Summary Report for the Symposium on **GSDR2023 and China's SDG Progress and Practices**

The Symposium on ***Global Sustainable Development Report*** for 2023 (GSDR2023) and China's SDG Progress and Practices (the Symposium) is unveiled online From 2nd to 3rd December, 2021, which is hosted by Research Institute for Eco-civilization, CASS (RIEco)，supported by United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and undertaken by Research Center for Sustainable Development, CASS and CASS Think Tank for Eco-civilization Research,.

Professor Pan Jiahua, Member of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and also member of the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) for the UN's ***Global Sustainable Development Report*** for 2023, is present at the symposium and presides the opening ceremony. Liao Fan, the Deputy Director of Bureau of International Cooperation (BIC),Chinese Academy of Social Sciences(CASS), Imme Scholz, Co-chair of IGS for the UN's ***Global Sustainable Development Report*** for 2023 and Acting Director of the German Development Institute (DIE)，and Zhuang Guiyang, the Deputy Director of RIEco attend the opening ceremony and make speeches. Beate Trankmann, China Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presents the video speech.

Liao Fan (Deputy Director of BIC) says the global sustainable development faces severe challenge due to the global spread of Covid-19, which requires international cooperation to propel the sustainable development. Liao Fan wishes to intensify work communication and academic exchange between the CASS and the presented experts and

academicians, the CASS and the academic institutes, work together and make new and greater endeavor to achieve the sustainable development goals and to promote the common well-being of all humans. Imme Scholz (Co-chair of IGS) provides brief introductions on the UN's sustainable development report in her speech and highlights the significance of intensified international cooperation and jointed promotion in the sustainable development under the epidemic of Covid-19. Zhuang Guiyang (Deputy Director of RIEco) says the RIEco is willing to be dedicated to the study on the UN's sustainable development and the relevant areas over long term. It is ready for providing a communication platform for all peers from all sectors and around the world so as to boost the exchange of views and shares of experience in respect of the sustainable development. It is also attempted to offer new thinking and resolutions for elimination of global challenge. Beate Trankmann (China Representative of UNDP) recognizes the progress in the sustainable development of Chinese cities in her video speaking and shows the appreciation for the contribution of CASS in relevant studies. She expects to witness increasing cooperation in the sustainable development with CASS in future.

About 40 experts and scholars from China, USA, UK, Germany, Philippine, Malawi etc. carrie out intensive discussions and exchanges relating to the global progress towards the SDGs, China's actions and practices on achieving SDGs as well as new trends, new challenges and new opportunities in the progress towards SDGs. Through online platform during the one - and - a-half-day meeting.

I. Progress towards the SDGs

Experts of the sustainable development areas from the UNDESA and the CASS make keynote speeches to introduce the progress of global sustainable development report and Call for inputs, as well as the China's progress towards sustainable development goals on both nation and city-level.

Ms. Astra Bonini, the Senior Sustainable Development Officer with the UNDESA depicts the progress towards the UN's global sustainable development goals and background of GSDR in her video speech. Ms.

Bonini says, science-based methods are indispensable for addressing global challenges，including eradicating poverty，hunger，tackling climate change，reversing biodiversity loss, reducing inequality and so on. The UNDESA is committed to strengthening the role of science for accelerating progress across the sustainable development goals. The GSDR 2023 is envisioned as an assessment，a resource that pulls together the knowledge for transformation toward sustainable development. The report can offer evidence-based actions，that fits different contexts，illustrating the power of collaborations across science communities. The report depends on engagement with a wide range of experts，diverse perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds，consultations and different regional support, dialogues across sectors and ensure that the report speaks to sustainability challenges in many different contexts.

Ms. Lana Basneen Zaman, Sustainable Development Officer of the UNDESA introduces to the preliminary results of the Call for Inputs from different stakeholders globally in the video speech. According to Zama, totally 134 submissions are received to date as the result of the Call for Inputs, including 51 cases from the East Asia-Pacific region and 40 from Europe and Central Asia. In terms of submissions by country, a total of 40 countries with the largest number come from China. In terms of gender，there was a quite good gender parity in the submissions with only slightly more men submitting than women. There is a good balance in terms of the types of institutions while the largest numbers of submissions came from and she is，academic institutions and the private sector. In terms of themes, climate change，governance，digitalization and local action are most commonly discussed ones.

