



Wilton Park

## Programme

### **BRI investment in the energy sector: framing sustainable policy solutions for the post-COVID world**

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 September | WP1744V1

#### **Virtual meeting via Zoom**

This virtual Wilton Park meeting is a first in a series of dialogues that will lead to policy relevant conclusions and recommendations on how to best ensure that energy projects undertaken within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework can deliver significant environmental, economic and social benefits along with returns on investment. This thought leadership process will bring together some 50 specially selected participants to contribute their insights and expertise. As well as roundtable discussion in plenary sessions and detailed examination of key issues in small breakout group format, the virtual platform will allow for informal chats between individual participants as would occur at a physical meeting.

The BRI initiative has rapidly become a landmark programme for international infrastructure development due to its massive scale, speed, and range of international partnerships. The focus of this dialogue will be on BRI energy infrastructure investment in Southeast, South and Central Asia, covering projects such as electricity generation capacity, grids, and mini grids.

Energy infrastructure investment is a critical component of the ability for BRI countries to meet the ambitions outlined by the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Greater BRI investment in low carbon energy, particularly in the context of COVID-19, holds enormous potential as well to initiate and accelerate post-COVID economic recovery and growth in BRI countries as well as bring major gains in terms of jobs created and improved public health. Conversely, future investments in carbon intensive energy projects, whether within the BRI framework or outside of it, create well-established concerns over social and environmental risk and the potential financial risks of stranded assets. Host country development strategies, planning capacities and regulations will be of critical importance in taking forward green electricity generation options and project standards.

**In association with:**



The key objectives of this series of Wilton Park dialogues are to:

- Improve understanding of the climate, sustainability and economic impacts of foreign energy investment taking place within the BRI framework and elsewhere.
- Identify recommendations and workable policy solutions that prioritise and promote sustainable energy infrastructure as well as economic recovery while meeting the needs of both host countries and investors in the post pandemic context.
- Build a strong network among participants to enhance future international collaboration for 'building back better' in planning future energy infrastructure investments.

**In association with Growald Family Fund, Stanley Center for Peace and Security, the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), GIZ, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the European Climate Foundation, the Green Finance and Development Centre, World Resources Institute (WRI) China and Energy Foundation China.**

## Monday 7 September

0830-0850 UK  
1230-1250 Islamabad  
1530-1550 Beijing

### Welcome and introduction

**Robert Grant**  
Programme Director, Wilton Park

**Laurence Tubiana**  
Chief Executive Officer, European Climate Foundation, Paris

**Ji Zou**  
Chief Executive Officer and President, Energy Foundation China, Beijing

0850-0900 UK  
1250-1300 Islamabad  
1550-1600 Beijing

### Icebreaker

0900-1030 UK  
1300-1430 Islamabad  
1600-1730 Beijing

### 1. The BRI and energy transition after the pandemic

**Purpose of the session:** Strategic scene setter on the role of BRI for green energy investment after the pandemic.

How do BRI and global energy transition agendas connect? What role does BRI have in the energy transition processes of host countries? What approaches to debt and post-COVID economic recovery can help support sustainable BRI investments?

There will be a combination of both plenary and breakout groups with discussion and feedback during this session.

**Session Chair: Manish Bapna**  
Executive Vice President and Managing Director, World Resources Institute (WRI), Washington DC

**Jun Ma**  
Chairman, China Green Finance Committee; Director, Center for Finance and Development, Tsinghua University, Beijing

**Ephyro Luis Amatong**  
Commissioner, Securities and Exchange Commission, Manila

5-minute break during the session

**Nandita Parshad**

Managing Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Group, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

**Tuesday 8 September**

**0830-0915 UK**

**1230-1315 Islamabad**

**1530-1615 Beijing**

## **2. Plenary session Introduction to the breakout groups**

Regionally focused breakout groups, for Central, South and Southeast Asia, will meet in parallel. The breakout groups constitute a smaller and more focused forum to consider a key element of the conference topic and are aimed at producing actionable policy recommendations. There is no intent to have members of the group come to full agreement on all points, but rather to see if it is possible to reach a set of conclusions and recommendations that leaves everyone broadly satisfied.

