



BRAZILIAN CENTER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ASIA PROGRAM, XV MEETING, YEAR II

# ASIA PROGRAM

## XV CHINA ANALYSIS GROUP MEETING

RIO DE JANEIRO, NOVEMBER 26, 2019

Videoconference connection hubs: Beijing, Brasília and São Paulo

Speakers: Izabella Teixeira, Wang Yi, Akio Takahara, Marco Túlio Scarpelli Cabral, Wenhong Xie

Commentator: Ana Toni

Coordinator: Tatiana Rosito

MAIN THEME

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# Brazil and China facing global environmental challenges

## About CEBRI

The Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI) is an independent think tank that contributes to establishing an international agenda for Brazil. For over twenty years, the institution has engaged in promoting pluralistic and proposal-oriented debate on the international landscape and Brazilian foreign policy.

CEBRI prioritizes themes with the greatest potential to leverage the international insertion of Brazil into the global economy, proposing pragmatic solutions for the formulation of public policies.

CEBRI is a non-profit institution, headquartered in Rio de Janeiro and internationally recognized, that mobilizes a worldwide network of professionals and organizations. Its almost 100 members represent diverse interests and economic sectors. CEBRI has an active Board of Trustees composed of diplomats, intellectuals and businessmen.

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Rua Marquês de São Vicente, 336 - Gávea - Rio de Janeiro / RJ - CEP: 22451-044  
Tel + 55 21 2206-4400 - [cebri@cebri.org.br](mailto:cebri@cebri.org.br) - [www.cebri.org](http://www.cebri.org)

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SUPPORT:



# ASIA

## PROGRAM

The Program promotes a systematic monitoring of matters relevant to international relations and Brazilian development, particularly those related to China.

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**Anna Jaguaribe**

Member of CEBRI's Board of Trustees and Director of the Institute for Brazil-China Studies (IBRACH). She is currently Visiting Professor of the Public Policies, Strategy and Development Program at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). She has previously worked at the United Nations, in New York, and as a consultant for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in Geneva.



SENIOR FELLOW

**Tatiana Rosito**

Senior Fellow at CEBRI and Coordinator of the China Analysis Group. She is a diplomat and an economist, having worked in Asia for over ten years, where she served at the Brazilian Embassies in Beijing and Singapore. She was Petrobras' Chief Representative in China and General Manager of Business Development in Asia between 2017 and 2019. Previously, she was Executive Secretary of the Foreign Trade Chamber of the Presidency of the Republic (CAMEX) and Special Advisor to the Ministers of Finance and Planning, among other public service functions. She holds a Master's degree in International Development from Harvard Kennedy School and an Executive MBA from INSEAD and Tsinghua University.



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**Julia Dias Leite**

Julia is CEBRI's executive director since 2015. Previously, she worked for 10 years at the Brazil-China Business Council (CEBC), where she occupied the position of executive secretary. Recently, she was chosen by the U.S. State Department to participate in the Young World Leaders program.

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## GUIDING QUESTIONS

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From biodiversity to carbon pricing, what topics should be part of a contemporary environmental agenda between the two countries?

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## XV MEETING REPORT

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### FROM BIODIVERSITY TO CARBON PRICING, WHAT TOPICS SHOULD BE PART OF A CONTEMPORARY ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES?

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At its fifteenth meeting, the China Analysis Group promoted insightful discussions on global environmental challenges shared by Brazil and China, highlighting priority topics for bilateral cooperation in the short, medium and long term, within and beyond the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite the huge potential for bilateral cooperation in areas ranging from bio-economy to climate-resilient cities, participants consensually noted a lack of bilateral frameworks dedicated to sustainable development between China and Brazil – for instance, the absence of a sub-committee aimed at environmental cooperation within the Sino-Brazilian High-Level Coordination and Cooperation Committee (COSBAN). Ultimately, better exploring the co-benefits associated to bilateral cooperation on shared environmental challenges – including but not restricted to climate change – could contribute to strengthening multilateral frameworks and global environmental cooperation.

In this context, it was initially noted that Brazil and China have long cooperated within multilateral settings, most notably under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – especially after the creation of the BASIC group (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China). Completing its 10th anniversary in 2019, BASIC was highlighted as a successful initiative for political cooperation and coordination in multilateral negotiations on climate change, decisively influencing the Paris Agreement outcome. Even before 2015, Brazil had already signed relevant bilateral environmental cooperation agreements with China, aimed at promoting an exchange of practices on shared environmental challenges.

Looking towards the future of bilateral environmental cooperation, participants distinguished between short and medium-term priorities. First, until 2020, strategic areas for Brazil-China cooperation include agriculture, mining, water security and the overall energy transition agenda, with an emphasis on identifying and exploiting co-benefits between both economies. Within agriculture, specific topics for cooperation include pesticides and bio-controllers, ecosystem services, soil conservation and restoration, areas in which China has extensive experience and successful initiatives. Between 2020 and 2030, medium-term priorities for bilateral cooperation include low carbon infrastructure, sanitation, mobility, “nature-based solutions” for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and also “new mining” – pushing towards the dissemination of international mining standards. However, participants stressed the need to promote cooperation even beyond the horizon of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement implementation, based on long-term alignments on climate change and biodiversity for the period 2020-2050.

