# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018 FOR CHINA DIALOGUE TRUST (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)



Chariot House Limited Chartered Accountants 44 Grand Parade Brighton East Sussex BN2 9QA

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### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Company for the purposes of the Company Law, present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.

#### INTRODUCTION

China Dialogue Trust has a twelve-year track record of disseminating high-quality information and promoting communication on environment and climate change in both Chinese and English. We provide a space for open discussion, with the aim of informing and educating people, and contributing to building equitable and constructive solutions to global environmental problems. We believe that this requires a common purpose across political, ideological and cultural boundaries. We foster that common purpose by providing our readers with independent and accurate information that may otherwise be difficult to access, and by facilitating tolerant and constructive dialogue.

China Dialogue Trust researches, writes, commissions, edits and publishes bilingual news reports and analysis of environmental affairs. This stimulates the exchange of information and ideas both among Chinese and between Chinese and non-Chinese readers on multiple platforms. China Dialogue Trust's primary vehicle is the website, www.chinadialogue.net, a unique bilingual platform for high-quality content that includes extended reports, policy briefs, blog posts and book reviews on environmental and climate change issues that affect China and the world.

chinadialogue is trusted for the independence, reliability and even-handedness it brings to reporting on issues that may be considered contentious. This has allowed us to build a network of distinguished Chinese and international contributors to whom we offer the chance to push the boundaries of debate and policy.

In addition, we publish a bimonthly print journal which is distributed to over 2,000 Chinese policymakers, political and business leaders and made available for download on our website. Furthermore, chinadialogue hosts the annual China Environmental Press Awards to recognise and honour the work of China's best environmental journalists. Our awards are highly valued for their integrity and encourage and support the increasing professionalisation of Chinese environmental journalism. However, the award ceremony was postponed for 2018 as a result of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Administrational Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations in the Mainland of China, which has affected our ability to deliver physical activities in mainland China.

China Dialogue Trust also manages its sister projects: chinadialogue ocean, The Third Pole, India Climate Dialogue and Diálogo Chino.

China is among the world's biggest ocean powers: it has the biggest fishing fleet, emits the largest volume of greenhouse gases, produces one third of the world's ocean plastic pollution, maintains the world's biggest aquaculture industry, and harvests and consumes more of the world's seafood than any other nation. China's coastal waters and ecosystems are severely impacted by its decades of rapid, unbalanced and unsustainable development. How China will change course and how it cares for the marine environment will be critical in determining the fate of the ocean chinadialogue ocean is dedicated to reporting on, analysing, illuminating and helping to resolve the ocean crisis before it is too late.

The Third Pole supports in-depth, non-partisan and original coverage of all aspects of water in the countries of the Himalayan and the Lancang-Mekong basin, to stimulate informed debate and to promote cooperation on transboundary river management. Over the years, the pioneering online forum, www.thethirdpole.net, has established a reputation as the source of accessible, high-quality and balanced material on transboundary water in the Himalayan region.

India Climate Dialogue provides access to accurate and unbiased reporting on climate change in India. The website, www.indiaclimatedialogue.net, offers a space for open discussion. The aim of this project is to inform and educate readers on climate change with particular reference to one of Asia's biggest economies and most diverse societies, and seeks to connect the climate debate in India with the global climate discussion.

China is Latin America's biggest lender, a major investor and trading partner. Understanding the wider effects of these burgeoning partnerships is of critical importance to China and Latin America. Despite their importance, Chinese operations in Latin America remain under-reported in the Latin American, Chinese and international media. Diálogo Chino aims to address this information gap by fostering better understanding and communication between academics, civil society, journalists, government and the business community in China and Latin America on the environmental and social impacts of China's activities in Latin America. All content is published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### Public benefit

In shaping our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have given consideration to the duties set out in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit and to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit. In particular, the Trustees have considered how the planned activities will contribute to the overall aims and objectives that they have set.

