

Discussion Paper

Sustainable Development Goals in Motion: China's Progress and the 13th Five-Year Plan

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June 2016

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Acknowledgements: The report benefits from the inputs provided by Ms. Agi Veres, Ms. Hannah Ryder, Ms. Gu Qing, Ms. Yang Boxi and Ms. Ana-Maria Lebada. The analyses and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.

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List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATMs	Automated Teller Machines
BT	Business Tax
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Science
CNY	Chinese Yuan
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CPC	Communist Party of China
ECP	Energy Conservation Product
ELP	Environment Labelling Product
EPL	Environmental Protection Law
EPTL	Environmental Protection Tax Law
EU	European Union
Exim Bank	The Export-Import Bank of China
FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
FTZ	Free Trade Zone
FYP	Five-Year Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPP	Green Public Procurement
HDI	Human Development Index
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Experts Group on SDG Indicators
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSEs	Micro and Small Enterprises
MW	Million Watt
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PPPs	Public-Private Partnership
R&D	Research and Development
RMB	Renminbi
RTL	Re-education through labour
SCE	Standard Coal Equivalent
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOEs	State-owned Enterprises
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
UK	United Kingdom
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNIAP	United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking
UN TIP Protocol	UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
WGI	Worldwide Governance Indicators

Executive Summary

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015. How they can be effectively implemented is now brought to the forefront of discussion. At the global level, a SDG Indicator Framework was developed to help with sound monitoring and reporting of the SDGs at multiple levels. Emphasis has also been placed on prioritization of SDGs for implementation based on national development focus.
- China is looked upon for further development efforts, given its remarkable progress during the past 15 years. Therefore, the study provides a first systematic attempt to review China's progress in certain priority SDGs, and what policy support is available to potentially contribute to implementation. The study intends to provide useful insights for the Chinese government and other countries, which look to implementing, prioritizing and reporting their SDGs as soon as possible.
- The study prioritized 8 SDGs for detailed discussion according to their full alignment with the 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP) – the top level blueprint for national development. A total of 53 targets were analyzed, and official data – those published by National Statistical Bureau (NBS) and different line ministries – were available for 57% of them for reporting. Policies were examined and their level of support was assessed based on the amount of information revealed in the 13th FYP. Our findings suggest that policy support varied across targets and goals. 47% of the targets were found with fairly strong policy support, while 45% were difficult to assess and the rest were found no corresponding policy measures.
- The study highlighted a few challenges faced with the SDGs measurement, including the non-quantifiable nature of some targets, data deficiency and the yardstick against which the progress of the SDGs should be evaluated. Attention was also raised to diversified levels of policy support, and particularly where it is distributed. Targets which lack data for monitoring and lack policies to facilitate its implementation could potentially complicate resource allocations, as support may miss what is in actual need of assistance.

Part I. Introduction

The world is at a critical juncture in history. Globally, the achievements in working toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have significantly improved the lives of billions of people over the past 15 years. Perhaps equally important to the concrete achievements that have been made is the increased global awareness of the development agenda, and the pressure generated for national and global leaders to live up to the expectations of the world's citizens. The arrival of the information age has connected all corners of the world more than ever before, opening up debate and mobilizing its citizens to strive for the common good. China's participation and remarkable successes in the MDGs have given indispensable support, both in ideal and in reality, to the historical global project.

Now, with the declaration and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations Development Summit in New York, the world has committed to tackling an even greater set of challenges. The SDGs will continue the fight against extreme poverty but will consider additional aspects of ensuring more equitable development and environmental sustainability, especially the key goal of curbing the dangers of human-induced climate change. In other words, the SDGs will effectively establish a frame in which we think about development in a more holistic manner.

Given China's tremendous success in accomplishing the MDGs during the past 15 years, the world is closely anticipating the actions and commitments of China to further its development endeavors into the Post-2015 era. "Focus on the key issues"; i.e., as stated in its position paper on the Post-2015 Development Agendaⁱ, will be one of the guiding principles for China to be taken forward when implementing the 2030 Agenda. This means that China will prioritize certain development issues over others. In any case, any new global initiative or the set of new global goals will require the active support and participation of China, both as a country with the largest share of the world's population, and as the second largest economy in the world. In addition, the international community as a whole can draw on China's wealth of experiences in development, as China possesses characteristics of both developing and developed countries.

It is therefore of increasing importance to contemplate over how China would implement the SDGs. Toward that end, the present study provides a detailed discussion through a review of data and policies, literature and outcomes of relevant international processes. The study first identifies certain SDGs that can be prioritized by China, based on the alignment with the country's national development plans; namely the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP) (2016-2020). For each SDG, the study attempts to assess China's current status of progress regarding the goal, and what policy measures will contribute to achieving the goal. In doing so, the study purports to conduct a rapid assessment and capture potential gaps of development that need further attention.

Meanwhile, the study aims to highlight core issues related to SDGs measurement. As a first systematic aspiration to report SDGs, the study hopes to generate useful insights that could feedback into the high-level discussions currently held at the global level. Moreover, it undertakes to place emphasis on a few critical decisions to be made regarding data collection and evaluation, as well as the leverage of data outcomes. It is in the best hope of the study that these lessons could serve as valuable inputs for China, but also other countries as to how to better strengthen SDGs monitoring through improved data availability and precision, measurement competence as well as general statistical capacity.

The study intends to address a variety of potential readers. These include the Chinese government, which has played a particularly proactive role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and expressed willingness to voluntarily review progress on SDGs at the High Level Political Forum in July 2016. Other intended readers include international audiences, such as other countries looking to implement, prioritize and report on their SDGs as quickly as possible, for which this could offer a useful example and approach. Last but not least, a wide range of development practitioners, such as international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may find this study as a preliminary reference to orient their work, including relating to data collection. For instance, the study indicates

gaps in official data that could be explored through “big data”.

Background: The Sustainable Development Goals

The international community has been engaged in developing the Post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs since Member States attending Rio+20 set a mandate to implement *“inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly”* (United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform). This multi-stakeholder process has involved a wide range of actors including all Member States, the entire United Nations (UN) system, experts, and a cross-section of civil society, businesses, and millions of people in order to create a framework that is inclusive of both developed and developing countries. As a result of this global process, the 17 SDGs were agreed upon at the Sustainable Development Summit in New York on 25-27 September 2015.

Compared to the MDGs, the SDGs are more ambitious and integrated in nature. They are universal with 169 targets under 17 goals covering all three pillars of sustainability; i.e., social-economic and environmental aspects and possible interactions among them. This has serious implications for the implementation of the goals, as well as the reporting of their progress.

At the global level, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has adopted a common approach for effective and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda termed ‘MAPS’, which stands for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support. As a first step in particular, the approach suggests each country to identify priority areas for implementation based on considerations of national development focus.

In the meanwhile, the Inter-Agency and Experts Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) has taken a lead in finalizing the SDG Indicator Frameworkⁱⁱ. Currently, the proposal of the framework has been endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission and will be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption in 2016. 231 indicators are brought up in total and classified into three tiers according to the level of

methodology and data availability. The first tier of indicators refer to those which can be widely measured with existing data and methods, while neither is accessible for the third tier of indicators. The second tier of indicators can be measured with methods at hand, but face certain challenges of data availability. The framework can be seen as an initial step towards developing a comprehensive and effective multi-layered SDG reporting system, which involves SDG monitoring at the national, regional and global levels. It is also a result of inclusive and transparent process comprised of rounds of constructive dialogues among multiple stakeholders. The framework, however, is not free from controversies on account of inter-linked discussions on politics and technical inputs. The massive amount of the indicators and data that need collecting may also pose a daunting task for the Member States with regards to reporting, compared to the MDG era when 44 out of 60 indicators needed work at the national level.

SDGs implementation in China

China’s success in achieving many of the MDGs well ahead of the 2015 deadline can be attributed to the harmony between China’s national goals and the internationally-agreed MDGs. Looking ahead towards the SDGs, this alignment of national and international development objectives will continue to play a vital role. Considering that there are 17 goals and not every goal is relevant for every country, it is important to ask which goals to implement. Moreover, it is almost infeasible to report every single goal each year. Ideally, a mix of goals where a country is making progress and facing challenges could be reported. Countries and the UN system would not work well if only good results are reported. Neither would it work well if only challenging goals are reported. There is a need to strike the balance between the two, so that countries’ achievements are soundly and effectively evaluated.

In this study, several SDGs have been identified as priorities for China, based on China’s remaining challenges from the MDGs, and their close alignment with the 13th FYP. For instance, environmental targets are largely left unfulfilled in China during the MDG eraⁱⁱⁱ, which is closely related to the exploitative patterns of production that drives economic growth. It is promising that great emphasis

has been placed on this in the 13th FYP, which aims to build an “all-round well-off” society by 2020, through strengthening innovation, coordination, green development, further opening-up and sharing. To achieve this, the plan has placed emphasis on seven umbrella objectives that touch upon all three pillars of sustainability. These include: 1) sustaining economic growth at the medium-high level; 2) promoting innovation as a significant driver for development; 3) accelerating coordinated development; 4) improving people’s living standards at all dimensions; 5) enhancing social civilization; 6) ameliorating environment quality; and 7) strengthening institutions and governance.

The study has selected the following SDGs for detailed discussion because they are fully in line with the overarching objectives outlined in the 13th FYP (See Figure 1 and Figure 2). The detailed analysis of the alignment between the SDGs and the 13th FYP is provided as follows:

SDG 1: extreme poverty based on current national poverty line (RMB 2800 per person per year) will be eradicated by 2020.

SDG 4: public provision of education will be further strengthened and equal access to education will be promoted. Significant progress will be made to further modernize the education system; meaning that education will be more accessible and focused on life-long learning, nurturing of innovation capacity of individuals and international exchanges. A target is set to increase the average schooling years for working-age population from 10.23 to 10.8.

SDG 8: maintaining a medium to high level economic growth rate; i.e., more than 6.5% annually is clearly set up in the 13th FYP with focus on balanced, inclusive and sustained growth. Sufficient jobs are planned to be created, with overall labor productivity set to be increased more than 6.6% each year.

SDG 9: the 13th FYP aims to achieve industrial upgrading, by further integrating informatization with industrialization, and through innovation. Expenditure on research and development, patent ownership and access to Internet will be further enhanced.

SDG 10: income inequality will be further reduced and the share of middle-income class will be significantly increased. Mobility of people will be facilitated, in particular migration from rural to urban areas.

SDG 12 and 13: the green lifestyle and production patterns are greatly promoted to encourage low-carbon development. The efficiency of using natural resources, including water, energy and land for construction, will be increased. The overall volume of CO₂ emissions is to be limited.

SDG 16: the governance capacity of the state is to be strengthened, and basic institutions are to be established in varied areas. Democracy, rule of law and the protection of human rights and intellectual property rights will be further ameliorated.



Figure 1. SDGs prioritized and chosen for detailed discussion

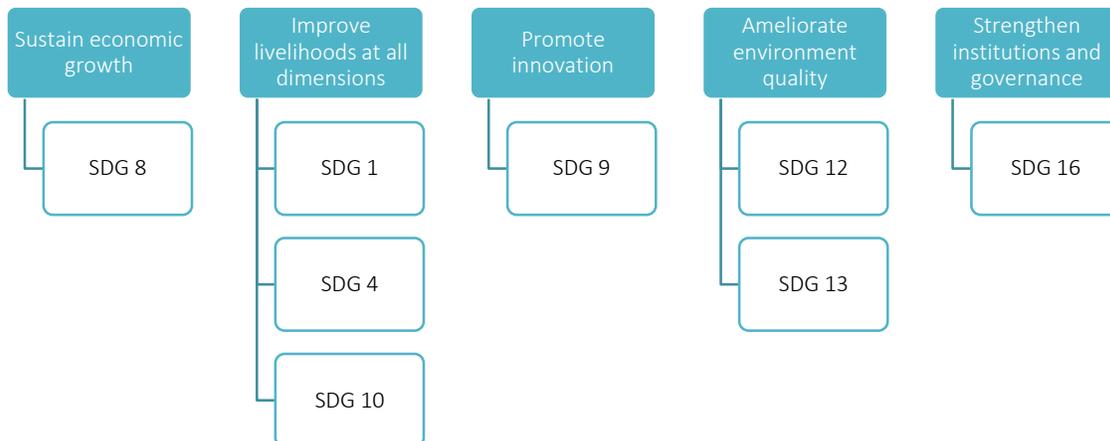


Figure 2. Alignment of SDGs with key national development objectives

It should be noted that the study has no intention of implying that some SDGs should be ignored or put aside by China (or any other country). All will remain critical to understand, implement and report on.

