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Policy Update

China makes notable progress in green, low-carbon energy transition: white paper

BEIJING, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) — China has made notable headway in green and low-carbon energy transition through vigorous efforts to replace fossil fuels with renewables and advance a new energy and power system, according to a white paper released on Saturday.

Titled "Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality: China's Plans and Solutions," the document was issued by the State Council Information Office to mark the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement. It outlines China's major achievements, approaches and experience in pursuing peak carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality over the past five years.

Key progress highlighted in the white paper includes:

- Non-fossil energy consumption ratio rose from 16.0% in 2020 to 19.8% in 2024, with China leading the world in new energy development in scale and speed.
- By the end of August 2025, installed wind and photovoltaic power capacity exceeded 1,690 GW — triple the 2020 figure and accounting for about 80% of new power generation capacity added since 2020.
- Regular hydropower installed capacity reached around 380 GW, while pumped-storage hydropower capacity stood at about 62.37 GW by late August 2025.
- China had 112 nuclear power units (in operation, under construction or approved) with a combined installed capacity of 125 GW, ranking first globally.
- Biomass power generation installed capacity hit 46.88 GW, and annual green hydrogen production capacity exceeded 150,000 tonnes by the end of 2024, leading the world.

Additionally, China has accelerated the clean and efficient use of fossil energy and enhanced the power system's regulation capacity, reliability and resilience to fulfill its goals of peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

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Highlights

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https://english.news.cn/20251013/a9ce938022c340b5abbf825c83d965c6/c.html

China Focus: China sees continuous progress of "she power" in workforce

https://english.news.cn/20251012/4494c2d17ddb4fec991acfb7a7f81fef/c.html

China reports major improvements in welfare for children, elderly over past 5 years

https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/1010/c90000-20375222.html

UN environment assembly opens in Kenya with call to safeguard planetary health

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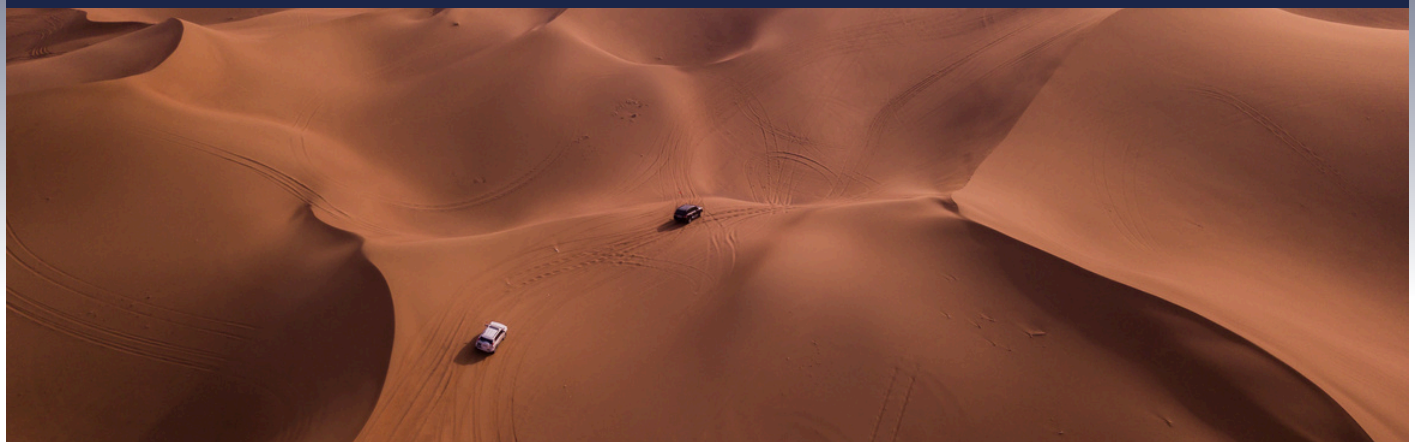
Xinhua Headlines: China turns Hainan Island into special customs supervision zone in opening-up drive

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Recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development

https://www.idcpc.org.cn/english2023/ttxw_5749/202510/t20251029_167976.html

Yearender-China Focus: Warmer, wetter climate brings changes, concerns in NW China



URUMQI, Dec. 25 (Xinhua) -- In northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, factory workers were busy sorting, packaging, and loading apples that were picked earlier onto trucks bound for markets from Shanghai to Paris.