Dr Zhang Ying, the associate professor of RIEco, introduces China's progress towards the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Since the UN releases the ***Transforming the World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***, China also published ***China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*** in 2016, which actively implements all goals, arranges principles, routes and long-term goals in respect of China's fulfillment of SDGs, and integrates the fulfillment of SDGs with critical national strategic plans and policies

from all aspects such as Belt and Road Initiative(BRI), South-South Cooperation (SSC), etc. subject to principles of Peaceful Development, Win-win Cooperation, Inclusiveness and Openness, Sovereignty and Voluntary Action as well as Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. China regularly assesses the progress towards the agenda for sustainable development and released the progress reports in order to guarantee the fulfillment of the sustainable development goals. Among all goals, China has made positive achievements in the areas of poverty eradication, ecological conservation, addressing climate change, fight against the epidemic of Covid-19, enhancement of economic resilience and guarantee of food security and so on. Fulfillment and improvement of the aforesaid goals lay a solid foundation for China's control of outbreak of Covid-19 and economic revival, enabling China to continuously move forward in the sustainable development in future. However, China still needs new approaches to assess the actual progress of the SDGs in a better way since China's prevailing statistical system and the system of SDGs and indicators are not completely integrated. Thus, China in particular establishes the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals to supervise and assess the progress towards sustainable development goals depending on the global big data. The data gap still exists in supervising the fulfillment of part of the goals. China is expected to strengthen its efforts in institutional reform of statistical work, innovating the statistical production approach and expanding the data sources by improving the statistical supervision and data reporting mechanism for the SDGs-related goals and indicators. China will explore to establish the localized goals and indexes for sustainable development and strengthen the international communication and cooperation on a trial basis. China will also support approaches such as reinforcing the statistical capability construction so as to supervise and assess the progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in a better way.

Professor Wang Mou, the Director for the division of Sustainable Development Economics of the RIEco, CASS introduces the executive summary of Shenzhen SDGs Report, detailed analyzing the sustainable development progress of Chinese cities. In September 2015, the UN

published ***Transforming the World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***. It is a programmatic document to guide global sustainable development for the next 15 years, opening a new chapter in global sustainable development governance. Research institutions around the world set out assessment for implementation progress of sustainable development goals of different subjects since 2017 following the publishing of the ***2030 Agenda***. The RIEco and the UNDP make jointed efforts in constructing a system for Chinese Cities Sustainable Development Indexes (CCSAI) which can sufficiently match the UN's assessment system and assess the sustainable development course of Chinese cities. Considering the index construction, the research team picks up 89 indexes from the 232 indexes offered by the UN so as to match the UN indexes. 26 optional indexes are additionally incorporated subject to the actuality of China's urban development. Taking Shenzhen City as the example, Professor Wang Mou performs case analysis in respect of city sustainable development and assessment. The result indicates that Shenzhen City is in favorable course of the sustainable development and accomplishes more than 80% of the 2030 goals based on most of the indexes. Growth potentials however still exist in areas such as education, medical treatment, etc.

II. China's actions and practices on achieving SDGs

In the session of "China's actions and practices on achieving SDGs", 17 representatives from well-known domestic universities and foreign enterprises shared successful cases and experience of sustainable development in China.

Sun Xinzhang, professor from the Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21, introduced the current situation of the construction of China's Innovation Demonstration Zone for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Professor Sun said, the construction of China's Innovation Dmonstration Zone is a typical example to promote the localization of SDG process, which can effectively promote the realization of regional sustainable development goals, especially for SDG1, SDG8,

SDG9, SDG11, and SDG12. In the process of promoting the construction of demonstration zones, we need to identify bottlenecks in local development and give priority to solving them. In addition, a multi-stakeholder mechanism involving government, enterprises and financial institutions should be established to enable all sectors of society to promote the realization of SDGs.

