

## **Delegation from the People's Republic of China**

### ***Position Paper for the General Assembly***

The topics to be discussed in front of the General Assembly are I. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development and II. Disaster Risk Reduction. The People's Republic of China welcomes the discussion of these significant topics as both lay route to the building of a better world, especially in the post pandemic era. China urges all Member States to take part in anticipating actions which would make it possible to pave the way for deeper routed structural changes.

#### **I. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Sustainable Economic and Financial Development**

When it comes to sustainable development, nothing is as important as global exchange and connectedness. Closing the digital gap to ensure everyone has access to ICTs will have a huge impact on the needed correspondence and moreover, grants access to participation in contributing to the digital economy, online financial services, competitive markets, education training, and most importantly: global communication. With the global impacts of COVID-19, there is absolutely no doubt that the sustainability of economies relies on ICTs. Therefore, China underlines the importance of staying committed to innovation driven development and to leverage the historical opportunities created by the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation.

The importance of global digital access has already been pointed out at the *2003 and 2005 World Summits on Information Society*, which underlined the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people to sustainable livelihoods and well-being, the relationship between the development of ICTs and societies, and improved quality of life for all. To buttress this, the United Nations (UN) created a matrix outlining the role and impact of ICTs in each of the 17 *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* which were established in 2015 with the *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*. Additionally, the *United Nations Industrial Development Organization* helps to create and advance inclusive and sustainable development through knowledge and capacity-building frameworks centered around the development of ICT skills and development. China stays committed to benefits for all and to caring about special needs for developing countries. Therefore, we dedicated an extra \$4 million in funds to advance the *UNESCO-China-Funds-in-Trust Information and Communication Technology*, advancing ICT in teacher training in 10 African countries. Since the 1990s, China incredibly increased and popularized computer hardware, software, internet, and ICT service. Thus, firms have been able to overcome spatial and institutional barriers, cut time and cost of production, increase flexibility, take new marketing channels and employ new ways of making business. The government of China has recognized that ICTs are facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public and today, its ICT market is among the most dynamic sectors in the economy. On June 1, 2017, China implemented its first Cybersecurity Law, regulating its networks on national security grounds and supervising the ICT sector more generally.

Development holds the key to humans wellbeing and to ensure that knowledge, science and data are available to all, China would like to propose a global technology development initiative to obtain sustainable financial support and ongoing investments in ICTs. Aiming to reach \$1 billion a year, all Member States as well as academia and NGOs are invited to contribute donations and expertise to the initiative. Having the biggest ICT market of the world, China will put its focus on producing recyclable, environmentally friendly ICT equipment that will be affordable to all nations. We would like all member states to follow this example while we are willing to share our technical expertise. Additionally, China would like to propose a reduction of ICT items at the international market. This is surely not a loss of money, as it will improve the economy of every single member state, especially those who struggle right now. Following from this, the global community will be able to improve financing, economic growth, and sustainable development in a short amount of time. Moreover, the access to free education coming alongside all other benefits will greatly distribute to each nations development, as it is is the key to the future societies.

#### **II. Disaster Risk Reduction**

It is expected that disasters fueled by climate change, environmental degradation, conflicts, population growth, and rapid urbanization will lead to rises in displacement, both internally and across borders. These are all interconnected drivers of disaster risk which go hand in hand with all the associated risks to individuals and societies. Unfortunately, the threat recently increased even more with the ongoing *COVID-19* pandemic, which has been described as a devastating biological hazard that continues to have a direct impact on local, state, and international systems. The pandemic was highlighted as an

