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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Promoting international cooperation on climate-friendly and nature-positive action based on latest science is critical for mankind at this challenging time

Faced with global crises of climate change and biodiversity losses, shifting towards a climate-resilient and nature positive future is fundamental for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Scientists has warned that, the world's global average surface temperature has increased by 1.09 °C compared with the pre-industrial level [1], and the biodiversity losses is happening at unprecedented speed [2]. The United Nations Human Rights Council recognized access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental human right in October, 2021. This decade is critical for tackling the climate crisis, reverting the biodiversity losses and achieving the sustainable development goals for all.

Efforts at multinational, regional and national levels are made to accelerate the transition towards low-carbon and nature-positive future. Many nations, including China, have committed to mid-century zero carbon or carbon neutrality to combat climate change. Over 190 nations agreed to phase down coal power and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies at UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow in 2021. Countries are making efforts to promote green and climate-resilient international cooperation. For example, China announced to support other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy, and stop building new coal power projects overseas in 2021. Nations are also expected to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework on biodiversity conservation at CBD COP15 hosted by China.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian Federation-Ukraine war impacts are undermining the global confidence in multilateral governance mechanisms. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed huge challenges to the human and ecological systems, where the poor and the vulnerable suffer the most, hindering the global efforts of poverty reduction, combating climate change, and biodiversity conservation. And the Russian Federation Ukraine conflicts have brought uncertainties to and concerns for the food security and energy security. Although the importance and urgency of scaling up renewable energies for energy security in the long term is more obvious than ever, the concerns for energy security and technical challenges of increasing renewable energy penetration in the power mix might lead some nations to use coal power in the near term to secure the energy supply, and consequently hinder the efforts of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions in the long term. In addition, the conflicts further undermine the confidence in the multilateralism which is key for tackling global climate and biodiversity crises.

Science is clear, and achieving green recovery and green growth requires political willingness and multilateral cooperation. International cooperation is critical to secure what we've achieved at combating climate change, especially to support developing countries who are vulnerable to climate change impacts, biodiversity losses and the pandemic. Support needs to be provided at technical, financial and capacity level to developing countries, especially the least developed countries. Developed countries need to fulfill their commitment to mobilize 100 billion USD per year by 2020 to support developing countries, and set a new collective climate finance now less than the previous level. While developed countries are yet to meet their commitment, South-South cooperation on climate change could provide an important role to support developing countries to achieve a low-carbon development amid such difficult times. In this context, trillions of dollars need to be mobilized to achieve the transition around the world. Public finance needs to play a leading and leveraging role in mobilize private capital towards climate-resilient, nature positive and inclusive areas. For regions which face the challenges of transitioning away from heavy industries, transition finance is needed to ensure a just transition of the affected region and communities.

As an environmental think tank based in China, we've been promoting climate change and biodiversity conservation. Given the urgency of challenges, we call on nations to:

- Uphold multilateralism and promote international cooperation on climate change, with financial, technical and capacity building support for developing countries, based on the latest science on climate and biodiversity conversation. COVID19-pandemic makes us rethink the relation of human and nature.

- Agree upon an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with ambitious, balanced and measurable Action Targets.
- Accelerate the development of renewable energies, to build a low-carbon energy system which is key for energy security, to minimize the impacts of the Russian Federation-Ukraine war on the world's low-carbon energy transition.
- Provide the enabling environment to incentivize the financial institutions and investors to invest in green, low-carbon and nature-positive areas, as well as to finance the transition away from heavy industries guarded by sound definitions, taxonomies and standards.

[1] IPCC (2021) : Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, 2021

[2] IPBES (2019): Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

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