

# *The Coupling of the Concept of "A Community with A Shared Future for Mankind" and Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment*

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**Keywords:** Silk Road Economic Belt; Outbound Investment; Environmental Protection; a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind; Cooperative Regulation

**Abstract:** Generally speaking, Chinese enterprises are facing a variety of environmental risks in the investment of the countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt, especially in Central Asia. For example, the environmental risk brought by the construction project itself, the environmental regulation risk of the host country, the risk of environmental damage liability, the risk of resolving environmental disputes and the risk of international public opinion and so on. These risks have different degrees of impact due to the natural and economic and social development of the host country, the environmental protection norms system of the host country, international bilateral and multilateral environmental protection rules and domestic environmental protection norms. In the face of many environmental risks, China should learn from the international useful experience and embed the concept of "community with a shared future for mankind" from the perspectives of perfecting norms, enhancing dialogue and improving the way of cooperation. To establish an image of a responsible global power and effectively respond to international public opinion, it is imperative for China to strengthen environmental governance of its enterprises' overseas investments along the Silk Road Economic Belt. In the specific path choice, we can start from the domestic and international levels to build a comprehensive risk prevention system.

## **1. Introduction**

The vision of a "community with a shared future for mankind" proposed by general secretary has charted the course for global development. Under this framework, nations must balance domestic interests and economic growth with international responsibilities. It is crucial to recognize that global communities are deeply interconnected, where harming others' interests inevitably harms oneself. This concept encompasses five core principles: shared power distribution, common interests, sustainable development, and global governance—all inherently linked to environmental protection. The vision underscores that environmental conservation should be integrated into the allocation of international rights, sustainable development, shared interests, and global governance. Environmental protection transcends being merely a standalone issue; it is fundamentally intertwined with international relations, development strategies, and global governance, demanding

urgent attention and concrete action. Nations must understand that Earth serves as humanity's shared home, where "humans and nature form a community with a shared future, and their relationship constitutes the most fundamental social bond." Therefore, domestic legislation, regulatory frameworks, and judicial systems must not only enforce environmental standards domestically but also account for transnational impacts. This reality necessitates establishing legal foundations in domestic policies addressing environmental protection in overseas investments.

At the same time, it should be noted that the elaboration of the "community with a shared future for mankind" regarding the relationship between humans and nature as well as relations among nations indirectly reflects the necessity and inevitability of the international community's transition to an "integrated phase" in environmental protection. The concept of a "community with a shared future for mankind" elucidates the inevitable connections among people of various countries in today's international society. The principles of joint participation and international democracy advocated in modern environmental protection actions are not only fundamental requirements of the "integrated phase," but also serve as indirect evidence of the international power perspective and global governance vision within this concept. Moreover, there exists a coupling relationship between the "community with a shared future for mankind" concept, the ecological civilization construction concept, and the "Silk Road Economic Belt" strategy. This coupling aligns with current international environmental protection trends such as international cooperation and green trade. The institutional value of the "community with a shared future for mankind" concept lies in its ability to guide specific institutional designs that integrate these important concepts or trends, steering related activities toward directions beneficial to China and international environmental protection. Notably, the dominant power structure established by Western countries continues to dominate mainstream international discourse, particularly in Central Asia. On environmental issues, Western nations prioritize safeguarding their own economic interests, frequently interfering in other countries' environmental policies under the guise of human rights. Such interventions can influence public opinion in these nations. Western countries have consistently attempted to exert influence and control over Central Asian states. They leverage their formidable military and diplomatic capabilities along with strong media influence to shape dialogue and public opinion within Central Asian societies. Over the past two decades, China's trade volume with Central Asia has grown 24-fold, making it a major recipient of commodity exports from Central Asian countries and an important source of foreign investment. However, Western media and other entities often portray China as a "corrupt entrepreneur." By incorporating the concept of a "community with a shared future for mankind" into domestic legislation, Chinese enterprises can strengthen their reputation in overseas expansion and effectively challenge environmental policies imposed by the Western hegemonic order [2].

