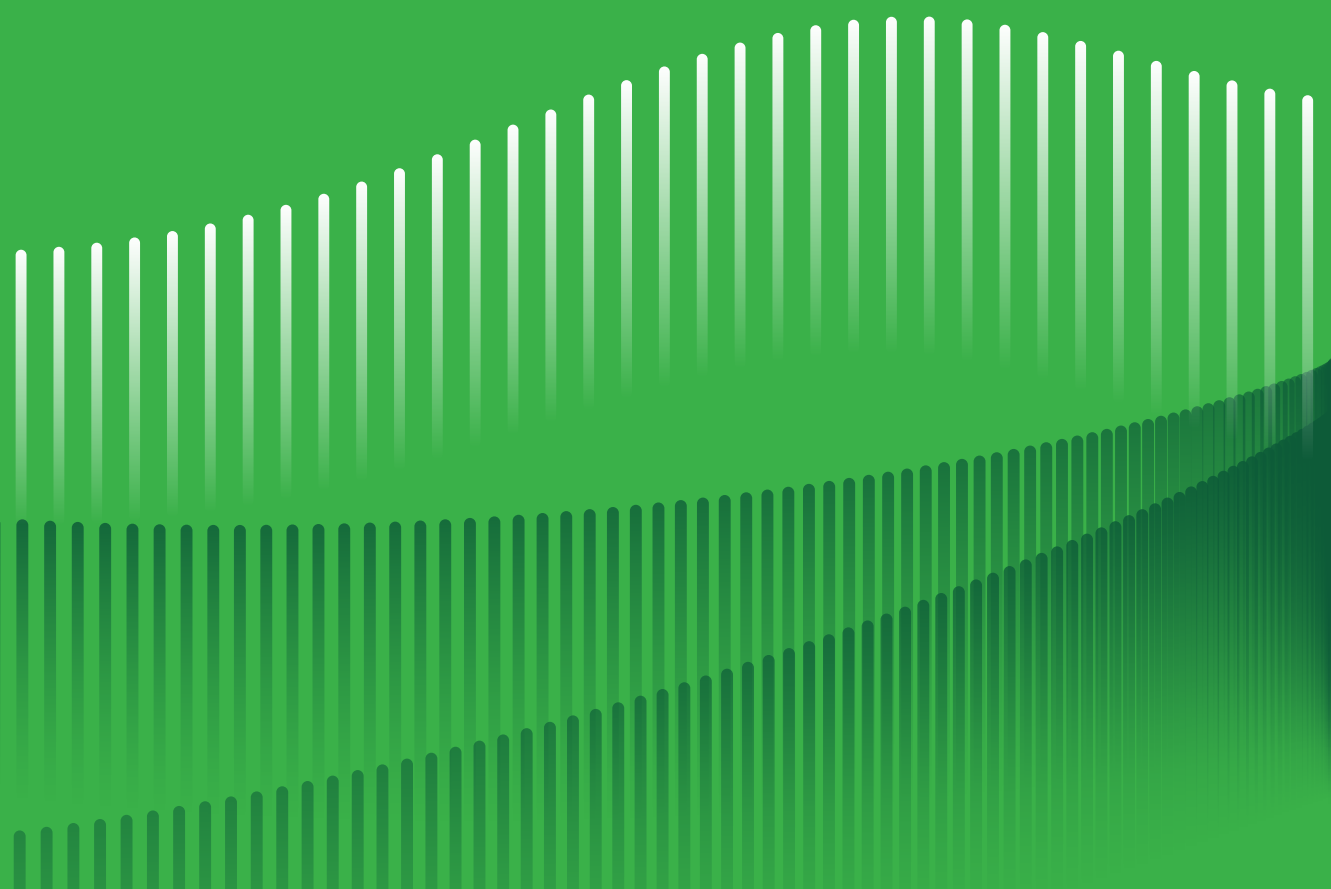


➤ **“Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic” Initiative**

➤ **Global Action Plan for
Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic (2023-2030)**





“Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic” Initiative

Now, with the intensification of climate change, frequent occurrence of natural disasters and increasing environmental problems, more and more countries and international organizations are integrating green development, principles from the circular economy and low-carbon lifestyles into their national strategies and global vision. China has set a dual carbon goal of striving to achieve peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060, aimed at making positive contributions to address climate change and create harmony between man and nature. During the General Debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative, an international plan that adheres to the concept of harmonious co-existence between humankind and nature, targeting climate change and green economic development as key areas for cooperation. The initiative has received positive responses from the international community.