“ Better exploring the co-benefits associated to bilateral cooperation on shared environmental challenges – including but not restricted to climate change – could contribute to strengthening multilateral frameworks and global environmental cooperation.”

With regard to biodiversity, participants highlighted cooperation opportunities in areas such as new genetic resources, new industries and partnerships related to the bio-economy. As two megadiverse countries, Brazil and China face similar challenges in safeguarding biological diversity, accessing and sharing benefits. As China is set to host the 15th Conference of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020, participants noted the country’s influence in designing and launching the new biodiversity global strategy and vision. Furthermore, it was stressed that Chinese international environmental cooperation has traditionally emphasized regional biodiversity, collaborating closely with neighboring Asian countries. In regard to natural resource use, opportunities for bilateral cooperation also abound: Referencing the work of the International Resource Panel, participants highlighted common challenges related to water stress, which grew 50% in China between 1995 and 2015.

Another key topic within a contemporary bilateral environmental agenda refers to international trade and sustainability standards, centered on traceability and compliance in supply chains. According to participants, this agenda would ultimately involve a transition from short-term profitable business and trade to medium-term profitable and fair business models. Moreover, the environmental impacts resulting from disruptive technologies were also emphasized as key topics for bilateral dialogue.

Additionally, participants highlighted the great potential for cooperation in the agenda of urban economy and smart cities, through experience sharing and technology transfer aimed at promoting resilience, efficiency, and connectivity in urban environments. Despite China’s successful urbanization process in the past three decades, participants noted that this process has been highly intensive on land, water and resource consumption. Among possible collaborations with Brazil that are related to China’s new urbanization strategy, participants stressed opportunities in areas such as land value capture finance, transit-oriented development, air and water quality, bioclimatic urban fabric and digitally connected cities. Considering that 91% of the Brazilian population already lives in cities, this is a strategic agenda for Brazil – especially for the cities located in the Amazon, which require technological leapfrogging and inclusive connectivity.

Moreover, China’s experience with the establishment of national carbon markets – in close collaboration with international partners, including the EU – could also offer lessons to Brazil. Although Brazil is still lagging behind in carbon pricing mechanisms, participants described the development of carbon trading schemes as important tools for the achievement of the Brazilian NDC. With regard to climate finance, the rapidly

expanding global green bond market – in which China has quickly attained leadership after its first green bond issuance, in 2016 – could offer bilateral opportunities. As Chinese investors are increasingly demanded to allocate portfolios to green projects, collaborations in the harmonization of standards can influence Chinese investments in Brazil

Considering the wide spectrum of possibilities for cooperation between Brazil and China on global environmental challenges shared by both countries, participants consensually highlighted the lack of effective bilateral frameworks dedicated to the issue. Even though some of COSBAN’s subcommittees tangentially approach environment-related topics – including agriculture, energy, science and technology – the Committee lacks a body dedicated exclusively to sustainable development. Notably, the press release and proceedings of the 5th COSBAN meeting, held in May 2019, do not make any references to sustainable development, environment or climate change at all. In the past decade, participants recollected the work of the China-Brazil Common Agenda on Sustainable Development, active in 2004 – a bilateral mechanism that expired and has not been replaced. Participants emphasized the importance of creating new bilateral mechanisms and frameworks aimed to streamline bilateral cooperation on strategic topics related to sustainable development, with the goal of maximizing environmental co-benefits.

“ Even though some of COSBAN’s subcommittees tangentially approach environment-related topics – including agriculture, energy, science and technology – the Committee lacks a body dedicated exclusively to sustainable development. ”

## WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN THE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCS) OF BOTH COUNTRIES?

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Considering the scenario devised by the latest 2019 Emissions Gap Report, innovative strategies to raise ambition in climate change mitigation are imperative in order to meet the target of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of the century. In this context, the Brazilian and Chinese NDCs under the Paris Agreement feature synergies that can encourage bilateral cooperation, even though significant differences remain in both countries' targets. While the Brazilian NDC seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37% by 2025 and 43% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels), the Chinese NDC aims to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60-65% per unit of GDP by 2030, peaking CO<sub>2</sub> emissions until then. It is noteworthy, though, that Brazil accounts for only 2.33% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while China represents around 28.3% of GHG emissions globally.

Participants mentioned that land use, industry, waste and energy are key areas for the achievement of Brazil's NDC. On the Chinese side, the key areas include agriculture, disaster risk management, forestry, water and energy. There are overlaps in which bilateral cooperation can play a relevant role, particularly in the area of renewable energy – in which Chinese competitiveness can offer opportunities for Brazil. According to participants, China's transformation into a global leader in renewable energy, especially wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) technology, can be attributed to a coincidence of underlying factors.