## **2. The concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" and the proposal of environmental protection in foreign investment**

### **2.1 The concept of a community with a shared future for mankind provides a new governance solution**

We are seeing a shift from opposition to collaborative governance. The fate of human society concerns the overall harmony of human existence. Human society impacts the collective interests of the international community and shapes the shared future of humanity. The territorial and commercial expansions during the Hellenistic period, along with the large-scale development of ancient Roman commerce, formed vast transcontinental trade networks that enabled Roman law to regulate the commodity economy of the time. Although globalization or legal globalization did not exist then, the direct impetus of commercial civilization for globalization remains undeniable. The

expansion of Western civilization's commerce and order was forged through sustained commercial activities and institutional safeguards. Colonial expansion further propelled the development of industrial-commercial civilization, thereby driving the establishment of a global system rooted in this civilization. Initially, this global system was clearly driven by the Western world with capital, technology, and cultural foundations. This is because industrial-commercial civilization had been elevated into a rigorous institutional framework, first established in Western Europe, which could not form suppressed legal globalization. Suppressed legal globalization also refers to institutional safeguards implemented through peaceful means by capital seeking outlets and interests, ultimately enforced through military force. The pursuit of maximizing benefits is embedded in the demand structures of nations, ethnic groups, and entities, striving to maintain and promote these interests through rational legal forms. Global economic trade, political dialogue, and cultural exchange not only require domestic legal coordination and control but also need universally recognized and shared rules to ensure their stability. When the international community arranges international affairs according to a country's dialogue capacity or actual influence, the basic basis for the exercise of power is that the power arrangement pattern of the international community is bound to be unbalanced, and the restraint mechanism of international power will gradually shrink [3].

The fate of the human community requires closer international cooperation and coordination to sustain it, which demands that independent sovereign states shift from traditional competitive thinking to modern interdependence concepts, and transition from historically self-interested development models to current collaborative states pursuing common interests. The concept of a shared future for humanity should transcend traditional notions of international society. The common interests of humanity are global and sustainable. The community concept based on shared human interests holds a higher strategic position and better reflects the collective consciousness of humanity. While the interests of other countries are not clearly defined, environmental and human rights values intertwine human interests [4]. This requires nations to reasonably consider the interests and concerns of other countries while exercising their legitimate rights. As China naturally evolves from a major trading nation to an investment powerhouse, and shifts from commodity exports to capital outflows-particularly with the advancement of the Silk Road Economic Belt construction-China's overseas interests will inevitably expand, and the importance of overseas investment security and personnel safety will become increasingly prominent. Therefore, it is essential to keep pace with the times, effectively protect the interests of Chinese enterprises and citizens, while also accommodating host countries' interests and concerns. Through carefully designed bilateral investment agreements and other means, a moderate balance between both aspects can be achieved [5].

The second key evolution is from fragmented to systematic governance. A core principle is the evolution from fragmented to systematic governance. Building a "community with a shared future for mankind" requires reevaluating nature, abandoning binary oppositional views of natural systems, and harmonizing human-nature relationships. The survival of all life on Earth depends on ecosystem stability. As Holmes Rolston noted: "Neither individual organisms nor species can survive in isolation; their ecosystems must coexist. Every organism or species interacts with others while maintaining its own value through value exchange within the system." Ultimately, the human-nature relationship will transform into human-human relations [6]. Therefore, this community model demands equitable and humane approaches to interpersonal interactions, starting with ecological thinking and adopting a systemic perspective on societal challenges. History shows that attempts to resolve ecological crises in isolation proved short-lived and harmful. Effective solutions inherently require interdependence. The community concept recognizes the global interconnectedness of environment, ecology, and humanity. Global risks present unprecedented challenges that no nation or individual can address alone [7].

