

Draft speech manuscript of Prof. Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and  
Technology of China at the ITER Agreement Signature Ceremony,  
21 November 2006, Elysee Palace, Paris, France

Your Excellency President Chirac,  
Your Excellency President Barroso,  
Your Excellency Ministers and Commissioner,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a historical moment for human beings in the endeavor of exploring fusion energy, a new milestone for addressing such issues as energy, environment and sustainable development challenging all of us. I am very proud to witness the historical event.

China is very pleased to see that ITER agreement has been finally reached through the active efforts made by all the negotiation parties. It is a significant achievement of the negotiations, which opens a new chapter for ITER project.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the state leaders who have made contributions to the development of ITER project, to scientists, experts and engineers who have made hard efforts in ITER research and design in the past 20 years, to the negotiation teams who have been working hard and finally reached agreement in the past 5 years.

Chinese Government firmly support China's participation in ITER project and President Hu Jintao has made several supporting remarks in this regard. Since joined ITER negotiations from February 2003, China has made unremitting efforts to push forward negotiation process and to speed up the startup of the project.

Chinese Government attaches great importance to sustainable development. In the 2006-2020 Guidelines to National Middle and Long Term Science and Technology Development Plan published early this year, we put energy, water resources and environment related science and technology as top priorities. Arrangements for China joining ITER

Project and conducting nuclear fusion research activities are also included in the Guidelines.

Chinese Government strongly supports international science and technology cooperation. China will take active steps to be involved in international mega science programs and projects, in international cooperation efforts in new energy development and global climate change research activities. Not long ago, the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) designed and constructed by China has produced its first plasma. Because of their similar configurations, the operation of EAST will make contributions to ITER search activities.

In the future, China will continue joining hands with other parties of ITER to smoothly move forward the project and to make substantial efforts to realize fusion energy on the earth.