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INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND
UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

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Topical Digest



CHINESE PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Issue 02 (No.1)



**Connecting People,
Understanding the World**

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The Digest might be of interest to those non-Chinese speakers who are interested in Chinese perspectives on global issues.

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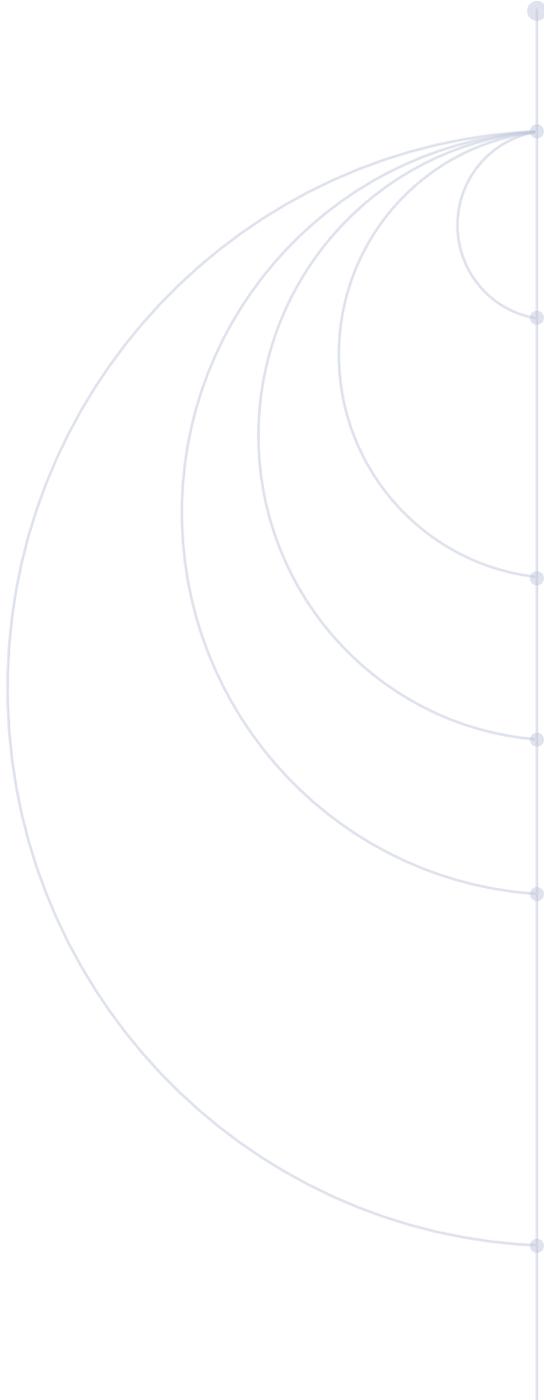


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CHINA'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

China's Special Envoy on Climate Change and the Deputy Director of the Committee on Population, Resources and Environment of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), **Minister Xie Zhenhua**



On Feb. 23, 2021, Minister Xie Zhenhua attended the UN Security Council High-Level Open Debate on Climate and Security.

Minister Xie Zhenhua said that global climate governance has entered a crucial phase of fully implementing the Paris Agreement. China hopes that the international community will enhance solidarity and steer in the right direction of joint response to climate change. He calls on all parties to firmly implement international consensus, promote "green recovery" and sustainable development, uphold multilateralism, and continue to take the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a main pathway to advance climate change cooperation.

Xie Zhenhua introduced the new climate change initiatives announced by President Xi Jinping last year and China's contributions. He pointed out that it takes developed countries about 50 to 60 years to cut carbon emissions from peak to neutrality, while China has decided to make extraordinary efforts to achieve this goal in 30 years, which reflects its vigor and ambition in coping with climate change. China upholds green development, advances towards its objective of nationally determined contributions, and actively carries out win-win cooperation to help Belt and Road partner countries and other developing countries implement climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

Available at:

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zzjg_663340/gjs_665170/gjsxw_665172/202102/t20210226_10407869.html



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CHINA'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Head of the Chinese Delegation to COP26, Vice Minister and Member of the Leading Party Members Group of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of the People's Republic of China, **Mr. Zhao Yingmin**



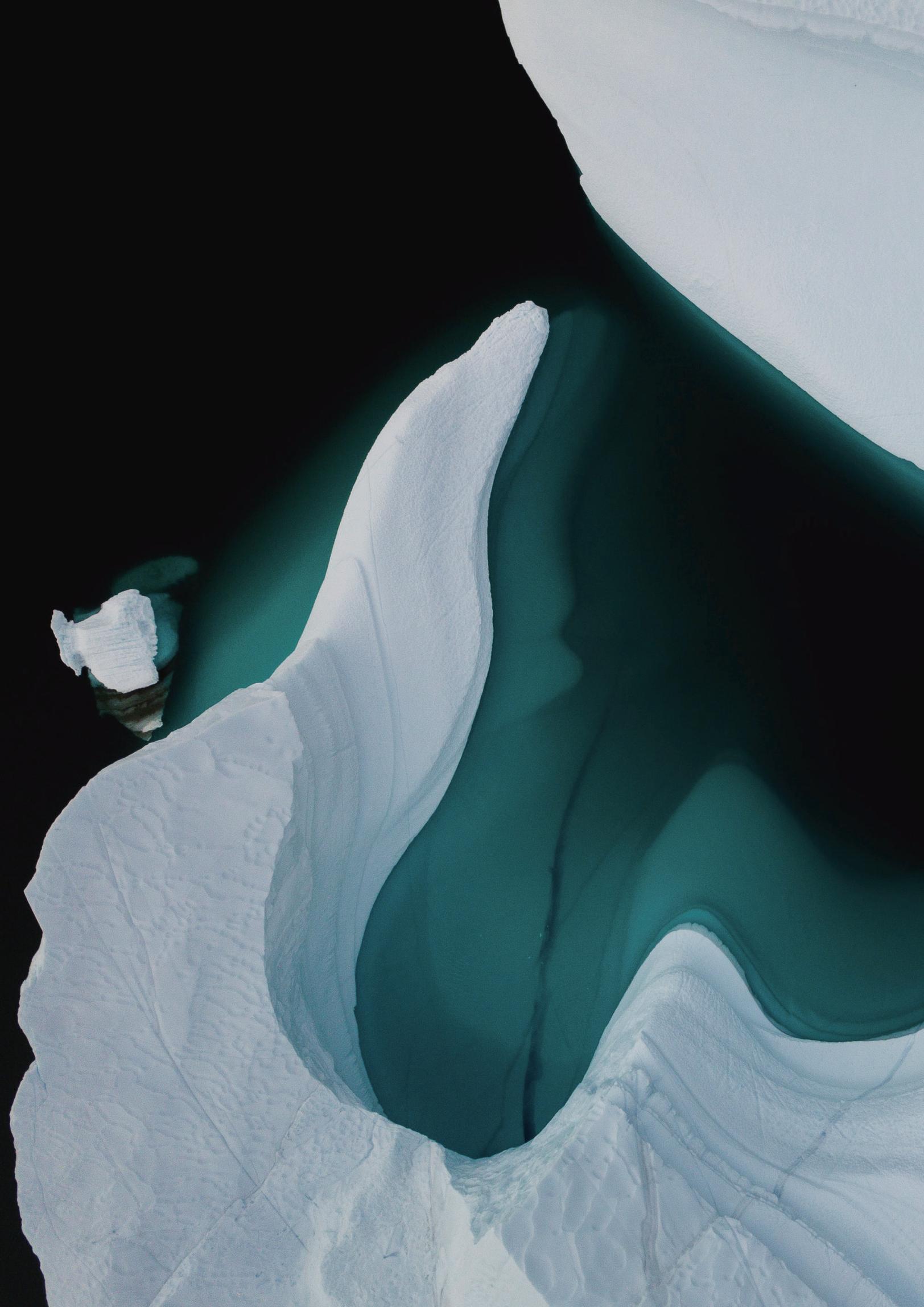
On November 12, 2021, Mr. Zhao Yingmin sat for an exclusive interview with Xinhua News in Glasgow, Britain.

"The Chinese delegation has held close exchanges with other parties during the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We hope to contribute to the success of the conference through constructive communication and consultation."

"In particular, developed countries need to take seriously the concerns of developing countries over such core issues as finance and adaptation. They must also strive to deliver on promises made a long time ago, to enhance mutual trust and ensure the success of COP26. Twelve years on, the developed countries have failed to honor their commitments, which has tremendously jeopardized political mutual trust. It is 'very unreasonable and unfair' that while developing countries have submitted ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in line with the Paris Agreement, developed countries have failed to deliver financial support. This issue is also affecting the progress of COP26. The issue of finance is one of the core issues of difficulty that affect the progress of COP26. The developed countries have not yet shown their sincerity and confidence in delivering their pledges. Therefore, both sides are still negotiating. It seems that more efforts are still needed. In order to effectively tackle the climate crisis, the parties need to "completely and comprehensively" deliver their promises according to the Paris Agreement. This must be done in line with the principle of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities as well as taking into account national conditions."

"We must realize that climate change has been an imminent challenge, but it must be addressed based on science and rules. These rules are specified in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Those are the cornerstones of global effort to tackle climate change, which should not be shaken. Otherwise, it would be hard to achieve our common goal."

Available at:
http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/13/c_1310307725.htm



TOPIC
01

International Climate Policies

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THE NEW SITUATION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND CHINA'S GREEN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

《全球气候治理新形势与我国绿色发展战略》



Author: Dr. LIU Yanhua

Former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (PRC)
Counsellor of the State Council of PRC



Author: Dr. WANG Wentao

Researcher and Division Director of the Marine Institute at the Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21

Abstract

The UN Climate Change Conference (2018) in Katowice achieved several positive outcomes, including adopting a set of implementing guidelines for the 2015 Paris Agreement. The positive outcomes infused more confidence into the multilateral global cooperation in climate change. Nonetheless, global climate governance is still facing significant challenges. Specifically, the inefficiency in reducing carbon emissions, the lack of financial and technical support, and the lack of strong and effective leadership are all problems that affect the effectiveness of global climate governance. Confronted with the current situation, China needs to study the trend of the global low-carbon development strategies and blaze a new development path different from that of developed countries.

Comments by iGCU

By analyzing the outcome of the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, the author elaborated on the current situation of global climate governance and China's domestic demand for addressing climate change. Likewise, the paper evaluated the direction of climate change research. The author proposed that China should put forward Chinese plans for global (and domestic) governance on clean energy technology development, international institutional arrangements, and South-South cooperation for tackling climate change.

Reference

Liu, Yanhua [刘燕华], Wentao Wang [王文涛]. 2021. The new situation of global climate governance and China's green development strategy (全球气候治理新形势与我国绿色发展战略). China Sustainability Tribune (可持续发展导刊). Z1:16-21.

[Published in Mar. 2019]



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CHINA WOULD NEED TO UPHOLD ITS PRINCIPLES ON CLIMATE ISSUE, AND IT IS NOT JUST ON BEHALF OF THE CHINESE

《气候问题中国要坚守原则，这不只代表我们自己》

Author: Prof. JIN Canrong

Professor & Associate Dean of the School of Int'l Studies, Renmin University of China
iGCU Academic Committee Member



Abstract

During the interview with Guancha.com, Prof. Jin points out that as two of the largest carbon emitters in the world, China-U.S. cooperation on climate change is of great significance, or else any international agreements on the climate issue would be meaningless. He further indicates that China has been emphasizing that, unlike the U.S., many developing countries (including China) are still at the stage of "developing". Thus, despite reductions, some emissions would still be unavoidable. Therefore, China's basic stance on climate change has been "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities" (CBDR). Meaning that although the tackling of climate change is a common goal of all countries, each countries could still have different strategies for climate change mitigation, and the responsibilities of each countries are different as well. In fact, China is a major power who has attached much importance to climate change issues, and has been leading on world's clean energy investment and promising to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutralizations by 2060. Prof. Jin suggests that by making promises as such, China also faces pressures, as it represents that China would now have to slow down or halt the development of the steel, coal, and ceramics sector, which might further provoke a cascade of bankruptcies and fall in tax revenues. All those mentioned above have demonstrated the Chinese government's firm determination to address climate change. Moreover, Prof. Jin believes that China-U.S. cooperation on climate change would produce major knock-on benefits by dialing down China-U.S. tensions in other areas. "I sincerely hope China and the U.S. can start cooperating on climate change."

Reference

Jin, Canrong [金灿荣]. 2021. Interview with Prof. Jin Canrong: "China would need to uphold to its principles on climate issue, and it is not just on behalf of the Chinese" (气候问题中国要坚守原则，这不只代表我们自己). https://www.guancha.cn/JinCanRong/2021_04_16_587675.shtml. Accessed 24 May 2022.

Comments by iGCU

China-U.S. cooperation on climate change would undoubtedly be affected by the relationship between China and the U.S. Thus, it is essential and fundamental to first bring China-U.S. relations back on the right track. The author advocates that China-U.S. cooperation on climate change should not follow the brutal logic of the U.S., that the U.S. would cooperate (with China) where they could, compete (with China) where they should, and confront (with China) where they must. ("We would cooperate where we could, compete where should, and confront where we must"). The author argues that China and the U.S. should conduct bilateral talks on climate change and cooperate to tackle the climate crisis.

