

Chapter 7 | Improving the Systems and Mechanisms for Scientific and Technological Innovation

We will further reform the system for science and technology management, improve the national science and technology governance and planning systems and operating mechanisms, and promote the unified allocation of projects, centers, personnel, and funds in key areas.

Section 1 Deepening Reform of the Science and Technology Management System

We will move faster to transform functions in science and technology management, focusing more on providing guidance through plans and policies and fostering an environment conducive to innovation, while reducing direct interventions in the distribution of funds and resources and in decision-making concerning projects. We will integrate government spending on scientific research to boost spending in strategic and key areas, avoiding small, dispersed spending made by fragmented departments. We will reform the way in which major science and technology projects are approved, launched, and managed, giving greater autonomy to institutions and researchers and putting into practice a system of responsibility resting with chief technicians. We will adopt systems to select the best candidates to undertake key research projects and to create an environment for healthy competition, and improve the financial support system combining rewards and subsidies. We will improve the mechanism for evaluating scientific and technological advances, adopt different systems for evaluating explorative

and task-oriented projects, establish mechanisms for evaluating non-consensus projects, and improve science and technology reward programs. We will establish a sound modern system for research institutions and encourage public research institutions to adopt more flexible staff, position, and salary management systems. We will put in place sound mechanisms to enable a free yet orderly flow of innovation resources between universities, research institutions, and enterprises. Pilot reforms on all-around innovation will be further promoted.

Section 2

Improving the System for IP Protection and Application

We will implement the strategy on turning China into a country strong on intellectual property with the adoption of a strict IP protection system, improvements to relevant laws and regulations, and faster move to create IP legislation in emerging fields and industries. We will strengthen the judicial protection and law enforcement for intellectual property, improve the arbitration, mediation, notarization, and protection assistance systems, optimize the punitive compensation mechanism, and introduce harsher punishments for IP infringements. We will improve the financial-aid and incentive policies and evaluation mechanisms to better protect and encourage patents of high value and to develop the patent-intensive industry. Efforts will be made to reform the ownership mechanism and the proceeds distribution mechanism for state-owned intellectual property rights. Universities and research institutions will gain a greater say over their IP. We will improve the evaluation system for intangible assets and create a management system featuring regulations and incentives in parallel. A public service platform for IP protection and application will also be established.

Section 3

Promoting Opening Up and Cooperation in Science and Technology

We will adopt a more open and inclusive strategy on global science and technology cooperation that creates more benefits for more countries to share. China will work more actively to integrate into the global innovation network. We will engage in practical global cooperation in fields such as Covid-19 response and public health, and strengthen joint R&D focusing on issues such as climate change and human health with researchers from all over the world. We will actively design and initiate international Big Science programs and projects and give play to the unique role of research funds. We will expand the opening up of national science and technology programs, initiate major science and technology cooperation projects, explore the establishment of global research funds, and launch scientist exchange programs. We will encourage the establishment of international scientific organizations in China and the employment of foreign scientists by Chinese academic organizations.