The Trustees believe that the following paragraphs, specifically on the "Objectives and Aims" and "Activities, Achievements and Performance" for the year, relate in detail the benefit that the Charity provides to the public.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

#### Objectives and aims

The objects for which the Trust is established are:

- a. To advance the education of the public (including in particular the public of the People's Republic of China) in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment; and
- b. To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and, in particular, but not so as to restrict the proceeding wording, the physical and natural environment in the People's Republic of China.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

# OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES Activities, Achievements and Performance Review of the period

In 2018, chinadialogue published 292 articles on environmental issues that affect China and the world. The website content represents an even balance of contributions from China and the rest of the world.

chinadialogue benefitted from environmental coverage on its sister websites, offering news and analysis from fresh perspectives and access to a new pool of contributors from South Asia, Southeast Asia and Latin America. Content with relevance for the respective readerships is translated into local languages and published across the websites.

This arrangement was particularly important for reporting on China's overseas environmental footprint which remains a key topic. In 2018, chinadialogue partnered with the Third Pole and Chulalongkorn University to organise a highly successful workshop and field reporting trip on the topic of development on the Mekong River and China's increasing influence through the Lancang-Mekong Cooperative Framework, with the attendance of five independent Chinese journalists, and five journalists from the Lower Mekong countries.

China's transition toward a greener economy was an important focus of our coverage, with articles and blogs on the pressure China has faced to decarbonise and pursue a sustainable path of development, and patterns of coal investment and consumption. Feng Hao's article on the faltering progress of nuclear energy investment in light of falling demand for electricity and increasing renewable competition was the most popular piece published in 2018.

chinadialogue increased its coverage of international climate change policy in the run up and during the G20 summit in Buenos Aires and climate negotiations in Katowice, Poland. Members of the chinadialogue editorial team and its sister websites, India Climate Dialogue and Diálogo Chino, were on-the-ground in Buenos Aires and Katowice, offering real-time analysis of pledges and debates.

China's environmental health and pollution was an important focus in the face of growing public concern over food sources as the impact of China's trade war with the US grew and the public becomes increasingly aware of the environmental impact mass food production causes. Issues covered included threats to water scarcity, relentless increases in demand for beef and methods taken to reduce pesticide use. We also reported on the ground-breaking Lancet report which helped bring the impact of diets and food on climate change into the public concern.

During 2018, marine issues have increasingly been in the public eye, drawing attention to our ocean coverage with our first marine journal published in September. Our marine content covered issues of governance, reporting on the UN Summit negotiating a High Seas Treaty, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, highlighting the impact on the fishing stock of countries targeted. We created cornerstone content on conservation and biodiversity with a multimedia overview of deep seabed mining, and reported on developments in marine infrastructure in BRI partner countries.

China's overseas footprint continued to be a focus of editorial content in 2018. Our coverage has benefitted from a new staff appointment in Bangkok, and from working closely with Diálogo Chino and our other sister sites and covered lack of regulation on Chinese imports allowing the exploitation of illegal sources in the tropical wood trade, reviews of China's bilateral relationships with nations along the Belt and Road Initiative.

Media workshops enable us to support journalists, by providing information, resources and networking opportunities, with the aim of improving the standard of science and environmental reporting. In 2018, chinadialogue worked with the Chinese Association of NGOs and ChinaBlue to deliver two workshops aiming to develop reporting capacity on marine issues, with a particular focus on marine ranching and marine protected areas.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES Activities, Achievements and Performance

#### Partnerships and collaborations

chinadialogue continues to expand its collaborations and partnerships, while maintaining and building on existing relationships.

In 2018, chinadialogue entered into a partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights, which works to promote the development of societies based on a human rights culture, to hold a high-level roundtable in Beijing and to produce a short series of articles. The editorial addressed the environmental and social impacts of China's use of chemicals, with a call for a Paris Agreement for chemical usage, and focusing on China's chemical impact across a range of sectors. The roundtable suggested China could lead efforts to adopt a post-2020 global framework, with legally-binding obligations and voluntary measures that could be reviewed periodically, on a template inspired by the Paris Agreement on climate change, where China has shown ambition and a desire to demonstrate international leadership.

chinadialogue continues to cultivate relationships with academic institutions, particularly with Tsinghua University, Chulalongkorn University, the London School of Economics (LSE) and King's College London, where Isabel is a visiting professor. Throughout the year, staff were invited to give talks at Duke Kunshan University, HK Science and Technology University, Kings College London, SOAS University of London and Warwick University.