[Published in Apr. 2021]

HOW CHINA PLANS TO BECOME CARBON-NEUTRAL BY 2060: CHINA'S PATH TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

《中国碳中和的时间进程与战略路径》



Author: Dr. PAN Jiahua

Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science

Abstract

In the process of global cooperation in understanding and tackling climate change in a scientific way, the common goal of different nations within the international community is to reach carbon neutrality. The actualization of carbon neutrality is of great realistic significance for the sustainable development of every country. To achieve carbon neutrality, China would have to completely replace the use of fossil fuels (zero fossil fuel consumption). Specifically, China would phase out coal use by 2055, achieve zero (or almost zero) petroleum consumption by 2058, and zero gasoline consumption around 2059. The main alternatives to fossil fuel energy include electric energy in technical aspects and biomass, which, coupled with advances in carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, could help meet the decarbonization goals. In achieving carbon neutrality, challenges and opportunities coexist, requiring disruptive technological innovations and a more systematic societal change.

Comments by iGCU

The author analyzes and evaluates China's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality and the estimated timeline for its achievement from several perspectives. Including the analysis of carbon neutrality's relevant concepts, the progress of different countries' carbon-neutral goals, and the evaluation of different paths that China, Germany, and the U.S. have outlined to reach the goal from comparative perspectives. The author stresses that it is crucial to achieve carbon neutrality for the harmonious coexistence between nature and humankind. The disruptive technological inventions and applications and the institutional reform in "soft" technologies (including regional spatial planning and institutional policies) are essential for carbon neutrality.

Reference

Pan, Jiahua [潘家华]. 2021. How China plans to become carbon-neutral by 2060: China's path to carbon neutrality (中国碳中和的时间进程与战略路径). Financial Minds (财经智库). 6(04):42-66.

[Published in Aug. 2021]

THE TRIPLE BURDEN: CHINA'S GOAL OF REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

《中国的减碳目标，背负着三重责任》

Author: Prof. HUANG Renwei

Executive Vice Dean of Fudan Institute of Belt and Road & Global Governance
iGCU Academic Committee Member



Abstract

China's energy structure is dominated by coal power. To achieve its carbon reduction goal, China is committed to cutting fossil fuel usage, developing new (and renewable) forms of energy, and promoting technological breakthroughs and innovation in green and low-carbon energy transformation. The 'Triple Burden' facing China (to reach its goal of cutting carbon emissions) connotes that China, on the one hand, plays a crucial role in the global industrial and supply chains, and on the other hand, has a key role to play in helping mitigate global climate change. Besides, for Chinese businesses to go global, they are also required to "go green" and be environmentally sustainable. Consequently, it is believed that China bears its triple responsibilities in the fight against climate change. In addition, China should not be overly anxious about the U.S. hedging strategy nor Western countries' attempts to discredit its activities. Facing the current climate crisis, countries worldwide should collaborate, take urgent actions to combat climate change, and reach a win-win resolution.

Comments by iGCU

Prof. Huang stresses that although China has set forth a clear goal of reducing carbon emissions, several hurdles exist that challenge China's low-carbon transformation, which must be overcome to achieve the goal. As coal still accounts for over 50% of China's total energy consumption, the task of optimizing energy structure remain arduous. Moreover, as the energy intensity (measured as energy consumption per capita of GDP) is still high, transitioning to a low-carbon economy would also not be easy. Notwithstanding the challenges and difficulties, unlike the U.S., China has been actively making changes and publicly committed to taking a leading role in combating global climate change. "It is a matter of fact that China has shouldered its responsibility as a major power in the fight against climate change and has indeed been helping to facilitate/strengthen the international response to climate change."

Reference

Huang, Renwei [黄仁伟]. 2021. The Triple Burden: China's Goal of Reducing Carbon Emissions (中国的减碳目标，背负着三重责任). <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1715180241336391917&wfr=spider&for=pc>. Accessed 9 September 2022.

[Published in Nov. 2021]

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM) STILL FACES CHALLENGES

《欧盟碳边界调节机制：落地仍面临重重考验》



Author: Prof. DAI Yichen

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Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Abstract

To encourage all countries to legislate against climate change, the EU introduced the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to address 'carbon leakage' and enhance the EU's effectiveness in reducing carbon emissions. However, the real effect of the EU's carbon tariff in mitigating climate change has been hotly debated within Europe. It is believed that the high tariffs imposed by carbon pricing might intensify global trade frictions. Consequently, the successful implementation of the CBAM still requires the joint efforts of the member states of the EU and its partners worldwide.

Comments by iGCU

Reducing carbon emissions is an essential step in the fight against global warming. The author sets the article against the background of the EU's initiative to establish the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). By analyzing and evaluating controversies over the effectiveness of the EU's policy (CBAM) and its negative impact on free trade, the author points out that implementing the "carbon tariff" still faces serious challenges. Climate change is an urgent and inevitable global challenge with long-term implications for the sustainable development of all countries. Thus, it requires the concerted cooperation of international actors to promote carbon emissions reduction.

Reference

Dai, Yichen [戴轶尘]. 2021. The implementation of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) still faces challenges (欧盟碳边界调节机制：落地仍面临重重考验). *World Affairs (世界知识)*. 16:64-65.

[Published in Aug. 2021]

UNDERSTANDING THE EU'S CLIMATE STRATEGIES

《解读欧盟应对气候变化一揽子方案》

Author: MU Yangzi

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Author: HAN Yiyuan

Assistant Research Fellow at the Institute of World Political Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations



Abstract

In July 2021, the European Commission proposed the 'Fit for 55' package, aiming to reach the intermediate target of the European Climate Law – reducing greenhouse gas by at least 55% by 2030 compared to the 1990s levels. The 'Fit for 55' package has specified the carbon-emission-reduction targets and how to achieve them. Based on strengthening the existing EU legislation, the proposals introduce several new measures, including new (carbon) pricing tools, climate targets, regulatory tools, and support tools to address climate risks. Moreover, the proposals aim to revise the existing climate policies in the EU, better respond to the needs of Europeans, adapt to "green politics", promote economic growth, and maintain the EU's leadership in global climate governance. It is believed that after launching the 'Fit for 55' package, the EU would be able to maintain its leading role, with the internal cohesion in Europe strengthened in the long term. However, the EU might face increasing pressures of different sorts in the short run.

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the authors first propose that the divergence in Europe over how to effectively and adequately respond to climate change is still on the rise. In April 2021, the European Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional political agreement on the European Climate Law Regulation, setting into legislation the objective of a climate-neutral EU by 2050. Nevertheless, the negotiation process reflected the conflicting interests in climate action within the EU. The authors point out that as the 27 member states of the EU are at different stages of growth and development, each country would have its response plans to climate change. For example, several Central and Eastern European countries have resisted the 'Fit for 55' package as it is believed that the EU's new climate actions, such as emission reduction, carbon emission tariff, and green energy transition, would further burden their economies. Moreover, the authors suggest that since the EU's carbon-emission-reduction plans propose long-term lifestyle changes (e.g., transitions towards more sustainable mobility and economic systems) and because each EU member states are at different development stages, it would not be an easy task to accommodate diverse interests over climate actions in Europe.

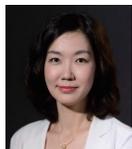
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Mu, Yangzi [慕阳子], Yiyuan Han [韩一元]. 2021. Interpreting the EU climate change package (解读欧盟应对气候变化一揽子方案). <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/tsZaNYrxMV5VHUahaWW8TQ>. Accessed 9 September 2022.

[Published in Sep. 2021]

COPING WITH CARBON NEUTRALITY: RUSSIA'S GREEN NEW DEAL

《应对碳中和时代的挑战：俄罗斯的绿色新政》



Author: Prof. SHANG Yue

Assistant Director and Associate Research Professor of Institute of Eurasian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)



Author: HAN Yichen

Assistant Research Fellow at the Eurasian Institute, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

Abstract

Tackling climate change has progressively attracted global attention, with numerous countries pursuing the policy goals of reducing carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality. Russia's cognition and position concerning climate change have changed significantly in the past year to adapt to the trend of the global low-carbon transition, cope with extreme climate phenomena, reduce the EU's carbon border tax impacts, compete for global discourse power, and seek breakthroughs in relations with the U.S. and Europe. Russia is taking increasingly active steps to achieve carbon neutrality goals, one of which is its launched Green New Deal. However, due to restrictions by internal and external factors, it will be a long and difficult process for Russia's real green transformation realized from concept to policy and action.

Comments by iGCU

Based on a review of the changes in Russia's recognition and position on climate change and green development issues, this article explores the reasons for these changes and the content and prospects of the 'Green New Deal'. The authors reckon that external changes and Western pressure are the primary factors forcing Russia's implementation of its Green New Deal. The authors further underscored that in the context of the stalled relations with the West, climate change had become one of the few areas where Russia's relationship with the U.S. and the EU is expected to achieve a breakthrough. According to the authors, Russia has attempted to use this topic to strengthen exchanges, create an atmosphere of cooperation, prevent the West from imposing new sanctions, and attract foreign investment. The authors proposed that carbon neutrality involves economic development and national strategic choices for Russia. Under the general trend of global carbon neutrality, whether to promote the Green New Deal is important for observing and studying Russia's future development.

Reference

Shang, Yue [尚月], Yichen Han [韩奕琛]. 2021. Coping with Carbon Neutrality: Russia's Green New Deal (应对迈向碳中和时代的挑战：俄罗斯的绿色新政). *Contemporary International Relations (现代国际关系)*. 10:18-28+63-64.

[Published in Nov. 2021]



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THE GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AFTER THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY REJOINS THE PARIS AGREEMENT: COMPETING FOR LEADERSHIP OR SEEKING GLOBAL CONSENSUS?

《美国重返〈巴黎协定〉后的全球气候治理：争夺领导力还是走向全球共识？》

Author: Dr. ZHOU Weiduo

Assistant Research Fellow at Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences



Author: Dr. ZHUANG Guiyang

Deputy Director of the Institute of Ecological Civilization, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



Abstract

The Biden administration announced rejoining the Paris Agreement, signaling that global climate governance will likely return to the pattern led by China, the United States, and the European Union. Major countries can promote global consensus and collective action on climate change through competition and cooperation and achieve global climate governance, but they may also fall into a leadership struggle, which will damage global climate governance. The result depends on the rationality guiding the major powers: individual or collective rationality on global climate governance. This paper argues that differences in interests exist between China, the U.S., and the EU in the current game to attain the “net zero emission target”. The main driving force for transforming Western countries’ climate strategies, such as the U.S. and the EU, is to compete for the leadership of climate governance. The main actors, including the U.S., the E.U., and China, must enhance climate cooperation to promote global climate governance. The future direction of global climate governance should be to deepen the consensus on the Paris Agreement goals, improve global green finance policy system, strengthen the development of carbon emission trading markets and zero carbon emission technologies, and boost confidence in global climate governance.

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the authors pointed out that major powers could promote global action on climate change and build international consensus on climate governance through competition and cooperation. Although the probable rivalry for leadership could have detrimental effects on global climate governance, the possibility of such rivalry largely depends on the different logic guiding the great powers – individual or collective rationality. Hence, the authors reckoned that it is essential to refine the global green economy, support the “green recovery” of the developing countries, promote global convergence in green financial policies, facilitate China-U.S.-EU collaboration on green investment standards, and get key industries on track for zero-carbon transition.

Reference

Zhou Weiduo [周伟铎], Guiyang Zhuang [庄贵阳]. 2021. The global climate governance after the United States officially rejoins the Paris Agreement: Competing for leadership or seeking global consensus? (美国重返《巴黎协定》后的全球气候治理：争夺领导力还是走向全球共识?). Pacific Journal (太平洋学报). 29(09):17-29.

[Published in Oct. 2021]

COP26: THE U.S. AND EU CLIMATE POLICIES IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES – CHARACTERISTICS, DIVERGENCES AND PROSPECTS

《COP26 背景下的美欧气候变化政策特点、分歧及前景》



Author: LIU Yuning

PhD Candidate at China Foreign Affairs University



Author: Dr. SUN Chenghao

Fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy, Tsinghua University

Abstract

Three keywords describe the characteristics of the evolution of the U.S. climate policy in the past decades: pragmatic, unilateral, and irresolute. Compared to the U.S., the EU's climate policy has presented to be more forward-looking. However, considering the divergence of interests in the EU, it is also not an easy job for the EU to put forward effective and universal climate policies. The differences between the U.S. and EU climate policies can be viewed in three aspects: how the U.S. and EU engage in global climate governance, their priorities in addressing climate change, and how the two perceive or conceptualize the structure of rules in climate governance. At present, there is a huge gap between the making of climate policies and their implementation. Looking ahead to the future, the sources of friction that might hinder the climate cooperation between Western countries led by the U.S. and EU would still stem from internal conflicts (different domestic political situations of each country). These include conditions such as the political polarization in U.S. politics, the former U.S. President Trump's "political legacy", the consensus among the general public, and other financial concerns.