First, as the largest oil importer worldwide and a major coal importer, China's vulnerability in energy supply lines has represented a fundamental threat to energy security. In this context, the development of alternative energy sources is regarded as a strategic goal for China, positively influenced by favorable natural conditions – especially for hydropower – combined with a powerful industrial capacity to harness China's green energy development potential. This has resulted in effective industrial policy, driven by different consumer bases: In the case of wind power, for example, the industry's development was initially aimed at the Chinese domestic market – while, in the case of solar PV, the European market was targeted before Chinese own domestic market. Furthermore, pressure towards improving air quality and reducing pollution have also driven China's green energy development, as well as concerns about China's climate vulnerability – considering coastal cities' vulnerability to sea levels' rise – and climate change impacts on Chinese agriculture and food security.

Considering China's attained global leadership in renewable energy and Brazilian favorable natural conditions, there is a huge potential for bilateral trade and cooperation on renewable sources – particularly wind, solar and biofuels. In regard to wind energy, despite Brazilian significant installed capacity, participants emphasized there is still a large potential for growth. In particular, considering Brazilian competitiveness in certain segments of the wind power industry – such as wind power plates – Brazil could increasingly focus on

exporting specific parts to the Chinese market, beyond importing equipment from China.

Moreover, despite Chinese overwhelming predominance in solar PV, participants highlighted the Brazilian position as one of the main silicon exporters worldwide. However, since silicon production in Brazil does not feature a sufficient level of purity compatible with solar PV cells – which are further purified abroad – participants noted the possibility of enriching silicon purification domestically, in order to promote solar power generation in Brazil and strengthen the country’s position in global value chains. In the case of solar-thermal generation, participants emphasized China’s absolute competitive advantage and technological sophistication, well-positioned to offer important lessons to Brazil. In this area, participants highlighted ongoing cooperation initiatives under the China-Brazil Center for Climate Change and Energy Technology Innovation, a partnership between Tsinghua University and Coppe/UFRJ.

On the other hand, within the field of biofuels, it was noted that Brazil is way ahead of China in ethanol production and technology. While ethanol is already used marginally in China for transportation, participants noted there is room for growth – especially for second-generation biofuels, considering Chinese sizable sugar cane production, largely concentrated in the provinces of Guangdong Guangxi. They also recalled the government guideline to have E10 (10% ethanol mix in gasoline) adopted in the country by 2020, which has already been adopted as a pilot in some provinces. In the case of biodiesel, participants highlighted ongoing cooperation initiatives also led by Tsinghua-Coppe Center, related to enzymatic technologies for conversion of organic oil into biodiesel – already featuring a conversion plant in Brazil.

Overall, however, participants stressed the importance of developing bilateral frameworks in order to streamline and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of renewable energy. In this respect, the memorandum of understanding signed during President Bolsonaro’s visit to Beijing, in October 2019, was noted as a potentially useful mechanism in this direction.

“Considering China’s attained global leadership in renewable energy and Brazilian favorable natural conditions, there is a huge potential for bilateral trade and cooperation on renewable sources – particularly wind, solar and biofuels.”

## GREEN BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: WHAT ARE THE TRADE-OFFS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE BRI MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE?

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Considering the multiple definitions associated with the Belt and Road Initiative, participants suggested the imagery of a “constellation” in order to portray the initiative – a loose arrangement without clear boundaries, composed by concrete individual projects (“stars”). The flexibility of the BRI concept was noted as a reflection of China’s aptitude to formulate appealing concepts, as similarly observed in the case of the “Green BRI”.

The Green BRI stems from a decades-long learning trajectory with investments on environmental capacity, based on top-down mandatory targets aimed at incorporating environmental concerns to the Chinese development model – including through large-scale investments on areas such as energy efficiency and pollution reduction. In this context, participants noted the relevance of several BRI partners as important players within China’s low carbon development planning, including through joint research and development and capacity building.

In order to assist BRI partner countries to realize the Sustainable Development Goals and achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the BRI International Alliance on Green Development was formally launched in 2017. The Coalition provides technology, financing and promotes the sharing of best practices, including under the umbrella of third-country cooperation. In fact, since 2013 China has played a key role in international cooperation on climate change, including through the establishment of the South-South Cooperation Fund (SSCF), in 2015.

In the East Asian region, participants highlighted the importance of Japan as a key provider of environment-related foreign aid, stressing important synergies between the Green Belt and Road and the Japanese “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” Vision. In regard to Japanese overall engagement with the BRI, participants noted Japanese readiness to cooperate with China under certain conditions. As emphasized by Shinzo Abe in 2017, these conditions include: openness, transparency, economic efficiency or viability and fiscal soundness of recipient countries. Although the environment is not specifically mentioned as a condition, participants emphasized its traditional relevance for Sino-Japanese cooperation. Within Japanese ODA towards China, for instance, environmental aid has long been a top priority, illustrated by the establishment of the Sino-Japanese Friendship Center for Environmental Protection in 1988, in Beijing, and by the strong engagement of Japanese NGOs with reforestation projects in China.