Instead, it only intends to present one approach of initial prioritization for management and reporting purposes – among many other potential approaches – as one possible choice for consideration. In

addition, it may well be the case that other SDGs, which have not been included in this study, are also consistent with and challenging for key domestic

objectives and should be prioritized accordingly (see Table 1). The study, therefore, only provides a few examples to make analyses more manageable.

Table 1. Alignment of other SDGs with the 13th FYP

SDGs	13 th FYP
Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Chapter 18-21 Optimize the agricultural structure to build a modern agricultural industrial system that is efficient, sustainable, and environment-friendly. Strengthen the monitoring of the quality and safety of agricultural products.
Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Chapter 60 Establish and improve the healthcare system to achieve universal access to basic healthcare services.
Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Chapter 66 Protect women's equal access to education, employment, marriage and other human rights. Increase women's participation in decision-making process. Crack down on trafficking in women and children, violence against women and other criminal acts. Eliminate discrimination and prejudice against women.
Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Chapter 31 Improve water infrastructure system to promote scientific allocation and efficient use of water.
Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Chapter 30 Promote energy revolution to optimize the structure of energy supply and improve energy efficiency. Build a low-carbon, safe and efficient modern energy system.
Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Chapter 32-36 Promote the integration of urban and rural development. Accelerate the development of new urbanization on the ground of institutional innovation.
Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable	Chapter 41 Integrate the development of land and sea. Improve sustainable development of the marine economy and the protection of marine environment.
Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Chapter 45 Promote ecosystem protection and restoration. Build the biological diversity conservation network to enhance ecological security and stability.

Methods

The study examined each SDG target by target. For each target, the analysis began with data analyses

to track China's current progress with regards to this target. It did so by looking at volume and rate changes over a period of 5-10 years (whenever possible) so as to enable temporal comparisons.

Where data allows, the study also attempted to gauge where China stands in comparison to other countries concerning the target examined. The study did the reporting using a combination of global and national indicators, depending on data availability. In most cases, data were sourced from official channels, such as the statistical yearbooks published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and those listed by different line ministries in China. Other sources including reports published by international organizations and research institutions were also adopted for reference.

The study then investigated if pertinent policies exist to address the targets. We primarily looked at policies formulated recently (i.e., in 2014-2016) and those outlined in the 13th FYP, so as to bring in forward-looking prospects to conform to the SDGs outlooks. The 13th FYP was reviewed as

corresponded to each SDG target if 1) the closest domestic development objectives exist (i.e., clear quantifiable targets); 2) any form of policy interventions is present. These include, on the one hand, overarching policy guidance with more details and substance yet to be defined. On the other hand, concrete policy initiatives are factored in, referring to those with explicitly defined objectives and means of implementation. An assessment of overall policy support was also made based on the dimensions just mentioned (See Annex I). A four-point scale was assigned depending on the amount of policy information revealed in the 13th FYP.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. The detailed analyses of each SDG and its target are presented in Part II. The paper then proceeds to Part III on discussions and conclusions.

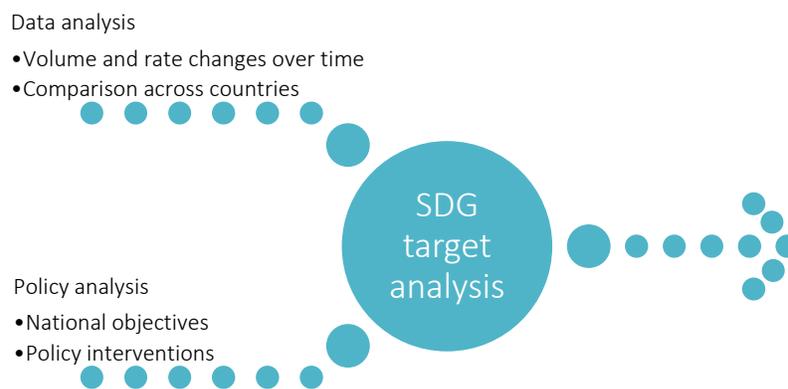


Figure 3. Methods of SDG target analysis

Part II. SDGs Analyses

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

China was the first country to meet the MDG target of halving the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 (2005 PPP adjusted) per day in 2000. China's poor population has been reduced from 689 million in 1990 to 250 million in 2011, measured at World Bank poverty line \$1.25/day. In 2011, China raised its national poverty line to RMB 2,300 (~USD 356) per year and again in 2014 to RMB 2,800 (~USD 456) per year; equivalent to \$2.20 per day in purchasing power parity - higher than the World Bank's latest standard of \$1.90 per day. According to the new domestic standard, China has now 70.17 million of its rural population living below the national poverty line.

Poverty alleviation remains one of the top priorities on China's domestic development agenda. It is worth noticing that the current focus is mainly on rural poverty alleviation as the poor predominantly reside in rural areas. The 13th FYP has set the goal

of ending poverty nationwide for all 70 million poor people by 2020. A 2012 World Bank estimate suggests that China "can reasonably expect the virtual elimination of extreme poverty by 2022."^{iv} Considering the price level and other factors, it is estimated that the national poverty line will rise to RMB 4,000 per year in 2020, adjusted with a 6% annual growth rate. In the next five years, the Chinese government will carry out targeted measures and extensive poverty alleviation programs using several approaches. The goal is to help 10 million people lift themselves out of poverty each year, and by 2020, a total of approx. 50 million poor will lift themselves out of poverty via the support from industry development, relocation, ecological and conservation, as well as training/education. The rest 20 million will be alleviated through minimum guarantee subsidies and other social security policies (See Figure 4). Meanwhile, the 13th FYP encourages the exploration of poverty reduction through assets revenue such as land trust and converting rural land management rights to share-holding, etc.

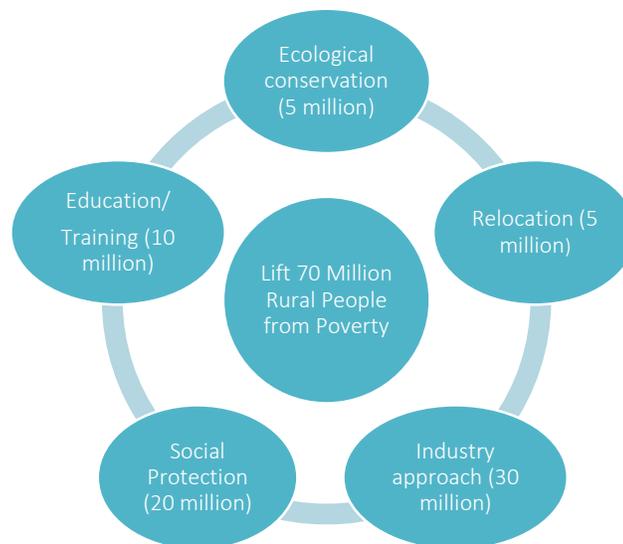


Figure 4 Government's Poverty Plan – 5 Practical Approaches

The plan is to guarantee the growth rate of per capita disposable income of poverty populations higher than national average level, while major public services and infrastructures close to national average.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

While income increases as a means to poverty alleviation is important, it does not count for everything. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)'s Human Development Index recognizes this, and includes Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which identifies deprivations across three dimensions (health, education, and the standard of living) and shows the number of people who are multi-dimensionally poor. China had a MPI of 0.023 in 2012. This aspect of SDG1 equally recognizes this, while also aiming to ensure information gathering relating to equality across different groups in society for each country – so that no one is “left behind”.

In China, most of the remaining absolute poor are rural inhabitants, and about 80% of these poor reside in the western and central provinces. People with disabilities comprise about one-third of the remaining rural poor.^v Ethnic minority groups make up less than 9% of the total population, but account for about 40% of the remaining absolute poor.^{vi} Children under 12 years of age accounted for 18% of this extremely poor group.^{vii}

The government's current ten-year (2011-2020) rural poverty reduction and development program addresses rural poverty through policies such as agricultural tax exemptions, subsidies for agricultural production, increased agricultural procurement prices,^{viii} the policy for rural compulsory education, or the new insurance policy for rural old-age people. In 2015, the government plans to further reduce the poor rural population by more than 10 million and increase effective investments in public goods.^{ix}

Accompanied with the alleviation of absolute rural poverty, 13th FYP also raises the issue of

compulsory education and health care in low-income rural areas.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

China's national social protection scheme is quite new. The reform of China's social protection system began in 1991 and has been developing ever since. The insurance system is progressing to the full coverage of all corresponding groups, incorporating more and more people into basic social protection. From 2009 to 2014, the participation in basic pension insurance increased by 248% (reaching a 92% participation rate), in basic medical insurance by 11% (95% participation rate); in unemployment by 29%; in work-related injury insurance by 34%, and in maternity insurance by 51%. The total number of insured rural migrant workers is increasing year on year by a large margin.^x

Despite these significant achievements, and a plan by the Government to reach at least near-full coverage by 2020, China faces several challenges in achieving full coverage^{xi}:

- nearly 200 million people have not yet participated in pension insurance, in particular rural migrant workers, employees related to the Internet economy, domestic service workers, self-employed and flexibly employed people in urban areas, and younger rural residents
- work-related injury insurance is currently not covering workers of small and medium-sized employers; self-employed workers with employees, small land micro businesses such as restaurants and motels; small Internet-based companies; employees of government departments and public institutions managed under the *Civil Servants Law*; and flexibly employed workers not covered by the system
- civil servants do not have coverage in systems such as work-related injury insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance and basic pension insurance for employees

- the urban and rural area systems of medical insurance are not universally managed or networked, duplications and omissions being frequent
- interrupted premium payments by some pension insurance participants, including: the employees of closed or bankrupt enterprises; the unemployed or laid-off workers whose employment is terminated; the “floating” employees, mostly rural migrant workers, who have not resumed their insurance after the premium payment is interrupted; the low-income, self-employed and flexibly employed workers who cannot afford the premium; the employees of the small and medium-sized enterprises that make meagre profit and always delay the premium payment; urban and rural residents who chose the pension insurance with low premiums; and some participants who have paid premium for over the required 15 years

However, national policies on social protection system has stepped into a key reform period. Aside from the pension funding investment and the integration of urban and rural healthcare insurance, the promotion of multi-level pension system and long-term elderly-care insurance system are to be expected in the next five years. 13th FYP has raised the issue of pension insurance reform focusing on the promotion of Pension Insurance for All program and raising the retirement age in progressive steps. In 2015, the State Council has established a unified urban and rural medical insurance system with further target of full coverage, multi-level, and sustainable approach. Meanwhile, long-term elderly-care insurance is one of the major measures in response to the aging problem. According to statistics, there are more than 210 million people aged over 60 years old in 2014, consisting of 15.5% of the population. Nearly 40 million of the elderly are incapacitated or semi-incapacitated. The current healthcare insurance in China only covers medical expenses but not the nursing expenses. Therefore, 13th FYP proposed a special study of long-term elderly-care insurance research group, with Qingdao, Shanghai, Changchun served as pilot study areas. The implementation of long-term elderly-care insurance system plans to become the sixth basic

social protection insurance besides pension, medical, unemployment, work injury, and maternity insurance.

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

In 2013, 64% of China’s rural population did not have an account at a formal bank. From 2008 to 2013, China’s “Big Four” banks have closed a combined 30,000 branches in poor and rural regions, as a result of market pressures and an increasing focus on high-margin, low-risk populations. On average, rural residents have 0.36 banking outlets per 10,000 people, far below the national average of 1.34. Even in urban areas where banking outlets are numerous, services are designed for middle- and upper-middle class markets, providing low income residents little utility.^{xii}

China has offered many prospects to achieve the target given the recent priority on inclusive finance, which was advocated since the 18th People’s congress in March 2015. It aims to provide a wide range of financial services to all groups of the society, particularly farmers and college graduates. The 13th FYP also proposed to build an efficient rural financial service system in the next five years. As the major rural financial institutions, rural credit cooperatives are expected to be given more policy support to serve the low-income populations in rural areas. China has also encouraged to develop more rural commercial bank outlets and increase credit and loan support in rural areas. In August 2015, the State Council issued an instruction of using house property as collateral for loans in rural areas to deepen the rural financial reform.