Reference

Liu, Yuning [刘宇宁], Chenghao Sun [孙成昊]. 2021. COP26: The U.S. and EU climate policies in comparative perspectives - characteristics, divergences and prospects. (COP26 背景下的美欧气候变化政策特点、分歧及前景). http://ciss.tsinghua.edu.cn/info/A_E_projects/4192. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Nov. 2021]

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the authors highlight that in the fight against climate change, it is important for China to first fulfill its climate duties by cutting emissions and promoting clean energy. By achieving its climate goals, China could set a "good example" for other nations who want to take a more active role in tackling climate change and could help stop the malicious slander that some have imposed on China's climate governance. The authors also suggest that to build a more effective global climate governance system, it is essential for every nation to firmly support and uphold the UN Framework Convention on climate change. China's role in global climate governance has indeed shown its determination to build a community of shared future for humankind and construct a community of life for man and nature, with a cooperative and responsible attitude.



U.S. CLIMATE STRATEGY AND SINO-U.S. CLIMATE COOPERATION

《美国气候战略及中美气候合作》

Author: Dr. Tang Xinhua

Deputy Director at the Center for Climate Change and Ecological Security Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations



Abstract

As the global climate crisis worsens, countries worldwide have facilitated deeper integration of climate change and international strategies. The Biden Administration has also restarted its stalled climate agenda and cemented climate issues into the architecture of U.S. diplomacy, making climate change a foreign policy priority and a matter of U.S. national security. It is believed that the main strategic goal of the Biden Administration is to compete for dominance in the reshaping the global climate governance. Currently, it appears that the Biden Administration has established a strategic framework for climate actions that values climate justice, alliances for climate actions, and climate security. The sound interaction and expansion of Sino-U.S. cooperation can maintain and promote sustainable development in the 21st century.

Comments by iGCU

The author indicates that as the negative impacts of climate change are mounting much faster than predicted, the international community has now reached a tipping point on the need for climate action. Thus, it would be of great significance for China and the United States to shoulder broader international responsibilities and obligations and collaborate to tackle the climate crisis. Nevertheless, the author points out that the proposed Biden administration's climate strategies have severely challenged China's "dual carbon policies", Sino-U.S. climate cooperation, and the global climate governance system. The author suggests that the Biden Administration's climate strategies would not only negatively impact China vis-à-vis the construction of its new development path but would also increase the geopolitical risks and might lead to the complex great power rivalry on climate governance. The author believes that although conflicts are inevitable, China should continue to explore new forms of climate cooperation with the United States and work with countries worldwide to actively contribute to building a healthy human-nature relationship.

Reference

Tang, Xinhua [唐新华]. 2022. U.S. climate strategy and U.S.-China climate cooperation (美国气候战略及中美气候合作). Contemporary International Relations (现代国际关系). 01:8-16+61.

[Published in Jan. 2022]

"TRANSATLANTIC CLIMATE ACTION": ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE POLITICS BETWEEN U.S. AND EU SINCE U.S. PRESIDENT BIDEN TOOK OFFICE

« “跨大西洋气候行动”：拜登执政以来美欧气候政治发展析论 »



Author: Prof. ZHAO Bin

Executive Director and Professor of the School of Marxism at Xi'an Jiaotong University



Author: XIE Shumin

PhD Student at the School of Marxism at Xi'an Jiaotong University

Abstract

Since the issue of climate change entered the international agenda, the United States and Europe, as important actors in global climate politics, have had a far-reaching impact on the global climate governance process. Since President Joe Biden took office, climate change has been at the core of U.S. national security and foreign policy. Moreover, President Biden has also been trying to restore U.S. international leadership by bringing the U.S. back to multilateralism. Since the European Union launched the 'European Green Deal', the EU has been committed to combining 'green economic recovery' with other efforts to deal with climate change. With the climate policies of the U.S. and EU converging, new impetus could be injected into global climate governance. Nonetheless, the differences between the United States and European countries in terms of economic interests, political challenges, and so on have resulted in divergences between the U.S. and the EU in their institutional frameworks, governance rules, and goal-setting, ultimately capable of limiting the progress of the transatlantic climate action and cooperation to a certain extent. China should study and assess the new changes in global climate politics, carefully deal with the potential impact of the "transatlantic climate action" of the United States and Europe, and actively promote the realization of "effective" global climate governance.

Comments by iGCU

The authors pointed out that for an extended period, the U.S. stance regarding international cooperation on climate change had often been influenced by various domestic political factors, resulting in a divergence of views with the EU. In fact, despite many negative factors, considering the longstanding close relationships shared between the U.S. and the EU, the U.S. has launched several new policies to convey positive messages in cooperating with the EU on climate change. The authors argued that the positive postures have signaled that both parties across the Atlantic are willing to cooperate. The climate actions both parties take would undoubtedly have significant impacts on global climate governance. However, the authors also suggested that concerning the differences between the two parties in their understandings of the existing rules and political framework of global climate governance and their different climate goals, the outlook for a deepened, multi-layered U.S.-EU climate cooperation remains uncertain. The authors reckoned that it is more likely for the U.S. and EU to reach a consensus on the details of how to specifically implement the Paris Agreement. Nevertheless, the U.S.'s attitudes toward the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are fundamentally different. The authors noted that the divergences between the U.S. and the EU would bring both opportunities and challenges for China.

Reference

Zhao, Bin [赵斌], Shumin Xie [谢淑敏]. 2022. "Transatlantic Climate Action": On the Development of Climate Politics between U.S. and EU since U.S. President Biden Took Office (“跨大西洋气候行动”：拜登执政以来美欧气候政治发展析论). *Journal of Fujian Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)* (福建师范大学学报 (哲学社会科学版)). 04:30-42+169-170.

[Published in Jul. 2022]



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TOPIC
02

Climate Change and the Great Power Rivalry

U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE ENVOY JOHN KERRY'S VISIT TO CHINA: GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

《克里访华与全球气候治理的竞合博弈》



Author: Prof. GAO Jian

Associate Professor of the School of English Studies, Shanghai Int'l Studies University (SISU)
Director of the Center for British Studies, SISU
China Forum Expert

Abstract

In the context of U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry's visit to China (in 2021), the article provides a detailed analysis of the global climate governance and international cooperation and competition. Currently, global climate governance faces two main situations, specifically the rivalry between developed and developing countries vis-à-vis the rights to make rules and the controversy over green industrial standards between the West and the rest of the world. China, the U.S., and the E.U. have different attitudes toward climate issues. The U.S. intends to shape the future international development paradigm by leading global climate governance. Also, the U.S. plans to establish a "Green Technology Alliance" with its allies to compete with China in green technology. However, its willingness to compete has been constrained by several domestic factors, including the intensifying social conflicts within the U.S. Likewise, the E.U. attempts to take a leading role in global climate governance. However, unlike the U.S., the E.U. is more willing to cooperate with China on climate issues. Concerning China's attitude, the Chinese government has been actively responding to climate change based on China's national conditions. It is believed that the attitudes of China, the E.U., and the U.S. toward climate change and the trilateral climate cooperation would significantly impact the restructuring of the global industrial layout and pattern of economic growth in the foreseeable future.

Comments by iGCU

The article was written under the background of U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry's visit to China in 2021. The author reckoned that except for various constraining domestic factors, Kerry still faces challenges at the international level after being named U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. The author argued that the first challenge would be restoring U.S. credibility on climate cooperation, especially following the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the 'Paris Agreement' and the 'Kyoto Protocol'. The second challenge would be reconciling the divergences among different nations. Major powers share a similar goal of fast-tracking global climate governance progress but differ in how and what mechanisms to adopt to achieve the goal. The third challenge would be how to extricate the climate issues from U.S. competitive diplomatic posture. The U.S. tends to use climate concerns to wheedle the E.U. and its other allies into competing with China, while most European countries have been more willing to take a cooperative stance in viewing climate change. The author noted that Kerry's biggest challenge would be promoting global cooperation on climate change in the context of the U.S.-initiated 'strategic competition' with China.

Reference

Gao, Jian [高健]. 2021. U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry's Visit to China: Global Climate Governance, International Cooperation, and Competition (克里访华与全球气候治理的竞合博弈). <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1697187549014920916&wfr=spider&for=pc>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Apr. 2021]

TRANSITION TO THE CARBON NEUTRAL ENERGY SYSTEM WOULD REDEFINE THE GREAT POWER COMPETITION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

《碳中和转型将重新定义 21 世纪的大国竞争》

Author: Prof. WANG Yuanfeng

Professor and Director of the Center for Carbon Neutrality Technology and Strategy Research, Beijing Jiaotong University
Vice Chairman of the Chinese Association of Development Strategy Studies
iGCU Academic Committee Member



Abstract

U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry and China Special Envoy for Climate Change Xie Zhenhua met in Shanghai on April 2021 to discuss the aspects of the climate crisis, after which both sides released a joint statement. The agreement reached by the two countries would help accelerate the process of achieving the global carbon neutrality goal. The transition to the carbon-neutral energy system would redefine the great powers' competition in the 21st century. It is believed that China might exploit an advantageous position in trade and further explore more opportunities to develop.

Comments by iGCU

The author reckons that the transition to the carbon-neutral energy system would redefine the great powers' competition in the 21st century. The author further indicates that while (reaching) carbon neutrality could provide new opportunities for world peace and stability, it could also bring new uncertainties to the current international order. Considering the remarkable growth in China's renewable energy industry in the past years, the author believes that China would benefit immensely from trade in the future and, consequently, could gain more development opportunities.

Reference

Wang, Yuanfeng [王元丰]. 2021. Transition to the carbon neutral energy system would redefine the great power competition in the 21st century (碳中和转型将重新定义 21 世纪的大国竞争).

[Published in Apr. 2021]

CARBON NEUTRALITY: CHINA AND U.S. COULD ENGAGE IN HEALTHY COMPETITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

《碳中和：中美开展良性竞争的场域》



Author: Prof. CHEN Qi

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Author: XUE Jing

Contract Research Fellow at the Center for US-China Relations, Tsinghua University



Author: YU Ye

Assistant Research Fellow at the Department of International Relations, Tsinghua University

Abstract

Facing the rise of China, the United States has been launching a series of "attacks" on China in the areas of politics, economy, technology, etc. Its strategic attempt to curb China's growth has been evident. Since President Biden took office, the U.S. has been working with its Western allies to intensify their ideological attacks to defame China. Confronting the irrational criticisms from the U.S. and other Western countries, China would need to seek an opportunity to present itself to the world and further "correct" the distorted global image that the U.S. and its allies have forged. Thus, by achieving its "Carbon Neutrality" goal, China can prove to all that it is, in fact, a responsible power. China's determination to reach this goal and its exquisite plan and practice in actualizing "carbon neutrality" would set an example for the developing world and profoundly impact developed countries.

Comments by iGCU

In recent years, "carbon neutrality" has been a trending topic in international politics. The author conceives that for reaching the target of "carbon neutrality," China and the U.S. might engage in healthy competition. The author further indicates that concerning the advantaged position of Western countries in terms of their political influence in shaping public opinion worldwide, China would need to take actions to deal with the widespread misconceptions and correct its distorted global image. China should fully use its governance advantages and form a low-carbon (or even zero-carbon) developmental trend. The author believes that China must try to become a leading actor in achieving the "carbon neutrality" goal.

Reference

Chen, Qi [陈琪], Jing Xue [薛静], and Ye Yu [于焯]. 2021. Carbon Neutrality: China and U.S. could engage in healthy competition on climate change (碳中和：中美开展良性竞争的场域). <http://ciss.tsinghua.edu.cn/info/zlyaq/3902>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

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"GREEN RACE": THE PERFORMANCE, REASONS AND RESPONSE TO CHINA-U.S. CLIMATE COMPETITION

《“绿色竞赛”：中美气候竞争的表现、原因与应对》

Author: LI Kunze

PhD Student at the School of International Relations, Renmin University of China



Author: Prof. QI Kai

Associate Professor of the Institute of Globalization and Global Issues at China University of Political Science and Law



Author: Prof. XU Qinhua

Vice Dean of National Academy of Development and Strategy at Renmin University of China
Professor and Director of Centre for International Energy and Environment Strategy Studies at RUC



Abstract

Since taking office, the Biden administration has made climate issues its policy priority, showing strong ambitions in addressing climate change. Nevertheless, the Biden government has initiated a "green race" against China, intending to compete with China on climate issues. Specifically, the "green race" means that despite ample room for China-U.S. cooperation – in the context that both parties have reached a consensus on the climate crisis – China-U.S. strategic competition has made effective cooperation difficult to unfold. By launching the 'green race', the Biden government wants to expand the scope of its strategic competition with China to achieve its goal of constraining China. The U.S. government has been seeking dominance over the global climate agendas and trying to draw other countries to the U.S.'s side and isolate China. Moreover, as part of the plan of pushing forward the "green race", the U.S. has increased its investments in infrastructure construction and the development of new technologies for achieving carbon neutrality while also designing plans like 'Build Back Better World (B3W)' to compete with China's Belt and Road Initiative. These phenomena have not only reflected the consistent general characteristics of the ruling Democratic Party but have also shown the Biden administration's attempts to use the "green race" as a vital tool to reshape U.S. leadership. To cope with the 'green race' initiated by the U.S., China should, on the one hand, seek genuine cooperation with the U.S. on climate issues but should also maintain its autonomy on the other hand. It would be important for China to undertake active yet flexible diplomatic actions on climate issues and reduce the negative impact the "green race" could bring.

