



[FOCAC 9: A New Five-Point Strategy for Africa-China Relations](#)

As we approach the ninth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), it's time for African nations to reimagine their engagement with China. This upcoming summit is a watershed moment, as this will be the first FOCAC meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the well-established patterns of exchange between our continents. The pandemic's impact on China-Africa relations has been profound. We've witnessed a freeze in the "conveyor belt" of people and goods between the two regions. The last FOCAC saw a notable dip in infrastructure financing and a shift from state-led initiatives to private-sector engagement. These changes signal a need for a strategic recalibration on Africa's part. China Global South Project.

[How China's Communist Party is building political schools, and influence, in Africa](#)

Beijing's ruling party is also said to have stepped up training of officials on the continent in push to promote its development model and ideology. Kenya's ruling United Democratic Alliance is the latest African political party to benefit from China's soft power push to promote its development model and ideology on the continent. UDA officials visiting China in May clinched a deal with the Communist Party to build a leadership school for the Kenyan party in Nairobi. Chinese officials had previously held talks about setting up the school when they visited Kenya in March. Beijing has also agreed to finance and build Nairobi's new foreign ministry headquarters "as a visible marker of 60 years of diplomatic relations", Korir Sing'Oei, Kenya's principal secretary of foreign affairs, said in May. Many African political parties have approached the Chinese Communist Party to build their schools and help strengthen party building, according to Paul Nantulya, a China specialist at the National Defence University's Africa Centre for Strategic Studies in Washington. South China Morning Post.

[Power Play in Africa: Risch Charts U.S.-Europe Course to Counter China, Russia](#)

In the complex and intricate landscape of global geopolitics, Africa stands as a pivotal region where the collaborative efforts of world powers are essential for fostering stability. It is undoubtedly, a critical continent for regional and global security, and where world powers converge and compete. On Monday, July 29, 2024, U.S. Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho), a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee published his latest report, One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: A Review of U.S.-Europe Cooperation on China, serving as a stark reminder of the urgent need for a unified transatlantic approach to the continent. Building upon his 2020 analysis, this update paints a concerning picture of escalating violence, growing instability, and the increasing influence of China and Russia across African countries. While the report offers a critique of current policies, it also presents an opportunity to reassess and reinvigorate U.S.-Europe cooperation in Africa. Modern Diplomacy.

[FOCAC 2024 will strengthen China-Africa ties](#)

The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in Beijing from September 4-6. The theme is "Joining Hands to Advance Modernisation and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community

with a Shared Future.” Leaders of FOCAC’s African members will attend the summit at the invitation of the forum. Representatives of relevant African regional organisations and international groups will attend relevant forum events. FOCAC stands out as a pivotal platform in international diplomacy, underscoring the evolving relationship between China and Africa. Since its inception in 2000, FOCAC has grown into a significant mechanism for bilateral and multilateral dialogue, cooperation and development between the two regions. FOCAC has made great strides, particularly in its contributions to economic development, infrastructure, trade and socio-cultural exchanges between the two partners. People Daily.

[Chinese-built road transforming lives of mothers in rural central Kenya](#)

The project of upgrading the Kenol-Sagana-Marua road, in central Kenya, into an eight-lane dual carriageway, has been playing an important role in transforming the lives of mothers there. Mercy Nyaguthii's story mirrors that of many former housewives, who stayed home, waiting for their husbands to provide. A native of a serene village in the central Kenyan county of Nyeri, Nyaguthii, a mother of three, would be doing menial jobs for peanuts at best or spend most of the day idle at worst, for lack of a job. Three years ago, however, she joined a growing number of women who started small businesses along the Kenol-Sagana-Marua road after the project of upgrading the road into an eight-lane dual carriageway, undertaken by China's Jiangxi Transportation Engineering Group Ltd. in October 2020. Xinhua.

