Joint Statement

By

The Government of the People’s Republic of China and

The Government of the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On

UK-CHINA HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

• The World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the Millennium Summit (2000) outlined the key challenges facing human societies and set an ambitious agenda for the international community in the 21st century.

• In an increasingly interdependent world, achieving progress on the WSSD’s Programme of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals will require leadership by governments and co-operation at multiple levels.

• Sustainable development provides a conceptual framework within which nations can make informed and balanced choices to achieve economic growth, combat environmental degradation and make social progress at the same time. It also provides a sound basis for securing peace and stability.

• At the national level, both China’s Programme of Action for Sustainable Development in China in the Early 21st Century and the UK’s Sustainable Development Strategy seek to ensure that the environmental dimensions of development are integrated into national policies in order to meet both national aspirations and our international commitments.

• As China’s Programme of Action notes: “we should give full play to the role of government in coordinating and spearheading the implementation of the sustainable development strategy and properly handle the relationship of economic globalization and sustainability.”

• No single nation or entity can address these challenges alone, co-operation is required to ensure that efforts are collectively made, learning is shared and progress achieved.

MANDATE

• China and the UK have much to gain from collaboration in this field and both countries have established Task Forces, and related initiatives on finance, environment and development co-operation, for the furtherance of our bilateral relationship.
In May 2004, our Prime Ministers’ Joint Declaration recognised the need for partnership:

"China and the UK pledge to join hands in seeking a solution to international economic problems and promoting sustainable development. ... As partners on the issue of development, China and the UK agree to institutionalise their consultations on sustainable development. Both sides will work together to help developing countries in addressing poverty and other development-related problems so as to better manage challenges posed by globalisation."

This dialogue is being developed as part of the proposed Prime Ministers’ Initiative to strengthen bilateral ties in a range of policy areas and provide leadership on sustainable development. There is an appetite in both countries for a productive approach to addressing common challenges that creates new opportunities and produces mutual benefits.

FORMAT & CONTENT

- We will establish a multi-layered approach, which will include meetings at Ministerial and senior official level. We will endeavour to alternate the venue of these meetings between the UK and China.

- This Ministerial-level dialogue will be underpinned at official level by more regular contact and joint initiatives on the themes which reflect ongoing debates and concerns in both countries with a view to sharing experiences and helping deliver mutually-beneficial solutions. We will identify mechanisms such as official exchanges, research and partnerships to take this forward; and sectoral experts and stakeholders to work on these themes. These will include, but not be limited to, the following:

  - Representatives of DEFRA, DTI, DFID, FCO & OST in the UK, and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), Ministry of Science & Technology in China;

  - Representatives of academia, NGOs and other civil society groups;

  - Representatives of business, industry and the scientific community.

  - Multi-stakeholder engagement in both countries would make a valuable contribution to the discussions, as well as bring expertise and momentum for follow-up actions as relevant.

THEMES

The following is a list of initial themes common to both the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and China's Sustainable Development Action Plan which form the initial areas of focus under the Sustainable Development Dialogue.

- Natural Resource Protection & Management
- Economic Restructuring
- Urban Development
- Energy for Sustainable Development
- Capacity Building
- Economic globalisation
- Sustainable Consumption & Production

Ministers can agree to change this list of themes as they see fit.
DURATION

This arrangement will be effective for three years in the first instance. Ministers will wish to decide on its extension in 2007.

Signed in London on the 8th day of November, 2005, in duplicate in Chinese and English, each of these texts being equally valid.

State Councillor,
People’s Republic of China

Deputy Prime Minister,
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
中华人民共和国政府和大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国关于
中英可持续发展高级别对话机制的联合声明

背景：

一、可持续发展世界首脑会议 (2002 年) 及联合国千年
首脑会议 (2000 年) 确定了人类社会在 21 世纪面临的主要
挑战并为国际社会制定了宏伟目标。

二、在这个相互依存度不断加深的世界，实现可持续发
展世界首脑会议《实施计划》及千年发展目标需要各国政府
发挥领导作用以及加强互相合作。

三、可持续发展为各国提供了概念性框架，使其在实现
经济增长的同时，采取明智、平衡的选择，应对环境恶化、
推进社会进步。可持续发展也为实现和平与稳定提供了坚实
基础。

四、在国家层面，《中国21世纪初可持续发展行动纲要》
及英国的《可持续发展战略》均致力于将环境保护纳入国家
政策，以实现国家目标，履行国际承诺。

五、《中国21世纪初可持续发展行动纲要》指出，“我
们应充分发挥政府在实施可持续发展战略方面的协调和主
导作用，妥善处理经济全球化和可持续性之间的关系。”

六、任何国家或实体都不能单独应对这些挑战，因此应
开展合作，确保采取共同努力，交流经验，取得进展。

依据：

一、中国和英国在可持续发展方面开展合作对双方有
益。为进一步推进双边关系的发展，两国已经建立了工作组，
并制定了在财政、环境和发展方面的合作倡议。
二、中英两国总理和首相于2004年5月发表的联合声明中确认了建立伙伴关系的必要性：“中英两国承诺，增进在国际经济问题上的合作，促进可持续发展……中英是发展问题的伙伴国，双方同意建立可持续发展对话机制。双方将共同努力帮助发展中国家解决贫困和其他与发展有关的问题，更好地应对全球化带来的挑战。”

三、中英建立可持续发展对话机制，是落实中英联合声明中提出的加强双方在政策领域的关系，在可持续发展领域发挥领导作用的倡议。两国均希望以更积极的方式应对共同挑战，这将为双方营造更多互利机会。

形式及内容：
一、我们将建立一个多层次的机制，包括部长级会议及高官会议。会议将在中国和英国两地轮流举行。

二、部长级对话将以官员级的接触和发起的共同倡议为基础，讨论全球热点及双方共同关心的问题，交流经验和提供互利解决方案。为推动此项工作，我们将开展官方交流、合作研究、建立伙伴关系等活动。我们还将指定不同领域的专家和相关人员参加这些工作。这将包括，但不限于以下人员：

（一）中国国家发展改革委、外交部、环保总局及科技部的代表，英国环境、食品和农村事务部、贸工部、国家发展部、外交部及科技部的代表

（二）学术界、非政府组织和其它民间社会团体代表

（三）商界、工业界和科学团体代表

两国多领域人员的参与将对讨论作出宝贵贡献，还将为有关后续行动提供专业指导，保持其势头。

主题：
《中国21世纪初可持续发展行动纲要》及英国《可持续发展战略》构成了可持续发展对话的重点领域，以下的议题是上述两文件中所共有的：

二自然生态保护和管理
— 经济结构调整
— 城市发展
— 可持续发展的能源
— 能力建设
— 经济全球化
— 可持续消费与生产

部长们可根据需要对上述议题单进行调整。

有效期：
此声明有效期为三年。部长们将在 2007 年就延期作出决定。

本声明于 2005 年 11 月 8 日在伦敦签署。中英两种文字同等作准。

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中华人民共和国
国务院国务委员
唐家璇（签字）

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国
副首相
普雷斯科特（签字）