Within the Japanese “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” vision – central to Japanese development cooperation – key areas include: “addressing global issues towards achieving SDGs and promoting human security” and “economic diplomacy that aims at ‘quality growth’ and contributes to regional revitalization.” Furthermore, during Shinzo Abe’s visit to Beijing in

October 2018, over 50 bilateral agreements were signed on third-party market cooperation, encompassing environmental topics such as renewable energy and smart cities. Ultimately, Sino-Japanese cooperation and joint projects in the region can contribute to the realization of both countries' strategic aims, aligned to both and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy.

However, on a critical note to the environmental dimension of the BRI, participants stressed that Chinese state banks have earmarked over US\$ 30 billion to build coal plants in neighboring countries. One participant noted that Chinese efforts towards improving air quality have been, to a certain extent, associated with a relocation of coal plants from China to neighboring BRI countries.

“ In the East Asian region, participants highlighted the importance of Japan as a key provider of environment-related foreign aid, stressing important synergies between the Green Belt and Road and the Japanese ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’ Vision. ”

## **GREEN ECONOMY IS ALSO AN INDUSTRIAL CHOICE. WHICH VALUE CHAINS AND SERVICES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TRANSITION AND HOW CAN BRAZIL AND CHINA COOPERATE?**

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In a global context of multiple environment-related transitions, participants highlighted Chinese efforts towards decoupling economic growth from environmental impact and promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption – transitioning from high-speed growth to high-quality development.

Within China’s transition to a “low carbon modernized economic system,” participants outlined a roadmap composed by four main pillars, promoted through top-down mandatory targets: Industrial development patterns, energy revolution and mix change, transportation mix change and land use mode change –emphasizing the reduction of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the latter.

Participants also highlighted Chinese efforts towards “greening global value chains” from the demand and supply sides, adopting different strategies for soft and hard commodities. In the first case, participants stressed Chinese aspirations towards zero deforestation agro-products trading – particularly relevant for Brazilian soybeans exports. In the case of hard commodities, participants emphasized energy efficiency and circular economy strategies, especially concerning BRI countries.

Furthermore, in order to channel investment to projects that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and NDCs, a strategic agenda for China-Brazil dialogue refers to the development and dissemination of harmonized standards. In this respect, participants stressed the leading role of the Climate Bond Initiative in promoting certification schemes and capacity building for the application of science-based standards, in both China and Brazil.

## BIOGRAPHIES

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### **José Pio Borges**

Mr. Borges is the Chairman of CEBRI's Board of Trustees. He served as president of the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), where he previously held numerous positions. He was also CEO of Pronor Petroquímica and managing director at BBM Bank. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Captalys Investments and has served on the Board of Petrobras, Cia Vale do Rio Doce, Aracruz Celulose S.A., COPESUL, Rede Ferroviária Federal S.A., Banco do Nordeste do Brasil S.A., USIMINAS, among many others. He is the Director of the Stefan Zweig House in Petrópolis and Chairman of the Board of the Eva Klabin Foundation. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in industrial engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, as well as a master's degree in economics from the New School for Social Research in New York.

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### **Tatiana Rosito**

Senior Fellow at CEBRI and Coordinator of the China Analysis Group. She is a diplomat and an economist, having worked in Asia for over ten years, where she served at the Brazilian Embassies in Beijing and Singapore. She was Petrobras' Chief Representative in China and General Manager of Business Development in Asia between 2017 and 2019. Previously, she was Executive Secretary of the Foreign Trade Chamber of the Presidency of the Republic (CAMEX) and Special Advisor to the Ministers of Finance and Planning, among other public service functions. She holds a Master's degree in International Development from Harvard Kennedy School and an Executive MBA from INSEAD and Tsinghua University.

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### **Izabella Teixeira**

CEBRI's Senior Fellow and Brazil's former Minister of the Environment. She has occupied different administrative positions in the Ministry of the Environment, the State Government of Rio de Janeiro, and the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, which she joined in 1984. She has played a key role in the negotiating process of the Paris Agreement and was nominated to serve the High-Level Panel for Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. She holds a Master's degree in Energy Planning and a PhD in Environmental Planning from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

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### **Wang Yi**

WANG Yi is now the Vice President of the Institute of Science and Development (ISD) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and a member of Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) of China. Prior to the current position, Dr. WANG was a professor and then Director-General of CAS Institute of Policy and Management (2005-2015). Before 2005, he was a Professor of Public Policy at the CAS Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (1997-2004). Dr. Wang has over 30 years of experience on public policy and strategic studies of sustainable development. His main expertise is in the fields of institutional arrangements of ecological civilization, green transition and development strategy, energy and climate change policy, integrated river basin management, and comprehensive planning for resource, environment and development. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Engineering from Tsinghua University and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of the Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS).

