China’s Submission on the Work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

In accordance with paragraphs 17-33 of the Report of the First Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (FCCC/ADP/2012/3), China would like to submit the following on the work of the Durban Platform process:

A. The Objective, Principles and Basis of the Durban Platform Process

1. The Durban Platform is to further enhance the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and strengthen the multilateral rule-based regime under the Convention in order to achieve its ultimate objective. It is by no means a process to create a new international climate regime, nor to renegotiate, rewrite or reinterpret the Convention and its principles and provisions. It merely represents a new phase in enhancing the implementation of the Convention.

2. The Durban Platform is under the Convention and its work shall be guided by the principles of the Convention. Both its process and outcome shall be in full accordance with the principles, provisions and structure of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The dichotomy between developed and developing countries is the very foundation of the Convention regime, and any attempts to modify the Annexes of the Convention or to re-categorize developed and developing countries would delay progress in the Durban Platform process with nothing to come in the end.

3. The implementation of the Bali Roadmap shall be the starting point of the Durban Platform process. Only the effective implementation of the commitments or actions under the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the agreed outcome pursuant to the Bali Action Plan could enhance the mutual trust among parties, laying out the solid foundation
for the post-2020 enhanced actions. The outcome of Durban Platform process shall be ‘applicable to all parties’ in the same manner as the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, which shall by no means suggest or imply uniformity of responsibilities and obligations for all parties in terms of nature, content and magnitude. The outcome shall define the differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries, reflecting the historical responsibilities of developed countries and giving full consideration to the development stages and respective capabilities of developing countries, bearing in mind that social economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities for developing countries.

4. The Durban Platform shall be an open, transparent, inclusive, party-driven and consensus-building process, where parties will engage with each other in a culture of cooperation, reasonableness and pragmatism with a view to reaching a win-win outcome. Its work shall be organized in a way that allows adequate time for Parties to thoroughly and effectively reflect on the 5th IPCC Assessment Report and the result of the 2013-2015 Review under the Convention.

B. Post-2020 Enhanced Actions

5. The post-2020 enhanced actions are to comprehensively implement the provisions of the Convention, covering mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building. All those elements shall be addressed on an equal footing and in a holistic, balanced and coordinated manner. Institutional arrangements resulting from the Bali process shall continue to function and be further elaborated to support the implementation of the post-2020 enhanced actions. Any unresolved issues from the Bali process such as equitable access to sustainable development, trade and unilateral measures, technology-related IPRs shall continue to be discussed in the negotiations for post-2020 enhanced actions. The agreement on the post-2020 enhanced actions shall follow the structure and provisions of the Convention, in
particular the provisions of Articles 4 and 12 as well as the Annexes, and define the differentiated commitments and actions for developed and developing countries in full accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

6. On mitigation, developed countries shall undertake ambitious, legally binding and economy-wide quantified emission reduction commitments and targets in accordance with their historical responsibilities and capabilities and as demanded by science. Those commitments and targets shall be mainly implemented through domestic actions.

For developing countries, they will take diversified enhanced mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, consistent with their national circumstances and supported and enabled by adequate finance, technology and capacity building support from developed countries. In this connection, it is crucial to give full effect to Article 4.7 of the Convention.

7. Practical actions on adaptation shall be further enhanced for post-2020, building on the exiting institutional arrangements. Developed countries shall continue to support developing countries to formulate and implement national adaptation strategies and plans so as to effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change.

8. For post-2020, developed countries shall continue to provide adequate financial resources, mainly from public funds, to support enhanced mitigation and adaptation actions by developing countries, with a clear roadmap for such financing and its ratcheting-up.

Developed countries shall continue to transfer technology to developing countries, including the provision of financial support to developing countries for technology development and application so as to make technology transfer really happen under the Convention.
Developed countries shall further enhance their support to developing countries to strengthen the latter’s capacity building on mitigation and adaptation.

9. With regard to the legal form of the post-2020 agreement, three options are referred to in Decision 1/CP17, i.e. a protocol or another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force. However, the final legal form shall be determined by the substance of the outcome of the negotiations.

C. Pre-2020 Ambition

10. Any actions to increase pre-2020 ambition, no matter whether they are taken under the Convention or outside it, shall be guided by the objective and principles of the Convention. Increasing pre-2020 ambition shall primarily be achieved through the implementation of the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the outcome of the Bali Action Plan. The pre-2020 ambition shall be addressed in a comprehensive manner, covering mitigation, adaptation and finance and technology support.

11. Developed countries shall commit to reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases in aggregate by at least 25%-40% below their 1990 levels by 2020. For those developed countries that undertake commitments for the 2nd commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol shall revisit and raise their mitigation ambition by 2014 at the latest. For those developed countries that are not part of the 2nd commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol shall undertake comparable mitigation commitments under the Convention and must equally raise their mitigation ambition in the same timeframe. Developed countries shall increase their mitigation ambition mainly through their domestic efforts. Any international or regional initiatives shall not introduce any new or additional commitments for developing countries.

12. Developing countries have already presented ambitious nationally
appropriate mitigation actions and their contribution to global mitigation efforts is far greater than that by developed countries. The effective and timely fulfillment by developed countries of their commitments on finance, technology and capacity building support is crucial for developing countries to enhance their actions. In this regard, there should be a clear roadmap for developed countries to ratchet up their financial support in the period of 2013 to 2020 in order to meet the goal of providing 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 and the technology related IPRs shall be appropriately addressed. For developing countries, any activities, no matter whether they are taken within or outside the framework of the Convention, are part of their efforts to implement their nationally appropriate mitigation actions that have been presented. Any international cooperative initiatives may facilitate the implementation by developing countries of their presented actions, but shall not introduce any new or additional commitments for developing countries.