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*Supporting Information*

**Cobalt-Molybdenum synergistic catalysis for hydrogenolysis of  
terephthalate-based polyesters**

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**Table of contents:**

1. General information .....	S2
2. ICP-MS results of prepared catalysts.....	S2
3. SEM images.....	S2
4. NH <sub>3</sub> -TPD profiles .....	S3
5. XPS survey spectra .....	S3
6. Raman spectra.....	S3
7. Porous nature of CoMo@NC .....	S4
8. Reaction tube and samples .....	S4
9. GC spectra.....	S5
10. Time-course monitoring .....	S5
11. Deuterium labeling experiment.....	S6
12. Characterization of the recycled catalyst .....	S6
Reference .....	S7

## 1. General Information

All chemical reagents are obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are recorded on an AVANCE III Bruker spectrometer operating at 500 MHz. Some products were analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS) with a Thermo Scientific Trace 1300 GC/MS instrument equipped with TR-5MS columns.

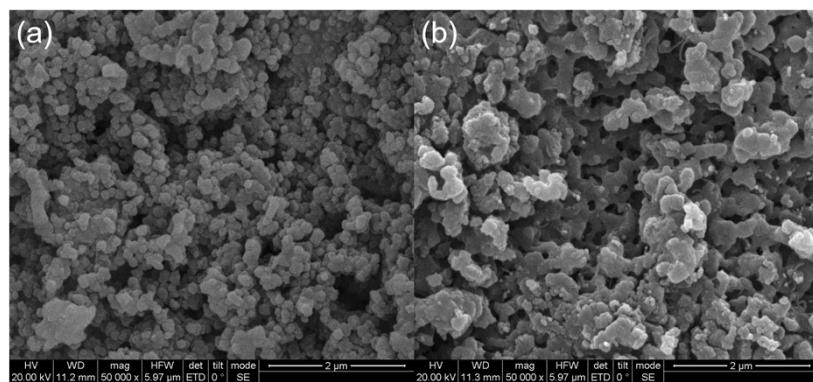
## 2. ICP-MS results of prepared catalysts

**Table S1.** ICP-MS analysis of prepared catalysts

Catalyst	Element	Metal Content (mg/kg)	Molar Ratio (Co/Mo)
CoMo@NC	Co	43023.5	3.45
	Mo	20265.4	
	Zn	209.4	
Co@NC	Co	45578.1	-
	Zn	144.8	
Mo@NC	Mo	25944.8	-
	Zn	276.9	
CoMo@NC <sup>a</sup>	Co	42691.8	3.30
	Mo	20657.3	
	Zn	218.6	

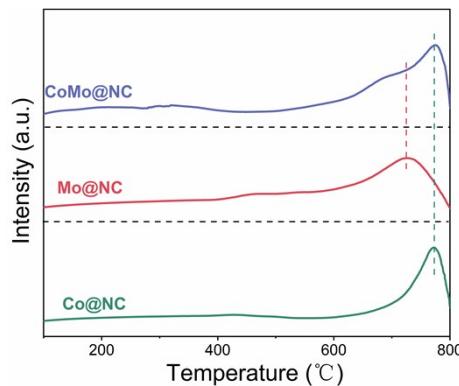
<sup>a</sup> CoMo@NC after 6 runs.

## 3. SEM images



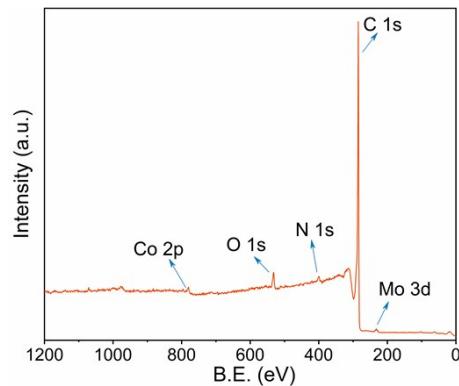
**Fig. S1** SEM images of (a) Mo@ZIF-CoZn, (b) CoMo@NC.