Apples in Xinjiang are a geographical treasure. They are widely consumed in China and exported to countries such as France and Russia. But few consumers are aware that the main growing area of the crisp, juicy fruit was a dry and barren land 40 years ago.

A changing climate, together with the oasis development, has led to frequent rainfall, rising temperatures and expanded river flows, making apple cultivation possible.

Scientists attribute the agricultural success to a "warm-wet" climate transition.

DEBATED SHIFT

Located in the high-latitude interior of Asia, China's northwestern region is far from the oceans. Abundant sunshine and intense solar radiation have also caused high evaporation rates, making it one of the world's most arid areas.

As with apples, the suitable growing zones for many fruits, grains and cotton are expanding toward higher latitudes and altitudes in response to the ongoing trend toward warmer, wetter conditions.

For many people, the changing climate has become increasingly noticeable. On Chinese social media, travelers have posted photos of local lush, greener landscapes, expressing surprise that the once-arid region is beginning to resemble the humid south.

On the popular lifestyle-sharing platform Rednote, locals shared more tangible changes from daily life, like patches of moss and mushrooms sprouting in terrain where they were once unthinkable.

The concept of a warming and wetting trend was first raised by the Chinese glaciologist Shi Yafeng, who observed a long-term increase in temperatures and precipitation across the region. It began in the mid-to-late 1980s, intensified after 2000, and was thought to be closely linked to the accelerated water cycle driven by global warming.

Official data show that since 1961, the region has warmed at 0.34 degrees Celsius per decade, faster than the national and global averages, while annual rainfall has increased by 5.7 mm per decade.

"Global warming intensifies the atmosphere's water-holding capacity, and changes in wind patterns lead to more rainfall," Wang Pengling, a senior official at the National Climate Center, explained. "Besides, melting glaciers and snow from human-induced warming also contribute to the trend."

However, the academic community did not reach a consensus on this climatic shift. Some experts argue that the observed changes may reflect a temporary natural fluctuation, rather than a long-term trend.

"Increased precipitation is still just a quantitative change. It is not yet a qualitative shift that can alter the essential climate of northwest China," said Zhang Qiang, a chief meteorological engineer in Gansu Province neighboring Xinjiang.

The "warm" impact may be undermining its "wet" benefits, according to Yu Haipeng, a researcher at Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). He said rising temperatures can drive evaporation, potentially offsetting gains from extra rainfall.

"The basic climatic pattern will not fundamentally change, and pressure on water resources and ecology will persist in the region," Yu warned.

Despite the disputes, there is a shared understanding that, as in much of the world, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense in northwest China.

A recent event occurred in early November, when a heavy snowfall hit Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang, bringing a record-breaking 21 centimeters of snow within just 17 hours.

In October 2022, photos of ponds forming in the heart of the Taklamakan Desert made headlines. Scientists said the rare phenomenon was likely due to increased regional rainfall, heavy precipitation in the desert, and snowmelt floods from surrounding mountains.

Hail seasons also become longer and more frequent.

Similar changes are also being observed in other parts of northern China. This year, during the autumn harvest season, Shandong, one of the country's major grain-producing provinces, faced prolonged rainfall, disrupting crop harvesting and sowing. Persistent rains left fields waterlogged and soils too soft for conventional harvesting machinery, forcing farmers in some areas to resort to manual harvesting.

RENEWED CONCERNS

The ongoing warming and wetting climate trend can be a microcosm of the global climate dilemma: it offers both opportunities and urgent warnings.

In the short term, it has positive environmental impacts, such as promoting forest growth, increasing vegetation cover, and expanding crop planting areas.

However, in the long run, a warmer, wetter climate can spread agricultural pests and accelerate glacier melting. The number of glaciers in northwest China accounts for over 42 percent of the national total.

"Continuous rain during the critical ripening phase may dilute sugar content of melons, reducing sweetness and flavor," said Sun Junchao, a local agriculturist in Xinjiang's melon city, Hami. His team has used modern technologies, such as an artificial climate chamber, to grow melons under controlled environmental conditions that help them withstand extreme weather.

And the negative impacts are not limited to agriculture. The northwestern region is rich in cultural heritage, including ancient walls, rock sculptures and murals. Conservators are concerned that increased humidity could trigger destructive salt cycles behind these fragile artworks.

The Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve is also experiencing accelerated warming, leading to rapid lake expansion. Scientists are monitoring the impacts on wildlife, such as the once-endangered Tibetan antelope.

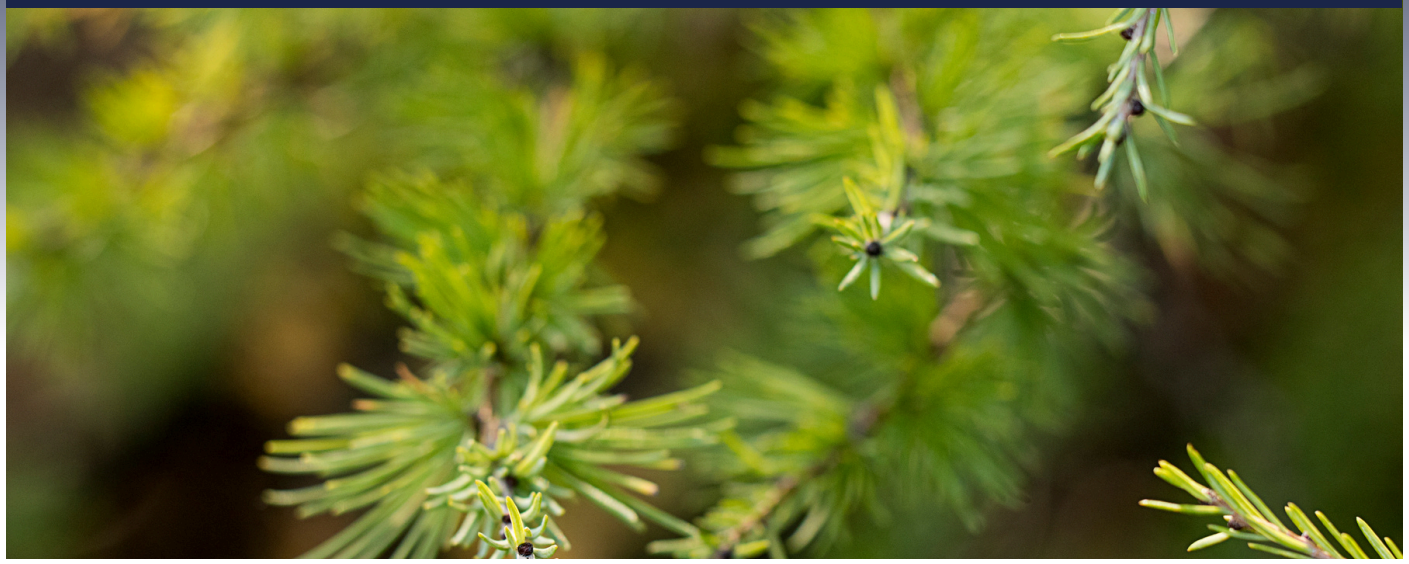
For local officials, the task is adaptation. Enhanced efforts are needed to strengthen monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems.

Noting that rising temperatures will accelerate glacier melt, Wang Feiteng, a CAS researcher and renowned Chinese glaciologist, said that local governments' top priority is to evaluate strategies to efficiently utilize the temporary period of increased water availability.

Wang Hui, a senior engineer at the Xinjiang Climate Center, called for enhanced climate feasibility studies and risk assessments for major infrastructure projects, urban planning and ecological development to enhance resilience to deal with the climate change.

https://english.news.cn/20250218/0067d0411acc483685d7cec625318114/c.html

News about CANGO



CANGO Co-Hosts Official Side Event at COP30: Rooting Climate Resilience in Local Actions and Nature

On November 15, 2025 (local time), the official UN side event "Roots of Resilience: Local Actors, Nature, and the Climate Future" was held in Belém, Brazil. Co-hosted by the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), and the Shan Shui Conservation Center, the event brought together representatives from UNEP, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), enterprises like LONGi Green Energy, and academic institutions including Peking University for cross-sectoral discussions on local actors' role in building climate resilience through natural ecosystems.



Group Photo of (Partial) Guests at the COP30 Side Event on November 15th

Core Focus: From "Interconnected Crisis" to "Transformative Change"

Citing key findings from the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and IPBES studies, the event highlighted that intertwined crises—climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, and energy-food insecurity—demand "Transformative Change" beyond traditional sector-specific responses. It emphasized aligning scientific assessments with municipal planning and community-based initiatives to drive actionable solutions.



