



**Online meeting of the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1)
Written submission for the Leadership Dialogue**

February 22nd, 2021

Your excellencies:

On behalf of the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE), we have the pleasure to submit this written submission to the leadership dialogue of the UNEA 5.1 under the topic: “Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world.”

This statement runs parallel to our Chairperson, Ms. SUN Lili’s speech in Chinese in the Leadership Dialogue.

SEE is the largest platform for Chinese entrepreneurs to participate in environmental protection. More than 900 business leaders joined the course via voluntary industry environmental actions and philanthropic donations. We have supported more than 700 environmental NGOs and attracted 600 million person-time involved in different environmental actions in China.

The immediate post-pandemic period is a time for healing. Whereas the route to a full recovery is filled up with uncertainty. It is astute to deliberately set pragmatic environmental goals for a foreseeable future. Over the past decade, none of the 20 Aichi targets of biodiversity have been fully met. So we have to balance our environmental ambition with reality.

Regarding the outlook of global consumption and production, the prominent two drivers for industry’s green transition are the market demands and the mode of production. It is anticipated that the pandemic will have a short-lived impact on the conventional consumer demands. It will take longer and dragging efforts to achieve transformative changes in consumption.

On the other hand, technological innovations, like renewable energy and Information and Communication Technology, has brought opportunities for the greening of production processes. The enhanced supply chain management and the reshuffle of global value chain, enabled SEE to set green standards and practice green procurement in China's building and construction sector. By forcing thousands of upstream suppliers to improve their environmental performances, the annual green procurement volume has reached \$1.5 billion in 2020.

Beyond voluntary actions, the public policy plays a crucial role in guiding and regulating enterprise’s behavior. Sound fiscal and financial policies combined with proper incentive measures will accelerate the green transformation of enterprises, who may otherwise be bogged at trade-offs

between cost and social impacts.

However, individual business's impact on environment is limited. Therefore, SEE, as a network of enterprises, provides a new way for the engagement of multiple industries, especially for small and medium sized enterprises. SEE has joined a number of alliances, including the Business for Nature, to encourage our member companies to make conservation commitments and take actions.

It is our earnest intention to call on environmental political leaders around the world, to seize the opportunity to act now in the following five areas:

1. To value ecosystem services and natural capital when formulating economic policies.
2. To strengthen international and domestic rule of law on environment, with unhindered law enforcement and independent supervision.
3. To promote green finance and impact investment, supporting environmental friendly and innovative businesses.
4. To build synergies when dealing with multiple environmental issues through Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Adopt a "NO LOSS" goal for the most carbon-dense, high biodiversity ecosystems including explicit attention to primary forests, peat forests, mangroves and other coastal ecosystems.
5. To strengthen pollution information disclosure and environmental data sharing in the digital era.

SEE values the fundamental role played by UNEP in mobilizing private sector resources, building the link between environmental science and policy, and advancing global environmental governance. We therefore strongly support the work of the Science-Policy-Business Forum and the Global Environment Outlook. As a member of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, we will continue to support UNEP's work in China as well as in the rest of the world.

Thank you very much!