be considered as an important basis for leaders of all countries to share the progress, experience and lessons in their national SDGs implementation at the high-level political forum.

Thank you.