

UK/ PRC JOINT CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

(London, 17 June 2014)

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the People's Republic of China recognise the threat of dangerous climate change as one of the greatest global challenges we face. The publication of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that climate change is already happening, much of it as a result of human activity. The odds of extreme weather events, which threaten lives and property, have increased. Sea levels are rising, and ice is melting faster than we expected. The IPCC's report makes clear that unless we act now the impacts of climate change will worsen in coming decades. In addition, the burning of fossil fuels creates serious air pollution, affecting quality of life for millions. Both sides recognise that climate change and air pollution share many of the same root causes, as well as many of the same solutions. This constitutes an urgent call to action.

The UK and China both recognise the clear imperative to work together towards a global framework for ambitious climate change action, since this will support efforts to bring about low carbon transitions in our own countries. In particular our two countries recognise that the Paris Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in 2015 represents a pivotal moment in this global effort. We must redouble our efforts to build the global consensus necessary to adopt in Paris a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties. Both sides underline the importance for all countries to communicate their nationally determined contributions well in advance of COP21, in accordance with the decisions taken in Warsaw.

The Leaders' Summit called by the UN Secretary General in September 2014 is a key milestone. In this regard, the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China commit to working together in support of the UN Secretary General, and to maintain the momentum through to Paris in 2015.

The United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China have both taken substantial action to put in place policies to limit or reduce emissions and

promote low carbon development. We welcome our existing strong relationship on low carbon cooperation that underpins our international work. Both sides agree to intensify bilateral policy dialogue and practical collaboration through the China-UK Working Group on Climate Change.