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**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Sustainable development

Towards global partnerships

Letter dated 22 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the Global Development Initiative, which was presented by President Xi Jinping at the general debate of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 21 September. I hereby transmit to you the concept paper of the aforementioned Initiative (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15, 20 and 27.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 22 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for stronger, greener and healthier global development

Concept paper

I. Background

Development is the eternal pursuit of human society. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the core mission of current international development cooperation.

Peace and development remains the underlying trend of the times, and people everywhere strongly aspire to achieve a better life through sustainable development. The tide of the new industrial revolution is gaining momentum. New business forms and models that were generated from digital economy and green development and took shape during the COVID-19 pandemic provide new opportunities for developing countries' leapfrog development. Meanwhile, the pandemic drags on and rebounds, presenting severe challenges to the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The pandemic has wiped out the global poverty reduction achievements made over the past 10 years, and slowed down the economic growth of emerging market countries. Issues like food security pose severe challenges. Digital divide is growing, the gap in development resources is increasing, and the "development divide" between the North and the South continues to deepen. Realizing fair and equitable distribution of vaccines around the world is a long and arduous task, and developing countries are confronted with mounting challenges as they seek recovery from the pandemic.

Against this background, we launch "Building on 2030 SDGs for Stronger, Greener and Healthier Global Development" Initiative (Global Development Initiative), with the aim to pool efforts to tackle challenges, promote post-COVID recovery and seize opportunities so as to open up a bright future for achieving common sustainable development and building a global development community.

II. Core concepts and principles

1. **Prioritizing development.** Development is the master key to all problems, and it is also the prerequisite for safeguarding world peace and protecting and promoting human rights. We need to focus on development, prioritize development cooperation in global macro-policy coordination, and solve outstanding problems and challenges in national governance through development.

2. **People-centered.** We need to take betterment of people's well-being and realization of all-round development of the people as the starting point and ultimate goal of our work, ensure that development is for the people, by the people, and its fruits are shared by the people. We need to continuously improve people's livelihood, and enhance their sense of happiness, gain, and security.

3. **Leaving no country and no one behind.** We need to promote the realization of inclusive development for the benefits of all, and focus on addressing the uneven and

inadequate development among and within countries. We need to pay attention to the special development difficulties of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries, so that development benefits are shared fairly by all countries and all peoples.

4. **Harmony between human and nature.** Human and nature form a community of life. We need to actively respond to climate change, respect nature, revere nature, and protect nature. We need to follow the innate laws of the ecosystem, attach importance to both development and environmental protection, coordinate utilization and restoration, and strive to make sure that global economic and social sustainable development is supported by a good ecological environment.

5. **Innovation-driven.** Innovation is the primary driving force of development. We need to seize the historic opportunities of the new round of technological and industrial revolution, strengthen cooperation in areas such as big data, 5G and artificial intelligence. We need to create new engines for post-COVID economic recovery, accelerate global development, and promote the leapfrog development of developing countries.

6. **Global development partnership.** We need to put multilateralism into practice and support the United Nations in playing a coordinating role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We need to strengthen North-South cooperation, deepen South-South cooperation, and enhance the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries in global governance. We need to follow the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, build an open world economy, and work together to create an open and interconnected global development environment.

7. **Action-oriented.** We need to strengthen the communication and coordination of international development policies, translate global development consensus into pragmatic actions, and, by leveraging the existing multilateral mechanisms and platforms and through individual and joint actions, contribute to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting global common sustainable development.

8. **Synergy.** We need to maximize the synergy between the 2030 Agenda and initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Initiative on Partnership for Africa's Development, and pool the great strengths of the UN, G20, APEC, BRICS, China-ASEAN and other multilateral cooperation processes to strive for common development.

III. Priority areas

1. **Poverty alleviation.** Make poverty eradication the priority in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, strengthen international cooperation, and promote eradication of extreme poverty across the world, with a focus on people relapsing or falling into poverty due to the pandemic, especially those in developing countries.

2. **Food security.** Promote sustainable development of agriculture, foster a fair, reasonable, sustained and stable order of agricultural trade, improve international food and agricultural governance, and maintain global food security.

3. **COVID-19 and vaccines.** Promote global solidarity against the pandemic, share information and experience, strengthen joint prevention and control, promote

equitable distribution of vaccines, ensure vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries, and jointly build a strong global immunity shield.

4. **Financing for development.** Strengthen financing for sustainable development, provide more development resources to developing countries, enhance self-generated development capacity and sustainability of developing countries.

5. **Climate change and green development.** Work for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, enhance global climate and environmental governance, promote global ecological civilization, push for the transition to green and low-carbon production and consumption, strengthen green financing, promote research, development and transfer of green technologies, and achieve green recovery.

6. **Industrialization.** Deepen cooperation on global production capacity, help developing countries improve industrial production capacity and manufacturing level, help them better integrate into the global industrial, value and supply chains, and accelerate the industrialization and modernization process.

7. **Digital economy.** Deepen cooperation on digital technology, digital economy and digital security, strengthen digital infrastructural development, promote technology transfer and knowledge sharing, elevate the capacity for digital governance, and close digital and technological gaps.

8. **Connectivity.** Strengthen global infrastructure connectivity, enhance the “soft connectivity” of policies, rules and standards, promote unimpeded trade, and maintain the safety, stability and connectivity of the global industrial and supply chains.

IV. Next steps

1. Enhance policy communication and coordination in global development, revitalize the global development partnership, promote stronger, greener and healthier global development, and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Enhance the coordination under such mechanisms as the UN General Assembly Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, set up a “Group of Friends” or a cooperation network as appropriate, jointly hold Global Development Initiative high-level events, and build international consensus in support of development cooperation and the Global Development Initiative.

3. Strengthen cooperation with UN development agencies, enhance strategic coordination, and jointly promote work in priority areas identified by the Global Development Initiative to form synergy.

4. With the support of the UN, other international organizations and regional and sub-regional multilateral cooperation mechanisms, take practical and efficient actions, push for the implementation of the Initiative, and accelerate global implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the world, with a view to opening up an even brighter future for global development undertakings.