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### **Akio Takahara**

Professor of contemporary Chinese politics at the University of Tokyo. He graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, and received his doctorate from the University of Sussex. Previously, he worked at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the Japanese consulate in Hong Kong, J.F. Oberlin University, Rikkyo University, and the Japanese embassy in Beijing. He was a visiting professor at Harvard University and Peking University and a member of the New Japan-China Friendship Committee for the 21st Century.

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### **Marco Túlio Scarpelli Cabral**

Marco Túlio Cabral is the Head of the Environment Division II at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was the general coordinator of the International Relations Research Institute (IPRI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2016. Mr. Cabral is the Editor of IPRI's *Cadernos de Política Exterior* magazine and a professor of the subject "Human Rights" at the Rio Branco Institute (IRBr). He is a doctoral student in moral philosophy at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). He holds a master's degree in philosophy from ULB (2007), a master's degree in art philosophy/aesthetics from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) (2002), a degree in diplomacy from IBRr (2002), a lato sensu graduate degree in structural engineering from UFMG (1997), and a bachelor's degree in architecture and urbanism from UFMG (1994).

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## Wenhong Xie

Wenhong Xie is China Programme Manager at Climate Bonds Initiative. Wenhong is a strong generalist with over eight years of cross-sector experience including policy analysis, academic research, civil society organizations, technology venture and multilateral development banks. His research interests focus on energy and natural resources governance, development finance, climate/clean energy finance, and the evolving role of China in the global South. In Southeast Asia, China, and Africa, Wenhong has worked at the local to global levels with governments, MDBs, civil society, communities, academia and private sector in advocating for environmental and community rights, transforming conflict, informing policy and philanthropic decisions, as well as improving environmental and social performance of transnational investment and lending practices through promoting legal standards, dialogues, and incentives for responsible business practices. Wenhong has an M.A. in International Policy Studies from Stanford University, and a B.A. in History from Hampshire College.

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## Ana Toni

Executive Director of the Institute for Climate and Society (ICS) and founding partner of GIP (Public Interest Management). She is an economist and holds a Ph.D. in Political Science. Her main expertise is in the support to projects focused on social justice, the promotion of public policies, the environment, climate change, and philanthropy. She was Chairman of the Board of Greenpeace International and director of the Ford Foundation in Brazil and ActionAid Brazil. She is currently a member of the Network of Brazilian Women Leaders for Sustainability and the boards of the Public Agency, Gold Standard Foundation, Instituto Escolhas, ClimaInfo, Instituto República, Fundo Baobá por Igualdade Racial, and Transparency International.

# ATTACHMENTS

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## Thematic guidelines

Global environmental challenges span from urban-related challenges (waste management, air and water pollution, water and sanitation quality, cogeneration, logistics, clean rivers, recovery of contaminated areas, green areas, marine litter, etc.) to biodiversity (i.e. protection of species, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing), desertification and its impact on agriculture and livelihoods, and to climate change. Those challenges touch almost all realms of human existence and have been dealt with by countries according to their national characteristics and policies, but increasingly under a regional or multilateral framework, given that most of the challenges involve externalities and public goods, requiring a common strategy.

More importantly, global environmental challenges are fundamentally linked to patterns of production and consumption, be it in primitive agricultural societies or in the knowledge economy of the 21st century. Thus, the concept of sustainable development is crucial to address environmental challenges. This concept has been embraced by the international community at least since the Rio-92 conference, including economic, social and environmental aspects of human development. After more than two decades, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its heart. (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>). At least seven goals could be directly linked to the environment: clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water and life on land.

Sustainable development and environmental challenges cannot be dissociated from their means of implementation, in terms of human, financial and technical resources. Thus, the 17th goal, which concerns building partnerships, is the enabling factor for the implementation of a successful sustainable development agenda. Other important elements for a balanced agenda in sustainable development are the historical context and the patterns of innovation. Both can alter the final contributions for global efforts and have been at the origin of the concept of “Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)”.

Although Brazil and China are very distant from each other and have very different natural environments, they share concerns and convergent stances with regard to many of the global environmental challenges and coordinate under the negotiations and framework of various UN international conferences (UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD, among others) and the United Nations Environment Program. Their cooperation has been particularly strengthened in response to climate change and the formation of the BASIC group (Bra-

zil, South Africa, India and China) in 2009. Not only coordination under BASIC was crucial to the achievement of the Paris Agreement in 2015, but also, bilateral coordination was instrumental in advancing a common global agenda with other major players.

