

Joint Declaration of the Fourth Global Think Tank Summit

Beijing, 2015

The Fourth Global Think Tank Summit hosted by the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) was held in Beijing, China on 26-27 June 2015. Attended by representatives of think tanks, experts, scholars and former senior government officials from around the world, it was a grand gathering for the world's think tanks to meet and share their thoughts and ideas on the Summit's purpose of "Sharing Human Wisdom, Seeking Global Development".

Under the theme of "Global Sustainable Development: New Path After 2015", participants in the Summit had an extensive and in-depth exchange of views on eight major topics, analyzed the global economic situation in recent years and its future trends of development, and put forward suggestions for a post-2015 global development agenda. Discussions at the meeting were focused on the grave challenges of climate change and the pathway towards a green, low-carbon economy. Further, common problems that need to be addressed in global governance were identified and credible ways to strengthen global governance suggested. Participants agreed that this Summit has deepened understanding, broadened consensus and yielded positive results.

Participants were of the view that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the UN at the turn of the century have played a positive role in promoting sustainable global development and that important progress has been made in meeting its key goals including alleviating poverty, popularizing elementary education, promoting gender equality and access to clean drinking water and lowering child mortality. However, to redress the imbalances of global development and meet the basic needs of the world's poor remains a daunting task, and development, which is the defining feature of the times, is still the basis for meeting many global challenges. The world needs to pay more attention to enabling nations to address the plight of the poorest population and make poverty reduction through development a priority of the post-2015 agenda. To cut poverty more effectively, efforts need to be made to strengthen infrastructure building in destitute areas, upgrade technology, enhance education and skill training, develop small- and micro-finance services geared towards poorer communities, fully leverage local resources and comparative advantages and mobilize people of all walks of life to reduce poverty in multiple ways. It is also important to ensure

gender equality and protect the rights and interests of women and children in the process of pursuing economic and social development.

Participants expressed concern about the growing impact of global economic development on climate and the environment and stressed the need to strike a balance between the two to achieve sustainable development. Efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, protect the environment and pursue economic transformation need to be underpinned by continued development and poverty alleviation. New growth models need to be explored that develop circular and low-carbon economies for green growth and that seek to improve the quality and efficiency of development by integrating the processes of industrialization and IT application and developing “Internet Plus”. All this will strongly support efforts to counter climate change and strengthen environmental protection. It is incumbent on all countries to discharge their due responsibility, enhance their capacity for energy conservation and emissions reduction by adjusting and optimizing domestic industries and energy mix and increasing technology cooperation and transfer between nations, so as to effectively protect the environment and climate which are crucial to human survival while promoting development for the benefit of people of all countries.

Participants noted the complex changes and profound adjustments taking place in the world today, discussed the impact of the global financial crisis on global economy, reflected on the measures to counter global problems and crises and analyzed their efficacy. All this will help defuse and fend off financial crises, and promote global economic development. At the same time, participants held the view that global governance is still plagued by the problems of low efficiency, poor coordination and unreasonable rules and more reform measures are needed to improve the global governance institutions and mechanisms and bring into greater play the important role the UN, IMF and other institutions and global governance platforms like the G20 in managing crises and addressing global challenges and hotspot issues. A more effective coordination and cooperation mechanism needs to be established to foster synergy among international organizations, governments of all countries, business communities and social forces. It is also important to build a more equitable and balanced partnership based on win-win cooperation that respects the varying national conditions, stages of development and growth models of different countries.

Participants realized that the role of think tanks in dealing with

global issues has still to be strengthened. As economic globalization and IT application continue to gain momentum, the world is facing more serious common challenges than before. Against a backdrop of cultural diversity, inclusiveness and mutual learning, think tanks of all countries can and should play a more positive role in promoting sustainable growth of the world economy, preserving a peaceful environment for regional and global development, guiding public opinion, and recruiting the best of human wisdom towards these efforts. With governments enhancing policy communication and coordination among themselves, think tanks need to increase collaboration and exchanges accordingly. Participants expressed the hope that think tanks of all countries will keep abreast of the times, enhance capacity building, increase interaction with the governments, the public and the media, and strengthen inter-think tank exchanges and cooperation in diverse ways to draw on each other's merits and break new ground for common development.

Participants were convinced that the Global Think Tank Summit will serve as a platform for think tanks around the world to strengthen communication, deepen mutual understanding, and share research results to influence policy, and will make newer and greater contributions to peace, development, cooperation and win-win progress of human society.