Aside from the financial services, the State Council has issued the notice to implement a new round of rural power grid upgrading projects in February 2016, aiming to strengthen rural infrastructure construction and improve the equality of basic public service in urban and rural areas. Moreover, the 13th FYP aims to solve the issue of water, electricity, and network access for rural residents. The goal is to construct a

total of 152,000 kilometres of cement road connecting rural areas and achieve an internet coverage of 90% of poverty villages.

[Refer also to Target 1.3 and Target 8.10]

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

In 2015, China has 66,182 mortalities due to productive activities accidents, an average of 0.098 mortality per hundred million GDP, down by 8.4% compared to the previous year. In mining and commercial industry, the mortality due to productive activities accidents is 1.071 per hundred thousand employees, 19.4% less than that in 2014. Traffic accidents have a fatality of 2.1 people per ten thousand vehicles, decreased by 4.5% from 2014. An average of 0.162 people died for every million tons of coal mined in 2015, which is 36.5% less than that in 2014. 13th FYP has raised the issue of work injury insurance. China is facing the trend of aging population, which potentially requires the society to establish the concept of cherishing human labour resources. Therefore, China plans to make efforts to reduce work injury accident, and improve injury

rehabilitation for workers with the aim of increasing labour supply and better utilizing labour resources.

Due to the complex geographical and climatic conditions, China frequently suffers from various types of natural disasters, which has led to severe economic loss and casualties. In recent years, a decline of disaster induced casualties has been witnessed due to the implementation of *Natural Disaster Relief Regulations* in 2010. Since then, casualties had reduced by 72% by 2014 from 6541 to 1818. Similarly, direct economic loss had decreased by around 38% during the same period.

The 13th FYP has raised the issue of strengthening the adaptive capability to natural disasters. The Ministry of Civil Affairs plans to promote the project of *National Reserve System for Natural Disaster Mitigation* in the next five years, which focuses on improving the material supplies system for assistance in local areas, and accelerate the formation of the Central - Province - City - County material reserve network. The plan also intends to establish the emergency expropriation and requisition compensation system and improve emergency volunteer management. The goal is set to improve the level of material resource utilization and storage management.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes; and

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and 100 per cent of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

China has achieved universal primary education ahead of schedule during the MDG era. By the end of 2011, the two targets of universal nine-year compulsory education and basic elimination of illiteracy among the adolescents were achieved in all county-level administrative units, covering 100% of its population. In 2014, the net enrolment rate among primary school-age children reached 99.8%. The illiteracy rate dropped from 6.7% in 2000 to 4.1%

in 2014, with the rate among the adolescents down from 2.8% in 2000 to 1.0% in 2014.

As of 2012, China's literacy rate was over 95%. This is an impressive improvement for a country which, as recently as 1990, had a literacy rate of just 78%. However, even though just 5% of Chinese adults are illiterate, that still means an estimated 54 million people aged 15 and older are unable to read and write a simple sentence. By comparison, the adult literacy rates of the advanced economies of the West are virtually 100%. China will almost certainly attain this level over the coming decades. Clear evidence of that is the fact that the literacy rate for China's young people (ages 15 to 24) is now 99.6%. Also encouraging is that China has dramatically reduced the gap between male and female literacy.

Back in 1990, the adult literacy rate was 87% for men and 68% for women — a difference of 19 percentage points. By 2010, the gender gap was just five percentage points — 98% for men and 93% for women. Among China's youth, the gender gap is almost non-existent: the literacy rate is 99.7% for young men and 99.6% for young women^{xiii}.

13th FYP aims to eliminate illiteracy in China by 2020. To achieve this, a compulsory education funds guarantee mechanism is to be established, and investment in public education will be increased in the mid-west. The retention rate of compulsory education is to be raised to 95% by 2020. Meanwhile, China is going to improve the quality and quantity of teachers, especially in rural areas, to solve the structural issue of teacher shortage.

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Pre-school education in China has made significant progress. In 2014, there were 209,881 kindergartens with an enrolment of 40,507,145 young children, up significantly from the 2010 figure of 138,209 kindergartens with an enrolment of 15,468,596 young children^{xiv}. Per-school education has been generally universalized in big and middle-sized cities, while that in the mass rural areas, particularly in remote, poor and minority areas, has also developed rapidly. The educational activities conducted in kindergartens strive to constitute a systematic, purposeful and multi-faceted process of education, with playing games as the main part of educational activities.^{xv}

The 13th FYP further encourages the development of inclusive kindergartens, and plans to strengthen inclusive pre-school in rural areas to achieve an 85% of gross rate for three-year pre-school enrolment by 2020.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

According to OECD data, the gender equality issue in education sector has been improving over the years. In 2010, 10.76% of the men in the age group

of 25-64 attained tertiary education, whereas only 8.56% of the women in the same age group had the same level of education. However, in the age group of 25-34 years old, the education gap between genders has been narrowed to less than 1 per cent.

In September 2015, the State Council has released a White Paper on Gender equity in China and women development, in which it argues that the education gap between men and women has been considerably narrowed, while the proportion of women who received vocational education and skills training increased. It also mentions the state policy to protect minority women and girls in remote poor areas to enable them to have access to fair educational resources.^{xvi}

13th FYP has set the target of education development as “achieving education modernization by 2020”. Specifically, China aims to raise the higher education enrolment rate to 43% with a total of 40 million population by 2020. If the target is met, the population with degrees of higher education will amount to 210-220 million by 2020, doubled compared to that in 2010.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

[Refer to Target 8.3 and Target 8.6]

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

China has made significant efforts to improve and maintain gender equality in education. The Chinese Government includes girls' access to compulsory education as an important part in its education supervision and evaluation efforts. As a result, since 2007, the net enrolment rate of primary schools have both remained above 99 percent and gender disparity has been eliminated in terms of the national net primary school enrolment rate. The gap between boys and girls in the years of education they

received was also narrowed from 1.3 years in 2000 to 0.8 years in 2014.

China has adopted a series of policies and measures to protect the equal right of girls to education. The Spring Bud Plan constitutes one example of such measures. Launched by the government-backed All-China Women's Federation, the plan includes actions to gather social forces and assist the government in solving the practical difficulties of girls from poor families in poor areas as well as left-behind children through practical skills training. As of the end of 2012, the Spring Bud Plan had raised a total of over RMB 1 billion, donated over 1,200 Spring Bud schools, helped more than 2.3 million poor girls to continue schooling, and provided practical and technical training for more than 400,000 girls. All-China Women's Federation has also launched a five-year Family Education for Adolescent Girls program in since 2008. The program has been launched in 20 major cities across the country. More than 7 million copies of educational materials and 60,000 computer discs were distributed for free, more than 50,000 sessions of mobile classes were organized, and 156 practical learning bases were established, directly benefiting 12 million households with girls.

Notable progress has also been made in promoting compulsory education in rural areas. Through the rural boarding school programme, a total of 8,300 schools have been built or renovated, meeting the boarding needs of nearly 2 million students from mountainous areas, animal husbandry areas, plateau areas and other remote and needed

areas. The system for special education has been gradually improved and the professional quality of the educational team has been steadily raised. Statistics show that in 2000, there were 1539 special schools in China, with an enrolment of 377,600 students that were blind, deaf or with mental retardation, a total of 43,700 teachers and staff including 32,000 full-time teachers.

While these programs have greatly contributed to the quality and extent of education provided, the gender imbalance of school children remains an issue. In 2012, there were 22 million girl students in senior secondary schools, accounting for 48% of the total, and there were 23 million girl students in junior secondary schools, accounting for 47% of the total. The causes for the high sex ratio at birth are complex, involving both cultural factors such as the stereotype of preferring males over females, and economic factors such as the low productivity and lack of social security services in remote rural areas.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

[No official data available nor policy support found]

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

The world has witnessed China's marvellous economic prosperity during the past three decades. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew annually at average 10% between 1978 and 2013. In 2014, total GDP reached RMB 63.6 trillion (USD 10.3 trillion),

making China the second largest economy in the world. Meanwhile, GDP per capita increased substantially between 1993 and 2015, from RMB 3015 (USD 523) to RMB 49351 (US\$ 8050). In 2014, the growth rate of GDP per capita in China reached 6.3%, 4 times larger than the world average^{xvii}.

In spite of the tremendous growth, China's GDP per capita is still relatively low, equivalent to 2/3 of the world average. Moreover, economic growth started

to decelerate, down to 7.4% in 2014 and further to 6.9% in 2015. This has marked China's entry into the "New Normal", which is characterized by a variety of salient changes in social-economic processes. Notable examples refer to significant drop of export (total export declined by 1.8% in 2015^{xviii}), sluggish fix-asset investment (USD 3.82 trillion in first half year of 2015, amounting to 46% of that last year), as well as rapidly rising labour cost for manufacturing induced by the shrinking working-age population that decreases by two to three million per year. All of these have raised serious concerns over China's economic sustainability, considering that conventional core engines of economic growth and industrial competitiveness are dawdling. These, furthermore, have posed numerous challenges to China's current extensive growth model, which tends to over-exploit human and natural resources.

Despite the downward pressure, China has taken a proactive approach that focuses on continuous opening and reforms in order to make full use of the multitude opportunities unfolded under the "New Normal". A series of policies have been set forth to stimulate structural adjustments, which also provide good chances to achieve the target. To begin with, China endeavours to further vitalize the market by streamlining administrative procedures, and promoting mixed-ownership reform that provides more room for the development of private and foreign enterprises. In the meanwhile, innovation is boosted to fuel new rounds of economic growth, under policy guidelines such as "*Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship*" (see target 8.3) and "*Made in China 2025* (see target 9.4)". Furthermore, China insists on enlarging opening to reinforce domestic reforms, by for instance establishing several free trade zone (FTZ) pilots, which serve as the testing grounds for liberating the country's financial sector. China is also increasingly going abroad through initiatives such as Belt and Road and Capacity Cooperation, to ally with developing and developed partners for infrastructure investment, know-how exchange and capital infusion. In addition, China has set the economic target of "*maintaining medium-high growth*" in the 13th Five-Year Plan, a series of proposals for China's development from 2016 to 2020. The target is to double the 2010 GDP and the per capita income of both urban and rural residents

by 2020, with annual growth for the 2016-2020 period must be at least 6.5 percent in the 13th Five-Year Plan. As China's economy steps into the "new normal", it takes time and space to digest industrial over-capacity, restructure the economy and shift to an innovation-driven mode. However, if effective policy and financial measures were taken, China could maintain growth around 7 percent for the next five years^{xix}.

8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Tertiary industry has made an increasing contribution to GDP in China during the past 14 years. Its share of GDP (value added) increased by 14.2%, from 36.3% in 2000 to 50.5% in 2015. For the first time in history, it surpassed the secondary industry by accounting for 49.5% of GDP in the first half year of 2015, while the latter's share was 43.7%. By contrast, secondary industry fell from 59.5% to 47.1% during the same period.

The gradual re-structuring of China's economy serves as a good starting point to achieve the target. There is also a strategic focus for industrial upgrading and innovation (see target 9.4 and 9.5 for detailed discussion), with the aim to move China further up the global value chains. The proposal of 13th Five-Year Plan has pointed out that China is going to deepen the restructuring of economy system with the integration of industrialization and information technology to further enhance the level of development, which will primarily focus on accelerating the development of advanced manufacturing and tertiary industry. According to IMF research, if China is to spread the free trade zones across the country in the next five years, the annual contribution of total factor productivity to GDP growth in China could reach 0.8 percent.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

China has progressed well with regards to this target, in view of the many most up-to-date supportive measures introduced to promote “*Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship*”. For those who intend to start their own businesses, especially college graduates, migrant workers returning to their hometowns, lower income urban families, and veterans, the guideline specifies a rich policy portfolio that offers financial support (e.g., tax breaks, cut of administration fees and business loans subsidies) and public social welfare services, among many others^{xx}. “*Internet Plus*” plan has also been unveiled to stimulate the integration of traditional industries with the Internet, with the attempt to expand e-commerce to the grassroots level. Farmers are, furthermore, encouraged to invest in rural business, as they will soon be able to use their lands and property as collaterals for bank loans. Additionally, a total of 62 vocational qualifications will be abolished to lower the threshold for people to enter certain professions and bring forth new business ideas^{xxi}.