We will continue to seek new partnerships and networks of influence to allow us further to amplify the impact of our content.

#### **Impact**

chinadialogue uses several methods to measure its impact, including statistical analysis of the website, an annual user survey and anecdotal evidence of our influence.

In 2018, www.chinadialogue.net saw a 2.8% increase in visits compared with the previous year. The website attracted 748,260 visits and 1,125,249 page views. Our top five readership locations were the US, mainland China, UK, Hong Kong and Australia.

We continue to publish selected content on our social media channels, other publishing platforms and our weekly newsletter. This has proven to be reliable content dissemination strategy and, in 2017, pieces republished on The Paper often attracted around 71,000 clicks each month. We also have a growing readership on FT Chinese, averaging 84,500 views per month. The chinadialogue newsletter has over 9,000 subscribers, approximately half of whom are based in mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

chinadialogue utilises various social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and WeChat. Currently chinadialogue has 4,206 followers on WeChat, the largest messaging app in China; 8,790 followers on Twitter and 5,681 likes and 6,009 followers on Facebook. We use Google Adwords to reach new audiences for high profile stories related to trending discussions and recent events. This approach generated almost 65,000 clicks during 2018.

chinadialogue has continued with its strategy of republishing high impact content throughout the year in our bimonthly print journal, which is distributed to policy makers, political and business leaders, academic and civil society organisations across China.

According to the 2018 user survey, chinadialogue continues to enjoy a young, educated online readership, with an interest and understanding of the issues being reported on chinadialogue's influence is enhanced by an extensive secondary footprint, through press interviews with our staff and the republication and citation of our content in a wide variety of other media and other organisations. We greatly extend our reach by publishing our content under a Creative Commons license, thereby encouraging syndication of our work.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES Activities, Achievements and Performance

Isabel Hilton, chinadialogue's CEO and Editor, made many media appearances, including interviews with CNN, BBC World Service, CCTV World Insight, China Global Television Network, Dateline London, BBC Radio 4, Monocle Radio, Midori House, as well as seminars organised with organisations such as the EU-Asia Centre, and was a delegate to the 13th EU-China roundtable in Xian. She also chaired discussions at IHRB's 2018 Global Forum in Singapore, chaired the award ceremony for the Transboundary Journalism Project, and spoke at the annual CAF conference in Washington DC on China-Latin American relations, was a guest at the Web Summit in Lisbon and gave a presentation to Chevening scholars at Westminster University. Her work appeared in New Statesman, Prospect Magazine and many other publications throughout the year.

Sam Geall, chinadialogue's executive editor, was interviewed by media outlets including Monocle 24 and he wrote articles for Panda Paw Dragon Claw (PPDC), Oxford Analytica, Medium and elsewhere. He gave a lecture at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on whether China will full will a leading role in international climate change negotiations and appeared on panels at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in DC, the Foreign Correspondent's Club, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, and the Web Summit conference in Lisbon, and attended workshops at the United Nations in Bangkok and Chatham House in London.

Ma Tianjie, Beijing managing editor, participated in a workshop organised by the the NGO, Inclusive Development in Bangkok, where he discussed how civil society stakeholders can engage with Chinese investments overseas, and appeared on panels at the Frontline Club in London and at the Bookworm Literary Festival to discuss environmental trends. He also participated at an event organised by John Hopkins University.

#### The Third Pole

The Third Pole continues to expand its influence and operations across South Asia. Themes for this year included melting glaciers, energy, transboundary river cooperation, pollution, impacts of climate change, the future of energy, with a special multimedia series on the Ganges River and the Mekong River.

