

## China's Belt And Road Initiative In Africa: A Double-Edged Sword – Analysis

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was initiated by China in 2013, aims to bolster global trade and stimulate economic growth in Asia by establishing trade routes that harken back to the historical Silk Road. Africa, known for its abundant resources and strategic location, has emerged as a prominent focal point of the BRI. Through investments in infrastructure, trade relations, and economic development, China is reshaping the continent. This paper examines the opportunities and challenges presented by the BRI in Africa, arguing that while the initiative offers significant economic benefits, it also poses notable political, social, and security risks that must be carefully managed. Historically, China has consistently shown interest in Africa, primarily driven by economic and political motives. During the Cold War, China provided support to various African liberation movements, thereby laying the groundwork for long-term diplomatic relations. EuraAsia

## China builds new platform for Sino-African entrepreneurship

For Taiwan-based China Communications Media Group, a crucial step in their venture into Africa starts a little closer to home, in Hunan, a central province on the Chinese mainland. Aspiring to expand its sales network of electric vehicles into Africa, the company will first set up a subsidiary inside the China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters Building in Hunan's provincial capital Changsha, leveraging the many preferential policies and constellation of Chinese and African companies at the site. "We've long wished to explore the African market, but our journey had been circuitous," said the company's chairman Liu Yao-yuan. "Now many like-minded companies gather here. I believe our exchanges and cooperation can lead to common prosperity." Opened on June 13, the building is the latest Sino-African landmark in Hunan, one of the most active Chinese provinces in economic ties with Africa and a trailblazer in China-Africa cooperation. Plataforma Media.

#### African countries aim to broaden cooperation with China at upcoming FOCAC in Beijing

Political leaders from many African countries and representatives of relevant regional and international organizations will participate in this year's Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) that will be held in Beijing September 4-6, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has announced. Leaders of FOCAC's African members and representatives from all around the continent reportedly plan to discuss many topics at this year's summit, including the promotion of trade with China and the boosting of cooperation in agriculture sector, the green transition and the new-energy sector. Khalifa A. Sy Diop from the China-African People's Friendship Association thinks that there are three important needs for Africa in the next 25 years, based on past cooperation: agro-ecological development, industrial development, and talent training. However, he said, "we must first review what we have done in the past and see where we have achieved our promised cooperation." One of the latest examples of cooperation between both sides was an Action Plan for China-Africa Digital Cooperation and Development, which was recently adopted by Beijing and 26 African countries, aiming to promote cooperation and development, strengthen partnerships, and boost innovation in the digital sector. The North Africa Post.

## New Chinese Ambassador to Zambia H.E. Han Jing Arrives in Zambia

On the afternoon of 6 August 2024, H.E. Han Jing, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Zambia, arrived in Zambia. Ambassador Han was welcomed at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport by Ms. Etambuyu Gundersen, Permanent Secretary for International Cooperation and Relations, Ms. Hellen Chifwaila, Director for Political Affairs, and Ms. Cheswa Silwizya, Chief of Protocol, from the Zambian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and senior officials from the Chinese Embassy. Ambassador Han thanked the Zambian side for its warm reception. He said that 2024 is a big year for China-Zambia relations and he is honored to be appointed Chinese Ambassador to Zambia at a time when the two countries are jointly celebrating the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic ties and preparing for the next FOCAC summit. He looked forward to working with the Zambian side to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state and work for a better future of China-Zambia relations, building on their all-weather friendship. Africa.com.

## Klasha launches an in-depth whitepaper on China-Africa cross-border payments

Klasha, a leading global cross-border payments company, is proud to announce the release of a comprehensive whitepaper titled "Unlocking opportunities: The future of cross-border payments between Africa and China." This in-depth report explores the evolving landscape of payments between China and Africa, highlighting key trends, emerging opportunities, and innovative solutions shaping the future of cross-border payments in this dynamic region. China is one of Africa's biggest trading partners, as 22% of Africa's cross-continent trade is with China. As economic ties between China and Africa continue to strengthen, the need for efficient, secure, and cost-effective cross-border payment solutions has never been more critical. This whitepaper provides valuable insights for businesses, financial institutions, policymakers, and stakeholders looking to capitalise on the growing trade and investment flows between these regions. Tech Cabal.

## Expo to deepen China-Nigeria trade ties

The organisers of the China-Nigeria Expo have said it will strengthen trade ties between China and Nigeria. The expo, which is scheduled for November 5-8 in Lagos, is said to be the largest gathering of Chinese manufacturers in Nigeria and West Africa region. According to a statement from the organisers, Nigeria is China's second-largest trading partner in Africa and China is the country's largest source of imports. Chinese customs data showed that the bilateral trade volume between China and Nigeria reached \$23.9bn in 2022, with China's exports to Nigeria amounting to \$22.3bn and imports from Nigeria totalling \$1.6bn. "In the first three quarters of 2023, bilateral trade stood at \$17.25bn with exports to Nigeria being \$15.67bn and imports from Nigeria at \$1.58bn, marking a 22.5 per cent increase in imports from Nigeria compared to the same period last year. At the Lekki Free Trade Zone and Ogun-Guangdong Free Trade Zone alone, more than \$1.5bn has been committed by Chinese investors and over seven thousand jobs have been created," the statement said. Punch Newspaper.