However, Brazil and China could extend their cooperation to address global environmental challenges much beyond. Historically, the bilateral cooperation in satellites (CBERS) has offered important contributions to georeferencing and mapping deforestation. But the current institutional bilateral framework is almost silent on environment and sustainable development. Notably, both the Minutes of the V COSBAN (Sino-Brazilian Cooperation and Coordination High Level Committee) meeting issued in May and the declaration that was issued following President Jair Bolsonaro's official state visit to Beijing on October 24-26 do not include any reference to the terms "environment" or "sustainable development". COSBAN has twelve sub-committees, but none dedicated to the environment, even though the theme underlies many of the existing sub-committees (space, agriculture, ST&I, Industry and IT, Inspection and Quarantine, Energy and Mining). The programmed revision of COSBAN's framework in 2020 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its mechanisms is an opportunity for both countries to enhance environmental challenges in their bilateral framework.

As expressed by Minister Izabella Teixeira, Brazil's former Minister of the Environment (reference in reading suggestions), *"There are various ways of approaching these questions and establishing how China and Brazil can cooperate in the contemporary world. One route involves a bold political reading of the environmental agenda, guided by an approach to the environment as an economic and social asset. We must consider the common interests between China and Brazil that can lead to real and effective connections with the environment and we must show strong leadership on sustainable development both domestically and internationally. This requires political and economic commitments, as well as an innovative vision of bilateral cooperation which can strengthen the global multilateral agenda. It demands coordination between domestic and foreign policies and a more profound debate on global issues, their solutions, and the impacts on quality of life and lifestyles in our societies."*

*We must establish some common, fundamental principles in order to structure a framework for environmental cooperation. The resulting partnerships could lead to gains that could be achieved by three strategic approaches and must put the environment as a key issue to be addressed by governments. These are:*

- 1. adopting a long-term perspective in each country based on common interests and concrete goals;*
- 2. coordinating actions to achieve results and strengthen bilateral relations;*
- 3. facilitating the building of common positions in the multilateral context;*

*These approaches should be guided by an understanding that the environmental agenda is also part of economic development choices, and should not be guided by a lack of political ambition. Both countries have a long way to go in reducing negative environmental impacts, in restoring*

*forests and improving new ways of decarbonizing. The latter goal can be achieved, for example, by transitioning from energy obtained from fossil fuels to renewable sources, or by enabling products from Brazil's low-carbon tropical agriculture industry to enter Chinese food markets.”*

The challenge of building a common environmental agenda will only succeed if it is completely aligned to broader national and global strategies, by ensuring the consistency (not always “coincidence”) between national and foreign policies. Recent developments in national policies may actually reinforce and accelerate common aspirations in energy efficiency and energy transition, food security, combatting deforestation, to name only a few areas. Actually, the challenge is to develop a new vision on how to approach industrial, agricultural and digital innovation projects that could have a strong link to the infrastructure and sustainable development agenda. This could help unlock the potential of the Brazil-China Fund for Industrial Cooperation and other financial cooperation agendas.

Moreover, the New Development Bank's role in supporting infrastructure and sustainable development offers pioneering and important avenues to build a common sustainable development agenda. In 2019, the bank opened its Brazil office in São Paulo, with a sub-office in Brasília. Exploring the perspectives of the Green Belt and Road Initiative could also shed light on a bilateral agenda. Finally, initiatives involving green bond and green financing could be further explored, including as a means of allowing for the full implementation of Brazil's Forest Code and NDC.

The year 2020 is full of opportunities to build a China-Brazil environmental agenda, not only through the review of COSBAN but also because China will host the 15th COP to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and as a key year for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The China Analysis Group's debate aims to offer contributions for Brazil and China in grasping those opportunities.

## Reading Suggestions

Andreoni, Manuela. What does Bolsonaro's China visit mean for environmental cooperation? *Diálogo Chino*, October 25, 2019. ([click to access](#))

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FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL (2015). INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

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Engels, A. Understanding how China is championing climate change mitigation. *Palgrave Communications* 4, 101 (2018) doi: 10.1057/s41599-018-0150-4.

República Federativa do Brasil. Declaração Conjunta entre a República Federativa do Brasil e a República Popular da China – 24 a 26 de outubro de 2019. [por ocasião da visita de Estado do Presidente Jair Bolsonaro à China]. ([click to access](#))

República Federativa do Brasil. Ata da V Reunião Plenária da Comissão Sino-Brasileira de Alto Nível de Concertação e Cooperação. 23 de maio de 2019. ([click to access](#))

Teixeira, Izabella. An Environmental Agenda for Brazil and China. *Diálogo Chino*, January 9, 2019. ([click to access](#))

Presentation:  
Izabella Teixeira

## XV China Analysis Group Meeting Brazil and China facing Global Environmental Challenges

Izabella Teixeira  
*Senior Fellow Meio Ambiente e Mudança do Clima*  
CEBRI – November, 2019

### Environment, Sustainability, and Global Issues

- Need to tell (new) stories based on the future
- Need to play an innovative role at the global and regional levels (emerging economies)
- Bilateral cooperation: a new push for the global environmental cooperation and national economic growth
- Bilateral cooperation based on needs (short-term) and on common interests (long term partnership)

