Roundtable on Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprises Abroad

08:30-12:00, 23 May 2018

Venue: Forum Genève – Crédit Suisse (Rue de Lausanne 11–19), Geneva, Switzerland

To participate, please complete the registration form

The event will be followed by a networking lunch offered to the participants.

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

- **Stakeholder engagement**: Strengthen mutual understanding and facilitate discussions between China and the international community around the identification of key challenges and opportunities of Chinese investments across the BRI countries:

- **Partnerships building**: Explore practical solutions and concrete activities on how Chinese investment can be better leveraged for the sustainable development of BRI countries, through constructive discussions with UN officials, governments, civil society, businesses & academia.

- **Knowledge exchange**: Present key findings of the research on the sustainable development of Chinese investment and gather comments and recommendations on the topics, areas and methodologies for future research and knowledge products.

3. Roundtable on Sustainable Development of Chinese Enterprises Abroad

- **Format of the event**: 80-100 participants from UN and international organisations, business, academia, governments and civil society. The Roundtable will offer opportunities for dialogue and networking between diverse stakeholders who have a direct or in-direct involvement in the BRI. Inputs gathered will eventually provide a basis for guidance for Chinese investors to practice responsible investments in host countries and contribute to the SDGs.

- **Organizers**: 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 UN Office at Geneva.

**Proposed Agenda**

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 Speeches**

- 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  Interactive Panel Discussion, addressing the following topics:

- 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.*
- 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. Key stakeholders will present their work and ongoing research related to this topic and will provide insights and recommendations 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
- LIANG Guoyong, Investment and Entreprise Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- BABAK HEDJAZI Alexandre, Executive Deputy Director, International Affairs & Director, Global Environment Policy Program, University of Geneva (UniGE),

11:50-12:00  Closing Remarks

- TBC