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The Permanent Mission of the United States of America presents its compliments to the United Nations Environment Programme and respectfully forwards the written questions from the U.S. on UNEP's Green Belt Road Initiative.

As requested the U.S. is providing in writing the questions raised in the U.S. intervention at the Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) briefing held at the UNEP Subcommittee meeting in Nairobi on 19 April, 2018. The U.S. found the briefing helpful and looks forward to further and more detailed discussions on the topic in the near future. The questions follow with added context where appropriate.

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Environment Programme the assurances of its highest consideration.

U.S. Permanent Mission to the UN at Nairobi

30 April 2018



Attachments: Written questions from the U.S. on UNEP's Green Belt Road Initiative

## Written questions from the U.S. on UNEP's Green Belt Road Initiative

- Can we hear more about the foundational documents and initial funding for programming related to the BRI?
  - The Secretariat circulated the “Green Belt and Road Strategy” ahead of this briefing. What formal arrangements has UNEP signed with the Chinese government? If there are such agreements, do they address issues not included in the Green Belt and Road Strategy? Did UNEP reference other MOU’s between China and multilateral initiatives when preparing this programming? As offered in the briefings please consider distributing the MOU(s) to Member States.
  - How will funding decisions be made and how does this compare to the standards of earmarked and no-earmarked practices followed by major donors?
  - Can UNEP provide a summary of funding made available thus far, including sources? For example, how much funding has gone in to China’s South-South cooperation trust fund and how has this money been spent?
- How will UNEP align BRI work with the Program of Work and Budget?
  - How will UNEP report to Member States the use of its staff and resources for BRI related programming? In particular how much of the senior staff’s and the ED’s time will go into BRI related work?
  - Within the context of universal membership, will Member States be updated on the work of the “The International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road?”
  - The strategy notes that UNEP’s senior management team will develop a resource mobilization plan related to the BRI. Will that plan be subject to CPR oversight?
- What precedents can you provide in which an organization under a universal governance model devotes its resources to promoting a plan exclusive to an individual or smaller grouping of member states?
  - The strategy notes that UNEP will “convene a coalition of partners and mobilize capacities within its own organization to promote international policy dialogue between stakeholder groups interested in BRI.” What will the PBI be for this effort?
  - What will the ultimate relationship between UNEP and the Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road look like? How much time will the ED spend as co-chair of this new organization? Where will the secretariat be located?
  - How will UNEP communicate information related to the project to member states and guarantee all activities will be done transparently, and in accordance with UN rules and guidelines?
  - What oversight will member states have over the Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road?
- In light of this partnership what considerations do UNEA Member States face in regards to trade, technology transfer and intellectual property?

- The Strategy says that UNEP will “facilitate green trade and technology transfer between Belt and Road countries, as well as from other partners.” What exactly is UNEP’s role in such an activity? Whose technology will be transferred?
- Is the BRI programming at all linked to the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre?
- What mandate does UNEP have to pursue this type of trade/tech transfer/IP work?
- If intellectual property is developed, who would control it?
- How will BRI projects be managed?
  - If UNEP appoints project managers and project teams, how will it communicate that information to Member States and guarantee all activities will be done in accordance with UN rules?
  - If programs for joint activities already exist, what projects have been submitted? Are officers within UNEP assigned to any such projects?
  - What measures will be in place to ensure a transparent, fair, and open bidding process to partners hailing from all UNEA Member States?
  - What dispute settlement mechanism, if any, will these projects be subject to?
  - What specific standards (environmental, safety, etc) will these projects adhere to, and who will monitor their compliance?