Policy packages have been made available to stimulate the development of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (refer to target 9.3 for detailed discussion). Furthermore, the 13th Five-Year-Plan has prioritized innovation as the fundamental motivation of economic development. China is going to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in terms of institutional, financial and policy support, combined with the new technology and new models of the financial system such as Internet banking.

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

[Refer to SDG12 for detailed discussion]

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

China has witnessed a steady increase of employment over the past decade. Between 2003

and 2014, a total of 137 million new jobs were created in urban areas, and unemployment rate remained below 4.3%^{xxii}. The country has witnessed an increasing participation of women in the labour force. In 2014, women accounted for 44.8% of the entire labour force, and more than 21% of women started up their own businesses. However, the ratio of female to male labour force participation rate for middle income group remains relatively low for the past ten years. In 2014, female workers constitute only 38.9% of the middle income labour force^{xxiii}. China ranked 66 out of 145 countries for wage equality for similar work in the 2015 Global Gender Gap Report. The gender pay gap between women and men in China is 65% -- meaning women earned on average 35% less than men for doing similar work^{xxiv}. Facing the challenges, China has implemented *Special Rules on the Labour Protection of Female Employees* in 2012, to support and promote equal employment and payment for female workers. Meanwhile, China has issued more than 200 billion yuan of small discount loans for women since 2009 to foster female entrepreneurship and promote employment for millions of women.

Informal employment - primarily comprised of rural migrant workers – is, however, still at large, which was estimated to account for 40% of total urban employment in 2012. In the meantime, the employment for persons with disabilities in urban areas has dropped to 253,000 in 2014, reaching the bottom across the statistics of the past ten years^{xxv}. Aiming at issues above, the 13th FYP has emphasized on strengthening employment assistance for people with disabilities, especially supporting for flexible employment and new forms of employment. The plan has also set the target of coordinating the labour market, breaking the industry segmentation, gender discrimination to guarantee the rights of equal employment opportunities in the next five years. To achieve the goals, China has implemented several programs to support flexible employment and promote self-employment with policies such as again “*Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship*”.

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Youth employment stayed relatively high in China, with primary employment rate of college graduates exceeding 70% for 12 consecutive years. However, according to the World Bank, youth unemployment rate¹ kept rising in China, from 8.6% in 2005 to 10.6% last year. In 2011, one in eleven Chinese college graduates stayed jobless one year after graduation, and more than 100,000 fell into the NEET group, known for Not in Education, Employment or Training^{xxvi}. Although China's youth unemployment rate ranked lower compared to the global level (lower than 11.0% for the past 3 years, according to the World Bank) and that of many developed economies (EU aggregate 18% in 2012), the latter has yet shown a decreasing trend in recent years^{xxvii}.

With more than 7 million students graduating from college each year and more than 50% of people residing in cities, China is confronted with formidable challenges to create new jobs, especially amidst the uncertain economic outlooks. The target will thus be difficult to address. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, college graduates are one of the targeted groups in the *Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship* strategy. The 13th FYP also proposed free vocational training and school-enterprise cooperation initiatives for ungraduated high school students to promote youth education and youth employment. The proposal is to implement a lifelong vocational training system for youths from low-income families, migrant youths, as well as high school drop-out students, with the training mode of school-enterprise cooperation and business apprenticeship. These policies bring hope to release the pressure of youth unemployment in China.

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

China had achieved universal access to primary education by the end of 2011. This has, at least to a certain extent, contributed to wiping out most of child labour in the country. It is, however, believed that child labour is on the rise due in part to kidnapping

and child trafficking^{xxviii}. Moreover, the group of "left-behind children" (reaching 69.7million in 2013^{xxix}) whose parents are migrant workers, is increasingly deemed as an explanatory factor, as they are prone to labour abuse in absence of proper adult care.

In general, it is difficult to quantify with accuracy the scale of forced/child labour in China in view of data availability. Hence, the target is challenging to assess given the lack of information.

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

2012 marks the 10th anniversary of China's introduction of two important laws on occupational safety and health. There has been continual improvement of occupational safety over the past decade in China. National policies and programs have kept pace with social and economic development, together with the improvement of the legal framework as a basis of rule of law^{xxx}. There are 17 million employers in China enrolled in unemployment insurance in 2014, a 3.8% increase compared to the year before. The work-related injury insurance has a total of 20.6 million enrolment, which has been rising at an average of 5.5% per year for five years.

In the next five years, China plans to continue improving labour conditions, regulating the labour employment system, and implementing the paid annual leave system for employees. The 13th FYP states to prohibit all forms of employment discrimination, strengthen labour security supervision and dispute arbitration institutions to protect the legitimate rights and interests of workers.

[Refer to Target 1.3 for more discussion on policy support]

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Tourism has grown exponentially in China during the past decade. Domestic earnings increased at an average of 47% annually, reaching RMB 3031.1 billion (~ USD 473.61 billion) in 2014. According to the World Bank, China had an international tourism

¹ Youth unemployment refers to the share of the labor force ages 15-24 without work but available for and seeking employment.

expenditures by international inbound visitors of USD 56.4 billion in 2013, around the same as Germany. Analysis of tourism policies during the past 20 years shows that sustainability, despite an important component, has not been fully integrated and business considerations still dominate^{xxxix}. Thus, much remains to be improved in order to realize the target.

China is, nevertheless, on the right track. Most recently, a comprehensive reform plan for ecological progress has been released, which provides systematic guidelines to manage human-nature interactions till 2020^{xxxix}. Highlights contain the set-up of a system of property rights for natural resource assets and a system for officials' performance evaluation. Both serve as solid foundations for sustainable tourism development. As a complement, a circular on boosting tourism investment and consumption has been published, with specific aims to develop rural tourism that is based on local environment and culture and contributes to employment as well as poverty alleviation^{xxxix}. Though termed differently, the objectives largely comply with the principles of sustainable tourism. Meanwhile, 13th FYP has pointed out the major focuses for the development of Chinese tourism industry in the next five years, including the improvement of the tourism marketing methods, the integration of tourism and information technology, and the diversified management of tourism resources. The "Belt and Road" initiative will also bring numerous opportunities for the tourism industry considering the pillar of promoting people-to-people exchange.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

China has made remarkable progress in infrastructure development in recent years. Passenger turnover totalled 3009.65 billion person-km in 2014, of which railway, highway, waterway

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

China has an average of 8.1 commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults in 2014, a solid progress compared to 7.8 in 2013. The number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults has also seen a constant increase from 30.29 in 2011 to 55.03 in 2014^{xxxiv}. According to the latest data from China Union Pay, a domestic bank card organization, as of August 2015, the number of China Union Pay internet and mobile payment users had exceeded 260 million. So far there are more than 150 countries and regions where China Union Pay card can be used, covering 26 million merchants and 1.9 million ATMs^{xxxv}. China Union Pay online payment has become an important option for cardholders. Meanwhile, China has become the second-largest retail-banking market in the world by 2015, with an expected annual revenue pool of around USD 280 billion by 2020.

Aiming at this issue, 13th FYP has proposed several policies in terms of improving the financial institutions in rural areas. China aims to provide a wide range of financial services to all groups of the society, particularly farmers and college graduates. The plan also proposed to build an efficient rural financial service system in the next five years. As the major rural financial institutions, rural credit cooperatives are expected to be given more policy support to serve the low-income populations in rural areas. China has also encouraged to develop more rural commercial bank outlets and increase credit and loan support in rural areas^{xxxvi}.

and air accounting for 38.6%, 40.2%, 0.2% and 21.0% respectively. Furthermore, the 2014 passenger turnover represented a significant jump from the level of 2005, with the number of railway, highway and air raised 91.4%, 30.0% and 5.5% separately (See Figure 5). The increase of railway passenger turnover may be partly explained by the rapid expansion of high speed railway in China. Between 2008 and 2013, its length in operation extended 16 times, from 672 km to 11028 km, and its share of

total railway operation rose nearly 10%. Consequently, passenger turnover of high speed railway increased on a yearly basis, accounting for almost 15% of the total in 2013. Similarly, the freight turnover had exhibited an upward trend, reaching a total of 18539.8 billion ton-km in 2014, increased by 131.0% compared to that of 2000.

In the meantime, China has constantly expanded investment in energy infrastructure. In 2013, the

National Energy Administration implemented an electricity power construction project including grid extension and photovoltaic independent power construction, with investment of 4.59 billion yuan and 3.3 billion yuan respectively. This project has solved the issue of electricity shortage for a total of about 1.5 million people in 2015^{xxxvii}.



Figure 5 China Passenger Turnover Volume
Data Source: NBS

The phenomenal development has proved China's capacity to realize the target in due time. In fact, much more development is underway, especially in central and western regions. For instance, a Western High Speed Railway Corridor is to be built to connect Inner Mongolia all the way to Hainan^{xxxviii}. Moreover, with the blueprint of city cluster development, investment of sub-urban rails will come under focus to adjoin neighbouring cities with the attempt to facilitate daily commuting. A case in point is Beijing's plan to construct a 1000 km sub-urban railway network with Tianjin and Hebei^{xxxix}. Both aspects are expected to be top priorities in the 13th FYP^{xl}.

The 13th FYP has also set the specific targets of improving the high-speed railway network. By 2020, the operating mileage of high-speed railway is expected to reach thirty thousand kilometers,

covering more than 80 percent of the big cities. Construction of traffic circle around urban agglomeration or between the central city and the surrounding urban nodes is expected to cut the commute time down to 1-2 hours. The 13th FYP has also put forward the proposal to accelerate the construction of major infrastructure in poor areas, including the establishment of poverty reduction projects. The goal is to accomplish a number of new landmark construction projects by 2020, and provide employment in the process in poor rural areas.

More importantly, China's domestic infrastructure is likely to benefit other countries, through initiatives like "Belt and Road". This provides substantial prospects for China to successfully deliver in the future.

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

China's industry's share of GDP fluctuated between 42.7% and 47.4% during the past 15 years, higher than the world average (30.5% in 2014). It has managed to create an increasing number of employment opportunities, with 30.0% more people working in the industry sector in 2014 (230.99 million) compared to that in 2005 (177.66 million). Its share of employment rose 6.2% during the same period, up from 23.8% to 30.0%. While China is in the process of industrial upgrading and aims to transform from labor-intensive to value-added manufacturing (see below target 9.4 and 9.5), further boost of industry's share of GDP and employment may not be applicable in China's context. As a matter of fact, the service industry is taking the lead in ameliorating China's GDP structure (see target 8.2). In the meanwhile, the service industry is increasingly viewed as the engine for employment, with its share of employment elevated 9.2% between 2005 and 2014.

Although the Chinese economy is stepping into the phase of "new normal", the economic structure is gradually advancing. The 13th FYP plans to further accelerate the process of industrial upgrading^{xli}. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has issued in January 2016 "China Industry Development Report 2015 - China Industrial Development 13th FYP Outlook". The report stated that the emergence of the new production systems will effectively overcome the current industrial overcapacity problem due to the high labour costs. China is also accelerating the development of modern service industry to promote specialization and refinement in tertiary sector.

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play an important role in China's economy. Accounting

for 97% of registered industrial firms in China, they contribute to 60% of GDP and 65% of employment^{xlii}.

According to China Banking Regulatory Commission, loans to micro- and small enterprises (MSEs) amounted to RMB 21.41 trillion (~ USD 3.48 trillion) by March 2015, sharing 23.4% of the total bank loans^{xliii}. This increased by 16.8% compared to that of the same period in the previous year and the growth rate was 3.48 percentage points higher than other types of loans. There were approximate 1129 MSE applicants for loans, 10.8% more than in 2014 and as many as 90% of them obtained approval; 4.1% increase from that of 2014.

