

# NGO Cooperation Forum

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## Current Affair & Policy

### Thoroughly Understand the Spirit of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress Report and Promote Enterprises to Fulfill Their Corporate Social Responsibility

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How Chinese-funded enterprises can fulfill their corporate social responsibility(CSR) in the context of modernization with Chinese characteristics? According to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce ,PRC, there had been 28,600 enterprises of mainland of China investing overseas, and 45,600 enterprises had established overseas companies by the end of 2021, which are distributed in 190 countries and regions around the world. At the end of the year, the total assets of overseas Chinese enterprises exceeded 8 trillion US Dollar. Objectively speaking, China’s foreign investment is still ongoing. It has not only boosted economic development of the host country, but also made positive contributions to the recovery of the world economy.

Firstly, “institutional opening” is put forward in the 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress Report (*hereinafter referred to as “the Report”*). To promote the opening to the outside world, it is necessary to steadily expand the institutional opening of rules, regulations, management and standards. On the one hand, the business environment should be optimized by continuously reducing the negative list of the market and implementing the principle of competitive neutrality, so as to align with the internationally advanced rules and regulations. On the other hand, the China management ways and standards that have been proven to be effective in practice during our international economic and trade cooperation should “go global”.

Secondly, “accelerating China’s transformation into a trader of quality” is put forward in the Report and the word “accelerating” is emphasized. China will negotiate with more willing trading partners to sign more high-level free trade agreements (FTAs) and increase the ratio of zero tariffs on trade in goods, so that FTAs can increasingly bring benefit to China’s foreign trade. Industry associations and chambers of commerce should actively participate in dealing with all kinds of trade disputes, and fully leverage our roles in protecting China enterprises in their “going global” efforts.

Thirdly, “endeavoring to preserve the diversity and stability of the international economic landscape and economic and trade relations” is put forward in the Report, which comprises two parts. One is that China will focus more on firmly embedding itself in and closely integrating with the global industrial and supply chains, to prevent decoupling and disruption of the chains; the other is that while maintaining the country’s economic and trade cooperation with developed economies, it pays more attention to carrying out more trade and investment with other developing countries.

Fourthly, the Report puts forward “deepening exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations and better presenting Chinese culture to the world”. For Chinese-funded enterprises, while operating overseas, they also need to fulfill their CSR. Chinese-funded enterprises, Chinese-funded chambers of commerce and industry associations have the responsibility to spread Chinese culture and tell China’s stories well. Corporate social responsibility, including the spread of Chinese culture, is about integrating public welfare and commerce and is a critical part of expanding the market of Chinese culture overseas.

Fifthly, the Report puts forward “providing guidance and support for enterprises, NGOs, and individuals who have the desire and ability to actively participate in charitable and public-interest initiatives”. For example, ADDAX Petroleum, a subsidiary of Sinopec Group in Switzerland not only engages in charitable cause for developing countries, but also registers the Sinopec-Addax Petroleum Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland, fulfilling its CSR in the form of philanthropy and expanding its impact at the international scale.

Sixthly, the Report puts forward “actively participating in global governance” for a number of times. China has demonstrated its responsibility as a responsible major power, actively participated in the reform and construction of the global governance system and carried out all-out international cooperation to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been well received internationally. China’s strength has improved in terms of its international status, impact and soft power, and it has played a more significant role in global governance. It has actively participated in the global governance of climate change and practiced the concept of global governance, adhered to true multilateralism, promoted the democratization of international relations and driven global governance towards a more just and reasonable direction. Global governance involves the participation of governments, enterprises and NGOs; hence, overseas Chinese-funded enterprises and industry associations can play an indispensable role in this regard.

In short, as a member of industry associations and chambers of commerce, we need to thoroughly study and understand the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the CPC, actively encourage Chinese-funded enterprises to fulfill their CSR and implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (2030 SDGs), with their 169 specific targets involving ESG (Environment, Society and Governance), proposed by the United Nations. Together with experts and industry associations, CANGO has always adhered to the principle of “government-led, enterprise-owned, market-oriented operation” in its professional field, and promoted Chinese enterprises to “go global” and carry out foreign investment and cooperation. The principle of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits” should be advocated, enterprises should be supported to actively participate in the construction of the “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI), so that the Initiative can be elevated to a higher and deeper level. Enterprises should be guided to actively engage in international economic competition and cooperation, strengthen foreign investment and cooperation in green development, digital economy and other fields based on the reality of the host country, promote mutual benefit and win-win outcome for common development and make our due contributions to the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

# Industry Highlights

## In 2021, China's charitable organizations made remarkable progress



Previously, the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Social Sciences Academic Press (China) jointly published the *Blue Book of Social Organization: Report on Social Organization in China (2022)*. The Blue Book points out that according to the *China Civil Affairs Statistical Yearbook* in 2022, the total number of CSOs in China had reached 901,870 by the end of 2021, an increase of 7,708 compared with 894,162 in 2020, up 0.86%, dropping by 2.35 percentage points compared with the growth rate in 2020, representing the lowest rate since 2008.

