

# Position Paper

Committee: United nations development programme (UNDP)

Topic: Climate Change Adaptation

Country: People's republic of China

June 1992- world delegates were full of optimism as they took their seats for the 1992 earth summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil-the United Nations conference on environment and development (UNCED) also known as the earth summit was the largest gathering of world leaders with 117 heads of state and representatives of 178 nations. As 1992 was not a year to rejoice over the environment the UN decided to have a conference, rested on the premise that sustainability was too large an issue for individuals to tackle alone. The outcome was agenda 21 and UNFCCC (united nation framework convention on climate change). As the earth summit was one of the crucial conferences held by the UN regarding climate change, it was not the first. Held in Stockholm Sweden in June 1972 the unscientific conference known as the first earth summit was the first world conference to make climate change a major issue.

even today, the greenhouse gas concentration continues to rise to record highs, fossil fuel emissions rates are now above pre-pandemic levels and these past 7 years were the warmest on record mainly because human beings take natural resources for granted.

The people's republic of China understands the dire need, in today's age, for climate change adaptation. As a nation with a huge population, China is increasingly recognizing its vulnerability to climate change, we face threats from sea level rise, severe weather events, and melting glaciers also China is the world's leading emitter of heat-trapping gases by far. China leads the world in power, wind power, and electric vehicle deployment. The Chinese government has adopted some of the world's most ambitious energy efficiency and forest convention policies and China's leaders are strongly committed to the Paris agreement and

many other initiatives is proof of our commitment to continue fighting climate change.

China was among the nearly 200 countries to adopt the Paris climate change agreement (Paris agreement) at a historic UN conference in Paris, France on 12 December 2015. China's participation in the Paris agreement is crucial as an emerging economy and as one of the world's major emitters of greenhouse gases. China has made an important contribution and shows its determination to be fully involved in global efforts to protect the climate. It has set targets to reach peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, if possible, earlier than 2030. China also aims to accelerate the transformation of energy production and consumption, improve energy efficiency and increase its forest carbon sinks to help in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

However, over the past few decades, the economic expansion of China, the largest developing country has been one of the strongest in world history, such an economic expansion is largely driven by fossil fuels, leading to a dramatic increase in emissions of greenhouse gases. China is also a large emitter of methane and black carbon the other 2 major contributors to global warming. The effect of these practices led to noticeable changes in climate over the past 100 years. The rising temperature and severe air pollution impact the health of the people of China, and climate change may lead to severe weather conditions including floods, landslides, etc. It can also affect climate-sensitive infectious diseases. ex - dengue fever, malaria

However, our government has become aware of the danger that exists with climate change and has taken several actions to reduce its impact. One of the initial actions was in the 1990s when China participated in global negotiations to establish a UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC). In negotiations, China gave high priority to "common but different responsibilities" - the principle that all countries are responsible for taking action to prevent climate change but that responsibilities vary based on a country's level of development.

In 1992, Premier Li Peng attended the Rio Earth Summit and signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In his remarks at Rio, Premier Li highlighted several principles, including-economic

development must be coordinated with environmental protection, protecting the environment is the common task of all mankind, but developed countries have greater responsibility.

In 1997, China joined more than 100 other nations in adopting the Kyoto Protocol. China was not a member but an associate. India, China other developing countries were exempt from the requirements of the Kyoto protocol because they were not the main contributors to the greenhouse gas emissions during the industrialization period that is believed to be causing today's climate change. It has since become a member.

As a government, China has announced goals to limit climate change in the country itself. These goals are pursued through a policy infrastructure that includes Five-Year Plans, regulations, guidance documents, and financial support. Goals are:

- To achieve the peaking of carbon dioxide emissions around 2030, making best efforts to peak early;
- To increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy to around 20 percent by 2030; and

These goals were set out in the Nationally determined contributors (NDCs) China submitted to the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) in June 2015. China is on track to meet all these goals. Many assumptions have been made that say that China will achieve the 1<sup>st</sup> goal – to peak CO<sub>2</sub> emissions- well before 2030

However, the government of China has declared that they will phase down coal use from 2026 and will not build new coal-fired projects abroad, but some people are continuing to build these projects and are consuming coal at a high rate and as far from shutting down coal-fired power stations, conspirators are building new ones at more than 60 locations across the country.

The government of China would believe that it is in the committee's interest to resurrect the long-shelved debate on climate change adaptation and reopen it for active discussion and subsequent recommendation about how to adapt the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and increase of greenhouse gases to the UN to adopt it uniformly across the UN and its member states.

In conclusion, the delegate of China believes that China would not be able to combat climate change alone and aims to work together with other nations in finding realistic solutions to protect the earth for us and our future children from this life-threatening climate change by allowing a certain amount of coal-fired power stations in a country, producing electricity by sustainable measures, using electric vehicles, banning the use of substance producing CFCs and promoting the use of CFC free electronics.

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