

Statements by the Chinese Delegation at CSD 19 under Relevant Items

I. On Transportation

Transportation occupies an important position in the process of sustainable development of countries.

Decades of rapid development of transportation has brought about the improvement of people's lives, but at the same time, also created huge challenges in the areas of environment and energy. It is imperative for the international community to seek sustainable means of transportation. In our view, efforts for sustainable transportation must put great emphasis on energy conservation and environmental protection. The latter two should be pursued together with infrastructure building in an accelerated effort to build low carbon transportation systems. In this respect, the international community should strengthen information exchange and sharing of experience and technology, and actively support cooperation and initiatives aimed at developing clean energy for transportation and increasing energy efficiency. The developed countries, international organizations and various funds should increase input in the infrastructure building of the developing countries, support the latter's efforts to develop cost effective, environment friendly and safe public transportation and augment transfer of technologies for increasing energy efficiency in transportation.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to realizing sustainable transportation and has taken a series of measures to promote energy conservation, environmental protection and safety in the field of transportation. Those measures include: firstly, develop green transportation; strengthen R&D and dissemination of transportation technologies that are efficient and environment and climate friendly; promote the development

and utilization of new energies and clean vehicles; and encourage the development of transportation equipment that is technologically advanced, cost effective, safe, energy efficient and environment friendly. Secondly, work hard to improve the technological sophistication of our transportation facilities and increase the use of information technology; and promote the integrated development of infrastructure. Thirdly, speed up efforts to set up trade indicators for energy conservation and emission reduction for transportation and establish systems of relevant laws, regulations and standards; implement accountability for the achievement of the goals in energy conservation and emission reduction; improve integrated coordinating mechanisms for environmental protection in transportation; and implement model projects for energy conservation and emission reduction. Fourthly, reinforce guidance of the public and advocate the option of public transportation that is energy efficient and environment friendly; and list the development of urban public transportation as the strategic priority in urban and transportation development of our country.

China is a developing country and is in the midst of rapid urbanization. In promoting sustainable transportation, we have accumulated rich experience but are still faced with many challenges that need to be tackled. China is willing to strengthen exchange and cooperation with others on the development of sustainable transportation.

II. On Chemicals.

Sound management of chemicals is closely linked with environmental protection, ecological safety and public health and the international community has become increasingly aware of the environmental risks caused by poor management of chemicals. In chemical management, most

developing countries are constrained by a lack of capacity and financial resources, which has seriously hampered their efforts for effective environmental management of chemicals. Therefore, we call on the international community to take into full consideration the variation in the level of development of different countries, and, in accordance with the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries to help them with capacity building in safe management of chemicals. Countries should work on the basis of their respective level of development and national conditions, incorporate management of chemicals into their environmental protection policies and establish science based and complete risk management systems for chemicals.

The Chinese government pays great attention to the management of chemicals and has taken steps in multiple aspects to control the environmental risks posed by chemicals, safeguard human health, and protect the ecological environment. At the national level, we have set up a complete system of policies and legal rules governing chemicals, tightened up review and approval procedures and reinforced environment related monitoring and management of chemicals. We shall formulate a program on the prevention and control of the environmental risks of chemicals within the framework of our 12th Five Year Plan, further strengthen environmental management of chemicals and take a proactive approach to the prevention and control of the environmental risks of chemicals. We shall also strengthen capacity building and engage in the prevention and treatment of persistent organic pollutants. At the international level, we have taken an active part in the relevant international processes on chemical management, energetically implemented the Stockholm Convention and complied with the

convention requirement of information reporting. At the same time, we have strengthened exchanges and cooperation with many countries in aspects such as testing methods for chemicals and setting up laboratories.

Chemical management is a highly technical and professional undertaking. We are willing to draw on advanced experience and ideas of other countries in exploring long term strategies and management mechanisms suitable to China's conditions for the prevention and control of the environmental risks of chemicals, with a view to enhancing the overall level of our national environmental protection work and safeguarding ecological security and public health.

III. On Waste Management.

Management of solid waste is closely linked with environmental protection and realization of sustainable development. Due to financial, technological and capacity constraints, the developing countries face many challenges in the management of solid wastes such as high volume of solid wastes, low level of utilization and disposal of hazardous wastes, and pervasive irregular storage and illegal transfer. My delegation is of the view that in order to strengthen solid waste management, countries must establish sound legislative and policy systems, step up efforts to build capacity for pollution prevention and treatment and construct disposal facilities, include the prevention and treatment of solid waste pollution into plans for economic and social development and ensure effective implementation. At the same time, the international community should take all effective measures to further promote the openness and sharing of information on solid waste management and intensify effort to combat the illegal transfer of hazardous waste to the developing countries. We also call on the developed countries to

increase technological and financial assistance to the developing countries to build up their capacity in waste disposal.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to solid waste management. We shall strengthen management mainly in six aspects: One, further build up legal rules, standards and systems for solid waste management in order to form long term management mechanisms. Two, implement accountability at the level of local government; establish review and evaluation systems for hazardous waste management in various regions of our country; and supervise the fulfillment by local governments of their responsibilities in solid waste management. Three, develop cycle economy. We'll improve and implement preferential policies aimed at encouraging waste re-utilization and disposal; develop waste re-utilization and disposal industry; expand the market for products of integrated utilization of wastes; and intensify prevention and treatment of waste pollution. Four, strengthen law enforcement in the area of environment. We'll focus on hazardous waste, comprehensively implement laws and regulations on hazardous waste management, and improve hazardous waste related risk prevention throughout the process and further build up monitoring mechanisms. Five, strengthen capacity building in solid waste management, increase solid waste management related institution building and human resources development in the department of environmental protection, especially at the grassroots level, and enhance the capacity in law enforcement, monitoring and regulation. Six, promulgate integrated policy measures to regulate and treat pollution from solid waste, and enhance evaluation and monitoring.