Official COP30 Side Event Scene

Chinese Perspective: Gender-Responsive Adaptation

Wang Xiangyi, CANGO's Vice Chair and Secretary General, outlined China's phased climate adaptation goals (2025-2035) under the "China National Climate Adaptation Strategy 2035," stressing integration of gender and vulnerable group perspectives. She noted CANGO's role as a bridge: translating national/international policies into grassroots action frameworks and showcasing local practices at multilateral forums to foster global exchange.

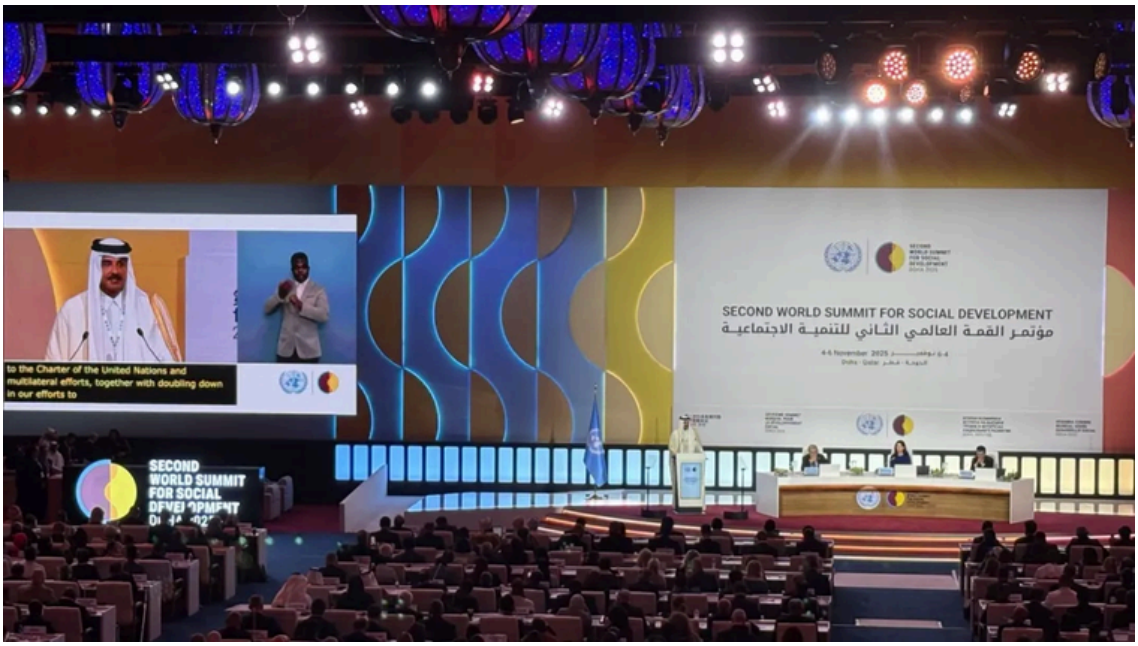
Global South Insights: Multistakeholder Collaboration

- Climate Finance: GCF emphasized partnering with local institutions to channel funds to vulnerable communities.
- Grassroots Support: Brazil's CASA Socio-Environmental Fund shared its flexible, long-term funding model for grassroots and indigenous groups.
- Local Practices: DAPP presented Namibia's climate-smart agriculture and community mutual aid efforts; Shan Shui Conservation Center showcased Qinghai-Tibet Plateau's "collaborative adaptation" (herders' traditional strategies + co-management + women-led cooperatives).
- Corporate Action: LONGi Green Energy highlighted solar projects for Amazon indigenous communities, linking energy access to education, healthcare, and women's economic empowerment.

CANGO Shines at UN Second World Summit for Social Development, Hosting "Solutions Sessions"

The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) was held in Doha, Qatar, from November 4 to 6, 2025, gathering over 14,000 participants including 40+ heads of state and 230+ ministers. Focused on eradicating poverty, decent work, and social inclusion, the summit adopted the Doha Political Declaration, hailed as a "booster" for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As Chinese NGO representative, the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) co-hosted two thematic "Solutions Sessions" under WSSD2, complemented by an offline exhibition, to showcase China's practices in "digital empowerment for social inclusion" and foster global dialogue.