The Third Pole organised media workshops for South Asian journalists in Bangladesh in the Sundarbans in February 2018 in partnership with South Asia Water Initiative of the World Bank, in November 2018 in coastal Tamil Nadu, India, in partnership with the Earth Journalism Network and also in November 2018 in Kolkata, India, in partnership with Press Club Kolkata; for journalists from South Asia, South East Asia, Africa and Latin America in Da Nang, Vietnam in June 2018, at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September 2018, and at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP in Katowice, Poland in December 2018, all in partnership with the Earth Journalism Network; and a writeshop for senior management at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in May 2018. These workshops led to more extensive and more evidence-based media coverage of environmental issues in developing countries, especially in South Asia.

The Third Pole's reach and influence has also grown through republication by other media across South Asia and the rest of the world, including such publications as the Bangkok Post, Business Standard, DAWN, Dhaka Tribune, Eco Business, Kashmir Observer, Online Khabar, Pakistan News Portal, Quartz India, Scroll India, South China Morning Post, the Wire and Viewsweek.

#### India Climate Dialogue

India Climate Dialogue has maintained its publication rate from an average of four articles a week during 2018. Its readership and syndication activity has expanded over the past year through the use of social media, citations and republications, with content being shared by Indo-Asian News Service, Business Standard, the Huffington Post, First Post, The Quint, Scroll, Solar Energy News, the Wire and Eco Business; as well as other organisations such as the Climate Action Network South Asia, the India Centre for Internet and Society, and the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People. Managing Editor, Soumya Sarkar covered the UN climate summit in Katowice, Poland alongside Joydeep Gupta.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES Activities, Achievements and Performance

#### Diálogo Chino

Diálogo Chino saw an increase in readership of over 10% in the 2017, with 87,652 visits and 76,105 unique visitors. The top readership locations were Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador and the United Kingdom. A very popular series of articles reporting on the impact of Chinese investment on the Colombia FARC peace deal saw an increase in readership within the country of almost 170%. Meanwhile, partnerships with Amazon Watch and special report funded by OSF contributed to an increase in Ecuadorean readership by 324%.

Diálogo Chino content is regularly re-published on ifeng.com, a popular Chinese news website, as well as widely across regional and international media. Two recent pieces proved particularly popular with Chinese readers. An interview with Kevin Gallagher, Professor of Global Development Policy at Boston University, on his new book "The China Triangle: Latin America's boom and the fate of the Washington Consensus" attracted 46,485 clicks and a piece on Chinese concerns over intensive cattle farming in Argentina attracted 170,158 clicks.

A piece on Bolivia's lithium boom, commissioned and first published by Diálogo Chino, won the 2015 Conservation International Prize for Biodiversity and Conservation Journalism in Bolivia.

#### Public benefit

In shaping our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have given consideration to the duties set out in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit and to the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit. In particular, the Trustees have considered how the planned activities will contribute to the overall aims and objectives that they have set.

The Trustees believe that the following paragraphs, specifically on the "Objectives and Aims" and "Activities, Achievements and Performance" for the year, relate in detail the benefit that the Charity provides to the public.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### Financial position

Our financial year runs from January 1st to December 31st.

In 2018, the charity ran a surplus of £253,564 on total expenditure of £1,351,907. At 31 December 2018, the charity held funds totalling £766,769 (2017: £513,205).

#### Remuneration statement

To set the pay and rewards properly for employees there is a need to make informed judgements as well as adhering to the China Dialogue Trust governance and constitutional arrangements.

Trustees are legally and constitutionally responsible for setting rates of pay and this responsibility cannot and should not be wholly delegated to private agencies or independent experts.

In deciding on levels of pay for all staff the following factors will be taken into account, the purpose aims and values of China Dialogue Trust, competences, the strategic plan and need, ability to pay, performance, the wider 'employment offer' and recruitment and retention. These factors are not exclusive, and any decision will inevitably include an element of discretion on the part of trustees.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### **Financial Review**

The trustees recognise the need to hold reserves to allow protection of core activities in the event of income shortfalls and to promote balanced, long-term strategic planning to enable the charity to carry out its objectives.

