



BRI GREEN REVIEW

Secretariat of BRI International Green Development Coalition



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development and BRI International Green Development Coalition Roundtable Meeting on Collaborative Governance on Climate and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held in New York, the United States

The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) Roundtable Meeting on Collaborative Governance on Climate and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held in New York City, U. S. on September 24, 2019 during the peripheral of the United Nations Climate Action Summit. The Meeting was co-organized by CCICED Secretariat and the BRIGC Secretariat, in collaboration with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), World Resource Institute (WRI), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The discussions were structured in two sessions, with focuses on priority areas for global collaborative governance on climate and the initiatives for global development cooperation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development respectively. Over 100 participants attended the Meeting, including International Chief Advisor of CCICED, CCICED Members and Special Advisors, Co-chairs of BRIGC, BRIGC Advisors, Partners and experts.

The delegates shared experience and practices on collaborative governance and noted the importance to strengthen policy and institutional innovation, to make good use of existing platforms, and to promote stakeholder cooperation, so as to make greater contributions to the successful implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Here is a summary for the Roundtable Meeting and the remarks from the floor:

Session 1: Priority Areas for Global Collaborative Governance on Climate

The Session 1 was chaired by Mr. Andrew Steer, CCICED Member, Co-Chair of BRIGC, President and CEO of World Resources Institute. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, CCICED Vice Chairperson and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs of China, delivered opening remarks. Ms. Kate Hampton, International Team Leader of CCICED SPS on Global Climate Governance and China's Role, Advisor of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC, CEO of Children's Investment Fund Foundation; and Mr. Marco Lambertini, CCICED Member, Co-chair of BRIGC, Director General of WWF International, made leading remarks. Delegates shared the achievements and measures on collaborative governance of mitigation and adaptation of climate change, as well as air quality improvement and biodiversity conservation.

Highlights of the Remarks



China is committed to combating climate change while conserving the ecological environment, and explores a green low-carbon development path that coordinates climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic development and eco-environmental protection. The practices can be a source of reference to be disseminated and replicated in other countries of the world. As for strengthening global collaborative governance on climate in the future, there are three suggestions: firstly, to fully recognize the consistency between combating climate change and promoting high-quality development, and coordinate environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as socio-economic development; secondly, to call for enhanced cooperation and concerted efforts from the international community in implementing the emission reduction commitments in the Paris Agreement and achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; thirdly, to actively boost innovation, making full use of the available innovative mechanisms such as CCICED and BRIGC to provide new thinking and proposals for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and improving the global environmental governance system.

—— Mr. Xie Zhenhua, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Special Envoy for Climate Change Affairs of China

The concept of a community of shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative and the 14th Five-Year Plan proposed by China provide huge opportunities for green and low-carbon development on a global level. The world needs China to demonstrate leadership in climate governance. It is necessary for Europe and China to enhance in-depth cooperation in green finance to add impetus to the realization of sustainable development worldwide and more ambitious climate goals.

—— Ms. Kate Hampton, International Team Leader of CCICED SPS on Global Climate Governance and China's Role, Advisor of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC, CEO of Children's Investment Fund Foundation



The world today is faced with the dual challenge of climate change and biodiversity degradation. Biodiversity conservation and addressing climate change are interrelated and complementary. The year 2020 is a key opportunity that should be seized by countries around the world to translate their commitments in addressing climate change and conserving biodiversity into concrete actions. It is crucial to set up clear, measurable and ambitious targets and adopt nature-based solutions to protect forests, wetlands and marine resources.

—— Mr. Marco Lambertini, CCICED Member, Co-chair of BRIGC, Director General of WWF International

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund needs to play a bigger role in promoting global collaborative governance on climate. In the past five years, the Fund has made positive progress in climate financing. There is basically zero investment in fossil fuel and a constantly growing share in renewable energy, creating both environmental and economic benefits. Currently, the investment in renewable energy has reached 11 trillion USD on a global level.

—— Mr. Stephan Heintz, CCICED Member, President of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund



Systematic changes for international cooperation are needed to guarantee global environmental interests, reduce ecological footprints, change the mode of production and consumption, realize the sustainable development of food and land and increase the involvement of stakeholders, so as to form synergy for global climate governance.

—— Ms. Naoko Ishi, CCICED Special Advisor, CEO and Chairperson of Global Environment Facility

Highlights of the Remarks

Collaborative efforts are needed on both global and regional level to address the many challenges we are facing today. It is hoped that countries could work together to set up targets for addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation, carry out economic assessment and cost evaluation, and take integrated approaches to combat climate change and nature loss through regional negotiation and cooperation.