Venue of the WSSD2 Conference

Dual Sessions: Online Consensus-Building & Offline Deep Dives

- Virtual Session (November 2): Titled "Shifting the Silence: Empowering Marginalized Voices through Digital Technology," the session brought together experts to discuss digital literacy, accessibility, and age-friendly community services. Speakers shared actionable paths—such as the "emotional mobilization-scenario-based communication-visual feedback" loop to lower public participation barriers—and highlighted practices like digital anti-fraud education and online meal assistance for seniors, addressing pain points of "inability to use, fear to use, and inability to afford" digital tools.



Offline Exhibition of "Chinese NGOs' Contributions to SDGs: Stories from Grassroots to Global"

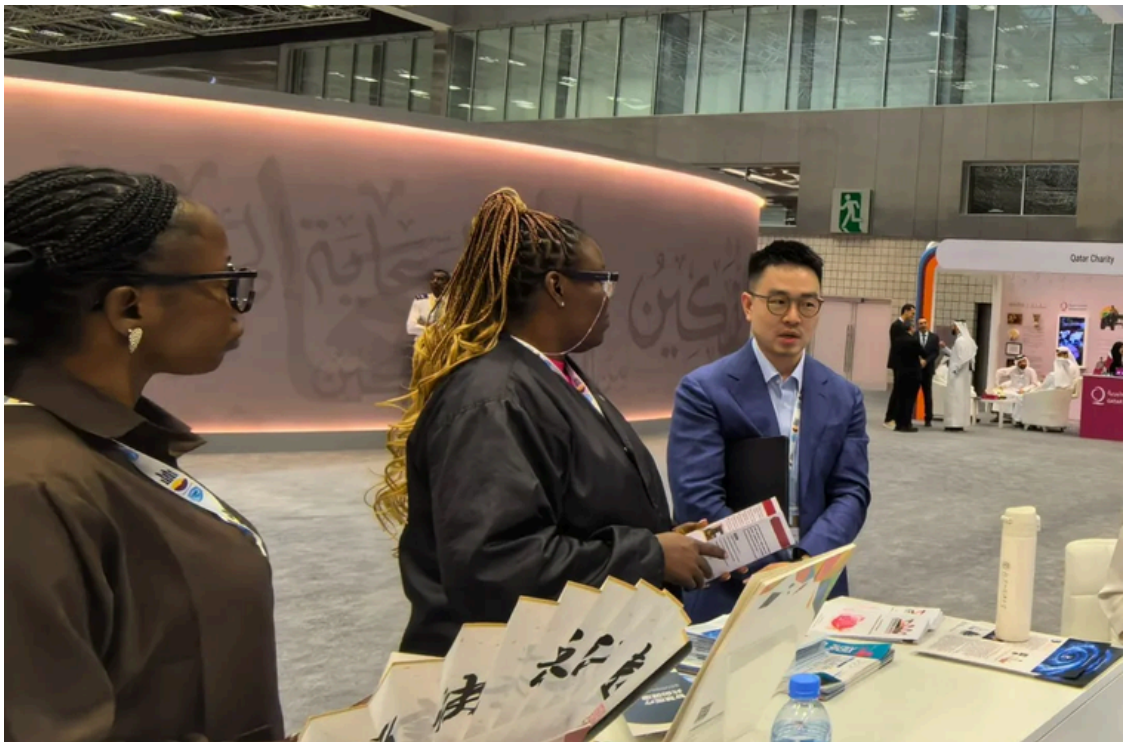
- Offline Session (November 5, Doha): Centered on "From Digital Empowerment to Social Inclusion: Nurturing a Future of Diversity and Coexistence," participants explored community mental health support, transparent online fundraising, and youth digital skills. They emphasized digital technology's role in connecting services to needs, bridging intergenerational/cultural gaps, and building trust via traceable public welfare projects, while cautioning on privacy protection and responsible technology use. Youth representatives showcased cases like e-commerce for local products and cross-cultural online volunteer programs, highlighting their pivotal role in linking community needs to global collaboration.

Both sessions reached key consensuses: prioritizing affordable and understandable digital access; integrating low-threshold, feedback-driven mechanisms to sustain participation; and promoting cross-institutional information sharing with ethical safeguards.