#### 4. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles



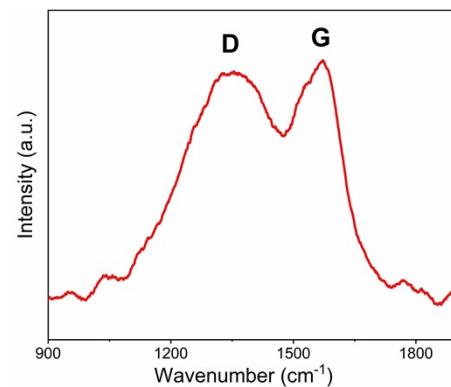
**Fig. S2** NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles of CoMo@NC, Mo@NC and Co@NC.

#### 5. XPS survey spectra



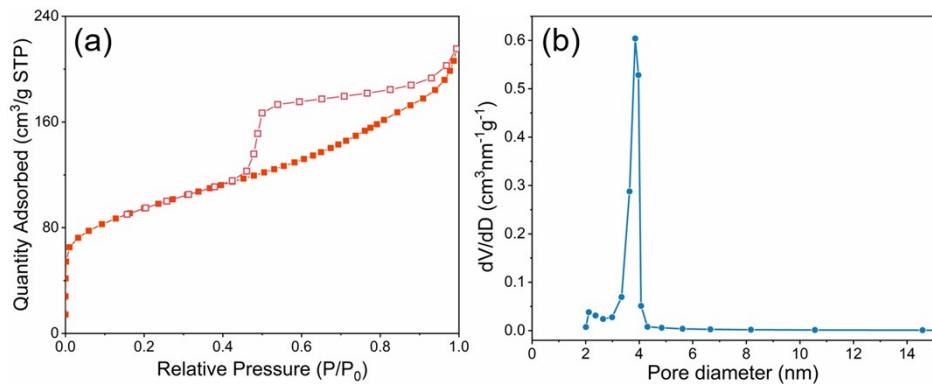
**Fig. S3** XPS survey spectra of CoMo@NC.

#### 6. Raman spectra



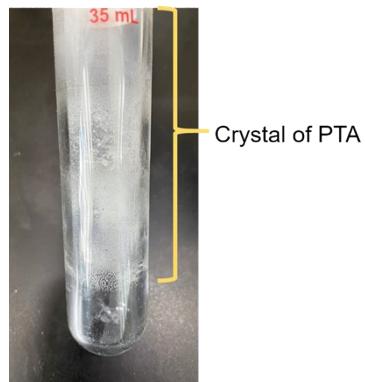
**Fig. S4** Raman spectra of CoMo@NC.

## 7. Porous nature of CoMo@NC

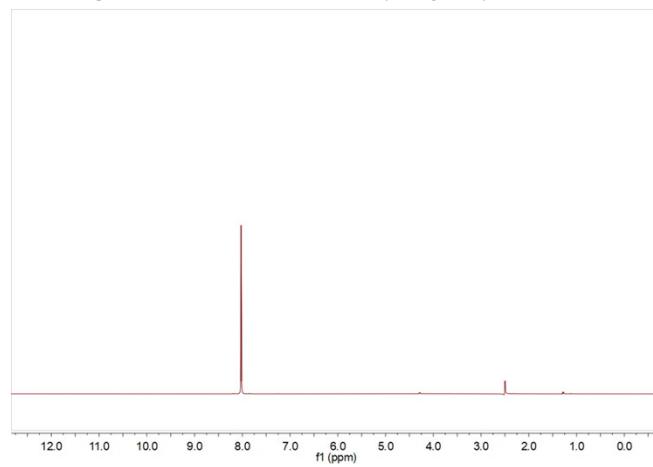


**Fig. S5** (a) N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption isotherms of CoMo@NC, (b) the corresponding pore size distributions.

