

# IMPLEMENTING SDGs: China's Progress and Approaches



---

Taidong ZHOU

Head, Global Development Division

*CIKD* – Center for International Knowledge on Development, China



# I. Highlights of China's *Domestic* Progress on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15

---

- SDG 6: access to safe drinking water provided to almost all rural population; innocent treatment of rate of urban garbage reaching 95%; urban sewage treatment rate 92.4%; water quality and efficiency further improved.
- SDG 7: formulation of Energy Production and Consumption Revolution Strategy (2016-2030), highly aligned with energy-related SDGs; capability increased in securing energy supply and access to electricity provided to the entire population; energy structure and efficiency steadily improved;
- SDG 11: greatly improving government-subsidized housing projects and conditions. By end 2016, 11.26 million families had moved into public rental houses and 2.69 million families enjoyed rental subsidies.
- SDG 12: a “dual control” system adopted to control the aggregate consumption volume and intensity of energy and water consumption; further reduction on food waste and production losses; improvement in the management of chemicals and waste, and in green development public awareness and procurement.
- SDG 15: establishment of wetland protection system, restoration of degraded farmland into forests and grassland; prohibition of commercial logging of natural forests.



# I. Highlights of China's *Domestic* Progress on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15

---

Internationally:

- Providing SSC in use and management of water resources, soil and water conservation, low-carbon demonstration, desalination, desertification and environmental monitoring;
- Under BRI, cooperation on oil, gas, electricity and renewable energy has made substantial progress. E.g., there are 11 energy projects under the framework of CPEC;
- 35 agreements on forestry cooperation with countries along BRI; forestry cooperation mechanisms established with ASEAN, and Central and Eastern European Countries; a series of pilot and demonstration ecosystem protection projects launched in Langang River, Central Asia, SEA, South Asia and Pacific Island.



## II. China's Overall Approaches (1)

---

### 1. Synergy of strategies

- Integrating the 2030 Agenda into China's mid- and long-term development strategies and creating synergy and complementarity between international agenda and domestic strategies
  - SDGs and China's 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan
  - SDGs and other sector long-term plans
  - SDGs and BRI





## Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs

### China has taken a series of pragmatic innovation initiatives:

<b>Align 2030 Agenda with National STI Plan</b>	Align 2030 Agenda with <b>national STI plan</b> within the framework of the 13th Five Year Plan, formulate a <b>National Plan of STI for Social Development</b> . China has launched a series of STI R&D projects.
<b>National Program of Action of ST for Poverty Reduction</b>	Increase <b>ST service to poor areas</b> and scale up regional poverty reduction endeavors, with an intention to provide ST support to the effort of lifting <b>everyone out of poverty by 2020</b> and creating a new model of innovation-driven development for poor areas.
<b>Innovation Demonstration Zones</b>	Establish <b>Innovation Demonstration Zones</b> for implementing the 2030 Agenda on the basis of the <b>existing National Experimental Zones</b> for sustainable development.
<b>Bank of Green Technologies</b>	<b>Build a platform</b> for the integration of science and technology with financial capital and speed up the industry-scale application of ST results; <b>gather innovations</b> in the area of green technology from all over the world to help <b>build Shanghai into a global STI center</b> .





# BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE 「一帶一路」倡議





## II. China's Overall Approaches (2)

---

### 2. Institutional Guarantee

- Identifying priority areas (poverty reduction, industrialization, economic growth...) and establishing inter-agency coordination mechanism
- Facilitating 2030 Sustainable Development Pilot Zones

### 3. Social Mobilization

- Awareness raising and public participation

### 4. Resource Input

- Proceeding with fiscal, taxation and financial reforms and utilizing PPPs





## II. China's Overall Approaches (3)

---

### 5. Risk Management

- Targeted efforts in addressing daunting development tasks at home

### 6. International Cooperation

- Common but differential responsibilities, while deepening South-South Cooperation and prudently promoting triangular cooperation

### 7. Oversight and Review

- Regularly conducting reviews (e.g. National Plan, Progress Report); actively participating in follow-up reviews





## III. Assessing Global Implementation of SDGs (1)

---

- The goals and challenges listed in the SDGs, including building resilient infrastructure, dealing with climate change, water scarcity, communicable diseases, volatility in international food prices, unstable energy and financial markets and the depletion of common-pool resources such as fisheries, are international in nature, requiring international collective action.
- Globally--UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF): follow-up implementation and assessment; 65 countries have submitted voluntary national reviews;
- Regionally—EU (A Proposal for a New European Consensus on Development), African Union (Africa Agenda 2063), and ASEAN (ASEAN 2025);
- Non-regional multilateral platform: G20, BRICS;
- National level: exemplary countries include Germany, Japan, Korea; China and India; Ethiopia, Sri Lanka.



## III. Assessing Global Implementation of SDGs (2)

---

### ➤ Typical approaches:

- adjustment of development concepts
- synergy of development strategies and internalization of SDGs
- implementation framework for policy coherence

### ➤ Common Challenges:

- capacity limitations, including data and use of information technology
- financial shortages
- weak policy environment, including leadership, coordination and management challenges as well as untapped potential of civil society
- slow progress in global economic governance



## III. Assessing Global Implementation for SDGs (3)

---

- Traditional donors' planning and resource allocation processes revolve primarily around the needs of individual partner countries to achieve aid effectiveness.
- The same is true for the major multilateral development financing institutions, the World Bank and the regional development banks.
- Emerging donors, for different reasons, give more priority to the expressed needs of individual partner countries, often characterizing their aid as demand-driven and as a vehicle for developing bilateral economic relationships.
- Thus, the challenges: bilateral bias of aid; a deficit of overarching strategy and organization in the multilateral domain; global issues are dealt with in a piecemeal fashion by an ad hoc network of multilateral trust funds, programs and partnerships; hard to discern any logic in the allocation of resources to this network by bilateral donors.



## IV. Possible Policy Implications

---

- Policy coordination and coherence at different level is the key: global (UN), regional (EA, ASEAN, Africa) and national level;
- Strengthening the capacity of national statistic institutions for better monitoring progress of SDGs;
- Participation of a wider range of stakeholders, including government, IOs, private sector, CSOs, academic and general public;
- SDG-sensitive Development Cooperation (adjustment of allocation decisions such as channel, country, sector, and instrument-mix).

