

**Statement by Mr.LI Baodong,Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, China,
during the Voluntary National Reviews of the Implementation of 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development**

July 20, 2016,New York

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the pleasure to present, on behalf of the Chinese government, its Voluntary National Reviews of the Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I primarily have two goals in my statement today: the first is to give you an account of the progress of work and the next phase of plans in China's implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development; the other is to have an exchange of views with all present at the meeting and listen to your valuable opinions and suggestions.

China is the largest developing country in the world. It has consistently placed development as its top priority, and translated sustainable development into a fundamental national policy. After the launch of intergovernmental negotiations on sustainable development goals by the United Nations in 2013, China participated fully in the negotiations, proactively put forward proposals and suggestions made in light of China's practice of reform and opening to the outside world as well as its experience in implementing MDGs, and coordinated positions with other members, thus making a significant and highly regarded contribution to the successful formulation by the international community of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

President XI Jinping of China attended the United Nations Development Summit in September of 2015 where he, together with other world leaders adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda dovetails with China's push for building a comprehensive well-off society and its realization of a Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. It resonates with the Chinese concept of advancing sustainable development for all where every person stands to benefit from development. It is also consistent with China's role as a responsible major state and its pursuit for common development of all countries. The implementation of the sustainable development goals is our international commitment and responsibility as well as an effective

way to advance China's opening and reform in building a socialist society with Chinese characteristics.

I would like to take the opportunity of Voluntary National Reviews to brief the representatives present today and the international community on the measures taken by the Chinese government, as well as the progress achieved, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

First, attach importance to top-level design. In October 2015, the Fifth Plenary Session of the Eighteenth CPC National Congress issued a communique, stressing "proactive participation in Agenda 2030 for sustainable development." In March 2016, the Chinese government published "the Outline of the Thirteenth Five Year Plan" with a commitment to the "active implementation of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development." The Communique and the Outline, two programmatic documents, with the marching order of "proactive participation" and "active implementation," have set the tone and charted the course for the implementation of Agenda 2030 in China. China has come up with the five-point concept of development, namely, innovation, coordination, eco-friendliness, openness, and shared benefits, which is compatible with the general requirement of the Agenda 2030 for integrated economic, social, environmental development while keeping in mind the big picture of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships, all intended to unswervingly take forward sustainable development.

Second, enhance strategic docking. In line with its national conditions, China will focus on the implementation of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development in conjunction with its reform and development program, dovetailing with the implementation of its medium and long-term national development strategies such as the "Thirteenth Five-Year Plan", thereby turning SDGs into specific missions in the economic, social and environmental fields. In the economic field, for example, the Chinese government has formulated the "National Strategic Outline for Innovation-Driven Development", "National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (2015--2030)." In the social field, it has published the "Decision on Winning the Toughest Battle of Poverty Eradication", the "Outline of 'Healthy China 2030' Program." In the environmental field, it has prepared the "China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Plan of Action (2015-2030)", "National Climate Change Response Plan (2014- 2020)". In the next five years, China will conduct annual assessment of the implementation progress of the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan and its program of work in all sectors, synchronizing with the assessment of the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Third, improve institutional support. The implementation of the sustainable development agenda is a systematic project, which needs to tap the resources from all walks of life and mobilize the whole society from top to bottom. China has established a coordination mechanism composed of dozens of government agencies including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

responsible for formulating the implementation plan, reviewing implementation progress, strengthening policy coordination and communication. We have also de-constructed the implementation of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets into more specific tasks, assigned them to specific departments, and get each department to set up an internal mechanism and develop detailed implementation plan. Following the model of central planning with local implementation, we specified the primary responsibilities of governments at all levels to mobilize their enthusiasm to the maximal extent so that a powerful synergy can be formed for the whole society to jointly push forward sustainable development.