Group Photo of the Offline Side Event

Offline Exhibition: Sharing China's Grassroots Practices From November 4 to 6, CANGO co-organized an exhibition themed "Chinese NGOs' Contributions to SDGs: Stories from Grassroots to Global." Through real cases and visual materials, it showcased practices in digital inclusion, women and youth empowerment, community mental health, and climate resilience, presenting a clear "problem-path-impact" framework to global audiences.





Offline Exhibition of "Chinese NGOs' Contributions to SDGs: Stories from Grassroots to Global"

CANGO Leads Chinese Civil Society at C20 South Africa, Highlighting Poverty Alleviation & Development

The Civil Society 20 (C20) Conference concluded successfully in Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 14, 2025. Themed "Civil Society for a Just, Inclusive and Sustainable Future," the conference aligned with South Africa's G20 presidency agenda of "Unity, Equality and Sustainability." As the first C20 hosted on the African continent, it drew representatives from over 300 social organizations worldwide, focusing on development issues critical to the Global South.



Group Photo of the C20 Conference

As a core participant in the C20 process for a decade, the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) supported six Chinese CSOs—covering policy research, public welfare practice, international cooperation, and green development—to the conference. Chinese CSOs actively engaged in 14 working groups, including poverty alleviation, climate change, and digital inclusion, demonstrating the professionalism and dynamism of Chinese civil society in global governance and South-South cooperation.

Spotlight: "Poverty Alleviation and Development" Side Event

A key highlight was the "Poverty Alleviation and Development" side event co-hosted by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), CANGO, the Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges (BJNGO), and South Africa's National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (SANCO). Attracted over 100 international representatives, the event featured an exhibition booth showcasing China's civil society achievements in poverty alleviation, rural revitalization, community development, and environmental protection through books and practical exhibits.

In her video address, Wang Xiangyi, Vice Chair and Secretary General of CANGO, emphasized translating the "poverty alleviation and development" vision into actionable solutions. Since its establishment in 1992, CANGO has implemented projects across 31 Chinese provinces/municipalities, investing approximately RMB 1 billion and benefiting over 6 million people through partnerships with UN agencies, embassies, and international NGOs. She highlighted CANGO's role as a bridge: converting policies/research into grassroots tools, connecting global partners with local governments and communities, and amplifying the voices of local organizations and marginalized groups. She called for showcasing Global South experiences via knowledge platforms, strengthening networked cooperation, and formulating joint policy recommendations through multilateral processes like the C20.



Group Photo of the Guests and Audience at the Side Event

During the practice-sharing session, representatives from various fields presented case studies: integrating animal welfare into poverty alleviation projects, promoting green technology for local employment in Zambia via the "Light Up Africa" initiative, linking rural energy transition to sustainable poverty reduction, and building climate-resilient communities. The event fostered lively interactions and consensus that poverty alleviation requires multidimensional coordination and long-term engagement.



Side Event Scene – Interaction Between Guests and Audience

CANGO has refined its "pre-conference capacity building, in-conference advocacy, post-conference implementation" approach. It will lead the development of policy recommendations to translate conference consensus into actionable plans. Moving forward, CANGO will continue to promote civil society exchanges and cooperation with South Africa and other Global South countries, sharing China's poverty alleviation wisdom and development experience to contribute to global sustainable development and build a community with a shared future for mankind.



Side Event Scene – Group Photo of Guests and Audience

CANGO Launches New Book: *Harmony and Coexistence China's Civil Society in Global Climate Governance*

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement (2015–2025) and COP30's critical role in translating commitments into action, the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) partners with China Economic Publishing House to release a new book for global audiences: *Harmony and Coexistence: China's Civil Society in Global Climate Governance.*

Rooted in on-the-ground cases and long-term practices, the book centers on three core themes—multi-stakeholder collaboration, community resilience, and inclusive development. It systematically sorts out Chinese social organizations' participation paths and key experiences within the UN climate governance framework, aiming to serve policy communication and international exchanges through concrete evidence, practical methods, and replicable models. As a bridge between local practices and global agendas, the book seeks to promote pragmatic and sustainable cross-sector cooperation.



Complete Version Cover of the Book

Harmony and Coexistence China's Civil Society in Global Climate Governance

The book was first released globally during a United Nations press conference at COP30. Please scan the QR code to download the condensed English version.