

Proposal of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Plastic Pollution Control in the Yangtze River Basin

(First Draft)

Chapter I General

Article 1 For thoroughly implementing Xi Jinping's Thought on Ecological Civilization and performing *Yangtze River Protection Law of the People's Republic of China*, the parties involved shall persist in "promoting well-coordinated environmental conservation and avoiding excessive development" and "prioritizing ecological conservation and boosting green development", deepen the multi-stakeholders cooperation for the plastic pollution control of the Yangtze River basin, create the good scenario of mutual coordination, joint consultation and collaborative management across the basin, and establish the multi-stakeholder partnerships for plastic pollution control of the Yangtze River basin (hereinafter referred to as the MSP).

Article 2 The MSP aims to unite the all stakeholder involved in the plastic pollution of the Yangtze River basin to cope with and solve the plastic pollution events cooperatively, enhance the joint prevention and control against the plastic pollution both upstream and downstream on both right and left banks and in both onshore and offshore areas for the Yangtze River basin, cohesively form a source-to-sea new pattern for plastic pollution prevention and control, continuously improve the aquatic ecology environment for the Yangtze River basin, and make efforts to establishing a happiness river bringing benefits to the people.

Article 3 It is proposed to stick to the principles of making overall plans, coordination with divided responsibilities, friendly consultation, diverse involvement and society participation, enhance communication and coordination, promote mutual support, and make full use of the MSP platform, so as to jointly advance the orderly implementation of the plastic pollution control for the basin.

Chapter II Work mechanism

Article 4 It is proposed to study and establish the special coordination mechanism for the plastic pollution control in the Yangtze River basin. The agencies dispatched by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China to the basin to cooperate the relevant departments of each province within the basin to establish a special coordination mechanism for plastic pollution control in the Yangtze River basin. The involved departments in the provinces shall establish the special coordination mechanism for the inter-region trans-boundary plastic pollution control as demanded, so as to collaboratively solve the transregional cross-department salient problems in plastic pollution.

Article 5 It is proposed to study and establish a platform for the communication and consultation among the governmental departments, enterprises, industrial organizations and the public that are related to the plastic pollution of the Yangtze River basin, improve information sharing and disclosure, and promote diverse involvement, make full use of the primary responsibility of enterprises, strengthen the supervision and management of the government, enhance policy guidance, and consolidate social consensus, so as to advance the formation of the diverse co-control system in which the government, enterprises, industrial organizations and the public jointly participate.

Chapter III Tasks

Article 6 The MSP focuses on the main tasks of the plastic pollution control of the Yangtze River basin, mainly including:

(1) Joint consultation

The agencies dispatched by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment to the basin should collaborate with the related departments of each province to hold joint work meetings regularly or irregularly. In these meetings, they can study and jointly advance the related tasks for the MSP, exchange successful experience in plastic pollution control, and coordinate to solve key and difficult problems, as well as summarize and promote the reproducible and generalizable experience and practices for the coordinated plastic pollution control. The representatives from the pollution-related enterprises, industrial organizations, the public or other involved parties can also be invited to participate in these meetings for communication according to work arrangement.

(2) Joint patrol management and protection

It is proposed to establish the normalized joint patrol system for plastic pollution prevention and control, collaboratively carry out the environmental supervision and management of such links as the recycling, utilization and treatment of plastic wastes, enhance the cleaning and regulation of the plastic wastes along the shorelines of the water area, make full use of the measures such as satellite remote sensing, unmanned aerial vehicles, video monitoring and network monitoring, and implement daily management and protection, including the joint patrol and cleaning against the plastic wastes at the transboundary waters, so as to find out and solve the related problems in time.

(3) Joint enforcement and inspection

It is proposed to: jointly carry out the examination and elimination of plastic pollution sources discharging into the river, the management and control of the inlet blow down of the river, as well as the remediation against the agricultural plastic waste pollution; investigate and punish, according to the law, the behaviors including the illegal blowdown, random waste discarding or piling as well as random waste plastics dumping, landfilling, storing and stacking; strictly implement the emission standards; control the total blowdown amounts; conduct clue transfer and case accreditation and investigation against the plastic-involved environmental pollution and the ecological vandalism; and rigorously strike the illegal activities involving plastic pollution.

(4) Joint monitoring and control

It is proposed to, in line with the principles of integrated planning, construction with work division and information sharing, establish the monitoring and control system against the plastic pollution of the Yangtze River basin, unify the indexes, methods and technical standards of the plastic pollution at the transboundary areas, as well as carry out the joint monitoring and assessment of the important trans-province sections.

(5) Information sharing and disclosure

It is proposed to enhance the sharing of the trans-province and cross-department information about plastic pollution, including the information about the hidden environmental risk hazard points within the basin or region, industrial pollution, household garbage, agricultural pollution sources and water quality monitoring, and share relevant data with the interest parties, such as enterprises and the public, so as to realize the inter-connectivity, co-building and sharing of the information about plastic pollution.

(6) Enhancing the oversight by the public

It is proposed to encourage the pollution-related enterprises, industrial organizations, the public and other interest parties to participate in the supervision over and protection against the plastic pollution in the basin, establish and regulate the work process of the acceptance, treatment, verification and feedback of the clues for the problems involving plastic pollution, and encourage the related groups to find out, deter and report the problems including the illegal blowdown and stacking of plastic pollution, so as to form the powerful synergy of the entire people's participation in the water control and regulation for the basin.