



Regional Meeting on Policy Experience Sharing for Green Development Among Asian BRI Partners

12-14 December 2023

Zhongwu Hotel, Changzhou, China

Co-host by

**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation**

Concept Note and Tentative Programme

Background

The covid-19 pandemic and cascading crises have acutely exposed the vulnerabilities of developing countries with severely squeezed fiscal space, food and fuel crises, debt distresses, supply chain disruption, among others. Added to those pressing challenges, developing countries are disproportionately affected by climate change and consequences such as rising global mean surface temperatures, rising sea levels, more frequent extreme weather events and associated economic and social damages, which calls for actions to adapt to the changing situation. Meanwhile, developing countries also need to advance the green low-carbon transition of their economy so as to fulfill the commitments under the Paris Agreement. Shifting from a world economy based on fossil fuels to one based on renewable energy will change value chain configurations, power relations and economic geographies in ways that we have only begun to understand. Understanding the implications of such an unprecedented shift for developing economies and shaping a policy framework able to foster green transition along with industrial transformation and economic development is of primary importance.

Since 2022, UNCTAD has been implementing a project entitled *“Integrated Policy Strategies and Regional Policy Coordination for Resilient, Green and Transformative Development:*

Supporting Selected Asian BRI Partner Countries to Achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, funded by **China-UN Peace and Development Fund**. The project aims to assist 4 Asian BRI partner countries (Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Türkiye) for their green structural transformation through providing policy analysis and strategies and building institutional capacities. Beyond the national level activities, the project also includes regional dimension which encourages South-South policy experience peer-learning and partnership building with involvement of China and other Asian developing countries beyond the four project countries.

Based on the project plan, UNCTAD, in collaboration with CAITEC, will organize the first regional meeting on policy experience sharing and peer-learning on green development. The meeting will pool together high-level government officials, UNCTAD experts, academia and business leaders to exchange view on the challenges facing developing countries in addressing the challenges from climate changes and cascading crises, and how to formulate better policy strategies and regional cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through green and structural transformation.

Purpose

The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity to facilitate knowledge and policy experience sharing among China, the four project countries and other developing economies in the region.

Structure

The event will include 1.5 days policy dialogue among policy makers/researchers from China, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Türkiye, and other developing countries and 1 day field visit to green industries including enterprises and parks.

Tentative Program

Day 0: 11 December (Monday)

Arrival in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, China

Welcome banquet at Zhongwu Hotel

Day 1: 12 December (Tuesday)

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

09:00-10:00 **Opening session**

Moderator:

Dawei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Welcome Remarks:

Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD (7 min)

Gu Xueming, President, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (7 min)

Sheng Lei, Mayor of Changzhou (7 min)

Sun Jin, Deputy Director General, Department of Commerce, Jiangsu Province (7 min)

Keynote address:

Fang Aiqing, Former Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy Director of the Economic Committee of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (15 min)

Promotion of city green development in Changzhou

Peng Li, Deputy Director, Bureau of Commerce of Changzhou (10 min)

Group photo

10:00-10:15 **Coffee break**

10:15-12:00 **Session 1: Challenges, binding constraints and overall strategies of developing countries to achieve climate and economic goals**

Moderator: **Yao Ling**, Director of Research Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation

Panellists:

Dawei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Safdar Sohail, Executive Director, Social Protection Resource Centre, Pakistan

Azfar Hanif Azizi, Research Associate, Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia

Ahmet Aşıcı, Associate Professor, Istanbul Technical University, Türkiye

Rafis Abazov, Director, International Institute for Green and Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan

Guiding questions:

- What are the main climate and economic transition goals at national level?
- What are the major challenges and binding constraints to achieve these goals? Are there shared constraints among developing countries particularly project countries?
- What are the overall strategies to deliver on the green transition goals at national level? What are the major components of the national strategies?
- How regional cooperation may support the national level actions?

12:00-13:00 **Working lunch**

13:00-14:45 **Session 2: Energy and industrial transition**

Moderator: **Dawei Wang**, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Panellists:

Piergiuseppe Fortunato, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Kejun Jiang, Senior Researcher, Energy Research Institute, China

Nurlan Kapenov, Chairman of the Board of Directors, RES (Renewable Energy Solutions) Association QAZAQ GREEN, Kazakhstan

Imdad Hussain, Chairman, Department of Governance and Global Studies, Information Technology University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Antonio Andreoni, Professor, SOAS University of London, UK

Guiding questions:

- How can we harness the needed energy transition, and the structural changes that it will involve, to create employment and foster value addition in developing economies while greening production?
- How shall we organize energy generation through renewable resources to avoid concentration as it is typically the case in fossil fuels markets? What kind of regulations and competition policy are needed?

- How can we manage the political economy of energy transition? How coalition can be shaped, at the national and global level, to support such a massive shift of economic capacity and market power?
- Would the shift in energy production accelerate the re-shoring trends that emerged even before the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What policies and partnerships with stakeholders from across society, including the private sector research institutions, are needed to enable effective energy transition, especially in so-called “hard-to-decarbonize” sectors?
- What global governance reforms are needed to avoid undesired consequences from rapid decarbonization and work towards a net-zero transition that is not only quick, but also just?
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14:45-15:00 **Coffee break**

15:00-16:45 **Session 3: Green agribusiness development policies**

Moderator: **Maria Ahmed**, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Panellists:

Ajaz Ahmed, Director of Research, Social Protection Resource Centre, Pakistan

Kanat Akshalov, Researcher and Head of Department, Soil and Crop Management, Grain Farming Research and Production Center, Kazakhstan

Guiding questions:

- What are the key policy issues to address to support greener agriculture and agribusiness?
- What are some of the current opportunities in green agribusiness in project countries, and what are the major challenges?
- How can agribusinesses in project countries meet the challenge of adapting to climate change, biodiversity loss and resource scarcity while adopting greener production processes?
- What are the main current sources of financing for green agribusiness? What additional sources could be used?
- What are the linkages between agribusiness and wider green industrialisation efforts?

18:00-19:00 **Dinner**

Day 2: 13 December (Wednesday)

10:00-11:45 **Session 4: Macroeconomic framework and national financing system**

Moderator: **Dong Birong**, President, Nanjing Audit University, China

Panellist:

Richard Kozul-Wright, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Shujat Ali, Former Secretary Statistics and Special Secretary Finance Government of Pakistan

Khoo Wei Yang, Research Associate, Khazanah Research institute, Malaysia

Ozge Izdes, Associate Professor, Foreign Trade Department, Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Türkiye

Guiding questions:

- What is the role of macroeconomic policy in national green development or climate actions?
- What are the main fiscal and monetary policy tools at national level to facilitate the green transition? Is any difference from previous ages?
- What are the main constraints in mobilizing climate financing resources at national level? How would you assess the progress of building green financing system in your country?
- What are the key challenges to and opportunities for women's equal participation in the green transition?
- What is the policy framework for a gender-equitable and just green transition and green development?

12:00-13:00 **Working lunch**

13:30-17:00 **Field visit to local green enterprises**

18:00-19:00 **Dinner**

Day 3: 14 December (Thursday)

09:00-12:00 **Field visit to industrial research and innovation institutions**

12:00-13:00 **Working lunch**

Closing remarks by

- **Yao Ling**, Director of Research Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation
- **Maria Ahmed**, Economic Affairs Officer, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD

Departure from Changzhou after lunch.