Dr. Shen Qiu, an Associate Research Fellow at the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), introduced the implementation methods and results of targeted poverty alleviation in China, and summarized the successful experience that can be extended and copied. Shen Qiu pointed out that targeted poverty alleviation is not only an important practice in China's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also a major decision made by the Chinese government in light of the new forms of poverty. Through targeted poverty alleviation, SDG1 no poverty has been achieved, and it also make synergies with other SDG goals, including SDG2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15. China's targeted poverty alleviation has provided a good example and rich experience for the world in poverty alleviation.

Qie Yi, from the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF), introduced a series of social experiments and social advocacy work of children's development in poor areas of China. She emphasized that strengthening early childhood education was the key to achieve at least seven SDG goals, including no poverty, no hunger, health education, sex, water and sanitation, and inequality. The experience of this project shows that solving the problem of children's education in poor areas requires scientific evaluation, adjusting measures to local conditions, and joint efforts from all sectors of society.

Professor Cui Li, from Beijing International Studies University, introduced in detail the background and achievements of the construction of ecological Bank in Nanping City of Fujian province from the perspective of sustainable development. Professor Cui pointed out that the ecobanking platform integrates different stakeholders in the ecological governance system and promotes the realization of SDGs such as poverty eradication, decent jobs and economic growth.

Su Ning, from Elion foundation, introduced the case of poverty alleviation and sustainable development of sand control ecological industry in Kubuqi, the seventh largest desert in China. The sand control work of Elion Group has significantly improved the ecological environment of the Kubuqi Desert, improved the local biodiversity conditions, promoted economic development, and lifted 102,000 people out of poverty in the desert area. Desertification control in Kubuqi not only helps to realize SDG15 and protect terrestrial organisms, but also promotes the realization of SDG3, SDG8 and SDG9.

Wang Zifu, Senior CSR Manager of LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd, shared the construction case of Tongchuan Solar photovoltaic industrial base. Wang Zifu introduced that the construction and operation of Tongchuan Solar photovoltaic base, while providing clean energy, played a significant role in poverty alleviation, through employment creation and land transfer and other ways to improve local employment and people's income, effectively promote the realization of SDG1, no poverty, SDG7, affordable and clean energy, SDG8, decent work and economic growth, and SDG9, industry innovation and infrastructure.

Chen Min, from the China Three Gorges Corporation, shared with the participants the practice of biodiversity conservation in the process of large hydropower development by the Three Gorges Group. Up to now, the Three Gorges Corporation has supported the establishment of eight aquatic conservation areas and four aquatic biology research bases in the Yangtze River, releasing more than 5 million Chinese sturgeons. Three Gorges Corporation always regards sustainable development as the group strategy and promotes the coordinated development of SDG7, affordable and clean energy, and SDG14, life below water.

Guo Lianghui, the deputy director of the Construction Management Center of China International Water & Electric Corp (CWE), introduced the Kaleta Hydropower Station in Guinea, including its background, the construction, the capital sources and so on. Guo Lianghui said that the kaleta hydropower project has guaranteed clean energy in Guinea, and has contributed to the rapid growth of the local economy, creating a large number of jobs for the local people and improving the national strength.

The construction and operation of Kaleta Hydropower Station has effectively promoted the sustainable development of the local area and the realization of SDG1,no poverty, SDG7, affordable and clean energy, SDG8, decent work and economic growth, SDG9, industry innovation and infrastructure, SDG10, reduced inequalities, SDG13, climate action, SDG17, partnerships for the goals.

Zhou Yan, the Project Office Director of the UNDP SDG Innovation Lab in Suzhou, introduced the cases of industrial upgrading in Suzhou High-tech Zone during the epidemic period. In 2020, the GDP of Suzhou High-tech Zone continued to grow, supporting the mass work and economic demand of the whole region. At the same time, Suzhou High-tech Zone also pays great attention to green and low-carbon development, and the energy consumption indicators in the zone have improved. The construction of Suzhou High-tech Zone not only effectively promotes economic development, but also plays a synergistic role in the realization of decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and infrastructure, climate action, and other SDGs.

Zeng Yuan, assistant research fellow of School of Economics and Management, Harbin Institute of Technology (Shenzhen), introduced the case of sustainable transportation construction in Shenzhen. Zeng pointed out that Shenzhen has been leading the world in the promotion of new energy vehicles, taking the lead in realizing 100 percent pure electrification of the city's buses in 2017 and all its taxis in 2019. By September 2020, the number of new energy vehicles in Shenzhen is about 443,000. The promotion and use of new energy vehicles has reduced greenhouse gas emissions, increased employment in related industries, and helped Shenzhen to achieve multiple goals such as climate change (SDG13) and sustainable cities and communities (SDG11).

