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Science is global: a joint statement between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society

Science is a global endeavour. It is at the heart of modern life throughout the world and is inherently and increasingly international and collaborative. It should come as no surprise that global science reaps huge benefits for all of us. It is at the heart of a wide range of innovations in communications, healthcare, transport, environment and agriculture, which impact on everyone's daily life. Yet, to support this progress it is essential that we ensure continued support for the mobility, networks, infrastructure, training, research culture and funding that enable international scientific collaboration, and the outstanding science it underpins, to thrive.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society both recognise the tremendous value of science and its impact on the world. However, our two countries, alongside our neighbours, face significant challenges in which scientific research may provide the solutions. From climate change and infectious diseases, or the development of new technologies such as low carbon energy, gene editing and artificial intelligence, scientific research taking place today could provide the key to overcoming threats to our future wellbeing.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society, on the occasion of Professor Richard Catlow's visit to Beijing in May 2019, reaffirm their commitment to supporting scientists in China and the UK to work together to tackle these global challenges. Our recent series of Policy Dialogues have proven important for researchers as they provide them an opportunity to explain their science to a variety of audiences and allows for meetings and conversations across disciplines and countries in an informal space. Furthermore, they establish a forum where scientists are able to explore how their research could be applied to the development of policy. Importantly, they also foster international collaboration and, hopefully, create lasting networks for them to build on in future. We look forward to building upon the success of these meetings and convening more Policy Dialogues in the future.

As scientific nations, committed to fostering world leading research, China and the UK are ideally placed to collaborate closely on scientific issues, to share ideas, skills, resources and practices and to both work together and learn from each other in applying knowledge based innovations to our economies and societies. There is much we can learn from one another and we should continually seek out opportunities for doing so.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society, building on our long history of bringing together Chinese and UK scientists, will strive to work closely in supporting future collaboration between our two countries. We are confident that doing so will be a catalyst for a new generation of ground-breaking discoveries and scientific advances that will seek to address pressing global challenges.

Signed in Beijing on 21 May 2019

Professor Zhang Tao
Vice President
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Professor Richard Catlow
Vice President and Foreign Secretary
The Royal Society