In spite of the outstanding progress, MSEs is still confronted with formidable financial constraints. In China, loans to MSEs mainly derive from large state-owned commercial banks, joint-stock commercial banks and urban commercial banks, which respectively accounted for 34.1%, 17.7% and 13.6% of total MSE loans in 2012^{xliiv}. The three groups of banks, correspondingly, held 44.9%, 17.6% and 9.2% of total assets. This suggests that urban city banks play a vital role in financing MSEs, while large state-owned banks are still dominated by enterprises of larger size.

In addition, SMEs in China rely heavily on indirect sources of financing (e.g., bank loans), while direct financing (e.g., bonds, equities) only starts to develop and is at infant stage (5% of total financing for MSEs). For instance, in 2012 direct SME financing bonds raised RMB 22,139 million (~ USD 3,606 million), accounting for mere 0.8% of the total bond financing for industrial and commercial enterprises (China SME Finance report 2013). This is in stark contrast with developed economies, which finance SMEs 70% directly (vs 5% in China) and 30% indirectly^{xliv}.

The lack of credit for SMEs poses considerable challenges to its further development. Realizing this, the state has introduced successive rounds of financial easing policies, including multiple tax breaks to SMEs, lowering threshold for SME loans and reserve requirement ratios for banks with a substantial portion of SME clients. Most recently, a national fund worth up to RMB 60 billion (~ USD 9.4 billion) was established to shore up SMEs, with the government plunging one-fourth of the capital as

seed investment, and the rest to be mobilized from private and state-owned enterprises, financial institutions and local governments^{xlvi}. Furthermore, the government has moved to set up re-guarantee institutions at the provincial level to support financing for the credit guarantee companies that duly help small enterprises obtain access to credit^{xlvii}. The 13th FYP has put forward the promotion of inclusive financial system to provide more rounded financial services for SMEs. Compared to traditional financial institutions, Internet banking has attracted SMEs for its low costs, convenience and timeliness. Therefore, the financial reform proposed in the 13th FYP has put considerable weight on the development of Internet financing for SMEs, with considerations in financial risk control and management.

Undoubtedly, these policies present a big step in the right direction. Yet, it is argued that without tackling the root causes of the systematic discrimination against SMEs in the financial sector, these may be nothing more than temporary remedies. Having said this, China has still a great deal of room to reform and develop its financial market, before SMEs can develop freely and fully realize their potentials.

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

China's energy consumption has witnessed a dramatic increase in recent years. Between 2000 and 2014, total energy consumption rose by 65%, reaching 4.26 billion tons of Standard Coal Equivalent (SCE) in 2014, of which coal accounted for the major source of supply (66%), followed by crude oil (17%) and other energy mix (i.e., hydro-power, nuclear power and wind power) 11.2% with the three combined). In 2011, China became the world's largest global energy consumer. The industry sector, in particular, is responsible for nearly 70% of its total energy use. During the same period, industrial energy consumption grew on average at 11.9% on a yearly basis, reaching 2.5 billion tons of SCE.

A closer look at China's industrial energy consumption, nevertheless, reveals a slower growth

annually. The growth rate peaked at 16.2% in 2004 but displayed a downward trend until 2012 (2.4%), despite a slight rebound observed in 2010 (5.8%) and 2011(6.2%). Moreover, outdated industrial capacity induced by the stimulus package issued as a response to the global financial crisis was eliminated. According to Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, over 77 million tons of steel smelting capacity, nearly 368 million tons of cement capacity and about 155 million weight boxes of glass capacity were removed from 2011 to 2014^{xlviii}. Energy structure also changed, with a decreasing proportion of coal and oil in total energy consumption, down by 4.8% and 1.4% respectively between 2005 and 2012, which was offset by the increasing share of natural gas (3.2%) and other energy mix (3.0%).

The improvement, although modest, reflects China's will and efforts to improve the energy structure, upgrade industry and steer the economy onto a sustainable path. The recent release of "Made in China 2025" strategy, in particular, holds many prospects to achieve the target. The blueprint has placed specific emphasis on green manufacturing, with clear goals set in the forthcoming 5 to 10 years (refer to Goal 13 for more information). For instance, by 2020, 1000 green manufacturing factories and demonstration parks are to be established; pollution emission intensity is to be cut by 20% in key industries and advanced green technologies (e.g., low-carbon, waste water management, recycling) are to be extensively adopted in traditional industries^{xlix}.

Meanwhile, renewable energy integration and user side applications currently have the highest portion of total installed capacity. China's National Wind and Solar Energy Storage and Transmission Demonstration Project in Zhangbei accounts for a large portion of renewable energy integration projects, with four lithium iron phosphate battery projects totalling 14 MW and a 2 MW vanadium redox flow battery in operation since late 2011¹. As the 13th FYP proposed that in the next five years, China is going to reinforce energy storage and the construction of smart power grid to develop an efficient and low carbon energy distribution system. Ministry of Commerce states that there is going to be RMB 1.7 billion (~ USD 276.7 million) investment in

accordance with the 13th FYP industrial upgrading projects. In terms of promoting cleaner production, the Ministry of Industry and Information will use 3-4 years to create 100 eco-design pilot projects, to develop a third-party evaluation system for pilot industrial products and publish a number of green industrial products directory^{li}.

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

China has increasingly invested in innovation during recent years. In 2014, expenditures on research and development (R&D) reached RMB 1,331.2 billion (~USD 216.7 billion), around five times the expenditure in 2000. On top of this, in 2012, China's R&D share of GDP (1.98%) caught up with the European Union (1.97%)^{lii}, and reached 2.1% in 2014. This makes China the world's second largest R&D performer^{liii}.

There is also a burgeoning pool of highly skilled researchers. According to OECD figures, there were about 0.7 researchers per thousand persons employed in China in 1998, compared to around 1.9 per thousand employed in 2013. Nevertheless, the number of R&D personnel in China still lags far

behind the OECD average (7.6 in 2007). There remains much to improve in the cultivation of human capital for innovation.

The “*Made in China 2025*” strategy, likewise, holds promises for China to further develop its innovation capacity. Innovation is one of the strategic focuses of the plan. 15 innovation centers, which will take a lead on research and development of core technologies and industrial base as well as personnel training, are to be set up by 2020, and 25 more such centers are to come by 2025. The innovation strategy will be further backed up by the “*Internet Plus*” plan with the aim to integrate the informatization process with industrial upgrading. The 13th FYP has planned to promote industrial innovation as well. The government will increase research and development expenses and tax benefits for high-tech industries, including information and communications technology, transportation, energy sectors, etc. By 2018, the R&D expenditures invested by China will surpass the sum of that invested by all European countries. By 2022, the absolute value of China's R&D spending will surpass that of the United States. Also, 13th FYP has proposed to encourage a fairer competitive environment and a more stringent intellectual property protection system, which are of great assistance in enhancing the development of scientific researches.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Income inequality has been a big issue in China, with its Gini coefficient standing at 0.469 in 2014, according to NBS. This is roughly equivalent to the level of income inequality in the US, where Gini coefficient reached 0.476 in 2013, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. However, Gini coefficient is over-sensitive to changes in the middle of the distribution, but insensitive to changes at the top and bottom of the distribution. Instead, Palma ratio is also reported to reflect income changes at the top 10% versus bottom 40%^{liv}. China had a Palma ratio of

2.08 in 2012, a lot higher than the world average of 1.8. According to a 2014 study^{lv}, more than 10% of China's total inequality is attributed to the rural-urban gap. Meanwhile, within-rural inequality also remains a challenge.

Yet, progress has been witnessed in both income and consumption for low-income households in China's urban areas. In the period of 2002-2012, the per capita income among the bottom 40 per cent of the urban population has an average annual growth rate of 12.3%, whereas the annual growth rate of per capita income for the total urban population is 11.4%. The per capita cash expenditure for the bottom 40% group in urban areas increases at an average of

10.2% annually, higher than that of the total urban population (9.7%)^{lvi}.

However, rural households have not seen such great progress in income equality. From 2002 to 2012, the per capita income among the bottom 40 per cent of rural population grows approximately at 10% per year. However, the average growth rate for the total rural population is 11.2% annually. A 2012 research on the economic status of China's rural areas - based on a survey of more than 6,000 rural families from 2009 to 2012 – found that the per capita income gap between the highest and the bottom 20% of the sample households was 7:1. From a sub-regional perspective, the income gap between rural households in western China reached as high as 8.81:1, followed by east China 7.71:1. The research points out that the huge income gap in rural areas stems from the wage differences in industrial and agricultural activities^{lvii}.

Aiming at this issue, 13th FYP has made it clear that Chinese government is to implement a series of policies with the purpose of improving income in rural areas. China aims to significantly decrease the proportion of low-income households and expand the proportion of middle-income populations. China is also considering to speed up the land reform to improve rural income. For low-income urban populations, China plans to implement policies to support entrepreneurship and innovation, together with further reform in the current rigid labour market structures in the next five years^{lviii}. In addition, 13th FYP has suggested to accelerate the establishment of a comprehensive income tax system.

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

There is currently no official data in China available on proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income disaggregated by age group, sex and persons with disabilities. This should be an urgent area of enquiry. However, the 13th FYP has made it clear to give further policy support for minority groups and people with disabilities. Please refer to Target 8.5, 8.8 and 8.10 for more information.

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

China's women have a high rate of economic participation. A white paper on gender equality and women's development issued in 2015 said that the number of female entrepreneurs accounts for one quarter of the total number of entrepreneurs in China, and about 55% of new Internet businesses are being founded by women. But their income lags behind that of men on average. Women living in China could expect their salaries to be on average 37% lower than their male colleagues, according to 2014 statistics^{lix}. [Refer also to target 8.5 for more data on women's employment status]

To create favourable conditions for women's employment and career development, China has implemented policies that enable women in positions as middle-ranking officials, senior professionals and technicians at state organs and public institutions to retire at the same age as their male counterparts, and policies to facilitate the growth of female scientists and promote equal employment opportunities for female college graduates. In the 13th FYP, the protection of women's equal access to education, employment, marriage and participation in community affairs and other property rights are reinforced. China also plans to strengthen labour protection, health care, maternity care, and social welfare for women.

[Refer to target 1.4 and 5.1 for policy analysis]

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

In China, the compensation of employees as a percent of GDP; i.e., labour's share of GDP, experienced a major decline from 51.4 percent in 1995 to 42.4 percent in 2007^{lx}. The major decline of labour's share can be explained by the shifts between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, as well as shifts of labour share within industry due mainly to the restructuring of State-owned enterprises (SOEs)^{lxi}. After the outbreak of the global

crisis in 2007, labour's share returned to 45.6 percent in 2012.

Overall, China's current tax policies, particularly income tax, has negligible effects in narrowing income inequality despite its overall progressivity^{lxii}. A few factors could help explain, including the relatively high basic personal allowance, the tax structure of China that relies heavily on indirect taxes, different tax regimes for different tax categories, as well as probable tax evasion of the rich.

Minimum wage has been on the rise over recent years, and in particular after 2004 when new minimum wage regulations were formulated, directing that local governments introduce a minimum wage increase at least once every two years. As a result, nominal minimum wage increased rapidly by over 200% by 2012^{lxiii}. Each province has its own standard of living, thus differed level of minimum wage. For instance, by 28 September 2015, Shenzhen's minimum wage per month reached RMB 2030 (~ USD 312), which was the highest across China. Heilongjiang ranks the lowest with the standard set at RMB 1160 (~ USD 178)^{lxiv}. The effects of minimum wage on employment and distributional outcomes are hotly debated with contrasting evidence in China^{lxv}. Hence, it remains to be seen if minimum wage policy could help achieve greater equality.

The 13th FYP has proposed to further promote equal provision of public services. In particular, a list of basic public service items is established, covering a variety of aspects such as education, employment, social insurance, health care, housing, cultural activities and services particularly targeted at the disabled etc. Moreover, further reforms of fiscal policies are on the agenda, including progressively enhancing the percentage of direct taxes in the tax portfolio, as well as the further reform of Value Added Tax (VAT). The latter means that China will levy VAT, instead of Business Tax (BT) which is regressive in nature, on revenue generated from construction, real estate development, banking services and services pertinent to people's daily life (e.g., catering, entertainment).