China is willing to work together with others in sharing experience and beneficial practices in solid waste management so as to continuously improve waste management and promote sustainable development.

IV. On Mining.

With the global economy recovering, mining industry is looking up. International supply and demand for minerals are growing, trade in mineral resources is becoming more active and investment in mining is increasing steadily. At the same time, the international financial crisis and climate change have created a new context for mining and the exploitation and utilization of mineral resources are facing increasing challenges in environmental and social fields. The Chinese delegation believes that in order to adapt to the new situation and realize sustainable development, the mining industry must change its mode of development to engage in green mining, rely on science and technology and contribute to harmony.

--green mining means maximizing economic, social and ecological benefits of resource exploitation at the minimum resource consumption and environmental cost. It is essential to build mining modes, ways of utilization and chain of industry that are favorable to resource conservation and environmental protection so as to build a mining industry that is resource efficient and environment friendly. The key to green mining is to strengthen integrated utilization of mineral resources, achieve resource conservation and recycle, promote clean mining and intensify ecological protection and rehabilitation.

--mining that relies on science and technology means the need to step up efforts for progress and innovation of mining technologies, enhance levels of technology at all stages and in all fields of mining development, give full play to the fundamental role of science and technology in the life cycle of mining sites, build a technology intensive mining industry and promote development via innovation.

--mining that contributes to harmony means that the result of mining development should benefit all stakeholders, provide local communities and vulnerable groups with greater opportunities for development and the capacity for sustainable development. Towards this end, countries should establish sound social responsibility mechanisms and formulate guiding principles for mining enterprises to shoulder their social responsibilities. At the same time, it is also necessary to construct social security networks for the mining industry and lift the economic and social status of vulnerable groups in mining development.

China is a major developer and user of mineral resources. In the development and management of mineral resources, the Chinese government has been guided by the strategy for sustainable development and has taken the following measures:

One, promote green mining. We have incorporated the development and promotion of green mining into the National Mineral Resource Planning 2008-2015 which has set the overall planning goal of establishing by 2020 a basic pattern of green mines and formulated national standards for green mines.

Two, vigorously promote conservation and integrated utilization of mineral resources and establish an evaluation system for mining enterprises that contains benchmarks for mining recovery rate, recovery rates and integrated utilization rate.

Three, actively build mechanisms for resource efficient sustainable urban development; focus on mechanisms for resource development compensation, assistance to industries in decline and pricing of resource products; energetically push for the optimization and upgrading of industrial structure and the transformation of the mode of economic development; and

promote the comprehensive, balanced and sustainable economic and social development of resource efficient cities.

V. On Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

Production and consumption are important links in sustainable development. Realizing sustainable production and consumption is an important question that needs to be addressed on an urgent basis in countries' implementation of their sustainable development strategies. In this connection, the Chinese delegation wishes to stress the following points:

One, production and consumption relate to a country's economic and social policy and a change in their patterns will have an impact on employment, finance, and even politics. In considering international actions to promote sustainable production and consumption, full account should be taken of the specific conditions and economic and social resilience of the developing countries in order to avoid negative consequences. We are not in favor of any practice that exceeds the level of the development and the capacity of the developing countries, increase their burden or negatively affect their economic development and trade.

Two, the developing countries have low levels of economic development and limited consuming capacity. Their consumption is still that for daily essentials only. Economic development, poverty eradication and improvement of livelihood remain the priorities for the developing countries. However, in the process of developing their economies, the developing countries should avoid repeating the unsustainable production and consumption patterns of the developed countries, incorporate sustainable production and consumption in their overall plans and strategies for national

economic and social development, and take effective implementation steps on the basis of their national conditions.

Three, international cooperation should be strengthened to promote sustainable production and consumption. The difference in development between developing and developed countries has ruled out the possibility of their taking the same path towards sustainable production and consumption. The developing countries must keep exploring their own production and consumption patterns based on their national conditions. This is a long term and complex undertaking. The international community should help the developing countries acquire sound and appropriate tools for policy analysis so as to improve their capacity to formulate and implement policies.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to sustainable production and consumption and has taken an active part in activities in this respect under the Marrakesh Process. It has set environmental protection as a basic national policy and sustainable development as a national strategy with a view to expediting the building of a resource efficient and environment friendly society, pushing for the transformation of our mode of economic growth, increasing resource and energy efficiency and lessening the burden of environmental pollution, thus promoting the idea of sustainable production and consumption both in theory and in practice.