Li Yu, from Yichang Ecological environment Bureau, introduced the background, development process and construction results of shore power construction in Yichang section of Yangtze River. Li said the project could reduce fuel consumption by 5,875 tons per year, reduce air pollutant emissions by 18,000 tons, and reduce noise pollution, as well as promoting the development of tertiary industries along the Yangtze River, bringing

economic, ecological and social benefits. Shore power construction can help the regions along the Yangtze River to achieve the sustainable development goals such as affordable and clean energy (SDG7), decent work and economic growth (SDG8), industry innovation and infrastructure (SDG9), sustainable cities and communities (SDG11), climate action (SDG13), life below water (SDG14).

Dr Li Yushan, from the Institute of Ecological Civilization in Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, introduced the sustainable management system for the Beijing Winter Olympics. Sustainable development is one of the three concepts for Beijing and Zhangjiakou to bid for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. By identifying social responsibility and participating stakeholders, Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) has formed a "three criteria in one" sustainable management system with Beijing & Zhangjiakou characteristics. The sustainable management system of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games promotes the realization of all SDGs except SDG14 through relevant measures, and provides useful reference for other large-scale sports events to carry out sustainability work.

Dr Zhang Hangyu, from Wuhan Branch of China Quality Certification Center, introduced Wuhan Wuqing Dike river beach comprehensive renovation project. The project has not only solved the problem of urban flooding, but also brought huge health and ecological benefits, contributing greatly to the realization of Wuhan sustainable city and community goals (SDG11).

Professor Sun Chuanwang from Xiamen University introduced the concrete methods and results of the construction of Chengdu Park City. The park city construction improves Chengdu’s ecological environment and contributes to the realization of citizen’s good health and well-being (SDG3). At the same time, other SDGs, such as SDG11 sustainable cities and communities, and SDG13, climate action, can also benefit from it. The construction of Chengdu Park City provides the world with a Chinese sample of sustainable urban development.

Wang Sijia, from the School of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of Southwest Petroleum University, introduced the typical cases of

photovoltaic pumping stations in arid valley to solve the problem of industrial development water use. Photovoltaic power generation can effectively use clean energy and solve the problem of agricultural irrigation, form characteristic agriculture and promote regional economic growth. It has contributed to the achievement of sustainable development goals such as poverty eradication (SDG1), economic growth and job creation (SDG8), and affordable clean energy (SDG7).

Liu Shengdan, from the School of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of Southwest Petroleum University, shared the effective practice of promoting the combination of ecological civilization construction and human health by developing forest health industry. Liu Shengdan introduced that the Yupingshan Forest health base has created more than 50,000 jobs and driven local economic growth, forming an important pillar industry in the local area. Forest health industry not only protects the forest ecological environment, protects terrestrial organisms (SDG15), but also achieves the synergy of good health and well-being (SDG3), decent work and economic growth (SDG8), and sustainable cities and communities (SDG11).

Wang Minsheng, vice president of China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited, and president of Karot Power Company, introduced the construction of The Karot Hydropower Station in Pakistan. Wang said the Karot hydropower project not only provides low-cost, green and sustainable electricity, but also provides a strong support for the local economy, providing decent jobs to help eradicate poverty. The Karot Hydropower Station plays an important role in realizing SDG1 poverty eradication, SDG4 quality education, SDG6 clean water and sanitation, SDG7 affordable clean energy, SDG8 decent work and economic growth, and SDG17 partnerships for the goals.

III. The Contributions of Policies and R&D on Achieving SDGs

In the Session with theme as the Contributions of Policies and R&D on Achieving SDGs, experts and scholars from China, UK, Philippine and other nations make speeches from the perspectives as Covid-19’s impact

onto the SDGs, elements affecting the global sustainable development course, establishment of market mechanism and bolstering of technical transformation to support the sustainable development, technical reform under carbon peak and neutrality and R&D support to the sustainable development.