Fourth, to secure "early harvest." The next five years will be critical for the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. The Chinese government has, in line with its national conditions, identified a set of development goals that need to be achieved in next five years: by 2020, help more than 55 million domestic rural poor out of poverty; GDP and per capita income of urban and rural residents more than double that of 2010; more than 50 million new urban jobs; upgrade 20 million housing units for urban shantytowns; reduce energy consumption per unit of GDP by 15%; reduce CO2 emissions per unit of GDP by 18%. These objectives are closely related to sustainable development goals. The Chinese government's efforts to secure an "early harvest" is not about image engineering, but a real drive to benefit the people; it is not for the sake of short-term success, but to accumulate experience through "early harvest" in exploring effective ways to achieve the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

Fifth, deepen international exchanges. China has always followed an open and inclusive approach, actively strengthen exchanges and mutual learning with all parties in a joint effort to take forward the global implementation process. In April this year, China published its "Position Paper on the Implementation of the Development Agenda," expounding China's position, proposal and initiatives on the implementation of the Agenda. In May, China and the United Nations System Entities in China co-organized an international seminar on the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in Tibet, putting forward suggestions and advice on taking forward the implementation in the areas such as strategic docking, early harvest, and innovation. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a VTC message to the seminar and his special adviser Mr. Nabarro made a special trip to Tibet to attend the seminar. In July, China and the UN System Entities in China again co-organized a sub-forum on sustainable development in the margins of the annual session of the International Forum on Ecological Civilization held in Guiyang, to contribute Chinese wisdom to the international cooperation for development. China will also publish its "Country Program of the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development" within this year to share its experience with other countries.

Sixth, promote South-South cooperation. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda will not be successful without efficient, pragmatic and mutually beneficial global development partnerships built on an equal footing. In September last year, while

attending the summits commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, President Xi Jinping announced a series of important measures, which has generated enormous global interest and greeted by overwhelming enthusiasm. The implementation of these measures is on full steam ahead. The China-UN Peace and Development Fund has been established, and will launch its first projects by the end of this year. The Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, inaugurated last April, has commenced enrollment and will provide other developing countries with doctoral- and master's-degree programmes as well as short-term training opportunities. Efforts are underway to implement the "Six 100" projects, which are designed to support developing countries in the fields of poverty reduction, agriculture, Aid for Trade, biological conservation, health, environment and education. The Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation, tasked with assisting developing countries in their efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Agenda, is also expected to start operation soon.

It is worth highlighting that as the current President of the G20, China has placed development at the core of G20's agenda, a ground-breaking move in the Group's history. Working under the theme of "towards an inclusive and interconnected world economy", the G20 will take up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda as one of its priorities this year. Driven by China's initiative, this year's G20 process will for the first time incorporate development into the global macro policy framework, formulate an action plan on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and take up the new topic of supporting the industrialization of African countries and the LDCs. At China's invitation, an unprecedented number of developing countries will participate in G20's activities throughout the year, so that the voice of developing countries can be fully heard and their aspirations fully expressed.

At present, the preparation for the summit is in its final stage. Proposed and prepared by China, the draft G20 Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been finalized and received broad support among G20 members, demonstrating the will of the Group to serve as a role model in this regard. We hope that the collective and individual actions taken by the world's major economies will give a strong boost to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and constitute an important driving force.

Distinguished delegates,

Going forward, guided by a development concept featuring innovation, coordination, eco-friendliness, openness and shared benefits, China will promote economic, political, cultural, social and ecological development in a comprehensive manner and speed up its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China will make determined efforts to harness innovation for development, adopt an innovation-drive strategy, and give priority to the quality and efficiency of development. We will strive for greater coordination across all regions and between urban and rural areas, and pay equal attention to material and cultural

development, so as to realize a balanced development structure. We will remain committed to green development, promote the transition to an eco-friendlier and low-carbon model of production and consumption, actively tackle climate change and achieve real improvement of ecological environment. We will adhere to the opening-up policy, continuously improve our state of openness, and work with our partners to promote strategic mutual trust, economic and trade ties and people-to-people exchange, with the view to achieving win-win cooperation. We will ensure the broadest sharing of development benefits, attach importance to equal opportunities, guarantee minimum living standards, and work tirelessly to promote the welfare of our people.

At the same time, China will continue to promote the “Belt and Road Initiative” (the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road), continuously deepen South-South cooperation, and provide assistance within our capacity to other developing countries for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. We support the central role of the United Nations in the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda. We stand ready to work with other countries and relevant international organizations to enhance global governance, further deepen international development cooperation, contribute even more to the global cause of development, and promote the creation of a mutually beneficial partnership and a community of common destiny for mankind.

Thank you all.