

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE BELT AND ROAD
INITIATIVE FOR THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations (“UN”), represented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (“ESCAP”), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (the “Ministry”), (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Parties”) confirm their willingness and actions to work together in areas of mutual interest through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
2. ESCAP, as the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region, is committed to a resilient Asia and the Pacific founded on shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability, and its vision is to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.
3. The Ministry places importance on ESCAP’s status and role as the UN’s only inter-governmental comprehensive economic and social development organization in the Asia-Pacific region, and appreciates ESCAP for its large amount of fundamental, leading, and forward-looking work, as well as its great achievements with respect to connectivity.
4. The Parties, both agree that the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road” (hereinafter abbreviated as the “Belt and Road”) initiatives embrace regional and international trends in cooperation, and its principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits has the potential to enhance implementation of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development and to strengthen connectivity between Asia-Pacific countries and regions.

5. The Parties recognize the need to respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasize that enhancing economic cooperation and integration in the region could be mutually beneficial to all countries and instrumental in the achievement of key development goals. The Parties agree on the potential of the Belt and Road Initiative for promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

II. FOCUS OF MINISTRY OF ESCAP-FOREIGN AFFAIRS PARTNERSHIP

6. In line with their commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement, the Parties underscore that their cooperation will seek to address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the regional connectivity in a balanced and integrated manner, following recommended benchmarks consistent with international standards, and UN norms and values, while underscoring the importance of receiving consent of participating members and associate members with respect to their involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative and related activities. Accordingly, the Parties agree to cooperate in the areas of infrastructure, transport; trade; energy; science, technology and innovation (including information and communications technology); through an integrated multi-country and multi-sectoral approach. The Parties also acknowledge that this cooperation will be carried out in line with the UN coordinated approach to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative to maximize potential for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Further, the Parties' cooperation under this MOU will be subject to and in accordance with their respective regulations, rules, policies and procedures, and the decisions of their governing bodies.

7. The Parties agree to plan together the concrete actions for China-ESCAP cooperation on this Initiative, to bring into play ESCAP's advantages in policy coordination, analytical

research, capacity building and norm setting activities.

8. In this context, the Parties are willing to strengthen their cooperation by:

- (a) Facilitating policy exchange and experience sharing in the relevant fields between developing countries in the region to strengthen South-South cooperation;
- (b) Exploring third-party cooperation projects with other member States to strengthen North-South and Triangular cooperation;
- (c) Identifying opportunities to support sustainable development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national and subregional levels in developing countries;
- (d) Participating in events and sharing information on the meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to this cooperation.

9. To support this work and related activities, the Ministry commits to strengthening financial support for ESCAP and China cooperation, with priority given to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as, regional cooperation and integration through strengthening regional connectivity and activities related to the Belt and Road Initiative. The Ministry will also facilitate access to funding of the projects, programmes and activities to be implemented by ESCAP from other ministries, government administrations and agencies from China in support of this MOU. The details on the specific projects with the financial support from the Ministry will be agreed separately.

10. The Parties will hold biennial consultations on the use of the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme (CECP) and other cooperation between the Parties, in order to ensure that the activities continue to maximize the potential for promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda consistent with UN norms and values. The administration of funds by ESCAP under the CECP and other trust funds will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

11. Implementation of activities, projects and programmes under this MOU will be subject to

the availability of resources and a separate written agreement or project document.

III. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

12. ESCAP and the Ministry recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges and opportunities. They agree to hold periodic consultations to identify detailed cooperation initiatives and projects under the framework of this MOU.

IV. FOCAL POINTS

13. Due to the cross-cutting nature of relevant work, the Parties commit to enhancing internal coordination and thus agree to designate the following as focal points for the activities under this MOU:

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| (a) for ESCAP: | Director,
Strategy and Programme Management Division |
| (b) for Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
People's Republic of China: | Director General,
Department of International Economic Affairs |

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

14. ESCAP and the Ministry will prepare on a biennial basis:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
and

- (b) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for the two subsequent years.

15. ESCAP and the Ministry agree that:

- (a) the Parties will prepare a joint report on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an independent assessment of results achieved and conduct a joint review or evaluation of ESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperation three years after signature of this MOU; and
- (b) these assessments will be reviewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ESCAP in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MOU.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

16. The Parties recognize the importance of publicizing the involvement of both Parties in joint cooperation activities. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each party to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation, as appropriate and in a manner consistent with their respective regulations, rules, policies and procedures; and
- (b) neither Party will use the name, including any abbreviation thereof, emblem, official seal or trademarks of the other Party, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, without the prior express written approval of the other Party in each instance. In no event will authorization to use the name, emblem or logo of the UN, including ESCAP, be granted for commercial purposes.

VII. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

17. Nothing in this MOU will be construed as granting or implying rights to, or interest in, intellectual property rights of one Party to the other Party. In the event that the Parties foresee that intellectual property that can be protected will be created in relation to any project or programme, or activity to be carried out under this MOU, the Parties will negotiate and agree on the terms of its ownership and use in a separate written agreement or arrangement.

VIII. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

18. Nothing in or relating to this MOU constitutes a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities enjoyed or which may be enjoyed by the United Nations and ESCAP, including their subsidiary organs and staff.

IX. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

19. The Parties will use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this MOU or the breach, termination or invalidity thereof. Where the Parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation will take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then obtaining, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Parties.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

20. Nothing in this MOU will be construed as creating financial obligations between the Parties.

21. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the collaboration between them under this MOU is on a non-exclusive basis.

22. This MOU will be effective from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2025.

23. This MOU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

24. This MOU may be terminated by either Party at any time by giving the other Party six months' prior notice in writing.

Signed on 26 April 2019 in Beijing, China, this MOU is done in duplicate in the Chinese and English languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

请签名

For United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

For Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of China



Under-Secretary General of the United
Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

State Councilor of the State Council and
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of China