Third, the governance paradigm transitioning from confrontation to cooperation. While current international law remains a state-centric legal system, the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind will inevitably steer global governance toward socialized development. Socially-oriented legal governance inherently prioritizes social interests as its fundamental purpose or value orientation. The principles of security and solidarity should govern all branches and systems of international law. For instance, the "prevention principle" in international environmental law embodies these principles. In managing international, regional, or domestic environmental issues, preventive measures should be implemented for substances or activities that may harm the environment-even when no conclusive evidence exists-through control mechanisms to prevent environmental hazards. Japan's comprehensive industrial pollution prevention efforts began in the 1960s, initially addressing severe pollution caused by extensive industrial development. During this phase, environmental protection required substantial funding. Investment in eco-friendly initiatives surged dramatically, with environmental protection investments skyrocketing from 47 billion yen in 1967 to 111.4 billion yen between 1967 and 1971. The 1973 oil crisis compelled Japanese enterprises to overhaul production processes and upgrade pollution control facilities from the source. This period saw Japan implement stricter environmental standards and public nuisance compensation laws, driving industrial pollution control to its peak in the mid-1970s. By 1981, Japan's environmental investment had reached 1.203 trillion yen, marking a tenfold increase over the decade.

The precautionary approach to potentially harmful substances or behaviors is fundamentally grounded in the awareness that laissez-faire attitudes could endanger human security, aligning with the core principles of unity, safety, and harmony for humanity. From an ontological perspective, the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind represents a globally transformative collective endeavor. This paradigm shift challenges traditional dominance-based logic, as building such a community carries dual significance: reshaping international social structures and advancing the re-socialization of governance systems [8]. As David Snow's theory suggests, social movements constitute organized resistance against specific power structures. Specifically, they employ sustained, structured campaigns to challenge authority within groups, societies, cultures, or global order frameworks. The current irrationality of global political-economic systems drives developing nations to pursue fairer international order, better peace and development conditions, and even prioritize humanity's collective interests [9]. However, hegemonic powers and their allies suppress emerging nations to maintain global dominance, intensifying tensions. Constructing a community with a shared future for mankind isn't about opposing international order leaders, but rather establishing a balanced global community through coexistence and shared governance – a model that harmonizes humanity's collective interests with individual needs [4].

## **2.2 The concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" encourages responsible investors and investment behaviors**

First, it is essential to strengthen the alignment between investment and environmental interests, thereby boosting enterprises' capacity to meet their environmental legal obligations. Both the "pollution haven" hypothesis (which posits that foreign investment transfers high-polluting and high-emission industries to host countries as the original sin of environmental pollution in these nations) and the "pollution halo" hypothesis (which argues that foreign investment can improve host countries' environmental conditions through technology transfer and management upgrades) demonstrate that coordinating with host countries' environmental protection efforts is crucial for high-quality development of overseas investments. The performance of foreign investment, environmental coordination with host countries, and fulfillment of social responsibilities constitute

three dimensions of responsible major powers' high-quality overseas investment development. The ownership advantages of domestic enterprises provide specific resources, knowledge, or capabilities that foreign companies lack or cannot obtain. These are key sources for responsible major powers to build new competitive advantages through these three dimensions of overseas investment. Government departments and industry associations should guide foreign-invested enterprises to actively enhance their awareness of environmental coordination and social responsibility with host countries. As outlined in the "Green Development Guidelines for Overseas Investment Cooperation," this should shift from meeting host countries' minimum pollution prevention standards to advocating green development. Encouraging host countries to moderately raise environmental protection standards, actively improving corporate-host country environmental coordination levels, and enhancing social responsibility fulfillment can create a long-term business-friendly environment for host countries. This approach increases foreign-invested enterprises' access to government support and public trust, ultimately promoting high-quality development of overseas investments.

Secondly, enterprises should strengthen internal capacity building and enhance the cultivation of ownership advantages. The ownership advantage of enterprises has a significant positive impact on environmental coordination and social responsibility fulfillment in host countries. This represents a crucial manifestation of high-quality development in China's outbound investment, particularly during the current phase of global industrial and supply chain restructuring. It is essential to guide enterprises to recognize that their unique assets, resources, knowledge, or capabilities serve as vital drivers for sustained high-quality development in overseas investments. Government departments and industry associations should steer outbound investment enterprises toward industrial upgrading, promoting two-way high-level openness and common development through the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind. Multinational corporations should be guided to achieve economies of scale, avoiding blind pursuit of size while fully leveraging their advantages in product and factor markets to accelerate the enhancement of these competitive edges, thereby better facilitating high-quality development in overseas investments. Additionally, enterprises with ownership advantages can effectively reduce unit energy consumption through economies of scale, adopt more advanced green technologies and equipment, and improve environmental governance practices, directly enhancing host countries' environmental benefits and ecological standards [10].

