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A new “Administrative Measures of Foreign Aid” was promulgated by the Chinese authorities today, setting the rules of China’s foreign aid administration. It replaces the previous aid administration measures released in 2014. What’s new? A thread. 1/ cidca.gov.cn/2021-08/31/c_1...

国家国际发展合作署 外交部 商务部 令（二〇二一年第1号）《对外援助管理办法》

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中华人民共和国外交部

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It clarifies the role of China International Development Agency (CIDCA), and the division of labor btw CIDCA & Ministry of Commerce (MofCom), the previous overseer of foreign aid. The role of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in foreign aid is also more explicitly acknowledged.2/

CIDCA will be the planner/policymaker/supervisor/regulator of foreign aid, while implementation of aid projects remains with line ministries. MofCom will likely continue to implement the bulk of projects, but it’s no longer in the driver’s seat. 3/

CIDCA will allocate aid projects among ministries. It will also lead the inter-agency coordination mechanism and set up a general reporting system. All these are meant to address the long known problem of fragmentation in China’s aid provision.4/

Aid planning will be refined. Previously only a general “plan” was made, with MofCom providing “country-specific GUIDELINES.” Now CIDCA will make “country-specific POLICIES”, as well as annual plans and budgeting for foreign aid. 5/

Interaction with recipient countries in aid initiation & negotiation is formalized. Recipient governments should submit aid requests to Chinese embassies/consulates, who review them according to “country-specific policies” and report to MFA and CIDCA. 6/

CIDCA determines if an aid project goes ahead.

CIDCA is also to draft aid provision agreements, which will be the basis of bilateral negotiation with recipients. Previously, how Chinese aid projects were initiated & negotiated was a black box. So this info is welcomed.

7/

Recipient countries are allowed greater roles in aid project implementation. 2014 Measures stipulated that “[aid projects] are generally implemented by Chinese entities,” while allowing recipient country entities to collaborate with Chinese entities or implement the projects...8/

... on their own under special circumstances. The 2021 Measures no longer single out Chinese implementation, but instead list recipient implementation as equal options. 9/

Another new option for aid implementation is collaboration with third countries, international organizations, and NGOs. Something worth watching. 10/

In addition to traditional aid forms (grant, interest-free loan, government concessional loan), CIDCA will “innovate” aid modality through the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. 11/

Aid project types increase from 5 to 8, adding medical teams, emergency humanitarian aid, South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund projects to the traditional 5 of turn-key, material, technical assistance, HR development cooperation, and volunteer projects. 12/

Interesting change in "main usage" of “govt concessional loans”: 2014 version included 1)profitable productive projects, 2) larger infrastructure, &3) provision of large machinery&electronic products and complete plants; 2021 version replaces 3) w/ energy&resource development.13/

To recap, the promulgation of this bylaw signifies the conclusion of this phase of foreign aid system reform, starting from the establishment of CIDCA in 2018. The core message is to centralize control of foreign aid processes, enhance inter-agency coordination... 14/

...and information aggregation, tying foreign aid more tightly to China’s foreign policy agenda. Also, check out the full translation by [@chinaaidblog](#):



END.