We will promote the expansion of city clusters and metropolitan areas and guide the development orientation and construction of cities according to their size. This will allow for the creation of an urban spatial distribution that is characterized by a well-ordered layout with urban areas providing a full range of functions and collaborating with each other.

Section 1
Promoting the Integrated Development of City Clusters

With a focus on the development of city clusters, we will establish an urbanization framework that combines two horizontal axes—the east-west land bridges and the Yangtze River—and three vertical axes—China’s coastline, the Beijing-Harbin and Beijing-Guangzhou railways, and the Baotou-Kunming Railway. We will optimize the city clusters in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta, the Pearl River Delta, the Chengdu-Chongqing region and along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River; expand the city clusters on the Shandong Peninsula and in the coastal regions of Guangdong, Fujian, and Zhejiang provinces, the Central Plains, the Guanzhong Plains, and the Beibu Bay; and nurture and develop the city clusters in the Harbin-Changchun region, central and southern Liaoning, central Shanxi, central Guizhou, central Yunnan, the Hohhot-Baotou-Ordos-Yulin region, the Lanzhou-Xining region, the areas around the Ningxia section of the Yellow River, and the northern foothills of the Tianshan Mountains. We will improve the mechanisms for ensuring integrated and
Figure 3. Spatial Pattern of Urbanization
coordinated development and for sharing costs and benefits in city clusters based on coordinated infrastructure networks, industrial collaboration, shared access to public services, and joint contributions to ecological conservation and environmental governance. Through these efforts, we will create a network of polycentric, multi-level, and multi-nodal city clusters with sound internal spatial structures and strong ecological and security shields.

**Section 2**

**Developing Modern Metropolitan Areas**

We will give play to the role of central cities in leading the development of surrounding areas and enhance the coordinated development of one-hour commuter belts around central cities to further develop a number of modern metropolitan areas with highly integrated cities. Based on intercity and municipal (suburban) railway, we will boost infrastructure connectivity in metropolitan areas by further connecting “dead-end lines” and expanding “bottleneck lines” to effectively link transport networks in and outside cities and give shape to integrated networks consisting of all main railway lines, intercity and municipal (suburban) railways, and urban rail transit lines. We will encourage mutual recognition of social insurance contributions and points for household registration, shared access to education and medical resources, universal use of science and technology innovation vouchers, and the joint construction of industrial parks and research platforms in metropolitan areas. We will also support the establishment of unified urban planning commissions in metropolitan areas where conditions permit to realize unified planning and implementation and explore unified land and population management.
Section 3
Improving the Functions of Central Areas of Very Large Cities and Megacities

Taking account of various economic, life, ecological, and security needs, we will transform the development and construction modes of very large cities and megacities, and strengthen risk prevention and control in the governance of these cities so as to promote high quality and sustainable development. We will steadily relieve central areas of their functions as general manufacturing zones, regional logistics bases, and professional wholesale markets and relocate related facilities, while also moving out the public service resources that are over-concentrated in these areas, such as medical services and higher education institutions. Development intensity and population density will also be appropriately lowered in central areas. We will encourage very large cities and megacities to play a stronger role in allocating global resources, stimulating scientific and technological innovation, and cultivating high-end industries that will drive development, to lead the way in creating an industrial structure that is led by modern service sectors and underpinned by advanced manufacturing, and to upgrade their overall urban functions and international competitiveness. We will continue to integrate industrial and urban development and refine the functions of suburban areas as new urban areas so as to realize polycentric and clustered development.

Section 4
Making Large and Medium-Sized Cities More Ideal for Living and Working

Taking advantage of their relatively low overall costs, large and medium-sized cities will actively receive industries relocating from very large
cities and megacities and also relieve these cities of nonessential functions, thereby helping to strengthen the foundations of the real economy. Based on their unique resources and industrial foundations, large and medium-sized cities will give play to the differentiated roles of their manufacturing sectors to develop them into large-scale clusters. Advanced manufacturing centers, trade and logistics hubs, and regional professional service centers will be built according to local conditions. We will optimize the layout and functions of municipal public facilities, support the establishment of tertiary hospitals and higher education institutions in large and medium-sized cities, increase the supply of cultural and sports resources, and create modern and fashionable consumption environments that will facilitate improvements in the quality of urban life.

Section 5
Promoting Urbanization with a Focus on County Towns

We will act swiftly to strengthen areas of weakness in county towns by building out the capacities and functions of facilities for public services, environmental sanitation, municipal administration and public activities, and supporting industries. This will enable county towns to further enhance their comprehensive carrying capacities and governance capabilities. We will provide support for county towns with good foundations in the eastern region and give priority to county towns in the central and western regions and urbanized areas in the northeastern region. County towns in major agricultural production areas and key ecosystem service zones will also receive effective support. We will improve the investment and financing mechanisms for the development of county towns, give full play to government funds, and attract more financial capital and nongovernmental investment. We will turn eligible counties and larger towns with over 200,000 permanent residents in town areas into cities in a steady and orderly
manner. We will develop small towns based on their regional conditions, local resources, and development foundations with a view to promoting the well-regulated and healthy development of distinctive small towns.