Bamboo is a precious treasure bestowed upon humankind by nature, and has significant ecological, economic and social benefits. As a green, low-carbon, fast-growing, renewable and degradable biomass material, bamboo can play a unique role in addressing a number of global challenges such as climate change, poverty alleviation and ecological restoration. China and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization are jointly launching the “Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic” Initiative, aimed at deepening cooperation of the Global Development Initiative by realizing the outstanding advantages and potential of bamboo in reducing plastic pollution, replacing plastic products and providing a nature-based solution for energy-intensive and difficult-to-degrade plastic products, while making a positive contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. Formulate supportive policies

Incorporate the “Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic” Initiative into policy frameworks at different levels, including international, regional and national levels; cooperate with relevant international organizations to facilitate formulation of international trade rules for inclusion of bamboo

plastic substitute products into plastics replacements; support and help countries around the world formulate and popularize policies regarding the initiative; identify important industries and bamboo products to replace plastics; and provide policy guarantees for global development.

2. Promote technological innovation

Converge scientific and technological forces in the bamboo sector to deepen cooperation and foster innovation in the uses, efficiency and standardized development of bamboo products to replace plastics as well as generate the conditions for the adoption of new technologies and development of new products that can use “bamboo as a substitute for plastic”.

3. Encourage scientific research

Encourage global research institutions to strengthen basic research into using “bamboo as a substitute for plastic” to promote scientific innovation in global bamboo utilization as well as build a scientific knowledge system such as material data and full life cycle databases that will establish the scientific theory and foundation of data for mitigating global plastic pollution and devising a global development policy framework.

4. Promote market expansion

Facilitate the entry of bamboo products into the market and promote consumption through expert forums, exhibitions, demonstrations and public events at international, regional and national levels. Widely publicize the diverse applications of bamboo in construction, decoration, furniture, papermaking, packaging, transportation, food, textiles, chemicals, handicrafts and disposable products. The promotion of bamboo products capable of replacing plastics with great market potential and good economic benefits will be prioritized.

5. Enhance publicity

Comprehensively promote the significant potential and value of bamboo as a nature-based solution and raise public awareness through participating in international fora such as the United Nations General

Assembly, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Forestry Congress, celebrating important international and national themed days and anniversaries such as World Earth Day, World Environment Day, and promoting activities on media platforms.

7 November 2022
Beijing, China



Global Action Plan for Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic (2023-2030)

On 24 June 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, which yielded a list of 32 deliverables. Deliverable 18 states that "China will launch the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) to reduce plastic pollution and address climate change."

On 20 September 2022, the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) was held in New York. At the meeting, China announced 7 practical measures to be undertaken together with international partners to implement the deliverables of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development and promote GDI cooperation. Measure 6 is "implement the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative, jointly start formulating the Global Action Plan for the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR), and work with all parties to address global plastic pollution."

At the opening ceremony of the 25th Anniversary of INBAR and the Second Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress held in Beijing on 7 November 2022, the Chinese Government and INBAR jointly launched the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic (BASP) Initiative.

I. Background

(i) Hazards of plastic pollution

As an important basic material, plastic is widely used in many economic and social areas, greatly facilitating our ways of life and production. Yet the material also poses huge environmental challenges. Plastic itself is not a pollutant, but when its waste is exposed to natural environments such as soil and water bodies, the undegradable nature will therefore result in visual pollution, soil damage, microplastics and other environmental hazards. Reducing the use of disposable plastic products, scientifically and reliably promoting plastic alternative products, strengthening the standardized recycling and re-using of plastic waste, and improving plastic waste disposal are all effective ways to solve plastic pollution.

(ii) Global consensus

Addressing plastic pollution has become a hot topic in the field of global environmental governance.

In March 2022, the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly adopted a resolution to forge an international legally binding instrument by the end of 2024 to reduce environmental pollution caused by plastic products. To date, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution has convened two consultative meetings and will continue to advance the consultation process.

(iii) Feasibility of substituting bamboo for plastic

Bamboo is a versatile resource that offers a sustainable nature-based solution for reducing plastic pollution.

Bamboo products are low carbon, eco-friendly and biodegradable. Bamboo is efficient in carbon sequestration, absorption, capture and storage. The production of bamboo products emits little carbon, and bamboo products are naturally degradable.

