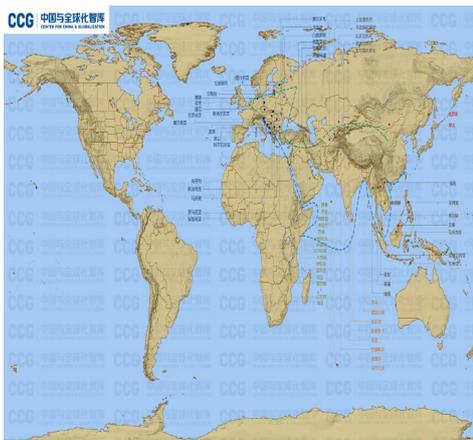


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Solutions and Approaches to Int'l Win-Win Cooperation on B&R Initiative



The recent years have witnessed the rise of de-globalization momentum. Some observers even lament that it signals the end of the era of globalization. At the 11th G20 Summit in Hangzhou last September, China made the development issue as top priority of the agenda. In January, Chinese President Xi pledged during his keynote speech in the UN Office in Geneva that China was committed to forging a new partnership of win-win cooperation and creating a community of shared future for mankind.

The report believes that more and more countries have been inspired to seek closer international cooperation and regional integration, which heralds the beginning of the new model of globalization, and coincidentally the “the Belt and Road” initiative can be one of the key solutions to the new model.

The report recalls the background of the initiative and points out its significant role in the process of the new model of globalization as it is facing a series of setbacks across the world.

Based on the analysis of the opportunities and challenges facing the B&R, the report provides 20 suggestions on how to make it a win-win deal for all the national participants.

1) Building up the B&R international community and forging international governance mechanism

In promoting the B&R initiative, China ought to put priority to inclusiveness while advocating respect, tolerance, and talks among civilizations at different stages of development. Public goods instead of self-interests are China should try to provide for all the interested countries. China ought to build practical cooperation in all fields and guard political trust, cultural unity, and economic integration, stressing shared interests rather than differences.

2) Establishing a B&R standing committee and setting up annual conference system with alternate chairmanship

China ought to consider hosting an annual B&R conference like G20 or APEC in order to further promote its development. Permanent secretariat should be set up to coordinate the cooperation and communication among the countries along the route of the initiative. Davos or World Economic Forum model could be emulated for the B&R conference.

3) Forming a B&R agency affiliated to UN to strengthen the coordination with existing UN organizations

China ought to establish a “Belt and Road Institute” affiliated to the United Nations, allowing the United Nations to act as a connecting bridge and promote effective dialogues between member countries among this cross-board organization.

4) Enhancing cooperation with the international organizations such as WTO, World Bank and IMF

The B&R initiative will benefit from enhanced cooperation with WTO, World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, International Monetary Fund and others cross-board organizations on the infrastructure projects. A strong cooperative relationship between International Labor Organization and International Organization for Migration could provide the initiative ample labor resources and skillful talents.

5) Inviting more developed countries including the US, EU, Japan and Republic of Korea to join the initiative

In further expanding the B&R initiative, China should cooperate with not only developing countries, but also developed countries such as Japan, Korea, the United States as well as member countries of the European Union. Working closely with developed countries such as US would not only benefit the B&R initiative but also the Sino-US relations. Utilizing the bilateral and multilateral cooperation and innovating the cooperative models in order to promote the practical cooperation among the participant countries.

6) Forging partnership with key countries along the B&R

Pay more attention to the key or pivot countries along the route as the linchpin countries could play a model role during the process of the B&R development. Take UK as an example, it could be a beacon for many countries which

are connected with UK historically and nowadays.

7) Establishing B&R international alliance of enterprises

China ought to establish international alliances of enterprises and set up international forums for those entrepreneurs who have plans to join in the initiative with an open-minded model.

8) Organizing B&R Summit for the World top 500 MNCs

China ought to seek partnerships with transnational cooperations for human resources and capital support. Multinational firms are experienced in business management, while thoroughly understanding the political and cultural implications of the local environment. Having a close relation with multinational companies can help Chinese enterprises gain avant-garde knowledge to enhance global credibility. Chinese enterprises ought to form alliances with multinational firms in order to create a healthier business environment for both sides.

