FOREWORD

For the purpose of preparing for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 20-22, 2012, the Chinese government established a Preparatory Committee in April 2011. This Committee consists of 29 organizations including five core ones—the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. In July 2011, the Preparatory Committee set up a team to compile “the People’s Republic of China National Report on Sustainable Development” (hereinafter referred to as “the National Report”), symbolizing the full launch of the preparation of the National Report.

Given that the Chinese government compiled similar reports on two earlier occasions—the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1997 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, this National Report focuses on the efforts and progress China has made since 2001 in implementing the strategy of sustainable development, analyzing existing gaps and challenges, putting forward future strategic initiatives, and clarifying China’s positions on the issues in the forthcoming 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

In terms of its content, “the National Report” consists of eight chapters. The first chapter provides an overview of the progress, challenges and strategic plans in the implementation of sustainable development strategies. The second to the fifth
chapters elaborate on the efforts and progress China has made in promoting integration of three pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social development and environmental protection, covering economic restructuring, transformation of the mode of development, human development, social progress, sustainable use of resources, as well as ecological and environmental protection and related actions for addressing climate change. Chapters six and seven introduce the progress made by China in capacity building for sustainable development, international cooperation, and compliance with international conventions on the environment and development. The eighth chapter offers the Chinese government’s basic positions on the objectives and themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as well as its basic views on a number of key issues.

During the preparation of “the National Report”, hundreds of people from 40 organizations and research institutions participated, with several rounds of comments and recommendations solicited from government departments, NGOs and the general public. This National Report on a broad public basis fully reflects China’s progress in sustainable development over the past decade. This Report has been approved by the Government of the People's Republic of China. It is hoped that this report will provide useful support and contribute to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
INDEX OF BOXES

Box 1-1 Basic connotations of the Scientific Outlook on Development ……2
Box 2-1 Seven strategic emerging industries and their development direction ……15
Box 2-2 Pilot programs on circular economy ……16
Box 2-3 Major progresses in the Development of Western Regions ……18
Box 2-4 Four development priority zones ……19
Box 2-5 The “Love of the Earth • Mother Cellar” project ……20
Box 2-6 The “Rain and Dew” program ……21
Box 2-7 Cases of thrift in the retail sector ……23
Box 3-1 Key cultural projects that benefit the people ……28
Box 3-2 A policy of small guaranteed loans for women’s employment and entrepreneurship ……30
Box 3-3 An assistance action for tens of millions of migrant workers ……31
Box 3-4 Construction of China’s social security system ……31
Box 3-5 Sino-Singaporean Tianjin Eco-City ……36
Box 4-1 Ten key energy-saving projects ……38
Box 4-2 Shanghai Waigaoqiao No. 3 Power Generation Co., Ltd.: a case of improving energy efficiency ……39
Box 4-3 A demonstration plant for direct coal liquefaction established in Shenhua mine ……40
Box 4-4 Donghai Bridge Wind Farm ……42
Box 4-5 A case of green mine: comprehensive improvement of the mine environment in Kunyang Phosphate Plant ……43
Box 4-6 Rural land improvement ……45
Box 4-7 Comprehensive management of small watersheds in Dingxi, Gansu Province ……46
Box 4-8 Construction of a water-saving society in Zhangye City, Gansu Province ……48
Box 4-9 Integrated water regulation and sediment control in the Yellow River ……50
Box 5-1 China’s remarkable progress in air pollution prevention and control ……54
Box 5-2 Comprehensive control of water environment at the Taihu Lake Basin ……56
Box 5-3 Progress in developing the two experimental areas for the comprehensive reform to build an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly society ……56
Box 5-4 Progress in National Key Ecological Projects over the Past Decade ……58
Box 5-5 Wetland conservation projects for Sanjiang Plain, Heilongjiang Province ……59
Box 5-6 China’s strategy and action plan for biodiversity conservation (2011-2030) ……60
Box 5-7 New-energy automobiles serving the Beijing Olympic Games ……62
Box 5-8 China’s targets of controlling greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 ……63
Box 5-9 China’s major measures on adaptation to climate change ……64
Box 6-1 Major scientific and technological achievements in the field of sustainable development ……67
Box 6-2 Rapid development of national hi-tech industrial development zones ……67
Box 6-3 Key contents of China’s National Innovation System ……67
Box 6-4 Handling the Tangjiashan barrier lake scientifically ……70
Box 6-5 Shougang’s green transformation ……72
Box 6-6 Wind-Solar hybrid power generation in Dafeng, Jiangsu Province ……73
Box 6-7 Marked improvement in supervision and law enforcement capacities ……75
Box 6-8 Universal participation in the course of sustainable development ……77
Box 7-1 The China Cooperation Center in Tanzania under the International Poverty Reduction Center in China ……79
Box 7-2 Achievements in the promotion of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity ……85
INDEX OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1  China’s grain production over the past decade……12
Figure 2-2  Strategic agricultural layout of “7 areas and 23 strips”……12
Figure 2-3  Number of products with effective green food logos from 1990 to 2010……13
Figure 3-1  Natural population growth in recent decade in China……25
Figure 3-2  Net primary school enrollment rate by regions……27
Figure 3-3  Medical services provided to residents in a Community Health Center……27
Figure 3-4  Comparison of urban air quality in China ……34
Figure 3-5  Comparison of urban environmental noise pollution in China……34
Figure 3-6  The project of providing water to households in Shaanxi Province delighting an old farmer……35
Figure 4-1  China’s energy consumption structure……38
Figure 4-2  Construction area at using solar thermal energy……40
Figure 4-3  Area of using geothermal energy……40
Figure 4-4  Theme pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo……40
Figure 4-5  Graph of PV module nodes of Shenzhen North Railway Station……40
Figure 4-6  Installed wind power capacity in China……41
Figure 4-7  New construction land consumed per unit of newly added fixed asset investment……45
Figure 4-8  National water use efficiency(in comparable prices of 2000)……49
Figure 4-9  Examples of water conservancy projects……49
Figure 5-1  China’s strategic ecological safety structure featuring “two shelters and three belts”……58
Figure 5-2  Elk Protection Zone at Dafeng, Jiangsu Province……60
Figure 6-1  Total R&D investment across China……66
Figure 6-2  Emergency water supply during severe drought periods in the Southwestern Regions……69
Figure 6-3  Large trucks clearing streets in Zhouqu County, Gansu Province……69
Figure 6-4  Hailin, Heilongjiang Province, appointed by UN-HABITAT as a key experimental city for the Sustainable Cities Program……74
Figure 7-1  Comprehensive agricultural development and poverty reduction seminar held in Nanning, China, in 2010……83
Figure 7-2  Field trips by attendees at the 2010 comprehensive agricultural development and poverty reduction seminar……83