Jaime C Montoya, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases), member of Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) for the UN's 2023 ***Global Sustainable Development Report*** says that favorable services are unavailable to part of the humans under the current health system. There is profound effects on inequality due to the increasing expansion of the epidemic. Social reality under the outbreak of epidemic disease reveals that weak groups such as the minority ethnic groups, low-income groups, etc. are susceptible to the epidemic. The example of the USA shows that chronic disease (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, etc.) presents higher morbidity rate among the black group and the homeless, which are deprived of equal opportunities for hygiene and medical care due to social, economic, cultural and political elements. Stresses and mental health should prolong isolation and restriction of movement and gender violence may be financially affect certain populations such as the young and the elderly.

Fang Li, the Chief Representative of WRI (USA) Beijing Representative Office, makes speech in respect of accelerating the transformation and application of technologies in the areas of sustainable development. WRI's mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. Recent studies show that application of relevant technologies remain absent from areas of carbon emission reduction and sustainable development. China's patent enforcement rate is only 6%, which is far below the USA's 50%. Fang Li states that the constant growth of technologies and realization of market values are put under the preconditions to transform technologies into productivity which will lead to sustainable profitability and returns to investors. However, relevant policy mechanism remains absent in China which cannot play the boosting effect. Fang Li says that construction of market mechanism requires unified standard, clear property right, and provision of well-

targeted financial support. Additionally, it is recommended to reduce the transaction costs and assure the market running by establishing supervision system, strictly performing information disclosure and reinforcing the supervision and law enforcement.

Professor Huang Jing, the Chief of the Administrative Center for China's 21 Agenda under the Ministry of Science and Technology, reviews the SDGs-related history course. Aiming to promote the implementation of ***China's 21 Agenda***, and pushing forward the national sustainable development, the Administrative Center for China's 21 Agenda undertakes relevant project studies and administrations for resources, environment, ecology, climate change and any other like areas under the Central Financial and Technology Plan (Special Project, Fund, etc.). Professor Huang Jing states that the course of the global sustainable development agenda is always beset with difficulties due to three major causes. First, greedy humanity. Greedy humanity is one of the major elements that keeps humans in trouble. Although the human needs shall be satisfied during human evolution, it is still necessary to perform self-revolution, raise the self-expectation and avoid unnecessary wastes so that the needs can be inhibited and will not turn into greediness. Second, complexity of the nature determines the permanent modesty and humility of humans. Humans still have the knowledge gap in complexity of nature change and uncertainty, requiring deeper study. Humans shall remain in awe rather than fight before the complexity of the great nature. Third, weakness in global governance. Stands of nations of the world cannot be unified as being driven by different benefits. Even if certain consensus or compromise is reached through hard efforts, ineffective coordination and lack of actions may still exist due to the absence of promotion mechanism by authorities.

Jiang Kejun, the professor of the Energy Institute under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) describes the future and economic transformation route under multiple goals by focusing on the technical reform. The Energy Institute is the national research institute engaged in the comprehensive study of domestic energy issues, of which

the main research directions center on the energy economic issues relating to economic and social development involving energy supply and consumption, renewable energy and alternative energy development. Jiang Kejun states that nations around the world need to achieve the Net-zero carbon emission from 2050 to 2060 by considering the realization of the warming limit of 1.5 degrees as set forth in the ***Paris Agreement***. China is expected to achieve the Net-zero carbon dioxide (CO_2) emission around 2050 in the energy activities so as to realize the carbon neutralization before 2060. Transportation sector has the biggest chance to realize the earlier carbon neutralization. It is estimated that the Electrical Vehicles (EVs) will take over the market by 2025. Aircraft and vessels are also prone to the increasing chance by being electrically substituted since the technology advances. Jiang Kejun believes that nuclear energy features the best security and low carbon, acting as one of the power supplies with the highest reliability apart from the conventional PV, wind power, hydropower, etc. China has already mastered the leading generation-3 nuclear power technology, of which the power generation capacity is far beyond other categories of new energy power generation technologies. It is foreseeable that the electricity price will continuously drop in future.

