

**China's Statement at the UNFF17 High Level Round Table
on the implementation of UNSPF in 2021**

Ms. Chairperson

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Chinese government attaches great importance to forestry development and is committed to giving full play to the important role of forestry in promoting sustainable economic and social development. Over the past year, China has focused on the biennial thematic priorities of the UNFF, strengthened ecological protection and restoration, and promoted sustainable forest management, achieving remarkable results.

We have constantly improved the development of institutional and legal system. After the completion of revision of the *Forestry Law of the People's Republic of China*, we immediately embark on the revision of the *Regulation on the Implementation of the Forestry Law of the People's Republic of China* to further consolidate the legal basis for the protection and management of forest resources. The Forest Chief System has been established to make clear the targeted responsibility of local government leaders in the protection and development of forest resources, forming a five-level

responsibility system and creating strong institutional synergy. The *Guidelines on Scientific Greening* was issued by the General Office of the State Council, proposing the integrated governance of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and desertified land for the scientific, ecological and economical green development path. We also have compiled the *Outline of the 14th five-year Plan on Forestry and Grassland Protection and Development* to determine the general guidelines and key tasks of China's forestry protection and development during the next five year plan period. *The Implementation Plan for the Consolidation and Enhancement of the Carbon Sequestration Capacity of Ecosystems 2021-2030* has been prepared to consolidate and enhance the carbon sequestration capacity of forest ecosystem, showing China's resolve and responsibility to address climate change.

In 2021, China continued to promote large-scale land greening in a scientific manner and completed 3.6 million hectares of afforestation throughout the year. Comprehensive monitoring and assessment of the ecological status of forests and grasslands were carried out for the first time, and a unified base map for forest and grassland resources management was established. We carried out the national special actions to crack down deforestation activities and uncover all kinds of deforestation cases in history, and the number of cases,

areas and stock volume of deforestation had shown a downward trend for three consecutive years as a result. Targeted Forest Quality Improvement Project was carried out, through which 933,300 hectares of degraded forests were restored, improving the ecological and economic benefits of forests and promoting the cultivation of healthy, stable, high-quality and efficient forest ecosystems. We also set up pilot sites for national forest management to improve the level of sustainable forest management, completing the tending of 1,133,300 hectares of natural forests throughout the year.

In 2022 and beyond, China will continue to implement the United Nations Forest Instrument and the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests, strengthen international cooperation, promote national land greening, enhance sustainable forest management, increase forest areas, improve forest quality, increase the increment of carbon sequestration of forest ecosystem, and persistent in prioritizing ecological preservation and pursuing green development, making greater contributions to achieving the goal of emission peak and carbon neutrality and safeguarding global ecological security.