### **Summary of the previous day's discussion on the role of BRI for green energy investment:**

**Han Chen**

Manager, International Energy Policy, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Zurich

### **Opportunities for green investment to stimulate ideas for breakout group discussions:**

**Qiu Chen Fang**

Chairman, China International Contractors Association (CHINCA), Beijing

**Simon Zadek**

Principal, Project Catalyst; Sherpa, UN Secretary General's Task Force on Digital Financing of the SDGs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York

**Anne-Mareike Vanselow**

Desk Officer, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Berlin

**0915-1045 UK**

**1315-1445 Islamabad**

**1615-1745 Beijing**

## **3. Regionally focused breakout groups: bringing to fruition opportunities for green investment**

What are the 'shovel ready' sustainable energy projects or technologies available in different countries and regions? What innovative approaches and incentives can be developed to identify and implement green energy projects able to deliver both renewed growth and climate goals?

### **South Asia**

Nepal, Pakistan

**Speaker:** Sara Ahmed, V20 Finance Advisor, V20 Secretariat, Climate Vulnerable Forum, Manila

**Facilitator:** Kartikeya Singh, Deputy Program Director, SED Fund, The Hague

### **Central Asia**

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

#### **Group 1:**

**Speaker:** Shuhrat Mirzoev, Managing Partner, IRSHAD Consulting, Dushanbe

**Facilitator:** Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia, Bishkek

#### **Group 2:**

**Speaker:** Roman Vakulchuk, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo

**Facilitator:** Kumi Kitamori, Head of Division, Green Growth & Global Relations, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris

5 minute break during the session

### **Southeast Asia**

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

#### **Group 1:**

**Speaker:** Suzanty Sitorus, Indonesia Country Director, Clean Energy Programme, European Climate Foundation, Jakarta

**Facilitator:** Athena Ballesteros, Director, Asia Programs, Growald Family Fund, Washington DC

#### **Group 2:**

**Speaker:** To be confirmed

**Facilitator:** Eugene Wong, Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Finance Institute Asia Limited, Petaling Jaya

#### **Group 3:**

**Speaker:** Mason Wallick, Managing Director, Clime Capital Limited, Singapore

**Facilitator:** Vannarith Chheang, President, Asian Vision Institute, Phnom Penh

## **Wednesday 9 September**

### **Out of session follow up and preparations for the final stage of the conference**

- There will be a short, written summary from each breakout group that will be available to read on the conference platform shortly after the end of the breakout group session.
- The platform will have a forum available for participants to pose questions and make comments on the breakout group summaries.
- Based on the opening plenary session, the breakout group report summaries and participant forum, a small expert group will draft key takeaways and recommendations for next steps to present in plenary on the final day.

## **Thursday 10 September**

**0830-0900 UK**  
**1230-1330 Islamabad**  
**1530-1400 Beijing**

### **4. Key takeaways from the breakout group discussions**

A synthesis of the key takeaways and recommendations from the discussions of the breakout groups.

#### **Han Chen**

Manager, International Energy Policy, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Zurich

**0900-1030 UK**  
**1300-1430 Islamabad**  
**1400-1730 Beijing**

### **5. Conference conclusion: taking forward international cooperation**

The session will have the running order below.

Drawing on the takeaways and recommendations from the breakout group deliberations, what ideas hold the most promise for international cooperation, including energy transition investment practices, institutional partnerships, and diplomatic milestones and goals?

#### **John Murton**

UK COP 26 Envoy, Cabinet Office, London

- After plenary questions and discussion, the session will divide into breakout groups to flesh out the ideas for international cooperation and implementation steps.
- Returning to plenary, the breakout groups will provide brief summary reports on their outcomes.

What key points jump out from the breakout group discussions in this session and from

5 minute break during the session

the conference overall? What sense of prioritisation and sequencing on how to take forward international cooperation emerges from these discussions?

**Li Fang**

Chief Representative, World Resources Institute (WRI), Beijing

**This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.**

**This is an invitation only conference.**

**Enquiries about the programme to:**

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