

**Action Plan**  
**between**  
**the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety**  
**and Consumer Protection of Germany and**  
**the National Development and Reform Commission**  
**of the People's Republic of China**  
**regarding the Sino-German Dialogue on**  
**Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency**

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany (BMUV) and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC), hereinafter referred to as "both sides", recognize the importance of circular economy as a tool to support the realization of sustainable growth, resource efficiency and to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Both sides note with appreciation the valuable work of the G20 on this matter within the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue as well as the independent scientific assessments provided by the International Resource Panel (IRP) on the sustainable use of natural resources.

Both sides acknowledge the common interest of Germany and China in effectively implementing policies that support circular economy.

Both sides therefore wish to strengthen the bilateral exchange on the policy framework needed to advance the circular economy by setting up the Sino-German Dialogue on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (hereinafter referred to as "the Dialogue").

Both sides note that the Dialogue is part of the overarching Dialogue and Cooperation Mechanism on Climate Change and Green Transition between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hence, both sides make the following Action Plan:

1. Both sides intend to establish a bilateral high-level (Director-General level) dialogue on circular economy. The Dialogue will discuss matters on the design, planning, and implementation of strategies, legislation and policies in areas of mutual interest.

2. Both sides wish to conduct bilateral strategic exchanges, in particular in the following thematic areas:
  - a. The increase of circularity and resource efficiency along the whole value chain on key materials, especially plastics, metals, among others, and in selected product categories or key sectors, such as packaging, construction, vehicles, batteries.
  - b. Policy instruments and tools supporting the aforementioned, such as eco-design criteria, eco-labelling, environmental management systems, extended producer responsibility, green public procurement, financing of circular economy measures, and subsidies, also considering for Germany the context of relevant EU legislation.
  - c. Ambitious sustainability standards and transparency along the value chains of selected product categories and key materials (see para above).
3. Both sides intend to work together in international multilateral mechanisms on these topics, such as the United Nations, including the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, to advance the achievement of sustainable consumption and production and to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable, efficient and circular use of materials and natural resources. Both sides are jointly committed to strengthening cooperation in the field of plastic, addressing the full life-cycle, including through circular economy, promoting sustainable design, reuse or recycling of plastics through efficient and science-based methods, in order to end plastic pollution and its impact on the environment and human health.
4. Both sides share the understanding that the Dialogue should be led by high-level officials (Director-General level) of the sides. They intent to set up a joint steering committee, tasked with supervising the work of the Dialogue, which meets annually. Other relevant stakeholders may take part in the Dialogue. Both sides envisage the possibility to set up ad hoc working groups.
5. The sides acknowledge the importance of bilateral cooperation under the guidance of the Dialogue in the following thematic areas and formats:
  - a. Bilateral and multilateral meetings and other activities, including within the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, with broad participation of relevant stakeholders.
  - b. Information exchange on policy developments on circular economy.
  - c. Organization of technical workshops on selected topics (see para 2 a-c above), exchange visiting, capacity building, training programs.

This document is an Action Plan. As such, it neither obliges either of the sides to provide funds, personnel, services or other resources, nor does it create legally binding entitlements or obligations under international or national law. Both sides bear their own expenses arising from the implementation of the Dialogue and other activities carried out under this Action Plan. This Action Plan may be revised at any time with the written consent of the sides.

This Action Plan will be applied initially for a period of five years from the date of signature. If not otherwise agreed, the Action Plan will automatically expire after five years. The contents of the text of this Action Plan may be amended with the mutual written consent of both sides.

Signed in Beijing on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 in duplicate in Chinese, German and English, all texts being equivalent.

For the Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear  
Safety and Consumer Protection

For the National Development and Reform  
Commission of the People's Republic of  
China