Domestic enterprises should also note that overseas Chinese enterprises generally comply with local laws and regulations when applying for environmental permits, but obtaining such permits does not mean they can rest easy. For instance, a Chinese enterprise's development project at a European port was halted by an administrative court after its environmental permit was reviewed, as the court ruled that no project approval could be issued before the completion of the higher-level strategic environmental assessment for the port. Another case involves a Chinese enterprise's project in a South Asian port city that had already commenced construction, which was suspended by the new government citing "re-examination" of environmental documents. After about a year of coordination, the project was finally allowed to resume construction. Compliance with emission standards may still face challenges. Even when enterprises meet pollutant discharge requirements, they may still encounter environmental scrutiny due to factors like the NIMBY effect. It is evident that during overseas investments, Chinese enterprises must not only adhere to explicit and visible regulations but also effectively prevent or address potential procedural impacts or compliance risks. This is particularly crucial in politically unstable countries or regions where environmental compliance standards often fluctuate based on political group or individual attitudes. Therefore, enterprises need to strengthen internal risk management capabilities by considering how host countries' compliance systems might be affected during overseas investments.

Third, this involves building a more compliant investment environment for enterprises by

integrating the principle of an environmental community with a shared future into investment access and the entire investment process. Enterprises should fulfill environmental information reporting obligations during the pre-approval stage of investment projects, regularly release environmental information during the mid-phase construction and post-completion operation stages, and promptly disclose measures to be taken in case of environmental damage. Enterprises should clearly understand the unique environmental legal risks at different stages such as project approval, construction, and completion and commissioning. They are encouraged to implement China's laws and standards that exceed host country environmental standards in overseas operations to minimize environmental risks and avoid legal liabilities. Incentive mechanisms should be introduced to encourage enterprises to voluntarily implement environmental protection plans. As investors' home countries, measures should be taken to help enterprises reduce pollution control costs and incentivize their environmental performance in pollution management. Punitive measures should be imposed on enterprises that may face various environmental litigation and arbitration disputes due to neglect of environmental issues in the future.

Finally, we must promote the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind among overseas investors and ensure it is operationalized in their practices. Enterprises should enhance their sense of social responsibility by aligning their organizational goals with the host country's ecological civilization development. Active participation in local environmental initiatives and close communication with NGOs should be encouraged. In the event of ecological damage, prompt contact with the host country's environmental authorities, social organizations, and local communities via forums, hearings, and dialogues is essential to seek reconciliation. Outside of formal legal mechanisms, collaboration with local enterprises familiar with legal frameworks can help share risks and address restoration challenges; alternatively, consultation with reputable local third-party institutions is advised. Full transparency must be ensured by comprehensively gathering public feedback from potentially affected local communities throughout the project's operation [11].

### **2.3 The concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" requires strengthening the subjectivity of enterprises in environmental governance**

As early as 2006, the United Nations collaborated with heads of major global investment institutions to launch the "Principles for Responsible Investment" (PRI) initiative, establishing six core investment guidelines that require investors to integrate environmental considerations into their analysis, policy implementation, and disclosure practices. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), which has long facilitated foreign investment flows to developing countries, maintains rigorous social and environmental standards. Projects guaranteed by MIGA must comply with its environmental regulations, with its Environmental Office conducting evaluations and oversight of investments under the Social and Environmental Assessment Procedure. For Category A projects with significant pollution risks, MIGA mandates investor consultations, disclosure obligations, and on-site inspections. In 2015, the 70th UN General Assembly adopted the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", outlining 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Subsequently, during the 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit chaired by China, the "G20 Global Investment Guidelines" were adopted, establishing a multilateral framework for international investment that incorporates sustainable development principles, corporate accountability, and host country regulatory oversight-all aligned with environmental protection laws and policies.

