

Joint Statement  
between  
the Government of the People's Republic of China  
and  
the Government of Iceland  
on Comprehensively Deepening  
Bilateral Cooperation  
(Beijing, 15 April 2013)

1. At the invitation of H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, pays an official visit to China from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013. During the visit, Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Prime Minister Sigurðardóttir.
2. The leaders of the two countries reviewed the development of their friendly relations and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, education, science, technology, marine, tourism and other fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations in December 1971, and agreed that the bilateral relations have progressively enhanced with greater political mutual trust and respect and expanded co-operation and trade. The two sides believe that all countries should be treated as equals in the international community, and are able to play a constructive role in world affairs regardless of their size or strength. The two sides share common interests in working together on bilateral, multilateral and global issues.

3. The two sides agreed to strengthen political and economic dialogues, on the basis of mutual respect and equality, by 1) maintaining the momentum of regular high-level exchanges and enhancing friendly exchanges between the Governments and legislative bodies as well as local authorities in various forms and at various levels to increase mutual understanding; 2) promoting closer consultation and co-operation between the foreign ministries, maintaining political dialogue at senior official's level and strive for biennial meetings alternately in Beijing and Reykjavík; 3) enhancing the contact and exchange between the relevant departments in charge of economic and trade affairs in the two countries, and maintaining the consistency of the mechanism of the joint economic and trade committee. The two sides reaffirmed that they fully respect each others sovereignty and territorial integrity. Iceland firmly adheres to the one-China policy and supports the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and the course of peaceful reunification of China. The Chinese side appreciates the aforementioned position of the Government of Iceland.
4. As member States of the United Nations, the two sides stand for respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the authority and role of the United Nations. The leaders of the two sides reiterated their support for a fair, just, reasonable and rules-based multilateral system, with the United Nations playing the central role in addressing global issues. This refers inter alia to safeguarding world peace, promoting common development, including the post-2015 development agenda, advancing international co-operation and bringing political solutions to the

peaceful settlement of international disputes through consultations and negotiations.

5. The two sides expressed their commitment to the pursuit of sustainable development, taking into account the political, economic, social, environmental and cultural circumstances of each country. The two sides respect each other's development paths chosen in line with its own national circumstances. The two sides reiterated that they follow the ideals embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties they have acceded to and will continue to actively promote and protect human rights. The two sides will continue to maintain exchanges and co-operation in the fields of gender equality as stated in "the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Welfare of Iceland and the All-China Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China" signed in 2012.
6. The two sides emphasized that they will take the opportunity of the signing of "the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Iceland" to further deepen their mutually beneficial co-operation in the fields of trade and investment. Both sides are opposed to trade and investment protectionism, and resolve to remove trade barriers through the creation of a free trade area to contribute to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade.
7. The two sides agreed to further enhance their exchange and practical co-operation on the Arctic, marine, geothermal, geo-scientific, environment protection, climate change and other issues on the basis of "the Framework Agreement between the Government of the

People's Republic of China and the Government of Iceland on Arctic Cooperation", "the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Marine and Polar Science and Technology between the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland", and "the Memorandum of Understanding on Geothermal and Geosciences Cooperation between the Ministry of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland" signed in 2012. Iceland reaffirmed its support for China's application for observer status in the Arctic Council. The Chinese side expressed appreciation for this support.

8. The two sides agreed to expand co-operation on labor issues, and in culture, education, tourism and other fields, and facilitate people-to-people contacts and exchanges.