

**Statement by DDG Wang Zhongjing in the Plenary Meeting of the
Sixth Assembly of the GEF**

It is my great pleasure to attend the Sixth Assembly of the GEF in the beautiful city- Da Nang. On behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to thank the people and Government of Vietnam for hosting the Assembly and warm hospitality extended to us. I also thank the GEF Secretariat for the preparation works.

In the past four years, the international community has made impressive stride to tackle the environmental challenges. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development formulate a new vision forward. The seventh replenishment of the GEF achieved the target with new pledges from member countries including China, which shows the unanimous support to GEF and strong willingness to jointly pursue the global environmental benefits. Against this backdrop, how GEF could play a bigger role concerns all parties. In this regard, I would like to make three suggestions:

Firstly, on strengthening multilateral partnership. Global challenges needs global actions. As the financial mechanism of multilateral environmental agreements, GEF could play a unique role in developing a wide range of global partnership network. It should adhere to the principles

and rules set out in the international environmental conventions, develop an inclusive platform for all stakeholders, and achieve synergies by adopting integrated approach.

Secondly, on exploring innovation. To address rapidly shifting environmental challenges, GEF needs to be more innovative in the operations. We welcome the great effort to introduce new systematic modality based on the successful experiences in GEF 6. We hope the impact program could be implemented in an effective and efficient way by optimizing limited resources.

Thirdly, on enhancing country ownership. Maximizing global environmental benefits requires the full engagement of all countries, in particular the recipient countries which have a much better understanding on their own situations. In this regard we call upon GEF to continuously enhance country ownership, take recipient countries' needs as the starting point for designing policies and programs, and provide necessary assistance to enhance their capacities.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Chinese nation respects nature and loves nature. There is rich ecological culture in its five thousand-year history. Today the idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, has been deeply

rooted in the hearts of the Chinese people. The Chinese government priorities tackling pollution and protecting environment on its agenda and sets the objective of building a Beautiful China by 2035. A number of fundamental, pioneering and long-term work are being carried out to promote green development. At the same time, China has played a constructive role in international environmental cooperation. It made every effort to conclude the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and published its own plans to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China will continue to work closely with GEF and other countries to promote global ecological civilization, and build up a clean and beautiful world.

Thank you!