Environmental impact assessment serves as a critical determinant for investment project approvals. In Vietnam, the Ministry of Resources and Environment, provincial governments, and relevant ministries jointly oversee environmental evaluations for projects through national,

provincial, and departmental channels. Approved environmental reports must include comprehensive assessments of local ecological conditions, potential environmental impacts, mitigation strategies, and commitments from enterprises to implement eco-friendly measures during construction and operation. The Philippines' Presidential Decree No.1586 requires project developers to submit either an "Environmental Impact Statement" or an "Initial Environmental Impact Assessment Report" to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These documents undergo evaluation by the Environmental Management Authority regarding potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, with approval for environmental compliance certificates required before project implementation. Singapore mandates that companies engage qualified third-party consultants to conduct pollution control assessments, including identification of waste, noise, and hazardous chemical risks, with final reports submitted to the National Environment Agency for review. Regarding emission standards and penalties, Vietnam enforces strict regulations requiring all manufacturers to install pollution control systems. Non-compliant enterprises face immediate shutdowns for rectification, while all businesses must adhere to national environmental standards and technical specifications. Resource-intensive industries are additionally subject to government-imposed environmental protection fees. The Philippines enacted the Pollution Control Act, which primarily covers air quality management, water quality management, land use regulation, natural resource management and protection, as well as waste management. Specific regulations are still governed by dedicated legislation for each category. Singapore enforces particularly stringent standards for air quality and wastewater treatment, requiring enterprises that may cause air pollution to install special equipment to ensure emissions meet national standards. The country has established national discharge standards for industrial wastewater and installed automatic monitoring devices at production wastewater outlets. These systems automatically shut off when emissions exceed limits, with only environmental protection bureau staff authorized to restart the gates [12].

The disclosure obligation of investors refers to the duty of enterprises to appropriately disclose and explain information to their home country and host countries in overseas investments, provided that commercial secrets are not involved. In cross-border investments, fulfilling this obligation is essential given the need for trust-building. Companies should disclose information to governments of both home and host countries, as well as local residents where investment projects are located, thereby enhancing communication between stakeholders and fostering mutual trust and win-win cooperation. Auditing authorities shall review environmental information disclosure practices of audited entities regarding investment projects. For non-confidential content, comprehensive disclosure must be ensured, while actively addressing concerns raised by host government agencies, civil organizations, local communities, and even international environmental groups. When project delays or cancellations result from inadequate disclosure, accountability should be pursued against responsible project managers. State-owned enterprises (SOEs) bear due diligence and supervision obligations regarding local partners during project operations. In practice, some environmental risks in overseas investments stem not from SOEs' own environmental actions, but rather from inadequate supply chain management or misconduct by upstream/downstream partners, leading to severe ecological damage. Ultimately, however, China bears the brunt of public criticism and economic losses [12].

Before initiating investment projects, enterprises should conduct comprehensive environmental risk assessment and identification, systematically complete environmental evaluations before project implementation to ensure risks remain within controllable limits, and implement dynamic monitoring during project advancement to prevent unforeseen risks. Chinese enterprises should standardize environmental tax payment practices, collaborate with host countries to build shared development communities with mutual benefits. They should also actively seek international



organizations and financial institutions as third-party guarantors for financing or insurance, providing robust and sustainable financial support for investment projects to achieve a high degree of alignment between environmental risks and benefits. Additionally, enterprises should actively involve representatives from host communities, governments, and legal professionals to establish environmental remediation coordination mechanisms, clarify specific remediation measures and standard systems, and ensure comprehensive policy implementation through third-party supervision by local communities, thereby shaping a positive image of responsible Chinese enterprises [13].