Reference

Li, Kunze [李坤泽], Kai wei [威凯], Qinhu Xu [许勤华]. 2022. "Green Race" : The Performance, Reasons and Response to China-U.S. Climate Competition (“绿色竞赛” : 中美气候竞争的表现、原因与应对). Journal of Global Energy Interconnection (全球能源互联网). 5(04):409-415.

[Published in Jul. 2022]

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the authors gave an overview of the measures the Biden administration had taken to facilitate the global climate governance process, including the announcement of the 'China-U.S. Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action' in 2021. The authors then highlighted several contradictory actions of the U.S., specifically how it has attempted to compete with China over climate change by implementing provisions in the US-initiated "green race". U.S. attitudes toward China are ambivalent and complex. The authors considered that by initiating the "green race", the Biden administration is trying to constrain China by taking the moral high ground on climate issues. Likewise, it was part of the U.S. scheme of cracking down on China's initiatives like the BRI. The authors suggested that the "green race" is one of the outcomes of the U.S. Democratic Party's adjusted climate policies and China policy. Catering to the Democratic Party's increasing concern for the environment, the Biden administration attached great importance to climate change. This situation, coupled with the bipartisan consensus on constraining China, drove the Biden government to launch the 'green race'. Nonetheless, climate change is not a problem that could be solved solely; it requires global cooperation, in which China plays a significant role. As stated by the authors, without China-U.S. cooperation on climate issues, any carbon emission reduction goals would ring hollow. Thus, it could explain the ambivalence of the Biden administration towards China over climate issues. The authors reckoned that the 'green race' between the two countries would continue under the Biden administration. However, the authors noted that despite the challenges, China could make greater contributions to global climate governance, shouldering its responsibilities as a major power through concrete actions.

"NEW CLIMATE DEAL 2.0": SINO-U.S. IN GLOBAL CLIMATE POLITICS SINCE U.S. PRESIDENT BIDEN TOOK OFFICE

« “气候新政 2.0” : 拜登执政以来中美气候政治竞合 »



Author: Prof. ZHAO Bin

Executive Director and Professor of the School of Marxism at Xi'an Jiaotong University



Author: XIE Shumin

PhD Student at the School of Marxism at Xi'an Jiaotong University

Abstract

Since U.S. President Biden took office, the U.S. climate policy has undergone a major shift, prioritizing climate change, and, in turn, global climate governance has entered a critical developmental period. Currently, China-U.S. political competition faces new challenges, including political leadership in global climate governance, dominance in the low-carbon economy, and climate change mitigation. From the perspective of global climate governance, China-U.S. cooperation on climate change is conducive to easing the current tensions between both countries and may revitalize their bilateral relations. To this end, it is important for countries to reaffirm their common commitment to actively contribute to the Paris Agreement, collaborate to promote renewable energy development, and fast-track cooperation between sub-national and non-state actors. China, specifically, should contribute Chinese wisdom and solutions to building a multi-level global climate governance system in the following ways: maintaining the effectiveness of the international climate mechanism; scientifically formulating climate policies; strengthening research on clean energy technologies; emphasizing climate security issues; actively promoting carbon peaking and carbon neutralization; and promoting China's climate diplomacy in the new era to tap the potential areas of China-U.S. climate cooperation.

Comments by iGCU

The authors provided a detailed review of the political competition and cooperation between China and the U.S. on climate change. They reckoned that, generally speaking, the competition between China and the U.S. in the clean energy sector would intensify, and the "technological blockade" the U.S. had imposed on China in key technology areas would remain intact. It is believed that China-U.S. competition on climate change would last, and the possibility for the current tensions to ease off remain low – at least, it would not happen during Biden's presidency. The authors pointed out that although the Biden administration's China policy seems to have been taking a moderate stance, its essence is still about constraining China. Meanwhile, reaffirming the common commitment to actively contribute to the Paris Agreement would help deep Sino-US cooperation on climate change, reconcile their differences, work together to effectively mitigate climate change, and eventually rebuild strategic mutual trust. In all, the authors stressed that facing climate change, the interactions between China and the U.S. transcend environmental issues, covering economic, political, and national security issues. Consequently, the authors argued that it is important to recognize the significance of climate change and the fundamental role it plays in helping to restore strategic mutual trust between China and the U.S. It is also vital to uphold multilateralism and strengthen international cooperation.

Reference

Zhao, Bin [赵斌], Shumin Xie [谢淑敏]. 2022. "New Climate Deal 2.0": Sino-U.S. Cooperation and Competition in Global Climate Politics since U.S. President Biden Took Office. (“气候新政 2.0” : 拜登执政以来中美气候政治竞合), 2022, 42 (04): 97-105. DOI:10.15896/j.xjtuskxb.202204010.

[Published in Jul. 2022]



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A photograph of a climate protest. In the foreground, a large cardboard sign is visible with the words 'POLITICS' and 'CLIMATE' written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. The background shows a crowd of people, some wearing winter clothing like jackets and hats. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a public demonstration.

TOPIC
03

**Global Cooperation
on Climate Change**

CHINA AND FRANCE COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

《中国与法国的气候环境合作》



Author: Dr. CHEN Xiaojing

Assistant Research Fellow at Department for European Studies, China Institute of International Studies

Abstract

China signed the environmental cooperation agreement with France in 1997, and both countries' cooperation on climate change has advanced steadily ever since. In the past decades, the Chinese and French governments have been working hand-in-hand, providing a fundamental cooperation framework for different departments (governmental) and organizations (non-governmental). China-France cooperation on climate change has achieved fruitful outcomes after years of development. The outcomes include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating multiple projects to promote sustainable development, and establishing China-France joint research centers, laboratories, and institutes of climate change that have cultivated numerous Chinese and French youth talents in the relevant field. Over the years, China and France's cooperation on climate change has appeared to be simple, efficient, well-planned, and coherent; more importantly, their bilateral climate cooperation has produced win-win outcomes. It is believed that the spillover effect of the successful climate cooperation between China and France would provide opportunities for the two countries to cooperate in other areas.

Comments by iGCU

The author believes that the steady development of China-France cooperation on climate change in the past twenty-two years is credited to the consensus that both parties have reached on a wide range of relevant issues, including the shared willingness to cooperate. The author states that although bilateral climate cooperation has achieved fruitful outcomes in the past decades, there is still room for improvement. For example, it is believed that the coordination of national resources and the cooperation between the environmental non-governmental organizations of the two countries have yet to reach their full potential. Therefore, China and France should continue to collaborate to contribute to the global sustainable development goals by strengthening their bilateral strategic cooperation on climate action, forging a high-quality implementation framework for the agreements reached, improving multilateral coordination, and raising public awareness about environmental issues.

Reference

Chen, Xiaojing [陈晓径]. 2019. China and France cooperation on climate change (中国与法国的气候环境合作). *Etudes Francaises (法国研究)*. 02:1-12.

[Published in May. 2019]



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WOULD THE "GREEN TRANSITION" BECOME THE PRIORITY OF THE U.S. AND EU'S NEW AGENDA?

《“绿色转型”会成为欧美新议程的重中之重吗》

Author: Dr. CAO Hui

Assistant Research Fellow at Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



Abstract

The article was written against the background of the U.S.-EU proposed comprehensive transatlantic green agenda, "A new EU-U.S. agenda for global change," in December 2020. The author analyzed the intentions of the U.S. and EU to collaborate on sustainable growth and green transition in the coming years. They argued that although the paths to achieving the sustainable development goals vary, the agenda showed the U.S. and EU share the same purpose for green development. The author further indicated that the U.S. and EU might continue to build consensus on the green transformation or sustainable development, a collaborative effort capable of profoundly impacting the world.

Comments by iGCU

The author noted that green transition is an issue of great urgency to the world. International cooperation should be advanced to address non-traditional security issues like climate change. Achieving the green goals requires the joint efforts of all parties. The author pointed out that cooperation on non-traditional security challenges will gradually become an integral part of bilateral or multilateral collaboration.

Reference

Cao, Hui [曹慧]. 2021. Would the "green transition" become the priority of the U.S. and EU's new agenda? (“绿色转型”会成为欧美新议程的重中之重吗). *World Affairs (世界知识)*. 03:52-53.

[Published in Feb . 2021]

CLIMATE CHANGE SHOULD BE THE MOST COOPERATIVE FIELD OF INTERACTION FOR CHINA, THE U.S., AND EU

《应对气候变化应成为中美欧合作最大公约数》



Author: Dr. WANG Huiyao

Founder and President of the Center for China and Globalization

Abstract

The prime mission of global climate change governance is to ensure that every country would set their own carbon removal goals and make considerable efforts to achieve them. Only when more countries actively partake in reaching "carbon peak" and achieving "carbon neutrality" can the global climate governance be effective. Consequently, China, the United States, and the European Union should enhance trilateral cooperation in tackling climate change, restore progress in global climate governance and accelerate meaningful climate actions, and collaborate to support developing countries. China-U.S.-EU trilateral cooperation on climate change enables the building of a more constructive and stable triangular relationship; it will greatly enhance the effectiveness of global (climate) governance and give renewed impetus to the prosperity and development of the world.

Comments by iGCU

As two of the largest emitters in the world, China and the United States are liable for strengthening cooperation with each other in reducing carbon emissions. As one of the most cooperative fields of interaction for China and the U.S., the bilateral cooperation on climate change provides a great opportunity for the two countries to enhance political mutual trust and improve the ability of the G20 to effectively address global challenges. The author also suggests that certain countries (both developed and developing countries) should enhance coordination and cooperation with one another. For instance, the original G7 group could be expanded as G10, to include Russia, China and India, to tackle the climate crisis and other global challenges. The author reckons that the proposal to expand the G7 offers an enlightened ways to think about the construction of a more effective mechanism that could help forge greater consensus (on climate change).

Reference

Wang, Huiyao [王辉耀]. 2021. Climate change should be the most cooperative field of interaction for China, the U.S., and EU (应对气候变化应成为中美欧合作最大公约数). <http://www.ccg.org.cn/archives/63152>. Accessed 9 September 2022.

[Published in Apr. 2021]

PROGRESS AND LIMITATIONS OF CLIMATE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EU AND RUSSIA

《欧盟与俄罗斯气候合作的进展与局限》

Author: Prof. FANG Lexian

Professor at the Center for European Studies, Renmin University of China



Author: WANG Yujing

PhD Student at the School of International Relations, Renmin university of China



Abstract

The EU's energy-climate policy under the carbon neutrality target has the following main characteristics: addressing climate change and energy transition are the core objectives and key pathways; substantially raising the ambition to cut emissions and passing legislation to ensure targets are met; strengthening the goals of renewable energy and energy efficiency by focusing on sectors, including buildings, transport, and industry, to achieve emission cuts; highlighting carbon pricing's role in emission reduction and preventing "carbon leakage" through the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The EU aims to be a global low-carbon leader by playing a leading role vis-à-vis ideas, technologies, and rules. Energy transition and climate action are vital tools for the EU to achieve economic recovery. China and the EU are important partners in climate cooperation. Under the combined effect of the carbon neutrality target, the limitation of China-U.S. cooperation, and geopolitical factors, the competitive and cooperative relationship between China and the EU in energy and climate has been further highlighted. Carbon pricing and green bonds are becoming the focus of China-EU cooperation. Looking ahead, China and the EU should strengthen cooperation in international climate negotiations and collaborate to build a fair multilateral mechanism for climate governance. Moreover, China and the EU should support developing countries' capacity building and green financing efforts to combat climate change, promote coordination and cooperation to address climate change using market tools, and lead the formulation of relevant international standards and rules. In addition, both sides should further cooperation in green technology innovation and research and development (R&D) to provide wider-ranging technology solutions to the world.

Reference

Fang, Lexian [房乐宪], Yujing Wang [王玉静]. 2021. Progress and limitations of climate cooperation between the EU and Russia. (欧盟与俄罗斯气候合作的进展与局限). *Peace and Development (和平与发展)*. 03:59-78+136-137.

Comments by iGCU

The author identified the four key stages of China-EU climate cooperation in the past decades. They classified China-EU climate cooperation before 2000 as the first stage of bilateral cooperation, namely the initial development phase. At this stage, China and the EU marked priority areas of cooperation, including environmental protection. The second phase spanned between 2001 and 2012, when China and the EU established the ministerial-level China-EU environmental policy dialogue mechanism, starting the stage of institutionalized development. China and the EU began new forms of cooperation on climate change between 2013 and 2020, with the EU wrapping up years of official development assistance to China. From 2020 till date, China and EU cooperation on climate change has entered an era of 'green partnership', where the high-level bilateral environmental policy dialogue has been further deepened. The author pointed out that China and the EU have a relatively long history of close cooperation on climate and environmental issues, with standardized institutions and diverse actors. The author further suggested that the COVID-19 and Russo-Ukraine conflict might bring about broad prospects for China-EU cooperation on climate change.

[Published in Jun. 2021]

EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

《气候极端事件与相关合作》



Author: Prof. GAO Xiang

Professor and Director of the International Policy Research Department at the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC)

Abstract

If no actions would be taken to contain the emission of greenhouse gas and help slow down the pace of climate change, humankind would be facing more severe challenges, even environmental catastrophe that would have disastrous effects on the planet. Nevertheless, international cooperation on climate change is in fact not functioning as effectively as expected, and there are several reasons for that. Firstly, developed countries generally have not presented an active and positive political will to reduce carbon emissions. Secondly, developing countries face the heavy burden of developing their economy or society. The low-carbon (or zero-carbon) developmental model, which would be suitable for the developing countries' sustainable growth, is still nowhere to be found. Thirdly, the world is yet to have breakthroughs in the (invention of) transformative technologies necessary to effectively contain greenhouse gas emissions.