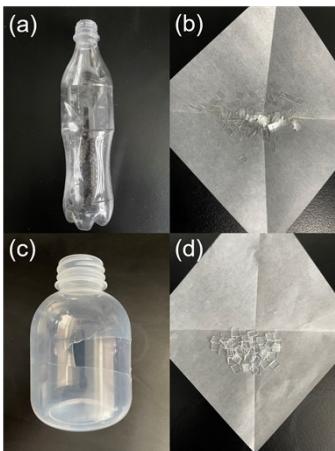
## 8. Reaction tube and samples



**Fig. S6** Reaction tube after the hydrogenolysis of PET.

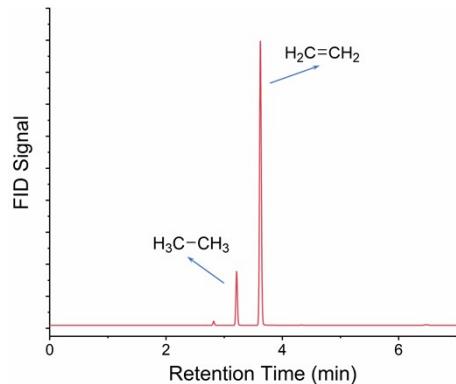


**Fig. S7** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of reaction product with d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO as the solvent.



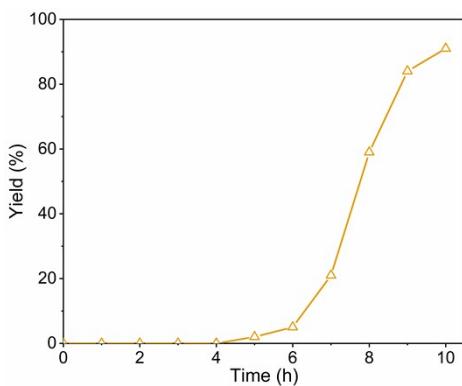
**Fig. S8** (a) PET bottle, (b) PET pieces, (c) PP bottle, (d) PP pieces.

