



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

350 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016
<http://www.china-un.org>

**Statement by Mr. Zheng Wantong, Vice Chairman of the National
Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
at the 19th Session of the UN Commission
on Sustainable Development**

Mr. Chairman,
Dear delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I wish to extend our thanks to the bureau and the secretariat for their organizational work. China supports the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the G77 and China.

Since the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, international cooperation in the field of sustainable development has intensified, and countries have made gratifying progress in the coordinated development of their economies on the one hand and population, resources and the environment on the other. Nevertheless, the trend toward global environmental degradation is yet to be reversed, and the socioeconomic development of developing countries is still faced with difficulties in terms of funding and capacities. The financial crisis, natural disasters and regional turmoil have made it even harder for developing countries to achieve sustainable development. Next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development will review the progress and gaps in sustainable development over the past 20 years, and delve in strategies and measures in response to the new circumstances and challenges. China will play a constructive role in this process and work with other parties to push for positive results.

Mr. Chairman,

The Commission on Sustainable Development is the only UN agency responsible for comprehensively reviewing economic, social and environmental issues. The current periodic theme is closely linked with the future development of mankind. Member States have carried out, in a proactive and pragmatic spirit, extensive and in-depth consultations on future steps and measures, and deepened their consensus. With regard to the international efforts to implement tasks laid out by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning sustainable production and consumption, mining, transport, waste management and chemicals, we would like to emphasize the following points:

First, each party should perform its respective duty to promote common development. Countries differ in their national conditions and levels of development. They should shoulder their own responsibilities, adopt strategies and measures suited to their national conditions, and promote

achievement of sustainable development targets in the above areas. The international community should take full account of the national conditions of developing countries, respect their right to promote sustainable development, and give them necessary policy space. Developed countries should shift their unsustainable modes of production and consumption, and avoid massive consumption of resources and energy. They should also fulfill their commitments in terms of development assistance, debt reduction and transfer of technology, and help developing countries improve their capacity for sustainable development.

Second, parties should redouble their efforts to promote technological cooperation. Management of chemicals and disposal of waste, among others, are highly professional undertakings involving advanced technologies. Countries need to increase policy incentives and institutional regulation, strengthen coordination and cooperation in technical support and other areas, and explore long-term strategies and management mechanisms for prevention of the environmental risks of chemicals and waste, preserve ecological security and public health.

Third, parties should deepen cooperation and strengthen partnerships. The efforts to develop sustainable transportation, promote energy conservation and emission reduction in transportation industry, develop green mining, and better manage mineral resources involve the interests and responsibilities of many parties. It is therefore necessary to further intensify international cooperation, and maximize the participation of central and local governments, the business community, scientific research institutions and NGOs. Stakeholders need to build on their common interests and responsibilities, give play to their initiative, and form synergy to contribute to sustainable development in a mutually reinforcing manner. They should work together to ensure that all countries and regions, and people from all sectors and all walks of life can share the fruits of socioeconomic sustainable development and modern civilization.

Mr. Chairman,

In recent years, the Chinese government has all along followed the path of green development where man and nature coexist in harmony, pushed for balanced development of the world economy, and advocated inclusive and mutually beneficial development. The 12th Five-year Plan on China's national economic and social development formulated in March this year gives top priority to improvement in the mode of energy production and utilization, conservation and management of mineral resources, and development of a comprehensive transportation system. China will continue to concentrate on scientific development, accelerate transformation of its mode of economic growth, adjust its economic structure, bolster scientific innovation, strive for energy conservation and emission reduction, maintain and improve people's livelihood, promote sustainable development, and make positive contribution to the international endeavors for sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.