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Currently, there is no official data to assess the progress of this target. Director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange Yi Gang has proposed to study the possible launch of Tobin tax, zero-interest deposit reserve, foreign exchange transaction fees and other price adjustment measures to guard against the risk of abnormal cross-border capital flows and suppress short-term speculative trading.

The reform of financial system is a new major focus for China in the 13th FYP period. China aims to explore a compatible mode to integrate the regulation of the financial markets with the development of financial innovation. In the "new normal" background, lacking financial innovation could restrict China's international competitiveness of the financial system. Therefore, 13th FYP has proposed that regulation institutions should encourage financial innovation by establishing and increasing the institutional and policy support.

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

China has demonstrated an increasingly assertive and active stance in international stage. China is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and a member of over 70 other international organizations. The constructive engagement in these organizations has heightens China's credibility and influence. China also remains a member of the G77+China grouping in the UN, and is expected to become 3rd largest contributor to the UN core-budget.^{lxvi} China is also a member of many other non-UN-based regional organizations that include developing countries – e.g. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), etc.

China has also taken the lead in the establishment of new international organizations. Officially launched in January 2016 ^{lxvii}, The Asian

Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a China-led international financial institution created with the aim of providing finance to infrastructure projects as part of China's Silk Road initiative, with a focus on bolstering links across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The bank unites 57 member states, 20 of which are advanced economies according to IMF classification and 4 in the 57 members are least developed countries^{lxviii}.

[Refer to Target 16.8 for more discussion]

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

The target has less bearing on China with regards to the leadership role in conducting the 10-year framework of program on sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as the responsibility falls primarily on the shoulder of developed countries. However, China has implemented several policies and laws to promote sustainable consumption and production. In the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Promoting Clean Production* revised in 2012, clean production activities in industrial areas have been formally regulated. China has also actively explored and embarked on development path that better fit with its national conditions. These range from promoting circular economy, building up a resource efficient and environmentally-friendly society, as well as boosting green and low-carbon growth, all of which attempt to direct societal consumption and production practices towards a more sustainable manner^{lxix}. The 13th FYP has advocated diligent, prudent and optimal use of natural resources. Parts of the detailed analyses can also be found below.

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

As to the recent crisis of Syria and the resulting outbreak of refugees, China has not played a very active role. By the end of August 2015, China had hosted a total of nine refugees and 26 asylum seekers from Syria^{lxx}. A number of factors may help explain this, one of them being the lack of regulations and institutional set-ups for migration management, due perhaps to China's status as a non-immigrating country. This, however, is gradually changing. For instance, as of the start of 2016, China has eased rules for foreigners to apply for permanent residences^{lxx}.

Sustainability of natural resources is critical to the planet. Natural resources can be categorized as either renewable or non-renewable. Renewable resources can be replenished naturally. Major renewable resources utilized are sunlight (solar), water and wind. Non-renewable resources are those that cannot easily be replaced once they are destroyed, including fossil fuels and minerals.

In China, water deficiency is in dire situation. Water availability per capita is 2,220 cubic meter, which is only ¼ of world average. 400 out of 663 Chinese cities lack water, with daily water shortage of all cities estimated to reach 16 million cubic meter^{lxxii}. Moreover, the country suffers from serious water pollution – 20% of China's rivers are toxic and 2/5 are classified as seriously polluted^{lxxiii} (see target 12.4 for wastewater production). Further, water is not used efficiently enough. A World Bank report in 2009 revealed that industrial water use per unit of production is ten times more in China compared to the average industrialized countries^{lxxiv}.

Realizing the severity of natural resource scarcity, the government has attached great importance to sustainable management. The 13th FYP has set specific targets for natural resource utilization. Total energy consumption is to be limited within 50 million tons of coal. Total water consumption is to be controlled in less than 670 billion cubic meters. Constructional land use per unit of gross domestic product is to be decreased by 20% by 2020. Also, China will implement the low-carbon electricity

allocation system. The Ministry of Land and Resources has put forward an outline according to the 13th FYP, stating that China will increase the proportion of non-fossil energy, as well as promote the clean and efficient use of coal and other fossil fuels in the next five years.

In addition, China has set the target to gradually improve water quality, including reducing the percentage of badly polluted water bodies, improving the quality of drinking water, reducing groundwater over extraction and controlling groundwater pollution by 2020. The target, though challenging, is not impossible to achieve in light of China's progressive "*Water Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan*"^{lxxv}, which sets out overall objectives to ameliorate water environment quality by 2020. These entail cleaning up over 70% of water in 7 key rivers, turning over 93% of urban drinking water fresher, limiting heavy groundwater pollution to around 15%, among many other targets. To enhance water use efficiency, a portfolio of market mechanisms are to put into application, including water tariff reform, revised water fees as well as eco-compensation etc. In sum, 238 specific actions are engaged to accomplish the tasks. Water efficiency labelling system will be established, according to the plan, to promote water-saving technologies and products. China is also accelerating the utilization of unconventional water resources, such as rainwater and recycled water.

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

Globally, 30 - 50% (1.2 to 2 billion tonnes) of all food produced is wasted per annum due to poor handling in harvesting, storage, transportation as well as market and consumer wastage^{lxxvi}. In China, the picture is similarly sombre. More than 35 million tonnes of grain output is wasted annually owing to improper storage, transportation and excessive processing^{lxxvii}. USD 32 billion worth of food is thrown away every year, accounting for 70% of all waste. Based on the research from China Agricultural University, edible food thrown by restaurants each year amounts to up to 10% of China's annual crop production, which is sufficient to feed 200 million people^{lxxviii}.

It brings great hope that China is committed to reduce food waste nationwide by devising a series of policies to guide actions. It started by the "*Clean Plate Initiative*" announced by President Xi in 2013. More recently, "*Grain Storage and Supply Security Plan (2015-2020)*"^{lxxix} has been released with clear goals set to save grain loss – 13 million tonnes per year by 2020. This entails an overall upgrade of agriculture machinery and railway transportation equipment, both being listed in the blueprint of "*Made in China 2025*" as strong support. Moreover, grain saving has been given a prominent position in the State Council's guidelines on setting up the provincial governor responsibility system for grain security^{lxxx}. The State Administration of Grain has put forward the development outline according to the 13th FYP, in which it stressed the security of grain storage, reserve management, and the active use of sustainable grain storage technology to further standardize storage facilities.

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

China's discharge of wastewater rose steadily between 2005 and 2014 at an average of 3.5% annually, from 52.5 billion tons to 71.6 billion tons. During the same period, the disposal of general industrial solid waste increased almost threefold, from 1.3 billion tons to 3.3 billion tons, according to Ministry of Environmental Protection. While more than half was recycled, the proportion of recycled waste increased only moderately, from 59.2% to 63.6%. As one of the main air pollutants, sulphur dioxide emissions conversely displayed a decreasing trend, from 25.5 million tons in 2005 to 19.8 million tons in 2014.

It is good news that China has enacted more stringent laws to address environmental concerns. The case in point is the new *Environmental Protection Law* (EPL), which took effect on 1st Jan 2015 and specified much harsher penalties for environmental offences, such as covert discharge of pollutants and supervision evasion. This may soon

be followed up by China's *Environmental Protection Tax Law* (EPTL), as an explicit demonstration of the state's intensified efforts to increase enterprise liability for pollution and enforce the "polluter pays" principle. Being drafted and likely to come into effect in 2016-17, EPTL will impose heavier taxes (rather than fees) on different categories of pollutants (e.g., water, air, soil waste, noise) and put stricter supervision on pollution data produced from 14 key industries (e.g., steel, cement, thermal power), among many other measures^{lxxxix}.

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

China has seen 10.6% increase of consumption waste² from 155.7 million tons in 2005 to 172.4 million tons in 2013. In the meanwhile, treatment rate of consumption waste increased from 51.7% to 89.3%. The majority of waste is landfilled, which accounted for approximately 85% of total consumption waste treated in 2005, while the number declined to 68%. By contrast, China enhanced capacity to incinerate waste more than fivefold, with around 30% of total consumption waste burnt in 2013, up from 9.8% in 2005.

The data suggest that recycling and reuse of consumption waste is still relatively low in China. Informal urban recycling sector is believed to have made valuable contributions, with estimates suggest 3.3 – 5.6 million people (0.56-0.93% of Chinese urban population) collecting about 17-38% by weight of municipal solid waste^{lxxxii}. Nevertheless, the sustainability of such recycling method is largely questioned considering insufficient earnings for strenuous labour work and lack of support from the government.

Fortunately, China has plans to address waste management. For instance, with the city clusters forming around Beijing, waste recycling and re-use industries (worth of RMB 220 billion = USD 35.8 billion) are moving out of capital to neighbouring provinces, which are required to recycle and reuse 400 million tons of solid waste per year by 2017^{lxxxiii}. The 13th FYP stressed on developing the cycling chains that connect productive activities and living activities through the recycling and waste

classification, which indicates that China is steadily advancing towards sustainable development. Ministry of Environmental Protection has put forward "*Guidelines on Rural Garbage Management*" on August 2015. The goal is to effectively manage more than 90% of rural area garbage by 2020, and to equip pilot villages with a series of complete facilities and equipment. Although waste management in China is still in need of the formation of the mature processing technology, the regulatory system and long-term funding, China is making solid progress gradually with strong policy support.

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

During the past decade, China has made good progress in promoting sustainable development of Chinese enterprises – both operating domestically and operating abroad. Since 2006, more and more Chinese enterprises have started to publish sustainability reports (released by Chinese companies and multinational enterprises' branches in China) to promote the concept of corporate social responsibility. In 2014, 2031 enterprises published annual social responsibility reports, 286 more than that of the previous year^{lxxxiv}. The China Development Bank and The Export-Import Bank of China (Exim bank) require companies they finance (for activities at home or abroad) to complete social and environmental reports. However, there are still challenges in the development of sustainability report for Chinese enterprises. For example, most of the current sustainability reports are short of clear data, leading to uneven qualities of different reports. Also, stakeholders of the businesses are often unaware of the reports, which may cast doubt on the future improvements for the sustainable development of the enterprises.

Nevertheless, strong policy support from both 13th FYP and other government-funded programs will help more companies to be more aware of the sustainability issue. "*Local environmental information disclosure and public participation*" project funded by the Asian Foundation and the Ministry of Environmental Protection Policy Research Centre aims to help local government with

² The indicator represents consumption wastes collected and transported.

the implementation of environmental information disclosure. It also help enterprises better understand the importance of corporate environmental information disclosure and further improve the quality of information disclosure^{lxxxv}. In 2014, 45% of the enterprises in China has reported their carbon emission in Carbon Disclosure Project on a voluntary basis.

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

Since its official introduction to China in 2006, green public procurement (GPP) has gained increasing importance. Broadly speaking, GPP is operationalized through product certification, which gives priority to two product lists; namely Environment Labelling Product (ELP) List and Energy Conservation Product (ECP) List, with procurement from the former voluntary while the latter obligatory. It is estimated that there is a high level of “green” intake in the purchase of products. In 2013, 29% of public procurement at the central level was GPP regulated, among which 80% was spent on energy efficiency and ELPs^{lxxxvi}. The 13th FYP also pointed out that government procurement should give priority to innovative and green products.

However, the majority of public procurement is conducted at the municipal or county level (43% and 32% respectively in 2012). The absence of data makes diagnosing the GPP scope in China a challenging task. The target is, nonetheless, possible to achieve seen the rising political will to nudge reforms on varied fronts. Notably, the fundamental legal basis was already in place with

the approval of China Government Procurement Regulation on 31 December 2014. Closely linked is also the series of efforts to push for the adoption of Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs), which could potentially orient GPP into wider use, such as in environmentally sound service and construction projects that comprise a primary share of total public procurement (68.6% in 2012). This is promising in light of the PPP fund launch (worth of RMB 180 billion = USD 28 billion), which is expected to set projects in motion^{lxxxvii}.