## 9. GC spectra



**Fig. S9** GC spectra of the gas phase product of the reaction (Table 1, entry 2).

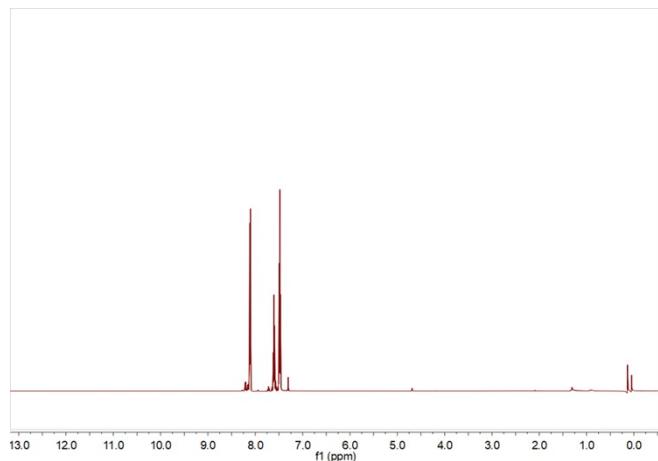
## 10. Time-course monitoring



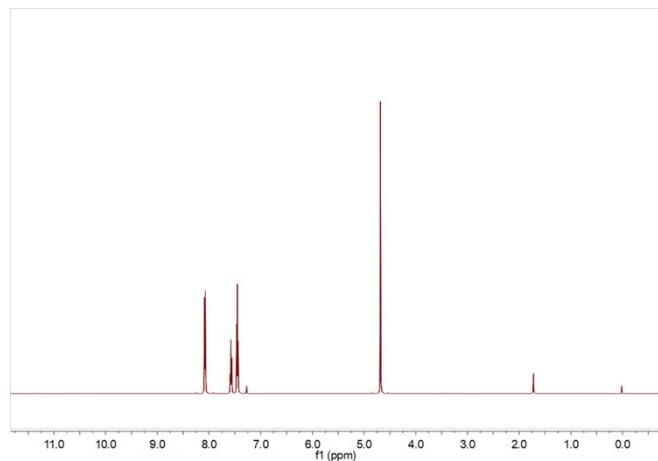
**Fig. S10** Time-course monitoring of the reaction. Reaction conditions: 100 mg PET, 1 atm  $\text{H}_2$  (balloon), 260 °C, 30 mg CoMo@NC. Isolated yields of PTA. After isolating sublimated PTA, DMSO was added to dissolve and detect any other product remained in the tube.

## 11. Deuterium labeling experiment

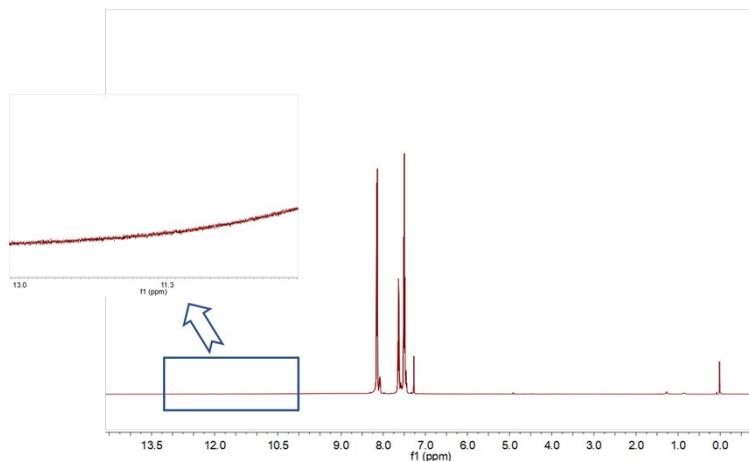
The model molecule deuterated d<sub>4</sub>-1,2-ethanediol dibenzoate (**4-d<sub>4</sub>**) was synthesized according to a reported procedure for 1,2-ethanediol dibenzoate [1], in the procedure, d<sub>6</sub>-ethylene glycol was used instead of ethylene glycol.



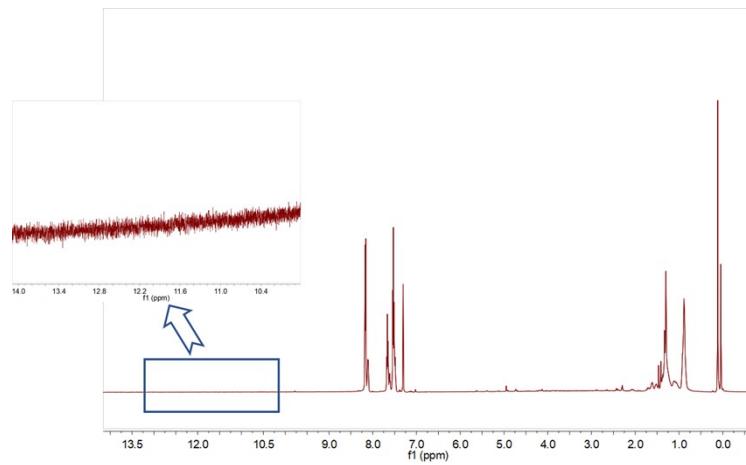
**Fig. S11** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4-d<sub>4</sub>**, CDCl<sub>3</sub> was used as the solvent.