Regarding the reason, according to the Blue Book, relevant regulations have provided guidance for local governments to strictly regulate the behavior of CSOs, crack down on illegal CSOs and clean up “zombie” CSOs, and the COVID-19 has also had a certain impact on the development of CSOs. At the same time, the research group found that the industry of CSOs has been further enriched, with the number of CSOs in the fields of education and social services accounting for nearly half of the total.

According to the Blue Book, the development of Chinese charitable organizations since 2021 has shown significant progress in terms of the growth of number and their contributions to philanthropy, and they also have played a relatively important role in the fight against the pandemic. In the future, they should be further improved in the aspect of “upholding CPC Party building in its development”.

In addition, the report suggests to promote the high-speed, high-quality and coordinated development of charitable organizations in different regions. The slowdown of the growth of charitable organizations, coupled with the imbalance of development within and between regions, has partly limited the development of charitable organizations and affected their role. On the one hand, we should further improve the *Charity Law*, promote its effective enforcement, attract CSOs to apply for formal recognition and promote the growth of the number of charity organizations. On the other hand, policy guidance and incentives should be strengthened to maintain the rapid growth momentum of the total number of charitable organizations in the eastern region and encourage the fast development of charitable organizations in the central and western regions. Based on major national strategic development regions, we should fully capitalize on policy advantages and promote the coordinated development of charitable organizations in various regions.

Additionally, the report suggests to bolster the building of talent teams for charitable organizations in order to lay the groundwork for providing high-quality services. On the one hand, it is necessary to strengthen the training of employees in charitable organizations and improve their professionalism and overall quality and capacity, increase the proportion of professional social workers and assistant social workers, enhance the proportion of staff holding a college degree or above and optimize the internal staff structure of charitable organizations. On the other hand, it is necessary to provide a good career development environment for professional talent, establish a sound reward and punishment system as well as management system, and improve the welfare benefits and social status of practitioners in charitable organizations, attract high-caliber professionals and promote the high-quality development of charitable organizations.

Finally, it is suggested to focus on improving the credibility of charitable organizations. The internal and external supervision mechanism of charitable organizations should be established. Moreover, charitable organizations themselves should also attach great importance to the openness and transparency of their services, ensure their services are well-targeted, relevant and effective, so as to build a good organization image and improve their credibility and high-quality development.

# Industry Highlights

## Over 30 National Industry Associations Launched the “Initiative of Serving the Dual-carbon Strategy, Promoting Green Development, Jointly Building Ecological Civilization and a Beautiful China”

On the afternoon of Nov 12, over 30 national industry associations, including China Association of Environmental Protection Industry(CAEPI), China Industrial Energy Conservation and Cleaner Production Association(CIECCPA), All-China Environment Federation(ACEF), China Iron & Steel Association(CISA), China Association of Circular Economy(CACE), China Energy Conservation Association(CECA), China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association(CECRPA), Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences(CSES), China Environmental Protection Foundation(CEPF) and China Environmental Culture Promotion Association(CECPA), launched the *Initiative of Serving the Dual-carbon Strategy, Promoting Green Development, Jointly Building Ecological Civilization and a Beautiful China*”.

“It is highly necessary and critical for CAEPI to hold the event with a themed initiative today, which is a concrete embodiment and important event for fully implementing the spirit of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress and promoting the high-quality development of green and low-carbon industries.” Zhao Penggao, Deputy Director General of the Department of Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection of the National Development and Reform Commission(NDRC), said in his speech that he hoped all industry organizations would take studying and implementing such spirit as the top political task for now and in the coming period, integrate the spirit into their thoughts, implement it in the practice and the whole process and all aspects of the work of industry associations. It’s necessary to vigorously promote the mutual reinforcement of industrialization and low-carbon development, and it’s hoped that associations of all industries would fully leverage their respective advantages and take effective measures to promote the deep integration of emerging technologies and green and low-carbon industries, accelerate the green transformation and upgrading and continue to bolster green and low-carbon industries. Furthermore, it’s needed to conduct in-depth investigation and research, timely report the demands of industrial enterprises to government departments at all levels, help industrial enterprises to coordinate solutions to problems in green and low-carbon transition and facilitate the high-quality development.

Lu Yuantang, Deputy Director General of the Department of Science, Technology and Finance at the Ministry of Ecology and Environment(MEE), said that entrepreneurs in the industry should thoroughly understand the strategic arrangements made at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress, with keen awareness of the new opportunities, new tasks and new requirements for China’s development and stay committed to the strategic focus and work relentlessly in pursuit of goals.

Guo Tingzheng, Director of the Department of Energy Conservation and Comprehensive Utilization of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology(MIIT), said that in the face of the new situation and new requirements, the Department would thoroughly study and implement the spirit, and work together with relevant departments to drive the deep transformation of production mode through green manufacturing and carry out “One Action”, build “Two Major Systems” and promote “Six Major Transformations” with the support of various associations.

