

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON DEVELOPING THIRD-PARTY MARKET
COOPERATION**

BETWEEN

**THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE
SWISS CONFEDERATION**

AND

**THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM
COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA**

With the objective to further deepen the innovative strategic partnership between Switzerland and China and to expand areas of collaboration in trade, investment and finance for projects in third countries along the Belt and Road Initiative;

The Federal Department of Finance and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Participants" and individually as "Participant"),

Have reached the following understanding:

1. The Participants intend to work together in order to support companies from their respective countries in jointly exploring opportunities and exchanging project information in third-party markets with respect to the Belt and Road initiative.
2. The Participants recognize that the cooperation should be enterprise-led, market-based, in compliance with international practices and norms, as well as the laws and policies of the countries benefitting from such cooperation. This cooperation should be based on economic viability and long-term sustainable growth, social and environmental sustainability, mutual benefits, consensus, inclusiveness, open and non-discriminatory procurement processes and a level playing field, in line with national development priorities as devised by the countries concerned and with the common pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The Participants endeavour to encourage both Swiss and Chinese companies to jointly explore third-party market cooperation in industries and regions to be identified based on common interests and further discussions on pilot target markets and pilot projects.
4. The Participants endeavour to encourage commercial and policy banks, insurers and other financial institutions to explore financing for the third-party market cooperation of the Swiss and Chinese companies, as well as for infrastructure and trade financing in both countries.
5. The Participants endeavour to facilitate the establishment of platforms led by companies or industry associations such as working groups, forums and roundtables, where appropriate, to exchange project information, to identify specific areas of mutual interest and to facilitate cooperation between respective companies and financial institutions. Where requested and appropriate, the participants may participate in such platforms.
6. The Participants endeavour to encourage initiatives that support the establishment of a “Belt and Road Initiative competence-building platform” in Switzerland to serve high-level officials and executives from the Participants and third countries as a capacity-building tool with regards to risk management, project governance and international standards.
7. The Participants intend to establish a Switzerland-China third-party market cooperation working group under this Memorandum of Understanding. The aim of the working group is to encourage third-party market cooperation between enterprises from both countries. The working group should meet preferably back-to-back with existing governmental and non-governmental exchanges and dialogues. Other government departments, institutions and enterprises may join the working group as necessary.

- 8. The State Secretariat for International Finance of the Federal Department of Finance and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of the Swiss Confederation as well as the Department of Foreign Capital and Overseas Investment of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China will act as focal points for implementing the activities foreseen under this Memorandum of Understanding according to their ordinary budget availability without any additional cost for the Participants' budgets.

- 9. This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an international agreement that may lead to obligations under international law. No provision of this Memorandum of Understanding is to be understood and performed as a legal obligation or commitment of the Participants. It will come into effect on the date of signing and remains valid unless one Participant terminates it by written notice, preferably six months in advance.

Signed in Beijing on April 29, 2019 in two originals, each in the German, Chinese and English languages. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text is given priority.

**FOR THE FEDERAL
DEPARTMENT OF
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CONFEDERATION**

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