— Mr. Basile van Havre, Co-chair of Open-ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



It is necessary and important to work more closely with stakeholders, especially with the private sector, and enhance the sharing of best practices. Australia is willing to support China in adapting mindset to strengthen cooperation with the private sector.

— Mr. Patrick Suckling, Australian Ambassador for the Environment

China has made impressive achievements in addressing climate change and reducing emission. It is important to make full use of the platforms and opportunities created by the Belt and Road Initiative to share the good practice of China in ecological civilization construction to help BRI participating countries to engage in such efforts and make greater contribution to global biodiversity conservation.

— Ms. Jennifer Morris, President of Conservation International



Regional cooperation is very important. China's cooperation with Lancang-Mekong Sub-region countries in renewable energy and with Ethiopia in combating desertification, as well as Indonesia's efforts in improving air quality based on China's experience all show that South-South cooperation is an important approach to promote changes in global governance system.

— Mr. Frank Rijsberman, Director-General of Global Green Growth Institute

Israel has made some breakthroughs and gained experience in building a model for innovative climate change research, policy and technologies. The government, research institutes and the private sector should join hands to seek solutions to climate change.

— Ms. Galit Cohen, CCICED Special Advisor, Advisor of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC, Senior Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the State of Israel



Green BRI is a key platform that addresses issues of various fields, and it is hoped that the development of green BRI will help realize global sustainable development. The case of co-development of electricity, mining, metallurgy, manufacturing and trade by African Energy Interconnection has provided new solutions for the sustainable development of Africa.

— Mr. Lin Hongyu, Director of Cooperation Bureau of Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization

Session 2: Initiatives for Global Development Cooperation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Session 2 was chaired by Mr. Vidar Helgesen, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Co-Chair of BRIGC, Norway's Special Envoy to the High-level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy, and leading remarks were made by Mr. Erik Solheim, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Convener of Advisory Committee of BRIGC, Advisor of WRI, and Mr. Scott Vaughan, International Chief Advisor of CCICED. The participants discussed the green path for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially its relationship with key international public products such as BRI.

Highlights of the Remarks



Mr. Erik Solheim, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Convener of Advisory Committee of BRIGC, Advisor of WRI

As green BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are highly consistent in terms of concepts, principles and goals, there is an obvious synergy between them. We should encourage more private enterprises to take part in the green BRI cooperation, enabling it to play a greater leading role.

BRIGC's flagship research product – the Green BRI Annual Report would be designed to assess the regional environmental risks as well as the environmental quality improvement measures and potential, so as to lay the foundation for a targeted green development plan.

The world today is faced with great uncertainties, and the multi-lateral trading system is under pressure. Practices on transiting towards a green economy such as promoting circular trades and green supply chains will provide solutions.

— Mr. Scott Vaughan, International Chief Advisor of CCICED



Both the BRI and South-South cooperation are the important approaches toward Sustainable Development. Efforts should be made to strengthen their linkage, cross-reference, and alignment to create synergies and co-benefits. Enhanced effort is needed to promote the green Belt and Road strategy under the framework of South-South cooperation to make it a model for South-South cooperation between China and the rest developing countries. Existing major activities for green BRI development include BRIGC Thematic Partnership on South-South Environmental Cooperation and SGDs Capacity Building, Green Envoys Program for Silk Road, the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change, as well as the Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (Shenzhen).

— Dr. Zhou Guomei, CCICED Deputy Secretary-General, Secretary of the Party Committee (DG Level) and Deputy Director-General of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China



The development of green BRI will advance the realization of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It is suggested that green BRI be linked and aligned with South-South cooperation and tripartite cooperation, so as to enhance the support from international institutions and the private sector and contribute to the welfare of mankind.

— Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the U.N. Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation



Green development is the fundamental principle of BRI construction. The Environmental Defense Fund is willing to help make green BRI a new international consensus. It is hoped that China could continue to invest more in renewable energies via financial institutions such as AIIB, thus improving and playing a bigger role in leading global climate governance.

— Ms. Gwen Ruta, Executive Vice President, EDF



Highlights of the Remarks



Mr. Andrew Deutz, Director, Global Policy, Institutions & Conservation Finance, the Nature Conservancy

Green BRI and nature-based solutions will provide 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with significant financing potential. We need to facilitate policy innovations to create more financing opportunities, thus achieving a win-win situation for environmental protection and economic development.



Mr. Hans Friederich, CCICED Member, Ambassador of the World Bamboo Organization, Senior Advisor to the European Bamboo Program, Former Secretary General of INBAR

Nature-based solutions can provide new thinking and new approaches to meet challenges in development. Cases on mangrove conservation, use of bamboo charcoal for domestic energy, replacing cement with wood, and utilization of bamboo fibers are good sources of reference and experience.