The trustees have in the year reviewed the needs, risks and opportunities faced by the charity, along with relevant financial forecasts and analyses. On the basis of this review the trustees recognised the need to hold a general reserve and the size of this reserve should be related to the level of ongoing financial commitments. The trustees decided that as a guide the organisation should keep its general reserves at a level equalling approximately three months of expenditure. Therefore, the guide level of reserves at the end of December 2018 should be approximately £337,976. At the year end, the general reserves of the charity stood at £32,304 (2017: £88,997). Consequently, the current level of general reserves is not considered sufficient and work is ongoing to bring reserves to a sufficient level.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

In 2019, the China Dialogue Trust will continue to build on the work of the last 12 years by further consolidating its reputation, extending its networks and building new partnerships. In particular, we aim to:

- publish approximately 300 feature-length articles, blogs and book reviews on chinadialogue, with an even balance of contributors from China and the rest of the world;
- re-design and re-launch chinadialogue.net and dialogochino.net to enhance user experience, update the website design and better facilitate multimedia reporting
- publish a bi-monthly print journal aimed at Chinese policymakers, academics, journalists, as well as political, business and civil society leaders;
- publish a range of longer-form reports and policy briefs and contribute to third party platforms;
- expand our links with civil society groups in China;
- form new relationships and partnerships;
- continue to meet a heavy schedule of lectures, talks, briefings and media appearances;
- expand the scale of activities of the other project websites.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### **Governing document**

#### i. Structure

chinadialogue is a project administered by the China Dialogue Trust. In addition, the Trust manages chinadialogue's sister websites - The Third Pole, India Climate Dialogue and Diálogo Chino.

The China Dialogue Trust (the Trust) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 18 January 2008 and obtained charitable status on 6 August 2008. In accordance with a legal transfer of undertakings dated 23 October 2008, the assets and liabilities of China Dialogue Limited (Company Registration Number: 05825437) were transferred to the Trust as at midnight on 30 September 2008.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those Articles, the Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of three years.

The Members have guaranteed to contribute a maximum of £1 each in the event of the company being wound up.

The Trust set up a trading subsidiary, China Dialogue Services (Company Registration Number: 8854972), which was incorporated on 21st January 2014. The trading subsidiary supports our growing revenue stream from translation services and occasional consultancy services.

China Dialogue Services took over the ownership of Dao Le Ge Environmental Consulting (Beijing) Co. Ltd at the end of December 2015.

#### ii. Governance

The Trust receives generous support from its executive, technical and editorial advisory boards. The executive board meets three times a year to evaluate the governance of the charity and advise on its long-term strategy. The treasurer meets with the finance director and chief operating officer on a regular basis to review the accounts and assist with the financial management of the charity. The members of the executive board assist with fundraising and partnership building, while the technical advisory board offers expertise on the resilience of our online security and infrastructure, as well as making sure the website remains on the cutting edge of key digital trends. The editorial advisory board is available for consultation on editorial themes.

#### iii. Management

The Trustees meet regularly throughout the year and are inducted through detailed briefings.

New Trustees are recommended to the board by existing members or by the Chief Executive Officer based on their experience and expertise of the charity's work.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Trust is Isabel Hilton, assisted in the London office by Tallulah Staple, the Chief Operating Officer and Laura Woodbury, the Office Assistant. The chinadialogue website is managed by editorial teams in London and Beijing. In London, the website is supported by Chris Davy, the Managing Editor and Ned Pennant-Rea, the Assistant Editor, as well as the wider editorial team. In Beijing, the website is supported by Ma Tianjie, Operational Manager and Managing Editor, and Karoline Kan, Deputy Editor, as well as several junior editors.

The Third Pole website is managed by Joydeep Gupta, project director, in Delhi and Beth Walker, UK editor, in the London office. The website is also supported by a small editorial team in Delhi, as well as country coordinators in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

The India Climate Dialogue website is managed by Joydeep Gupta, project director, and Soumya Sarkar, the website's Managing Editor in Delhi.

The Diálogo Chino website is managed by Robert Soutar, Managing Editor, in London.