example of where countries must increase their cooperation to address its cascading impacts. It is therefore crucial to build worldwide resilience by investing in disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The basis of combating disaster risk within the UN was set in 1994 with the *Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World*, which was adopted by the World Conference on DRR and set out the first DRR principles, Plan of Action on DRR, and follow-up guidelines. The main focal point for DRR strategies and data within the UN Secretariat is the UN Office for DRR that was established with resolution 56/195 (2001). The *Hyogo Framework for Action* (HFA) was adopted in 2005 and served as the global blueprint for DRR efforts between 2005 and 2015. In 2015, recognizing that change was needed to address the enormous threat to lives and livelihoods posed by disasters, SDGs have come into force, and shortly after, UN Member States adopted the *Sendai Framework for DRR*. Furthermore, the Paris Agreement (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016) contribute globally to the reduction of disaster, and several resolutions on DRR were adopted by the General Assembly, as for example resolution 74/218 on “*Disaster risk reduction*” (2019). In May 2019, the *Global Risk Assessment Framework* was launched, striving for the goal of supporting decision-makers in DRR efforts and to mobilize financial resources for DRR. The Chinese government has steadily increased its focus on comprehensive disaster reduction and scientific prevention. Constantly improving disaster prevention, reduction, and relief systems, and enhancing the legal system, it has made great efforts to promote the construction of a comprehensive disaster prevention and reduction system. In 2005, the second world conference on disaster reduction was held, and since then, the Chinese government has vigorously promoted the UN-sponsored HFA. It has worked on mitigating disasters by evaluating the national conditions, perfecting the organizational system, and improving working mechanisms. The People’s Republic of China invested heavily in technology including GIS, satellite and aerial surveillance to improve disaster preparedness and response and up to now, there are over 5,000 model DRR projects engaging people at local level in practical initiatives to reduce exposure to disaster risk. Recently, the People’s Republic of China dedicated \$14.53 billion to post-flood recovery and reconstruction efforts. Over the years, the government has incorporated the reduction of natural disaster risk into national and local sustainable development strategies. China ranks as the most disaster-prone nation on earth and is leading by example by recording its disaster damage and loss in the Sendai Monitor. Moreover, it was able to cut its disaster mortality by half.

China recognizes the importance of promoting the vital benefits and opportunities that managed mobility can bring. It is essential that we move from post-disaster response to prevention, from a focus on single disasters to comprehensive disaster management, and change from focusing on reducing disasters losses to reducing the risk of disasters. The People’s Republic of China would like to express its desire to share its capabilities and knowledge with the world to strengthen resilience. We call upon all Member States to engage their communities and their cross-sectoral participation in community-based DRR and education, promote adaptive measures in response to the changing climate, and explore market-based solutions for disaster prevention and preparedness. The people’s Republic of China proposes the establishment of a World Wide Full Blown Disaster Early Warning System (FBDEWS) leading to both, prevention and reduction as well as its management. While implementing such a system, it is important to select the regions most affected, making them pilot areas for instrumentation, software system and dissemination verification. These regions will have priority regarding mitigating seismic hazards. With help from Russia, China has built a nationwide warning system that could serve as an example for all member states. Cooperation is a key feature in establishing those system as it will come along with mutual learning and advances in detecting and preventing disasters. We are willing to share our expertise and provide technical support as well as financial resources - especially with regards to space technologies which play a massive role in contributing to early warning systems including satellite telecommunications and Earth observation. Moreover, China would like to stress the importance of establishing an international database for past catastrophes, helping to monitor trend and likelihood of occurrence, prevention, reduction of disasters of any kind. Thus, global awareness for catastrophes, especially for those reoccurring will be assured. We would like to remind all Member States of the International Organization for Migration which operates DRR projects in 71 countries with a budget of \$140 million and currently reaches 1.4 million individuals providing DRR training to 6.400 government officials, including disaster risk assessments and community-based DRR planning. Funds to make this program accessible for everyone can be taken from the Disaster Risk Finance, established by the World Bank. Another source for additional funding and support can be the private sector, which is why we encourage strong partnerships with host governments, international and local NGOs, civil society, and academia. Effective risk reduction relies on international cooperation and global solidarity, and given the magnitude and complexity of the problems involved, partnership and multis-stakeholder engagement are essential.