

## Chapter 38 Improving Environmental Quality

To intensify the battle against pollution, we will establish a sound environmental governance system to promote pollution control in a targeted, scientific, law-based, and systematic way, and to coordinate efforts to cut pollution and carbon emissions, improve the quality of our air and water, and effectively control soil pollution risks.

### Section 1 Stepping Up Pollution Prevention and Control

We will address environmental issues at the root with comprehensive measures, and work harder to control multiple pollutants in a coordinated way with all regions working together. We will strengthen urban air quality management to ensure standards are met and promote the coordinated control of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). We will cut PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations by 10% in cities at the prefecture level and above and effectively check the upward trend for O<sub>3</sub> concentrations to basically bring an end to heavily polluted weather. We will continue to improve the air quality in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding areas, the Fen-Wei Plains, and the Yangtze River Delta. We will promote clean heating, industrial furnace management and the ultra-low emission transformation of non-electricity industries in northern areas based on local conditions, and accelerate the full rectification of volatile organic compounds emissions, with total emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds both falling by over 10%. We will refine the coordinated mechanism for water

pollution prevention and control in river basins, strengthen the integrated governance of key river basins and lakes, urban water bodies, and offshore areas, and protect and improve beautiful rivers and lakes. Chemical oxygen demand and total ammonia nitrogen emissions will each be reduced by 8%, and we will basically ensure that the quality of water bodies under national cross-section monitoring programs does not fall below Grade V, and that malodorous black water bodies are eliminated in our cities. We will carry out well-regulated development of urban drinking water sources and promote the relocation and transformation of heavily polluting enterprises in key river basins. We will advance the management and restoration of contaminated farmland and land for construction and coordinate efforts to prevent and control environmental risks to water and soil. We will step up the prevention and control of plastic pollution in all respects and take stronger measures to address environmental noise pollution. We will attach importance to the treatment of new pollutants.

## Section 2 Comprehensively Improving Environmental Infrastructure

We will develop environmental infrastructure systems that integrate treatment facilities for sewage, solid waste, hazardous waste, and medical waste and incorporate monitoring and regulatory capacities to bring about an environmental infrastructure network that extends from cities to towns and villages. We will work to achieve full coverage of the urban sewer network, raise the standards for sewage treatment in a differentiated and targeted manner, and promote the safe disposal of sludge by centralized incineration, with the safe disposal rate of sludge in cities reaching 90%, and the utilization rate for sewage in water-deficient cities at the prefecture level and above exceeding 25%. We will develop a household waste disposal system in which garbage is thrown away, collected, transported, and treated

in a categorized way. We will establish facilities for centralized utilization and disposal of hazardous waste, especially in major industrial bases. In cities at the prefecture level and above, we will construct centralized facilities for disposing of medical waste, and at the country level, we will improve the systems for collecting and transporting medical waste.

### **Section 3**

#### **Strictly Preventing and Controlling Environmental Risks**

We will establish sound mechanisms for major risk assessment, early warning, and emergency response. We will comprehensively address the illegal stacking of solid waste and improve our capacity to monitor hazardous waste and prepare ourselves against related risks. We will strengthen monitoring and early warning for heavy metal pollution in key areas and industries. We will improve the environmental risk management system for toxic and hazardous chemicals, and complete the relocation and transformation of hazardous chemical producers in key areas. We will tighten supervision of nuclear and radiation safety and step up radioactive pollution prevention and control. We will establish an ex post evaluation mechanism and a public health impact assessment system for environmental emergencies. Industries that pose a high risk to the environment will be required to carry liability insurance for environmental pollution.

### **Section 4**

#### **Actively Responding to Climate Change**

We will ensure that China meets the targets for its intended nationally determined contributions in response to climate change by 2030, and formulate an action plan for reaching peak carbon emissions before 2030. We will improve the system to control both the total amount and intensity

of energy consumption, with an emphasis on controlling fossil energy consumption. We will put in place a system giving priority to carbon intensity control with the control of total carbon emissions serving as a secondary objective, and support qualified localities and key industries and enterprises in taking the lead in reaching peak carbon emissions. We will promote the safe and efficient use of clean and low-carbon energy and work hard to advance low-carbon development in industry, construction, transportation, and other sectors. Stronger efforts will be made to control the emissions of other greenhouse gases such as methane, hydrofluorocarbons, and perfluorocarbons. The carbon absorption capacity of our ecosystems will be enhanced. We will work toward achieving carbon neutrality before 2060 with more robust policies and measures. We will strengthen monitoring to assess the impact of global warming on vulnerable areas in China and improve our ability to adapt to climate change in terms of urban and rural development, agricultural production, and infrastructure development. We will step up comprehensive scientific investigations and research on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. On the basis of equity and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, we will advocate for and participate constructively in international cooperation in response to climate change, promote the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, and actively engage in South-South cooperation on climate change.

## Section 5

### Refining the Modern Environmental Governance System

We will establish an integrated system for environmental governance above and below ground, on land and at sea. We will implement the emissions permit system in a comprehensive way, issuing emissions permits

for all stationary pollution sources, urging industrial pollution sources to meet emissions standards within a prescribed period of time, and promoting market-based trading for emissions rights, energy-use rights, water-use rights, and carbon emissions rights. We will improve the management of obligatory targets for environmental protection and energy conservation and emissions reduction. We will refine the river & lake management and protection mechanism, and strengthen the river & lake chief system. We will audit outgoing officials' management of natural resource assets, and further improve central government environmental inspections. We will improve the system that places the monitoring, supervision, and law enforcement activities of environmental bodies below the provincial level under the leadership of those bodies at the next level up, promote the reform of comprehensive law enforcement for environmental protection, and improve the public-interest litigation system for ecological conservation and environmental protection. We will promote greater information transparency with regard to environmental protection, strengthen the enterprise responsibility system for environmental governance, and improve the public supervision, reporting and feedback mechanisms to guide social organizations and the public in jointly participating in environmental governance.