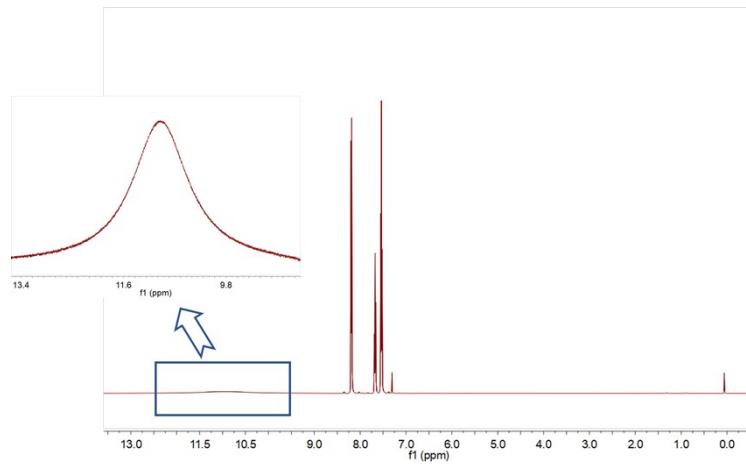
**Fig. S12** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 1,2-ethanediol dibenzoate sample, CDCl<sub>3</sub> was used as the solvent.



**Fig. S13** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of product of scheme 2a, CDCl<sub>3</sub> was used as the solvent.

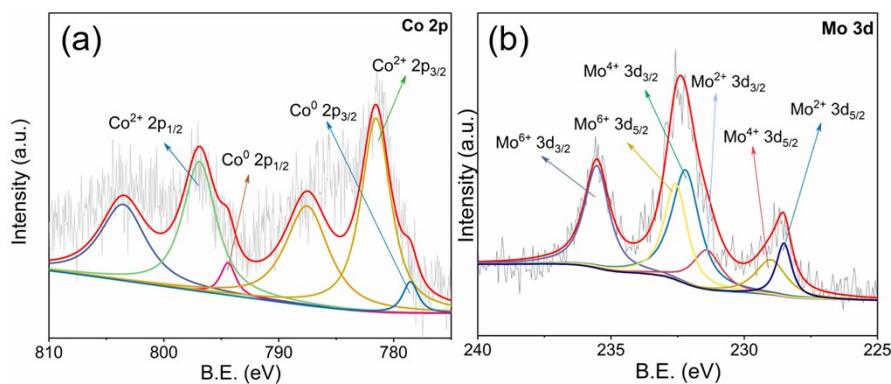


**Fig. S14** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of product of scheme 2b, CDCl<sub>3</sub> was used as the solvent.

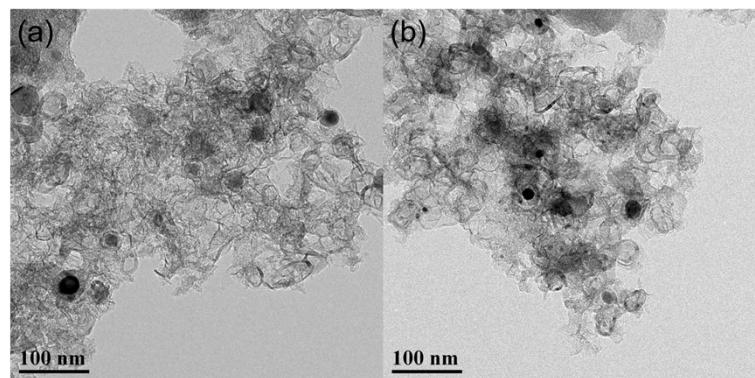


**Fig. S15** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of benzoic acid sample, CDCl<sub>3</sub> was used as the solvent.

## 12. Characterization of the recycled catalyst



**Fig. S16** XPS spectra of the (a) Co 2p region, (b) Mo 3d region of recycled CoMo@NC.



**Fig. S17** TEM image of CoMo@NC after (a) first cycle, (b) sixth cycle.

### Reference

- [1] M.K. Grachev, A.A. Charaev, G.I. Kurochkina, T.A. Batalova, N.O. Soboleva, L.K. Vasyanina, E.E. Nifant'ev, Russ. J. Gen. Chem. 81 (2011) 2129-2135. <https://doi.org/10.1134/S107036321100161>.