

Speech by Mr. Ke Yousheng, Permanent
Representative of China to the UNESCAP, at the
Sixth of Committee on Environment and
Development
(December 9 to 10, 2020)

Madam / Mr. Chair,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Chinese delegation congratulates Madam/Mr. Chair on being elected as the chair of this committee and looks forward to fruitful results of the meeting.

2020 is about to pass. This year is a hard year for all mankind. The COVID-19 epidemic has spread globally and the world economy has fallen into recession. This year is also a year for the world to re-understand international cooperation. Facing global challenges such as the epidemic and pollution, the international community once again recognizes that mankind is a community with a shared future. Only by working closely together we can overcome difficulties. Environment and development are two major challenges the world facing today. It is the common mission of all mankind to curb global warming and save the Earth. Every country and individual should act as duty-bound.

Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. China insists on advancing the construction of ecological civilization and is building the most

strict ecological system. During the 13th Five-Year Plan that is scheduled to be completed, China's ecological construction has achieved remarkable results, and the eco-environment has been significantly improved. I would like to list some figures here to illustrate it. In 2019, China's carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP were reduced by 13.2% compared to 2015 and 48.1% lower than in 2005. National clean energy consumption accounts for 23.4%. China's renewable energy investment has exceeded 100 billion US dollars for five consecutive years, and the number of new energy vehicles accounted for more than half of the world. At the end of 2019, the national PM2.5 concentration continued to decline, and the number of days with clean air quality in 337 cities accounted for 82%. More than 95% of villages have carried out cleaning activities, and the penetration rate of sanitary toilets in rural areas has reached more than 65%. In the past 10 years, China's forest resources have increased by more than 70 million hectares, ranking No.1 in the world. These figures have been achieved through hard and continued efforts by the Chinese government and Chinese people.

The 5th Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China deliberated and approved the recommendations on formulating the 14th five-year plan and the 2035 long-term goal. According to this plan, China will promote clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient use of energy, and accelerate the development of new energy, green and environmental friendly industries. China President Mr. Xi Jinping solemnly announced China's new carbon dioxide emission peak target and carbon neutral

vision at the general debate of the United Nations General Assembly this year. President Xi once again clarified this goal at G20 Riyadh Summit, and announced to the world that "China will honor its commitment and see the implementation through."

Madam / Mr. Chair,

The Asia-Pacific is the engine of global economic growth. Green development will play a key role in promoting the recovery of the region and will make the Asia-Pacific a "model student" of global recovery. China suggests that Asia-Pacific countries can make further efforts in the following aspects.

The first one is to strengthen the response to climate change. We should uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, and promote the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement to address climate change under the guidance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We should uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries should practically consider the difficulties faced by developing countries, undertake emission reduction responsibilities and funding obligations, and provide adequate financial and technical support.

The second is to promote the green development. We should achieve a high-quality and resilient recovery and fully utilize the potential of new industries such as the digital economy and clean energy. China will continue to promote the high-quality, green "Belt and Road" initiative under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and strengthen

green development cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries.

The third is to fully promote sustainable development. Development is the master key to solve all problems. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an important guide for the development of all countries. Environment and development are important foundations of the sustainable development agenda. We must seek development opportunities during the protection of the environment and nature, and achieve a win-win result with both ecological protection and sustainable development.

Madam /Mr. Chair,

This year, facing the unexpected outbreak of epidemic, the Chinese people have achieved great strategic results in the fight against the epidemic through arduous efforts. In the meantime, China worked with other countries, by dispatching 34 medical expert teams to 32 countries and providing 283 batches of anti-epidemic assistance to 150 countries and 4 international organizations. China has strengthened its macro policy response. In the first three quarters, the economy grew by 0.7% year-on-year, and it is a foregone conclusion to achieve positive growth in the whole year 2020. China is actively building a new development pattern in which domestic and foreign markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, which will make greater contributions to better post-epidemic reconstruction and green recovery in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the APEC Leaders' Informal Meeting, President Xi Jinping proposed to build an Asia-Pacific

community with a shared future featuring openness and inclusiveness, innovation-driven growth, greater connectivity, and mutually beneficial cooperation. China is willing to work together with Asia-Pacific countries to actively respond to climate change, take the path of green and low-carbon development, further promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, create a better Asia-Pacific future, and jointly benefit the people in this region!

Thank you.