

**Naoko Ishii remarks on  
China South-South Cooperation Forum  
Les Bourget, China Pavillion  
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Minister Xie, excellences, colleagues and friends.

Very good morning to everyone. It is my great pleasure to be here.

First, I want to congratulate the Chinese Government for this important and timely initiative, and say that we are really excited about helping to make it reality.

Back in September, the world adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. The most important new feature of the SDGs are that they are truly global.

They recognize the importance of our global environmental commons (oceans, biodiversity and – importantly—climate). They also recognize that it all countries must come together if we are to successfully achieve them.

I believe this was very much on President Xi Jin Ping’s mind when he in New York announced that China will set up a large fund to support South-South cooperation and assist developing countries in implementing their post-2015 development agenda.

We have made a lot of progress in many areas there are still a lot of work to be done to transform our economies to become low-carbon and climate resilient.

I believe that much stronger South-South Cooperation can be a very important tool to accelerate progress.

The draft paper that the Chinese government has prepared for the discussion today emphasizes four areas that may be particularly useful to focus on, namely, knowledge generation; capacity building; solution development; and sharing of good practice.

I believe that these are the right ones, and I am very pleased to see that the paper is taking note of some of the work the GEF has been doing with the Chinese government throughout the years.

Looking ahead, I would like to offer some thoughts about where the GEF might work with China to support its South-South cooperation efforts.

Let me mention four areas.

First, in the area of sustainable forest management, for example, I imagine that we can start exploring ways to transfer remote sensing technologies to the developing world in a much more effective way. I know that China and Brazil have been collaborating closely in this area. And I know that one of the factors that has enabled Brazil to bring Amazon deforestation down by 75% during the past 12 years is the ability to track where forest degradation is happening and act on real time. Imagine if we could bring this technology to benefit the Congo Basin countries and many others much cheaper and easier? I believe we could be soon speaking about promoting transformative change in the world's forests through S-S cooperation.

Second, I think there is huge scope for expanded South-South cooperation in the area of urban development. I would be very interested in exploring how we can expand our global platform on city planning tools and metrics – which is being created through the recently-approved GEF's Sustainable Cities IAP – by partnering with China's South-South Fund to enable GEF resources to be scaled up from the first

23 cities spread around 11 countries to hopefully many more in the near future.

Third, with respect to eco-system based adaptation—which is also emphasized in your paper—as you know, the GEF has been one of the pioneers, and have funded numerous projects from our \$1.3bn adaptation funds. From mangrove rehabilitation on the coast, to rainwater harvesting in the mountains, the GEF has a vast set of experiences that I believe can be usefully share. We have done some initial assessment of successful adaption experiences ourselves, but much more could be done.

Finally, as your paper also mentions, when it comes to INDC implementation, there will be a huge need for South-South capacity building, knowledge sharing and solutions development. In the lead up to this COP the GEF provided support for 46 INDC. But this was clearly only a first step. Much more will need to be done in the future.

We look forward to continuing conversation to work with you to make this exciting idea into reality.

Thank you