Dr. Åsa Persson, Research Director and Deputy Director, Stockholm Environment Institute

The Stockholm Environment Institute has developed a range of instruments for facilitating synergies between climate change and sustainable development goals. The use of such tools for analysis, processes and transparency is able to improve stakeholder participation and encourage multi-party cooperation.



Mr. Jake Schmidt, Managing Director, International Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

Most of the countries along the Belt and Road are developing countries. BRI can create an infrastructure investment market as large as 1.5 trillion USD per year, and China has world-leading standards in the fields of automobile and building materials, which are great opportunities for Chinese enterprises and investment destinations to realize green development. China should increase efforts in promoting green cooperation and low carbon development of energy-intensive industries within the Belt & Road countries.



Green BRI has various development opportunities concerning the ocean, green energies, biodiversity, etc. Firstly, we need to advance development in priority areas for global collaborative governance on climate such as biodiversity conservation, environmental quality improvement, green investment and green energy. Secondly, we need to promote nature-based solutions and conduct studies on the economic benefits of protecting the eco-environment. Thirdly, we need to make the best use of green BRI and the BRIGC's platform, so as to realize 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

— Mr. Vidar Helgesen, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Co-Chair of BRIGC

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception of the Roundtable Meeting was held in New York on the evening of Sept 23, 2019. The reception was hosted by Mr. Fred Krupp, President of EDF, and attended by representatives from CCICED, BRIGC and their partners. They exchanged views on a series of priority issues related to environment and development in China and the world, and discussed the specific work of CCICED and BRIGC.

Ms. Zhou Guomei, CCICED Deputy Secretary-General, read a letter from Mr. Li Ganjie, CCICED Vice Executive Chairperson, Co-chair of BRIGC, Minister of Ecology and Environment. Mr. Li mentioned in his letter that the Chinese Government attaches great importance to eco-environmental protection and vigorously boosts the development of ecological civilization. As he noted, Chinese President Xi Jinping has reiterated the necessity and importance to practice the new concept of green development and advocate the green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable production and lifestyle; and repeatedly emphasized the dedication to strengthening cooperation on eco-environmental protection and making green a fundamental feature of all endeavors, so as to build a community of shared future for mankind and jointly realize the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Li also extended warm welcome to all the participants of the meeting, and pointed out that with the relentless support of members, advisors, and partners, CCICED has been playing an increasingly important role in the scientific decision-making of the Chinese Government; while BRIGC has made significant strides since its inception a few months ago, with the true efforts to make pragmatic contributions to the cause of sustainable development. He hoped that the delegates could have a thorough exchange of views and in-depth discussions on the topic “Collaborative Governance on Climate and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, contributing their wisdom to China’s efforts on ecological environmental protection, and the development of CCICED and BRIGC.



Mr. Vidar Helgesen, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Co-chair of BRIGC, Norway’s Special Envoy to the High-level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Mr. Erik Solheim, CCICED Vice Chairperson, Convener of Advisory Committee of BRIGC, Advisor of WRI, Mr. Andrew Steer, CCICED Member, Co-Chair of BRIGC, President and CEO of WRI, and Ms. Kate Hampton, International Team Leader of CCICED SPS on Global Climate Governance and China’s Role, Advisor of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC, CEO of Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, gave speeches during the reception.

The participants believed that the eco-civilization development theories and practices in China have proved combating climate change will not curb economic development; on the contrary, it will bring new opportunities for both economic growth and technological innovation. Therefore, the world should draw reference from China. The construction of green BRI has provided a key opportunity to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and BRIGC is becoming the most important platform for the international community to embrace the opportunity. All countries should seize the opportunity with an open mind, and join hands to build an ever clean and beautiful world.



Mr. Fred Krupp, President of EDF hosted the Reception



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About Us

The BRI International Green Development Coalition is jointly initiated by Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and international partners. The ever-growing needs on implementing UN 2030 SDGs and the need to make progress towards the Paris Agreement targets for the BRI participating countries require the cooperation among governments, local and international development agencies, think tanks, private sectors, civil societies and other stakeholders to maximize the concerted effort on green development.

The main goal is to promote international consensus, understanding, cooperation and concredited actions to realize green development on the Belt and Road, to integrate sustainable development into the BRI through joint efforts and to facilitate BRI participating countries to realize SDGs related to environment and development. Government departments, local and international organizations, think tanks, private sectors, civil society organizations and other related stakeholders that endorses the mission of BRIGC are welcome to join as Partners.

For More Information

<http://eng.greenbr.org.cn/icfgd/>

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