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

Since 1998, Beijing Institute for Education has started the formation of national sustainable development education committee guiding primary and secondary schools in several provinces and areas on sustainable development education. The Guidelines for Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020) has made “*focusing on sustainable development education*” the basic of strategic theme, aiming to promote teenagers and all citizens to acquire necessary knowledge and value in sustainable development. The guideline encouraged youth to participate actively in social, economic, environmental and cultural sustainable development study and surveys.

The 13th FYP also attempts to promote a thrifty lifestyle among the general public. This entails cautious use of resources in all steps of production, logistics, storage and consumption. Urban cycling and the use of public transport is greatly encouraged.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

[Refer to Target 1.5 for detailed discussion]

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

China has set out domestic policy frameworks to tackle climate change issues. In 2012, China for the

first time explicitly incorporated climate change into its 12th FYP. In 2014, the *National Climate Change Plan (2014-2020)* was issued to outline main objectives, key tasks and policies for China’s climate change strategies by 2020.

Since 2013, China has been working intensively on the climate change tasks addressed in the 12th FYP and has seen a series of remarkable results. Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP in 2013 fell 4.3 %

compared to that in 2012, a cumulative decline of 28.56% compared to emissions in 2005. The amount of reduction is equivalent to an emission of 2.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide. China has steadily promoted low-carbon pilot provinces and cities, carbon emissions trading pilot regions, and low-carbon communities, etc. According to the greenhouse gas emission control assessment organized by National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in 2013, 10 low-carbon pilot cities has managed to decrease their carbon emissions by an average of 9.2%, higher than the national decreasing level. Guangdong, Hubei, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai provinces/cities have already exceeded the target set in 12th FYP, whereas other pilot areas have also made huge progress in achieving the goal. Meanwhile, China continues to play an active and constructive role in the international climate change negotiations such as Warsaw meeting, making important contributions to the global climate change issue^{lxxxviii}.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

China is gradually strengthening the public guidance of low-carbon development through forums, meetings, trainings and other media resources. National Development and Reform Commission organizes a series of activities on "National Low Carbon Day" annually. Forums such as Tianjin Summer Davos Forum on the theme of "Climate Change: New Environment for Climate Policy" and Guiyang Ecological Civilization International Forum on "Climate Change and the Future Earth" have achieved good publicity. Health Commission has organized in 2014 the "Environment and Health Awareness Week" and other activities to enhance public awareness of environment and extreme weather protection^{lxxxix}.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

According to official statistics, since 2000, the murder rate in China has dropped almost every year, from over 28,000 to about 12,000 in 2011. Adjusted for incident per million people, the rate is 10.02, down more than half from 2002 and to below that of many developed nations such as Canada and New Zealand. Robberies have also fallen more than 40% since 2002, and rapes by nearly 18% from a peak in 2001. Gun-related crimes decreased from around 5,000 cases in 2000 to about 500 in 2011, and bombings from 4,000 to about 200 over the same period. Furthermore, official surveys suggest that citizens feel increasingly safe from violence.

While the available data present an encouraging trend against violent crimes, a detailed look at the situation reveals a more complicated picture. For instance, figures related to murder cases have been especially prone to manipulation by local governments due to the political pressure to solve such crimes. A national campaign launched in 2004

demanded a minimum 85% success rate in murder cases in the first year, and higher rates from then on. Such strong push resulted in local police forces failing to register murder cases not confident of solving or making wrongful arrests. Furthermore, China's statistics bureau does not disclose which crimes are included in its murder data. A single case might therefore include several deaths, and that some killings which occur in the course of other violent crimes such as rape, domestic violence or robbery might be excluded. A 2006 report by the World Health Organization estimated that in 2002, when 26,300 murder cases were recorded in China, 38,000 people died from "homicide-related injuries".

It is also notable that many Chinese families suffer violence that often goes unnoticed. According to a report by the All-China Women's Federation, a state-controlled NGO, nearly 40% of women who are married or have a boyfriend have experienced physical or sexual violence. And it found that about 53% of boys and 34% of girls are physically abused by their parents. Only 7% of those suffering abuse

inform the police. Until recently physical abuse was not considered acceptable grounds for divorce in China. The country's marriage law was amended in 2001 to ban domestic violence, but the term was vaguely defined and there was no national guideline for dealing with perpetrators. In response, the State Council has recently passed China's first anti-domestic violence law. The law prohibits any form of domestic violence, including psychological abuse, and helps streamline the process for obtaining restraining orders^{xc}.

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

China has steadily taken steps to address various forms of danger to children, including exploitation, trafficking, violence and abuse. In 2007, China released the *Five-year National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children (2008-2012)*. Produced in coordination with the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Trafficking (UNIAP), the Plan has sought to “effectively prevent and severely combat the criminal activities of trafficking in women and children, actively provide assistance and give appropriate aftercare to rescued women and children, earnestly safeguard the legal rights and interests of women and children.” In 2008, China was acceded to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UN TIP Protocol). Since then, the Chinese government has taken measures to revise domestic legislation, policies, and anti-trafficking efforts to come into compliance with international standards. For example, in 2011, the National People's Congress Standing Committee amended the *People's Republic of China Criminal Law* to strengthen the provisions on forced labour. In 2013, the State Council took an additional step to bring government efforts into compliance with international standards by issuing the *China Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2013–2020)*, an updated version of the 2007 Plan of Action.

Moreover, China is also developing new laws to close existing legal loopholes in terms of protecting children and strengthening family guardianship. China's current law on protecting the underage from family abuse, such as the 1991 Child Protection Law and 1987 Civil Law, is largely in principle and does

not include specific provisions on how to implement these laws. In response to these concerns, the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and several other related departments are working together to establish a legal mechanism that would deprive abusive or negligent parents of their custody rights.

Perhaps equally important as legal measures is a modification of the cultural mindset in which violence against children may be considered acceptable. Many Chinese parents and teachers are prone to justifying physical and verbal abuse as forms of discipline; a 2014 survey conducted by Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou showed that less than 40 per cent of some 1,000 Guangzhou residents and 1,610 community groups regarded beating one's own children as domestic violence.

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

The current regime has placed a strong emphasis on reforming in accordance with the rule of law. In 2014, China has a percentile rank of 43 (0 corresponds to the lowest rank and 100 to the highest rank) for the indicator ‘rule of law’ in the Worldwide Governance Indicators system (WGI) among all countries in the world, considerably improved compared to its 2004 level (percentile rank of 39). In March 2014, the General Office of the Communist Party's Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council jointly issued details of a set of regulations to prevent officials from interfering with judicial cases. The regulations contain 13 provisions and are by far the most comprehensive yet designed to ensure justice and improve the credibility of the judiciary. For example, Article 3 states that even government departments or leaders with responsibilities in judicial work are not allowed to decide on the admissibility of evidence, fact-finding, adjudication and so on. Articles 5 and 6 are designed to monitor the meddling of officials, and to protect judges. The regulations set out procedures for court personnel to record and report a case in the event that senior officials interfere. The regulations are detailed,

stating not only the obligations of the meddler, but also those of people affected.

Many hurdles remain, both in terms of ideology and in practical implementation, before a rule of law governance system is achieved. In light of crackdowns on human rights lawyers, there has been some criticism that China is adopting a rule by law rather than of law, while the lack of tenure for judges can make it difficult for them to practice law in a fair manner against interfering officials. Regardless, the regulations put forth by the Chinese Government are expected to pave the way for judicial authorities to exercise powers independently, impartially and in accordance with law.

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime; and

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

According to the 2015 report from Global Financial Integrity, China leads the world with USD 1.39 trillion in illicit outflows in 2004-2013 period, followed by Russia, Mexico, India, and Malaysia. China also had the largest illicit outflows of any country in 2013, amounting to a staggering USD 258.64 billion in just that one year^{xcii}. Corruption issue is as much severe in China. Transparency International evaluated China with the corruption perception index ranked 83 out of 163 countries in 2015.

Along with the aforementioned legal reforms in 16.3 to institute a rule of law, China has recently undertaken high profile, nationwide crackdowns on illicit financial flows, organized crime, and corruption. In 2015, a special action named “Skynet” led by central anti-corruption coordination team was initiated to strike illegal money transferring by offshore companies and illicit private banks. The team together with the Supreme People’s Procuratorate, Ministry of Public Security, and the Central Bank has utilized financial, diplomatic, and prosecutive methods to arrest a group of corrupted criminals, clean up a number of license violations against a number of underground banks, and recover a number of assets^{xciii}. As a result, until

August 2015, public security departments have stroke 66 illicit private bank sites, captured over 160 criminal suspects, with money involved amounting to CYN 430 billion. Moreover, the Fox Hunting Action in 2014 has captured 680 financial criminals from abroad, 4.5 times of financial criminals captured in 2013^{xciii}. Moreover, China has recently banned imports of ivory and carved-ivory items which will last until the end of 2019; a significant step further after two actions taken in 2015 when several one-year bans were imposed^{xciv}. Also, China has made an announcement in September 2015 that it planned to shut down the ivory trade soon.

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

As China is on its way of institutional reform, the government is making solid progress in terms of transparency and accountability. The growth rate of government expenditures has been decreasing significantly from 21.6% in 2011 to 8.3% in 2014, indicating that China is becoming more efficient in institution management. The government effectiveness indicator in the 2014 WGI ranked China at a percentile of 66 out of all countries in the world. However, there is still space for improvement in terms of the accountability and transparency of China. China has a percentile rank of only 5 in the voice and accountability indicator in the 2014 WGI, degraded from the 2004 level^{xcv}.

A guideline issued in 2015 by the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the General Office of the State Council mandates local governments to publicize their administrative powers and processes to facilitate public supervision – known as “power lists”. Since March 2013, the central government has reviewed irrelevant administrative procedures to stimulate the market. The guideline states that an efficient government administrative power system features clear definitions, rational division, and power and responsibility consistent with law, as well as a supervision, check and coordination system for government powers. The power list system can be seen as a meaningful step towards a transparent state governance system, as it can help prevent governments from “executing excessive power or shying away from their responsibilities”. A timetable

has been set for governments to publish power lists. Provincial governments and public institutions need to issue the inventories by the end of 2015. Municipal and county governments, and public institutions must finish the task by the end of 2016.

China's State Council announced plans to improve budget transparency in 2014, which includes the publication of complete budgets at the local level. The new framework requires local governments to establish multi-year rolling budget plans, placing local revenues and expenditures under the supervision of local peoples' congresses, creating a debt-alert system, and rules to ensure that capital raised through bond issuance is for public service-related capex and not for operational spending. It also requires the publication of local governments' balance sheets, local government bonds to be rated, and mandates central government oversight. The 13th FYP also reiterated the importance of establishing a transparent budgetary system, by for instance enlarging the content of budget publication with more details.

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

China practices the system of people's congress. It is stipulated in the Constitution that all power belongs to the people, and people exercise state power through People's Congress at different levels. Local people's congresses are elected in a democratic way. More than 90% of the electorates participated in the direct elections of deputies to the people's congresses at county and township levels over the years^{xvii}.

In 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has issued the Decision on Amending the "People's Republic of China local levels People's Congress and Local People's Government Organization Law", "People's Republic of China National People's Congress and Local People's Congress at all levels of the electoral law", and "People's Republic of China National People's Congress and Local People's Congress Law", in which Article 34 claims that "Citizens' participation in all levels of people's congress elections, shall not directly or indirectly accept any form of funding

provided by overseas institutions, organizations or individuals related to the election", in order to avoid any inappropriate financial operations or briberies in the process of elections at all levels.

It is however worth noting that the 2013 National People's Congress has 699 women representatives and 409 minority representatives in a total of 2987, approximately the same proportion as that in 2008. Women's political participation are still in need of improvement. 13th FYP raised this issue and stated that China aims to further improve the social and institutional environment for women development.

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Due to its status as a rising power, China has long been urged by other countries to move toward multilateral processes that better meet international standards, while doing more to provide global public goods. Please refer to Target 10.6 for more information.

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

China's Hukou registration system, known as a rights-granting mechanism, coupled with China's one-child policy penalizing families for having more than one child by limiting or removing their access to those same privileges, has resulted in over 13 million unregistered children (2010 statistics), accounting for 1% of the total population. Any child whose birth is illegal under the policy is likely to be unreported to the authorities through the required birth registration process, the family register, often to avoid financial or social penalties.

