

Roundtable on Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprises Abroad

Geneva, Switzerland

9:00-12:00, 23 May 2018

Concept Note

1. Background

The *2017 Report on the Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprises Overseas* was launched during the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) held in Beijing in May 2017. It provided concrete analysis on the critical role of Chinese enterprises operating in the BRI regions in supporting the host countries to realize the 2030 Agenda. This report is one of key outputs of the partnership with the Chinese governments and international organizations to promote the sustainable and responsible investment of Chinese enterprises.

As the report finds, Chinese “going global” enterprises have made contributions to the economic and social development of countries, especially in improving infrastructure, upgrading industries, creating jobs, transferring technology, and contributing to local communities. This demonstrates Chinese enterprises’ great potential in supporting the countries and regions along the Belt and Road in achieving the SDGs. In the face of a stagnating global economy, resurfacing “deglobalisation” and other global governance challenges, the Belt and Road Initiative stands out as a dynamic framework for development injected into an uncertain world and a propeller for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In such a context, Chinese enterprises which have “gone global” have become the core pillar for implementing the Belt and Road Initiative as well as realizing the 2030 Agenda in their host communities. In light of the growing economic engagement between Chinese enterprises and the countries they engage with, as well as the potential for development inherent in these investments, there is a need to continue to strengthen the mutual understanding between Chinese enterprises and key stakeholders such as governments, businesses, academia and civil society in terms of the national policies and regulations, interests and concerns presented by local communities, and best practices shared by the other investors.

For this purpose, UNDP is arranging a forum that will bring together Chinese government officials, businesses, academia, civil society and UN representatives to create an enabling environment for a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and its substantial investments create for realizing the 2030 agenda.

2. Objectives

- 1) **Stakeholder engagement** to identify the key challenges and opportunities of Chinese investments across the BRI countries through constructive discussions with UN officials, governments, civil society, businesses and academia to strengthen mutual understanding and facilitate discussion between China and the international community;
- 2) **Partnership building** to explore the practical solutions and concrete activities on how Chinese investments can be better leveraged for the sustainable development of BRI countries. The Forum will also be a facilitator for networking strengthening partnerships between the many stakeholders who has a direct or in-direct involvement in the BRI.
- 3) **Knowledge exchange** with by presenting key findings of the research on the sustainable development of Chinese investment and gathering comments and recommendations on the topics, areas and methodologies for future research and knowledge products. Inputs gathered from the diverse stakeholder groups perspective will eventually provide a solid basis for constructive guidance for Chinese investors to practice responsible investments in host countries and contribute to the SDGs.

3. Roundtable on Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprises Abroad

The half day event is planned to be held in the morning of 23 May 2018 in Geneva. 80-100 participants from government, business, academia and civil society are expected to be invited. The event will be hosted by UNDP and supported by the Research Center of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council of China and the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva. They will jointly be responsible for inviting representatives from the UN, business, NGOs and academia.

Proposed Agenda

Date: 23 May 2018

Venue: Forum Geneva (Rue de Lausanne 11-19, 1201 Genève – Suisse)

08:30-09:00 **Registration**

09:00-09:20 **Welcome Remarks**

- Maria Luisa Silva, Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva.
- Representative from the Permanent Mission of China to UN Geneva (TBC).

09:20-10:00 **Keynote Speech**

- LU Yongzhen, Deputy Director of the Research Center of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council of China.
- Agi Veres, Country Director of UNDP China.
- Philipp RÖSLER, CEO of Hainan Cihang Charity Foundation

10:00-10:10 **Presentation of the 2017 Report on Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprise Overseas and videos**

- ZHANG Jincheng, Department Head of the Research Center of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council of China.

10:10-10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30-11:50 **Panel Discussion**

Proposed Topic 1: Sustainable investments for inclusive growth: How Chinese investments raise national capacity through the Belt and Road Initiative
The BRI will bring significant investments into countries that it will pass through and therefore requires considerable consideration as to how these investments can be sustainable in nature and raise national capacities.

Proposed Topic 2: Challenges and opportunities for social and environmental dividends through sustainable investments.

In addition to the economic aspects of the BRI investments, social and environmental considerations are paramount for the populations of the countries that will be invested in. This topic proposes a dialogue with key stakeholders on what Chinese enterprises need to take into consideration in terms of challenges and opportunities for their investments to be sustainable.

Moderator:

- Matina Fuchs, Host of the Finance and Economics Channel, CNN (TBC)

Panellists:

- Mr. LI Dang, Deputy Director of the General Office (CEO Office) China Petroleum and Natural Gas Group Co., Ltd. (CNPC)
- Mr. XIA Meixing, Vice General Manager, Shanghai Electric Power Co., Ltd.

- LIANG Xiaohui, Deputy Chief Researcher of the CSR Office, China National Textile and Apparel Council
- ZHANG Xiaowen, Producer of “Long Xing Tian Xia”, Phoenix Satellite TV.
- HUANG Yuming, Board Member, China Jikan Institute of Engineering Investigation and Design Co. Ltd.
- Mr. LIANG Guoyong, Economic Affairs Officer, Investment and Enterprise Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

11:50-12:00 **Closing Remarks**

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