Comments by iGCU

The author indicates that concerns about climate change are consistently rising, posing significant challenges to humanity's survival and sustainable development. However, much room for improvement exists as the current international cooperation to tackle climate change has not been as effective as expected. The author further discusses the three probable reasons which could explain the ineffectiveness of the current international cooperation. First, developed countries have generally failed to shoulder their climate action responsibilities. Second, developing countries are still exploring sustainable developmental models that would suit them. Third, the much-needed technological breakthroughs have yet to come.

Reference

Gao, Xiang [高翔]. 2021. Extreme climate events and international cooperation on climate change (气候极端事件与相关合作). World Affairs (世界知识). 17:48-51.

[Published in Sep. 2021]



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SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW HAS CHINA BEEN DOING ITS BEST?

《南南气候合作，中国是怎样“量力而行、尽力而为”的？》

Author: Dr. QU Caiyun

Assistant Research Fellow at the National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



Abstract

China has been actively engaging in global climate governance and promoting "South-South Cooperation". As the Chinese proverb goes, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime". China has been providing substantive support to many developing countries and intends to help enhance their independent capability to tackle climate change and, consequently, enable multilateral cooperation in dealing with the challenges of climate change. In recent years, China has provided developing countries with even more aid in increasingly diverse forms. For example, China has been helping construct a comprehensive range of green projects in the less developed region of Africa (i.e., renewable energy systems, solar power projects, etc.) and providing eco-friendly supplies and various sorts of assistance (i.e., technical support). While China is promoting green development domestically, China is also striving to spread Chinese wisdom to the world.

Comments by iGCU

Faced with the complex global landscape and crises of various sorts, addressing climate change has become a challenging and arduous task that requires urgent global action and a concerted effort from all parties of the international community. The author notes that China has been advocating for immediate action from the international community and calling on all countries to strengthen cooperation. The author emphasizes that it is essential for every country to firmly uphold multilateralism, uphold the international system with the UN at its core, and the global order underpinned by international law. The author believes that a fair and rational global climate governance system for win-win results is attainable if all countries commit to upholding the goals, principles, and frameworks set in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. This article analyzes China's diverse forms of assistance provided to developing countries and presents the different practices of China's participation in global climate governance.

Reference

Qu Caiyun [屈彩云]. 2021. South-South cooperation on climate change: How has China been doing its best? (南南气候合作，中国是怎样“量力而行、尽力而为”的？). <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202109/16/WS614291b4a310e0e3a6821dcf.html>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Oct. 2021]

A CRITICAL DECADE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

《中美气候联合行动：迈向全球绿色经济的关键十年》



Author: Dr. Tang Xinhua

Deputy Director at the Center for Climate Change and Ecological Security Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

Abstract

On November 11, 2021, China and the United States issued the China-U.S. Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s during COP26 in Glasgow. Both countries recognized the seriousness and urgency of the climate crisis and were committed to tackling it through their respective accelerated actions in the critical decade of the 2020s to avoid catastrophic impacts. Although the two countries compete in science and technology, there is great room for cooperation in green innovation. The declaration will serve as a new bridge to stabilize China-U.S. relations in the next critical decade and play an irreplaceable strategic role in promoting a new type of major power relationship and maintaining international security and development.

Comments by iGCU

The author believes that the publication of the China-U.S. Joint Glasgow Declaration targets climate governance in this critical decade. The declaration brings new hope for resuming and upgrading China-U.S. climate cooperation and enables the two countries to use climate cooperation as a platform to rebuild political trust. Additionally, the declaration has injected political confidence into global climate governance negotiations and provided strong support for maintaining and advancing the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. More importantly, it has added momentum to the accelerated global low-carbon transition and brought hope for a global response to the climate crisis, an epochal issue facing humanity.

Reference

Tang, Xinhua [唐新华]. 2021. A critical decade for climate change (中美气候行动：迈向 21 世纪的关键十年). <http://cn.chinausfocus.com/energy-environment/20211118/42452.html#chneng>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Nov. 2021]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND
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EU'S ENERGY-CLIMATE POLICY UNDER THE CARBON NEUTRALITY TARGET AND CHINA-EU COOPERATION

《碳中和目标下的欧盟能源气候政策与中欧合作》

Author: Dr. JIANG Siyu

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Abstract

The EU's energy-climate policy under the carbon neutrality target has the following main characteristics: addressing climate change and energy transition are the core objectives and key pathways; substantially raising the ambition to cut emissions and passing legislation to ensure targets are met; strengthening the goals of renewable energy and energy efficiency by focusing on sectors, including buildings, transport, and industry, to achieve emission cuts; highlighting carbon pricing's role in emission reduction and preventing "carbon leakage" through the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The EU aims to be a global low-carbon leader by playing a leading role vis-à-vis ideas, technologies, and rules. Energy transition and climate action are vital tools for the EU to achieve economic recovery. China and the EU are important partners in climate cooperation. Under the combined effect of the carbon neutrality target, the limitation of China-U.S. cooperation, and geopolitical factors, the competitive and cooperative relationship between China and the EU in energy and climate has been further highlighted. Carbon pricing and green bonds are becoming the focus of China-EU cooperation. Looking ahead, China and the EU should strengthen cooperation in international climate negotiations and collaborate to build a fair multilateral mechanism for climate governance. Moreover, China and the EU should support developing countries' capacity building and green financing efforts to combat climate change, promote coordination and cooperation to address climate change using market tools, and lead the formulation of relevant international standards and rules. In addition, both sides should further cooperation in green technology innovation and research and development (R&D) to provide wider-ranging technology solutions to the world.

Reference

Jiang, Siyu [江思羽]. 2022. The EU energy climate policies and China-EU cooperation under carbon neutral targets (碳中和目标下的欧盟能源气候政策与中欧合作). *International Economic Review* (国际经济评论). 01:134-154+7-8.

Comments by iGCU

The author identified the four key stages of China-EU climate cooperation in the past decades. They classified China-EU climate cooperation before 2000 as the first stage of bilateral cooperation, namely the initial development phase. At this stage, China and the EU marked priority areas of cooperation, including environmental protection. The second phase spanned between 2001 and 2012, when China and the EU established the ministerial-level China-EU environmental policy dialogue mechanism, starting the stage of institutionalized development. China and the EU began new forms of cooperation on climate change between 2013 and 2020, with the EU wrapping up years of official development assistance to China. From 2020 till date, China and EU cooperation on climate change has entered an era of "green partnership", where the high-level bilateral environmental policy dialogue has been further deepened. The author pointed out that China and the EU have a relatively long history of close cooperation on climate and environmental issues, with standardized institutions and diverse actors. The author further suggested that the COVID-19 and Russo-Ukraine conflict might bring about broad prospects for China-EU cooperation on climate change.

[Published in Jan. 2022]

AFRICAN ISSUES OF CLIMATE GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION & COOPERATION AND CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION

《气候地缘竞合背景下的非洲议题与中非合作》



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Author: Wang Wanfa

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Abstract

While the global climate governance process will profoundly affect geopolitical relations, geo-competitive and cooperative relations will also impact how countries collaborate on climate governance. Geopolitically, Africa's climate issues have become the frontiers of competition and cooperation among major powers. Africa's roles in global climate governance are getting more complex, under the influences of great powers rivalry, since African countries are generally becoming more autonomous at present. In the transition of global climate geo-competition and transformation, African climate issues have the dual logic of Africa's autonomy and the cooperation of big powers. In this vein, Africa is becoming a stage for competition among major forces, mainly reflected in climate leadership, climate program supply, and climate capacity building. The key connotation is climate geopolitical competition and cooperation changes. The major powers play a competitive role in Africa's response to climate change and are simultaneously intertwined with climate cooperation, focusing on multilateral climate negotiations and international development cooperation. In pursuit of the goal of building a closer China-Africa partnership on climate change and a closer China-Africa Community with a Shared Future in the new era, China-Africa climate cooperation should explore new and innovative means of cooperation to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their relationship.

Comments by iGCU

In light of Africa's increasing significance in climate issues, it is essential to consolidate China-Africa climate cooperation and enhance the spillover effect of the bilateral cooperation. The authors point out that China-African climate collaboration is still susceptible to several tough challenges, including the impacts of geopolitical tensions, difficulties facing African countries vis-à-vis the transition to a green economy, and other imbalances in cooperation. Looking ahead, the authors reckon that China-Africa climate cooperation should keep pace with the times and be creative and forward-thinking. Led by the concept of building a stronger China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era, China would need to continue to explore innovative ways of cooperation on climate issues, enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the bilateral cooperation, and play a leading role in guiding global collaboration with Africa.

Reference

Yu, Hongyuan [于宏源], Wanfa Wang [汪万发]. 2022. African Issues of Climate Geopolitical Competition & Cooperation and China-Africa Cooperation(气候地缘竞合背景下的非洲议题与中非合作). West Asia and Africa (西非亚洲). 01:93-110+158-159.

[Published in Jan. 2022]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND LEAD THE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: SITUATION, PROBLEM & COUNTERMEASURES

《积极参与和引领应对气候变化南南合作：现状、问题与对策》

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Author: YANG Yaru

Assistant Research Fellow at National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation



Author: MU Guangwei

Assistant Research Fellow at National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation



Abstract

Through years of practices, 'South-South cooperation on climate change' as an important project initiated by China for tackling climate change has yielded positive results. For instance, the capability of many developing countries to cope with climate change has improved immensely with help from China. However, the cooperation is now facing internal and external challenges. Internal challenges potentially come from the monotony of assistance provided, difficulty in making further progress, inflexibility in using the fund, weak management, incompetence in coordinating different sectors, and the lack of a comprehensive evaluation system. The main concern for external challenges would be how the U.S. and certain European countries attempt to compete with China in this aspect. Increasing the effectiveness of South-South cooperation on climate change requires improving the systematic, innovative work mechanisms, intensifying efforts to push forward the construction of a 'Green Silk Road', establishing an all-inclusive 'South-South cooperation' evaluation system, etc.

Comments by iGCU

The authors highlighted that building a 'Green Silk Road' is vital for advancing 'South-South cooperation on climate change'. Notably, many countries within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are developing countries that also partake in the South-South cooperation on climate change. This shared concern over the climate crisis has created a genuine link between the two agendas (the 'Green Silk Road' and BRI). Nonetheless, the authors argued that it could be challenging to coordinate various countries comprehensively since their national interests diverge. Hence, they proposed the full utilization of the BRI's knock-on effect to facilitate the 'South-South cooperation on climate change' to develop a more systematic approach to climate action and adaptation, promote the institutionalization of South-South climate cooperation, and shape the global climate agenda via broader solidarity.

Reference

Zhang, Zhiqiang [张志强], Yaru Yang [杨雅茹], Guangwei Mu [母广伟], Yan Li [李彦], and Yuanxin Tian [田园馨]. 2022. Actively Participate and Lead the South-South Cooperation on Climate Change: Situation, Problem & Countermeasures (积极参与和引领应对气候变化南南合作：现状、问题与对策). Journal of Environmental Economics (环境经济研究). 7(01):26-35.

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TOPIC
04

Global Climate Governance: Current Situation, Dilemmas and Prospects

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NEW TRENDS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND NEW MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

《全球气候变化治理的新形势与联合国的新使命》



Author: Dr. SHI Chenxia

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Abstract

At present, global climate governance is facing new challenges. On the one hand, the discrepancy between the urgency of climate change issue and the procrastination in responding to climate change globally (or implementing effective climate policies in general), as well as the contradiction between the increasing complexity of climate issue and the lack of 'strong leadership' on climate governance, are getting clearly evident. On the other hand, the unexpected occurrence of the COVID-19 outbreak has undeniably affected global climate governance in a complex way. Facing the new situation, the United Nations, as one of the key international organizations that leads the fight against climate change, would continue to take the responsibilities for safeguarding multilateralism, promoting multilateral cooperation, coordinating cooperation among major powers, facilitating the effective capacity-building in developing countries, and evaluating the impact that the COVID-19 has on the global climate governance and better respond to it. Looking ahead to the future, global climate governance under the UN framework might face severe challenges in the short run, but from a long-term perspective, it is believed that the global climate governance is still able to get back on track.

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the author indicates that for tackling global challenges, global solutions are required, and that the foundation of global cooperation is multilateralism. Facing the challenges of climate change, it is a matter of fact that no country can solve the crisis alone. Therefore, the author reckons that the United Nations, as an organization that provides a platform for global cooperation, has been playing a significant role in global climate governance. Nevertheless, the author further points out that the challenges facing the current global climate governance originated from declining multilateralism. Specifically, it is believed that as the global economy has been teetering on the brink of recession, multilateralism is broadly weakened, with nationalism and protectionism rising. Meanwhile, under the effects of different factors, the willingness of the U.S., EU, and other important regions to uphold multilateralism is in decline. In the aspect of climate change, the occurrence of incidents like the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement (*the article was written in 2020*) had immense impacts on multilateralism. Generally speaking, as the climate issue is getting more complex, the need for a more effective global (climate) governance system is on the rise. The author suggests that the UN should try its best to protect and uphold multilateralism, and minimize the negative impacts that would be generated from the U.S. withdrawal. As the climate issue tends to get worsened, the author believes that countries worldwide would reach a consensus under the UN framework in the foreseeable future.

