



YOUTH CALL TO ACTION CHINA

Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for young people in all their diversity.

Situational Analysis

As Asia-Pacific accelerates efforts toward the 2030 Agenda, structural gaps remain between technological advancement, community inclusion, and long-term climate resilience. Energy transition, industrial innovation, and urban transformation must move beyond isolated interventions and evolve into integrated, behavior-aware, and youth-inclusive systems.

China stands at a critical moment in advancing

renewable energy deployment, digital-industrial transformation, and low-carbon urbanisation. However, achieving sustainable impact requires deeper integration between infrastructure, community participation, and measurable carbon accountability.

Youth are not only beneficiaries of development policies, they are co-creators of energy systems, infrastructure models, and future cities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

China has made significant progress in access to safe drinking water and wastewater treatment. However, climate change, rapid urbanisation, and extreme weather events are placing increasing pressure on

water systems in both urban and coastal regions. Island and coastal communities face heightened risks of water insecurity, flooding, and sanitation disruption. China's water governance must reinforce systemic resilience, ecological protection and climate adaptation.

Co-convended by



In collaboration



In partnership



RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Strengthen climate-resilient water infrastructure in high-risk coastal and island regions, through integrating climate risk assessments into the design of water systems, and prioritising resilience investment in alignment with National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035.
- » Integrate water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles into new infrastructure and urban renewal projects through its “Sponge City” initiative, combining drainage, green spaces, and flood mitigation systems.
- » Develop measurable water security indicators aligned with national climate adaptation strategies and the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

While large-scale renewable deployment has accelerated, complementary decentralised and community-based energy systems remain underdeveloped. A diversified energy transition must integrate technological, behavioral, cultural, and local dimensions. As renewable energy transition accelerates, innovative and community-driven approaches should be explored to complement conventional systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Expand community solar and shared renewable energy schemes beyond individual property owners to include apartment residents, low-income households, and underserved communities. Clear regulatory frameworks, streamlined permitting, and stage-appropriate financial incentives should be introduced to reduce developer risk and accelerate inclusive clean energy access.
- » Pilot innovative micro-energy systems, such as motion-based and kinetic energy technologies in parks, sports facilities, and transit hubs, as supplementary contributions to decentralised renewable systems while raising public awareness.

- » Encourage youth-led and behavior-driven clean energy innovation, including digital tools that promote energy efficiency, demand-side management, and community participation in the energy transition.

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

China has made significant progress in industrial modernisation, digital transformation, and infrastructure expansion. However, accelerating climate risks, resource constraints, and regional disparities require innovation systems that further strengthen sustainability, resilience, and equitable access.

China’s industrial and infrastructure policies must integrate low-carbon transition, climate resilience, and inclusive innovation into long-term development strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Deploy fiscal incentives and financing mechanisms to stimulate market adoption of low-carbon materials, smart energy systems, and lifecycle-based construction standards, while strengthening capacity building for green professionals in energy auditing and smart energy management.
- » Develop integrated zero-carbon pilot zones in island and coastal regions such as Hainan, combining renewable energy systems, green mobility, climate-resilient public infrastructure, and sustainable tourism planning.
- » Establish youth-inclusive innovation platforms and demonstration projects that test scalable, climate-resilient infrastructure solutions applicable to other coastal and island economies across Asia-Pacific.

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

China’s rapid urbanisation makes the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 11, building inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities, both an urgent priority and a shared responsibility. With hundreds of

millions of people navigating the pressures of urban life, the time to act on affordable housing, social equity, and environmental resilience is now.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Expand affordable, energy-efficient housing schemes for low-income urban residents and rural-to-urban migrants, ensuring that sustainable living is financially accessible to all, particularly young people and families navigating the pressures of rapid urbanisation under the hukou system and Hong Kong's Public Rental Housing system.
- » Adopt motivation-profile approaches to urban policy design, moving beyond broad demographic categories to deliver targeted interventions that reflect the diverse priorities of youth, women, and marginalised communities, ensuring that sustainability initiatives are inclusive and responsive to the lived experiences of all urban residents.
- » Strengthen accountability frameworks for sustainable urban development by embedding measurable, science-based targets into city planning mandates, expanding proven programmes such as the Sponge City initiative, and ensuring local governments are equipped with the funding and governance tools needed to deliver equitable, resilient cities for future generations.

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Achieving integrated energy transition, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable communities requires coordinated partnerships across public, private, and

youth sectors. Fragmented action limits scalability and long-term impact.

China has witnessed the rise of multi-stakeholder climate platforms, including initiatives such as Shanghai Climate Week, which convene government institutions, enterprises, academia, and youth innovators around shared climate goals. These platforms demonstrate the potential of structured collaboration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Develop structured partnership frameworks to accelerate pilot projects in renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, and low-carbon urban systems.
- » Create long-term collaboration mechanisms beyond annual conferences, including joint innovation funds, pilot incubation programs, and policy feedback channels.
- » Support regional replication of climate coordination models across Asia-Pacific, strengthening South-South cooperation.

The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on 18-20 February, 2026. The China drafting team consisted of Becca(Xinai) Liu, and Timothy Joseph G. Henares. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.