Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Catalysis Science & Technology. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2015

| 1      | Efficient synthesis of 2,5-dihydroxymethylfuran and 2,5-  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2      | dimethylfuran from 5-hydroxymethylfurfural using minerals-  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3      | derived Cu catalysts as versatile catalysts   |  |  |  |  |  |
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1 Table S1 Catalytic performance of reduced CuZn-2, unreduced CuZn-2 and

| Catalyst         | P (MPa) | T (°C) | t (h) | HMF conversion (%) |
|------------------|---------|--------|-------|--------------------|
| Reduced CuZn-2   | 1.5     | 100    | 1     | 83.5               |
| Reduced CuZn-inf | 1.5     | 100    | 1     | 16.3               |
| Unreduced CuZn-2 | 1.5     | 100    | 1     | 0.7                |

2 reduced CuZn-inf for DHMF production. <sup>a</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <sup>a</sup> Conditions: HMF 1.5 g, catalyst 0.5 g, 1,4-dioxane 35 ml.

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5 We performed model tests over reduced CuZn-2, unreduced CuZn-2 and 6 reduced CuZn-inf for DHMF production at 100 °C (**Table S1**). The reduced 7 CuZn-2 catalyst (composed of highly dispersed metallic Cu and ZnO sites) 8 showed a HMF conversion of 83.5%; the reduced CuZn-inf catalyst (composed 9 of metallic Cu sites) showed a conversion of 16.3%. In contrast, the unreduced 10 CuZn-2 (mainly composed of ZnO and unreduced CuO sites) give a conversion 11 of 0.7%. The results revealed that bare ZnO can hardly catalyze HMF 12 hydrogenation to DHMF at the conditions.

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Figure S1. Catalytic performance of CuZn-x catalysts within 1 h and the
correlation with metallic Cu specific areas (100 °C, 1.5 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, HMF 1.5 g,
catalyst 0.5 g).



Figure S2. Catalytic performance of CuZn-x catalysts for 20 h (100 °C, 1.5 MPa
H<sub>2</sub>, HMF 1.5 g, catalyst 0.5 g).



Figure S3. XRD spectra of fresh reduced and used CuZn-2 catalysts (Metallic
Cu particle sizes were calculated using Scherrer Equation).