Li Xiaosong, the professor of the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI), makes the speech about the earth big data's support to the SDGs. Li Xiaosong states that missing of the supervision data constitutes one of the major challenges in the assessment of the sustainable development progress. Thus, China establishes the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG center) and launches the unprecedented scientific satellite for the sustainable development of SDG goals (SDGSAT-1) on November 5, 2021. And the SDG Center shares all the data globally. Being constructed with the support of the CASS, the SDG Center offers solid data support to the assessment of the sustainable development course in and out of China. By 2021, the SDG center has established the database covering various subjects (e.g. biology, ecology, etc.) and spanning the 40-year period. Based on the data, the SDG Center assesses the courses of nearly 20 SDGs from 2010 to 2020

by utilizing the independent system of earth big data. The result shows that China has 4 indexes generally approaching or achieving the 2030 SDGs.

Sophie Allain, the Senior Strategist of the Green Peace, introduces the subjects relating to the fossil fuel workers and just transition in the European fossil energy industry. Considering the fact that the renewable energy industry is estimated to provide 4.7 million jobs in Africa by 2050, the labors predict that the fossil energy industry may gradually shrink and express their intentions for employment transformation. The Green Peace intends to eliminate social inequality by concentrating on the just transition issues and taking the greenhouse gas emission reduction as the opportunity. Allain stresses that green jobs must be good jobs under just transition. It needs the capital input and provision of training, enabling the labors to find good jobs in the new industries.

IV. New Trends, New Challenge and New Opportunities in the Progress towards SDGs

In the session with the theme as New Progress, New Challenge and New Opportunities in the Progress towards SDGs, experts and scholars from home and abroad start from the national level and carry out deeper discussions on and in respect of achievements and challenges in the progress towards SDGS for different nations as well as the affect brought to the social sustainable development by the Covid-19.

Chao Qingchen, director-general of the National Climate Center (NCC), stresses that realization of the UN's SDGs and addressing the climate change are tied together. Thus, means of enforcement, capability construction and review mechanism for implementation of SDGs are suitable to address climate change to the same extent. Chao Qingchen says human activities are mainly responsible for the occurrence of extreme weather and challenges remains to achieve the warming limit of 1.5 degrees as set forth in the ***Paris Agreement*** based on the actuality**.** It is estimated that 500-billion-ton emission space is expected for future under the goal to achieve warming limit of 1.5 degrees, and 1,350-billion-ton emission space for the warming limit of 2 degrees. The future emission reduction is still challenged by emission deficit, financial deficit,

technology deficit and trust crisis. Chao Qingchen says the time from carbon peak to carbon neutralization of China is far lower than that of the developed nations, requiring for more efforts and harder work. China also consequently publishes strategic policies based on the needs for itself sustainable development, which can not only contribute to achieve carbon peak and neutralization, but also produce the synergies for the economic growth, environment improvement and job creation.

Shi Rong, national economist at UNDP China， introduces the studies on and in respect of the post-pandemic era of Chinese society which are co-hosted by the UNDP and the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE). The studies analyze the Socioeconomic impact onto household income and employment of Chinese vulnerable groups by Covid-19 via the survey held in Gansu, Sichuan, Hunan, Hubei, Henan, etc. The result shows that the Covid-19 doesn't significantly affect the household income in China. On the contrary, some of the households receiving subsistence allowances are paid more due to the increasing transfer payment. However, the Covid-19 negatively affects the vulnerable groups (e.g. children, women, etc.). Although China has achieved absolute poverty alleviation, the continuity of Covid-19 may trigger new social problems. It is necessary to redefine the vulnerable groups so as to force the government to identify the targeted groups and formulate suitable policies, Shi Rong says.

Jiang Xiheng, the Vice President of Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), shares the China's accomplishment of SDGs and the progress of accelerating the SDGs in the post-pandemic era by following the global development advocacy. The CIKD was announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping at United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, with the mission to share development knowledge, promote international development cooperation and sustainable development goals. Jiang Xiheng shares China's achievement on the progress towards SDGs from four aspects including poverty alleviation in all aspects, stable economic growth, sustained growth in resident income and public service as well as continuous improvement in ecological environment. Partners are on the downtrend for SDG10 (reduced

inequalities) and SDG17 (partnerships for the goals) even before the outbreak of Covid-19, which worsens the inequality and negatively affects the progress of the SDGs. Thus, Chinese President, Xi Jinping proposes the Global Development Initiative in September, 2021. Jiang Xiheng stresses that the proposal of Global Development Initiative advocacy highlights again China's concern for interconnection and multilateral trade. The unimpeded trade lays foundation for the strong economic recovery of the world. We must trust the power of openness and cooperation, which is the only access to the solution of global issues.