Reference

Shi, Chenxia [石晨霞]. 2020. New Situation of Global Climate Change Governance and New Mission of the United Nations (全球气候变化治理的新形势与联合国的新使命). Hubei Social Sciences (湖北社会科学). 05:48-57.

[Published in Aug. 2020]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF CITIES IN GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE IN THE POST-PARIS ERA

《后《巴黎协定》时期城市在全球气候治理中的作用探析》



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Author: Prof. ZHU Qianting

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Abstract

In the post-Paris Agreement era, under the multi-level governance framework, cities have become hotspots of climate impacts and, thus, have begun actively participating in climate governance. The article reviews two modes of urban climate governance, enabling cities in China to learn from successful empirical cases and actively participate in (global) climate governance. In the future, urban climate governance in China could be further enhanced by working on the following aspects: encouraging Chinese cities to actively participate in a transnational municipal climate governance network; building an intra-national communication network within China; further promoting the implementation of urban climate governance; lastly, constructing a new assessment framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Comments by iGCU

Global climate governance in an era of globalization needs the active participation of more actors. More precisely, cities, as an important sub-national actor, play a crucial role in climate governance. The authors reckon that carbon emissions reduction and climate adaptation are two main embodiments of urban climate governance. Likewise, by actively participating in international and intra-national communication networks, promoting the implementation of relevant climate policies, and constructing an assessment framework, urban climate governance could further develop to be more effective.

Reference

Wu, Jing [吴静], Qianting Zhu [朱潜挺]. 2020. An analysis of the role of cities in global climate governance in the post-Paris era (后《巴黎协定》时期城市在全球气候治理中的作用探析). *Environmental Protection (环境保护)*. 48(05):12-17.

[Published in Feb. 2021]

REFLECTIONS ON THE NATIONAL CARBON MARKET UNDER THE CARBON NEUTRAL TARGET

《碳中和目标下对全国碳市场的几点思考》



Author: Prof. PANG Jun

Professor and Vice Dean of the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Renmin University of China

Abstract

On Sept. 22, 2020, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the general debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly via video. President Xi stated that China would scale up its intended Nationally Determined Contributions by adopting more vigorous policies and measures, strive to reach a peak of carbon emissions by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The author suggests that China should consider adding carbon taxes to its environmental protection policies to achieve the two goals. The carbon tax could regulate the behaviors of enterprises in terms of their emissions, and the revenues gained from carbon taxes could be used to support the development of renewable energy and low-carbon technologies in China.

Comments by iGCU

The author suggests that with the goal of carbon neutrality proposed, the low-carbon transition ("green transition") would build a new growth engine for China's future and create new patterns for economic growth. Achieving carbon neutrality could provide unprecedented opportunities to transition toward renewable energy and develop low-carbon (net-zero carbon and carbon-negative) technologies. China should adopt more effective mechanisms and approaches to reach carbon neutrality. The author notes that carbon emissions trading is regarded as one effective market mechanism designed to provide an economic incentive to limit carbon emissions. The author further proposes that the Chinese government could consider adopting carbon taxation within its current environmental policy.

Reference

Pang, Jun [庞军]. 2021. Reflections on the national carbon market under the carbon neutral target (碳中和目标下对全国碳市场的几点思考). China Sustainability Tribune (可持续发展经济导刊). 03:19-21.

[Published in Apr. 2021]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

HOW TO RESOLVE THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE DILEMMA ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

《如何破解全球气候治理之困》

Author: Prof. BAO Cunkuan

Professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Fudan University



Abstract

As the impacts of global warming are intensifying, there is an increasingly urgent need for effective global climate governance. In response to the rapidly escalating climate change crisis, China has proposed two plans for climate governance: achieving carbon peak by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060. China may need to deal with many difficulties when pursuing these plans. There are three "accessible paths" for China to actualize its goals: "high-quality development," "high-quality life," and "high level of protection." China will need to adopt different means to facilitate the "green" transitions of different sectors, establish sustainable development mechanisms, and enhance the effectiveness of modern climate governance. Moreover, the government should make these two plans – achieving carbon peak by 2030 and neutrality by 2060 – more relevant to the general public, calling on more people to participate in environmental protection.

Reference

Bao, Cunkuan [包存宽]. 2021. How to resolve the global governance dilemma on climate change? (如何破解全球气候治理之困). <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1698232630403967094&wfr=spider&for=pc>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

Comments by iGCU

The author conceives that it is challenging for any developing nation to achieve goals like "carbon peak" and "carbon neutrality" in such a short period. They pinpoint these difficulties through a professional lens and raise several original suggestions. China would need to seek out a practical, effective, and sustainable developmental path in decades to come. For the "green" goals to be achieved, it requires the joint efforts of the entire Chinese community.

[Published in Apr. 2021]

ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW IS VITAL TO THE TACKLING OF CLIMATE CHANGE

《坚持以国际法为准绳，应对气变挑战》



Author: HE Dan

Assistant Research Fellow at the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy Studies Center

Abstract

To promote global climate governance, President Xi Jinping has reiterated the importance of multilateral cooperation and the significance of the strict adherence to international law in tackling climate change. As a result, when promoting sustainable development in China, the Chinese government would continue to fulfill its obligations to reduce emissions and implement effective moves in its strategy to achieve the "Dual-Carbon" goal. Moreover, China would continue to uphold the basic principle of "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)" when participating in global climate governance and actively promote South-South cooperation, contributing to sustainable development. President Xi Jinping's thought on diplomacy offers a "China solution" to the world (in terms of global climate governance). It would also enable the world to explore different models of global governance in various fields, bringing valuable insights into building a community with a shared future for humankind.

Comments by iGCU

International law plays a critical role in regulating the behaviors of states and promoting international cooperation in solving climate change. This article builds upon the study of President Xi Jinping's thoughts on diplomacy, analyzing the actions of the international community and China in participating in climate governance. The author suggests that international law is of great significance as it serves as the basis for constructing a fair and rational global climate governance system.

Reference

He, Dan [何 丹]. 2021. Adhering to international law is vital to the tackling of climate change change (坚持以国际法为准绳，应对气变挑战). http://www.china.com.cn/opinion2020/2021-04/30/content_77454720.shtml?f=pad&a=true. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in May. 2021]



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"CARBON NEUTRALITY" AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

《“碳中和”与世界地缘政治重构》

Author: Dr. ZHANG Rui

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Author: Dr. XIANG Junyong

Research Fellow and Acting Director of the Institute of Economics and Technology, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization



Abstract

More than 120 countries and regions have put forward the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by the middle of this century. The proposal and related actions are the geological shaping behavior of the international community under the background of the Anthropocene epoch. Theoretically, large-scale carbon neutralization actions profoundly impact geopolitical patterns through geographical factors and foreign policy. At present, some carbon neutralization actions have significant geopolitical effects: carbon interference between countries, carbon border tax, the new pattern of energy trade focusing on natural gas and hydrogen energy, control over key mineral resources, and regional power integration. The study of this paper shows that carbon neutralization has a non-linear restructuring impact on the geopolitical pattern, which creates both opportunities for cooperation and destructive potentials to drive power expansion, resource competition, and rule hedging. The geopolitical role of carbon is becoming increasingly prominent, raising the visibility of some issues. The role of spatial dimension is constantly strengthening, and geopolitics is moving towards new imagination of power within planetary boundaries. The political logic of Anthropocene realism has emerged, and the characteristics of great power politics are more prominent. In the climate governance cooperation between China, the United States, and the EU, carbon neutrality may not necessarily be an opportunity to promote good relations between major powers. The geopolitical realignments it triggers may intensify existing major power games and even create new obstacles or conflicts.

Reference

Zhang, Rui [张锐], Junyong Xiang [相均泳]. 2021. Carbon neutrality and the restructuring of the current global geopolitical landscape (“碳中和” 与世界地缘政治重构). *Global Review (国际展望)*. 13(04):112-133.

Comments by iGCU

The author first points out that "carbon neutrality" has gradually evolved into a collective commitment rather than a consensus goal. Its conceptual implications and relevance to geopolitics should be explored in the broader geographical context. Hence, the author argues that "carbon-neutral" actions have become more systematic and tangible, with some actions being more significantly targeted. The author also introduces the new concept of "carbon interference".

[Published in Jul. 2021]

CARBON NEUTRALITY: MISCONCEPTIONS AND THE REALISTIC PATHWAYS TOWARDS IT

《碳中和误区及其现实路径》



Author: Prof. LIU Ke

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Abstract

There are currently common misconceptions about carbon neutrality among the general public. As a matter of fact, technological breakthroughs only have little contribution to achieving carbon neutrality. The realistic pathways towards carbon neutrality could be summarily understood as follows: realizing a low-carbon energy system by integrating renewable energy with coal (i.e., hybrid energy systems); fully making use of minerals separation technology; integrating solar energy (solar photovoltaics) with agriculture, water development, etc., for effectively reducing carbon emission; utilizing thermal energy storage; lastly, using renewable resources to produce renewable methanol and electricity for distributed generation.

Comments by iGCU

Through clarifying several common misconceptions the general public might have about carbon neutrality, Prof. Liu pointed out in his speech that the journey to carbon neutrality would undoubtedly be long and arduous. He reckoned that although the development of solar energy, wind energy, and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology has been helpful to some extent, considering the present technical limitations, these attempts barely have any positive impact on the progress towards the set goals. Prof. Liu suggested that it is worthy of further investigation on how to achieve carbon neutrality with as little influence on economic development as possible. For that, Prof. Liu proposed two possible pathways toward carbon neutrality and summarized five realistic measures to promote carbon neutrality. In all, Prof. Liu believed that achieving carbon neutrality is never a simple task; there are many important factors worth considering, including cost control, technical advancement, and the influence of other economic factors.

Reference

Liu, Ke [刘科]. 2021. Carbon Neutrality: Misconceptions and the realistic pathways towards it. (碳中和误区及其现实路径). <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/EqQqh0PLaVpM7QYdgwAbtA>. Accessed 9 November 2022.

[Published in Aug. 2021]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UNDER THE CLIMATE CRISIS

《气候危机下的国际安全》

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Abstract

As the climate "tipping points" for Earth are rapidly approaching, the climate crisis and other global risks are triggering systemic international security threats. It is believed that the climate crisis would compound security threats on four main aspects: military security, global security mechanisms restructuring, global strategic balance, and global security framework. Specifically, the climate crisis might cause damage to military facilities, undermine military readiness, strain military operations, and bring greater risks to environmental security in a broader context. Second, climate change and climate security would have knock-on impacts on water, food, ecological, public health, and nuclear security. Third, the U.S. has actively attempted to tip the strategic balance between major powers by promoting climate security cooperation. Fourth, as the UN Security Council has highlighted the urgent need for creating spaces for 'new dialogues' on climate security, the U.S. hopes it can take the lead in the setup of the global framework on climate migration to reshape the international framework for global security cooperation.

Comments by iGCU

The author argued that although climate change might not lead to war, the climate security issue could be seen as an 'amplifier' of global security threats, especially since it is connected with traditional and non-traditional security issues. For example, climate-related record-breaking devastating droughts in the Darfur region of Sudan intensified tensions between farmers and herders, catalyzing the Darfur war. Concerning non-traditional security issues, climate change has increased extreme weather events. Along with urbanization, overpopulation, and rapid economic growth, climate change has directly or indirectly caused rising poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and intensified social tensions. Unfortunately, the capabilities and competencies of many governments across the globe in dealing with disastrous climate issues have also waned. In this vein, combating climate change and its impacts requires different parties to work together to promote global security, peace, and sustainable development in a comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable manner. Likewise, this collaborative effort requires actively searching for effective coping mechanisms through the interactions between human society and the environment.

Reference

Tang, Xinhua [唐新华]. 2021. International security under climate crisis (气候危机下的国际安全). http://www.news.cn/globe/2021-09/02/c_1310143473.htm. Accessed 9 September 2022.

[Published in Aug. 2021]

THE ORIGIN OF CARBON NEUTRALITY AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SECTORS

《碳中和的源起及其对经济与金融的影响》



Author: Dr. SUN Tianyin

Deputy Director of the Center for Green Finance Research, Tsinghua University

Abstract

As a responsible power, it is of great necessity for China to set up the goal of "Carbon Neutrality" (to be achieved by 2060) for maintaining its competitiveness in the future global economic landscape. By setting this goal, China can now execute new policies to encourage innovative inventions at the industrial level, taking initiatives in start-up industries such as renewable energy. Meanwhile, it also represents a considerable investment opportunity and hints at the rising risks for high carbon sectors. Faced with coexisting opportunities and challenges, China needs to ensure that the transitions of the industry and the market would take place in an orderly manner.

Comments by iGCU

The author analyzes China's incentives for setting up the "Dual Carbon Goals" in two aspects. The author first explained why China intends to peak its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The author then discussed how China's revolutionary socio-economic systematic reform could affect the economic, industrial, and financial sectors. Climate change has gradually become a critical issue concerning global governance. The measures that each country takes to address this issue will directly impact their power of discourse and competitiveness in the future global economic landscape. Meanwhile, as the realization of the Carbon Neutrality goal would also influence relevant sectors within China and the Chinese financial market, it would be vital to pay close attention to that.