9) Implementing B&R demonstration projects in selected countries

The Belt and Road Initiative is now in the transitional period of being implemented, which requires Chinese enterprises to carry out concrete projects as well as specific templates. China should consider implementing some Belt and Road demonstration projects in selected countries, which can serve as a reference point for further putting the Belt and Road Initiative into effect.

10) Pushing forward green development on the route of B&R

Sustainable development and revival of the country is impossible using the conventional will of encouraging national growth at the expense of the environment. Therefore, participants of the initiative should champion and expand the Belt and Road spirit by supporting green and low carbon development. China ought to establish

projects such as Green Industrial Park and Green Factory for the Belt and Road countries.

11) Prioritizing overseas industrial parks in B&R implementation

China ought to prioritize the construction of overseas industrial parks, since they can help many Chinese companies abroad increase export and hosting countries to grow economy.

12) Enabling a bigger role of overseas Chinese to achieve win-win international cooperation along B&R

Overseas Chinese can help Chinese companies that seek global expansion understand local situation, evaluate opportunities and risks, and build relations with local society. As a bridge and bond between China and the B&R countries, they are playing an indispensable role in the initiative.

13) Promoting tourism to become a leading force to push forward B&R international cooperation

The rise of Chinese outbound trips is conducive to the creation of local job opportunities and removal of ideological and economic barriers. Likewise, the visits to China can help the people in the B&R countries become acquaintant and favorable of China. China should maximize the role of tourism resource in promoting the B&R initiative by strengthening cooperation with the countries along the route.

14) Strengthening educational exchange and cooperation along B&R to cultivate more talents

China should attract and cultivate talent along the B&R to enable “talent connectivity”, by establishing B&R studying abroad foundation to enroll more foreign students from the countries along the route and to dispatch more Chinese students to those countries. It is also recommended to leverage the role of the Confucius Schools abroad to cultivate internationalized talent

needed to push forward B&R initiative.

15) Facilitating people mobility and encouraging migration to B&R countries

The B&R initiative covers a population of around 4.5 billion in over 60 countries. China ought to simplify its visa application process to attract tourists, business executives and students from the B&R countries and enable more Chinese citizens and companies to go abroad. In the meantime, China can encourage Chinese migration to B&R countries to further strengthen cultural and trade relations and exchange.

16) Developing B&R cross-border e-commerce to build a “digital Silk Road”

China should foster the idea of incorporating digital sectors such as telecommunications and e-commerce into the Belt and Road Initiative in order to fill the unmet needs for digital connectivity, while facilitating faster and easier data connections. China should employ new technologies such as Internet and big data to build a “Digital Silk Road” that can reach everywhere in the world and facilitate global SMEs to participate in international trading services.

17) Pooling international financial resource into the B&R projects

A pool of international capital is needed to provide sufficient financial resource to the B&R initiative. Beside strengthening cooperation with the World Bank Group, IMF and other international financial organizations, it is also necessary to expand the participation of social capital to ensure the sustainability of capital providence.

18) Conducting in-depth research on the legal systems in all the B&R countries to find solutions to any potential legal disputes

It is important to enhance the comparative studies on legal systems to explore the ways though bilateral and multilateral agreements to solve legal disputes. China

should proactively push forward cooperation with B&R countries and regions in arbitration and formation of a unified dispute resolution mechanism. Efforts should also be made to establish legal assistance system with the B&R countries and regions to ensure the effective operation of dispute resolution mechanism.

19) Enlisting the international organizations for professionals in various fields such as accountants and engineers in the effort to push forward B&R Initiative

A platform can be established to connect with and provide services to professionals along the Belt and Road to enlist them in the planning and implementation of the projects. With a database and service system for B&R professionals, it will be easier for companies and other institutions to find international talent needed for their

projects, and easier for professionals to seek partnership and development platforms.

20) Allowing think tanks, standardization organizations and other civil society groups to play a bigger role in promoting B&R

Think tank can play a more significant role in policy research and proposal and help remove economic and political barriers in the implementation of the “Belt and Road” Initiative. In addition, the NGOs with various expertise and representing different interest groups can influence policymaking concerning different issues of the B&R initiative. Therefore, enhanced dialogues and communications with NGOs and other civil society groups is conducive to addressing relevant stakeholders’ concerns and requests.

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