These unregistered children or "black-listed children" have proven to be a significant social problem, as they cannot inherit or obtain property, receive insurance coverage for medical or social purposes, collect financial aid, or attend school unless financial penalties are paid. They are also unable to apply for government or other jobs, get married and start a family, or join the armed forces.

In 2015, China has made some changes to its One-Child policy to address these concerns. The new “two-child” regulations may significantly reduce the number of unregistered children, due to the fact that future parents, most of whom were born after the implementation of the One-Child policy, will no longer need to hide the children they have. 13th FYP also addresses this issue and plans to reform the birth-related service management, improve the system of birth registration.

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Since a new leadership assumed power in 2013, authorities have undertaken positive steps in certain areas, including abolishing the detention system known as Re-education through Labour (RTL),

announcing limited reforms of the hukou system of household registration that has denied social services to China's internal migrants, and giving slightly greater access for persons with disabilities to the all-important university entrance exam. The government also undertook a far-reaching campaign against corruption, with President Xi vowing to crack down on "tigers and flies", i.e. high-ranking officials and petty civil servants alike.

China also endeavoured to construct multilateral human rights dialogues to promote the sound development of human rights on the international stage. In March 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) approved China's actions after receiving its second Universal Period Review for China. Throughout 2014 China held human rights dialogues and communication with the EU, the UK, Germany, Australia and New Zealand.

Part III. Discussion and Conclusion

The study provides a first systematic attempt to analyse SDGs implementation in China, showing where China currently stands and how the SDGs are reflected and aligned with national development planning. The results show that China is currently at different stages of development with regards to each goal and target, which offers some potential clues as to which of them are more pertinent for China to implement.

Progress monitoring: Challenges related to indicators and data

It is not without difficulty to assess China's progress based on the evidence revealed through indicators and data.

Not all targets/indicators are quantifiable.

With targets that demand a process of change such as those focusing on awareness raising, capacity building and policy integration, it subjects vastly to disparate perceptions of what actually defines the change in the first place. Even when the definition is settled, decisions need to be made regarding what to measure exactly; i.e., a process flagged by the number of key events (e.g., campaigns) or a process featured by far-reaching impacts.

Data are not always available.

For targets where indicators are clear and quantifiable, data are not always available from the official sources in China, especially disaggregated data by sex and age, or those to track the vulnerable, such as the disabled. The results suggest that for the total of 53 targets examined in this paper, official data are available for 30 targets; meaning that around 43% of targets cannot be assessed given current data capacity in China.

The data deficiency opens up room for a more diversified portfolio of partners to participate in data collection^{xcvii}. These could include the private sector, which have access to data in thematic areas (e.g., consumption, supply) and the public who are able to provide self-assessment. Along this line, the

opportunity of using Big Data is worth separate mentioning, given many of its merits compared to more traditional data collection approaches, such as cost-efficiency. While it is still hotly debated to what extent the new type of digital data is reliable to reflect varied facets of reality, it at least provides an alternative way of appraisal that could either complement or substantiate what is already out there^{xcviii}.

What to measure and where to put the yardstick for performance evaluation?

Not all SDG targets are clearly defined in quantitative terms, but phrased in ways that are prone to subjective interpretations. Examples include “*significantly/substantially reduce ...*” or “*achieve sustainable management / efficient use...*”. While these targets are still quantifiable, the study finds it difficult to put a yardstick against which China's performance should be gauged. Is the target challenging in view of internationally recognized standards, or in comparison with outcomes in previous years or performance of other countries? The study has provided all three options whenever possible. But if a choice is to be made, it could lead to quite different conclusions.

If global targets should be compared to: Watch out for the initial conditions

A related point to raise is whether the global target should be looked to even when there is one. A universal benchmark may overlook the initial conditions of a specific country, thus resulting in misleading assessments. A good example is poverty alleviation in China. While the poverty headcount ratio appears manageable against the “zero poverty” goal, it is in fact of a more daunting task. Despite the tremendous success in poverty reduction in recent decades, the poor currently concentrate in remote and difficult-to-reach areas, which genuinely requires ever more efforts to reach. This indicates that development process is not necessarily straightforward, but non-linear; meaning that it takes place at varied pace in different points of time^{xcix}.

This lends great support to watch out for the starting point and assess where it is positioned in the entire development curve. Data alone cannot tell the whole story. That being said, it is also instrumental to read behind the numbers and try to demystify information not readily visible.

Policy support: Alignment of the SDGs with the 13th FYP

Varied levels of policy support

On the policy side, the study was able to find - for the majority of the SDGs and targets – policies, particularly those in the 13th FYP, which could make possible contributions to realizing them. Undoubtedly, this serves as a bright start for the delivery of the SDGs.

However, a closer look at the findings may lead to concerns about the varied levels of support provided across goals and targets. As is shown in the results, 15% of targets are strongly supported and another 32% of targets are provided with relatively strong policy support. However, for 45% of the targets, it is difficult to discern the level of policy support while 7% of targets seem to find no correspondence in the 13th FYP.

Where does the policy support go?

As it currently stands, there are a few different cases where policy support is distributed. One case refers to where policy support is channelled to what is in actual need of assistance, such as poverty eradication and sustained economic growth, the challenges of which are suggested by data analyses. There are, however, cases where we found weak policy support on goals which in the meanwhile lack sufficient data to review its progress (e.g., SDG 10). The “double blind” spots could potentially complicate the process of implementation in China, as there is not enough information to assess if policy support indeed matches the development needs. This being said, more attention could be directed to these areas for further scrutiny to ensure the effective leverage of policy support.

What SDGs to prioritize: Who decides and what decides?

This, meanwhile, raises another important issue regarding prioritization, which builds the fundamental

stepping stone for SDGs implementation. A frequently asked question during the analyses of the study is: what decides which goals are more urgent to address over others? One benchmark is dictated by progress monitoring, as measured by indicators and data. This, however, is not problematic (see discussions above). A yet, perhaps bigger question associated with the data outcomes is how and whom they can actually “buy in” to impact policies. Different stakeholders, including the public, the private sector and the state, may have largely different views of what is “good and sustainable” development in general and what should be done accordingly to realize it. This in turn could influence how they interpret data results and what they conceive as what should be prioritized for implementation. While it is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss who should have a say in prioritizing the SDGs, the diversity of perspectives provides the food for thought when mainstreaming the SDGs into national planning.

Future research: What to improve

In sum, the study has provided a sketch of SDGs analysis in China through the lens of data and policies, which is rather an illustrative exercise. With the tentative results at hand, the study hopes to highlight issues pertaining to SDGs monitoring and its integration with policy making, which China, and/or other countries might encounter, need to deliberate upon and reconcile in the future practice, either alone or with the aid of one another or even higher-level settlement.

We are aware of the caveats in the study with regards to the choice of indicators and data for reporting, which could land in different results if alternative options (of indicators and data sources) are applied. We are also cognizant of the implications pertained to “matching” policies with the SDGs, as the attribution is rather arbitrary and certain policies may have been left out as their contributions to SDGs were indirect, or that their effects could only emerge in the long run, especially in light of the probable difference in time frame between the two. Putting these aside, the study does offer some tangible results, based on which further discussions can take off as to how China can implement the SDGs more effectively. The dialogue

hopes to involve efforts of many and build on the rapport with new partners, such as the private sector

and civil society.

ANNEX I The Summary of Results for SDGs Targets Analyses

SDGs	Is the target quantifiable?	Indicators	Data Availability		Policy Support			Overall Assessment ³
			Official data sources	Other data sources	National Objectives	Overarching Policy Guidance	Concrete Policy Initiatives	
Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere								
Target 1.1	√	Population Living under Poverty Line (World Bank Standard and National Poverty Line)	√	√	√	√	√	3
Target 1.2	√	Proportion of Population Living below National Poverty Line (Disaggregated by Sex and Age Group)		√		√		1
Target 1.3		Percentage of The Population Covered by Social Protection Systems	√		√	√	√	3
Target 1.4		The Number of Bank Branches per 10,000 People; Mobile Coverage Rate	√		√	√		1
Target 1.5		Number of Deaths Due to Accidents of Productive Activities per 100,000 People	√			√		1
Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all								
Target 4.1 Target 4.6	√	Primary School Enrolment Rate; Literacy Rate		√	√	√		1
Target 4.2		Pre-school Education Enrolment Rate	√		√			1
Target 4.3		Percent of Population who attained tertiary education (Disaggregated by Sex)		√	√	√		1
Target 4.4		-	√			√	√	2
Target 4.5		Net Enrolment Rate of Primary Schools (Disaggregated by Sex)		√		√	√	2
Target 4.7		No Data Available						0

³ Overall policy assessment is measured on a scale of 0-3, where 0 = weak policy support (neither national objectives nor any policy interventions exist), 1 = not sure (when a. either national objectives or policy guidance exist, but no concrete policy initiatives observed; b. both national objectives and policy guidance exist, but no concrete policy initiatives observed; c. neither national objectives nor policy guidance exist, but concrete policy initiatives observed), 2 = relatively strong policy support (either national objectives or policy guidance exist, together with the presence of concrete policy initiatives), 3 = strong policy support (all exist, including national objectives, policy guidance and concrete policy initiatives).

Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all								
Target 8.1	√	GDP per capita	√		√	√	√	3
Target 8.2		Service Sector Value added (% of GDP)	√			√	√	2
Target 8.3		No Data Available				√	√	2
Target 8.4		-	√			√	√	2
Target 8.5		Employment Rate	√	√	√	√		1
Target 8.6		Youth Unemployment Rate		√		√		1
Target 8.7		No Data Available						0
Target 8.8		Unemployment and Work Injury Insurance Coverage	√			√		1
Target 8.9		Domestic Earnings of Tourism Industry	√	√		√		1
Target 8.10		Number of Commercial Bank Branches and ATMs per 100,000 Adults	√			√		1
Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation								
Target 9.1		Passenger Turnover; Infrastructure Investment	√		√	√	√	3
Target 9.2		Industry's Share of GDP; Industry's Share of Employment	√			√		1
Target 9.3		Loans to SMEs	√			√	√	2
Target 9.4		Energy Consumption; Composition of Energy Use	√		√	√	√	3
Target 9.5	√	R&D Expenditure (and % of GDP); Number of R&D Personnel	√		√	√	√	3
Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries								
Target 10.1		Growth Rates of Income Per Capita among The Bottom 40 per cent of The Population and The Total Population; Gini Coefficient; Palma Ratio.	√	√		√	√	2

Target 10.2		No Data Available				√		1
Target 10.3		Gender Pay Gap		√		√		1
Target 10.4		Labour share of GDP	√			√		1
Target 10.5		No Data Available				√		1
Target 10.6		No Data Available	√			√	√	2
Target 10.7		No Data Available		√				0
Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns								
Target 12.1		No Data Available				√		1
Target 12.2		Industrial Water Use Per Unit of Production	√		√	√	√	3
Target 12.3	√	Waste of Food Production	√			√	√	2
Target 12.4		Disposal of General Industrial Solid Waste; SO ₂ Emission	√			√	√	2
Target 12.5		Treatment Rate of Consumption Waste	√			√	√	2
Target 12.6		Number of Companies Publishing Sustainability Reports	√			√		1
Target 12.7		Percentage of countries implementing Sustainable Public Procurement policies and action plans				√		1
Target 12.8		No Data Available				√		1
Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact								
Target 13.1		Deaths due to National Disasters	√			√	√	2
Target 13.2		Number of Policies Related to Climate Change	√		√	√	√	3

Target 13.3		No Data Available				√	√	2
Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels								
Target 16.1		Murder Rate; Robberies; Gun-related crimes	√	√		√	√	2
Target 16.2		No Data Available				√		1
Target 16.3		No Data Available				√		1
Target 16.4 Target 16.5		Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows; Corruption Perception Index		√		√	√	2
Target 16.6		Government Expenditure	√			√	√	2
Target 16.7		Proportions of positions in NPC by sex and population group				√		1
Target 16.8		No Data Available						0
Target 16.9		No Data Available					√	1
Target 16.10		No Data Available				√	√	2
Total	6		30	13	13	47	26	-

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