Reference

Sun, Tianyin [孙 天 印]. 2021. The origin of carbon neutrality and its impact on economic and financial sectors (碳中和的源起及其对经济与金融的影响). <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/tq-oY2XwnjoN41wKKtniaw>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Aug. 2021]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND
UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

CARBON NEUTRALITY, CARBON PEAK, AND THE ENERGY TRANSITION

《碳达峰碳中和与能源转型》

Author: Prof. LI Zheng

Professor and Executive Vice President of the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University



Abstract

Extreme weather gets a boost from climate change, and people's daily lives have been negatively affected by it. Consequently, the importance of reaching the goals of carbon peak and carbon neutralization has been widely recognized and accepted by countries worldwide. China has now incorporated the "Dual Carbon Goals" into its national development strategies and showed firm determination to achieve the goals and respond to climate change in the coming years. Nevertheless, for China, as a developing country, reaching the "Dual Carbon Goals" has never been an easy task. To fulfill the goal of carbon neutrality, China would first need to review and coordinate national and global plans for reaching carbon neutrality, actualizing complete decarbonization in the long run. It also requires the joint efforts of the entire Chinese community to achieve technological innovations and promote the revolutionary transition to a sustainable energy system, moving away from consuming carbon-heavy fossil fuels like coal.

Reference

Li, Zheng [李政]. 2021. Carbon neutrality, carbon peak and the energy transition (碳达峰碳中和与能源转型). <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/0ssDJwr7kqMaXBb7l2U4Rw>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

Comments by iGCU

Climate change is one of humankind's most significant challenges. For China, the "Fourteenth Five-year Plan" is an important period of opportunity for achieving the carbon neutrality goal. The Chinese government will have to grasp the nettle and address climate change with a sense of urgency. Based on the research on the transformation of the power sector, the author points out that it is essential to first achieve the objectives for carbon dioxide peaking and then reach the goal of carbon neutrality. While promoting technological innovation and coping with climate change is crucial, it is also necessary to consider socio-economic efficiency.

[Published in Sep. 2021]

EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE NEW AND OLD SYSTEM

《全球气候治理体系演进及新旧体系的特征差异比较研究》



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Abstract

The new climate governance system, represented by the "Paris Agreement", has replaced the old system represented by the "Kyoto Protocol", and this is a landmark event in the history of international climate negotiations. This article sorted the thirty-year history of the global climate governance system into four stages, detailedly summarized and evaluated the historical and realistic significance of representative climate conferences and major events, and revealed changes in competition and partnerships caused by changes in the interests of major countries. The new climate governance system is characterized by the following features: a new "Bottom-up" mechanism, joint leadership, and diversification of participants. In sum, each of the old and new governance systems has advantages and disadvantages. The rules should be implemented as soon as possible to establish a fair and efficient global climate governance system.

Comments by iGCU

The authors used the evolution of the global climate governance system as an entry point to sort through the climate governance system's history and compare the old climate governance system with the new one. The authors reckoned that the three legally binding international treaties – UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement – have been playing leading roles in facilitating the progress of global climate governance. Other climate governance mechanisms, including representative climate conferences like the UN Climate Change Conference (COP) and the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate Change (MEF), have also helped accelerate the progress of global climate governance. Nevertheless, the authors noted that carbon emission reductions could constrain economic development to different degrees since the domestic situations of different countries vary. Each country is at a different developmental stage and has its goals and demands, ultimately resulting in conflicts in sharing the responsibility of carbon emission reduction among countries. Consequently, it has become the universal root cause of all the problems in international climate cooperation in the past three decades. Comparing the two climate governance systems, the "bottom-up" mechanism, to a certain extent, could guarantee the efficiency of climate governance. In contrast, the "top-down" mechanism could better protect each country's national interest and equity, but it is less efficient.

Reference

Zhang, Zhongxiang [张中祥], Zhongyu Zhang [张钟毓]. 2021. Evolution of global climate governance system: A comparative study of the new and old System (全球气候治理体系演进及新旧体系的特征差异比较研究). Social Sciences Abroad (国外社会科学). 05:138-150.

[Published in Nov. 2021]



DIVERGENT OF VIEWS AND INTERESTS AMONG NATIONS MAKE THE PROGRESS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE DIFFICULT

《全球气候治理在分歧中艰难前行》

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Abstract

The United States has turned the UN Climate Change Conference into a venue to peddle its propaganda to seek an advantageous and privileged position on climate issues. The U.S. has been trying to make others believe that developing countries, especially China, should bear the greatest responsibility for climate change. By doing so, the U.S. attempts to enable developed countries to enjoy "carbon privileges". The U.S. should not be a climate-privileged country. Finding equitable and feasible solutions to climate change requires disregarding U.S. propaganda and distortion of facts; instead, scientific research and global cooperation should be encouraged.

Comments by iGCU

By analyzing data provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the author offered empirical evidence indicating that high-income economies constituted the majority of the highest per capita carbon emitters, and their adopted emission reduction strategies could hardly meet the current needs of the international community. In this vein, the author argued that, in essence, the U.S.'s claims to be the "global leader on climate action" and proposed emission reduction standards are entirely in its interests and to enable developed countries to enjoy higher carbon emissions (per capita) than developing countries. The author reckoned that this particular stance of the U.S. is unacceptable to China.

Reference

Dong, Yifan [董一凡]. 2021. Divergent of views and interests among nations make the progress of global climate governance difficult (全球气候治理在分歧中艰难前行). <http://www.workercn.cn/34199/202111/19/211119072357336.shtml>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Nov. 2021]

THE COMPLEX DILEMMA OF GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND CHINA'S PROGRAMME FACING THE NEW SITUATION

《新形势下全球气候治理的复杂困局与中国方案》



Author: Dr. ZHAO Beiwen

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Abstract

Currently, global climate governance is facing a dilemma. On the one hand, developed economies, represented by the United States, and developing economies, represented by China, seek to lead in global climate governance. On the other hand, in the context of the superposition of the unprecedented great changes in a century, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the impacts of new factors like the Russia-Ukraine conflicts, developed economies are no longer monolithic. Therefore, the conflicts that mainly spur the current global climate governance dilemma are attributable to the uneven distribution of responsibility at the global level and the divergence of interests at the national level. From the perspective of the developmental trend, the characteristics of China-U.S. climate relations have been more competitive than cooperative, while China-EU climate relations is the opposite. As a responsible power, China would not only need to be more active in playing its parts in global climate governance vis-à-vis the existing frameworks but would also need to play a leading role among developing countries and further promote the development of the Green BRI. Through strengthening the cooperation with developed countries, China would partake in global climate governance with institutional openness.

Comments by iGCU

The author reviewed the historical development of global governance, pointing out that the current global climate governance is constructed on several legally-binding international conventions, and the implementation of policies are strictly following the guidance of specific legal documents. The author reckoned that global climate governance still faces a dilemma despite achieving positive outcomes. The author's discussed 'Spaghetti bowl effect' of global climate governance is evident. The author further suggested that China should enhance cooperation with developed countries and participate in global climate governance with institutional openness in the foreseeable future.

Reference

Zhao, Beiwen [赵 蓓 文]. 2022. The Complex Dilemma of Global Climate Governance and China's Programme Facing the New Situation (新形势下全球气候治理的复杂困局与中国方案). World Economy Studies (世界经济研究). 08:3-9+135.

[Published in Aug. 2022]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

REFLECTIONS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

《关于全球气候治理的若干思考》

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Vice Dean of the Institute for Global Health and Development, PKU
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Abstract

The climate crisis is getting worse daily, posing unprecedented challenges to the survival of the entire human race and human development. In this context, the outlook for global climate governance has been attracting worldwide attention. This article touches on important theories and practical problems of global climate governance. It also provides a primary analysis and evaluation over a series of empirical questions: how to assess global climate governance over the past thirty-two years; how to understand the saying "global climate governance is a mirror of global governance"; how to understand the roles of "climate clubs" in global climate governance; how to see the fact that climate change has gradually become a security issue; how to look at the new trends of global climate governance and the goal of carbon neutrality under the background of Russo-Ukraine conflicts; how China could play a leading role in global climate governance. The article intends to trigger more thoughts and discussions around (the politics of) the climate crisis.

Comments by iGCU

By answering several critical questions, the author intended to clarify the developmental history of global climate governance, its functions, new changes, and challenges. The author reckoned that considerable evidence proves that the path of global climate governance over the past three decades has been a correct one. Being able to withstand the impacts of the 2008 financial crisis, the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement under the Trump administration, and the COVID-19 pandemic, global climate governance has shown its resilience, and the existing system remains vigorous. From China's point of view, the author noted the importance of recognizing the relationship between climate change and national security, actively promoting global cooperation on climate change, safeguarding China's national security, and playing a leading role in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Reference

Zhang, Haibin [张海滨]. 2022. Reflections on global climate governance (关于全球气候治理的若干思考). Journal of Huazhong University of Science and Technology(Social Science Edition) (华中科技大学学报 (社会科学版)). 36(05):31-38.

[Published in Sep. 2022]



TOPIC
05

Global Climate Governance and China's Role

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CONSTRUCTING CHINA'S DISCOURSE POWER IN POST-PARIS GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE: CONNOTATIONS, CHALLENGES AND PATHWAYS

《“后巴黎时代”中国的全球气候治理话语权构建 - 内涵、挑战与路径选择》



Author: Prof. LI Qiang

Dean and Professor of the School of International Relations, Tianjin Foreign Studies University

Abstract

In the post-Paris era of global climate governance, a redistribution of discourse power is underway as countries vie with each other over how to approach mitigation, adaptation, capital, technology and capacity building, issues that are addressed by the "Paris Agreement." In order to promote the community of shared future for mankind and demonstrate its role as a responsible major power, China needs to come to terms with the current opportunities and challenges on the basis of an understanding of discourse power in global climate governance. It needs to acquire discourse power commensurate with its national strength from three dimensions: institutional support, scientific soundness, and moral principles. China must realize the great transformation from being a participant to being the leader so as to promote the construction of a fair, just and reasonable international climate regime and global climate governance order. China must base its efforts on the actual situations so that it can advance its national interests while also taking into consideration the common interests of mankind. It must develop a discourse system expressed in languages with Chinese characteristics so that it is able to set the agenda in international climate negotiations and shape international climate regime and its main principles, to provide scientific support, and to be a model for other countries and provide assistance to them.

Comments by iGCU

The author points out that in the post-Paris era, the pattern of current global climate governance faces changes and a shift in leadership. Consequently, it gives China an opportunity to strengthen its discursive power in climate politics. By analyzing the implications and major challenges faces the current global climate governance system from the institutional, scientific and moral perspectives, this paper provides insight into how China could enhance its influence in global climate governance. With the U.S. returning to the Paris Agreement and China upholding its new concept of development for better tackling climate change, the author believes that climate issues may become a new highlight for China-U.S. cooperation.

Reference

Li, Qiang [李 强]. 2019. Constructing China's discourse power in post-Paris global climate governance: Connotations, challenges and pathways (“后巴黎时代” 中国的全球气候治理话语权构建 - 内涵、挑战与路径选择). *International Forum (国际论坛)*. 21(06):3-14.

[Published in Nov. 2019]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

THE ESSENCE, FOUNDATION AND PRACTICE OF CHINA'S STRATEGIES FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

《中国全球气候治理观的要义、基础与实践》

Author: Prof. BO Yan

Professor of the School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Fudan University



Abstract

China has formed a systematic outlook for global climate governance in its long-term practices of combating climate change and global warming. The essence of the Chinese ideological concept for climate governance involves 'win-win cooperation', fairness, and rationality. Likewise, it is built on the Chinese traditional and cultural values of righteousness and justice, Chinese international relations theories, and the concept of building a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation (building a community with a shared future for mankind). By participating in global climate governance, China has been actively putting its strategies and ideological concept into action. In practice, China has not only facilitated the progress of climate governance domestically but has also contributed to the development of global climate governance.

Comments by iGCU

The author analyzes the Chinese outlook for global climate governance from the perspectives of Chinese traditional cultural values and Chinese international relations theories. The author points out that adhering to the basic principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)", China's strategy for global climate governance is developing to be more systematic and comprehensive. Likewise, this does not only represent China's relentless pursuit of moral righteousness and justice but also shows the world that the core of China's strategy transcends the "zero-sum" or utilitarianism mindset and centers around "win-win cooperation", fairness and rationality. The author suggests that in the post-Paris-Agreement era, China should continue to play an active role in leading the UN climate negotiations, promote the formulation and implementation of the specific frameworks, and make greater contributions to constructing the global climate governance mechanism.

Reference

Bo, Yan [薄燕]. 2021. The essence, foundation and practice of China's strategies for global climate governance. (中国全球气候治理观的要义、基础与实践). Contemporary World (当代世界). 12:50-56.

