

# Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change – NDC Implementation

## Context and Challenge

Achieving the goal of the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to below 1.5 °C can only be accomplished if the People's Republic of China reduces its emissions and successfully decarbonises its economy. As the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in terms of annual emissions and one of the largest emitters of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases (GHGs), China bears a particular responsibility for considerably reducing emissions and preserving the global climate. At the same time, China is highly exposed to the adverse effects of global warming and faces the challenge of strengthening its resilience against the impacts of climate change alongside its mitigation efforts.

Despite achieving record numbers in the rapid deployment of renewable energy capacities and electricity generation, more than half of China's power is still generated from burning coal. Energy-intensive industries continue to play a crucial role in the economy and rising energy demand from industry and an urbanizing populace are posing difficulties for China's transition away from fossil fuels.

As China aims to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, it needs to decarbonise its energy and industrial sectors and provide strong support for its provinces to develop robust plans for the implementation climate targets, the so-called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Without the necessary capacities and know-how on the sub-national level of government, the climate goals will prove to be hard to implement.

Additionally, there are significant differences in economic development, greenhouse gas emissions, and emissions reduction targets between provinces, as well as their means to transform toward a low-carbon model. For successful decarbonization, China needs to overcome structural reliance on energy-intensive industries and upgrade its development model nationwide. In addition to advancing financial and technical capacities, the design of effective climate policy measures across a vast and complex system of governance, as well as stronger institutions and more robust laws are still needed.

As part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Germany is engaging with countries worldwide to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis for global ecosystems and human welfare. Deepening collaboration and dialogue with China is central to answering to this challenge and

Project name	Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change – NDC Implementation
Commissioning body	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of the Federal Republic of Germany, within the framework of its International Climate Initiative (IKI)
Country	People's Republic of China (PRC)
Political partner	Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of the People's Republic of China
Implementation partner	National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC) of the People's Republic of China
International partners	NewClimate Institute (NCI) Climate Analytics
Duration	September 2020 until January 2026
Budget	EUR 13,5 million

jointly develop solutions to protect the global common goods. German and European experiences in decarbonization, climate policy, and adaptation strategies can serve as a reference for China and offer fruitful avenues for enhanced political dialogue and knowledge exchange. China's willingness to take on its responsibility in achieving international climate targets are evidenced by its climate agenda, and China realizing its potential will be an important signal to the rest of the global community to take effective action on climate change.

## Our Objectives

The *Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change – NDC Implementation* is a bilateral project of the German Federal Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI) commissioned by the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Change (BMWK), with the Ministry for Ecology and Environment (MEE) as political partner on the Chinese side. It is implemented by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH.

The project aims to enhance NDC implementation and climate policy coordination at the (sub)national level, leading to more effective implementation within the framework of China's 14th Five-Year-Plan (FYP) and laying the ground for the setting of more ambitious climate targets in its NDC and future FYP. Thereby the project contributes to the achievement of China's NDC targets,

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including early emissions peaking and the long-term decarbonisation of the Chinese economy.

## Our Approach

Together with national partners, eight Chinese partner provinces, as well as municipal and sectoral partners, the project is working on the following five key areas:

- 1. Climate Governance and Legislation:** The project facilitates bilateral and international exchange of experiences as reference for improving China's legal and regulatory framework for climate action as well as coordination to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of climate policies.
- 2. GHG Mitigation:** By sharing German and European best practices and lessons-learned the project supports provincial and sectoral partners in formulating GHG mitigation policies and regional early emissions peaking approaches, e.g. with regard to reducing methane emissions, decarbonizing the cement sector, and developing sustainable transport.
- 3. Climate Change Adaptation:** Through peer-to-peer dialogue on adaptation science – e.g. on methodologies for local-level climate impact and risk assessment, on approaches to strengthening the resilience of ecosystems as well as on city-level adaptation action plans – the project enables partner provinces to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 4. Climate Finance:** By bolstering the climate finance architecture and competencies on the provincial level, the project works toward closing the climate finance gap and improving access to national and international sustainable finance sources.
- 5. Networking and Knowledge Management for the IKI in China:** as the interface for the German federal government's International Climate Initiative (IKI) in China, the project promotes knowledge-sharing and networking among IKI projects and with other donors.

## Our Achievements

### Dialogues and publications on German climate legislation and governance

- 8 studies and background papers, 15 workshops and working meetings on climate governance and legislation in Germany and the EU.

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- 10 German federal and state-level climate laws as a reference for Chinese policy makers translated and published.
- Published a global overview of non-CO2 emissions targets in NDCs.

### Facilitated exchange of best practices, and developed roadmaps on GHG mitigation

- Facilitated exchanges on decarbonization pathways between experts from Germany and the European Union (EU) and Chinese experts and policymakers.
- Aided the formulation of strategies for GHG emissions reductions for provincial partners in Shandong and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region; contributed to proposals for decarbonisation of the cement sector in Zhejiang and Hainan.
- 17 workshops on mitigation topics with 287 policymakers and experts conducted.
- 14 reports on sectoral and local emission reduction and decarbonization strategies.

### Adaptation capabilities strengthened nationally and locally; awareness of local climate impacts raised

- 12 workshops and trainings with more than 250 participants on adaptation planning, incl. impact and risk assessments, and the formulation of strategies for cities and provinces to become more resilient held.
- 12 reports on topics such as adaptation planning in Germany and the EU, monitoring and evaluation for climate adaptation, urban resilience, and medium- and long-term adaptation needs published.

### Bolstered access to and understanding of climate finance

- 5 trainings with more than 120 participants on climate finance, carbon accounting, and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) held.
- Hosted international symposiums and workshops with financial institutions, experts, and policymakers.
- Published a handbook on city climate finance with recommendations for local policymakers.

### Facilitated networking and knowledge exchange

- Quarterly Newsletter on climate policy and IKI project activities in China and hosting the [IKI China website](#).
- Regular networking and exchange workshops for IKI implementers and the environment and climate community in China.

**Project**  
Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change – NDCI Implementation

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