All of the websites are supported by Lushan Huang, the Production Manager. Sam Geall, the Executive Editor, offers strategic advice to the charity.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Risk management

The Trustees review all risks applicable to the Charity, especially the availability of funding in the current economic climate.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

06477262 (England and Wales)

#### Registered Charity number

1125378

#### Registered office

15 Printing House Yard Perseverance Works London E2 7PR

#### **Trustees**

T M Copsey
J T S Fenby
P J R Luff
Mrs M Mehra
Ms E A Wright
Mrs J-M Gescher
Prof K Brown
S C Tinton
D T Burke
Ms S Hitch

#### **Company Secretary**

Ms T Staple

C Parton

#### **Senior Statutory Auditor**

J Thacker FCA DChA

#### **Independent auditors**

Chariot House Limited Chartered Accountants 44 Grand Parade Brighton East Sussex BN2 9QA

#### **Contact Details**

**Chief Executive Officer** 

Isabel Hilton

#### Telephone number

020 7324 4767

#### Website

www.chinadialogue.net

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Advisers
Bankers
HSBC Bank PLC
74 Goswell Road
Clerkenwell
London

**Solicitors** 

ECIV 7DA

Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR

#### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of China Dialogue Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any timethe financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

#### **AUDITORS**

The Auditors, Chariot House Limited, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to re-appoint them will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

D T Burke - Trustee

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINA DIALOGUE TRUST

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of China Dialogue Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

#### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
  - the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHINA DIALOGUE TRUST

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

#### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

J Thacker FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Chariot House Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

44 Grand Parade

Brighton East Sussex BN2 9QA

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# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

	Not es	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds	2018 Total funds	2017 Total funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM Charitable activities	2				
Environment and Climate Change		262,384	1,343,087	1,605,471	1,384,138
Total		262,384	1,343,087	1,605,471	1,384,138
EXPENDITURE ON Raising funds	3	-	-	_	40
Charitable activities Environment and Climate Change	4	319,077	1,032,830	_1,351,907	1,193,650
Total		319,077	1,032,830	1,351,907	1,193,690
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(56,693)	310,257	253,564	190,448
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		. 88,997	424,208	513,205	322,757
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		32,304	734,465	766,769	513,205

The notes form part of these financial statements

#### **CHINA DIALOGUE TRUST (REGISTERED NUMBER: 06477262)**

#### BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

				•	
		Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2018 Total funds	2017 Total funds
	Not	£	£	£	£
	es				
FIXED ASSETS	•				
Tangible assets	10	-		_	167
Investments	11	100	-	100	100
Investments	11	100			
				100	0.45
1		100	-	100	267
			:		
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	9,101	-	9,101	10,566
Cash at bank		122,738	734,465	857,203	536,926
		131,839	734,465	866,304	547,492
		151,057	751,105	000,501	517,172
CREDITORS					
	10	(00 (25)		(00 (25)	(24.554)
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(99,635)	-	(99,635)	(34,554)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		32,204	734,465	766,669	512,938
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT					
LIABILITIES		32,304	734,465	766,769	513,205
		32,304	751,105	700,705	313,203
NET ACCETO		22.204	724 465	766 760	512 205
NET ASSETS		<u>32,304</u>	734,465	<u>766,769</u>	513,205
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				32,304	88,997
Restricted funds				734,465	424,208
					<del></del>
TOTAL FUNDS				766,769	513,205
TOTALIONDO			•	700,703	313,203

D T Burke - Trustee

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

Cash flows from operating activities: Cash generated from operations	Notes 1	2018 £ 320,277	2017 £ 173,018
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		320,277	173,018
Cash flows from investing activities: Purchase of tangible fixed assets  Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<del>-</del>	(46) (46)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		320,277 536,926	172,972 363,954
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>857,203</u>	536,926

#### NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

1.	RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO OPERATING ACTIVITIES	NET	CASH	FLOW	FROM
			201	8	2017
			£		£
	Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement				
	of financial activities)		253,56	4	190,448
	Adjustments for:				
	Depreciation charges		17	4	283
	Decrease in debtors		1,45	8	5,836
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors		65,08	1 -	(23,549)
	Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		320,27	7	173,018

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

The financial statements do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The subsidiary undertaking has been excluded from consolidation as its inclusion is not material for the purpose of giving a true and fair view.

#### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Where grants are received during the year under review but relate to a later period the amount is deferred under Grants in Advance in the Balance Sheet.