### **3. Legal path of environmental protection in foreign investment under the concept of "community with a shared future for mankind"**

First, the fundamental shift in investment-environment governance from laissez-faire liberalism to equilibrium liberalism. Laissez-faire liberalism advocates free markets, open trade, and unrestricted capital flows, blindly promoting investment liberalization while protecting private investor rights. In contrast, equilibrium liberalism embodies sustainable development principles, where safeguarding public interests constitutes a crucial element in achieving these goals. To fulfill this mission, governments play an indispensable role, with state intervention and regulatory frameworks in capital source countries becoming increasingly vital. Many economically underdeveloped developing nations sacrifice environmental and social governance to attract foreign investment [14]. Developed countries, after achieving economic takeoff through the "pollute first, develop later" approach, recognized environmental protection's importance for long-term national development. They began strictly restricting the growth of highly polluting and resource-intensive enterprises domestically, yet rarely imposed similar restrictions on their overseas investments. Consequently, industries facing stringent environmental policies in developed countries increasingly relocate to developing nations with lower environmental standards. Meanwhile, multinational corporations employ double standards: subsidiaries in developed countries implement high-standard environmental measures, while those in developing countries adopt minimal eco-friendly practices, exacerbating environmental degradation in developing regions. As legal systems improve and rights awareness grows in developing countries, nations with less developed legal and economic frameworks are beginning to impose restrictions on foreign investment to protect domestic industries. In order to attract foreign investment, the original host country often added stability clauses to BIT to freeze the power of the host government to amend laws, so as to prevent the foreign investment legal and commercial investment environment from changing. Although these stability clauses are conducive to investment liberalization, they have a restrictive effect on the regulatory space of the host country.

Second, advancing new international investment agreements that incorporate balanced environmental protection obligations. As international environmental standards are continuously updated, this drives host countries to adopt increasingly stringent environmental legislation. As noted earlier, when sovereign states join new multilateral, regional, or bilateral environmental treaties, or when normative outcomes emerge from emerging environmental social movements, most host countries undergo a process-driven domestic adaptation. Meanwhile, parent countries may upgrade their environmental legislation to meet legal requirements for investment protection. Secondly, some international laws inherently possess robust enforcement mechanisms and dedicated dispute resolution systems. For instance, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) under the World Trade Organization (WTO), while regulating free trade, requires WTO dispute settlement bodies to consider environmental protection claims when addressing trade disputes through its general exception clause on environmental resource protection (Article 20). Thirdly, principles from international environmental law, human rights law, and general



international law may be interpreted as requiring sovereign states to prevent domestic enterprises from damaging foreign environments [15]. For example, environmental impact assessments have been recognized as constituting customary international law, meaning that even without explicit provisions in inter-state investment treaties or corporate agreements, companies must conduct environmentally compliant assessments meeting procedural requirements and substantive standards. Meanwhile, the precautionary principle is also considered an emerging customary rule, indicating that multinational corporations must implement environmental due diligence and prudential obligations throughout the initiation and execution of investment activities [16]. For instance, China has become a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The environmental provisions in this convention can be interpreted as requiring China to oversee overseas investment enterprises' participation in the host country's environmental governance framework from perspectives such as human rights, consultation, and procedural transparency [17]. Fourthly, while protecting investments, international investment law has begun to balance the interests of both the home country and the host country, gradually recognizing the host country's regulatory authority over the environment. This serves as a crucial lever for environmental and human rights considerations in the international investment landscape [18].

A third priority is to draw on the rule of law to strengthen the legal framework for China's outbound investment environment. In 2007, the State Forestry Administration issued the "Guidelines for Sustainable Management and Utilization of Overseas Forests by Chinese Enterprises", dedicated to global forest resource conservation, restoration, and sustainable development. In 2012, the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) promulgated the "Green Credit Guidelines", requiring financial institution boards or councils in the banking sector to establish and implement green credit principles (such as conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development), promoting comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable socio-economic development while establishing a win-win model for corporate and societal sustainability. In 2013, the Ministry of Commerce and the former Ministry of Environmental Protection jointly issued the "Environmental Protection Guidelines for Outbound Investment Cooperation", urging overseas investment enterprises to adopt environmentally friendly and resource-efficient investment concepts, establish low-carbon and green economic strategies, and achieve a win-win situation between corporate profits and environmental protection. In 2013, the Ministry of Commerce also issued the "Regulations on Standardizing Competitive Practices in Outbound Investment Cooperation", requiring healthy and sustainable development of outbound investment cooperation activities, regulating business practices of overseas investment enterprises, and encouraging fair competition while combating unfair practices. In 2015, the People's Bank of China, the Ministry of Finance, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (formerly the Ministry of Environmental Protection), CBRC, CSRC, and CIRC jointly released the "Guiding Opinions on Building a Green Financial System", positioning China as a pioneer in establishing green financing mechanisms and facilitating the transition to a sustainable growth economy. The "Measures for the Administration of Overseas Investment by Enterprises" consists of 66 articles across six chapters: General Provisions, Overseas Investment Guidance and Services, Approval and Filing of Overseas Investment Projects, Overseas Investment Supervision, Legal Liability, and Supplementary Provisions. Article 1 establishes the principle of "promoting the sustained and healthy development of overseas investment," positioning this as one of its core objectives. Article 41 further advocates for innovative approaches in overseas investment, urging entities to "fulfill necessary social responsibilities and prioritize ecological conservation." The regulations explicitly require enterprises engaged in overseas investments to fulfill essential social obligations and demonstrate environmental stewardship.