Bamboo materials feature a range of good properties, and bamboo products are capable of meeting diverse needs. More than 10,000 types of bamboo products have been developed, including industrial products, daily necessities, packaging materials, agricultural mulch films, bamboo winding pipes, building materials, materials for automotive parts and more, with applications in numerous fields. Bamboo is fast growing, renewable, sustainable, diverse and widely distributed. There are currently 1642 known bamboo species in the world, with a total forest area exceeding 50 million hectares. Bamboo forests, grown for one year and formed in three years, provide a sustainable supply of raw materials for the development of the bamboo industry through self-renewal.

II. Action Plan

To achieve the vision of reducing plastic pollution, under the BASP Initiative, China and INBAR have called upon relevant international organizations to work with government departments at all levels as well as collaborate with research and educational institutions, financial

institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders in relevant countries to incorporate elements of the BASP Initiative into their development strategies and plans, thereby contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

- Goal 1: Releasing support measures at a faster pace

Action 1: Encourage the inclusion of bamboo into the framework of international and regional policies, strategies, regulations and development plans for the prevention and mitigation of plastic pollution as well as promoting the use of bamboo substitutes for plastic products.¹

Action 2: Support countries in formulating, developing and implementing national policies, strategies and action plans for substituting bamboo for plastic, and provide incentives to promote investment into the bamboo sector; support industrial development and stimulate market consumption.

Action 3: Call on countries to increase public procurement of bamboo substitutes to stimulate market demand.

Action 4: Guide stakeholders in implementing the BASP Initiative, and strengthen legislation and regulation on the production, distribution, use and recycling of bamboo substitutes.

- Goal 2: Improving research levels

Action 1: Strengthen the production and transformation of mature bamboo substitutes as well as R&D into new bamboo substitutes to facilitate the development of diverse applications.

Action 2: Support research into bamboo substitutes throughout their life cycle and the analysis of material properties to form relevant systematic scientific knowledge, data and evidence.

Action 3: Encourage cross-field cooperation, R&D and innovation to optimize production processes, improve production efficiency, expand production, reduce production costs and enhance market competitiveness.

¹All mentions of “bamboo substitutes for plastic products” are henceforth shortened to “bamboo substitutes.”

Action 4: Support research, innovation and technological development, and promote the demonstration and pilot application of technologies related to bamboo substitutes.

Action 5: Improve the production level of bamboo substitutes, support the design, R&D and manufacturing of related equipment, and promote the upgrading and development of relevant industries.

- Goal 3: Encouraging exploration in innovative fields

Action 1: Encourage global bamboo genomic research and the selection of superior bamboo species as well as select and breed new bamboo species suitable for the industrial utilization of bamboo substitutes.

Action 2: Support the selection and breeding of bamboo species and the cultivation of bamboo bases, establish or optimize systems for bamboo material storage and transportation, promote the efficient production of bamboo materials and strengthen the sustainable supply of raw materials.

Action 3: Encourage effective measures for conducting innovative R&D into bamboo substitutes.

Action 4: Call on competent industrial authorities to establish incentive mechanisms for the promotion of bamboo substitutes to promote the upgrading and development of the bamboo industry.

- Goal 4: Promoting the development of market mechanisms

Action 1: Develop a comprehensive coding system for bamboo substitutes, formulate policies and standards to facilitate market access, and promote international trade of bamboo substitutes.

Action 2: Support the development of a unified international standard system for bamboo substitutes, and encourage the release of national standards, certification rules and regulations to ensure product quality and raise consumer confidence.

Action 3: Support market development through activities at all levels and of all types, and tap into the market application and development potential of bamboo substitutes across different sectors.

Action 4: Encourage market surveys, map out strategies for market development, and encourage the diversified application of bamboo substitutes.

- Goal 5: Intensifying promotion

Action 1: Support the organization of and participation in meetings and activities related to the replacement of plastics with bamboo to enhance international understanding and awareness of the BASP Initiative.

Action 2: Call for efforts to organize targeted promotional activities such as Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Awareness Week and/or Awareness Day to raise public awareness of the BASP Initiative.

Action 3: Encourage the formulation of a special promotional plan, raise awareness among policymakers, producers and consumers, and intensify promotion of the BASP Initiative.

- Goal 6: Consolidating the foundation of partnerships

Action 1: Strengthen capacity building of practitioners, researchers, industry players and policymakers.

Action 2: Encourage cross-field cooperation, support South-South, North-South and tripartite cooperation in technology transfer, capacity building and industrial development, and promote the division of labor and trade cooperation.

Action 3: Support the creation of a mechanism for sharing and exchanging information on substituting plastics with bamboo to facilitate consultation, exchange and sharing of information related to technologies, research, industry and policies as well as best practices.

7 November 2023
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