# Egypt, China discuss efforts to prevent expansion of conflict in Middle East

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates Badr Abdelatty on Tuesday discussed in a phone call with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, efforts aimed at reducing tensions in the Middle East region and preventing the expansion of the current conflict. During the phone conversation, Abdelatty briefed Wang on his contacts in the past few days with the foreign ministers of concerned and influential countries to contain the aggravating regional situation, said Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Ahmed Abu Zeid. The top Egyptian diplomat warned about the risks of widening the conflict and its dire consequences for regional security and stability, affirming that Egypt has been keen since the outbreak of the crisis to work together with China and all influential regional and international countries to stop the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip and prevent the expansion of the conflict. Abdelatty underlined that the Israeli policy of political assassinations and its violation of states' sovereignty have exacerbated the crisis and significantly raised regional tensions. Egypt Today.

## China warns citizens to leave eastern DR Congo after series of deaths and kidnappings

The area has long been plagued by violence, and Chinese citizens have also fallen foul of recent crackdown on illegal gold mining. China has warned its citizens against visiting eastern DR Congo after a series of kidnappings and killings. Scores of armed groups are fighting for control of mineral resources and land in the area, creating what the Chinese embassy describes as a "severe" security situation. It said it had repeatedly warned its citizens from going to four provinces in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo it considers "dangerous" – Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Haut Uélé – and other high-risk areas. The embassy asked its citizens and companies in the affected areas to "immediately stop operations and evacuate as soon as possible." Chinese citizens have also been caught up in a recent crackdown on illegal mining in gold-rich South Kivu. South China Morning Post.

## China deploys large force to Tanzania for Peace Unity 2024 joint exercise

Tanzania is currently hosting what appears to be the largest ever Chinese military deployment to Sub-Saharan Africa for Exercise 'Peace Unity (Amani Umoja) 2024'. The Chinese, Mozambican and Tanzanian militaries are currently holding the Peace Unity 2024 joint exercise in Tanzania, which focuses on counter-terror military operations. "This year's exercise is more than previous exercises as it marks 60 years of the coming together of our two forces," said General Jacob John Mkunda, the chief of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force (TPDF), in his speech during the exercise's opening ceremony on 29 July. Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, said the exercise will be carried out on land and at sea and aims to enhance the participating troops' capabilities in joint counter-terrorism operations, and deepen military mutual trust and practical cooperation. Military Africa.

#### Kenya, China To Deepen Bilateral Ties At FOCAC Summit

The 2024 summit for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, scheduled for September in Beijing, will inject vitality into bilateral relationships between China and Kenya that have spanned over six decades, prime cabinet secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said. Mudavadi made the remarks yesterday at a meeting with representatives from Chinese communities in Nairobi. He expressed the country's anticipation for a new chapter in its diplomatic ties with China at the upcoming forum. Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi, Kenya Overseas Chinese Association, Kenya Chinese Tourism Association, Kenya

Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and Chinese enterprises in Kenya, attended the meeting to discuss strategic areas of collaboration to foster mutual benefits. Capital Fm.

# Ambassador Zhang Lizhong Attended China-Uganda Friendship Day and Donation Event at Seeta High School

On August 1, the Chinese Ambassador Zhang Lizhong attended China-Uganda Friendship Day Event hosted by Huawei at Seeta High School in Mukono District and witnessed the donation handover by the company to the school. Mr. Kafuba, Special Representative of the State Minister for Higher Education Hon. John Muyingo, Wang Jianxun, Commercial Counselor of the Chinese Embassy, teachers and students were also in attendance. Ambassador Zhang Lizhong introduced the spirit of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of CPC (the Communist Party of China), emphasizing that education, science, technology and talent serve as a fundamental and strategic underpinning of the Chinese modernization, with openness being the distinctive feature. China's resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively will inject new strong energy into youth exchanges, talent development, and education cooperation between China and Uganda. Africa.com.

## China's EV players chart course for Morocco amid subsidy squeeze

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers are shifting to Morocco amid US, EU restrictions, as trade deals and resources attract major investments in the Kingdom's cleantech market. With increasing restrictions on clean technology imports from China by the US and Europe, Chinese companies seek new manufacturing and export bases to avoid countervailing duties. Thailand, for example, is a notable destination, with Chinese carmakers setting up electric vehicle (EV) plants to serve Southeast Asia and other markets. These carmakers have made inroads into a domestic market traditionally dominated by Japanese brands like Honda, Toyota, and Nissan. In Africa, they are setting up ops in Morocco, thanks to its free trade agreement with both the US and Europe, one that allows goods manufactured there to enter both markets without attracting anti-dumping duties or trade-protection tariffs the kind imposed on Chinese-origin goods. These players are making a beeline for the North African kingdom to take advantage of this and bypass import restrictions and tariffs. Benndada. Com.

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