Grants from government and other agencies have been included as voluntary income where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### Raising funds

Raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities, events and non-charitable trading.

#### Charitable activities and support cots

The costs of charitable activities comprise expenditure on the Trust's primary charitable purposes as described in the Trustees' Report. Such costs include the costs of maintaining, editing and developing the website.

Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. In order to carry out the activities of the Charity it is necessary to provide support in the form of personnel development, financial procedures, provision of office services and equipment and a suitable working environment.

These costs are allocated out to the activities they are supporting on the basis described in the notes.

#### Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £250 and with an expected useful life exceeding one year are capitalised, and are stated at cost less depreciation.

All tangible fixed assets, are depreciated on the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer equipment - 3 years.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

#### Tayation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Taxes Purposes. Accordingly the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### Fund accounting

The Charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible:-

Unrestricted funds - are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the Charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds - comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

#### 2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Duoiset Income Other Food	Activity	•	2018 £	2017 £
Project Income - Other Fees Receivable Grants and Donations	Environment and Climate Change Environment and Climate Change		7,418 _1,598,053	1,113 1,383,025
			1,605,471	1,384,138

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

2.	INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued	l		
	Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:			
	C		2018	2017
	•		£	£
	European Climate Foundation		62,010	-
	Sigrid Rausing Trust		100,000	99,999
	Rockefeller Brothers Foundation		152,967	74,080
	Henry Luce Foundation		45,467	40,192
	Climateworks Foundation		105,878	293,520
	Department for International Development		64,159	166,745
	Marmot Trust		2,000	-
	Subsidiary - China Dialogue Services Limited		-	11,995
	Network for Social Change		-	13,414
	K R Foundation		-	3,867
	Climate Action Network		-	4,526
	Oak Foundation		143,543	-
	ICS Brazil		4,912	5,337
	Other Grants		-	302,087
	Waterloo Foundation		24,000	24,000
	Packard Foundation		197,580	158,215
	German Embassy		-	171,320
	Asia Foundation		-	1,193
	FCO		1 125	6,022
	Oxford Policy		1,125	2,875
	Octo Consulting Moore Foundation		229,500	3,638
	Hewlett Foundation		301,640	-
	RWI		12,527	-
	Open Society Foundations		81,062	-
	Christensen Fund		38,098	_
	Internews Europe		3,121	_
	Internews USA		28,464	_
	internews cort			
			1,598,053	1,383,025
3.	RAISING FUNDS			
	Raising donations and legacies			
			2018	2017
			£	£
	Fundraising			40
			<del></del>	<del></del>
4.	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS			
		<b>~</b> :	,	·
		Direct costs	Support costs	Totals
		•	(See note 5)	•
	Environment and Climate Charge	£	£	£
	Environment and Climate Change	1,196,159	<u>155,748</u>	1,351,907

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### 5. SUPPORT COSTS

Environment and Climate Change		Management £ 155,748
Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:		
Management	2018 Environment and Climate	2017
Establishment Office Legal and Professional Accountancy Other Website Audit Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	£ 38,885 37,591 3,602 27,574 8,076 35,473 4,380 167	Total activities £ 36,771 24,449 722 27,589 6,613 16,131 4,290 283
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)  Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):	155,748	116,848
Depreciation - owned assets Auditors' remuneration Auditors' remuneration - non audit services	2018 £ 167 2,300 2,080	2017 £ 283 2,250 2,040

#### 7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2018 nor for the year ended 31st December 2017.

#### Trustees' expenses

6.

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2018 nor for the year ended 31st December 2017.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### 8. STAFF COSTS

Staff Costs	during	the	year	were	as	follow	/S	:
-------------	--------	-----	------	------	----	--------	----	---

	2018	2017
·	£	£
Salaries and Wages	312,967	284,214
Social security costs	30,731	29,231
Pension costs	<u>12,682</u>	14,374
	<u>356,380</u>	327,819

The average number of employees (excluding temporary and agency staff) analysed by function was as follows:

2018	2017
Number	Number
8	8
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
	Number

One employee received remuneration in the band £80,000 - £90,000 (2017: one in band £70,000 to £80,000).