Alexander Fisher, the Director for Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change (SGCCC) at the GIZ, introduces to the new trends, new opportunities and new challenges in the progress towards SDGs from the perspectives from Germany' and explains the Germany's contribution to the achievement of SDG13 on the global, national and municipal level. Fisher says the Germany's guiding principle of GSDS requires economically efficient, socially balanced and environmentally sustainable development, its absolute outer boundaries set by the limits of our planet, combined with the objective of a life of dignity for all. The German Sustainable Development Strategy approved in March 2021, emphasises the need to intensify implementation in six essential transformation areas, including human well-being and capabilities and social justice., climate action and energy transition, circular economy, sustainable building and the transformation of transportation, sustainable agricultural and food systems pollutant-free environment. Generally, Germany still has a long way to go in the digitization construction irrespective of its achievements in fight against Covid-19, female rights protection, improvement in sustainability of urban and community, and soil protection. Regarding the climate change, Germany is the largest donor nation to the InsuResilience Global Partnership and also the initiator of the NDC Partnership. It denotes itself to the governance of global climate change in global dimension. Germany also formulates and publishes several strategies against the climate change at national level and initiates the coal phase-out act in 2020 to ensure that the German climate targets for 2030 and 2050 would be achieved. On the municipal level, more than 160 cities (as of December

2020) have thus committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations since 2015. Meanwhile, Fisher performs the case analysis for the sustainable development of two German cities, Mannheim and Stuttgart.

Professor Wang Tao of Chongqing University introduces the experimental, demonstration action and future prospect of sustainable development in China based on personal studies. As pointed out by Wang Tao, construction of the experimental area for national sustainable development begins from the eastern coastal region and extends to the Middle China and the West China. Each experimental area selects the representative SDG for integration and construction. The experiment reveals that the existing 189 experimental areas covers the remained SDGs except for SDG5 (gender equality) and SDG17 (partnerships for the goals). Promoting economic growth is of the greatest significance among all the sustainable development actions.

John Taulo, Head of Energy Resources Department, Malawi University of Science and Technology elaborates the energy challenges existing in the course of sustainable development in Malawi and offers a different view of Africa for the participants from the perspective of impoverished nation. Taulo stresses that the affordable and clean energy for SDG7 is the critical breakthrough point for achieving sustainable development in Malawi. Only 20% of African families can obtain the sustainable power supply. The majority still depends on the traditional biomass and the firewood as the sources of necessary energies required by daily life. Therefore, the availability of reliable energy service serves as the critical support to the development of Africa and the driving force behind the fulfillment of sustainable development in Africa. Since the energy poverty leads to the security issues of the portable water and further worsens the gender inequality, environment deterioration or any other concerns, the equal availability of energy becomes the significant element for Africa to improve the economic environment and fulfill the Great-leap-forward development. Furthermore, Malawi also takes the reinforcement of energy security as the significant policy in handling against current development challenges. By publishing several national policies, the rate of primary

energy usage rises from 18% from 2016's 2%. As pointed by Taulo, the lack of leadership and fund constitute the critical challenge against the fulfillment of SDGs in Malawi. Furthermore, more than 50% of populations in Malawi live below the extreme poverty line and more than 60% of the youth are unemployed in Malawi, leading to concerns for social stability which has evolved into one of the huge challenges against the achievement of sustainable development.

The sustainable development matters the future of all humans. It is expected to facilitate the deeper view exchange and academic communication in respect of the new trends, new challenges and new opportunities towards SDGs among researchers domestic and overseas by taking this symposium as the opportunity. It is also intended to share China's sustainable development cases and experiences, accelerate the progress of global sustainable development and intensify the relation among scientific studies, policies and strategies for global sustainable development. The symposium will offer more views and referenced cases for the compiling of 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report.