## Environment, Sustainability, and Global Issues the world is changing

- Transitions: key opportunities for cooperation
- Global agenda: SDG, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Trade and NR use.
- Economic sectors: decoupling and transitions
- Disruptive technologies and innovation
- Cities x urban economy (resilience, efficiency, connectivity)

## Environment, Sustainability, and Global Issues Transitions

Climate Change & Biodiversity  
global losses and risks

Natural Resource Uses

Impacted and innovation  
oriented

Science-Policy oriented and human  
development agenda

Market-Business-Finance and trade  
Economic Growth

## Brazil and China: an environmental agenda (perspectives)

- (a) Until 2020: based on the actual cooperation on other areas x **co-benefits** (agriculture, mining, water security, energy transition) + **COP 15 – Biodiversity (in China, 2020)**
- (b) 2020-2030: infrastructure (low carbon and efficiency), new mining, sanitation, mobility, renewable energy, NBS.
- Urban economy and sustainability (Cities in the Amazon)
  - C&T and bio-economy (“Unicorns” in Amazon)
  - Trade x supply chains x traceability (commodities)
  - Business models and innovation: circular economy
- (c) 2020-2050: climate change and biodiversity (global issues) ↔ NCE + *Hope spots* ↔ *long term alignment + Pos-COP 15 and Beyond Paris Agreement implementation.*

## Climate Change agenda

leapfrogging: innovation + strategies for NCE and political will

### Brazil

- Accounts for 2.33% of global GHG emissions
- Current NDC: reduction in 37% GHG emissions by 2025 compared to 2005 **(to cut emissions; avoided emissions (end of the illegal deforestation) and carbon sink)**
- Long term aspiration to completely decarbonize the economy by 2100
- No low emissions development strategy approved today.
- NBS: biodiversity and climate change agendas - carbon neutrality
- Priority sectors: land use, deforestation + energy, industry and waste

### China

- Contributes 28,3% (+ US = 45%) of global GHG
- NDC target: peak CO<sub>2</sub> emissions around 2030 + lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP 60-65% by 2030 (from level 2005)
- Priority sectors for mitigation: transforming the economic development plan, agriculture, energy, disaster risk management, forestry, and water.
- Political will and priority: global role and domestic policies.

## China: Green Development Agenda and Climate Change

- Energy transition (energy consumption, energy supply, energy system revolutions + all-round energy security strategy)
- Industrial transformation (e-car, energy efficiency new standards)
- Green manufacturing and remanufacturing
- Infrastructure and connectivity (mobility and digital)
- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): low carbon technologies and sustainability (Human development and national policies)
- Mitigation Strategies, carbon neutrality and future NDCs
- Resilience & Adaptation
- Climate finance & carbon pricing

## Brazil and China: Cities

- *china's urbanization and industrialization over the last 30 years is one of the most impressive success stories. However, China's urbanization has been extremely land, energy and resource intensive.*
- China: new urbanization strategy .
- Cities: more green belts and urban parks .
- Air and water (sewage) pollution and health

Among the possible collaborations with Brazil that respond to China new urbanization strategy:

- **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** mobility
- **Financing Infill and Neighborhood Regeneration with Land Value Capture Finance**
- **Environmental quality in cities: air and water quality**
- **Bioclimatic urban fabric: to cool the cities**
- **Digital and connected cities (new urban economy)**
- **Cities in Amazon: leapfrogging & an inclusive connectivity**

## Brazil and China: economic sectors and trade

### Agriculture and land use

- Next 40 years: low carbon agriculture + infrastructure (demand)
- Food production: new tracks, including vulnerabilities and adaptation technologies
- Pesticides x bio-controllers
- Soil conservation and restoration + irrigation
- Ecosystems services x climate risks
- Traceability x compliance (business models)

### Mining

- New technologies x less impacts
- Phasing out tailings dams
- Traceability x trade
- Risk management systems and control.
- Low carbon and resource efficiency extraction technologies (extraction & processing x less environmental impact and more efficiency)

## Brazil and China: Environmental Dialogue

- Bilateral cooperation to strengthen the (new) multilateralism and to promote economic growth.
- Transitions: from short-term profitable business and trade to mid-term profitable and fair business and trade
- Short-term cooperation addressing steps to environmental co-benefits.
- Mid-term and long term cooperation: consolidate the bilateral cooperation, economic growth and address global issues
- Emerging economies leadership on global environmental issues.
- The environmental impacts of the disruptive technologies