[Published in Dec. 2019]

CHINA INJECTS IMPETUS INTO GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

《为全球气候治理注入中国力量》



Author: Prof. KANG Xiao

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Abstract

The European Union and the United States still play a leading role in the current global climate governance system. Ideally, the EU and U.S. should provide financial and technical support to developing countries and help them better adapt to climate change. However, the EU and the U.S. have little concern for the developing countries' fights against climate change and how the transition to climate resilience could affect the developing nations' interests. Consequently, the current global climate governance system is inefficient and lacks inclusiveness. Nevertheless, China's strategy of promoting high-quality development and its efforts to facilitate green development would contribute to the reformation of the global climate governance system, helping to improve the inclusiveness and efficiency of the current system. China's climate policy is one of the key constituents of its governance strategy in the new era; China shoulders the responsibility of achieving high-quality development at home and contributing to building a community with a shared future for humankind.

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the author points out that following the green development concept, China has been actively promoting the development of renewable energy (including the development of new energy vehicles, low-carbon sustainable materials, and carbon capture and storage technology), and improving public awareness on low-carbon transformation. Meanwhile, China has also been (and will continue to be) assisting less developed countries/regions, mobilizing global action to help them better adapt to climate change, and enabling more nations to benefit from the positive outcomes of global climate governance. More so, China has been emphasizing the importance of China-U.S.-EU trilateral cooperation and encouraging major powers to shoulder their responsibilities in the fight against climate change. The author suggests that guided by President Xi Jinping's concept of building a community with a shared future for humankind, China would play a more active role in leading the reform of the global climate governance system and contribute to solving global challenges like climate change.

Reference

Kang, Xiao [康晓]. 2021. China injects impetus into global climate governance (为全球气候治理注入中国力量). http://www.cssn.cn/zx/bwyc/202103/t20210302_5314684.shtml. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Mar. 2021]



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

CHALLENGES FOR CHINA TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY

《碳中和——中国在国际舆论上的新挑战》

Author: Prof. WANG Wen

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Abstract

With carbon neutrality becoming a trending topic globally, a new cycle of political competition would occur. First, there would be a competition over the standards of (the development of) green and low-carbon industries among nations. Currently, there is a distinct lack of consensus about standards-and rules-setting of the green and low-carbon industries, market acceptance barriers, etc. It is believed that whoever possesses the power to make the rules or set the standards would undoubtedly be influential in leading the development of the low-carbon industry. Second, the green-tech competition (especially regarding technological innovation) has started to unfold. Third, the existing structure of international trade will gradually be replaced with a new structure, with the green and low-carbon industries as the core. As a result, trade barriers would increase, and competition or conflicts arising from the relevant matters would linger. In all, trade rivalry among nations vis-à-vis green and low-carbon industries is expected to ensue. Fourth, financial agendas related to carbon neutrality such as raising capital and debt issuance would become heatedly discussed topics in the foreseeable future, thus, would trigger the competition over 'capital' among different parties.

Comments by iGCU

The author suggested that with the climate issue becoming a prime concern of many countries, China is now under pressure and faces new challenges. The author first indicated that the current emission reduction principles (already adopted by most actors of the international community) mainly follow the principles of 'territorial' or 'production' emissions. In other words, the emissions from goods produced in China and traded to other countries have been added to China's total carbon emissions. Thus, China faces challenges in shouldering greater responsibility for those 'hidden' carbon emissions. The author pointed out that as China's institutions that calculate the country's carbon emissions lack 'discourse power' in the global arena, there are risks that certain Western countries might scale up their political schemes of constraining China by increasing their anti-China rhetoric over its carbon emissions. The author considered it vital for China to enhance public education on the significance of carbon neutrality, build a green consensus among the public, cultivate talents who could contribute to low-carbon development, advance the existing low-carbon technology, and fast-track the energy transition. China should see the dialogues on climate change as important opportunities to ease off the current tension between China and the U.S. and pressures from other parties globally.

Reference

Wang, Wen [王文]. 2021. Challenges for China to achieve carbon neutrality (碳中和——中国在国际舆论上的新挑战). https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/5-8xv-_6XH0tV6DtanCrQ. Accessed 9 September 2022.

[Published in Jun. 2021]

CHINA'S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF BUILDING THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE FOR MANKIND AND NATURE

《全球气候治理的中国角色——人与自然生命共同体的视角》



Author: Prof. LI Dan

Professor of Political Science at the School of Public Affairs, Xiamen University



Author: LUO Mei

School of Public Affairs, Xiamen University

Abstract

Climate change threatens the sustainable development of both human society and nature, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Global climate governance has indeed become an important yet challenging part of global governance in the present day. Concerning the dilemmas facing global governance in combating climate change (e.g., the absence of credible and authoritative international climate leaders, fragmented climate governance architecture, etc.), it could be said that the current global climate governance system is very much ineffective indeed. In the face of the increased climate risks and the (institutional) deficit in climate governance at a global level, China stands for building a community of shared future for humankind, offers countries worldwide a 'Chinese plan' to tackle climate change, and shoulders the climate responsibilities as a great power. Specifically, China has been actively contributing to climate adaption and mitigation, supporting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, bridging the 'North-South Divide' in climate negotiations, assisting developing countries to combat climate change, facilitating global cooperation on climate change, and leading in incorporating the concept of green development in implementing the Belt and Road Initiative.

Comments by iGCU

In the article, the authors highlight that in the fight against climate change, it is important for China to first fulfill its climate duties by cutting emissions and promoting clean energy. By achieving its climate goals, China could set a "good example" for other nations who want to take a more active role in tackling climate change and could help stop the malicious slander that some have imposed on China's climate governance. The authors also suggest that to build a more effective global climate governance system, it is essential for every nation to firmly support and uphold the UN Framework Convention on climate change. China's role in global climate governance has indeed shown its determination to build a community of shared future for humankind and construct a community of life for man and nature, with a cooperative and responsible attitude.

Reference

Li, Dan [李丹], Mei Luo [罗美]. 2021. China's role in the global climate governance: From the perspective of building the community of life for mankind and nature (全球气候治理的中国角色——人与自然生命共同体的视角). Journal of Guangxi Normal University (Philosophy and Social Science Edition) (广西师范大学学报 (哲学社会科学版)). 57(04):1-12.

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INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, PEKING UNIVERSITY

BY REALIZING THE 'DUAL CARBON GOALS', CHINA CONTRIBUTES TO BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF SHARED FUTURE

《中国碳中和、碳达峰对实现人类命运共同体的贡献》



Author: Dr. DING Yifan

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Abstract

China has contributed most to global CO₂ emissions because of its rapid industrialization and vast population. Even though China's cumulative CO₂ emissions per person are relatively low, it still has pledged to abide by international obligations to reduce emissions, take effective public policy measures, and work with other countries to address climate change issues jointly. Currently, China's emission reduction methods mainly include technological upgrading, developing renewable energy sources (such as electricity, nuclear fusion, hydrogen, wind, and solar energy), promoting education for climate action, and encouraging low-carbon lifestyles.

Comments by iGCU

China is not at the forefront of the world regarding cumulative CO₂ emissions and CO₂ emissions per capita. Nevertheless, China is still willing to undertake its international obligation and cooperate with other nations to handle climate change. China committed to peaking its carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 ("Dual Carbon Goals"), sending a positive signal to the global cooperation on climate change. Every country should achieve the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature by reducing carbon emissions. The actualization of this goal requires the joint efforts of all nations.

Reference

Ding, Yifan [丁 一 凡]. 2021. By realizing the 'dual carbon goals', China contributes to building a global community of shared future (中国碳中和、碳达峰对实现人类命运共同体的贡献). <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/c0FxVMTAFemxbsdhCKPh4A>. Accessed 24 May 2022.

[Published in Aug. 2021]

CHINA WILL PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF 'CARBON NEUTRALITY' AND ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

《中国将引领世界碳中和进程，为应对气候变化作出更大贡献》

Author: Prof. XU Qinhu

Vice Dean of National Academy of Dev't & Strategy, Renmin University of China
Professor at the School of International Studies, RUC



Abstract

China has always been a responsible great power in tackling global climate change. As a matter of fact, China has pledged to lead in achieving carbon neutrality. By consistently pushing its sustainable development forward, China has been contributing to the promotion of green growth and taking the lead in accelerating the global effort to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality. In recent years, China has put in considerable effort in coping with global climate change and has committed to building an ecological civilization as a national strategy. China not only values green transformation of its own but is also dedicated to helping developing countries worldwide deal with the climate crisis, achieve the green transition, and facilitate high-quality development. China will continue to assist developing countries in implementing the objectives of the Paris Agreement and play a leading role in achieving carbon neutrality in the post-pandemic green recovery process.

Comments by iGCU

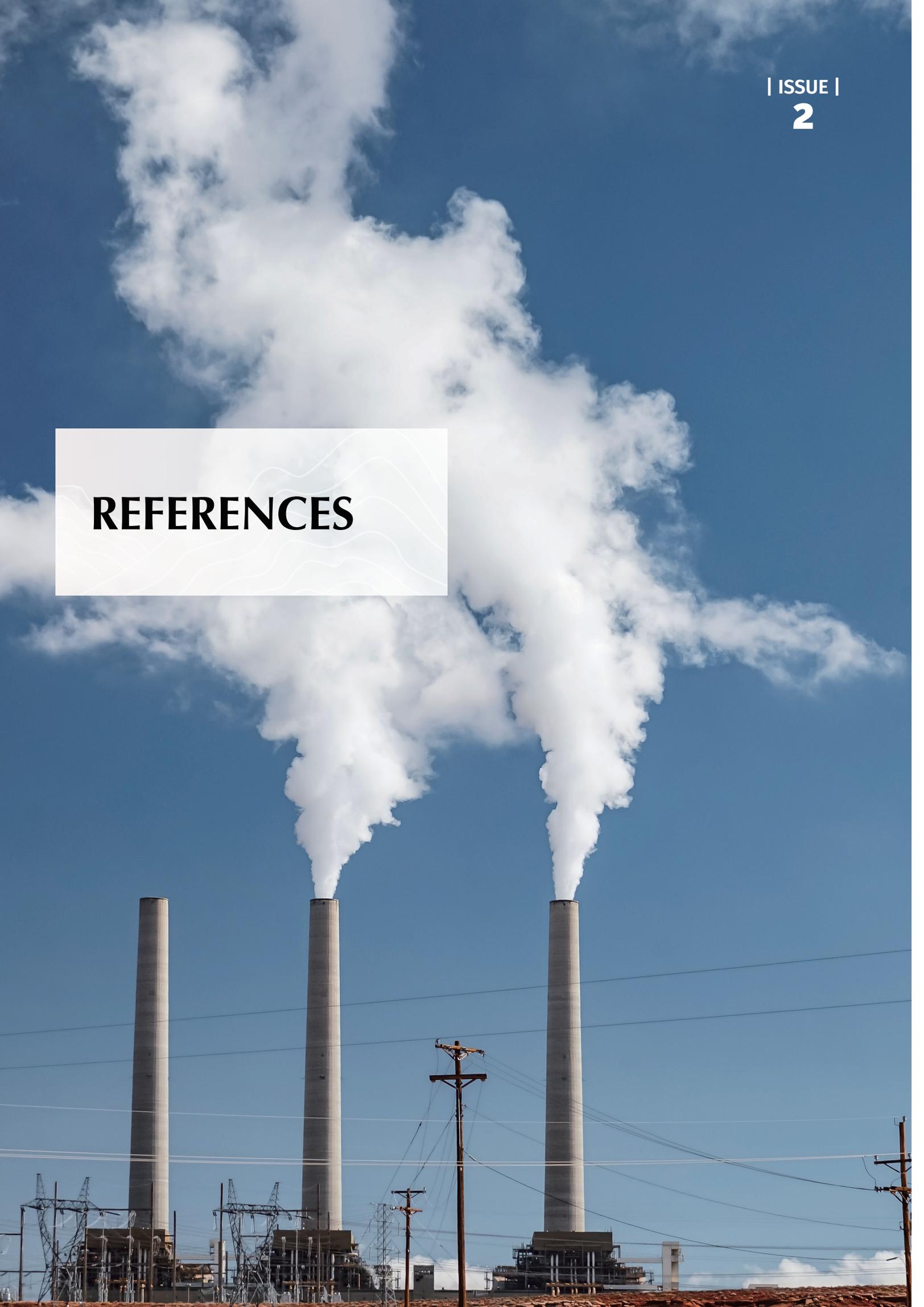
Prof. Xu suggests that while China has been actively fighting against climate change, it has also been promoting the construction of ecological civilization and is committed to achieving high-quality development in China. In achieving green transition, the Chinese government has been dedicated to increasing people's happiness, enhancing people's feelings of security, ensuring the national economic growth, boosting employment, eliminating poverty, and promoting green development. In all, China has been trying its best to support livelihoods while pursuing high-quality development nationwide, and China's new climate plan has been widely commended for its distinctiveness and comprehensiveness. Quoting Nigel Topping, UK High-Level Climate Action Champion for UN Climate talks (COP26), "China's idea of an ecological civilization could promote global biodiversity and climate change talks in the future...there is much great work being done in greening the financial system in China". It is believed that China will keep working on addressing the climate issue in the coming decades and actively contribute to mitigating climate change.

Reference

Xu, Qinhu [许勤华]. 2021. China will play a leading role in achieving the goal of 'carbon neutrality' and actively contribute to the fight against climate change (中国将引领世界碳中和进程，为应对气候变化作出更大贡献). http://www.china.com.cn/opinion2020/2021-09/27/content_77776933.shtml?f=pad&a=true. Accessed 9 September 2022.

[Published in Sep. 2021]

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