Fourth, we must respond to the global governance trend of aligning investment with

environmental protection for sustainable development. (1) We must elevate environmental protection to a national legal priority. Contracting Parties shall not lower domestic protection standards or obstruct the normal implementation of their environmental laws through active or passive measures to attract foreign investment. However, the agreement stipulates that domestic environmental laws must not constitute restrictions or discrimination against foreign investment for "protectionist" purposes. (2) We must actively promote green investment. Contracting Parties shall facilitate and encourage investments in environmental goods and services, and agree to strengthen cooperation in exchanging experiences and best practices regarding environmental impact assessments for major environmental investments. (3) We should integrate climate change considerations into investment decisions. Contracting Parties shall commit to investing in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, striving to achieve the objectives and purposes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. Article 9.16 of the CPTPP Investment Chapter addresses "Investment and Environmental, Health, and Other Regulatory Objectives," stating: "Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted as preventing a Contracting Party from taking, maintaining, or implementing any appropriate measures consistent with this chapter that it deems necessary to ensure that investment activities within its territory actively consider environmental, health, or other regulatory objectives." Article 9.17 on "Corporate Social Responsibility" reaffirms: "Contracting Parties reiterate the importance of encouraging enterprises operating or under their jurisdiction within their territories to voluntarily incorporate internationally recognized standards, guidelines, and principles of corporate social responsibility endorsed by the Contracting Parties into their internal policies." The preamble to the China-Canada Bilateral Investment Treaty (China-Canada BIT) that took effect in 2014 mentioned: "Investment promotion shall be based on the principles of sustainable development." The 2011 China-Uzbekistan BIT (2011) explicitly stated in its preamble that the agreement aims to "promote healthy, stable, and sustainable economic development." The China-EU Investment Agreement completed negotiations in 2020 linked investment with environmental protection to reflect sustainable development [19]. Specifically, this is manifested in: (1) Elevating the legal status of domestic environmental protection. Contracting parties shall not lower domestic protection standards or obstruct the normal implementation of environmental laws through active or passive measures to attract foreign investment. However, the agreement also stipulates that domestic environmental laws shall not constitute restrictions or discrimination against foreign investment for "protectionist" purposes. (2) Promoting green investment. Both parties shall encourage investments in environmentally impactful goods and services and agree to strengthen cooperation in exchanging experiences and best practices regarding environmental impact assessments for major investments affecting the environment. (3) Linking investment to climate change. Both parties shall commit to investing in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, striving to achieve the objectives and purposes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement [1].

#### 4. Conclusions

As far as the international path is concerned, in the face of the prevailing unilateralism in international environmental protection, China should unswervingly practice cooperativism. In terms of basic ideas, China should take a positive attitude to deal with the complicated international situation, make full use of the existing international environmental protection rules, and reduce the negative impact of some international rules on our country. and strive to improve the relevant system of environmental protection for foreign investment in the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt. In terms of specific measures, China can try to work with other countries to

promulgate the relevant demonstration rules on environmental protection of the Silk Road Economic Belt, set up institutions for environmental impact assessment and collaborative governance, and build a dialogue and consultation platform and cooperation mechanism for resolving environmental contradictions. We will enhance in-depth cooperation with countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt, especially the five Central Asian countries.

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