

Speech by Mr. Vice Minister Zhai Qing, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, at the Opening Ceremony of the Ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

Your Excellency Mr. Ola Elvestuen, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

It is my great pleasure to be invited to the Ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, which is yet another important conference on biodiversity since the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Egypt last year and the Nature Champions Summit held this April in Canada. Today we gather together here to discuss measures to halt loss of biodiversity, to make recommendations for the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2020, and more importantly to contribute wisdom and effort to global biodiversity conservation.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to biodiversity conservation, making it a significant and integral part of its Ecological Civilization. Over the years, the Chinese

government, together with other parties of CBD, has earnestly fulfilled its obligations to the Convention, and continuously strived to curb biodiversity loss and achieve the Aichi Target. Evidence and results prove that we have made significant achievements in areas such as natural reserves construction, but there still has much room for further improvement in reducing the drivers of biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, mitigating the risks of species extinction, raising awareness and transforming consumption behaviors, etc. Hence it is vital for us to take stock in experience and knowledge so as to provide reference for better formulation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We fully acknowledge the great significance of developing and adopting the “Framework” at COP15 in 2020. We all look forward to delivering a framework satisfactory to all parties and with reasonable structure, clear objectives and indicators, implementable approaches, so as to better lead the path towards achieving the 2030 SDG in biodiversity conservation.

At CBD’s COP14, the Secretariat of the Convention, the Government of Egypt and the Chinese Government jointly issued the “The Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People”, aiming at facilitating the realization of

the 2050 vision of "harmonious coexistence between man and nature". Hereby, I cordially call upon all stakeholders to actively participate in the Action Agenda, take extensive action and work together to make positive contribution to biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization, to develop and agree upon an ambitious and realistic Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that echoes and reinforces the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

China is an active participant and actor of the Convention. Over the years, China has vigorously promoted mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and continuously increased financial investment, both achieving remarkable results. At present, natural protected area accounts for 18% of domestic land area; 89% of the national key protected wildlife animal species and 86% of the national key protected wildlife plant species have been soundly protected; the severe circumstance of endangerment for endangered species such as giant panda and nipponia nippon has been obviously alleviated. China has defined and strictly abided by the ecological conservation red line, included the important areas with biodiversity conservation functions into the ecological conservation red line scheme, implemented strict management and control measures, attached

great importance on augmenting ecosystem protection and rehabilitation, and contributed 25% of the newly added green area in the world. China is willing to actively share our experience with the international community and contribute the Chinese solutions.

At the same time, as the host country of COP15, we have launched a range of preparations for holding a successful and history-marking conference. In February this year, the National Committee for Biodiversity Conservation of China, headed by our Vice Premier Mr. HAN Zheng, reviewed and adopted the COP15 Preparatory Work Program, and confirmed Kunming in Yunnan Province as the COP15 host city. At present, we have set up a multi-level organizational structure with the organizational committee, executive committee and executive committee office as the main forces and involved multi-sectoral participation in order to comprehensively implement the COP15 preparatory tasks in accordance with the Host Country Agreement. In the run-up to COP15, we will continue to contribute China's wisdom and effort, widely listen to the views and suggestions of all stakeholders and promote consensus. China will comprehensively fulfill its obligations as the host country, and is willing to exchange with all Parties on our

development concepts featuring innovation, coordination, green, openness and sharing. We will adhere to the principles of safeguarding natural well-being, promoting balance between protection and development, and working hand in hand with the international community to build a community with shared future featuring a harmony coexistence between men and nature.

Ladies, Gentlemen, Friends,

The global biodiversity blueprint of the future will be drawn up together by us, and the benefits of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity will be shared by us as well. I sincerely hope we will have a comprehensive and in-depth discussion on policies and practices to enhance biodiversity conservation, and contribute more wisdom and strength to the formulation of the global biodiversity agenda for the next decade.

COP 15 is coming towards us. Global biodiversity will be once again at a new starting point. China would like to join hands with all people who love nature and cherish life, and to work together in developing global ecological civilization, making positive contribution to global biodiversity protection, safeguarding a beautiful earth home and building a community

with shared future for mankind.

2020, COP15, Kunming welcomes you! Thank you!