[China’s conflict resolution mechanism in Africa: Mediation with Chinese characteristics](#)

In April 2022, during his address at the Boao Forum for the Asia Annual Conference, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the ambitious Global Security Initiative (GSI). He presented GSI as a comprehensive framework for addressing global security challenges, including maintaining global security, enhancing coordination among regional organisations, and addressing diverse challenges ranging from traditional conflicts to climate change to cybersecurity. China rarely participated in international mediation initiatives, preferring to be a neutral onlooker and retain its flexibility. Therefore, the new Chinese position in global security issues and its true objective became a matter of debate. Yet, the security focus of China should not be a surprise. Since Beijing announced its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, it has started taking more proactive actions in different conflicts, going beyond its traditional approach of limited engagement and playing a more assertive role as a mediator. Observer Research Foundation.

[Chinese troops join Côte d’Ivoire’s independence parade](#)

A notable highlight of the event was the participation of a Chinese military detachment, symbolizing the strong military cooperation between the two nations. The parade showcased the Ivorian army’s prowess, including an aerial display and performances by various groups, from school children to national sports heroes. Football champions, led by Ivorian Football Federation President Idriss Diallo, proudly displayed the 2023 African Cup of Nations trophy. President Alassane Ouattara used the occasion to honor the women who led the anti-colonial struggle in Grand-Bassam, emphasizing the importance of unity and social cohesion for the nation’s progress. He called upon Ivorians to uphold the values of fraternity, discipline, and hard work, as exemplified by the country’s founding fathers. The participation of Chinese troops in the parade underscores the deepening military ties between Côte d’Ivoire and China. APA News.

[Djibouti dodges scrutiny despite China, Iran, Houthi ties and links to illicit activities](#)

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea through the Gulf of Aden, is a crucial chokepoint for global maritime commerce. It handles as much as 20% of international trade, 12% of seaborne oil trade, and 8% of liquefied natural gas shipments. Despite the strait's importance, the waters around it have long been plied by smugglers of weapons and other illicit goods, dating back as far as the late 1800s, when the French took control of what is now Djibouti. Nearly a century and a half on, the country is an important player in trade in the Horn of Africa region, but it also serves as a conduit for Chinese influence, has been linked to malign actors like Iran and the Houthis, and has faced allegations of involvement in various grey and black market activities, including money laundering, illicit finance, oil smuggling, and weapons trafficking. These issues must be urgently addressed in the interest of regional stability and Djibouti needs to undertake serious reform efforts to overhaul its economic model, strengthen its sanctions and enforcement, shore up financial oversight, and enhance collaboration and cooperation with neighboring states. Middle East Institute.

[China appoints new ambassador to Ethiopia](#)

The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Melaku Bedada, Director General of Protocol Affairs at MFA Ethiopia, had received a copy of the credentials of Chen Hai, China's newly appointed ambassador to Ethiopia. This is reported by the Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), a partner of TV BRICS. Diplomat Chen Hai became China's 16th representative in Ethiopia. "With the coming Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit, the newly appointed ambassador is ready to join hands with our Ethiopian friends to write a new chapter for China-Ethiopia all-weather strategic partnership," commented the Chinese Embassy. Chinese officials also noted that Ethiopia has become their country's "second home, with a time-honoured history". TV Brics.

[Egypt, Iran, China FMs discuss efforts to de-escalate Middle East tensions](#)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Badr Abdelatty discussed with his Iranian and Chinese counterparts in two separate phone calls Egypt's ongoing effort to contain regional escalation, as fears of military tensions rise in the Middle East following Israeli assassinations in Iran and Lebanon. Abdelatty's call with Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani on Wednesday, the second in less than a week, comes within the framework of urging all parties to exercise self-restraint to avoid spillover into a full-blown regional conflict. International diplomatic efforts have recently increased to avoid an escalation between Israel and Hezbollah, following an Israeli strike on Beirut that killed Hezbollah military chief Fouad Shukur. Additionally, Iran, which backs Hezbollah, has vowed to retaliate against Israel after the assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital Tehran. In a call on Saturday with Kani, Abdelatty reaffirmed Cairo's opposition to Israel's escalatory policies, assassinations, and violations of national sovereignty. Ahram Online.

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