



FELLOWSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE POST

Title:	Fellow (Sustainable Finance)
Sector of assignment:	Sustainable Finance
Organizational unit:	UNDP China
Country and Duty Station:	Beijing, China
Fellowship duration:	12 months
Expected Start Date:	Mar 2025

II. CORPORATE BACKGROUND:

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN’s development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. FELLOWSHIP OFFICE BACKGROUND:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China is the China country office of the United Nations Development Programme – the global development network of the United Nations. UNDP has been working in China over the past 40 years, partnering to advance various phases of China’s development. UNDP China Office has been assisting the Chinese government and stakeholders across different sectors in developing sustainable solutions to its own ongoing development challenges, including multi-dimensional poverty as well as energy & environment for more than four decades. We provide development advisory services and implement projects through innovation and applying our international experience and network in three pillars: supporting China’s transformation to a low-carbon economy for a cleaner, healthier environment for all; facilitating China’s shift to using the SDGs as a standard for its inclusive development, economic decisions and investments; and supporting China’s international cooperation and south-south engagement for SDG attainment.

The Fellowship Programme, in collaboration with partners, marks the first step in the SDG Fellowships Accelerating Sustainable Transformation Initiative (SDG FAST). It is designed to develop a pipeline of talented young professionals who are engaged and supporting to accelerate the SDGs and national development priorities in China. The fellows will also have the opportunity to gain access to extensive learning resources, including relevant practical knowledge, corporate learning materials, domestic and international working experiences, under the mentorship and supervision of professionals in UNDP China.

The SDGs calls for unprecedented cooperation across all of society – including governments, communities, civil society and the private sector, and achieving them requires overcoming a critical financing gap. As the world’s second largest economy, China is increasingly recognized as an important player in global sustainable finance market and financial system reforms. Since 2016, China has established a comprehensive policy framework for greening its financial system. Its efforts in redirecting financial resources for environmental objectives are essential to meet the global sustainable development goals.

Building on China’s achievements, UNDP stands to work with partners across the public and private sectors to enhance SDG-alignments in China’s financial system by increasing data availability, boosting transparency, harmonising standards, and facilitating international experience sharing.

Fellowship Scope: The Fellow will have the opportunity to work closely with Strategic Partnership and Policy team to support below projects under the supervision of Team Leader.

- Financing the Transition toward Net-Zero and Climate Resilience of China’s Agri-Food System
- Scoping ESG performance of the Chinese Banking Industry

III. DUTIES:

The Fellow will assist in the following duties and responsibilities:

No	Duties and responsibilities	% of time
1	<p>Financing the Transition toward Net-Zero and Climate Resilience of China’s Agri-Food System</p> <p>This is a research project in collaboration with Peking University and the Climate Bond Initiative. The primary objective is to produce a comprehensive research report that assesses existing initiatives, tools, and methodologies relevant to China's agri-food system, both domestically and globally. The report will analyse case studies of transition finance aimed at promoting sustainable agri-food development. It will also explore potential transition pathways for agri-food entities and identify investment opportunities for asset owners and managers, all while emphasizing the key principles and hallmarks of credible transitions within China's agri-food system. The project aims to provide actionable suggestions to key stakeholders for enhancing the financial architecture and incentive mechanisms aligned with the SDGs for the agri-food sector.</p> <p>Key Tasks and Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Research Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct data analysis and literature reviews to support policy research. • Prepare summary notes summarizing key findings and insights. 2. Quality Assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in translation efforts as needed. • Draft and polish research reports for clarity and coherence. 3. Event Management and Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and coordinate workshops, as well as launch events related to the project. • Draft materials for public release, including talking points and speech notes to effectively communicate project outcomes and insights. 	40%
2	<p>Scoping ESG performance of the Chinese Banking Industry</p> <p>This is a research project in collaboration with the Green Finance Committee of the China Society for Finance and Banking. The primary objective is to produce a policy brief that assesses the current state of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) integration within the Chinese banking sector. The brief will provide an overview of progress made in ESG practices, identify key opportunities and challenges, and explore strategic pathways to enhance the role of the banking sector in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Key Tasks and Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Research Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct data analysis and literature reviews to support policy research. • Prepare summary notes summarizing key findings and insights. 2. Quality Assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in translation efforts as needed. • Draft and polish research reports for clarity and coherence. 3. Event Management and Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and coordinate workshops, as well as launch events related to the project. 	40%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft materials for public release, including talking points and speech notes to effectively communicate project outcomes and insights. 	
3	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support other/ad hoc activities as seen relevant and needed in areas of climate/green/transition finance, gender lens finance, Impact measurement and reporting, debt instrument innovation, sustainable fiscal policies, etc. 	20%

IV. REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Candidates must meet one of the following educational requirements:

- Master's/PhD students or graduate Preferably majoring or having work experience in development studies, public policy, economics or finance, international development, law, or other social sciences.

Language skills:

- Advanced command of English
- Fluency in understanding Chinese language in formal governmental style.

Desired Experience or Competencies

- Demonstrate competency of achieving results within deadline, quick learning, being flexible in handling change and adopt new approaches of working, multitasking, work under high pressure and fast pace.
- Exhibit a high standard of integrity and professionalism.

Other competencies and attitude:

- Take pride in working with UNDP, passionate to make a difference.