Key Management remuneration totalled £142,455 (2017:£125,004).

#### 9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Charitable activities			
Environment and Climate Change	476,955	907,183	1,384,138
Total	476,955	907,183	1,384,138
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	40	-	40
Charitable activities			
Environment and Climate Change	383,801	809,849	1,193,650
Total	383,841	809,849	1,193,690
	<del></del>		<del></del>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	93,114	97,334	190,448
Transfers between funds	(48,930)	48,930	
Net movement in funds	44,184	146,264	190,448

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

9.	COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANC	Unrestricted fund	S - continued  Restricted  funds £	Total funds
	RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	£	£	r
	Total funds brought forward	44,810	277,947	322,757
	TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	88,994	424,211	513,205
10.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	; ; ;		Computer equipment
	COST At 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2018	: : :		£ _8,058
	DEPRECIATION At 1st January 2018 Charge for year			7,891 167
	At 31st December 2018			8,058
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31st December 2018	·		
	At 31st December 2017	•		<u>167</u>
11.	FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS			
				Unlisted investments £
	MARKET VALUE At 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2018			100
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31st December 2018			100
	At 31st December 2017			<u>100</u>
	There were no investment assets outside the UK.	,		
	The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:			

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

11.	FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued			
	China Dialogue Services Limited Nature of business: translation and	interpretation		
	Class of share: Ordinary	% holding 100		
	Aggregate capital and reserves		2018 £ 100	2017 £ 100
12.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLIN	G DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	Trade debtors Amounts owed by group undertakin Prepayments and accrued income	gs	2018 £ 2,487 	2017 £ 6,969 3,597
13.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALL	ING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	Trade creditors Amounts owed to group undertaking Social security and other taxes Other creditors Accruals and deferred income Accrued expenses	gs	2018 £ 9,803 1,393 9,116 7,865 67,078 4,380 99,635	2017 £ 28,689 95 1,480 4,290

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### 14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	ì	Net movement	
	At 1/1/18	in funds	At 31/12/18
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	88,997	(56,693)	32,304
	i		
Restricted funds			
Other	330,159	260,167	590,326
Third Pole	13,026	(4,239)	8,787
Dialogo Chino	-	90,883	90,883
India Climate Dialogue	81,023	(36,554)	44,469
	424,208	310,257	734,465
	<del></del>		
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>513,205</u>	253,564	766,769
		<del></del>	_
Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:			
	Incoming	Resources	Movement in
	resources	expended	funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	262,385	(319,078)	(56,693)
Restricted funds			
Other	989,498	(729,331)	260,167
Third Pole	96,869	(101,108)	(4,239)
Dialogo Chino	208,572	(117,689)	90,883
India Climate Dialogue	48,147	(84,701)	(36,554)
	1,343,086	(1,032,829)	310,257
TOTAL FUNDS	1,605,471	(1,351,907)	253,564

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

#### 14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds				
		Net movement	Transfers	
·	At 1/1/17	in funds	between funds	At 31/12/17
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General fund	44,810	93,117	(48,930)	88,997
Restricted Funds			-	
Other	261,908	68,251	-	330,159
Third Pole	9,878	3,148	-	13,026
Dialogo Chino	-	(48,930)	48,930	-
India Climate Dialogue	6,161	74,862	<del></del>	81,023
·	277,947	97,331	48,930	424,208
	<del></del>		<del></del>	
TOTAL FUNDS	322,757	190,448		513,205
Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:				
		Incoming	Resources	Movement in
		resources	expended	funds
		£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund		476,956	(383,839)	93,117
Restricted funds				
Other		570,561	(502,310)	68,251
Third Pole		169,620	(166,472)	3,148
Dialogo Chino		47,491	(96,421)	(48,930)
India Climate Dialogue		119,510	(44,648)	74,862
		907,182	(809,851)	97,331
TOTAL FUNDS		1,384,138	(1,193,690)	190,448

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

15.	DEI	ATED	DADTV	DISCI	OSURES
13.	KLL	AILU	PARIT	DISCL	USUKES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2018.