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Talking points at an intergroup meeting of EU Parliament

LI Xiangfeng, 19 Nov 2009

---China attaches great importance to climate change. Although both historical emissions and per capita emissions of China are low, although China is still in the rapid urbanization and industrialization process, coal accounts for 70% of energy consumption and 80% of greenhouse gas emissions, and there are about 50 million poor and low-income population in China, the Chinese Government takes a highly responsible attitude to the Chinese people and all mankind, overcomes various difficulties and makes great efforts to reduce emissions. China has made important contributions to combat climate change worldwide.

---We pursue the path of sustainable development; avoid the old path of “pollution first, treatment later” and “emission without binding” by the developed countries. We take into account at the same time the need to control greenhouse gas emissions, to adapt ourselves to climate change, to transform our economic model for a balanced development in economic, social and environmental fields. Our policies and measures are

stronger than any time before. And we have made remarkable achievements. I would like to set two simple examples here: First, by implementing the "National Climate Change Program" and reducing energy intensity, China would cut 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ emissions for the period of 2006 through 2010. In absolute terms, such a CO₂ reduction is in the forefront of the world. Second, Since China adopted family planning policy from the seventies of last century, over 300 million births have been averted nationally. According to the average per capita emissions of the world, the averted births have resulted in an annual reduction of CO₂ emissions by about 1.2 billion tons.

---China will further integrate actions on climate change into its economic and social development plan and take the following measures: First, we will intensify effort to conserve energy and improve energy efficiency. We will endeavor to cut carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by a notable margin by 2020 from the 2005 level. Second, we will vigorously develop renewable energy and nuclear energy. We will endeavor to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 15% by 2020. Third, we will energetically increase forest carbon sink. We will endeavor to increase forest coverage by 40 million hectares and forest stock volume by 1.3 billion cubic meters by 2020 from the 2005 levels. Fourth, we will step up effort to develop green economy,

low-carbon economy and circular economy, and enhance research, development and dissemination of climate-friendly technologies. In my personal view, these commitments and targets are so ambitious enough.

---Copenhagen conference will be held within one month. The conference is a critical juncture for the international community to address climate change. On the basis of principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”, the conference should aim to achieve positive results in the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The developed countries should set their ambitious quantified emission reduction targets in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and make arrangements for an effective mechanism to ensure financial, technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries. The developing countries should take appropriate mitigation actions in accordance with their national conditions under the framework of sustainable development. China is willing to work with the international community including the EU, for the success of the conference.