## XV Meeting Participants

### Rio de Janeiro

Adriana Fortes	<i>Instituto Pandiá Calógeras</i>
Akio Takahara	<i>University of Tokyo</i>
Alexandre Lowenkron	<i>Bocom BBM</i>
Aline Rizzo	<i>IPEA</i>
Ana Toni	<i>Instituto Clima e Sociedade (iCS)</i>
Claudia Chamas	<i>Fundação Oswaldo Cruz</i>
Elisa Celino	<i>Consulado do Japão</i>
Fernanda Guardado	<i>Bocom BBM   CEBRI</i>
Gabriela Gonzalez Ribeiro Alves	<i>Petrobras</i>
Gerlane G. Andrade	<i>IPEA</i>
Izabella Teixeira	<i>CEBRI</i>
Jose Francisco Gouvea Vieira	<i>Gouvêa Vieira-Advogados</i>
José Pio Borges	<i>CEBRI</i>
Kamile Correa	<i>IPEA</i>
Maria Pia Müssnich	<i>FSB</i>
Paulo Afonso	<i>Instituto Pandiá Calógeras</i>
Paulo Ferracioli	<i>FGV</i>
Rika Ishikawa	<i>Consulado do Japão</i>
Susana Paz	<i>AaA/Puc-Rio</i>
Takashi Goto	<i>Consulado do Japão</i>
Tarcisio Feitosa	<i>CLUA</i>
Tetsuya Otsuru	<i>Consulado do Japão</i>

Tiago de Moraes Moreira	<i>Petrobras</i>
Tulio Cariello	<i>CEBC</i>
Ana Karina Wildt	<i>CEBRI</i>
Carla Duarte	<i>CEBRI</i>
Cintia Hoskinson	<i>CEBRI</i>
Gabriela Cavalcanti	<i>CEBRI</i>
Gabriel Torres	<i>CEBRI</i>
Monique Sochaczewski	<i>CEBRI</i>
Rodrigo Curty	<i>CEBRI</i>
Teresa Rossi	<i>CEBRI</i>

## Brasília

Ana Flávia Barros	<i>UnB/IREL</i>
Antonio Carlos Silva Ferreira	<i>Apex-Brasil</i>
Glauco Avelino Sampaio Oliveira	<i>IPEA/DINTE</i>
Ian Marins Seixas	<i>SAIN ME</i>
Ivan Tiago Machado Oliveira	<i>IPEA</i>
Katharina Enzensberger	<i>Embaixada da Áustria Brasília</i>
Marco Túlio Cabral	<i>MRE</i>
Michael Becker	<i>IEB - CEPF</i>
Niels	<i>UnB/IREL</i>
Patricia Seroa	<i>Embaixada da Austria</i>
Paulo Roberto de Almeida	<i>Itamaraty / Uniceub</i>

## Beijing

---

Ariana Guedes de Oliveira	<i>ALMT</i>
Celso de Tarso Pereira	<i>Embaixada do Brasil</i>
Flávio Luís Pazeto	<i>Embaixada do Brasil</i>
Germano Faria Correa	<i>Embaixada do Brasil</i>
Larissa Lima Costa	<i>Embaixada do Brasil</i>
Pedro Henrique Barbosa	<i>MRE</i>
Tatiana Rosito	<i>Petrobras/CEBRI</i>
Wen Hong Xie	

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## Mato Grosso

---

Rita de Cassia Oliveira Chiletto

---

## Belo Horizonte

---

Márcio Pereira

---



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Luiz Felipe de Seixas Corrêa

Luiz Fernando Furlan

Marcos Azambuja

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Sebastião Salgado

# MEMBERS

In February 2020



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## Individual members

Adriano Abdo  
Álvaro Otero  
Antonio Alberto Gouvêa Vieira  
Antonio Poncioni Mérian  
Arminio Fraga  
Carlos Leoni de Siqueira  
Carlos Mariani Bittencourt  
Celso Lafer  
Claudine Bichara de Oliveira  
Cristina Pinho  
Décio Oddone  
Eduardo Prisco Paraíso Ramos  
Fernando Bodstein  
Fernando Cariola Travassos  
Frederico Axel Lundgren  
Guilherme Frering  
Henrique Rzezinski  
Jaques Scvirer  
João Felipe Viegas Figueira de Mello  
João Roberto Marinho  
José Francisco Gouvêa Vieira  
José Roberto de Castro Neves  
Larissa Wachholz

Laura Pinheiro  
Leonardo Coelho Ribeiro  
Marcelo Weyland Barbosa Vieira  
Marcio João de Andrade Fortes  
Maria Pia Mussnich  
Mauro Viegas Filho  
Najad Khouri  
Paulo Ferracioli  
Pedro Leitão da Cunha  
Ricardo Levisky  
Roberto Abdenur  
Roberto Amadeu Milani  
Roberto Guimarães Martins-Costa  
Roberto Pereira de Almeida  
Roberto Prisco Paraiso Ramos  
Roberto Teixeira da Costa  
Rosana Lanzelotte  
Sergio Zappa  
Stelio Marcos Amarante  
Thomas Trebat  
Tomas Zinner  
Vitor Hallack



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#### **WHERE WE ARE:**

Rua Marquês de São Vicente, 336  
Gávea, Rio de Janeiro - RJ - Brazil  
22451-044  
Tel: +55 (21) 2206-4400  
[cebri@cebri.org.br](mailto:cebri@cebri.org.br)



[www.cebri.org](http://www.cebri.org)