



Africa's leading think tank providing policy-relevant research and analysis, knowledge and solutions in development policy, security, governance and strategic issues.

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Remarks by Ms. Reva Irungu – Researcher at the Africa Policy Institute during the “2024 China in Sight, Global insight Forum’, Guiyang, Guizhou Province.

Topic: New-Quality Productive Forces and Sustainable Global Development.

NOVEMBER 19, 2024.

Distinguished Scholars,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the China Center for Contemporary World Studies for inviting me to participate at this 2024 "China in Sight, Global Insight" Forum.

Today, the world enters a new era marked by technological innovation and economic transformation. China, is leading in this global transition. Thus, the concept of "New Quality Productive Forces" unveiled by President Xi, advocates for high-tech industries, green energy, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing, all of which are reshaping China's development path. This shift also presents a valuable opportunity for African nations to accelerate their modernization. "New Quality Productive Forces" represent a dynamic blend of technological innovation, sustainable practices, and advanced manufacturing that together boost productivity and economic growth. This approach moves away from traditional, resource-intensive growth models toward more efficient, technology-driven systems. Africa, with abundant natural resources and human capital, is positioned to become the next economic frontier, although challenges like underdeveloped infrastructure, limited technology access, and uneven economic progress have historically limited its growth.

Distinguished Scholars

Integrating China's New Quality Productive Forces into Africa's development strategies—facilitated by frameworks like the Forum on China – Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative will unlock Africa's potential. Africa's manufacturing sector, for instance, has immense potential to drive economic growth. By adopting China's advances in smart manufacturing and automation, African industries can improve efficiency, reduce waste, and produce high-quality goods for both local and international markets. This modernization can create a competitive industrial landscape, attract foreign investment, and spur economic growth.

In essence, "New Quality Productive Forces" describe a form of production that breaks away from traditional growth models, with innovation, advanced technology, and high efficiency at its core. It



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also prioritizes economic development with a focus on high-quality growth, that will enable the continent of Africa achieve its African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

To realize the global vision and the Pan-African dream, the New Quality Productive Forces should focus on advancing the following areas to drive transformation in Africa.

### **Science and Technology.**

Scientific and technological innovation are crucial for creating new industries, business models, and growth engines, making it a core element for driving high-quality, sustainable development. Emphasizing original and disruptive technological advances that would enable African countries to progress toward greater self-reliance and technological strength, reducing dependence on external sources for critical technologies and fostering local expertise and capabilities. By Incorporating New Quality Productive Forces could empower Africa to skip traditional growth models, address its challenges directly, and foster sustainable economic growth. This approach aligns with a vision of self-reliance, innovation-driven development, and regional transformation that could unlock the continent's full potential.

### **Promote Industrial development**

New Quality Productive Forces can significantly transform Africa's industrial landscape by enhancing productivity through strategic application of science and technology across industries. By Modernizing Key Industries e.g. agriculture and mining, expanding Emerging and Future-Oriented Industries e.g. sectors in renewable energy and digital services, Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience by ensuring that Africa's industrial systems are self-sustaining and secure, Building Localized, Region-Specific Strategies by considering each region's advantages, countries can develop industrial strategies that maximizes on natural resources, utilize local talent, and build on existing capabilities. Thus, incorporating New Quality Productive Forces into Africa's industrial development strategy could catalyze sustainable growth and modernization, fostering a robust, innovative economy that is both competitive and self-reliant.

### **Energy Transition**

Green development, as the hallmark of high-quality development, is central to new quality productive forces. Guided by the concept of ecological civilization, it is essential to accelerate the shift toward a green development model. Prioritizing ecological conservation and eco-friendly practices can help Africa achieve high-quality development that balances economic growth with environmental protection.



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## Talent Development Mechanisms

New Quality Productive Forces can play a pivotal role in transforming Africa by emphasizing talent as the core driver of innovation and sustainable growth. Developing a skilled and innovative workforce will be key to realizing Africa's potential in areas like technology, industry, and sustainable development. It can empower Africa to become an innovative, self-sustaining economy that competes globally, addresses local challenges, and achieves sustainable development goals.

Thank You!!