The event was presided over by Guo Chengzhan, Party Secretary and President of CAEPI. Wang Xiaokang, former Chairman of China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group (CECEP) and President of CIECCPA, read the *Joint Initiative* on behalf of all relevant industry associations.



# Organization News

## CANGO Held a Series of Events during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), Humana People to People (Switzerland), the Bangladesh Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS) and Sichuan's Green River co-hosted a side event entitled “NGOs Helping Developing Countries Adapt to Climate Change: Policy, Investment and Financing” during the UNFCCC COP27. Government representatives and NGOs from China, Angola, Bangladesh and India introduced their national policies on climate adaptation and finance, shared exemplary cases of NGOs, and discussed opportunities, challenges and the future of NGOs in southern countries to contribute to climate adaptation actions.



UNFCCC COP27 side event entitled  
“NGOs Help Developing Countries Adapt to Climate Change: Policy,  
Investment and Financing”



Wang Xiangyi, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of CANGO

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, CANGO and China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) held a press conference on UNFCCC COP27, and jointly launched the *Initiative on Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Disaster Resilience in Developing Countries*, calling for greater global awareness and capacity to prevent extreme climate risks and foster stronger resilience for climate-vulnerable areas and populations, and building a beautiful homeland of harmonious coexistence between human and nature.



At the press conference of UNFCCC COP27, all parties jointly issued the  
“Initiative for Improving Response and Adapting to Climate Change”.

On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November, Wang Xinchao, Director of the Department of Environmental Program of CANGO vividly presented an education lecture on climate change during the UNFCCC COP27 Exhibits and showcased the ancient Chinese miraculous timepieces - the sundial and the Gui Biao (another form of sundial with an elongated dial and one or two gnomons), demonstrating to the participants from all over the world the time-honored Chinese wisdom of pursuing harmonious coexistence between man and nature.



Wang Xinchao, Director of the Department of Environmental Program of  
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UNFCCC COP27 Exhibits

# Organization News

The side event entitled “NGOs Collaborate with Multi-stakeholders: Moving Towards a Net Zero Carbon Future” was held in Sharm EL-Sheikh on the morning of local time on 17<sup>th</sup> November, which was co-sponsored by CANGO and CNIE, the event brought together government officials, research institutes, NGOs, academic institutions and enterprises from home and abroad in the field of climate change to discuss how NGOs can work together with multi-stakeholders to move towards the global zero carbon goal.

Wang Xiangyi, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of CANGO, shared the domestic cases of action and international exchange experience of CANGO with regard to how it supported NGOs’ participation in global climate governance through the China Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN) program in the past fifteen years. For fifteen years, the CCAN program has supported member agencies working on climate change in several cities across the country and continued to support 105 person-times of NGO partners in attending the UN Climate Change Conference, conveying the voice of the Chinese people through side events, press conferences, bilateral exchanges between NGOs, and putting forward policy recommendations. Finally, she analyzed the opportunities and challenges for NGOs to participate in global governance and looked forward to seeing NGOs working with multi-stakeholders in jointly contributing to a zero-carbon future.



Wang Xiangyi, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of CANGO

In the panel discussion, Zhang Jianyu, Executive Director of the BRI Green Development Institute and member of the Executive Board of Directors of CANGO, Zhang Ruiying, Executive Director of China Environmental Grantmakers Alliance (CEGA), Matt Grager, WildAid’s Climate Program Director, and Dr. Chen Zhaohui, Chief Scientist of Full Truck Alliance, discussed ways for multi-stakeholders to help achieve carbon neutrality in the future.



Panel discussion on “NGOs Collaborate with Multi-stakeholders: Moving Towards a Net Zero Carbon Future”



The side event entitled “NGOs Collaborate with Multi-stakeholders: Moving Towards a Net Zero Carbon Future”

China Pavilion during COP27



# Member Information

## Qingshen County Center For Women&Children Development

Qingshen County Center For Women&Children Development(*hereinafter referred to as "WCD"*), is located in Meishan, Sichuan Province. Since 2016, it has participated in the phase-I, phase-II and phase-III of the Social Gender Network Project and the Project of NGOs' participation in Public Service and Social Governance which launched by CANGO. With the support of CANGO, WCD has taken the lead in carrying out activities in Sichuan such as gender equality, anti-domestic violence, cultivation of NGOs, policy advocacy and dialogue, serving more than 10,000 people in total.

In order to support and enhance the institutional capacity building of network members, WCD have participated in the training of gender trainers (TOT) of China Civic Gender Network (CCGN) and the annual meeting of network members for many times, shared the implementation results, attended participatory training workshops and engaged in exchange of visits and other activities.

In recent years, through its participation in and implementation of projects, the WCD has achieved good social effects, promoted the enhancement of the capacity of social organisations in and around Meishan, promoted the purchase of social organisation service projects by the government of Meishan, as well as the cooperation between the government and social organisations in joint participation in social governance; and established a multi-sectoral collaborative joint mechanism on gender equality and anti-domestic violence throughout the county to form an effective synergy.

